



## Ed Balls: Speaking Out

Finn Judge catches up with the ex-Shadow Chancellor, author and dancer **M.4**

## York Elects

Nouse exit poll suggests 71% of students voted Labour **P.8**



# Nouse



Est. 1964

The University of York's longest-running student society



Tuesday 13 June 2017

## Referendum on Working Class Officer in YUSU policy package

- **Vote on the creation of a new Part-Time Officer position due to be held early next term**
- **Motion for new Interfaith Officer "dismissed out of hand" after YUSU's consultation process**

**Finn Judge**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE END OF this term's policy process for YUSU's Policy & Review Group (PRG) has, after receiving "divided opinion", made plans to put to referendum the question of whether the Students' Union should create the new part-time position of Working Class & Social Mobility Officer.

Alongside these plans was the establishment of a new ability for liberation networks to elect and send their own delegates to network-themed NUS conferences - coupled with a decrease in the amount of sabbatical officers automatically enlisted to attend conferences.

The idea of establishing a Working Class Officer, as proposed by YUSU's Community & Well-being Officer Dom Smithies, would be to represent students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds on matters of accessibility to opportunities on campus, as well as to provide an effective campaigning voice regarding issues such as the cost of living at university.

However, such a move has been fiercely debated among the student body as rumours of the referendum's arrival became more apparent.

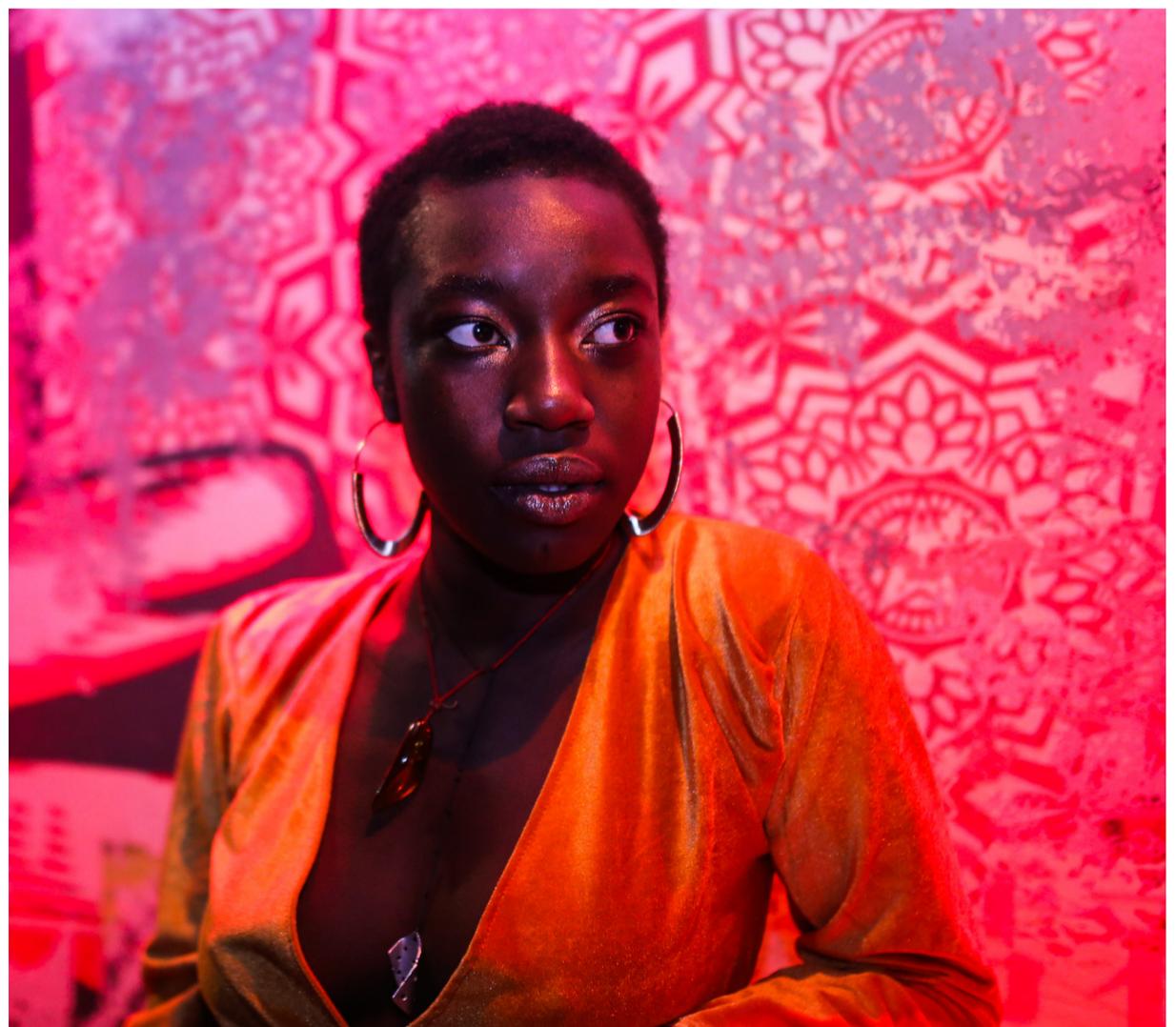
A graduating English student, who wishes to remain anonymous, spoke to *Nouse* of her own opposition to the proposal:

"Whereas being LGBTQ or BAME is fairly easy to pin down, what even constitutes being working class is hugely divisive, and I can only imagine the position creating conflict as people squabble to decide whether somebody is actually working class or not."

These new moves come in spite of the PRG rejecting proposals for YUSU to state its support for the NUS Liber8 campaign, as well as the creation of a Part-Time Interfaith Officer position.

The Liber8 campaign includes eight core campaign areas, the first of which is to "fight fees and cuts" - entailing a call for free education and a boycott of the National Student Survey (NSS), which, given the recent election of the Conservative-led government, is set to be linked to the

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Student designs put on a show at the Northern Youth-run fashion show for 2017's York Festival of Ideas **P.6**

## Drug abuse at Big D leads to higher security at next event

**Luke Rix-Standing**  
EDITOR

SECURITY SERVICES are set to dramatically increase student searches and personnel at next week's 'Beach D' Derwent event, after substantial drug use was discovered at last week's notorious campus

blow-out, 'Big D'.

The measures will see more members of campus security attend the event, who will regularly search students for substances - previously only students with bags were searched, and only sporadically. *Nouse* understands that the possibility of a police presence was discussed at length, although the idea has reportedly been shelved.

Several students have spoken to

*Nouse* about the drug use that permeated the event. One third year Derwent attendee commented: "We saw people taking drugs several times during the event, and we saw loads of people inside who were evidently on something. It wasn't hard to work out."

Another third year Derwent student told *Nouse*: "I think drugs are

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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

I remember my first Editor's Note. Quill in hand and brimming with nascent enthusiasm, I penned my initial ravings at least a week before production week even started. Bounding into my first section meeting, the late nights and steamrolling stress-a-thons seemed a speck on the horizon; a challenge to be risen to without a backward look.

Nine months and seven each-gruelling-in-their-own-way production weeks later, I'm sitting in the office dishevelled, dead-eyed, huddled over my YUSU-branded coffee late on a Sunday night, while the Sub-Editors argue over the capitalisation of the phrase general election. With roughly 20 minutes to write my last Editor's Note, under the dawning realisation that soon I, like all my predecessors, will be yesterday's *Nouse*, I feel my transformation is complete. Wide-eyed Platonist to jaded burn-out, whose voice can often be heard informing the corridors of Grimston House that they are "too old for this shit". From *Forrest Gump* to *Dirty Harry*. Serpico a the beginning of the movie, to Serpico at the end.

But it is only now, staring down the barrel of what I've been loosely terming 'my freedom', that I realise that I will miss *Nouse* and miss it badly. I am temporarily reminded of that Passenger song that dominated 2013, "you only know you love her when you let her go". Trite perhaps, but as true as a truism can be.

When you've done something for long

enough it can become monotonous, but routine is made of up of many of the simple pleasures and frustrations that have made the University experience the rollercoaster that is has undeniably been.

I've relied on pop culture references throughout my brief and inglorious stint in student journalism, so I might as well end with one: "life moves pretty fast, if you don't stop and look around once in a while, you might miss it".

So in this increasingly emotional farewell, I can only say that's its been a blast. It doesn't feel like it right now, but the photos that adorn the wall of 'Nousealgia', and the in-jokes that I will take with me out into the world ("does the shoot have a fold in it?" \*chuckles uproariously\*) are far more important than a week of sleep. And to provide a shameless plug for my unfortunate successor, if you've ever had any interest in student journalism, then come to our by-elections at the end of this week. Who knows, you may end up misanthropic, exhausted, and fundamentally fulfilled.

Editing a student paper is, and always will be, beset by delusions of grandeur, but it is not something you can do by halves, so forgive this tired Editor for his disgraceful self-indulgence. So long *Nouse*. Thanks for the memories.

*Luke Rix-Standing*

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# Student backlash at targeted drug study invitation

**Amelia Clarke**  
NEWS EDITOR

YUSU'S DISABLED Students' Officer, Aisling Musson, has criticised drug study invitations sent to York students recorded by Unity Health as suffering with "stress-related problems". One of the UK's most commonly prescribed antidepressants, sertraline, is to be studied against a placebo.

The study aims to decipher "who might fully benefit from antidepressants as a treatment for stress, depression or low mood" as "there is some evidence that antidepressant medication may be helpful to only some people, other people may be taking it unnecessarily". The invitations state that recipients were chosen because they are not currently taking antidepressant medication.

Musson has criticised Unity Health asking students to participate in the study. The GP surgery will receive compensation for the time taken to recruit participants. Musson prefaced: "while there is nothing inherently wrong with clinical trials, a number of things about the way these are being communicated and advertised is concerning". Musson stated that the letters contained "outright falsehoods" about

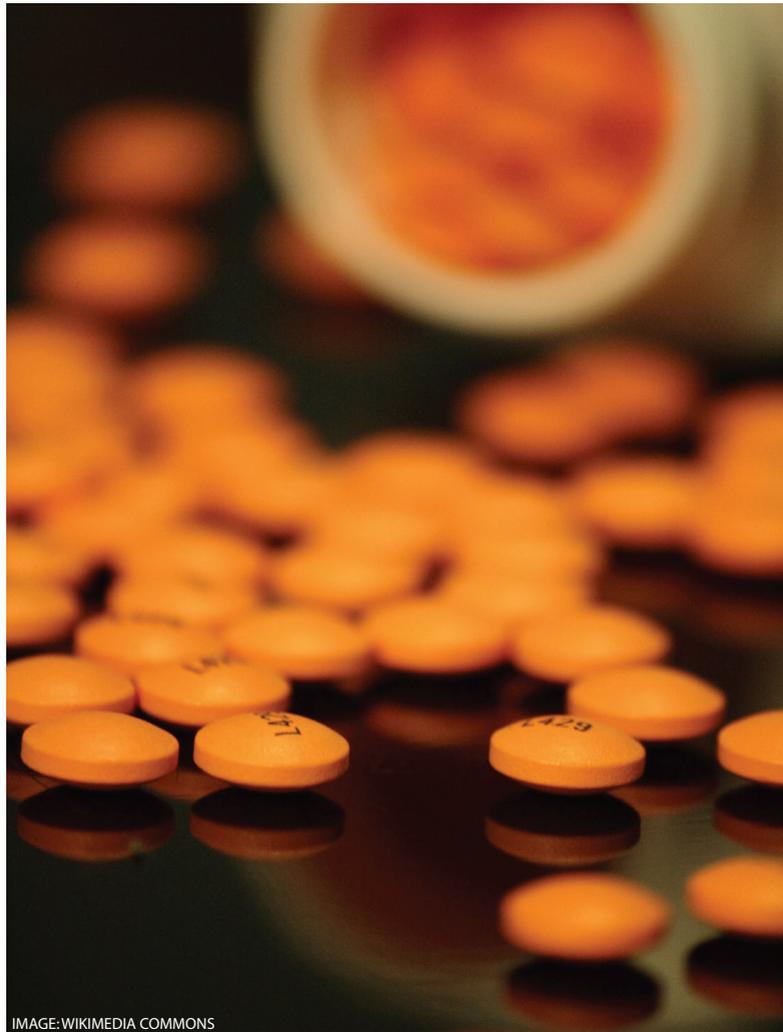


IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

the possible side effects of sertraline, as information provided to students states that the drug is "generally well tolerated" and "does not have many side effects". An appendix of side effects is also provided to those asked to participate, outlining some of the common side effects such as nausea, sleeping troubles and headaches.

Musson also took issue with the timing of the study, which hoped to recruit students during Summer Term's exam period. Musson commented that "when prescribed sertraline through the usual channels doctors and experts specifically recommend not starting the medication right before a time such as an exam period". NHS information also notes that those taking sertraline for panic attacks may find that symptoms can worsen during the first few weeks of treatment.

Musson also noted that those selected may not have consented to this use of their data. One student, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "firstly there are privacy concerns...secondly there are real medical concerns given that the students targeted may have experienced depressive symptoms but those symptoms may have stemmed from another mental illness for which this medication would be unsuitable. I am deeply worried that such a letter was allowed to be sent out".

A University spokesperson

commented: "there have been very few studies into the value of these medications for people with lower severity or stress-related symptoms. The NHS urgently needs more research into this topic and has funded the largest ever UK study of antidepressants for lower severity symptoms. NHS patients in 23 GP practices across Yorkshire are invited to participate in the study if their GP thinks this might be of interest."

"We want as many people as possible to have the opportunity to participate in this research and we see no reason why students should be denied this opportunity since this would be unfair and arguably discriminatory. The study has been designed and is managed to the highest standards with full ethical approval from the NHS, and the team that runs it includes people with experience of depression or low mood. All invitations to join are accompanied by an information sheet with a comprehensive list of possible side effects, we discuss any concerns about them with potential participants before they consent to join the study, no one is ever put under any pressure to join, participants can change their minds at any point, we monitor their progress and have 24-hour access to the unblinding service."

Nouse has been asked not to contact Unity Health, but are of course happy to receive a statement.

# Nouse staff attacked outside Tang Hall takeaway

**Amelia Clarke**  
NEWS EDITOR

NOUSE STAFF were the subject of an attack in Tang Hall during the late hours of 2 June. Police were called to Sgt. Pepper on Melrosegate at around midnight following the attack. The incident occurred when seven members of staff came into contact with a group of local young people who were already present on Melrosegate.

It is estimated that there were around 20 young people outside of Sgt. Pepper before the attack, many of whom participated.

During the incident several of the victims suffered head injuries. Two of those victims were taken to

York Hospital by ambulance in the early hours of 3 June with possible concussions. They were later discharged, with one diagnosed with a possible broken rib.

"I just never thought that it would escalate that quickly" one student commented after the attack, "As soon as punches got thrown I ran straight into the takeaway shop, called the police and waited inside till it all calmed down. I thought for a moment to go outside and fight back, but there were just too many of them". They added "I can't say I feel incredibly safe walking home through Tang Hall now".

Another student who suffered the attack said: "We were trying to walk away when someone came up behind me and punched me round the side of the head. After that it deteriorated very quickly, I tried to

calm them down but they kept on hitting me, I tried to retreat down the road but got tripped and then there were several of them around me kicking me on the floor". They added: "I don't think any of us hit back at all, eventually we escaped up the road and called the police".

A University spokesperson commented: "The safety and security of our students is of paramount importance. Anyone feeling vulnerable should remain vigilant, try to stay with friends and report any concerns to the local authorities. We would encourage students to raise concerns with University Security and seek support from campus support services if affected."

The North Yorkshire police have confirmed that an investigation into the incident is currently ongoing.



IMAGE: DAN POWELL  
The Sgt. Pepper takeaway on Melrosegate, where the attack took place

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### York Pride dazzles and delights

The annual York Pride took place on Saturday, with a march from the Minster down towards the Racecourse. The march saw drag acts perform on a sound stage, and an afterparty in Mansion. The highlight was perhaps a pre-recorded message from Sir Ian McKellen, greeted with cheers from the crowd.

### Picnics at the library

The University library has offered to lend out picnic blankets to students wishing to enjoy the, admittedly sporadic, sunshine. Students wishing to access the blankets must leave their student cards at reception. It is unclear whether these are the same blankets handed out during exams season for warmth.

### York food festival flourishes

The York Taster Festival finished its weekend run on Sunday. The festival saw Parliament Street taken over by stalls selling a variety of outlandish foodstuffs, including Indian street food, pulled pork favourites and Instagram friendly Hong Kong egg waffles, alongside York favourites like the Chili Jam Man.

### Anne Frank exhibit opens

The library has opened a temporary exhibition detailing the life and works of Anne Frank. The exhibits, in the library lobby, include a number of posters providing a chronology of her life. One student commented: "It was an emotional experience, I was almost crying by the end of it".

# Library fines rake in thirty thousand pounds a year

**Dan Hall**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY library makes thousands of pounds through fining students every year, a *Nouse* investigation has found. Figures from a freedom of information request show that in the period September 2012 – May 2017, the library has made £170 640 from fine payments made against overdue items.

In the last three years, a total of 6216 individual library accounts incurred fines: roughly equivalent to half of all undergraduate students currently enrolled at the University. From September of 2016 through to 30 April 2017, 2309 accounts have already received fines (almost equalling the number of accounts fined in the entirety of the previous academic year – 2436). This year therefore appears to be on target to raise a similar annual return of around £30 000.

According to the library, all of the cash from late fines is “reinvested in the library collections budget”,

but some believe that given the increasing financial pressure on students, the extent of the fines seems excessive. One History student told *Nouse* “I think it’s unreasonable that the library is profiting this much by punishing us. I get there has to be a way of them ensuring books get brought back on time, but does it really have to squeeze this much money out of students?”

Though thousands of people are charged every year, there is no record kept of the number of fees that are waived. Given the number of accounts that are automatically penalised annually, it appears likely that the cash value of waived fees would also be a substantial figure. It also appears that the number of fines is not increasing. Despite rises in student numbers - in 2012/13, for example, the total amount raised from fines was a whopping £57 462 – nearly double that of the total of 2015/16. It is also worth noting that while the overall aggregate sum that the library receives from fines is large, the average student only paid £12.75 last year.

A University spokesperson commented: “The flexible loans



model was developed in collaboration with students who felt it appropriate to have some penalties in place to encourage return of items in high demand. Fines are imposed on overdue Key Texts and laptop loans, as competition for these resources is naturally high, and on any flexible loan items which have been reserved by another customer which are not returned when requested.

“The level of fines incurred is dependent on the behaviour of the community. Where customers have any problems in returning items they are asked to get in touch with us so we can see how we might help. Fines income also includes money paid for lost books. Fines income goes directly into the budget for library collections, so helps us to purchase more books.”

Over the past 12 months charitable contributions have been made to Book Aid International, MIND, YuCycle among others. The fine income has dropped from £57 642 (2012/13) since the flexible loans model was introduced and we keep the model under constant review to ensure it remains fit for purpose for our users.”

## Confusion faces students left to wait on family housing

**Luke Rix-Standing**  
EDITOR

STUDENTS WITH dependants have been confounded in their efforts to apply for family housing on campus, after confusion regarding the accommodation services waiting list. Calls for an increase in family housing have been ignored on the pretext that waiting lists do not imply high demand, but according to students and members of the Graduate Student Association students are being turned away without being offered a waiting list place.

GSA Vice-President Kate Stephenson told *Nouse*: “The GSA has been raising the issue of a lack of available family housing on campus for the last two years and we are consistently told that there is no demand for extra housing of this kind. We are, however, regularly contacted by students with dependants who are really struggling to find somewhere to live in York.”

“The University seems to be taking its figures for demand for family housing from a waiting list held by the Accommodation Office but students who contact the office are not offered the opportunity to be added to the waiting list, on raising this disconnect, we have been told that it might be a ‘training issue’. Really, what we’d like to see is greater transparency on the processes



followed alongside some work into the real demand for family housing. This would then be able to properly inform the University’s strategic building plan which is being drawn up at the moment.”

As of September, there were 870 students with dependants, with around 40-50 houses allocated to family accommodation on campus. Students have struggled to find appropriate housing using private letting agents, complaining of a lack of University support. In the family network Facebook group, a student commented: “finding housing for me and my son was INCREDIBLY difficult...more has to be done to help home students find accommodation off campus.”

A student landlord comment-

ed: “I was told [by the University] to advertise with YorProperty, but it does not have a special section for student families...I feel personally let down by the University”.

A University spokesperson commented: “We have a family allocation policy which gives priority to new international students. There has been a decline in the number of students applying and as a result 13 families are able to stay in their University house for 2017/18. There was an occasion when a continuing student inquired about family accommodation and was not invited to apply. They were put onto the waiting list as soon as we were made aware. As we are not yet in a position to assist continuing students, the student has not been disadvantaged.”

## ‘Student Orators’ to speak for graduates

**Amelia Clarke**  
NEWS EDITOR

A PILOT PROJECT to be implemented for upcoming graduation ceremonies offers four graduating students the chance to give a speech, alongside attending honorary graduates.

The students will represent the Class of 2017 by delivering an “aspirational and inspirational” speech, before graduands are invited to accept their degrees.

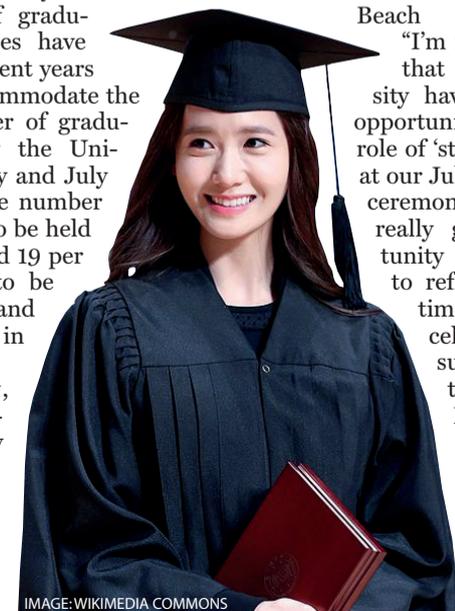
The opportunity comes as the number of graduation ceremonies have increased in recent years in order to accommodate the growing number of graduands attending the University’s January and July ceremonies. The number of ceremonies to be held has now reached 19 per year, with 12 to be held in July and a further five in January.

Typically, each graduation ceremony has one honorary graduate attending in order to deliver a brief speech. Due to the in-

creased number of ceremonies and in order to the preserve the quality of speeches, the University is extending an invitation to students to share the stage with the presiding stage party, and express their thoughts on their experience at the University of York.

Previous honorary graduates to speak at graduation ceremonies include Helen Fielding, author of the *Bridget Jones* series, Sally Wainwright, a York alumni and BAFTA award-winning screenwriter of the BBC’s *Happy Valley*, and ex-England manager Roy Hodgson.

Student President Millie Beach commented: “I’m really excited that the University have taken the opportunity to create a role of ‘student orator’ at our July graduation ceremonies. This is a really great opportunity for students to reflect on their time at York and celebrate their success with their friends. I know the sabbatical team are all very jealous that we missed the opportunity!”



## Vote to be held on new role in YUSU

>>> Continued from front

raising of tuition fees.

It was proposed that YUSU should support the campaign, despite the SU having put both aforementioned issues to referendum in the past.

Last year, the vote for YUSU to support the campaign for free education failed to reach quorum, and this year's NSS boycott referendum saw a majority against the idea.

The proposal for an Interfaith Officer, also led by Smithies, came under the heaviest criticism during the consultation process.

Former *York Vision* editor Jonathan van Kuijk, who put forward his opposition to the motion during the consultation process, commented that it "seems obvious that religious students have just as much representation as any other student. There is no reason why we would especially require extra representation when faith societies do such a good job already."

YUSU's Policy Coordinator, Jack Harvey, commented: "It was brilliant to receive so much feedback from networks, committees and, most of all, individual students. Though it made for a long

evening of collating feedback, the plurality of opinions, many of which were expressed clearly and thoughtfully, helps the PRG take more views and ideas into account when making its decisions.

"I hope to work with YUSU to encourage more students to submit their ideas for change."

YUSU President Millie Beach echoed Harvey's sentiments: "Dur-



**The budget of an individual YUSU Part-Time Officer**

ing this policy cycle, we received far more feedback than is typical, so I believe we have learned lessons in terms of communicating policy suggestions to students. Creating YUSU policy is one of the key ways that students can inspire change in the union, so we are excited that lots of people engaged and provided feedback.

"The outcomes for the policy submissions are the results of the submissions by students, we're happy that the system is robust and that it has produced these results."

## Central Hall renovations to span two more years

**Camilla Zurru**  
NEWS EDITOR

CENTRAL HALL is getting a multi-million pound overhaul, with the first stage of the three-year plan getting underway in earnest last May.

Engineering company Britcon has been appointed to revamp the campus relic. The 10-week project consists of a general upgrade of the electrical and mechanical infrastructures, the removal of asbestos, and replacing all the windows with curtain walls - justified as the improvement of energy efficiency within the building.

However, there have been concerns over the impact the renovations could have on student societies, especially those like Central Hall Music Society that rely on using the space for performances.

Student President Millie Beach commented: "YUSU have been actively involved in ensuring that the renova-

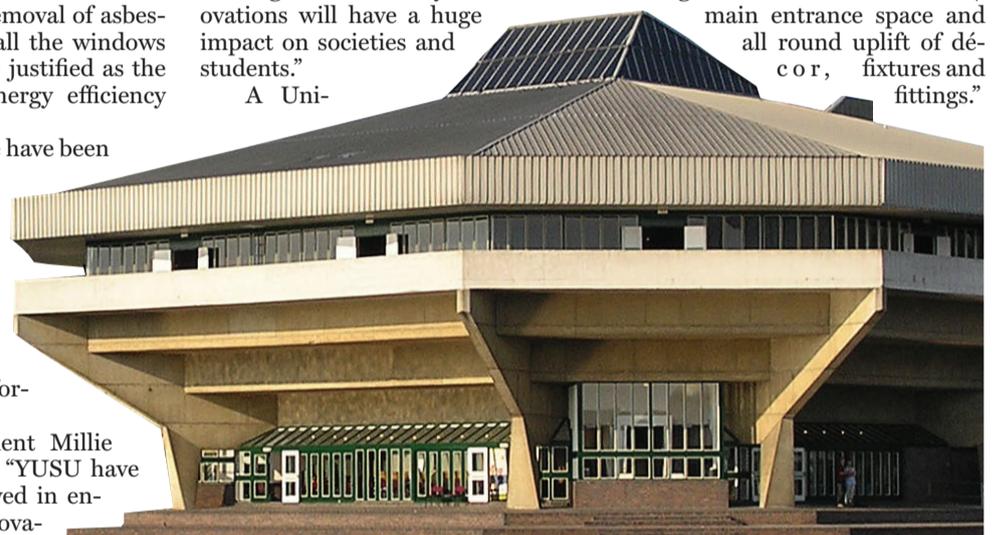
tions to Central Hall are done in the interest of students and our student groups. Our societies, and in particular our music and performance societies, have suffered disproportionately from the closure, and we will continue to ensure that the University is made aware of just how valuable these societies are, and what a loss they would be to campus if they chose to perform elsewhere.

"We have specifically requested to be involved in the process moving forward and hope that consultation is being taken seriously as the renovations will have a huge impact on societies and students."

A Uni-

versity spokesperson elaborated on the plans: "The first phase of work in 2017 is now approaching completion and will cost £900K. This first phase has focused on upgrading mechanical and electrical systems, removing asbestos and replacing the external glazing system.

"Future phases will see work to upgrade and improve lighting and ventilation in the auditorium, improved accessibility, refurbished and renewed seating throughout the auditorium, new staging, reconfiguration of the concourse/main entrance space and all round uplift of décor, fixtures and fittings."



## Jaz Liddell takes top honour at Love York Awards

**Luke Rix-Standing**  
EDITOR

FORMER LGBTQ OFFICER Jaz Liddell took home the Outstanding Contribution to Student Life Award, at the annual Love York Awards ceremony in front of a packed Central Hall. The award recognises students who have "made a positive and significant impact to students' lives" and "made meaningful and lasting developments in their areas of work".

After a short film containing heartfelt tributes from many of their fellow students, an emotional Liddell took to the stage amid rapturous applause, thanking their friends and colleagues and praising the progress made by the liberation and transgender networks.

Speaking to *Nouse*, Liddell commented: "I'm so grateful to the people who nominated and supported me. I sincerely hope that the number of LGBTQ and other liberation network members nominated has raised awareness of the fantastic work being done."

The Love York Awards are an annual event to recognise the achievements of York students in 14 distinct categories, such as Committee of the Year, Society of the Year,



IMAGE: BEN JANCISO @ BALUGA PHOTOGRAPHY

and the Outstanding Leadership Award. In each category, a panel of judges determined a winner and up to two highly commendeds, though only the winners were asked to make a speech.

The crowd were entertained throughout by the wit and wisdom of host presenter Rob McLoughlin OBE, a broadcaster and York alumnus, who has presented for ITV and BBC Radio Five Live. His journalistic talent and humour were on display throughout as he played the crowd (for the most part) effortlessly. "Oh come on", he quipped after one particular joke fell flat, "I'm doing this for free!"

Adding to the atmosphere were a three-piece band who played every winner up to the podium with an eclectic mix of recognisable hits, including 'All by Myself' by Eric Carmen and the Star Wars Imperial March. One unfortunate highly commended nominee was serenaded to the stage by ABBA's 'The Winner Takes It All'.

Perhaps the moment of the night came when the recently established University of York Memes were presented with the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Award by Head of Employability Tom Banham, drawing adulation and derision in equal measure from the assembled crowd. The judges noted in particular their "innovative meth-

ods...in raising awareness" and the success of their recent 'goose safety talk'.

Other winners included the University of York Womens' Rugby Club for their campaign against sexual abuse and sexual violence, and Elliott Duke for his work on Night-Safe, DanceSoc took home Society of the Year, while the James JCRC won Committee of the Year.

Overall YUSU can reflect on a successful night: the event ran smoothly, the crowd were suitably entertained, and the evening celebrated a wide roster of deserving winners. On leaving the event, York Award regulars compared it favourably to the previous year: "last year was a bit of a drag", commented one student, "this year was much, much better".

YUSU Activities Officer Alex Lusty commented: "It's great to be able to celebrate all the fantastic activities our students engage in. Students' contributions to the local community are all too often overlooked, so we're very happy that we were able to highlight the positive impact of the student community."

"Among tough competition Jaz stood out as a nominee as they've made huge difference to student experience, really driven the unions equality and diversity agenda and made tangible difference to life at York."



## Big D hit by drug use

>>> Continued from front

fairly accepted at big, post-exams blowout events like Big D. I saw loads of people evidently on drugs, I'm just not sure why people are surprised." One student even admitted to having taken cocaine themselves, at the event.

Despite anecdotal reports, the Derwent Assistant Head of College has assured *Nouse* that no drugs were found at the event.

It is not the first time that campus drug use has found itself in the spotlight in recent years. Last year a *Nouse* poll found that more than a third of students said that they had been offered drugs on campus, while a *Nouse* investigation in 2008 found traces of cocaine in various locations around campus, sparking a police probe.

YUSU President Millie Beach commented: "Concerns about drug abuse have come to our attention and we are working with Derwent College and the JCRC to ensure measures are taken for any future events on campus."

"The University and the Un-

ion has a zero tolerance approach towards drug abuse and we urge any students concerned about drug use or dependency to contact support services.

"I would be negligent to turn a blind eye to such an important issue, which is why YUSU is being proactive."

A University spokesperson commented: "The University has a zero tolerance policy to drug use. Substance misuse contributes to unacceptable behaviour and may result in disciplinary action and police involvement."

"We are not aware of any security reports logged with the University security team alleging drug use at Big D. However, if information is brought to our attention we will act in accordance with University policy. YUSU, the College and JCRC will continue to work together while planning future events to ensure our zero tolerance approach is understood."

"If anyone has information about drug use on campus they should contact Security or their Assistant Head of College."

# Charity fashion show lights up York's Festival of Ideas

Amelia Clarke  
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF York's collective The Northern Youth hosted a fashion show in Ron Cooke Hub on June 9th to raise funds for York Mind.

The show, entitled Final Threads, hosted 6 design brands and 8 individual designers from the University of York. The event sold 100 tickets and was entirely run by students.

The brands displayed in the show were Simpleboy Clothing, POWER Clothing

The University of York student designers displaying their work in the show included John James, Sophie Lincoln, Minnie Peck, Orla Lavery, Fola Oki, Timothy Sonuga and Hamza Ali.

Some of the pieces from the show were displayed in Ron Cooke Hub's 3Sixty space, a four-walled projection room designed for immersive and cohesive full-room projection. These pieces were also available for sale in order to also raise funds for the York branch of the mental health charity Mind.

The fashion show was followed by an after party held at Fibbers by Drop. The night was due to be headlined by Novelist, who unfortunately cancelled before the night went ahead.

The show was a more intimate affair than The Northern Youth's first fashion show last year, which featured a talk by Editor-in-Chief of *Vogue* Anna Wintour and *Guardian* editor Katherine Viner. Last year's show raised £30,000 for charities Refugee Action York and the Xavier Project.



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

## 'The Retreat' set to return for next year's exam season



IMAGE: YUSU

Imogen Bellamy  
NEWS REPORTER

FROM THE FIFTEENTH to the nineteenth of May, YUSU ran The Retreat @ Alcuin. Taking place from 9pm to 3am, the service providing free toast, fruit and beverages. Part of the Keep Your Cool initiative, the intention was for a place to take breaks away from the stressful environment of the library during exams, providing healthier nutritional alternatives to the campus vending machines.

Despite their wish to initially keep it going for two weeks provisionally, it was cancelled after only one. Dom Smithies, YUSU's Com-

munity and Well-being Officer, cited its financial losses as a reason on a Facebook post, calling it "surprisingly costly" to provide the food with over £200 being spent on bread.

Smithies was keen to look on the bright side, however, stating that it was "a blast" and thanking everyone for their positive responses. He also wrote that "there is clearly not only a need, but quite a large demand here", for overnight provisions across exam season, estimating 500 users of The Kitchen over the week - 400 of them unique visitors and not repeat guests.

Smithies is now lobbying YUSU, along with Commercial Services, to repeat the scheme next year. On Facebook, he told students that he "hope[s] you all engage actively with next year's Officers to

see if they can do something for the entire duration of the assessment period", offering ideas on how to increase funding in the future.

Smithies ended his post by encouraging us to "demand more", using YUSU as a mouthpiece, as "that's what [they]re here for."

YUSU President Millie Beach commented: "We're always eager to do anything we can to support students during stressful exam seasons so it's something next year's officers will consider. Having said that, projects like these are expensive to run, so we are currently exploring alternative funding models."

A University spokesperson added that the University "would be keen to speak to YUSU officers if we can assist with similar plans for next year."

# The SABBs: A Year in Review

With their tenure in YUSU drawing to a close, we asked YUSU President Millie Beach, Academic Officer Tamaki Laycock, and Activities Officer Alex Lusty about their achievements and regrets



## Lusty's last-minute reforms as SABB

**Finn Judge**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

OUTGOING ACTIVITIES officer Alex Lusty spoke to *Nouse* with regards to some of the last-minute reforms he has worked on this term in the hope of defining his legacy.

The initiatives include bringing all media societies together under one 'Media Committee', bringing about separate representatives for 'International' and 'Faith' societies, and allowing societies to sell customised merchandise through YorShop.

Much of this final push has been the result of a year-long process, according to Lusty. Reflecting on his time as Editor of campus satire magazine *The Lemon Press*, he described York as "the Fleet Street of student media", but added that it needed a "bolder presence" on campus.

"I want York to feel like it's a media campus," Lusty commented. "There are brilliant opportunities for collaboration right across the board. For example, *Nouse* is brilliant at breaking and reporting on new stories, but why not have YSTV use that material to deliver it on TV screens across campus?"

Most recently, an agreement was formalised within the Media Committee for multimedia societies (YSTV, URY and PhotoSoc) to receive more funding in return for other media societies being able to use their equipment on occasion.

The separation of media societies from the wider Societies Committee has, through the removal of its Media Representative, allowed for the division of 'Faith & Relationship Representative' into 'Faith Representative' and 'International Rep-

resentative' to fill the space.

Further to boosting society presence on campus, Lusty hopes that societies will be able to design their own clothing items and sell them through an online store, delivered via YorShop, by Freshers' week this year. He described this as a move to "boost the brand image" of various societies, and denounced the current process societies have to go through to acquire merchandise as "a nightmare".

Regarding his relationship with the National Union of Students (NUS), Lusty alluded to a change of heart. While acknowledging that he was elected as Activities Officer on a "pro-free speech, anti-NUS" platform, he praised the newly elected NUS president, Shakira Martin, for being a "moderate" and, being a single mother, "an example of the empowerment of education".

"If, hypothetically, I had to vote in another referendum on NUS affiliation next week, I'd probably abstain," Lusty stated. "I have no interest in bringing up the issue again. Unless moderates start getting kicked out from the NUS, we should give it a chance."

Lusty did, however, call for the NUS to shift the focus of its campaigning away from the issue of free education, which he called "the bee in its bonnet", towards increasing the maintenance loan. He argues that the costs of rent and food are "the main things that deter people from higher education".

Lusty is due to be replaced as Activities Officer by Mikey Collinson, current Chair of the Pantomime Society. While his successor has not held office within a student media organisation, Lusty hopes to bring him up to speed with the structures of the student media community.

## Outgoing President "ready to sleep for a few months"

**Finn Judge**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

OUTGOING YUSU President Millie Beach is due to step down from her position as former Derwent chair Alex Urquhart is set to take over. Reflecting on her time as a sabbatical officer, she jokes that her greatest achievement has been "actually making it to the end of the year!"

"Nah, I'm just kidding," Beach added, speaking to *Nouse*. "I think one of my big, outward-facing achievements has been the 'Your Campus Needs You' campaign. It's allowed us to lobby the University for changes and it's been great to see a brand new project through from start to finish."

In terms of her greatest frustrations of the last year, Beach

cited the "really negative stigma from some parts of the local community that students only care about themselves."

She commented: "It's really not true, and the University and student population make huge contributions to the local economy, volunteering numbers, charity income, community events etc. It's really frustrating when you listen to a lot of complaints from people in York and actually just want to be like: look at all the incredible things our students already do!"

When asked if there was, in hindsight, an issue she would go back and campaign on, Beach said she had "quite a detailed plan set out for some cross-union collaborative work on international student experience and fees in quite an anti-immigration climate."

"While I've been able to start and support some projects that improve international students'

experience, there's still a long way to go and I didn't really have the chance to get into the project," Beach remarked.

Finally, *Nouse* put to Beach the question of whether she'd actually enjoyed being a SABB. Far from giving a direct answer, she described being a SABB as "a little bit like being on a rollercoaster, while wearing a blindfold, with lots of people sharing their opinions about the rollercoaster with you and expecting you to change the rollercoaster ride while you're all on it."

Beach continued: "It's a tough job in some respects but it has been such an amazing experience, filled with massive highs, a few crashes, some incredible meetings, great support and many, many lessons learned."

"I would not have changed it for the world but I am ready to sleep for a few months."

## Tamaki outlines her legacy on inclusion and diversity

**Amelia Clarke**  
NEWS EDITOR

SPEAKING TO *NOUSE*, Tamaki Laycock looks back on her time at YUSU as Academic Officer, the campaigns she has run and the projects she has implemented.

In terms of accessibility, Tamaki has worked with the library to bring in loanable coloured overlays, and consults with YUSU's Disabled Students Officer before meetings about building projects to ensure that accessibility is a priority.

Additionally, she launched the Liberation Survey, which she took to the University Teaching Committee to bring diversity and inclusion to academic policy.

Returning to the campaign Why is My Curriculum White? is one way that Tamaki wishes she could have further tackled issues of diversity during her time at YUSU. "Especially with the departmental contacts that I have now," she



said, "I can see how much more I could've put together reading lists and really work on a campaign that got students to question their own knowledge".

According to Tamaki, getting the student voice heard depends on the department. "Some crave student feedback like no other and want to do more and want to do better, and actively create more

opportunities for students to talk to people," she says, while other departments are more reluctant.

But ultimately, Tamaki says, "it's about actions. What will you do with that student's idea? Do you listen, but then say it wouldn't be possible? I think there could always be more push in some departments for changes to be made for the benefit of students".

# Campus exit poll shows 71 per cent back Labour

**Finn Judge**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

AN EXCLUSIVE EXIT POLL conducted by *Nouse* has revealed the extent to which young people were responsible for Labour's surge last Thursday - and just how divided the constituency of York Outer is.

The survey, conducted outside the polling station in V-Bar, gained a sample size of 200 students who voted there. It revealed that, of this sample, 71 per cent voted for York Outer's Labour candidate, Luke Charters-Reid, with the Liberal Democrats pushed into third place behind the Conservatives.

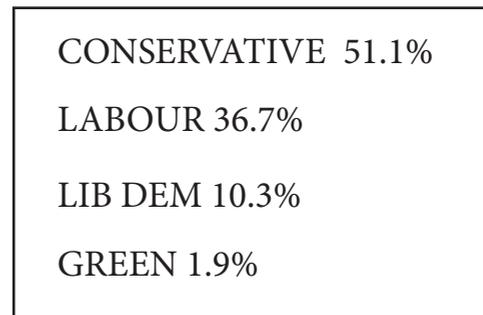
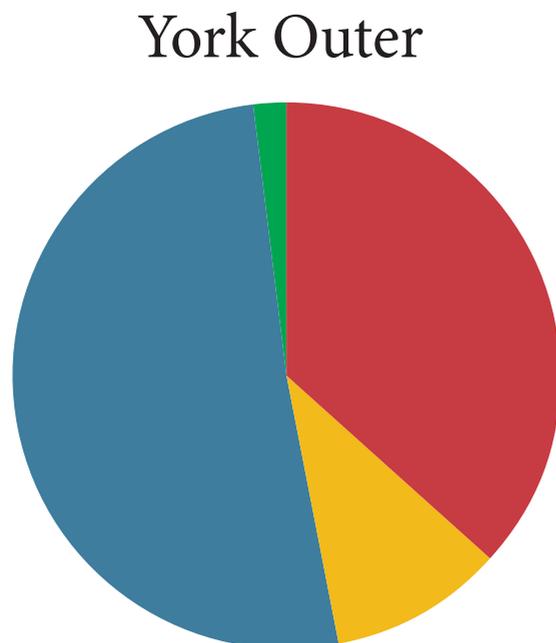
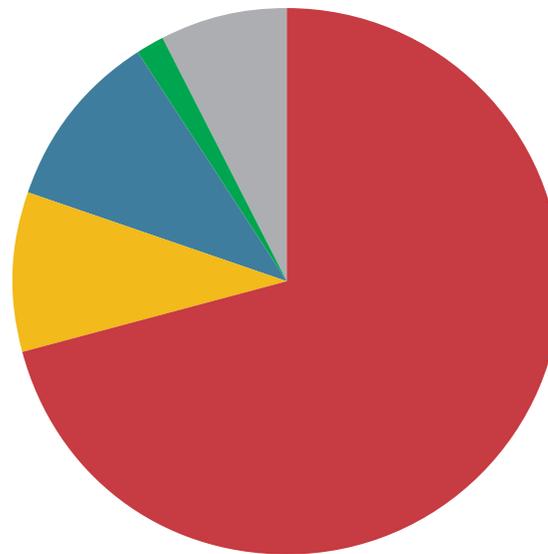
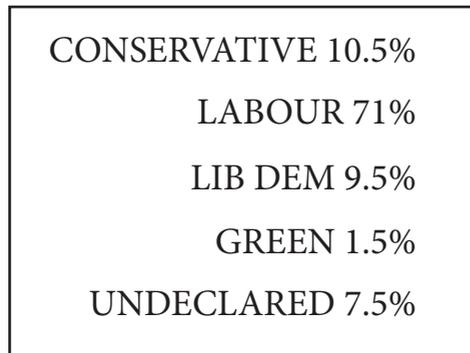
This is in contrast to the wider constituency result where, despite an 11.9 per cent boost in Labour's overall vote share, Corbyn's party fell 8,289 votes behind incumbent Tory MP Julian Sturdy.

Were the results on campus to have been replicated across York Outer, however, Labour would have won a majority of 34 743.

It is currently being reported that 72 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds voted in this year's general election - the highest youth turnout since 1992. Furthermore, if true, this would be the first election since records began in 1964 in which turnout among young people was higher than the national average.

As such, it is currently being touted that much of Labour's additional 3 527 681 votes at this election, taking their national vote share from 30.4 per cent to 40.0 per cent, came from the young.

This conclusion would largely be supported by the evidence gathered outside V-Bar on polling day.



On the other hand, the Liberal Democrats appeared to be punished at times by the insurgent student vote - despite managing a net gain of four seats. In the *Nouse* exit poll, they were beaten to third place by a single percentage point behind the Conservatives, and this may go some way to explain why Nick Clegg lost his seat.

The former Deputy PM, whose Sheffield Hallam constituency is heavily populated by students, was beaten by Labour's Jared O Mara, who overturned Clegg's 2353 vote lead into his own lead of 2125. However, Labour's gain in the seat has been a long process since 2010, when Clegg infamously went back on his promise of free university education.

It can therefore be said that, where given the choice of opposition, students are heading in their droves towards Labour. None of the eight Liberal Democrat gains were sourced from Labour seats, with the only Lib Dem gains in England coming from Conservative incumbents where the party had lost those seats to the Tories in 2015.

As for Conservative support among student voters, it was never likely that a party that has seemingly embraced a hard Brexit would attract 18-24 year olds, 75 per cent of whom voted to remain in the European Union. Although Theresa May's party may now have to rethink its Brexit strategy, garnering youth support was never part of the plan.

One thing is clear: the political rulebook has been torn up. Young people, previously considered to be disenfranchised, have become a formidable political force. It may only be a matter of time before beliefs on rent caps and free education become centrist political arguments.

# Tuition fees set to rise under new government

**Oscar Bentley**  
NEWS REPORTER

UNIVERSITY TUITION FEES are still set to rise to £9250 a year for new students from this September due to the recent general election returning Theresa May's Conservative Party to government, albeit a minority one that is due to rely on a 'confidence and supply' arrangement with the rightwing Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

In July 2016, Universities Minister Jo Johnson announced a rise in fees from £9000 to £9250 for both new and current students, although the University of York confirmed before the start of the current academic year that current students' fee rate

will remain the same for the duration of their study. Fees were also set to rise with inflation in subsequent years, with higher fees linked to a higher level to teaching, although most universities are expected to be able to charge the higher fees.

Future tuition fee rates were cast into doubt in the recent election, with Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn promising to abolish them completely, in a direct appeal to younger voters by his party. The proposals, which included the re-introduction of maintenance grants for the poorest students, were costed in Labour's manifesto at £11.2bn, around a quarter of Labour's planned increased spending proposals, with Mr Corbyn also discussing looking into writing off the debt of graduates.

The plans came under fire from some however, with the Conservatives claiming that "there isn't



Universities Minister Jo Johnson is set to continue his plans for the TEF

a magic money tree" to pay for the plans.

However, due to Labour's election loss, the Conservatives are expected to continue with their plans to increase fees, which only effects students in England, as education is a devolved matter for the other nations.

In Northern Ireland, where the DUP were until recently the majority partner in the administration before its collapse alongside the republican Sinn Fein, home students are charged £4030. Welsh home students are charged £9000, with the first £4046 coming from a repayable loan, and the remainder from a grant.

This is a similar figure to Welsh students studying in England, who can apply for a repayable loan of £4296, with the remaining balance being paid from a grant. Scottish home students pay no fees.

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# The University has failed on mental health

The University's refusal to consult, or even undergo scrutiny from, the student body is a vast hindrance to its efforts



Emma Underwood



The University of York has failed its students when it comes to mental health provision. That's the short of it at least, but allow me to explain why I think this is the case. I've studied here for the last three years, and have put a fair bit of work into mental health activism, but now that I'm about to graduate, I want to be able to tell you what I believe has happened at the University.

First, some disclaimers: the University staff (on the most part) are fantastic. The Sabb team, the college teams, the nurses, doctors, and therapists are all great. What's not so great is the University's diminishing attitude towards a problem that is only growing in severity. The £500 000 allocated to mental health at the start of this year is nice, really nice in fact.

And yet, in a somewhat bizarre attempt at PR, the University are refusing to publish the allocations of the spending, despite it being a three-year plan that will affect the well being of students for years to come. It's unlikely that we'll get an investment like this for possibly decades, and yet neither the student body nor the student union has any idea where it's going - the University is drip feeding us tid-bits of information, but nothing of any

substance.

That's £500 000 that the University will spend with little to no scrutiny, because it will be too late to protest the implementations once they've released the information.

Which brings me on to my next point: the level of student consultation that went into the allocation of the £500 000? Little to none.

After the completion of the Graham Report in March 2016, the University shortly announced its commitment to the spending. In a mere few months, the University

## University policy could negate the benefits of extra mental health funding

has somehow been able to cost and allocate half a million pounds worth of spending, apparently in the best interest of students, perhaps without stopping to think about the actual users of the service itself. This is a trend that has continued into recent months, as the University continues to prove its incompetency when it comes to mental health.

Changes to the tutor system demonstrate a severe under appreciation of the work that college tutors do. With Open Door and Unity Health both under immense pres-

sure, the last thing that should be on the University's mind would be cutting the front line services which are in place to deal with minor mental health issues, forcing clinicians to deal with these problems, when they could be addressing students with severe issues.

This raises the question: why bother spending the £500 000 in the first place? The University's record for mental health is far from stellar, with 50 per cent of ambulance call outs being for self harm related incidents in 2015.

Like I said - the money is great, and is more than needed. But with poorly thought out policies, which I could write about for days, I genuinely fear that the difference it will make will be negated by poor decision making, and without student scrutiny, there's little hope that this will change. Dom Smithies, YUSU Community and Wellbeing Officer wrote a blog post not so long ago on the progress made after the Graham Report. It detailed the improvements made by the University a year on from the report, and it's a little frightening.

With only seven action points (which include things such as "attendance at meetings" and "further development") there seems to be little substance to the progress made. It's time now for awareness and activism groups to turn their focus to lobbying the University to make a difference. Students have the collective power to influence these decisions, and we must exercise that power.

# Cost should be no barrier to British citizenship

The expensive application for British citizenship leaves immigrants who grew up in the UK unfairly disenfranchised

Maria Kalinowska



EU nationals living in Britain tread in a strange hinterland. They do not feel too far removed from British culture due to their mainland European origins. However, last year's referendum left many EU nationals feeling ambiguous about their position in society.

The obvious problems that arise are ones of uncertainty regarding their status post Brexit and whether they will be able to continue living their life as before. To those unaware, the EU allows for any EU nationals to make a home in any EU country without the formality of a visa to allow the 'freedom of movement', which is one of the main principles of the EU. Whatever reasons there were for people to vote to leave the EU, the rhetoric

of the campaign was very much anti-immigration. For people who have lived here for over ten years, this rhetoric is something that made them feel unwelcome in their own home.

The suggestion that many offer as a solution to this issue is for the immigrants just to get citizenship. The amount of times, as an EU national, I've been met with a shock when I said that I do not possess citizenship despite living in the UK since I was 9.

It is not as if I do not want dual citizenship. In fact, I really do wish to have the security of knowing that I will always be able to come back to England and my family home during my life. Although I am Polish, my home and immediate family have been in England for the longest time. I see both countries as my home. I do not want to have to worry about my right to be able to come back when I leave England.

However, in order to achieve British citizenship through natu-

ralisation, as of 18 March 2017, it costs £1236 for adults and £973 for anyone under 18. As an individual, among many other EU nationals, I

## EU nationals have felt ambiguous about their place in society

simply do not have that much spare money laying about. Now, when we consider a whole family who live in the UK and wish to stay here permanently, the sum is more than considerable. Even those who are born in England but whose parents do not possess British citizenship, do not have the right to the citizenship without a fee. These fees also apply to people who have finished school in the UK and therefore do not need to take a citizenship test.

Let's also think about any people who may have come to the UK for genuine economic reasons. How can they afford such a sum?

Despite living here for most of my life, not possessing British citizenship means that I cannot vote in the General Elections or any referendum. My family, as tax paying residents who contribute to society, do not have a say in any of the major decisions of the government.

With the general election last week, I was frustrated that I could not vote on the future of the country that I feel a part of and the decisions

that will affect me personally, just because I did not have over £1k.

It is a different story for those people living in the UK temporarily. However, for people who have lived here for a significant part of their life and for whom this country is their home, they are still made to feel like people who "only take advantage of the UK's services" and are not assets to their home country.

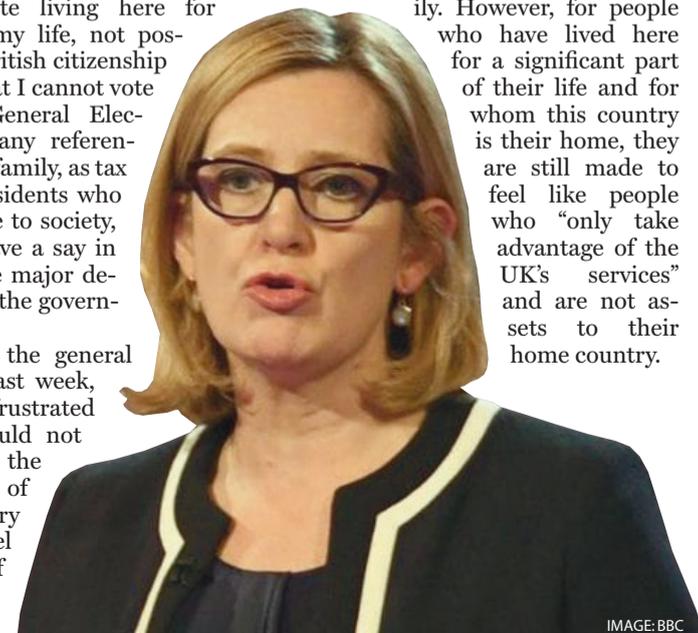


IMAGE: BBC

IMAGE: UOY ISLAMIC SOCIETY



# We Muslims must keep reaching out on campus

Muslim students have done a lot in the last year - and it should stay that way

**Has'san Suhail**



Muslims are often criticised for staying within their own comfort-zones and not engaging with the wider community. I agree that it is important for Muslims to realise that, if things are going to change, they need to work for those causes along with other people. Yes, the authorities should pay attention to the needs of minorities, in every community, as it is always daunting for them to voice out their concerns. It does not release the minorities from their duty of working with the authorities where there is room for collaboration. The purpose of this article is to highlight the engagement of the Muslims with the wider community of the university. I am personally very happy with the performance of the Muslim community this year in ensuring that we are active participants in the community norms.

The Islamic Society ensured that they do not only cater to the needs and demands of the Muslim students but also worked with other faith societies for an inter-faith event, international societies for the Charity Week campaign, raising around £1000 in 3 weeks. We worked with some academics and

YUSU officers in raising awareness about the Counter-Terrorism strategy Prevent. Doing all these things meant we were not only organising religious events but also charity and political events.

Moreover, since we previously lacked the medium to answer any criticisms of Islam, and wanted to raise our voice in response to rising anti-Islamic rhetoric, we worked with *Nouse*, whom we are

Now, more than ever, I think it is important to stay engaged

extremely grateful to, to talk about important issues concerning Muslims. Likewise, YUSU has been really cooperative with us in several issues for example consulting us when Tommy Robinson was invited and acknowledging the need for a bigger prayer room on the campus, to match the demands of growing number of Muslims. We have not done too badly on an individual basis as well having achieved following accolades: University of York Islamic Society winning the most political ISOC award in the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FOSIS) Northern Region's awards;

the ISOC being shortlisted for the committee of the year award; Rasha Ibrahim being elected as the GSA President for two consecutive years; myself being elected as a part-time officer in YUSU; Aminah Amdelrahim the faith-representative in the societies committee for the year 17/18; Sara Arfan with a signatory role in OpenMinds York initiative; Hiba Raza and Maryam Essa with committee positions in International Students' Association; Muhammad Hussain Ali as a co-chair at the York MUN conference. I am sure there are a lot of other Muslims, whom I do not have knowledge of, involved in other activities and holding influential roles.

If you asked me, are Muslims engaging enough with the wider community in York, I would respond "yes". And yes we will not stop there, we will continue to try to be active members of the community and contribute in improving the efficiency of the society.

This is what the YUSU Welfare Officer Dominic Smithies, whom we had a close contact over the year, said, "I'd definitely like to echo that conclusion - I've seen Muslim students get very engaged in a wide variety of activities while at York. Now, more than ever, I think it's important that they do stay engaged, they do get involved in activities and that we do everything to raise their voices."

# The memes of production aren't for praising Stalin

Stop romanticising Soviet dictators with memes

**Alfie Lanham-Brown**



If we travelled back in time to 1989, and showed a (presumably startled) Tim Berners-Lee exactly what form his then foetal endeavours would one day take, I would wager good money that his response would be a full-on Space Odyssey-style gasp: My God, It's Full Of Memes.

Without being too disingenuous, one might fancy that the humble image macro has thus far been the millennial generation's greatest contribution to civilisation. Indeed, politically speaking, memes now occupy a significant place in popular discourse. The surreal brouhaha surrounding poor Pepe the Frog and his newfound status as an 'emblem' of white supremacy during the last US election exemplified how the left and the right have both staked their claim in this crossfire of in-jokes. On Facebook, pages range from 'Reem Memes With A Right Wing Theme,' to the semi-academic 'De-Classucking Memes for Commie Proles' both issuing forth a seemingly inexhaustible supply of satire, mockery, and plain silliness.

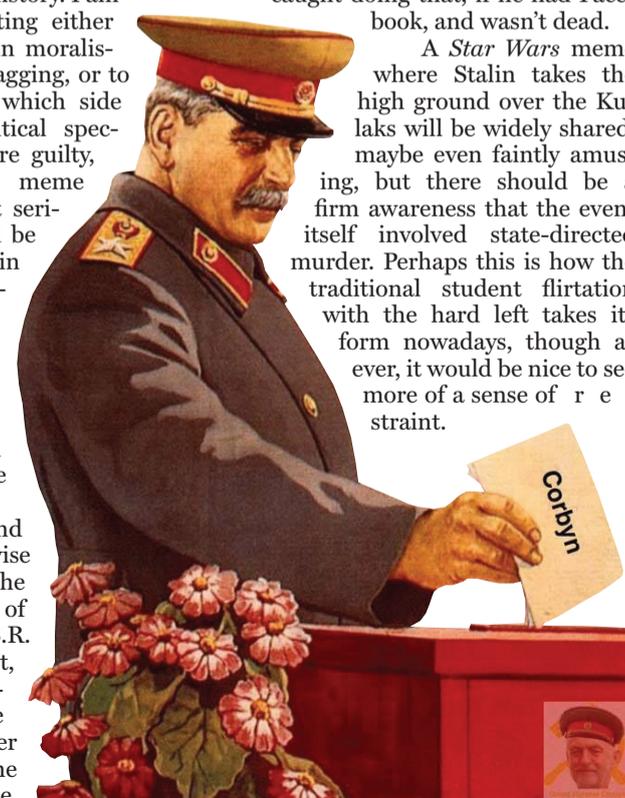
But neither side is unaccustomed to downright tastelessness, with some material joyfully making light of some of the worst atrocities in modern history. I am not attempting either to indulge in moralistic finger wagging, or to schematise which side of the political spectrum is more guilty, as to take meme culture that seriously would be an exercise in abject daftness, but there is an alarming trend among pages aligned with the hard left.

To defend or otherwise venerate the Stalinism of the U.S.S.R. is difficult, the Maoism of the P.R.C. harder still, and the Juche of the

D.P.R.K. virtually impossible, and yet I have seen it done multiple times. Memes that spout various iterations of the phrase 'The Kulaks Deserved It', or in which Chairman Mao is revived in a manner eerily reminiscent of his actual personality cult, seem to receive an alarmingly large and receptive audience. While the worst excesses of this trend may be buried deep in the bowels of threads on /r/LateStageCapitalism, immensely popular pages such as 'Sassy Socialist Memes' regularly disseminate similar material.

Of course, one can always argue that Mao, Hoxha and the rest of the gang are being lionized ironically, and that is part and parcel of meme culture. All very well I say, but to ironically act like a prick is still very much acting like a prick, and in fact counts as a minor historical obscenity when considering the actual legacy of these brutes. The right isn't much better (just check out 'Pinochet's Dank Meme Stash'), but there seems to be an unnerving rule that celebrating those that directed the mass slaughter of millions is fair game for memeification as long as they opposed capitalism. There is no deification of Hitler and Mussolini, at least nothing approaching that proffered in the memes regularly shared by my peers. I once saw someone post a portrait of Stalin on my friend's wall as part of their birthday wishes. I'm not sure even Eric Hobsbawm would want to be caught doing that, if he had Facebook, and wasn't dead.

A *Star Wars* meme where Stalin takes the high ground over the Kulaks will be widely shared, maybe even faintly amusing, but there should be a firm awareness that the event itself involved state-directed murder. Perhaps this is how the traditional student flirtation with the hard left takes its form nowadays, though as ever, it would be nice to see more of a sense of restraint.



## EDITOR'S OPINION

### Unionists and disunity

Rory Kelly



The mostly unsung disaster that will likely ensue from the UK leaving the EU is the precarious situation in Northern Ireland. Now, in the wake of a general election that could see the Conservatives forming a coalition (formal or informal) with the DUP it has reared its head again. We now take the peace achieved on the corner of that lightly populated island for granted. It should be seen as little less than miraculous. In June 2012, the Queen made a visit to Northern Ireland, where she met and shook hands with Martin McGuinness, euphemistically referred to as the “second in command” of the IRA. This is a good deal more than eased tensions. This is a radical commitment to gestures of cooperation. Fanatical compromise. Unity or else.

The Good Friday Agreement that helped finally ease the tensions set the precedent for this

and, taking its cue from American civil rights legislation, boldly asserted that neither of the major parties in Northern Irish politics could be trusted to govern alone. This is the political equivalent of training wheels - they allow Ulster to ride on its own but make it impossible to know if they can do so unassisted. The agreement makes the politics of both parties seem promising, but at the same time it is built on pessimism.

This pessimism has served Northern Ireland well and is now being undone. Any kind of agreement between the Tories and DUP undercuts the point of power sharing entirely. The DUP being even near government gives one side a privileged power, forgetting history's lesson that neither party can be trusted with it. Even if the DUP don't try to advance a Unionist agenda, Sinn Fein will react to their new relationship with the Conservative party by intensifying their rhetoric. Already fraught negotiations over the Irish boarder could become almost untenable. The DUP have no place in government, and no Conservative can support them in good conscience.

## EDITOR'S OPINION

### Jeremy Corbyn, Prime Minister

Oscar Bentley



I normally try to keep this column politics free, but let's face it, at the moment I can probably make an exception. So - doing the wicked witch Theresa May is (almost) dead; Jesus Christ-cum-Aslan-cum-Superman Jeremy Corbyn is poised to become Prime Minister at the next general election (calling it for October); when I was live-tweeting election night I got a little too swearsy and our Editor Luke got mad at me.

The only person Theresa May has to blame for her election loss is herself. In what would become a running theme throughout the campaign, she lied about her motivations, calling the election because the Tories were leagues ahead of Labour in the polls, wanting to sure up her administration for another five years, which, in party political terms, is fair enough. But she shouldn't have claimed it was because she needed a mandate because opposition parties were frustrating Brexit, when Labour whipped its MPs to vote for Article 50, and by the same logic she should resign today and call another election,

considering her mandate has actually been decreased.

Her campaign was lacklustre, as opposed to Corbyn's invigorated campaign of hope, a fact I think even his greatest detractors cannot deny. Corbyn travelled the country meeting the people (he even shook this star struck writer's hand), listening to concerns, firing people up in political rallies attended by hundreds. He appeared to the electorate everywhere, challenging Theresa May to TV debates, and actually turning up to one, even if it was at the last minute.

May, however, held a campaign that existed behind closed doors, only meeting Conservative Party activists, refusing to appear on debates, and performing a U-turn that she didn't even have the guts to admit as such. It's a reserved kind of politics she's pursued throughout her career, and while it may have worked as Home Secretary, it certainly doesn't as Prime Minister campaigning for re-election.

May's only option left has been to strike up a deal with the bigoted DUP, an arrangement that will surely collapse within months, bringing the chaos that she warned of rather than the stability she promised. But, after chaos comes order, after dark comes the light, and after May comes Prime Minister Corbyn. And I can't wait.



IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

## Women in leadership and why there's a long way to go

Being YUSU Prez has showed me some of the hurdles still to come

Millie Beach SU



As the first woman YUSU president in roughly ten years, I've answered lots of gender-loaded questions: “are you a feminist?” “Are you a president who's a woman, or a Woman President?” “Are you a role model for women?” Now I'm getting to the finish line, I think it's fair that I do my best to answer these questions.

My experience at YUSU has been positive. I've experienced little sexism at work and it's been a privilege to meet many inspiring people. For me, the University has also been good for gender equality. There are still challenges around the gender pay gap, women holding leadership roles, and providing support for ALL genders, not just men and women. Despite this, York's Senior Management Team is more gender balanced than others nationally and from conversations with women in leadership roles, there's trust that they're treated similarly to their male counterparts.

Occasionally, things haven't gone smoothly. This has proven to me that I'm a feminist. I've walked away from a gentleman at a dinner, called out inappropriate language from a man in a meeting and looked at someone like I'd bite their hand off if they ever patted me on

the head again. So the answer to the first question is yes: I am a feminist.

My most frustrating encounters with sexism this year have actually been from students. It was students who asked what underwear I wore to work. Students who insisted my gender dictated my throwing ability. A student team who approached me in a club and asked if I wanted to have sex with them. Students who responded to my refusals by insisting I must be on my period. Students have made more comments about my weight, makeup, and

### We need everyone's support for women to succeed

sexual orientation than my policies, views on mental health or feelings about the TEF. Are these experiences because of my gender or my role? I have tried to not let my gender define my leadership, but actually other students have done that anyway. I have become a Woman President because I have had to defend myself against sexism and attacks and I have had to challenge them.

Am I a role model? While student sexism has been prevalent this year, the sexist voice that's hardest to ignore is my own. Even clothes are a challenge: finding skirts the right length, tops that don't show too much cleavage, and shoes that

are smart but not painful is a nightmare. I feel pressure from myself and society to balance being young, and fun, with modest and smart. Life as a professional, public-facing woman is balanced on a knife edge. It's a tipping scale of 'thin enough to prevent judgement' without subscribing to fad diets, because you want to be a role model for others. It's being unemotional enough to thrive in a male-heavy boardroom, while not hiding emotion completely as we must stop being ashamed of it. When asked about my career ambitions, I find myself softening my goals, derailing them with 'but maybe not if I have children' or 'my boyfriend's job is important'. Being a woman in the workplace is a confusing jumbled mess of self-set goals and society-set directions. I've tried to handle this year with humour and good judgements. To answer the final question: I hope women see me as a role model if they're searching for one.

Moving forward, it's important that women continue to take on leadership roles (if they want to). It's important that in future generations young women won't have to search for female role models because they'll be obvious. If we can get this right, future generations of women who want to thrive professionally won't have the same conflicts that I've had to navigate. We need to lead by example, stop shaming women leaders, and, importantly, we need everyone's support in order for women to succeed.

# To survive, the EU must learn to compromise

The European Union is an ambitious project, but it won't last if it punishes the UK for leaving and continues to resist reform

Jan De Boer



**B**rexit: the unending conundrum. A referendum with a collection of questions that has morphed into a gelatinous mass of mild deliberation. Of which the only question that has been answered is one that the Clash asked in 1981: should I stay or should I go? Now that we have sent a two fingered response to the rest of our continental brethren and are attaching engines to dover to start our long journey out of Europe (and into the sea). I am here to implore Merkel's 27 to give the United Kingdom a fair and easy exit into the economically unstable wide world.

Now I have lived near the EU for the majority of my life, so this may sound like a large amount of political gymnastics but a bad deal is as bad for the European Union as it would be for us, arguably even more so. There is talk among EU figures for punishing the United Kingdom, most notably with an astronomical bill that would make even a waiter at the Ritz blush.

However, much like a dinner date with a frosty relation, whoever will be negotiating the deal can just say 'Oh, sorry, i've left my wallet in

the Jag' and flee, leaving the 100 billion euro bill to be payed by someone else. What happens if the UK just walks away? The fifth largest economy in the world leaves you in its flat with nothing but a limp offer of helping yourself to cornflakes on your way out.

Of course, the motive behind punishing the UK on it's departure is that the European Union, particularly Germany, is between a

The UK has a few more bargaining chips than even I thought it had ”

rock and a hard place. Any leniency towards Britain economically can be seen as European weakness and as an opportunity for Eurosceptics to harp on the benefits of departure. While any punishment would see Germany's \$99.9bn market sail off into the distance with relations too sour to even wish them a fond farewell. Economic depression for the sake of political capital is all that Merkel can hope for. Especially since such economic turmoil could fuel the anti-EU sentiment that she dreads.

She must face the decision

with awareness of both her own national interest and of the European project. I am sure that Ms Merkel and Mr Juncker would prefer to go down as Europe's 'heroes' not as the reasons for the suffering of 510 million Europeans.

It cannot be said that the UK is off scot free, but it must be accepted that the United Kingdom has a few more bargaining chips that even I thought we had. I think that the focus for the European Union now is to work with the UK and vice versa so that neither would have to take an economic cyanide pill for the motive of a few political plaudit points.

The European Union should focus on it's flaws and reform itself so that a nation wouldn't be inclined to follow the British lead, not fear the European populace themselves. Whether the negotiations bear fruit is based on either sides ability to compromise. In

a situation where the outcome appears to be a lose-lose, there is no sense jeopardising long term economic development at the expense of short-term political gain.

The European Union is an institution that must realise that it is not immune

to compromise or criticism. Like many in Europe, I was shocked when on 24 June, I woke up to the alarm bells of Brexit. Like many other people, to me the EU sounded like a great ambitious project to be reformed and improved, which now should continue its tradition of compromise. Now like us all, I must accept and appreciate the narrative of the other side. And like the leaders of our great nations, learn to compromise.



IMAGE: MIKEL AGIRREGABIRIA

# Don't count politicians out of pop culture

Engaging with pop culture makes politicians look far less out of touch and, if used right, can be invaluable political capital

Jack Davies



**P**oliticians and wider culture outside the Houses of Parliament rarely make welcome bedfellows. Sometimes, even something as seemingly simple and regular to us everyday folk as eating a bacon sarnie, can be inexplicably botched by our leading political figures. This was demonstrated astutely by Ed Miliband in the run-up to the 2015 general election as he managed to look John Hurt in *The Elephant Man*, while attempting to sample one of our favourite national dishes. But this wasn't always the way. Cast your an eye back to the lead-up to the 1997 election and you'll see a time when our politics and our culture were linked inextricably. Noel Gallagher of Oasis delivered a glowing recommendation of Tony Blair at the 1996 Brit Awards. Gallagher would be invited to ten Downing Street upon Blair's election, with a picture of the two

appearing prominently on the front pages of the tabloid media.

Now, I'm not necessarily calling for this kind of thing to return with prominence - Gallagher may well cringe in remembering his flirtation with politics given Blair's eventual outing as a warmongering American puppet - but it is worth noting that such crossover between politics and popular culture can be extremely beneficial to the political campaigns themselves. Parties have long-sought celebrity endorsements, eager to find figures to appear advocating for them and their policies in their political broadcasts. However, politicians need to change their relationship with popular culture and present themselves at the front line of it. In the run up to the recent general election, Jeremy Corbyn appeared halfway through a Libertines gig at a stadium in Birkhead and made a speech to what turned out to be a passionately approving crowd. This was a risk - a politician appearing in such an alien venue as onstage at a music concert could easily provoke a barrage of missiles reigning down towards the given party's head, such is its dis-

tance from the political arena. But far from anger, Corbyn received a rapturous welcome of chanting and cheering, clearly impressed by his efforts in putting himself in such a foreign position. Subsequently, Corbyn surpassed all expectation in the recent election, derailing Theresa May's majority in the Commons, and seeing the Labour Party reinvigorated with an increased voter share and seat count. It would be foolish to suggest that this was entirely down to something as minute as a single appearance at a single gig, but it may well have shown a key demographic of young, culturally in-tune voters that politicians aren't necessarily as out-of-touch as they may at first appear.

Meanwhile, Theresa May was skipping gaily through a Sussex wheat field like a 19th century extra from Lark Rise to Candleford directly towards political suicide, proving herself as an entirely out-of-touch, farmer-bothering lizard. Maybe if she'd just said that the worst thing she'd ever done was having a cheeky joint at uni, she wouldn't be reliant on gay-bashing Unionists to form another government.



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



**Jim Waterson**  
@jimwaterson

The BBC is running a docu-drama entitled "How Theresa became PM" on 18 June. Optimistic scheduling.  
10 Jun 2017



**Jack Davies**  
@jackisgreat

Lab gain from Cons in Vale of Cwlyd is absolute scenes. Get me a fucking jagerbomb #ge17 #nouseviews  
9 Jun 2017



**Michael Deacon**  
@MichaelPDeacon

George Osborne, openly gleeful: "The worst thing she's done in her life is no longer running through a wheat field"  
9 Jun 2017

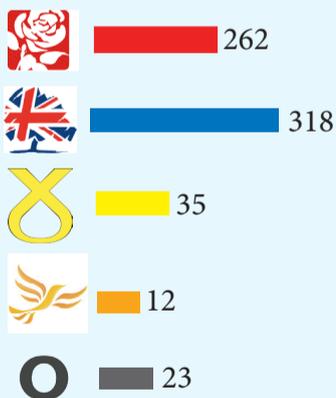


**Zachary Piona**  
@Zachpiona

Can't wait to roast my kids in a family group chat  
24 Apr 2017

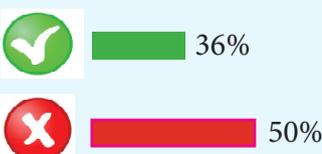
### BY THE NUMBERS

Seats won in 2017 General Election



Source: BBC News

Theresa May is a strong and stable leader



Source: Britain Elects

## CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should the UK hold another general election?

YES.

**Nick Meadcowcroft-Lunn**



Theresa May's 'gamble' wasn't even worthy of the title. With seven weeks until a general election she had a 17-point average lead in the polls and an opponent who seemed more likely to be blown up by his alleged IRA connections than drop a bombshell on 8 June.

It was a cast-iron certainty that the Conservatives would be returned to parliament with a huge majority and a period of "strong and stable" government that was to be controversial but decisive; a government that would provide a hard, unforgiving Brexit.

However, at 10:01PM election night, the political winds seemed to have utterly put paid to that hypothesis.

My reaction, mirroring others around the country no doubt, was one of utter shock, followed by suspicion, followed by a sudden affinity for gallows humour. The result? A hung parliament where no block can form a majority of over ten, a choice selection of coalitions of chaos. As a Labour supporter, I make no bones about my happiness that Jeremy Corbyn's party has gained seats; but as a person directly affected by Brexit negotiations, security concerns and numerous other social, legal and political concerns, even I can see that a Conservative majority of 100 would have at least got something done.

At this moment in time politics seems frozen, no one side able to do the things they must do to get the country out of this impasse. A shaky, nigh-on informal, alliance

between the Conservatives and the DUP seems at best a stop-gap - at worst an allowance of 1950s morals into our 21st century world; something even most Tories have no truck with.

Jeremy Corbyn's Labour isn't in a much better position. Having managed to totally win and totally lose the same election, the mood in Labour Party HQ could probably be summed up best by 'so near but so far'.

There's very little electoral calculus that gives the Labour Party even a working majority, and even if they could cobble together some form of government, defections from just two or three MPs could spark any number of constitutional crises. This situation, every party losing in its special way, seems farcical, like constitutional Kafka. It cannot be allowed to go on. The only way to even aim for a semblance of authority, a semblance of government, has to be another general election.

Yes, the British people could laugh again at the commentators and return us to the same position we find ourselves now. But surely the chance of getting somewhere, anywhere, is preferable to just sitting idly by while the Brexit doomsday clock ticks down to midnight; something that would be disastrous to Britain and its economy.

At the moment, what we have been left with? A smorgasbord of potential minority governments signal no leadership, a case of the socially blind leading the politically tone deaf. It can be simply stated: bad government is better than no government. We need another general election, if only to turn the ongoing party infighting outwards and get nearer to a political heavy-weight champion of the world - some real strength and stability.

**Chloe Kent**



I sincerely hope that 2017 will always be remembered as the year Britain's political climate went completely insane. In the blue corner we have Theresa May, everyone's favourite Margaret Thatcher reincarnation, who has just managed to lose an election by winning it. In the red corner we have Jeremy Corbyn, who looks like someone who could be on the casting shortlist for the 13th Doctor, and has just managed to win an election by losing it.

Theresa "Strong and Stable" May, with a party of only 317 seats, has propped up her majority with a backroom deal with the Democratic Unionist Party, who are outrageously homophobic and don't believe that climate change is a thing. Oh, and they want creationism to be taught in schools as scientific fact. But even with the DUP on side, it's an unofficial majority - if someone has the shits and can't show up to parliament on voting day, nothing's getting done.

So it's safe to say that things are pretty messy at this point, and they're going to be for a while. So why not call another election? May will step down, jettisoned into the history books as an absolute wreck of a Prime Minister, and a more capable Conservative leader can take her place. Whether they can contest with the mobilised youth vote will, of course, be another thing entirely. Maybe old Corbs can just about swing it this time. #jezwe-can. #jez4prez.

Except, even as your archetypal Corbynite, I think that's a bloody waste of time.

NO.

General elections cost millions in taxpayer money. And let's be honest, we're pretty likely to get much the same result - a weak and wobbly Conservative minority government. It might even make the coalition official this time. After all, the DUP would probably push for a marriage over a cohabitation. Another election would be the parliamentary equivalent of sending off a GCSE paper for a remark a third time over. As much as I'd like to be an idealist and say that this time round surely it can happen for Labour, there's still a strong Conservative votership. They're a lot quieter on social media, but they're out there.

It's only worth calling another election if we introduce a PR system. First-past-the-post is defunct, and we need to put it down. In the parallel universe where this is the case - anyone fancy starting a Miliverse-type Twitter account with this concept? The Conservative lead shrinks even more, from 317 to 276. Labour would have 260, and combined these two figures are a much more accurate reflection of the current division of electorate support between the two main parties. Meanwhile, the DUP would be reduced to six - try making a coalition out of that - and UKIP and Green would have 12 and 10 respectively.

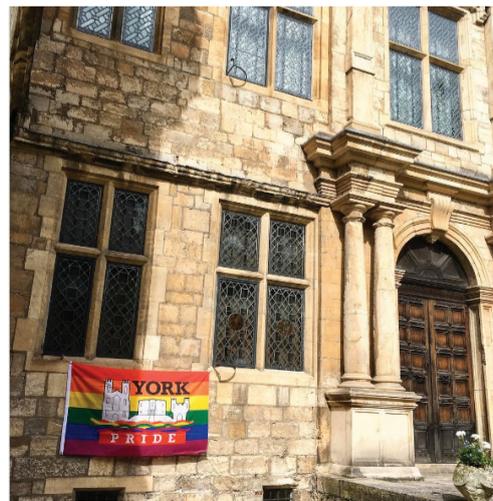
Of course, there's absolutely no way we'll be getting a PR system any time soon. There are bigger fish to fry. Big Brexit fish. And there's the floundering, failing NHS. And the conundrum over whether schoolchildren should be fed or not. There's no time for another first-past-the-post election right now. It's a waste of time and money, in an age where we're uncertain about both of those things. For now, we may as well suck it up and stick with what we've got.

## #minstergram York Pride Edition

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



@davidwaldok York Pride #yorkpride #pride2017 #pride17



@laurawatt38 #sunset



@sianylewis Yaaaaaas York Pride

# MUSE.



**ED BALLS**

THE EX-SHADOW CHANCELLOR  
BRINGS HIS INIMITABLE STYLE  
TO YORK'S FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

## 8

## FASHION

**M8** Dale Lyster guides you through the sights and sounds of LFWM

**M9** Amelia Clarke enjoys the York Festival of Ideas campus fashion show

## FEATURES

**M4** Former shadow chancellor Ed Balls talks Corbyn, Labour and Strictly Come Dancing

**M17** York's annual Festival of Ideas is underway, so Lucy Furneaux walks you through this year's top events

**M19** Tim Henton checks out Play!, the gaming cafe on its way to York



## 14

## FILM &amp; TV

**M14** Chloe Kent and Andrew Young explore the career of Jack Nicholson, plus the team's top five TV shows that should be shown the door

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## ARTS

**M6** The team focus on the art of Japan, featuring an interview with Tadanooi Yokoo

**M7** Megan Johnston on last month's York Shakespeare Festival



## FOOD &amp; DRINK

**M18** Mustafa Chaudhry discusses the month of Ramadan, and the commercial aspects attached to it

## GAMING

**M16** The team check out the latest war games and questions Valve's monopoly over the industry

## 12

## MUSIC

**M12** Music Editor Ellie Langford sits down with Zach Lount, frontman of local band King No-One

**M13** Jack Davies explores the legacy of the iconic Sgt. Pepper's, 50 years after its release



“Do what you love,  
not what you think  
you should do”



## FORMER ASSISTANT HEAD OF GOODRICKE COLLEGE, SARAH NAPOLI, DISCUSSES TEACHING SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

### What have you gained from your role at York and how has it assisted with your interest in social justice issues?

I worked in higher education in the US for over ten years before moving to the UK in 2014. The US system and the UK system are incredibly different so it was like learning a new language. I loved learning about the UK system. Once I became Assistant Head of Goodricke I was challenged further in helping develop and foster community with a much smaller team than what I would be used to in the US. The big difference here is the college system; it's unique to UK schools. I think it's a highly beneficial in creating community identity.

I found that I had an unusual challenge in trying to bring social justice programming to students who only study their course. In the US, students are required to take multiple electives outside their course and often take a first year course that will include some social justice themes. So although a challenge in the UK, I found it incredibly rewarding to support students in exploring these concepts in an alternative learning space. I found that I was more motivated to do the work at York, as I knew students were not getting these conversations elsewhere.

### Is it difficult to educate others on social issues and what challenges have you faced when doing so?

Yes. Yes. Yes. It is incredibly difficult - even more so in these tense political times. Folks on both sides of the pond do not typically have conversations about identity and power and privilege dynamics. These are uncomfortable dialogues and sometimes folks are not willing to participate. When you get folks on each side of the conversation who have completely polarising view points, it can be heated and tempers can flare.

Everyone is coming from diverse backgrounds; they have different experiences. It's hard, but it's also part of why I keep doing the work. I've been doing this work for almost 20 years and it has gotten easier to manage. I have tips and tricks to keep folks engaged and interested, even if they are emotional about the experience. I also have changed

the way I teach over the years, implementing different strategies, interactive exercises and media as it's a topic that is always changing.

### How have your degrees aided with the current work you do?

I originally attended school because I wanted to study acting. I had no desire to be academic (and didn't even realise how academic theatre was!). I happened to take a cultural anthropology elective course and discovered how much I enjoyed learning about culture and especially how to connect theatre and culture. I still utilise theatre activities in all my workshops. My first MA was focused primarily on how to conduct social justice dialogues; it's really where I honed my skills with my current work. I decided to do an MA because I discovered most of the work I was applying to required an MA or higher degree. Afterwards, I worked in higher ed for almost ten years before deciding I wanted to gain more skills. My first MA was very US-focused so a degree in Applied Human Rights in the UK was attractive. It was also a nice career break.

An MA in the UK was the perfect choice to expand my international frame and toolkit when talking about the same issues but in different way. I did my first dissertation in youth empowerment and my second in human rights and hip hop. I use hip hop references in all of my work and having time to focus on this discipline really allowed me to zone in on my passions and find new ways to use the work. I'm pretty sure I am done for a long while now - although in five years or so I may just do a doctorate, because I'm a glutton for punishment.

### Was it difficult moving from your home in the United States to York and how did you adjust?

Oh yes! It's hard to leave everything familiar and move across an ocean! The first year was so busy with my degree that it was hard to ever really feel at home. The second year was easier; I really did find my community and started to get used to living in York. I made a lot of new friends and found lots of coffee shops I enjoyed hanging out in. It was im-

portant for me to find my niche in York, but being a city person I needed to get to London at least once, sometimes twice a month. Having London 2.5 hours away made it liveable for me. I think folks in the UK think this is a long way but distance is different in the US and this was like living in a suburb!

### What has been your favourite memory while living in York?

I love York! Being from the US, living in a well-preserved 2000-year-old city was incredible. The city walls! The Minster - probably my favourite church in the world. I loved going there to just be quiet and admire the architecture. The Shambles! And all the amazing gatherings I had with my friends in my lovely home in the south bank. Most of all it's the baristas at Coffee Culture on Goodramgate - they were incredibly welcoming. I wrote most of my dissertation there and many of my blogposts. On my last day in York I went in for one more lunch and they gave me my very own Coffee Culture cup and saucer!

### What advice would you give to the students currently at University?

Do what you love, not what you think you should do. In the long run, this is what is most important about life. Also, seek out learning other than your course. Especially around difference and conversations on injustice. The election results show a divide; the global climate is intense. Learn all you can and gain skills in learning more about yourself and how to be a self-reflective learner as this work is never ending, it's an investment in social change.

### What are your biggest plans for the future?

I am working in higher education for the next five to ten years and I have an opportunity lined up in NYC! After this, I am hoping to branch out as a social justice training consultant. I hope to continue to work globally and use my skills as an educator to promote a more socially just world for as long as I am able.

Interview by Hina Rana

## EDITOR'S NOTE



### MUSE DEPUTY JACK DAVIES IS BEING SENTIMENTAL

All is not well in the *Nouse* office. The end of the academic year dictates that a great many goodbyes are in order (not least me saying farewell to my chances of a 2:1 following a year dedicating way too much time to this bloody paper). But the goodbyes I refer to are not in relation to the loss of my post-degree career prospects, but instead to the great many third years who are part of this wonderful *Nouse* team that will be running for the hills after this, their last edition.

The *Muse* representatives among the departures see both our Music Editor, Ellie Langford, and Film and TV Editor, Chloe Kent head for the exit door and to sweet, *Nouse*-less freedom. The former says goodbye with a masterful interview with the frontman of up-and-coming York based-band King No-One (M12), her writing style truly refined after no less than three separate tenures on the Music team.

Meanwhile, Chloe leaves the paper a true embodiment of the fervent egotism inherent to all student journalists, informing me as she layed-up an entire two-page spread co-written by herself about Jack Nicholson (M14-15) “fuck it, it's my last edition, I'm being selfish”. I can't really argue given her aptitude in guiding Film and TV with aplomb as the section increased its page coverage, as per my own suggestion...

Yet in spite of these goodbyes, things must continue regardless, no matter how inclined I am to make this note one big, sentimental wankfest. In our cover feature, Finn Judge visits former Labour heavyweight Ed Balls' recent talk at the University (M4-5), as the ex-shadow chancellor discusses Jeremy Corbyn, the state of politics today and, of course, the most burning issue, his time on *Strictly*, and Dale Lyster visits London Men's Fashion Week (M8).

Elsewhere, Mustafa Chaudhry explores the rising centrality of Ramadan in British food culture (M18), Arts celebrate all things Japanese (M6) and Lucy Furneaux guides you through swathes of the inspirational at York's Festival of Ideas (M17).

Finally, I should probably reference the fact that this also serves as the final edition for Editor and *Nouse* führer, Luke Rix-Standing, as he might cry should I fail to acknowledge him given his crippling need for attention ever since being palmed off to a boarding school as a child. In all seriousness, this *Nouse* senior team has been a pleasure to be a part of, and I hope I can speak also for Luke, Lucy and Finn when I say I am immensely proud of what we have achieved these past nine months.

Departure does inevitably mean change, and I only hope *Nouse* and *Muse* continue in the vein of unparalleled quality that has been established under the current team.

### IMAGE CREDITS

Cover: BBC  
Opposite, from top: Reuters, YouTube,  
Tadanoori Yokoo, The Beatles  
Q&A: Sarah Napoli

# BALLS TO THE WALL

FINN JUDGE CHECKS UP ON ED BALLS AFTER LABOUR'S SHOCK ELECTION SURGE

The timing was perfect. Two days after the snap election, Ed Balls, the former Treasury heavyweight and Labour leadership contender, was sat just metres away from me giving a talk. Admittedly, his reign in the party appears now to be from an age bygone - an age of moderation, centrism and the Greens jealously guarding the youth vote. I couldn't wait to shoot my hand up and rip into his views on how Corbyn did so well.

His response was far more nuanced than that. Indeed, I should have known better from a senior politician. Speaking to the audience in the Theatre, Film and Television building on Heslington East, as part of the University of York's Festival of Ideas (and, conveniently, his own book promotion tour), Balls turned his fire to the Tories in true tribalistic fashion.

"Theresa May as Prime Minister is finished," he lauded. Throughout the Q&A, notifications came through to our phones, bringing the news of both Nick Timothy and Fiona Hill, the PM's co-chiefs of staff, resigning. It was believed that they were the main culprits behind the Conservatives' lacklustre manifesto, as senior Tory MPs gave May the ultimatum of sacking them or facing a leadership challenge. Stunningly, two years on from losing his seat, Ed Balls was commanding a play-by-play of the political showdown.

"I wouldn't aim the blame at her advisors," Balls continued - a call for calm during this mad media storm. "There is no doubt that May's Number 10 was a very controlling environment. She delegated most of her dealings to

advisors, and was contentious of other politicians - remember Osborne and Gove? But it's also been the same with politicians she's brought in."

Of course, Balls was alluding to reports that May was prepared to sack both Boris Johnson and Philip Hammond, should an

“ The DUP deal was not the coalition of chaos Theresa May warned us about

increased majority have strengthened her hand. I couldn't help but scratch my head. Surely, thinking back to the days of Blair's 'kitchen cabinet', where the actual cabinet was bypassed and the likes of Peter Mandelson emboldened, the Labour administration in which Ed Balls thrived was equally authoritative?

Before I thought to pose the question later, he'd outmaneuvered me with a preemptive justification. "This was the strength of the Blair and Brown partnership. Blair preferred to have Brown in the Treasury, as the challenge was good for him. May wanted to bring in those who weren't strong, such as Philip Hammond. There were Tory cabinet ministers packed onto a bus during this election campaign, reading their manifesto together for the first time and saying 'oh, I didn't know this policy was in there!'"

Hence the dementia tax, so perhaps a fair point to make. Much to my delight, though, the topic turned swiftly from diagnostics of where the Tories went wrong, towards contemplating successors to May's doomed premiership. I thought to myself to question the judgement of Ed Balls on this one, as he'd totally sat out of the past parliament. His wife, former Home Secretary and 'moderate' Yvette Cooper, had resigned to the backbenches for nearly as long.

It must be said that he left me vindicated, bizarrely and enthusiastically exploring the odds on David Davis, the Brexit Secretary, becoming Prime Minister.

"He's the only minister who's spoken in public [since the election result], and he may think he's got a good chance of being coronated as successor." Balls

argued. "His pitch would be that he's a liberal person, and could reach out to the centre ground and say to the Tories in London and southern seats, at a time of crisis, 'I'm your guy'. He's a capable and flexible politician: last autumn, he was the one to concede that we may need to give a financial contribution to the EU upon leaving. That was the right thing to say."

However, Balls quickly rowed back on this, be it for the sake of balance or admitting that his theory could be pretty 'out there'.

"He's always been a bit of a loner, though. Does he have the necessary attention to detail [to be Prime Minister]? He'd need to reach out socially and empathetically. In 2001 and 2004, we weren't worried about Davis, but were quite worried about Ken Clarke becoming leader."

Indeed, David Davis came fourth in the 2001 Conservative leadership contest and third in the subsequent 2004 contest. To think he now stands a chance of winning the premiership is a world away from the Westminster Ed Balls knew - and this is symptomatic of the reality he now faces. For all he kept himself abreast with the day's political chatter, politics has moved on without the former Shadow Chancellor.

The latest surge for Corbyn, of course, has been the main symptom. Eventually, Balls was pinned down to the subject, but stopped short of outright praising the Labour leader.

"I think there are two choices facing Jeremy going forward," Balls said. "He has to decide: 'is my style going to win in the end, in which case I should be even more of an outsider', or does he say 'I need to build a broad coalition and reach into the centre ground?'"

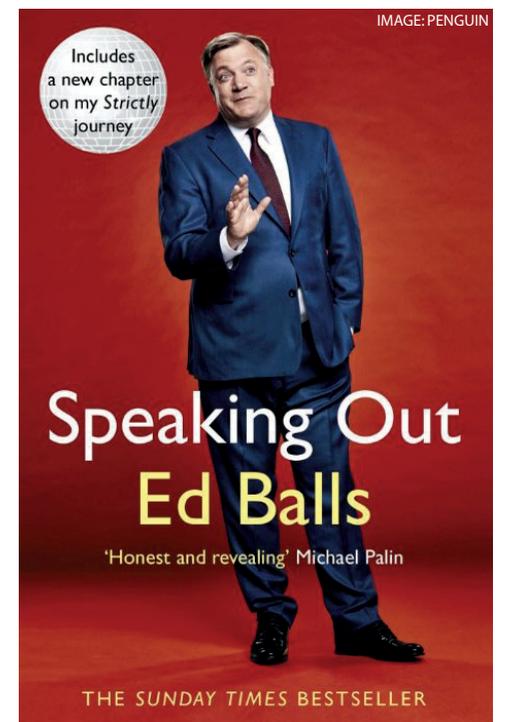
He immediately followed this up by stat-

“ Asking the country what they think is not the best way to govern them

ing that he'd back the latter conclusion. Potentially, such a strategy could see his wife Yvette Cooper return to the frontbench, as the former Shadow Home Secretary has long been considered a favourite for a leadership challenge among moderate Labour MPs. While Balls wholly acknowledged the notion that Prime Minister Corbyn is now "on the agenda", he seemed rather pessimistic about the challenges ahead.

He noted: "The big divides that have emerged since this election are between young and old, and cities and smaller towns. Labour did well in pro-remain seats - you saw it in London massively. York Central also saw that swing [to Labour], even if Rachael Maskell wasn't so worried."

"Labour needs to keep the urban, pro-remain, young and intellectual vote, but also broaden its base beyond that."



Balls concluded these remarks by predicting there'd be another general election in a few months time, caused by a vote of no confidence against the government, as the Tories "cannot have a working majority on Brexit issues" now that it runs a minority administration.

"The deal with the DUP was not the coalition of chaos Theresa May was warning about", Balls remarked.

Beyond snap elections, the former Treasury chief was even more scathing about referendums in general. There were no UK-wide referendums under the last Labour government, compared to two under Cameron's premiership. This was despite initial plans for Blair's government to hold a national vote on whether Britain should adopt the Euro. Citing last year's EU referendum as the source of the current "chaos" among government ranks, Balls claimed the following:

"Referendums should be affirming, rather than confirming. If we'd proposed to join the Euro, there'd be a referendum. But asking the country what they think is not the best way to govern."

It was largely due to the influence of Ed Balls, under Gordon Brown's chancellorship, that Labour did not advocate joining the Euro during its first term. He cited this as one of the achievements he was most proud of, looking back at a political career that spanned 21 years. In his book, *Speaking Out: Lessons in Life and Politics*, Balls writes openly about looking back on this legacy as a means of solace after losing his seat in the 2015 general election.

"It's hard to look back without retrospection," Balls said, smiling wryly. "I've only been back to the Leeds Arena where I lost my seat once - on a tour bus, accompanied by a professional dancer. That night, we won! The people of West Yorkshire voted for us!"

Reminiscing about his *Strictly* career is fitting of a man who transformed his public image as a means of coping with the loss.



IMAGE: BBC



Since 2015, Ed Balls has transformed from what David Cameron denounced as “the most annoying man in British politics” and the purported architect of “Labour’s Great Recession”, into how his memoir’s blurb describes him: “one of Britain’s most influential and well-loved political figures”. Indeed, it’s hard to look back without retrospection, and Balls has worked to put right the ill perceptions levelled against him from his time in the murky business of government. Less “Great Recession”, more Gangnam Style.

Such a rebranding of Balls can therefore be seen as a resurrection. In the first chapter of *Speaking Out*, Balls describes that “when a high-profile figure is unexpectedly shunned out by the voters, it’s treated more like a political death - hence some people were actually getting in touch with Yvette, rather than me, to pass on their condolences.” Spiritually, Ed Balls the politician appears to have died. He did not seem to struggle ruling out another run in this year’s snap election, and was visibly glowing when grinning and shaking hands with fans at his book signing on Heslington East. It appears that Ed Balls the celebrity is relishing his new life, emotionally unphased by the political uncertainty that followed his departure from Westminster.

On the note of his loss in 2015, Balls had the following advice to MPs who lose their



timely, then, that an audience member finished the Q&A by asking the question: “Why is it we’ve only gotten to know this particular Ed Balls, and ‘sassy Ed Miliband’, now that neither of you are on the frontbench?”

This touched on a key theme in *Speaking Out*, which Balls summarises in the preface as “the strange challenge of trying to remain a proper person at the same time as being a politician.” He lamented that opening up about his stammer, which he was diagnosed with having during his time as a Cabinet Minister, failed to give him a popularity boost as Shadow Chancellor (“I’ve stammered all the way through this!” he cried out during the Q&A) - nor did “mistakenly” admitting in 2011 that “Antiques Roadshow makes me cry”.

“The conclusion I’ve reached is that politicians have to find ways to show more of their human side - not presenting a front which people can see through,” Balls stated. “I think Theresa May’s election campaign is a classic example of a politician who tried to be a leader and not a human being.”

Fields of wheat come to mind in an instant. Conceding an own goal among his own faction, though, Ed Balls drew comparisons between Theresa May and Gordon Brown in this regard. He claimed that his former boss was also an example of this very mistake, largely to do him being a “very shy” character.

Regarding the former premier, Balls admitted to personal regret: “I was too far away [from Brown] as a cabinet minister. I carry the guilt that maybe I ought to have helped him more. He’d call me and ask me to read Treasury papers, but I said no, because he had Darling [as Chancellor] and I didn’t want to become his surrogate advisor. In the loneliness of being Prime Minister, what he wanted was people who could be close in that team.”

“He’d wear a suit seven days a week, because he wanted everyone to think he was always working!” Balls lamented.

Perhaps therein lies the double bind: lonely politicians are not electable politicians,

nor are they necessarily happy ones. Fusing these emotional issues to the concept of leadership, Balls was able to make an incredibly strong case for a shift in how we view our political leaders. It’s not unlike the public perception of Corbyn, either, often seen in conversation with grime artists and giving *The One Show* hosts his own homemade jam. This could be instrumental in understanding why Labour did so well this time among the social media generation. Once again, the insight of Ed Balls proved to be current and relevant, despite his indefinite political retirement. It begs the question as to whether British politics is worse off without it at the frontline.

However, I highly doubt much of this heightened emotional maturity was nearly as potent before he lost his seat. In ‘speaking out’ and reflecting on his time as a high-flying po-

litical maneuverer, the benefit of hindsight has enriched Balls’ analysis - not just on his past, but on the issues today that the government faces. This resurrection is more than a career move. Should Ed Balls continue to speak out on British politics, such a benefit of hindsight may lend itself priceless for years to come. **M**

IF YOU’RE INTERESTED...

Ed Balls has released a memoir on his time in politics, titled “*Speaking Out: Lessons in Life and Politics*”.

The latest edition, updated with a new chapter on *Strictly*, can be found here: <http://amzn.to/2rZBG4W>

Theresa May ... is a classic example of a politician who tried to be a leader and not a human being

seats: “If you’re up against someone who’s won for the first time, remember what that was like for you. Enjoy them enjoying winning for the first time.” This struck an oddly humanising tone for a description of the political battleground Ed Balls had come to know. It was



IMAGE: BBC

# PRINTING THE FLOATING WORLD

DAN HALL TALKS TO PERCY BARKES ABOUT THE FINER POINTS OF JAPANESE PRINTS AND THE RESURGENCE OF WATANABE SEITEI

You might not think of the quaint little labyrinthine streets of York city centre as the place to go to unearth a wealth of Japanese art. But just off from the Minster on High Petergate stands the pristine Japanese Print Shop, a little cherry blossom of a gallery specialising in Japanese woodblock prints from the late 1860s through to the early twentieth century. Like the principles of bonsai tree art, the shop has been methodically cared for and brought into bloom under the fastidious tenure of the shop's proprietor, Percy Barkes, since he first opened in the mid-1970s.

Though the Japanese Print Shop ordinarily displays Russian paintings alongside its eponymous works, it is currently running an exhibition given over to a single Japanese artist: Watanabe Seitei. Up until very recently, Seitei has not been considered an important artist in 19th century woodblock printing, eclipsed by the more familiar likes of Hiroshige and Hokusai. But Japanese woodblock art is currently enjoying a great wave of inter-

est from the UK (with the British Museum running an exhibition looking at the last 30 years of work in Hokusai's life) and, as Barkes says, "Seitei's prints are images of which you will 'never tire'". So now seems like an apt time to shed some light on an artist who created works of bucolic beauty that have (largely) fallen through the cracks of mainstream critical attention.

There cannot be many artistic forms that are considered to have exhausted themselves in a specific, single year. But this is the case with ukiyo-e, the woodblock and painting style that reigned in Japan from the 17th century through till 1868. In 1868, the Meiji Restoration returned Imperial rule to Japan and led to huge technological modernisations, which unleashed tsunamic social and political changes, as well as sounding the death-knell of the apparently obsolete ukiyo-e style. Ukiyo means 'floating world', named after the dreamy decadence of the merchant class in Edo (modern-day Tokyo) that emerged dur-

ing the rapid economic growth of the city in the early 1600s. Though the practice continued into the modernist period, collectors to this day consider ukiyo-e works made after 1868 (in Barkes' words) "a little bit naff".

But Barkes invites us to look again. Seitei was born in 1851 in Tokyo. His family were rice brokers, but from as early as 12 Seitei showed a deep interest in painting. He ended up becoming one of the most important exponents of kacho-ga, the bird and flower images so often depicted in ukiyo-e work. Though the majority of Seitei's work occurred after the apparent decline of the form in 1868, his oeuvre remains extremely beautiful and is suffused with the cross-pollinating influence of European watercolourists. For the first time, Seitei's work was exhibited in Tokyo this year, signifying a new respect for this enigmatic and distinctive artist. As Seitei's reputation comes into efflorescence, make sure you do not miss the opportunity to see his work in York's very own conduit to the Japanese art world.



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## TRADITION GOES POP

LARA MEDLAM REVELS IN THE ECLECTIC STYLE AND VIVID COLOURS OF JAPANESE PSYCH-POP ARTIST TADANORI YOKOO

Aspects of Tadanori Yokoo's 1960s poster art are redolent of bold, graphic adverts - coloured blocks and eclectic details, teeming with a heady range of bright images, textures and styles. This striking, effervescent approach has seen Yokoo become one of Japan's most famous living artists, where he commands something of a cult following, but he is high on unknown elsewhere. At first glance, his posters appear to be chock-full of fun colours and soaring visuals, slotting neatly into the Andy Warhol school of Pop Art, with a heavy dash of Peter Max psychedelia. But look more closely and the manifold Japanese elements jump out: geishas, samurais, rising suns, Hokusai-esque waves, Shinto Torii gates, blossoms, Mount Fuji and lengths of Kanji calligraphy.

His posters diametrically opposed the clean, minimalist principles of modernism, which was the prevailing mood of Japanese design at the time. Rather, as Yokoo put it "I started fusing my innate Japanese aesthetic with American Pop Art". So we find a brash, quality in his posters, with the stripes of kaleidoscope lines and colours, but alongside this is the influence of traditional woodblock ukiyo-e prints. The flatness of ukiyo-e prints and the flat, albeit bright, colours and aesthetic of pop art complement each other in a strikingly natural way, and this ability to effortlessly fuse together diverse visual styles is a testament to Yokoo's talent and endurance. Indeed, in 1972 he was honoured with a solo show at MoMA.

His posters are graphic grab-bags and Yokoo is something of a visual magpie. The eclecticism of his aesthetic is reflected in the various techniques he experimented with, from collage and illustration to re-appropriating found photos and images, in the spirit of Dadaist collage artists.

However, behind the playful colours and

shapes, there's a darker intensity to his work, which he's explored more in later life through his paintings. For centuries, Japan was a tightly closed country, keen to keep contact with the outside world to a minimum, and as such alternative ideas were imbued with a hefty dose of novelty and unfamiliarity. Japanese post-war society underwent rapid change and westernisation, and Yokoo's work reflects the attempts to embrace and represent fresh, alternative influences in line with distinct Japanese tradition. You can see an unsettled, frantic element in his work, which is especially evident in his animations (which are available for your surreal viewing pleasure on Youtube). Rainbow-hued images flash and elide, the sharp editing colliding with the crackling fissures, stains and bursts of light produced by worn-in 60s film reels. In *KISS KISS KISS* 1964 Yokoo uses comic book images of kissing couples, the film opening to the strains of Dean Martin's classic song 'Kiss'. But the song vanishes, replaced with the unearthly, unnerving sounds of a theremin. We see the images shift, as different colours, rhythms and rotations manipulate them, and the apparent bliss of a kiss is questioned and distorted.

After a trip to India in the 1970s, Yokoo was influenced by a different kind of Eastern aesthetic and his work was suffused with psychedelic mysticism. And as any psych-pop artist worth their salt would, he worked with various musicians, including The Beatles, Santana, Emerson, Lake and Palmer and Miles Davis, designing posters and album covers. Yokoo became a renowned figure in the 60s and 70s avant-garde art world, commercially successful but always innovative and insightful. His work is simultaneously very much a product of its time, but by fusing it with Japanese aesthetic tradition, Yokoo's zesty visual feasts just keep on giving.



IMAGE: DOKTOR MARUSE

# SHAKESPEARE IN YORK

MEGAN JOHNSTON EXPLORES THE MARVELS OF THE YORK INTERNATIONAL SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

You don't have to like Shakespeare to admit that his work and persona have undeniably permeated the literature, art, film, fashion, culture, theatre, even festivals, of the four centuries since his death.

Four weeks ago, the biennial York International Shakespeare Festival celebrated, for the second time, some of the infinite (international) varieties of the Bard's work that exist in York; from an Iranian *Coriolanus* to *Throne of Blood*, a Japanese film rendering of *Macbeth*, from a Danish exhibition to a Romanian dance interpretation of *As You Like It*. 'York-Shakes' began in 2015 and was co-founded by Professor Judith Buchanan, Director of the Humanities Research Centre at the University of York, and Artistic Directors Damien Cruden of York Theatre Royal and Philip Parr of Parrabbola, a community arts organisation. It was conceived as a statement of York's internationalism and cultural engagement, says Professor Buchanan, and today it is widely recognised among UK academics and as part of the European Shakespeare Festivals Network.

As an assistant to this year's Festival, I prepared timeline and poster displays with other postgraduate students and Professor Buchanan, as well as workshop activities on *Macbeth* for a local secondary school class. Professor Buchanan affirms that this festival has been "a good vessel through which to generate some stretching and interesting student-led projects", and indeed it has been this for the students involved.

Unsurprisingly though, it was probably another event in the University calendar that might have passed you by in this often-chaotic summer term. It seems that the festival's target market at the University was established academics rather than (undergraduate) students, posing an unintentional disillusionment between these two sets of people. While student apathy of course cannot always be helped, there is a sense that the limited publicity of this festival was not geared towards the potential student enthusiasm for it. Seeing the research output of fellow students ought to inspire and engage across the academic board, and if this festival had been tailored more towards students, as its planning stages were for students like myself, the captive audience might have looked a little different four weeks ago.

The idea of Shakespeare as a ubiquitous, literary poster boy for the UK might feel forced and irrelevant to the present generation of students in this country, students who are diverse in their ambitions and nationalities. Curating the timeline displays for *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* proved that, if anything, Shakespeare has diversified over time and become relevant to mass audiences. During the festival week, there were several instances of reinvention also, illustrating Shakespeare's survival in 2017. For one, York Theatre Royal staged a 1920s musical production of *Twelfth Night*.

Meanwhile, the festival finale was a 'Bloody, Bold and Resolute' day of a range of scholarly, dramatic and musical responses devoted to *Macbeth*. Dr Peter Kirwan from the University of Nottingham spoke on the parallels between the play and *Game of Thrones*; and director Kit Monkman premiered his new film adaptation of *Macbeth*, which was shot entirely on green screen.

Most often however, reinvention attracts those with a pre-existing interest, such as these individuals and organisations, for the thrill of seeing something new from something familiar. So how successful is the reinvention of Shakespeare? Perhaps this is where internationalism comes in. The festival united nationalities from all over the world in one city over the course of just one week. It opened with an installation of the 'Hamlet in Elsinore 1816-2016' exhibition curated by Anne Sophie Refskou, a Danish scholar from the University of Surrey. Last year, this commemorated both Shakespeare400 and the bicentenary of performing *Hamlet* in this historic, scene-setting castle.

This year, her celebration of internationalism was brought to York and, with it, a host of Danes ready to celebrate their country's eminence in this great work of drama. At the end of the week, Professor John Jowett from the University of Birmingham and Professor Emma Smith from the University of Oxford also placed Shakespeare on an international stage in the 'Bloody, Bold and Resolute' day. They respectively discussed the geography of *Macbeth*, and applied modern conceptions of terror to the king as a warrior.

One of the most successful collaborations of both reinvention and internationalism during the week came from the actor who recently played Hamlet with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Paapa Essiedu. In a Q&A with Professor Buchanan, he discussed how this production was infused with the heritage traditions of the cast, who predominantly descended from West Africa and the Caribbean. In retrospect, it was also refreshing to hear from Essiedu, who is still early in his career, and how he took on such a formidable role. The 'Hamlet at Elsinore' exhibition which surrounded him builds up the play, in a way that might seem intimidating to a young actor. However, he modestly presented this Hamlet as the cast and creatives' way of 'lifting' the story for modern audiences.

For an international audience in York, we need look no further than the student body and yet there is a feeling that there is something missing from the festival to establish its international status. Continental recognition is not enough and should not be enough when the festival was born out of York's cultural engagement with the rest of the world. It's as though something needs to be sent out, as it were, to the world from York to fulfil this idea. What is the festival's legacy from 2017? There is now a class of school children that has learnt more about Shakespeare in three hours than they ever have before, leaving a community legacy and renewed connection between the University, a local school, and Shakespeare. What about the international legacy and outreach though?

That is a question for 2019 to answer, perhaps. If you are still in York over the next two years, I urge you to get involved, regardless of your academic discipline. I must stress that this was a special experience: curating these exhibitions, working with exclusive items (including a Lady Macbeth dress worn by Akiya Henry in Monkman's upcoming film), and sharing these artistic and literary interests with so many new people. While still in its inception, this festival needs more international voices to, in the words of Paapa Essiedu, lift its story up. **M**



# LONDON FASHION WEEK MEN'S SS18

DALE LYSTER DISCUSSES THE SHOWS OF THIS YEAR'S AUTUMN/WINTER LONDON FASHION WEEK MEN'S



EDWARD CRUTCHLEY



DASHING TWEEDS



PHOEBE ENGLISH

Titled 'From the arrival of the invitation', it was clear from the outset that Tour de Transmission would take a critical stance on the modern times in wider society. It challenged the humble onlooker with one simple statement – we are not modern at all. With Tour de Transmission, everything from the fittings to the materials to the wider visuals themselves had the appearance of being there, without actually being there at all. Models graced the catwalk to teach onlooker's subversive lessons that expanded beyond the boundaries of the pieces themselves, transitioning to relevant social issues. Fittings of the pieces were of intentionally incorrect measurements, though rather distant from the overused and oversized trend in recent times, the fittings dressed the models in such a manner to remind us that our current society is not as it seems. The pieces themselves were carefully constructed to remind us that although what we are presented with in society may seem like we are progressing, we are retrogressing. Where one would expect fittings to finish, there were non-present gaps in an Leonard Cohen fashion, mirroring his famous stating of gaps are how "the light gets in." In the case of this seasons catwalk, the light that got in was brandings of "LIES" in tattoo-like fashion, to present that this is what we are being fed by the media – lies.

One of the most exciting brands to present themselves at London Fashion Week Men's this season was that of Dashing Tweeds. Situated just outside of the British Fashion Council Show Space, a pop-up stall like Dashing Tweeds provided the spontaneity and ever-present entertainment, in a way that onlookers of London Fashion Week Men's may see as being too self-indulgent. Dashing Tweeds reminds us that in a sea of large designers, what provides true excitement is the freedom of smaller brands. Dashing Tweeds aims to provide more choice to the humble wearer, with recent variations in fabrics thought to be on the increase in modern times. Though it may be thought to take a formal tone in recent times, tweed is classically sportswear in it's origins. Yet, the brand does not exist in the past; it brings tweed to the present through the technicalities ever-present within the yarns. Geographically, the brand subverts traditional stereotypes through transitioning the pieces from their traditional country-leaning background to the city. Dashing Tweeds goes about this transition by incorporating sportswear into their designs, providing the pieces with a rebirth for the modern gent while satisfying the traditional needs and desires that comes with tweed, thus reaffirming to the audience that we must view designers of all sizes equally.

Phoebe English continued her interactive and visually dynamic approach to her presentations with her Spring/ Summer 18 show. Upon walking into the event, attendees were ushered through a walkway that hinted what was impending. The room was dimly lit to allow for full emphasis to be placed upon the models and their ongoing activities. The only variation that juxtaposed the event was the music being DJ'd upon entrance. English took, as her surname suggests, a British approach to the visuals; models were clad in traditional English workwear. The presentation itself seemed to exist in the past due to a nostalgic approach to traditionally working clothing. However, it existed largely in the present due to updated cuttings and the music in the foreground. Though nostalgic workwear may be thought to take a constructive approach, English opted for an on-trend soft hue to compliment her typical leaning towards a darker pallet. The dynamic approach harks on English's desire for practicality to be valued on a higher podium than visuals themselves. Items included shirts progressing into dresses, alongside cotton joggers for a more toned-down slant. Bisectionality was employed throughout the presentation to transition different items together to allow for more subtle details.

## INTERVIEWS: DAVID GANDY



After attendance of St James' synergising show at LFWM, Dale Lyster speaks exclusively to stratospheric David Gandy in regards to the fashion industry and his advice for young

people wishing to pursue his footsteps. As a young man, the most successful male supermodel turned fashion businessman, began in humble footsteps before being scouted at the age of 21. Gandy most notably earned his big break in Dolce and Gabbana's Light Blue campaign, with his Time Square billboard acting as his portfolio opener and staple.



Since then, Gandy has gone on to front various campaigns from Vogue to GQ and more recently acting as the face of Wellman.

However, Gandy opted for a distinguished path for a man of his status, turning fashion designer and businessman. The British gent collaborated with another British staple of menswear in the form of his David Gandy for M&S. What originally began with a traditional yet distinctive design of underwear later led to one of the most successful fashion col-

laborations in recent times.



**QU:** What advice would you give to young people looking up to you and wishing to follow in your footsteps?

**DG :** "I always talk about perseverance. I've had years of perseverance trying to get people to listen to me. Knock on the most doors, and don't take it to heart if they don't open. Before I went into fashion I was constantly getting rejections for five years and nobody knew what was going on till Dolce and Gabbana. I know have my own collections, with collaborations coming soon. Models don't have their own collections, so it's just working with the right companies".

# FINAL THREADS: FASHION ON CAMPUS

AMELIA CLARKE ON THE NORTHERN YOUTH'S SECOND CHARITY FASHION SHOW

University of York collective The Northern Youth showcased a number of student designers and brands in the Ron Cooke Hub on 9 June. The show, entitled 'Final Threads', was characterised by its focus on the process of making the pieces it included in its collection. Dubbed a 'return to the process' by the creative and artistic director, the show retains its collective's titular sense of 'youth' through its legitimisation of every stage of creation as art in and of itself.

Compare The Northern Youth's focus on process with the wealth of history that performance art has, which places the 'value' of



the art within the process of its creation itself behind it. In this way, the show entangles itself with the complex issue of authenticity and materiality. It challenges what is to be considered "the final product" and centres the creator of the garment at the heart of the project".

Designer Sophie Lincoln produced a number of pieces for the show, including net dresses inspired by Molly Goddard that toy with the idea of undergarments as fully-fledged pieces. "The net dresses kind of looked like inner wear, or like they needed a slip underneath" Lincoln says, "so they were unfinished in that they weren't wearable in a traditional sense". Similarly, Lincoln's designs were singularised by unfinished shapes and punctuated with zippers and open seams, aiming to deconstruct the garment and confront expectations of what constitutes the complete.

There is something youthful about Lincoln's deconstructed denim, inspired by Vetement's turn to reworked vintage jeans that launched in fall 2015. Denim is the fabric zeitgeist for the millennial refusal to be pinned down. The very idea of reworking vintage jeans captures the dualism of the title: these pieces are both final, but their reworked na-

ture in itself undermines any sense that these pieces will not continue to be repurposed.

ALL IMAGES: ANGELIKA WRONA



Perhaps what this show says, is that this is the piece's final form, in this particular portion of its lifecycle, but that nothing is ever truly final.

Orla Lavery's creations also display a

minimalist design and the process of deconstruction. Her collection is recognisable, with raw unhemmed edges, geometric shapes and simple silhouettes and a neutral colour palette that is accentuated by chic pinstripes.

Ultimately, the show achieves a reappropriation of creative autonomy by challenging traditional notions of wearability, much in the same vein as The Northern Youth's aims to destabilise London's current grasp on the art scene by promoting northern creatives and wresting focus away from the capital.



# REDEFINING THE LIMITS OF MEN'S FASHION

CHLOE KENT LAMENTS THE LACK OF FLEXIBILITY IN MASCULINE CLOTHING

Fashion is by nature a contentious beast. The only form of art in which everyone is obligated to participate, the corduroys and cottons we cover ourselves with give clues to those around us about who we are, and what sort of person we want to be. Some pretty unorthodox stuff occurs in every high fashion catwalk, but there are boundaries to be pushed even when it comes to mainstream casualwear. Just the other afternoon I purchased a routemaster red floral jumpsuit, with such a complex arrangement of straps and flaps it took nearly ten minutes in the changing room and a friend's assistance to work out quite how to physically get it onto my body. It's ridiculous. I look like I could be in a 70s glam rock band. Money well spent.

But I couldn't help feeling, as I handed over my hard-earned student loan to the cheery girl behind the till, that something in the world of modern casualwear was amiss. Specifically in terms of the creative divide be-

tween a masculine and feminine wardrobe.

Now, I invite everybody out there to wear whatever makes them feel most comfortable, gender binary be damned. But there's a pretty stark contrast between the limits of male and female-oriented fashion. Specifically, women's fashion is given societal consent to be far more experimental and boundary-pushing than that of our male counterparts. And I think that's a real shame.

Just look at the recent Kickstarter attempting to fund the RompHim – if the name didn't give it away, it's a romper suit for men, not any sort of invitation. Harmless, right? Still with a typically masculine cut, with a turned-up collar, the shorts cut off at the mid-thigh, it was a man's version of something women have been wearing for years. Not particularly an attempt to feminise men's fashion, pas-



tel hues and button prints be damned, but rather a way to expand the boundaries of what a men's fashion item could be. Eye-catching, practical, easy to throw on in a pinch.

*Esquire* responded with the headline "The Bro Romper Exists and I Don't Want to Live on This Planet Anymore". So it's safe to say it's not been going down too well.

Women's fashion allows for all sort of cuts, colours, and shapes: we've got jumpsuits, rompers, brallettes, dresses, leggings, crop tops, peplums, blouses, bikinis, tankinis, full-piece swimsuits, killer heels, infinite variations upon the skirt. Men's fashion, in comparison, is distinctly lacking. T-shirt, button-up, jumper. A few distinctions among the humble trouser family. Maybe a vest if you're feeling brave. There even feels like there's a rather bizarre

degree of stigma surrounding men wearing shorts outside of the gym. Put your knees away, am I right lads?

That's not to say that the way women dress daily isn't policed in itself, but the limitations upon men's fashion are disheartening. I'm not calling for men's fashion to become more effete, although I'll be honest I wouldn't frown upon everyone in 24/7 drag. Rather, men's fashion ought to expand its high-street horizons, retaining its masculine essence but pushing the same creative boundaries. Allow the RompHim. Give me Johnny Depp's iconic sportswear crop top in *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. Remember when Kanye wore a skirt? That was an experience.

I'm saying this all as a rather feminine woman, who only wanders into the men's section once in a blue moon, attempting to find an XL t-shirt I can pull off as a dress. But still. I just feel like men's fashion ought to have a little more to chew on.

## INTERVIEWS: NICK CARVELL

Attending LFWM, an event that brings together an abundance and variety of successful people who a part of an ever-changing, creative industry, it is no surprise that Dale Lyster manages to catch up with Nick Carvell on the streets where the commotion of Fashion Week is happening.

Nick Carvell is the former Online Fashion Editor and current Associate Style Editor for popular international monthly men's magazine *Gentlemen's Quarterly*, and most importantly, a lover of double denim (as stated in his Twitter bio). Carvell is responsible for covering all the key international menswear collections. His long standing work in the industry has won him FBMJA Online Fashion Journalist



of The Year, and in an industry that is becoming increasingly reliant on the internet for survival, Carvell is just the person that could provide the necessary advice for many aspiring writers and editors.

**DL:** What advice would you give to young people looking up to you and wishing to follow in your footsteps? I started out in student journalism.

**NC:** Standing next to my old university, King's College London, I used to work for the student paper. My advice would be when you're try-



ing to get into a competitive industry like fashion, a lot of people will say well do something else, just keep in mind what you want to do and make a lot of connections and put yourself out there. The most important thing is to meet people you admire, try to get internships at magazines you like. People who work in the industry like to know who's coming up, who is new. You might have to keep emailing them and they will get back to you eventually.



IMAGE: TWITTER



IMAGE: TOP-MAN DESIGN

TOPMAN

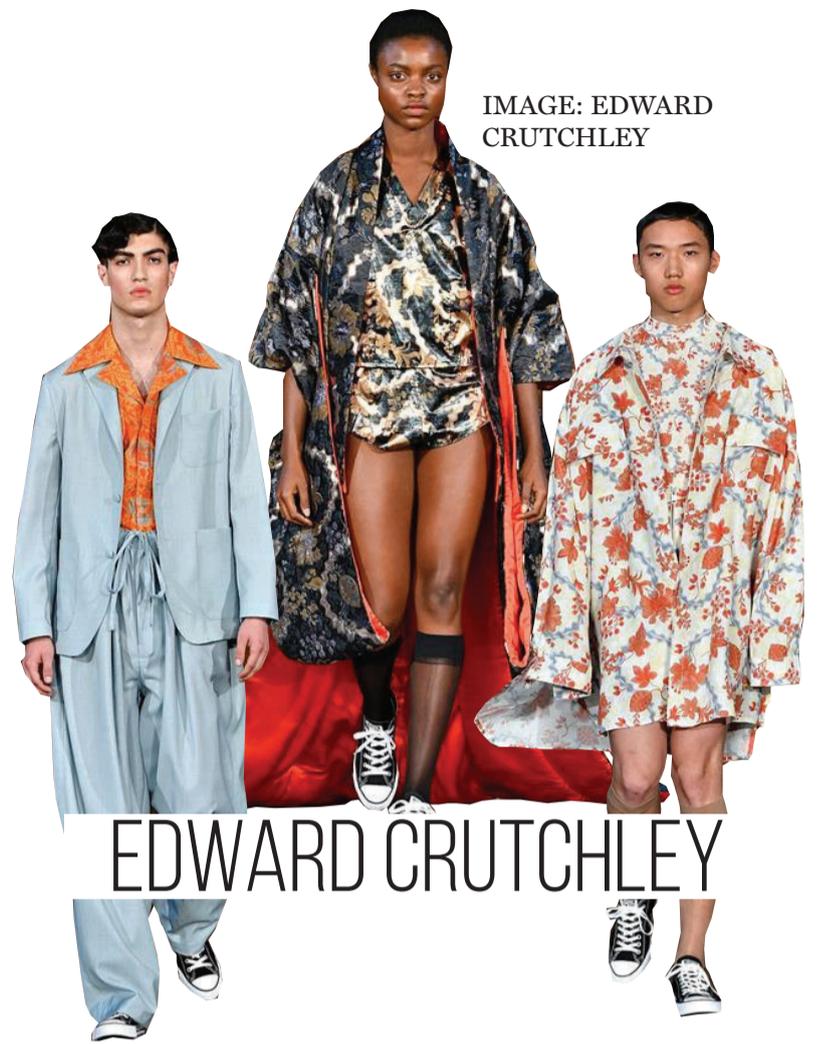


IMAGE: EDWARD CRUTCHLEY

EDWARD CRUTCHLEY

**LONDON FASHION WEEK MEN'S SS18**



IMAGE: TOUR DE TRANSMISSION

TOUR DE TRANSMISSION



ART SCHOOL

IMAGE: ART SCHOOL



IMAGE: DANIEL FLETCHER



DANIEL FLETCHER



IMAGE: BLOOD BROTHERS



BLOOD BROTHERS



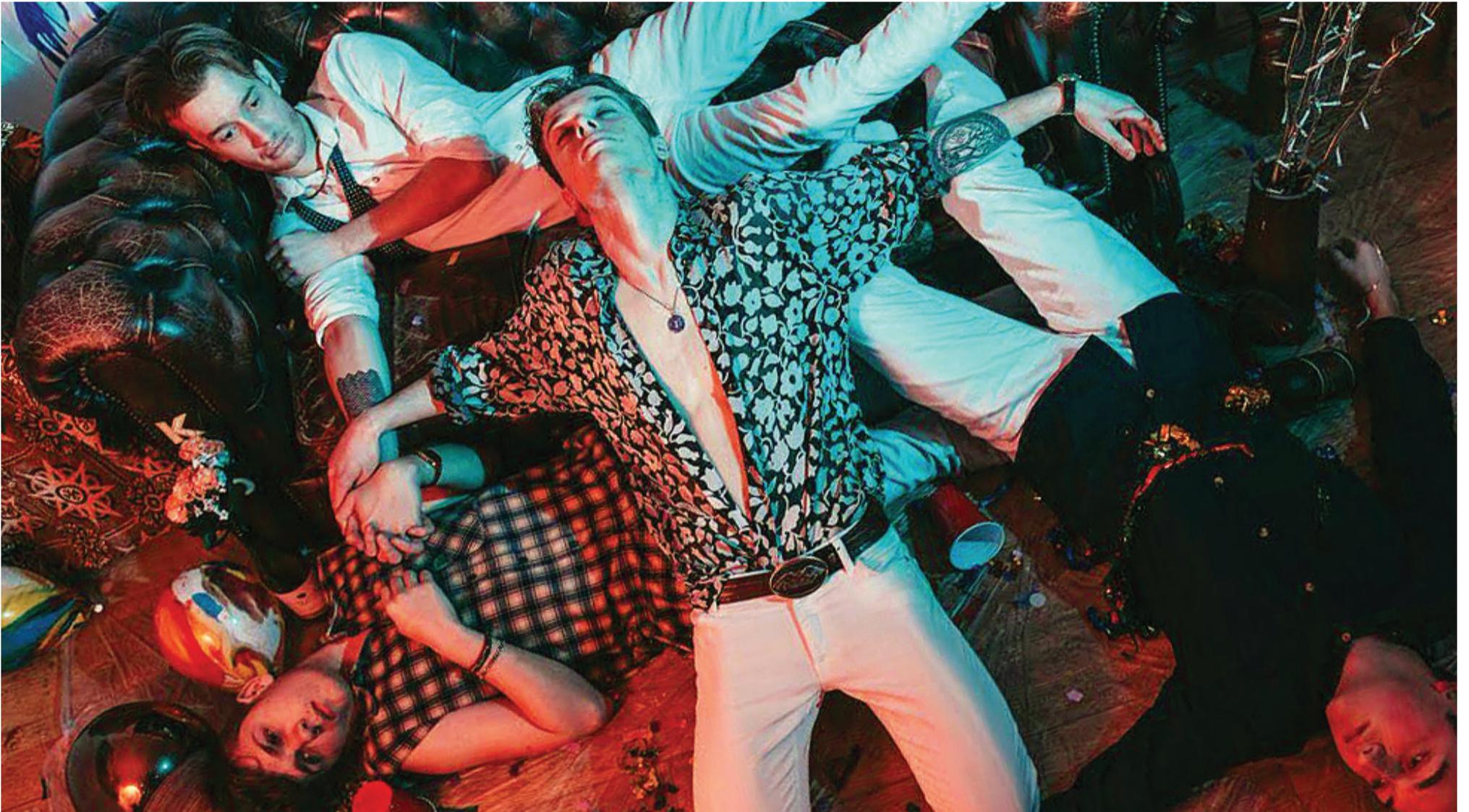
IMAGE: LIAM HODGES



LIAM HODGES

# KINGS ON THE RISE

ELEANOR LANGFORD MEETS KING NO-ONE FRONTMAN ZACH LOUNT TO DISCUSS THE BAND'S BRIGHT FUTURE



King No-One are known to most York locals as the band regularly seen busking on street corners, and their local dedication has paid off. Four years since the band formed the Yorkshire-born foursome have already built a strong fanbase, completed a sell-out tour and secured main stage slots at several UK festivals. A stone's throw away from their usual busking spots in York, lead singer Zach Lount sat down over coffee – almond latte, one-shot – to share the secrets of this young band's success.

The band was built on old friendships, Zach explains. “[Joe Martin] and I, the guitarist, have been friends for too long really, an alarming amount of time, it must be 11 or 12 years now, I can't keep count. It's always been a musical friendship. As musicians you just try bands out and that's how I met James. Then we started King No-One. I pulled in my best friends that I'd been in bands with before. And it worked.”

A huge part of their image is their political activism, an attribute which sets them apart from the crowd. Even their name has political undertones. “Our name is King No-One. No-one is king, we're all one equal. We were

always going to be politically active”. A keen feminist, Zach appreciates the importance of male voices talking about women's rights, and isn't afraid a potential backlash. “As far as I'm concerned if somebody doesn't agree that we're all one equal and thinks a man is far more important than a woman then I don't want them at my shows anyway.”

“ I'm not a massive fan of the kind of music people often categorise us with

Dedicated from day one, the band started out setting up on the streets of York, performing and selling CDs, until they became a regular feature of the local music scene. “I over-busked in York,” Zach jokes, “it was pretty horrific how many times we used to busk here.” The unconventional move allowed the band to go full-time straight away, and helped them develop a strong and loyal fanbase. Once York had been exhausted they began playing on street corners across the country, connecting with the cities they visited and building a buzz around their new sound.

Those hours busking clearly paid off, with the band fresh off an almost sell-out 14-day tour. Just three dates failed to shift all their tickets, while Manchester sold out a month in advance. “We didn't expect them to be as busy as they were. And what was most interesting

was that it was all the ones towards the end, the buzz from the first couple of nights and the videos we put up made people excited and want to go.”

It isn't hard to see why King No-One have built such hype. Their creative aesthetic and off-beat sound stands out in the over-saturated alternative rock scene. Determined to break the mould, Zach is clear that they are more than just another indie band. “I'm not a massive fan of the kind of music people categorise us with. I don't listen to these 'hot indie bands', it's just not my taste at all. We get compared to them, but I think that's just because it's four white guys in a band. But that's not the music I'm writing when I pick up a guitar.”

A cursory listen of their most recent singles reveals a band quickly developing a strong sound. Their latest release ‘Antichrist’ is perhaps their best yet. As Zach reveals, the single marks a new stage of experimentation in the band's discography. “It's alternative rock, but at the moment we are experimenting with mixing classic hip-hop with our kind of indie rock. Our last single ‘Antichrist’ is kind-of inspired by that early-2000s dark hip-hop. It was quite subconscious really. We just didn't like what

other bands of our genre were doing. It's got that feel of Dr Dre or even 50 Cent in some of the verses.”

It can't be understated how quickly this foursome is on the rise. An unsigned band with no debut album, the band already has a slot on the NME Stage at Reading Festival – the first unsigned band ever to do so – and a main stage spot at Y Not Festival. Unsurprisingly, Zach has big ambitions for the band's first album. “It's something we intend to do eventually but at the minute there's kind of no rush. We'll keep going until that album's so anticipated. And we're waiting for that number one spot.”

Chatting to Zach, it's clear King No-One are at the start of an exciting trajectory. You can't help but get the

feeling that we have barely scratched the surface of what they have to offer. In an increasingly corporate and repetitive scene, a band like this is just what music needs. Their fresh approach and sheer enthusiasm is a breath of fresh air, and their limited discography teases at even better sounds to come. King No-One are a band determined to do good things and leave their mark wherever they go. They are the very definition of ‘ones to watch’.

“ I over-busked in York, it was pretty horrific how many times we busked there

## PARAMORE AFTER LAUGHTER

ELEANOR LANGFORD

★★★★★

Paramore are a group plagued by band-mate disputes, from their high-profile split with the Farro brothers in 2010 to the departure and ensuing legal battle with ex-bassist Jeremy Davis. Now reconciled with ex-drummer and founding member Zac Farro, the band are embarking on their next chapter.

Initially, the neon-tinged vibes and pure pop sound of *After Laughter* seem a complete departure from the angst and heartbreak of *Riot!* and *Brand New Eyes*, but the old Paramore still lives on under a new guise. Lead single 'Hard Times' echoes the world-weary frustration of their earlier releases, while 'Grudges' chronicles the band's reconciliation with Zac Farro just as *Brand New Eyes* recorded the pains of Paramore's initial split.

The album sees singer Hayley Williams at her best. Amid the soaring falsettos and seething shouts, we hear her voice at its most mature, its most natural. Much of the pain on the album is deeply personal, with Williams criticising the media's idolisation of her in 'Idle Worship' and lamenting the loss of a friend in 'Forgiveness'. The mood is of



growth and acceptance, a far stretch from the bitterness and anger that tinged their earlier albums.

From its sorrowful lyrics to tropical-pop sound, this release documents a band that is done trying to please. The relief of reconciliation is mingled with the pains of acceptance, and after five albums it is clear this is a band done with dwelling on anger.

This album might not be what Paramore fans expected, but it seems as though Williams and co. are done with expectations. With *After Laughter*, Paramore are embracing sugar-coated pop as the remedy to the controversies of their past.

## MARIKA HACKMAN I'M NOT YOUR MAN

GIULIA DE VITA

★★★★★

Marika Hackman has always been a refreshing artist, whose music is dedicated to a rare and honest lyricism. In her second album *I'm Not Your Man*, Hackman retains these qualities while also providing a new sound, ditching the acoustic guitar (excluding two tracks: 'Cigarette' and 'I'd Rather Be With Them') and mellow layered vocals with a more hi-fi electric sound, an obvious difference from her first album *We Sleep At Last*. This new-found energy will lend itself well to a new realm of live shows for Hackman, playing with a band rather than solo.

Hackman's first single from the new album, 'Boyfriend', is quite a shock at first; an energetic track that encompasses everything her last album wasn't. However, it was just as enticing and captivating as the Marika Hackman fans know and love.

In a recent interview, Hackman said her shift in sound was a "deliberate effort", and that the first song she wrote, 'Violet', was a bridge between the two sounds. 'Apple Tree', is perhaps the track most similar to Hackman's first record, returning slightly to the



eerie, contained tone.

Thematically, *I'm Not Your Man* tackles themes of sexuality in a fresh and honest way. Lyrically, Hackman bares all in this album. Though her lyrics are more explicit than usual, there is still an element of connection with her first record, mainly through the perverse imagery Hackman uses.

Changing sound is a brave but crucial step for an artist, and with this new album, Marika Hackman has totally succeeded. Continuing on from her musical foundations with an active transition to a more energetic, electric sound, *I'm Not Your Man* is an enchanting addition to Hackman's catalogue.

# IT WAS 50 YEARS AGO TODAY

JACK DAVIES EXPLORES THE LEGACY OF BEATLES MASTERPIECE SGT. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND ON ITS 50TH BIRTHDAY

It's become something of a cliché to talk of The Beatles as the pinnacle of popular music. Articles praising the band as "the best ever" and their music as "ground-breaking" or the "most influential" are ten-a-penny. As such, more and more people dismiss statements like this with a passive yawn, as if to say 'change the tune, we've heard enough of the Fab Four'.

Regardless, it is with good reason that they're remembered with such fondness, having changed the musical landscape unalterably. And despite the supposed saturation of Beatle-praising in the media, if there's one thing that warrants another such piece, it's the 50th anniversary of undoubtedly one of the most seminal albums of all-time, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

Released back in May 1967, the album still stands as the biggest-selling studio album in the history of British music. And while sales don't necessarily reflect quality – James

Blunt, Meat Loaf and Shania Twain all have albums in the top 20 – the fact that in half a century no artist has managed to topple John, Paul, George and Ringo's greatest effort is testament to *Sgt. Pepper's* longevity and calibre.

The album itself stands clear as one of the most experimental, forward-thinking collections of songs ever to grace the popular musical canon. 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds' serves as a glowing representation of the band's ability to consistently alter and innovate their sound, seeing them consolidate themselves as masters of the psychedelic, so much so that the track is often wrongly assumed to be about the hallucinogenic drug LSD. 'Within You Without You' experiments with aspects of Indian music, inspired by George Harrison's close friendship with Indian musician Ravi Shankar, and features the sitar heavily in an intriguing amalgam of western pop and Indian classical. 'A Day in the Life' is regularly listed

as the best song ever written, seeing the band's sonic experimentations reach a true pinnacle in five-and-a-half minutes of audio blissfulness, with never before attempted transformations in sound and rhythm.

Even the album's cover artwork proved something of a watershed for popular music, the band employing British pop artist Peter Blake to craft a comprehensive 'who's who' of famous figures at the time, costing the princely sum of £3000 in an era when an album cover art would typically cost 50 quid; the result is nothing short of iconic.

Naturally, as the capital of all things Beatles, the band's hometown of Liverpool have embarked on an ambitious programme of celebrations for the album's 50th birthday, with an event planned for each individual track on the album. Some of the most eye-catching citywide events include "Mr Kite's MUSICIRCUS!", which aims to turn Aintree Racecourse into an expansive

*Sgt. Pepper* theme park, and "Pepperland", an orchestral extravaganza at the city's Philharmonic Hall.

Accompanying these celebrations is the re-release of a remastered edition of *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, which sees the original track listing remastered in high stereo quality across CD, vinyl and digital platforms, as well as a deluxe edition including a wealth of previously unheard demos, studio sessions and recording snippets to delight any fervent Beatles fan looking to celebrate the album's anniversary.

And to anyone doubting its relevance in the 21st Century, it's worth taking a look at the music charts; in a society dominated by the manufactured drivel of Justin Bieber and the collected solo efforts of the One Direction munchkins, the re-release saw the album return to its spiritual home at number one in the UK Albums Chart, and even reached number three in the US. *Sgt. Pepper*: an album truly getting better all the time.



# ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

CHLOE KENT AND ANDREW YOUNG TAKE A LOOK BACK AT THE CAREER OF CINEMA'S NOT-SO-DULL BOY

Jack's back! After seven years out of the spotlight, Nicholson is set to be returning to the cinema screen in a remake of Oscar-nominated German comedy *Toni Erdmann*. While already rehashing a film which only came out in 2016 does seem more than a little premature, it'll be good to see one of the most talented actors of a generation back at work. Coinciding with this news has been CityScreen's recent Jack Nicholson season, in which six of the actor's greatest efforts were recently reshowed. Each one characteristic of his trademark roguish charm, we chart Nicholson's career from the late 60s to the late 80s and bring you the actor in his prime; flamboyant, rambunctious, and unflinchingly real.

The earliest film in the Jack Nicholson season and the first 'classic' the great actor made is Dennis Hopper's seminal counter-culture trip *Easy Rider*. Of all the films, it is the one where Nicholson has perhaps the smallest role, but he leaves an indelible mark on the film. Following Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper as they ride across America on their choppers, searching for freedom and the soul of the states, it is a film very much of its time. Its spirit of rebellion and rejection of authority seems somewhat naïve today, but was a powerful call to a generation in the late 1960s. During their bike-riding adventures Hopper and Fonda do their best to highlight the hypocrisy and corruption at the heart of America's establishment. Correct or not, the film makes a persuasive argument for their marginalisation rather than their law-breaking being the thing separating these outsider criminals from the rest of society.

As well as being an entertaining and intellectually engaging work, *Easy Rider* is of course an important film too; it helped usher in a new era of filmmaking. Hopper's film holds an esteemed place in movie history by helping to kickstart the New Hollywood movement that would give us some of the greatest of all American films. After *The Graduate* and *Bonnie & Clyde* pushed the boundaries of sex and violence, *Easy Rider* completed the full spectrum of parental outrage with its enticing and terrifying depiction of drug use.

Injected with the electric energy of psychedelic rock, there is sometimes the feeling that we are watching a cool-hippie-montage of great land-warbling guitars. Yet, beyond this, there is complexity to the film. Hopper and Fonda's characters are crucially different in their outlooks on life, one desperately running from conformity, one looking upon the mess of a country he was born into with deep sadness. Beyond their cynicism and spirit of rejection, there is a vital heart and pain at the film's core. Nicholson is key to this; his alcoholic lawyer has the glint in the eye and charming laugh that char-

acterises so much of his work, but there is a real tragedy to him as well. If people hadn't noticed him yet, by God they will have done after *Easy Rider*.

And so exploded the illustrious career of John Joseph "Jack" Nicholson. Moving into the seventies, we find some of his best work. The earliest among them is Hal Ashby's *The Last Detail*. If his film-stealing turn in *Easy Rider* announced what we could expect from

“ He plays the ultimate outsider, the man who refuses to give in to conformity and authority

Nicholson, this road movie comedy with sadness lying beneath gave his undeniable talents a superb showcase.

Known by many as the ultimate outsider, the man who stubbornly refuses to give in to conformity and authority even at tragic cost to himself, Nicholson plays one of the finest examples of that character here. Billy "Bad Ass" Buddusky is a marine with a contempt for supposedly marine-like conformity. When we first meet him he is asleep with booze nearby, a one-shot summation of his denial of his own subservience to others. After he and Otis Young's "Mule" refuse several times to go on the "chicken shit detail", they end up taking a young offender to prison to serve his unfathomably harsh sentence.

Along the way, the almost desperately aggressive and rebellious "Bad Ass" and the more restrained mule decide to show this young man a good time before his life as he knows it is ended.

Scripted by Nicholson's frequent collaborator Robert Towne, it is an at-times hilarious look at justice, youth and fun. As in *Easy Rider*, they encounter classic era archetypes along their journey - communes of hippies and detestable authority among them. Nicholson is to watch as "Bad Ass" becomes contemptuous of the bosses that have sent him out on a job he hates with a purpose he despises even more. Classically, he displays an energy and violence that is only just beneath the surface. But, being Jack, he does it all with an incredible amount of charm and outsider wit. Also, being Jack, it's not as straightforward as that. Bad Ass's search for fun and rebellion has an air of sadness to it and, as the film draws to a close, Nicholson



conveys so much sadness in the briefest of looks that you remember once again just how good he is.

*The Last Detail* was a lesser-known ball of Jack's manic energy, social injustice, and sharp dialogue. Both great performances, both good films. Then there's *Chinatown*. *Chinatown* is a masterpiece. It is the only film in the season where Jack strays away from his classic manic-charming-rebel style, and it is quite possibly one of the best films he ever made, one of the best films of the New Holly-

“ Nicholson conveys so much sadness with the briefest of looks that you remember just how good he is

wood era and one of the great American movies of all time.

Again scripted by the superbly talented Robert Towne, it is a neo-noir that both homages and subverts the classic genre archetypes. It is the story of private eye Jake Gittes, played by Nicholson with more restraint, but no less wit, spark, or pain than his other characters. Following on from a routine bit of snooping into an extramarital affair, Jake finds himself closer to a much more serious kind of misdemeanour. Finding corruption and murder in LA's water department, he becomes embroiled in a taut web of sex, love, violence and capitalist greed.

A logical and intelligent man who is used to being right, Jake here faces something much bigger than himself. For once in his life he needs to leave things alone, which is easier said than done when confronted with Faye Dunaway's enigmatic Evelyn Mulwray and the pure evil at the heart of the film's mystery. There was a well-known feud between Polanski and Towne concerning the ending of the film, but Polanski won out and the final scene, not to mention the final line, are among the very best.

*Chinatown* on the surface is a tense and shocking mystery, but its magnificent depth reveals a world of metaphors and complex commentary on money, power, and the nature of evil. Anti-authority and grinningly rebellious as always, this time Nicholson plays a more complex character, conflicted and confused by the daunting challenge of being in love. He goes on one of the most interesting journeys of Nicholson's characters. In a career of great films, *Chinatown* sees Jack at the height of his powers.

A particularly heart-breaking addition to the Nicholson canon, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is a story of chaos vs order, subject vs oppressor, id vs superego. In the ultimate case of malingering gone wrong, we see Mr. Nicholson as Randle McMurphy, a man imprisoned on a statutory rape charge who attempts to avoid hard labour in prison by having himself committed to a mental institution. However, once he's on the inside, he's dismayed to find the ward run by the humourless Nurse Ratched, who engages in passive aggressive bullying and mind games with the patients. Dreams of a comfortable life behind bars crushed, McMurphy ignites a revolution among his more lucid peers to dismantle her regime, resulting in ultimately tragic consequences.

Based on the 1962 novel of the same



IMAGE: WARNER BROS.



name by Ken Kasey, *Cuckoo's Nest* is a tragicomedy with one of the most devastating conclusions to a film in cinematic history. It's an extraordinary, vicious power-play, Nicholson's uninhibited and heartfelt performance dominating every scene, without overshadowing the fantastic ensemble cast. Sydney

## One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest is a story of chaos vs. order, subject vs. oppressor, id vs. superego, and the ultimate case of malingering gone wrong

Lassick as the childish and stropy Charlie Cheswick and Brad Dourif as the anxious, stuttering Billy Bibbit are particular standouts, with Billy's devastating suicide as the event which triggers McMurphy's downfall. And how can we go without mentioning the "Chief", played by Will Sampson, and his performance in the bittersweet endscene. Still, Nicholson acts as the ringmaster in this chaotic circus. Seen by many as the film which made the man, his trademark grin and untameable spirit are more of a force than ever. His talents are perhaps encapsulated best when, having been denied the ability to watch the World Series on television by Nurse Ratched, at the expense of the disruption to routine, he untouchably mimics a sports commentator, ad libbing the events of the game. He infuriates Ratched, excites the patients, and establishes himself as one of the most talented actors of a generation.

A story not only of the patients of the mental hospital, but a general allegory for the corrupting influence of power, Nicholson's loveable rogue provides us with a touching tale of martyrdom - McMurphy's tale of fiery rebellion will stay with you long after the credits roll.

From Munchausen's madman to a sincere psychotic, Nicholson got to go completely off the wall in *The Shining*. Not Stanley Kubrick's best work, but perhaps his most fun, Nicholson stole the show with his presentation of Jack. An adaptation of a Stephen King novel which strays pretty far from the original book by the close, Nicholson plays a man driven gradually to insanity. Relocating to an isolated hotel with his family for the winter,

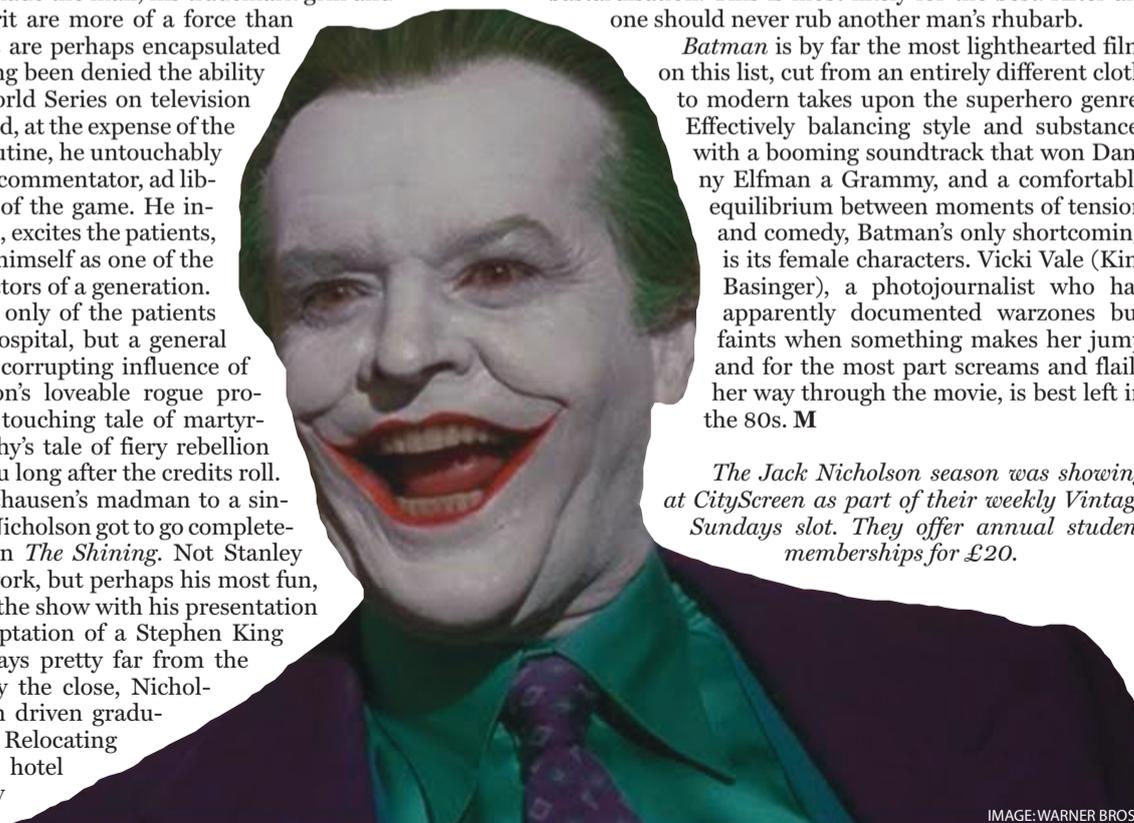
a nightmarish combination of cabin fever and a few of the hotel's unadvertised residents - all of whom are a little less organic than the Torrance family - collaborate to gradually detach his grip on reality. At the same time, his telepathic son Danny, adorably dressed in an array of jumpers and dungarees which these days wouldn't appear out of place on a grown man in the right trendy cocktail bar, is having some pretty intense visions of the same unwanted guests.

It's a picture which doesn't quite make sense or tie itself together, going absolutely batshit insane in the third act, with an obnoxious jangling soundtrack that isn't always used to ultimate effect, as well as some really ugly carpets. Despite these shortcomings, *The Shining* is an iconic piece of popular culture, and it's Nicholson's performance which really cements the film in horror's hall of fame. More disturbing than any of the hotel's ghosts - Shelley Duvall's encounter with the 1980s answer to furries, (anyone?) - is his portrayal of a man slowly losing his mind, and you feel a genuine chill when he tells his wife "I'm not gonna hurt ya. I'm just going to bash your brains in!"

Concluding this tour-de-Jack, a more comical depiction of Nicholson as a villain is Tim Burton's 1989 interpretation of *Batman*. Face prosthetically contorted onto a permanent, sinister grin, which looks even more disturbing when flesh-toned than in red and white, Nicholson is deliciously camp as everyone's favourite comic-book villain. Flanked by a boombox-toting lackey who plays situationally-appropriate Prince songs, this gaudy incarnation of the joker is undeniably one of the best. He's difficult to compare to Heath Ledger's much darker, equally brilliant, 2008 interpretation in *The Dark Knight*, and in a completely different league to Suicide Squad's recent bastardisation. This is most likely for the best. After all, one should never rub another man's rhubarb.

*Batman* is by far the most lighthearted film on this list, cut from an entirely different cloth to modern takes upon the superhero genre. Effectively balancing style and substance, with a booming soundtrack that won Danny Elfman a Grammy, and a comfortable equilibrium between moments of tension and comedy, *Batman*'s only shortcoming is its female characters. Vicki Vale (Kim Basinger), a photojournalist who has apparently documented warzones but faints when something makes her jump and for the most part screams and flails her way through the movie, is best left in the 80s. **M**

*The Jack Nicholson season was showing at CityScreen as part of their weekly Vintage Sundays slot. They offer annual student memberships for £20.*



## TOP 5 TV SHOWS THAT SHOULD BE CANCELLED

### THE SIMPSONS

The fact the show was great once makes its decline even more painful.



### THE WALKING DEAD

After seven seasons, we get it. Everybody dies - just do it quicker.



### DOCTOR WHO

Tennant was the best Doctor. No debate. Things have gone downhill since then.



### SUPERNATURAL

Who is even watching this anymore? Fun for a few seasons, Supernatural has become a dead weight.



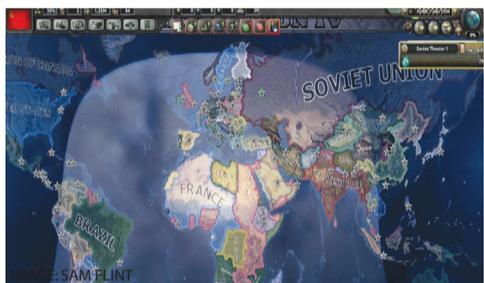
### BIG BANG THEORY

The least intelligent sitcom to besmirch our screens in recent years - and it's supposed to be about geniuses!



# FIGHTING SEASON: FROM WW2 TO VIETNAM

SAM FLINT LOOKS AT THE NEW WAR GAMES THAT WILL KEEP YOUR HISTORY AND 60'S MUSIC SIDES BUSY THIS SUMMER



## Hearts Of Iron IV

With its second expansion, 'Death or Dishonour', releasing on 14 June, now is a great time to get into Paradox's latest grand strategy game. You play as the leader of any 1930s country of your choice, and that really does mean any, from Nazi Germany to Tibet via the United States and Soviet Russia along the way. With its historical scope unlike any other game, it's easy to lose countless hours of your day building a country into a military power, whether by seizing the means of production, following the path of fascism or sticking true to the beleaguered democracies.

When you get bored of breaking history after seizing Germany as Communist Luxembourg, you can jump into the countless free mods, which take the game to new time periods, such as the modern day, and incorporate even more features.

Each major nation has a set of unique national focuses, ranging from the historically accurate Anschluss, to the less historical British invasion of Belgium, and as you progress you'll unlock masses of new firepower through the extensive research tree, adding even more historical scope to the game.

If you've ever wanted to try your hand at running a country, particularly after the election, and you like painting maps your colour, this is the game for you.

## Steel Division: Normandy 44

Another title from strategy nuts Paradox, *Steel Division* is the new kid on the real-time strategy scene. Owing plenty to its other developer Eugen, this certainly isn't the game that *Starcraft* or *Command and Conquer* fans are searching for.

Based mainly on multiplayer gameplay, the player gets a choice of nine allied and nine axis divisions that can be edited, including the classic 101st Airborne division, the 6TH "Red devils" Airborne division, and the 21st Panzer division. The individual divisions have a mix of infantry, armour, artillery and aircraft, each with their own unique strengths and weaknesses.

It seems that Eugen's focus was on generating a much deeper realism, so when you run your infantry into a machine gun nest, don't be expecting them to come back. Artillery requires ammunition from logistic trucks, tanks need a clear line of sight in combat, and your units can only hold for as long as their moral stays high.

The end result is a tactical, exciting and often dazzling gameplay experience, with Mosquitos bombing German artillery emplacements, Tiger tanks decimating Polish Cromwell's, and bitter city fighting. Another one for history fans but also people looking for a challenge.

## Rising Storm 2: Vietnam

Tripwire, the minds behind *Killing Floor*, have a knack of making their guns feel good. As soon as you boot up the latest game in the *Rising Storm* series, you're greeted with Creedence Clearwater Revival's 'Fortunate Son', and if you aren't feeling at home in 'Nam by then no amount of huey's, jungle or Charlie is gonna change your mind.

First person shooter fans will find a challenging learning curve in these jungles, however. Multiplayer only, the 64-player battles can often regress into death simulators, with the highly realistic damage models leading to painful one shot kills. If you take the time to learn its mechanics though, and play with a full squad of friends, the game offers a Vietnam experience like no other.

Burning spike traps with your flame thrower, or crawling through tunnel networks to avoid American helicopters, it surpasses the relatively few titles that also tackled the conflict in Vietnam. The realism too comes as a refreshing change from the increasingly arcade *Battlefield* and *Call of Duty* franchises. Bayonet kills here require skill and precision, and real teamwork is required to push through enemy sectors.

If you're willing to learn and you love the smell of napalm in the morning, look no further.

# WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT STEAM

NOUSE GAMING ASKS: IS IT TIME WE STARTED CALLING VALVE OUT OVER ITS EXCESSIVE MONOPOLY AND DAMAGING PRACTICES?

Ask most gamers what they think of Valve and two things jump to mind. They're the creators of an industry changing game, *Half Life*, and operators of the biggest platform in PC gaming, Steam. Through its ease of use, constant sales and integration into almost every major game released on PC, Steam has come to dominate its market.

Until recently, Valve had maintained a 'nice guy' reputation from its early days as a small company, despite its current success. But recent articles in *Forbes* and *Kotaku* have heaped fiery criticism on the corporation's practices, and scandals in recent years regarding the company's lack of a refund system and the flawed Steam Greenlight have only added to the company's problems. All of a sudden, cracks seem to be showing in their armour.

Certainly, Valve's immense control over the PC market and shady practices are worrying. Back in 2011, statistics showed they controlled up to 70 per cent of the PC market, but alternatives such as EA's Origin and sites like G2A we can assume have surely eaten into this chunk.

Despite this, we know that digital sales have been on the rise, and overtook physical game sales in 2014, and add to this the figure that 62 per cent of gamers use a PC, a whopping 1.2 billion people according to the ESA and Intel, and we can see that Valve's slightly

smaller chunk is worth far more than it was. Regardless, a company with a large market share can still provide an ethical and good quality service, but recent trends suggest Valve is not taking this direction, with its somewhat ominous operations.

As recently as February this year, the EU was investigating Valve and others for anti-competitive practices, in this case preventing people in certain areas accessing sales and offers. In 2012, a German consumer rights group, VZVB, took Valve to court for its practice of removing a user's access to their games if they did not accept new licence agreements, and only recently have basic rights, such as refunds, been added, and this was only due to public pressure - such abuse of customers would no longer be tolerated.

It's not merely the corporation's business practices that have been under scrutiny however. Stats published by steamspy show that around 40 per cent of all games ever released on Steam came out in 2016. This is due in large part to the Steam Greenlight system that allowed masses of small developers to put their projects on Steam. And while this, on the surface, sounds like a positive, the result was far from it.

Instead of leading to a flourishing of new, small games onto the market, all Steam users will know that the market place is now awash with unchecked, garbage projects, that often flip assets and unfairly earn large sums

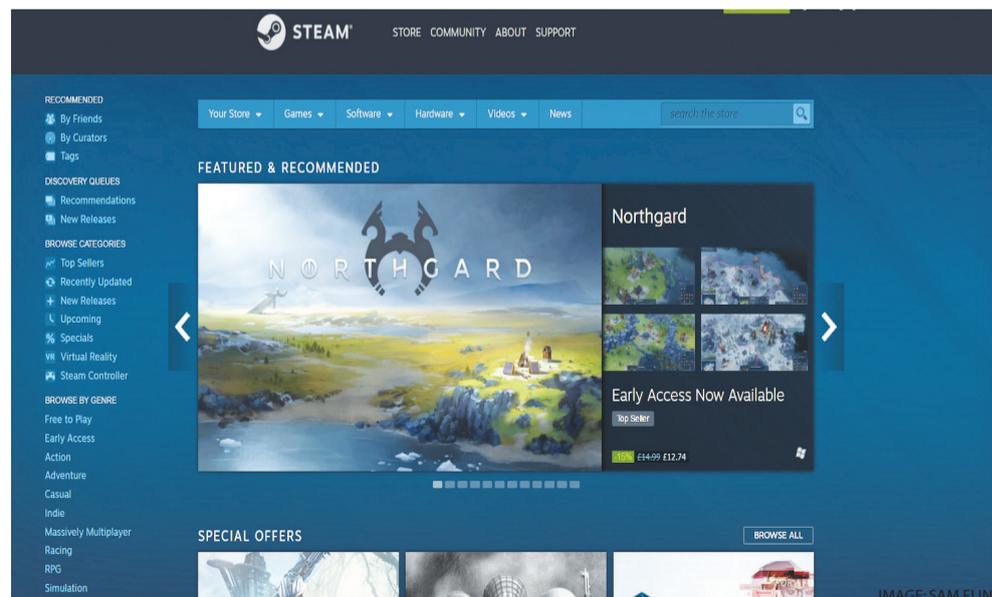
of players' money, in some cases without the ability of the customer to get a refund.

Couple this with internal rumours of major staff resignations, and claims of an awful work environment, and suddenly Valve doesn't seem like a place consumers should be giving their money. But people won't stop spending, and can you blame them?

There's a reason Valve won such a huge market share. Steam is easy to use, relatively

cheap, and has the massive majority of popular games available on the market. I've even got it open as I write this, so I don't pretend to be any better.

Valve won the war for online control 13 years ago, when it was the first company to realise the potential of forcing people to sign up to its system to play games. Steam's domination of the marketplace, bar being a total disaster, isn't ending anytime soon.



# THINKING AHEAD

LUCY FURNEAUX DISCUSSES 'THE STORY OF THINGS' AND THE BEST EVENTS TO INSPIRE YOU AT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

York's annual Festival of Ideas is the largest free festival in the UK. This month, the Festival is busy hosting 150 free events in the city and on campus, including talks, workshops, films, exhibitions and performances, all focused around this year's theme: 'The Story of Things'.

The Festival began in 2011, with the intention of showcasing work and research by York's academics, and highlighting the importance and relevance of higher education to today's world. Over the years, the Festival has grown in size and popularity; from hosting just over 20 events in the pilot six years ago, it now welcomes a huge number of speakers, performers and exhibitors, as well as thousands of audience members to its many events.

A partnership between the University and over 60 cultural, social and business organisations both in York and nationally, it

election of President Emmanuel Macron; the question of whether democracy is under threat on account of fake news, right-wing extremism and other topics; the challenges facing our healthcare system, including tackling mental health and the future of the NHS; and the future of work, featuring a talk from Harriet Harman.

Since the pilot, every Festival has focused around a theme; in the past, these have ranged from 'Metamorphoses' in 2012, to 2014's 'Order and Chaos' and last year's 'Tick Tock'. The theme helps to focus the Festival, while also allowing for plenty of breadth and scope for exhibitors, performers and speakers to explore. However, alongside the Focus Days, the Festival itself is also organised into smaller sections or themes, which this year include 'A Moment in Music', 'Eoforwic: Anglian-era York', 'Russia in the Spotlight', 'A Date with History', 'The World in Motion', 'Revealing the Ancient World', 'Science: The Final Frontier' and more.

This year's theme is 'The Story of Things', which certainly provides plenty of scope. According to the Festival's programme, which can be found online or obtained for free from any York library, the aim of the theme is to celebrate "human ingenuity and invention". Some events take the theme very literally, such as 'The Stories Behind Our Favourite Things' on Wednesday 14 June, looking at the role of objects in our understanding of meaning, while others are a little more nuanced, like 'Border: A Journey to the Edge of Europe' on Friday 16 June which explores the hidden history of Europe's last border, between Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece.

Given the uncertain political climate (at the time of writing the outcome of the general election remains unknown), many of this year's events carry a political theme. A lot feature Brexit, such as 'York, Europe World: An Outward-Looking Future' on Tuesday 13 June, which invites members of the public to enter into a dialogue about what York might look like post-Brexit, and asks how residents can keep York an outward-looking city amongst the political turmoil. Others consider the refugee crisis, looking at the impact of music and art on refugee communities, or, on Saturday 17 June, inviting residents to have a cup of tea with a refugee outside the Minster with a strong 'Refugees Welcome' message.

The sub-themes include 'The Story of Stories' and 'The

The aim of the theme is to celebrate "human ingenuity and invention"



aims to allow space for the general public to participate in open debate and discussion with academics and high-profile speakers. The debate element is crucial for organisers, leading to the Festival's four so-called 'Focus Days', which take a particular major contemporary issue and present talks, panels and workshops to explore them.

This year's Focus Days consider the relationship between Britain and France following the



Story of...'; the latter allows for speakers to tell their own stories. Major speakers in previous festivals have included Nobel Prize-winning author JM Coetzee; novelist and York alumnus Anthony Horowitz, poet Seamus Heaney, children's writer Michael Morpurgo, and *Guardian* journalist Polly Toynbee, among countless others. Earlier in this year's Festival members of the public heard from Peter Lord, Co-founder and Creative Director of Aardman, the studios behind favourites such as *Wallace and Gromit* and *Chicken Run*,

There are really great opportunities for students to generate new contacts



and former MP, *Strictly Come Dancing* star and Twitter hero Ed Balls. (If you missed the latter, check *Muse's* feature on his recent appearance at the University on M4.)

Still to come at the time of printing is the story of Reverend Richard Coles, heralded in the Festival programme as 'the UK's only vicar to have had a number one single in the pop charts'. Coles is also a broadcaster on both BBC Radio 2 and Radio 4; although these aren't necessarily typical student stations, Coles was once a member of pop duo The Communards, living - according to the online programme - 'a life of sex and drugs', so there may be more to him than meets the eye.

The Festival's finale lands on Fathers' Day, so features the story of *Guardian* columnist Tim Dowling. Dowling has been writing his weekly column for *Guardian Weekend* for almost a

decade, documenting family life with effortless humour, and his talk follows the recent release of his book, *Dad You Suck*.

However, the Festival isn't only about talks and panels. Its finale weekend also features the annual LUMA Film Festival, which champions the work of the University's up-and-coming filmmakers. Productions at LUMA have gone on to win national and international awards and acclaim, including BAFTA nominations. Alongside screening every film submitted, LUMA also holds film-focused workshops and talks for anyone with an interest in film production. Like so many other Festival of Ideas events, LUMA is entirely free and takes place on Hes East on 17 and 18 June.

One of the Festival's main focuses is in inclusiveness and accessibility. To highlight this, it features many events for specific age groups such as young children, including Wednesday 14 June's 'Zombies in York' event for eight-to-twelve year olds, in which attendees will watch a zombie dissection by University of York scientists and save the city from a zombie invasion. There are also events for teens, including acting workshops, and hands-on events for families.

The vast majority of Festival events are held on either of the University campuses or at easy-to-reach destinations in York city centre, making them more accessible to students than any other group. Student attendance is greatly encouraged by festival organisers: according to Joan Concannon, the Festival's director, "speakers are always hugely enthusiastic about networking with students and there are really great opportunities for students to generate new contacts."

Although by the time of printing the Festival will be in its final week, there are still plenty of events available to attend. Tickets can easily be downloaded from the Festival website, and although there may be tickets available on the door it is advised that attendees book in advance to ensure their space. **M**

For more information and tickets, please visit the Festival and LUMA websites at: [www.yorkfestivalofideas.com](http://www.yorkfestivalofideas.com)

# THE FAST AND THE SCRUMPTIOUS

MUSTAFA CHAUDHRY EXPLORES THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD AND DRINK FOR MUSLIMS DURING THE MONTH OF RAMADAN



IMAGE: MIQDAAD VERSI



IMAGE: THE DATERY



IMAGE: HUGOVK

**R**amadan – it's a month during which Muslims abstain from eating and drinking, every day, from sunrise to sunset. Its intention is often encapsulated as encouraging commitment, devotion and empathy, for those who are unable to have readily available access to food and drink.

The routine and traditions attached to it, however, have developed, particularly among Muslims in Britain, whereby accommodation of the month itself has brought with it the opportunity not only for community spirit to flourish, but also for businesses to thrive. *Nouse* takes a look at this aforementioned development and how abstaining from food and drink doesn't stop them from being an integral part of observing the month.

Traditions exist amongst many things and Ramadan is certainly a time of the year during which several traditions manifest and, for a month, entrench themselves as being part of a Muslim's regular routine.

The first of which comes in the form of 'Suhoor', a period which predates the start of the fast and thus sunrise itself. This is a time during which food and drink are both con-

“ An important tenet of fasting is to do so while going about your daily routine

sumed in preparation for the fast. It's necessary to make sure that a person has enough energy to last them through the day, especially since an important tenet of fasting is to do so while going about your normal daily routine.

Thus there is often a preference for food-stuffs containing protein and fibre, eggs and cereal for example, and those which offer a slow-release of energy to help a person get through the day. Furthermore, often it is in

fact the lack of liquids consumed which makes thirst a more pressing concern for many – as a result, it is often recommended to make sure one drinks enough water both prior to the fast beginning and following its culmination.

The meal associated with this period of culmination is more commonly known as the 'Iftar' and offers the chance for people to get together and 'break' their fast with one another. Occurring just after sunset, people begin this by offering a short prayer before ensuring if possible that the first thing consumed is either one or several dates, a practice dating back to the beginnings of the religion itself.

Of course, culturally speaking, there are preferences following this with regards to what exactly a person chooses to eat and drink. An example, found in Pakistani culture, would be the beverage made from 'Rooh-Afza' a rose-based syrup, which is then mixed with milk and has tapioca seeds added to it.

The significance of the unity between people breaking their fast is something which shouldn't be understated, and as such, a fair share of mosques open their doors to the general public and welcome them in to share an Iftar together. This often has a very community-based feel to it insofar as it relies often on donations and contributions (financially speaking) to be able to provide food for many, day-in, day-out.

One way of accommodating this is by mosques having a rotational system whereby a different family may provide the food for a specific day during Ramadan, encouraging people to not only give back to their community but also help feed those who may come along to the Iftar for their only meal of the day.

A more general example of such an initiative not attached to any specific place of worship would be the 'Ramadan Tent Project', founded in London in 2011 by a group of stu-

dents from the School of Oriental and African Studies. Usually "expecting around two hundred or three hundred guests per evening", they also supplement their events with guests and have, since their inception, expanded not just to several different cities but also several different countries.

In addition to this, a further initiative that exists is the 'Big Iftar', which provides a platform and opportunity to those who want to host their own Iftar, again often open to many, particularly in a public setting. A nationwide initiative, the 'Big Iftar' also encourages multi-faith inclusion and thus has had events held in synagogues for one.

The commercial aspect of Ramadan is one that has also grown and developed significantly, particularly in the UK. Restaurants will often offer Iftar-based set menus, specifically aimed at those breaking their fast, while others may operate a buffet-style system, which allows for people to plate their food in preparation for being able to eat.

Over the past few years, demand and therefore availability has increased for restaurants that stay open late night to accommodate for 'Suhoor'. Brioche Burger in Walthamstow is one such example of a restaurant that has decided to provide such an opportunity, with a specific menu being created just for that time of day. Furthermore, due to the importance of dates during Ramadan, businesses that focus on bespoke dates often thrive due to a surge in demand. Again, these companies will often tailor their products to this newfound demand and thus offer special packages to customers, specifically due to it being Ramadan.

Demand isn't just limited to restaurants being able to supply food to customers – more often than not, people choose to have their Iftar meal at home with their family. This means that despite not expecting there to be, a considerable amount of food is bought, perhaps even more so than outside of Ramadan.

This is echoed in the fact that, particularly over the past few years, more and more national supermarkets such as Sainsbury's

choose to accommodate this and openly advertise and encourage people to come, offering deals that take into consideration this increase in consumption. Ramadan is un-

“ The importance of dates during Ramadan means that businesses often see a surge in demand

doubtably increasing its impact on everyday life in the UK.

Abstaining from food and drink is therefore one key part of the month and understandably the first thing people associate with the month itself. However, it's fair to say that both fasting and community do still play an important part in allowing people to get through the month.

Whether it be the more community-based initiatives such as 'Ramadan Tent Project' or the commercialism of Iftar based set-menus offered by some restaurants to both accommodate Muslims and see their own profits rise, the influence of Ramadan on food in the UK seems to continually be on the rise. **M**

## IF YOU'RE INTERESTED...

....in finding out more about 'Ramadan Tent Project' visit their Facebook Page.

Bespoke dates like the ones seen in picture (middle) above can be found at [www.thedatery.co.uk](http://www.thedatery.co.uk)

# COFFEE AND CONSOLES

JUSTINE KNIGHT SPEAKS TO TIM HENTON ABOUT PLAY!, A GAMING CAFÉ COMING TO YORK

The world of gaming, if left to its own devices, can become insular and isolated. I have spent hours in my room in the dark only to realise days later that the world's still turning without me and my stomach's been rumbling for a long time. And while some games need alone time for an immersive experience, consoles and gaming have the potential to foster social engagements.

When my attention was drawn to the Kickstarter campaign for Play!, an upcoming gaming café in York, I threw down my old

**The objective for Play! is to provide a venue where people can connect over the best games**

Nintendo and sat up. The people behind the project, Tim Henton and Kirsty Dodge, believe that there is potential for a more social gaming scene in York. Speaking to Tim about their aspirations for the café, he tells me that "online gaming has meant that people don't socialise in person round the television any more. The main objective for Play! is to provide a venue where people can connect over some of the best local multiplayer games from every console generation".

When asked about what challenges they might face he says that the biggest one will be finding the right venue: "Being such a picturesque tourist spot, York obviously has a lot of businesses vying for space in the city centre. We are working to make sure that we are as

ready as possible to pounce on the right property as soon as it becomes available!" It's been around one year since they first made their plans to open a gaming café public knowledge, so they are eager to move forward as soon as possible. From their website it is clear they have exceeded their Kickstarter goal.

Funding can be one of the greatest pitfalls for any new idea, but Kickstarter has assisted with many creative dreams, from indie games to high street establishments. What better way to prove to investors that the gaming community is keen about the idea then to show their investment? It beats buying another limp DLC for a game you rarely play anyway. "From the very beginning, Kickstarter seemed like the perfect fit for us. We want our café to have a strong community feel to it so we knew we wanted to connect with locals as soon as possible before even opening. By allowing people to pay for their membership upfront, we are in an amazing situation where we can say that we know 267 local people who can't wait for us to open our doors to them, and we are so grateful to them."

The conversation moves towards first and favourite games. Tim confesses, "We've been massive fans of video games since childhood. Three friends and I would meet religiously every weekend to play whatever new multiplayer game we could get our hands on for their Playstations or my N64. Kirsty and I really think this type of gaming is dying out to a degree. In terms of board games, Kirsty and I both come from families that love nothing better than to sit around the kitchen table playing. My mum and dad are really into *Ticket To Ride* at the minute so we keep buying them the expansions for birthdays and Christmas!" This made me feel giddy, as I have grown up with the PlayStation 2 since it was my brother who first made me pick up a controller.

Meeting players through gaming is an easy task. Today I can log onto my console,

click multiplayer and wait for the system to link me with someone anywhere in the world. It's easy, we play a game and then go our separate ways. Sometimes we will add each other as friends - if they are a decent person - but I don't find it memorable for the company. In fact, my greatest enjoyment has been playing with people I know well. This project means you don't have to let go of your controller to have a social interaction. That's what the gaming community should be about; simply one player turning to someone else, either a newcomer or a seasoned player, and saying, 'hey this is pretty cool, check this out.'

I raise a common stereotype: some view the gaming scene as gender biased. Whether it's a group of guys crowding around a game of cards or your brother shouting at you over

very tired". I agree. And when this upstart café takes off, I will be happy to see many people emerge from their caves and see the different genders, ages and ethnicities exhibiting a uniting passion for a game, genre or platform which is an amazingly powerful bonding tool. You like the Krogan war hammer? So do I.

From our talk it is clear that Kirsty and Tim know their games, and both have adept culinary experience to support both sides of their business: "It wasn't until Kirsty and I began working at a local café that the final pieces of the puzzle fell into place for us. I've personally worked in the food industry in York but not directly in this environment so it was working together in this set up that made it very clear that we would be the right people for the job!" Thinking about my own personal experience of spilling food on gaming equipment, I asked him whether there was a risk of damaging the games, Tim reassured me that they "have been toying with the idea of clear Perspex sheets to protect gaming boards etc. but we have been to other similar establishments that just trust their customers and let them get on with it."

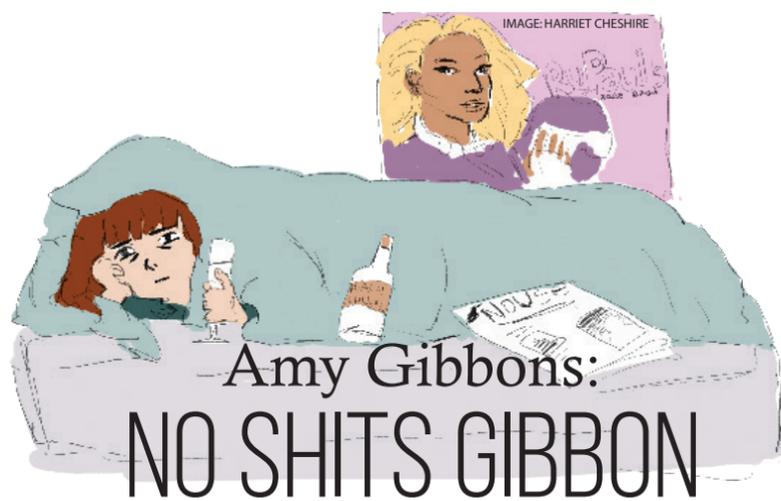
York is a place of high culture, independent movies, musicians, and theatre. But with the expansion of Travelling Man, OG gaming and other venues, I wanted to know whether he thought video games and fantasy aspects are within that sphere of culture too. "Most definitely," he said. "I think York is becoming the North's premier destination for this. Once open we want to work closely with other local businesses in the sector." He continues: "York is the ideal place for anything! We are very lucky to live in such a beautiful city where the locals are so friendly and open to new ideas. We were ecstatic when the Arts Barge was granted planning permission earlier this year and with the recent announcement of Spark: York as well, there are some fantastic independent, quirky venues popping up all over the city. The time is now!" M

**You don't have to let go of your controller to have a social interaction, that's what gaming should be about**

a player vs player match. Tim shoots this assumption down quickly: "Last year Gametrak estimated that 20 million people living in the UK aged 11-64 play video games regularly (42 per cent) and since 2014 women have accounted for over 50 per cent of all gamers in the UK so the stigma of gaming being a male-centric 'hardcore' pastime is getting



ALL IMAGES: TIM HENTON AND KIRSTY DODGE



I had a dream on Wednesday night that Jeremy Corbyn stood on the steps of 10 Downing Street, waving to the public and winking at the press. The sun glanced off his shoulders as a *BBC News* ticker read: 'LABOUR MAJORITY, CORBYN WINS 330 SEATS IN UNPRECEDENTED RESULT'. The world was in shock, much like when a certain small-handed, morally-dubious entrepreneur took up his seat in the White House earlier this year. Except this time, I wasn't walking home in the snow. The victory felt warmer; the whole world seemed to cosy up, rather than drifting apart and washing up in remote places. It felt too good to be true.

Well it was, rather. As I drifted in and out of sleep the following night, having collapsed into bed at 3:30AM after one too many glasses of sangria (don't ask), the tinny iPhone speaker beside my bed gently hummed BBC Radio 5 Live. The exit poll was very promising. As if my body sensed something exciting was happening, I stirred briefly at 5AM to hear Stephen Nolan announce a certain hung parliament. No Labour majority, (we should be so lucky). No grinning Corbyn on the steps of Number 10. None of this, and yet unprecedented progress.

Having voted in York, I consider myself a winner. Assuming a Tory/DUP unofficial coalition is on the cards, this is perhaps surprising to some. Granted, I'd much prefer a Labour minority government or hell – even a second Tory/Lib Dem coalition – at least their policies wouldn't be rooted in the 1950s. But I am over the moon, and I reckon that's because against all odds, this time, the political surprise was born out of kindness, rather than hostility.

Whatever your political perspective, you can't argue with Jeremy Corbyn's good will. Labour's token slogan this election, and one that sounds equally outdated and perfectly

suiting to our current impatient relationship with information, has a certain Robin Hood vibe to it. "For the many, not the few." Not bad. Although if someone had told me that line would see Labour on 262 seats come 9 June, I'd have eaten Paddy Ashdown's hat.

It's a slogan that you wouldn't expect to hold up in 2017, given the modern obsession with fast-paced self-improvement and entrepreneurship. Why help the many when I could be the few? If I'm really successful (and I could be, Mum, I could be) why should I give 50 per cent of my earnings away? I can pay for even better healthcare, even better education for my children. This championing of individualism is spurring me on – I can do it! I can –

What's that? You need a place to live? You need a job? You've fallen ill?

Charity begins at home, so the bastards say. Whatever happened to envisaging yourself elsewhere? Jeremy Corbyn might not be perfect, but he doesn't discriminate when it comes to the main body of society. If every child is offered a free school meal, and not only those who have been means-tested, nobody can slip through the net. "For the many, not the few" doesn't just mean higher taxes and a further-reaching state. It means a safety net for everybody. And isn't that what society is about? Advancing together, and breaking one another's falls?

These are the last words I will write for *Nouse*. There's no perfect combination of letters with which I can sign off, but I'll leave you with this.

I've met the most wonderful, diverse and enlightening people at York, and if I've learned anything in my time here (and it's certainly not the definition of post-structuralism), I'd like to think I've got a better grip on empathy.

As my mum would say: be kind, be gentle, be patient. And fuck Theresa May.

# Jack Richard Sonnets

## Left Hanging

*So June was not the end of May, it seems,  
At least in that she has not yet resign'd.  
(I write this Friday morn, so if she deems,  
The time is right, this verse will be behind).  
By this point I confess I'm not surprised:  
Such presumption should not go unpunish'd,  
So great a lead to be so vapourised  
Will happen if our confidence is banish'd.  
But Jezza celebrates this as a win,  
And quite for why I too don't understand  
Theresa May is still in Number Ten  
He still has not the seats to play his hand,  
Above all, let us spare a thought for Nick:  
Of all our hearts he may still take his picks.*

## Goodbye

*The time has come to say goodbye to friends  
Whom I have known for these three passing years.  
How is it then, so many odds and ends  
Remain unknown about these closest peers?  
I do not know about those parts of life  
That made them who they came to be right now.  
What of school, and adolescent strife,  
The things that made them laugh, or cry, or vow?  
Instead these reinvented selves I met,  
That nipped and tucked the past, and traits, away  
And may in time fresh images beget  
When life outside these walls begins to play.  
How can I say quite who I know, or why?  
When all will shift and bend to meet the eye?*

NIAMH MURCHAN IS ENJOYING THE VIEW...



# By-Elections

## Fancy running the show?

Come down to P/X/001 at 18:30 on 16 June with a one-minute speech, and join York's best media society!

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NEWS EDITOR x 1  
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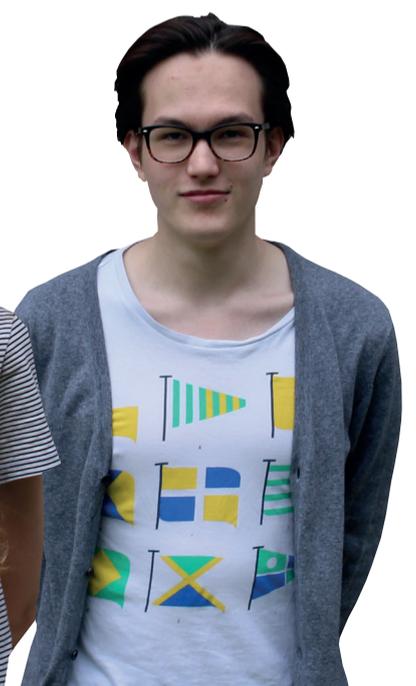
Luke  
Editor



Amelia  
News



Geoff  
Politics



# Je ne regrette rien: Trump pulls plug on Paris accords

**Geoff Glover**  
POLITICS EDITOR

DONALD TRUMP announced on 1 June that the United States would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, citing that he “was elected to represent Pittsburgh, not Paris”. Trump has indicated willingness to renegotiate the accord on more favourable terms, but this was quickly dismissed by European leaders. In the run-up to the decision, US partners had attempted to convince Trump to reconsider at the G7 summit in Sicily. Notably, Pope Francis presented Trump with his work on climate change during his visit to the Vatican. There has been near unanimous condemnation from the international community, with Germany’s Angela Merkel calling it “deeply regrettable”, and Emmanuel Macron, the newly-elected French President, calling for US climate scientists to move to France to continue their work there. China is widely expected to take on the mantle of global climate leadership: concerns about toxic industrial by-products and poor air quality make environmental issues far more salient domestic policy than in the relatively clean west. Per the provisions of the Agreement, the earliest that America could formally withdraw is in 2019.

The Paris Agreement is the most comprehensive international accord to date that attempts to tackle anthropogenic climate change, with 191 out of 193 recognised UN member countries signing the agreement. The US withdrawal adds a third country to the non-signatory list, alongside Nicaragua, and Syria. The former criticised the agreement as a half-measure due to the accord being non-binding, and the latter is embroiled in a bloody and protracted civil war. The agreement stipulates that all signatories set their own national targets to reduce emissions on a voluntary basis, with the aim of maintaining global temperature increases to below 2°C, the temperature cut off that climate scientists widely believe to be the proverbial point of no return. Beyond 2°C, scientists predict that natural disasters and other climate-

related catastrophes will become commonplace, with extreme implications. Climate change related desertification, for example, has been connected to the intensification of the European refugee crisis by directly affecting food yields in the Middle East and North Africa.

Domestically, the reaction has at once been negative, but also extremely galvanising. The Republican Party remains the exception, and most members espouse climate revisionism. While no longer explicitly denying the phenomenon, it is argued that human agency does not

**I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris** ”

have an impact on the health of the environment. However, Democrats, incensed at the dismantling of one of Obama’s flagship policy legacies, criticised the decision even before it was made. Some individual US states and cities have individually committed to following the provisions of the agreement, despite official federal policy. A bipartisan group of states, including California, Colorado, and Connecticut, created the United States Climate Alliance and committed to meeting the Paris Agreement’s goals by enacting the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. Further embarrassment came in a *New York Times* piece, where the Mayor of Pittsburgh - the city Trump cited in his decision - jointly condemned the move with Anne Hidalgo, the Mayor of Paris.

This is not the first time the US has withdrawn support from a global climate initiative. US withdrawal heavily undermined the Kyoto Protocol that was established in 1997. Since both the US and China were not party to the agreement, their emissions effectively cancelled out progress in reducing net global emissions that had been made by other industrialised countries. The difference today is in the levels of public awareness, and the general domestic dissatisfaction surrounding Trump’s administration. Unwittingly, Trump may yet save the planet.



IMAGE: BRIAN SNELSON

## 2017 election: the rundown

**Joseph Silke**  
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

THE PRIME MINISTER called this snap election to strengthen her majority, but now finds herself without a majority at all and reliant on the Democratic Unionist Party to command confidence in the House of Commons. Theresa May had seemed unassailable, but has suffered a shocking blow. These are my top five takeaway points from yet another dramatic vote.

First: we might very well have a new PM by the end of the year; the third Conservative leader and Prime Minister in under two years. The loss of a majority has not won favour with many MPs who blame Mrs May for her very personal, shambolic campaign. Particular vitriol has been levied at her close advisors Fiona Hill and Nick Timothy who have been described by Mrs May’s former Director of Communications as “Lady Macbeth and Rasputin”. The two have resigned following the result. A leadership challenge or Mrs May’s resignation would likely occur during the summer recess with a view to electing a new leader before conference in October. Such an event could also mean another general election later in the year. The likely candidates are Boris Johnson and David Davis. Many Conservatives are enamoured with Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson after her spectacular revival of Scottish conservatism

but unfortunately for them she takes her seat in the Scottish Parliament so cannot feasibly become Prime Minister.

Second: Labour did not win this election. This sounds obvious but one might be forgiven for believing that losing is apparently the new winning. Jeremy Corbyn improved Labour’s result on 2015 and 2010, and this is indeed surprisingly positive for the party, but Ed Miliband was always a political dead weight, and Gordon Brown had to contend with

**The PM called the election to increase her majority** ”

the widespread accusation that he destroyed the UK economy. Mr Corbyn faced an incompetent and awkward Prime Minister with a shambolic manifesto, who couldn’t even stomach debating him, and had been literally laughed at by voters on live television on multiple occasions. Overall turnout was the highest since 1997 and young voter turnout for voting was a record high of an estimated 72 per cent. Despite all this, the Labour Party was roundly defeated. There is no chance that Jeremy Corbyn could command the confidence of the House of Commons.

Third: unionism in Scotland seems safe but the Good Friday

Agreement in Northern Ireland seems more imperilled than ever. The SNP lost one third of their MPs north of the border, including deputy leader Angus Robertson and former First Minister Alex Salmond, amid a resurgence of unionism defying Nicola Sturgeon’s demand of a separation referendum rerun. As a result, the First Minister has been forced to concede the unpopularity of another vote on a secession. In Northern Ireland, however, the devolved government is without an administration as the deadline of 29 June for securing a power sharing arrangement draws ever closer. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has traditionally brokered between the DUP and Sinn Fein but a Conservative alliance with the DUP in the Commons threatens to irrevocably undermine this convention and threaten stability in the nation.

Fourth: Brexit remains on track. This election certainly hasn’t strengthened this Prime Minister’s hand in the Brexit negotiations, and Theresa May is likely to be more than a little red-faced during her remaining interactions with EU leaders, but our exit from the bloc isn’t in question. There remains some uncertainty about how some of the details might change with this new DUP alliance and potentially a whole new Prime Minister and Cabinet before too long, but 90 per cent of MPs in the Commons have declared their support for the UK’s withdrawal from the EU and Brexiters have no need to feel unduly concerned.

Fifth: poor Nick, eh?

# Middle East engulfed by diplomatic chaos

**Niamh Carroll**  
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

THE SMALL oil-rich peninsula of Qatar is at the centre of the biggest crisis seen in the Persian Gulf for 30 years, having been cut off by its neighbours, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, due to allegations of its support for extremists. Although Qatar strongly denies these allegations, it is alleged that the country has provided funding for groups designated as extremists including the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas. The failure of Qatar to disassociate itself from Saudi Arabia's rival, Iran, also plays a part in the decision by the other Gulf States. The isolation of Qatar will have massive implications for diplomatic relations in the region, as the tiny state holds a disproportio-

tionate influence in the world due to its oil riches and position of importance in the Middle East. Elsewhere in the world, reaction has been a mixture of praise for this apparent sign that the Gulf States will not tolerate support for Islamic extremism, and caution that the



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

move will only serve to destabilise this crucial region.

The Gulf States are seen as key actors in the fight against Islamic extremism and have been urged to do more by the west. The states that severed ties with Qatar have argued that the move is a step in this direction. It is no coincidence that the decision by Qatar's regional neighbours to isolate the country comes just weeks after the US President visited the Middle East. Trump urged Saudi Arabia to tackle "radical ideology", and this emboldened the Kingdom to carry out this move against its regional partner. Qatar maintain that there is no evidence that it is sympa-

thetic to extremists, and argue that its isolation comes as a result of its attempt to act as a neutral state, particularly with regards to Saudi/Iran relations.

These developments, which some have called the most alarming in the region since the Gulf War, have been met with mixed reactions in the west. Initially President Trump praised, and even took credit for the move. On 6 June, he tweeted that his visit to the region was "paying off". Later in the week he seemed to retract this earlier support for the move, making a phone-call to King Salman of Saudi Arabia in which he urged the leader to ensure unity in the region. Qatar is an important ally for the west, with the US's regional airbase, Al Udeid, being in the country; a consideration which may have partly motivated Trump's change of heart.

Despite the US President's call for unity, the UAE has only hard-

ened in its stance, and has even threatened to jail Qatari sympathisers. Qatar is largely dependent on its powerful neighbours and so the end to travel and diplomatic connections will have implications for the small state. For example, citizens have been stock-piling foods and flights through the regional hub of Doha, have also been heavily disrupted. This is a diplomatic crisis which has implications far beyond its epicentre of Qatar, or even the Gulf region. With Islamic extremism now being top of the agenda for countries in the west, many hoped that the Gulf states would be able to act as a restraint on such radical ideologies. Although this move by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and others in the region has been justified as a move against extremism, it is likely that the isolation of Qatar will only serve to weaken the united front against Islamic extremism which is needed.

# The Trump doctrine: a hostage to Congress?

**Megan Field**  
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

TRUMP'S PRESIDENCY has been riddled with controversy, but among a host of newsworthy events, one ubiquitous question remains to be answered: why is Congress not being more active in enacting Trump's agenda?

It's been over a month since House Republicans succeeded in passing their own repeal bill; Senate Republicans rejected that bill but have struggled to formulate their own alternative. Mitch McConnell, Senate majority leader, said on Tuesday that they are "close" to settling on their own plan, as pressure mounts to deliver before the August recess. The mood is at best "cautiously optimistic", as Sen. James E. Risch, Idaho Republican, told reporters. Given that McConnell can only afford to lose three of his fifty two Republicans, this cautious approach is to be expected.

On the equally contentious issue of tax reform, which Republicans admit will not move forward

until health care measures are secured, progress is stagnant. During his speech confirming withdrawal from the climate accord, President Trump claimed that his "tax bill is moving along in Congress". This was something of an exaggeration given that the "bill" is in fact a one page outline on tax reform which lacks specifics and next to nothing else is just about scraping through Congress. It's worth highlighting that the last major tax bill was passed under Reagan in 1986, with approval ratings above 60 per cent.

Low approval ratings are undoubtedly a major hindrance to effective action in Congress, with the latest figures suggesting Trump sits at just 36 per cent. In fact, approximately 43 per cent of Americans are in favour of beginning official impeachment proceedings. This is problematic not only in the sense that democratic institutions require public support to claim legitimacy, but also in that ambitious legislation requires the President and Congress to work together. With mid-terms approaching in 2018, congressmen are starting to seek means of demonstrating to voters back home that they are independent, which means defying the party leadership.

Of course, Presidential approval ratings are only part of the problem. With a coherent agenda in front of them, a unified Republican Congress could still pass major legislation. The root of the problem lay in the flaws intrinsic to Trump's proposals, which are largely unpopular with the American public. For one thing, tax reform would categorically involve cuts for the rich and corporations alike. Combine this with substantial budget cuts and a controversial healthcare bill and the barriers to success become all too clear.

Furthermore, one can hardly blame Congress for policy stagnation given the plethora of distractions currently plaguing Washington; arguably, they have been pre-occupied with checking the personal actions of the President to concern themselves with enacting the agenda.

The Senate Intelligence Committee are currently preparing for the hearing of James Comey. Therefore, while legislative inaction would merit allegations of a broken branch in previous administrations, here it is merely a symptom of a body dealing with the political fall out of a Presidency in crisis.



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



## LEFT WING RIGHT WING

Thoughts from the Politics Editor

AS POLITICS EDITOR, I've possibly presided over one of the most colourful years for a *Nouse* editor ever.

I took over in time to cover Brexit last summer, and Donald Trump's election in November. Since then, I've covered Austria, Italy, Turkey,

France, and as I write today, Britain. Other issues have also reared their heads. The Syrian Civil War: the eternal bloodbath that continues to decimate a once great site of world civilisation. Venezuela is in the thrall of pseudo-revolutionary upheaval as the Chavista government

implodes. As I sit here penning my last ever column, I can't help but consider the true depth of change we've seen. Are we on the forefront of history? Two years ago, I'd have resoundingly said no. The system worked, the 21st century would be stable and prosperous, and we could definitely have our cake and eat it. Now, though, very clear fault lines have been exposed across our societies. To call the world in flux would be a massive understatement.

I have been extremely privileged to watch this unfold through

*Nouse*. While this role has been instrumental in making me cynical through constant exposure to humanity being terrible to itself, I found myself strangely hopeful on the post-election morning, despite the arguably (though not by my opinion) worst possible outcome for Britain.

The last two years have shattered a decades long consensus. We would certainly be amiss to not recognise it. Whatever your thoughts on the state of the situation worldwide, it is arguably our duty to sit

up, and pay attention. I also remain grateful for this year's events for reminding me that for better or worse, ordinary individuals possess enormous power to change everything. Finally, I remain indebted to *Nouse* itself. We've had our ups and downs, but I couldn't have asked for a better group to constantly vent my frustrations to and spend countless hours in the office and library with.

My only regret is leaving before the next crisis, but I'm sure my successor will be just as jaded as I am now.

# The “strong and stable” fable risks the pound

James Humpish  
BUSINESS EDITOR

STRENGTH AND stability. That’s what Theresa May offered the electorate in April, as if she were some sort of altruistic benefactor and not an unscrupulous opportunist. Though it’s still the case that no one can really discern what she meant by the promise, what is clear is that she has already failed to do it.

If the election had been held on the day it was announced, the Conservatives could probably have bagged at least 400 seats. But after two months of trading off popularity in order to propose unappetising policies and patronisingly neglecting to engage with both the public and opposition parties, everything changed. Instead of 400 seats, when the exit poll dropped last Thursday, the poll showed the Conservatives had fallen short of the 326 needed to obtain a majority.

If the result of a country’s election renders its currency to have the worst day of that year, then something is deeply wrong with the outcome of that election. Expectations had been clearly geared toward a convincing Conservative victory, and despite the poor campaigning, investors had not anticipated the result until the vote had been cast and the die rolled.

When the exit poll saw a forecasted hung parliament, the pound’s value plummeted by over two per cent. This is a natural reaction to a shock as investors were stooped into uncertainty. It quickly picked up as investors contemplated that a hung parliament could result in a softer Brexit with a minority Conservative government or a Conservative government without May. While the

investor reaction is not necessarily disastrous, there are layers of uncertainty which the United Kingdom doesn’t need as it negotiates Brexit and endures stagnating productivity growth.

Trying to retrieve the situation, May moved swiftly to gain the loyalty of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) to form a government once the results were confirmed and sought the Queen’s approval promptly. This, at least, provided some forward guidance for investors despite the fragile position the government is now in, and with many analysts indicating that another general election could occur later this year. However, the DUP will have their own demands. As Ireland’s unionist party, it will be wary of the sensitivities faced with simultaneously losing freedom of movement to the EU and sharing a border with the Republic of Ireland. This is an issue which has afforded little attention by the Conservatives to date, and it may not be a bad thing that they will be pressed to change that but it will be a complication for them.

Those seeing Theresa May announcing that she would continue as Prime Minister and form a minority government may have spotted that strength and stability has been removed from the vernacular. She can no longer offer either. Instead she is staying on for “certainty”. It is another buzzword. In 350 words, she uses the word three times.

She is offering “a government that can provide certainty and lead Britain forward at this critical time for our country.” She asserts that “what the country needs more than ever is certainty and having secured the largest number of votes and the greatest number of seats in the general election, it is clear that only the Conservative and Unionist Party

IMAGE: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



The Prime Minister’s ‘safe bet’ has given business a higher degree of economic risk after a failed political gamble

has the legitimacy and ability to provide that certainty.”

The rhetoric has now changed. The Conservatives are the most popular party but they are not popular enough to be considered to have a credible mandate and now May must signal her ability to survive rather than strive.

It’s incredibly likely that it will not be May who takes the Conservatives to the next general election. The timing of her departure will be up for argument however. There could be an election in October, or the next one could be in 2022. A reasonable prediction might be that she will see Britain formally exit the European Union in 2019 and then step aside for the next leader.

However, reasonable predictions only bear a limited standing at this point. That May’s core cabinet is unchanged may be an attempt at her trying to act as though it is ‘business as usual’. If they are successful in passing their next parliamentary bill, that may give cause for the government to breathe a collective sigh of relief.

What the pound will see isn’t exactly a downturn. It is faced with a high degree of volatility given the various contingencies at stake. May cannot now immediately seek a hard Brexit. She now must placate the DUP, attempt to justify her government to the public, ward off a leadership coup within her own party, present a negotiation strat-

egy to leaving the EU, and reconcile herself with having made the biggest political blunder of a lifetime. She has bitten off more than she can chew. She is now walking along a tightrope, juggling more balls than she can handle, and the economy depends on her to perform.

With the markets as a symbol of investor sentiment, the world has been presented with unimagined uncertainty by someone who presented her pledge of strength and stability as an unarguable fact. ‘Strong and stable’ has been rendered a fable. For someone who was effectively handed premiership just under 12 months ago, she has made herself, her party, and even this country, a very difficult sell.

# Britain’s cracked mask reveals deeper turmoil

Jack Harmsworth  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

WHEN A TREE begins to rot its surface remains impeccable as its insides crumble under the deterioration of disease. Likewise, in the midst of the UK general election all seems well: both parties promise a financially strong future for the UK. Yet the rotting has started, and its inception began with the national referendum decision that took place a year ago. Like the unknown guest at the feast, no one is engaged to talk about it, preferring instead to offer rosy pictures of increased NHS and school funding.

But the rot is there, and as the tree eventually falls, so too will the UK’s economy.

The ‘Brexit’ vote has unleashed

a troublesome beast for whoever sits in Number 10. Its very nature is driven by lies and fed by uncertainty. According to economic analysis by

*The Financial Times*, Brexit is set to deal a devastating blow to the UK economy.

This will ensue, due to two of Brexit’s most deadly entailments, inflation and uncertainty. On the macroeconomic level, rising inflation will be shattering, causing lower household incomes and wages. The latest RPI figure

for inflation offered by the Office for National Statistics is at a sharply increased 3.5 per cent. With average wage growth at 2.1 per cent,

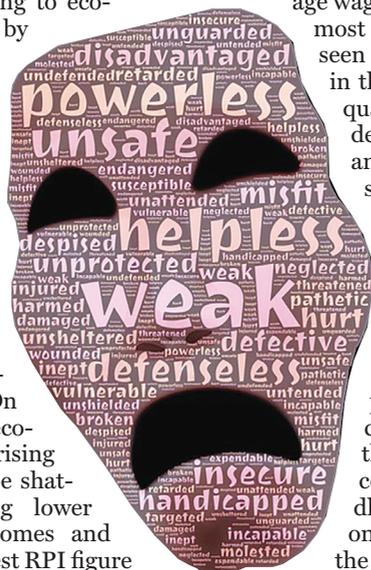
most families have already seen a 1.4 per cent decrease in their incomes in the first quarter of 2017 alone. Indeed, further economic analysis by *Sky News* suggests that whoever is elected to Downing Street will have to preside over net income cuts for almost all social classes. According to the report, the Conservatives will preside over a nine per cent fall in income for the poorest, three per cent for those on middle incomes and finally a one per cent increase for the richest. It makes one

question Theresa May’s demand for a “fairer society”. Under Labour the poorest would have seen a seven per cent fall in income, a two per cent fall for middle income

earners and a three per cent fall for the richest. Again, this makes one question Jeremy Corbyn’s demands “for the many, not the few”. These sobering statistics adequately explain why economic debate had been so absent from the general election campaigns. The parties know that the rot has started and none

dare to bring it to the surface. The Liberal Democrats and Greens are the two parties who have come closest to such a move, but in return they have been ritualistically

shouted down by the mainstream press and government as naysayers, unpatriotic heretics. This comes despite the support from over 120 prominent economists. Evidence-based reason and logical policies have been ejected from the rhetoric in order to reap rewards from preying on popular sentiment. It is perhaps irrational. But sadly that is how rot manifests, and though appearance are poor, it’s even worse below.



# IFS shows NHS needs more funds

**Matt Freathy**  
BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER SEVEN YEARS of the austerity initiated by greater public desire for fiscal restraint within government, and elimination of the budget deficit in the wake of the 2007/8 financial crash and subsequent recession, public services in Britain are creaking under the combined weight of chronic underfunding and the increasing needs of an ageing population. The perpetual crises within the NHS, social care, and the education system encapsulate the struggles of those state funded services yet to be fully privatised. From analysis by the IFS, the population aged 65 and over is expected to grow three times quicker than the population as a whole, while the healthcare costs of a 70-year-old are three times greater than those of a 30-year-old. Clearly, major increases in funding, particularly in pensions and health and social care, are necessary to ensure the swelling demand is met. However, NHS spending is projected to fall by £600m in real terms by 2021, emblematic of the wilful ignorance towards this problem on the part of the government.

The severity and duration of the government's contractionary fiscal policy has already chipped



away at the quality of the provision of essential services to the point that it is having serious consequences for public welfare, offsetting the gains in living standards which a strong and stable economy is supposed to bring. NHS waiting times and indicators of performance are worsening, while record numbers leave vital professions such as teaching and nursing as the workload and the compensation for it slide in opposing directions.

Since the financial crash British living standards have deteriorated, represented by a decline in real wages of 10.4 per cent, superior only to depression-ravaged Greece

among the 36 OECD countries, compounded by the prolonged period of brutal cuts. That this has occurred alongside years of consistent growth in GDP and employment demonstrates how unequally the fruits of Britain's recovery have been distributed towards the wealthiest one per cent and multinational corporations. Exacerbated by the Conservative government's potential tumble towards a hard Brexit to fulfil their vision of a low-tax, low-regulation 'Singapore-on-Thames', these patterns reinforce the need for properly funded public services to prevent these inequalities becoming evermore entrenched.

Under a Conservative government this austerity is likely to persist, and the most severe consequences will be felt greater year-on-year. The NHS will be unable to provide for the unprecedented numbers needing treatment. Children will routinely share their classroom and teacher with over 40 of their peers. The creeping roots of privatisation will sink in as it becomes a necessity for those fortunate enough to be able to afford it, as social mobility becomes a forgotten relic of days gone by.

In any measure of a country's true development, the manner in which it educates its children, cares for its sick and elderly, and presents equal opportunities to each citizen is as important as its economic output. The pretence that these objectives are mutually incompatible, as is the trend, is also a fallacy: the benefits to innovation and competitiveness of a healthier and better educated nation far outweigh the consequences of any requisite increase in government spending.

This is not a plea for a large increase in state intervention in the economy. It is merely that those in power recognise that it is in Britain's interest that our public services are protected and given the necessary resources to ensure the British people are universally awarded the levels of care and opportunity that should be expected in one of the world's wealthiest countries.

## Business Unusual

Buzzbike is a startup that aims to solve every Londoner's dream of having free and quick transport in one of the world's most congested cities. It offers its customers sleek, single speed bikes which include accessories such as locks, lights and insurance and is free of charge so long as it's genuinely used. The bikes are of high calibre, making the product far from a 'budget' option.

Using a subscription ser-



vice and tracking, Buzzbike is able to tell if the bike is being used to commute on a frequent and regular basis and reward its users by lowering the level of subscription fee in proportion to use. The idea is that if used often enough, the customer pays nothing at all. Beyond its functionality as transport, the bikes offer sustainability.

What Buzzbike hopes to do is generate its revenue through sponsorship by brands. Akin to advertising on buses, sponsors have the capacity to gain more exposure, and dynamic exposure at that, while being associated with a socially oriented product in the way of Buzzbikes.

The startup is of economic interest because unlike everyday features such as Facebook and Snapchat, which gain revenues through advertising but are inessential and have always done so, Buzzbike proposes to reduce costs for commuters while aiming to generate revenue purely through advertising. Though it's technology intensive, it is also traditional.

Buzzbike launched its pilot scheme eight months ago and in its first six months, the 200 users collectively clocked more than 40 000 miles in 10 000 journeys. If the journeys had been made by motor transport, that would have generated 17 tonnes of carbon dioxide, equivalent to a forest of 1500 trees.

As well as being financially favourable to commuters, it also incentivises a more environmentally-friendly and health-conscious method of getting from one place to the other in the UK's busiest city, while alleviating the heavy levels of congestion. It is a new twist on the sharing economy and one which could support thousands of young professionals very soon.

# Businesses speak for Paris Treaty

**Boris Arnold**  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

LAST WEEK, Donald Trump announced that the United States - the world's second largest emitter of carbon after China - would withdraw from the Paris Climate accord, an agreement between 196 countries to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

When trying to justify his decision, Trump said that the agreement "handicaps the US economy" and favours rival economies like China and India. "The agreement doesn't eliminate coal jobs, it just transfers those jobs out of the United States, and ships them to foreign countries," said President Trump.

His sentiment was not universally shared. Trump's decision caused furious responses from big businesses whose interests once formed the major obstacle to climate protection. Tesla chief executive Elon Musk said that withdrawing from the Paris deal is "not good for America or the world" and as a result resigned from its economic advisory positions in the White House. Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg said that the withdrawal was

"bad for the environment, bad for the economy, and it puts our children's future at risk." Lloyd Blankfein, CEO of the investment bank Goldman Sachs commented that the "decision is a setback for the environment and for the US's leadership position in the world."

Barack Obama criticised Trump for being on the wrong side of history, saying that "the private sector already chose a low carbon future." He added that "for the nations that committed themselves to that future, the Paris Agreement opened the floodgates for businesses, scientists, and engineers to unleash high-tech, low-carbon investment and innovation on an unprecedented scale."

"The nations that remain in the Paris Agreement will be the nations that reap the benefits in jobs and industries created."

While fossil fuels including gas, oil and coal have so far been the cheapest sources of energy, the cost of utilising renewable energy sources has dropped considerably over the last decade and is likely to con-

tinue to drop in the future. Renewable energies already create two and a half more jobs in the USA than fossil energies do. Trump's decision to withdraw from the agreement

could make it harder for the United States' businesses and citizens to benefit from the booming

and job-creating low-carbon economy. European leaders and China also quickly reacted, accusing Trump of abandoning America's duties. EU climate commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete said that "the EU and China are joining forces to forge ahead on the implementation of the Paris agreement and accelerate the transition to clean energy"

President Macron called Trump's decision a mistake and encouraged scientists, entrepreneurs and anyone disappointed by the decision to see France as a "second homeland" for their research and business. He noted: "The Paris Agreement remains irreversible and will be implemented not just

by France but by all the other nations. We will succeed because we are fully committed, because wherever we live, whoever we are, we all share the same responsibility: make our planet great again."



IMAGE: GAGE SKIDMORE

# Neonicotinoids and the pesticide problem

**Eleanor Mason**  
SCIENCE EDITOR

IN 2013, THE European Union imposed a two year ban on neonicotinoid pesticides (with temporary flexibility in some member states), due to evidence of their effects on domesticated and wild bees.

This moratorium has since been extended to 2017, based on current controversy and research. However, many scientists have questioned whether there is enough evidence to warrant such a ban or restriction.

Neonicotinoid insecticides are a common component of many agricultural systems, and eradicate pests that may disrupt the growth, health or yield of economically important crops.

This is undeniably important for crop production, and the demands set by an increasing global population. Since their introduction in the 1990s, neonicotinoids have become the most common insecticides, making up 24 per cent of the global market in 2011. In the UK, they are commonly applied to crops such as oilseed rape, maize and cereals as seed coatings before planting. Although this has met technical and commercial goals, there is growing evidence of harmful effects to non-target organisms, namely bee species and other pollinators.

Neonicotinoids are broad spectrum, water soluble, systemic insecticides. The active compound within them accumulates in plant tissue, increasing their efficiency at killing a large range of insect pests.

Their application to soil or seeds ensures integration into the whole plant tissue, including the



IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

nectar and pollen of flowering plants. If ingested, this can have sublethal effects on some pollinators such as honeybees, bumblebees and butterflies. Their mechanism involves selectively acting on the insect's central nervous system, as an agonist of nictotinic acetylcholine receptors, a neurotransmitter. This can cause paralysis and eventually death, when ingested at lethal and sub-lethal concentrations. Neonicotinoids are favoured pesticides as they have little toxicological risk to subsequent human consumers. They show little to no binding affinity to mammalian nictotinic acetylcholine receptors due to fundamen-

tal structural differences.

Many scientists believe further EU restrictions on neonicotinoids will have detrimental effects such as pest resistance and decreased yields. "If groups of chemistries are limited by legislation", says a Rothamsted Research statement, "the remaining groups will be more widely used, resulting in an increased risk of pests developing resistance."

Neonicotinoids aren't exclusively used for agricultural purposes, but also in urban pest and veterinary ecto-parasitic control. They are extremely common; imidacloprid is used in over 120 countries, making it the most widely used pesticide in

the neonicotinoid family.

However, questions remain over their impact on off-target species. Some research has shown that neonicotinoids can impair brain tissue function and development in bees, creating navigation issues and memory loss. Much of the laboratory and semi-field research has shown that neonicotinoids can reduce the number of offspring and foraging ability of bumblebees, causing a reduction in colony size. Consequences for honeybees can be similar, and can contribute to colony collapse as worker bees get lost or die whilst foraging. Some studies suggest neonicotinoids affect bum-

blebees, with honeybees unaffected, and short term field research suggests exposure to neonicotinoids has no effect on either honeybee or bumblebee colonies. However, with a limited time frame, neonicotinoids would not have spread sufficiently through the environment. Laboratory experiments are also unreliable as they inaccurately represent natural concentrations and bee interactions.

It is not recent news that bee populations are in decline. With increased demand for food comes stress on greater yields, and increased land for crop growth.

This subsequently causes habitat fragmentation, making it difficult for bee populations to travel between suitable areas, and hurting wildflowers that bees feed from. But pesticides are far from the only culprit; diseases transferred by parasitic mites, climate change and malnutrition also play a part. This is not good; insect pollinators are estimated to support 9.5 per cent of global food production, playing a vital role in the health and diversity of natural plant species and crops, ensuring genetic information is passed between habitats, driving genetic diversity. With a crucial role in pollinating food crops, bees contribute to the UK economy.

Restricting neonicotinoid use may be the safest option until more evidence, applicable to natural ecosystems, is available. It is in the hands of policy makers to decide on an alternative means of pest eradication, and whether this change is worth risking decreases in yield production. "It will be very difficult, if not impossible, to maintain production of many crops if neonicotinoids are more widely restricted or banned completely."

# The resistance to resistance: 3 strikes, you're out!

**Willem Gibbs**  
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

CHANCES ARE YOU have heard about antibiotic resistance. It is one of the biggest biological issues of our time, first discovered in 1945 where *Staphylococcus* species were found resistant to the landmark antibiotic, penicillin. In the US, two million people contract antibiotic resistant infections that result in 23 000 deaths every year. Imagine a world where diseases such as tuberculosis, cholera and polio are as common as the cold, yet incurable. Imagine a world where the threat of diseases characteristic of an ageing population become a thing of the past due to the impounding threat of diseases that are practically eliminated. This is the threat of antibiotic resistance.

Antibiotic resistance has arisen

through overuse of antibiotics in the medical world and disease prevention in cattle. This has led to bacteria being under intense selection pressure to mutate and become resistant to that drug. It only takes one bacterium to become resistant for a whole population to become resistant; the non-resistant die allowing the resistant bacterium to survive and reproduce, namely through vertical gene transmission. Once resistance has arisen in one species, the mutated gene can then be transferred to other species via a structure that extends from the bacterium to form a connection with another species. The resistance gene is then replicated and transfers into the connected neighbour, conferring resistance in

the recipient species.

The challenge of eliminating antibiotic resistance, or finding alternative treatments, has been a struggle for the scientific community. Identifying new antibiotics, rearranging genes in antibiotic producing species in order to obtain new variants of existing ones, using viruses to manipulate bacterial genomes. However, progress is slow, and the bugs are evolving quickly.

One key breakthrough last month was the chemical alteration of the existing antibiotic, vancomycin. Traditionally, vancomycin was used as a 'last resort' to treat enterococci but the species became resistant to it and is now called: Vancomycin Resistant Enterococci (VRE). This disease is often found

in hospitals and can cause fatal infections in the blood. The WHO proclaim that VRE poses a significant risk to human health. Some drugs work against VRE but vancomycin, first discovered 60 years ago, is now useless against it.

Scientists hypothesise this new version of the drug is 1000 times more potent than the existing version, so it could be a key weapon in our fight against antibiotic resistance. Not only does it fulfil the original role of the drug but other modifications have given vancomycin new mechanisms of action. The drug has been altered so it can attack bacterial cell walls causing cell lysis. Laboratory experiments demonstrated that the drug was very effective, retaining

full effectiveness after 50 rounds of treatment to the bacterial cultures of VRE. The lead scientist, Dr Dale Boger, puts this down to a 'multiple attack' approach whereby no species can evolve to avoid three distinct mechanisms of action of a drug, meaning vancomycin can be used "without the fear of resistance emerging". The drug still needs to be tested on animals and humans but there is hope it will be available within five years.

This research suggests that manipulating antibiotics to have more than one mechanism of attack is highly successful in killing bacteria. This approach could therefore be used on other drugs to avoid the prospect of a 'post-antibiotic era'.



IMAGE: THEMEDICALFRONTIER



IMAGE: THEMEDICALFRONTIER

# A review of 2017: the best science stories so far

**Eleanor Mason**  
SCIENCE EDITOR

WE ARE HALF way through 2017, and so far, tremendous progress has been made within the fields of science and technology.

This year will be remembered for NASA's discovery of a solar system dubbed TRAPPIST-1, around 40 light-years away. It is composed of seven earth sized exoplanets orbiting a star in what's known as the habitable zone, which means that there is a possibility that the planets are at the right temperature for liquid water to exist. In January, it was discovered that it is connective glia, rather than neurons that deteriorate in aging brains.

In a recent article, researchers who examined postmortem brain samples from 480 individuals ranging in age from 16 to 106 found that the state of someone's glia is so consistent through the years that it can be used to predict someone's age.

In March, SpaceX conducts the world's first reflight of an orbital class rocket and scientists in Australia announce the discovery of the world's largest dinosaur footprint, measuring 1.7 metres long. The previous record-holder was about 1 metre long.

This month, fossils of five early humans have been found in North Africa that show Homo sapiens emerged at least 100 000 years earlier than previously recognised. It suggests that our species evolved all across the continent, the scientists involved say. In May

it was announced by scientists that by 2060, robots will beat us at almost everything, so enjoy beating robots while you can.

Researchers at Northwestern University developed an AI system that performs at human levels on a standard visual intelligence test and researchers demonstrated a prototype 3D printer that can print fully functional human skin. Scientists in Spain have printed a fully-functioning replica of our largest organ, skin, and they're set to start

selling it to cosmetics firms. The lab-grown tissue is being touted as a substitute for animal testing, and as a source of transplants for burns victims. "This method of bioprinting allows skin to be generated in a standardised, automated way, and the process is less expensive than manual production", says the CEO of a Spanish bio-engineering firm which is commercialising the technology.

However, it hasn't all been scientific innovation and creative re-

search all round, it was announced this year that Australia's Great Barrier Reef is reported to be experiencing a second consecutive mass coral bleaching event, affecting two-thirds of its area. Deemed to be in its 'terminal phase', the Great Barrier Reef suffers a warning it now faces a closing window to be saved through taking decisive action on climate change. This coincides with a study in the journal Anthropocene Review which concludes that human activity is changing the climate 170 times faster than natural processes.

A slightly more uplifting story is that of the artificial womb synthesis for lambs, which could one day be used for saving premature human babies. Successfully tested, it seems this method holds great promise for future research.

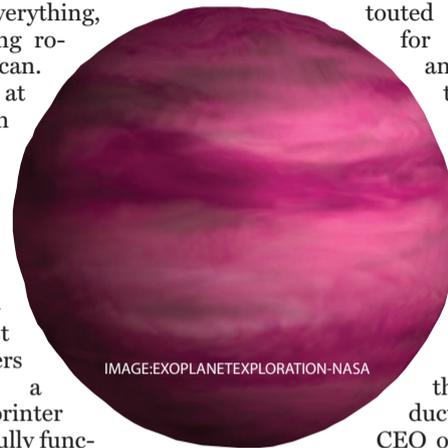


IMAGE:EXOPLANETEXPLORATION-NASA

# The story of leprosy: from 2000 BCE to now

**Imogen Breen**  
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

THROUGHOUT THE history of man, very few diseases have carried the levels of stigma and shame that leprosy brings upon its sufferers. One of the oldest known illnesses, mycobacterium leprae is thought to have been with mankind in one form or another for well over four millennia and travelled along the migration routes through East Africa and the Near East.

Leprosy takes its name from the Latin word *lepra*, meaning 'scaly', as the predominant symptom of infection are raised skin lesions. However, in modern medical circles it is more commonly referred to as Hansen's disease, after G. H. Armauer Hansen, the Norwegian physician who identified mycobacterium leprae as the causative agent.

Contrary to popular belief, leprosy does not cause body parts to fall off. Infection with mycobacterium leprae instead leads to severe nerve damage in the skin, limbs and eyes. This can leave sufferers vulnerable to secondary infection if they do not receive adequate medical attention, and gangrene may then set in.

The Bible makes multiple reference to "tzaraath", a disfiguring disease which most translations render as leprosy; DNA found on in a tomb in the Old City of Jerusalem, dated 1-50 AD, confirmed the presence of the disease in the area at the time. Historical accounts of leprosy can be hard to identify as some may mistake psoriasis, vitiligo or other skin conditions for leprosy. The descriptions of highly infectious skin conditions are more likely fungal infections than leprosy, and, after 1492 when Columbus returned from the new world after exchanging small

pox for syphilis, that gets added to the mix too. In many writings from the mid-16th century onwards, descriptions of 'leprosy' begin to more resemble congenital or tertiary stage syphilis - patients with collapsed noses and rotting ears, loss of skin on the palms of the hands and feet, deafness and loss of teeth. This may also explain the sudden increase in numbers of

ten denied treatment and care. Instead they were stunned by society and quarantined in purpose-built asylums or leper colonies.

The Ancient Egyptians recommend bathing in blood to alleviate the symptoms of leprosy and it seems that this was the go-to treatment across Europe, the Middle East and into China for millennia. There is some variation in the source of the

Dr Boinet tried increasing doses of bee stings (up to 4000, apparently) to no avail. Bear in mind, the bacteria causing the infection had been identified in 1873.

As of 2016, worldwide, two to three million people were estimated to be permanently disabled because of Hansen's disease. Although the disease is now entirely treatable with multidrug antibiotic therapy, the stigma that is associated with leprosy infection still

affected. Some also offer reconstructive surgery and artificial limbs, which can help sufferers reintegrate into society.

There are many leper colonies left in the world, over 800 in India alone and in Europe, one leper colony still remains.

TichileŢti is in Romania and had 19 inhabitants in 2011. Although the people living there have been given the necessary treatment most are now very elderly and feel they are unable to leave.

Approximately 150 people are diagnosed with leprosy each year in the U.S.A, although due to the long dormancy period of the bacteria (from two years to over a decade) it is hard to identify where they contracted the initial infection. There have been two cases reported in the last three years in the UK, both in men who recently moved from the Indian subcontinent.

Mycobacterium leprae has a natural reservoir in armadillo populations and in red squirrels, although there have been no known cases of animal to human transmission from squirrels, there is some evidence that it may be possible to catch leprosy from an armadillo.

If you were both unlucky enough to be genetically vulnerable to mycobacterium leprae and had prolonged exposure to said infected armadillo. Cases of Hansen's disease worldwide have dropped rapidly over the last 30 years, from 5.2 million in 1985 to about 210 000 a year now. In 2000 the WHO declared it was no longer a public health problem. Both the WHO and Novartis believe that, through new screening techniques that especially target at-risk children, by 2020 child sufferers will no longer develop deformities. There is the potential to fully wipe out leprosy, as we did with smallpox, early detection of infection being key.

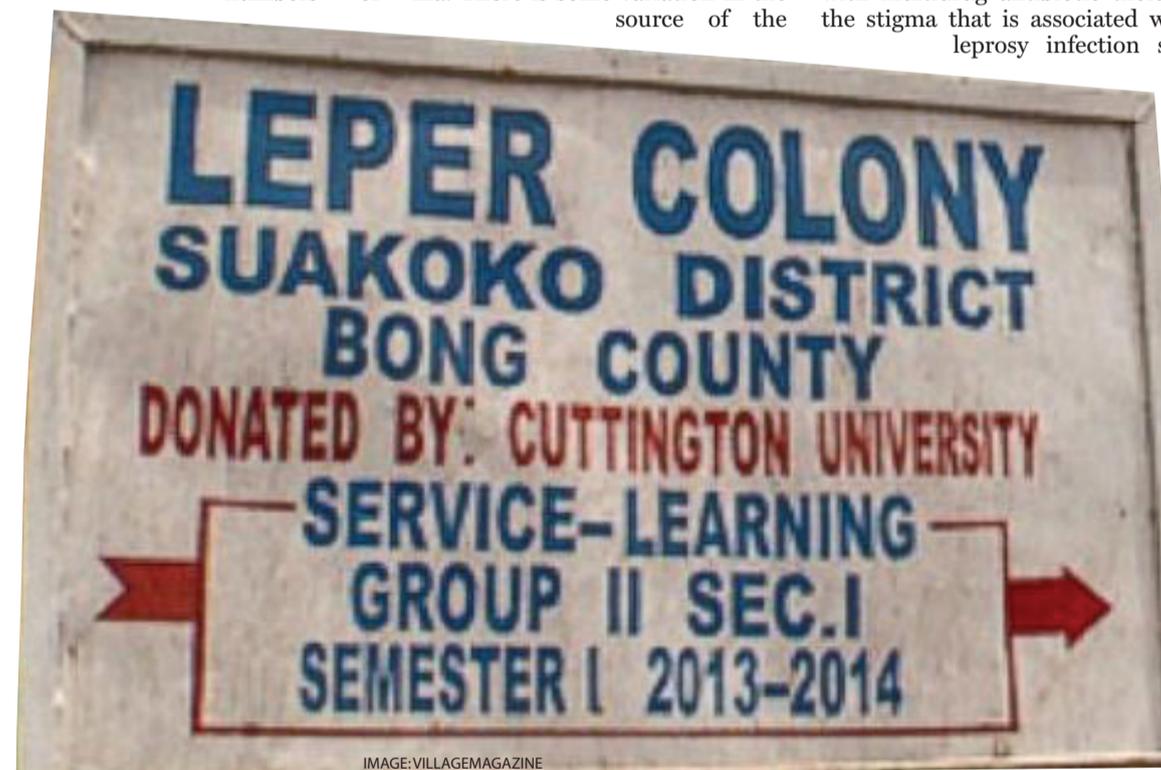


IMAGE:VILLAGEMAGAZINE

"leprosy" sufferers seen in the 16th century.

Leprosy has long been associated with a curse, or believed to be a punishment from God for sins committed in this life or a previous one. - a link made throughout many cultures and continents. Because of this, sufferers throughout history were of-

blood that is recommended, from child to dog to lamb, and whether or not it should be also used as a beverage, but the theme remains. Pliny the Elder makes mention of snakes' blood, but also mentions that he doesn't think it will help. However Philippe Gaucher, a 19th century French doctor stepped it up to applying cobra venom to the skin lesions, and as late as 1913 a

prevents some sufferers from seeking or receiving treatment. The disease is traditionally associated with poverty and sadly that link still remains. The necessary multidrug treatment is comparatively expensive, however Novartis, the company that produces it, offers it for free. Several leprosy charities exist, with the goal to treat those in-

# Seeing the world may well be the best medicine

**Maria Kalinowska**  
TRAVEL EDITOR

TRAVEL IS SOMETHING that the general public considers chronically ill people not to be able to do. Of course, it is not voiced as something 'forbidden' to the people who are not healthy. Rather, it manifests as questions such as: "are you sure you're strong enough?" "how can the thought of travel not overwhelm you if you're struggling with work?" and my favourite: "how come you haven't been able to do work then?" None of these questions are particularly accusatory and most of the

time they are asked in good faith. However, the 'good faith' of healthy people doesn't really have a positive effect on the chronically ill community. The concept of travelling is not the same as a full time job.

This feeds into a wider rhetoric that chronically ill people are not allowed to have fun. If they are having fun, then surely they can work too, right? They can always get up and make themselves food or get a hot water bottle, rather than asking someone to help them. Right?

When chronically ill people do anything for pleasure, it is presumed that they must have the energy for other things also, because why else would they prioritise fun?

In the eyes of society people

who are chronically ill should only focus on work when they are feeling better or having a good day. A question raised by a therapist: "but how can you think about travelling when you're struggling with university work?" sums this up.

The answer lays in the nature of the activity. A full-time job or university work fit into a category of things where great responsibility is put on a person's shoulders and they have to comply to a prescribed timetable. Travelling is different. Those who decided not to travel or have not had the opportunity cannot understand the freedom that it truly allows on a fundamental level.

Travel allows a person to design their own timetable. If they decide to have a full day of sightseeing one day, the next day they can take the day off and lie in bed and rest. If they are doing a casual job while travelling and need time off, they will not be afraid to say that they need that time off in fear of getting fired. If they do get fired, they can go somewhere else. The casual jobs are not seen as a career that requires 110 per cent, but it is a means of having money to travel. There are so many flexible ways of financing travelling that it actually makes it easier for people who are chronically ill to maintain that lifestyle.

Yes, it cannot be denied that travelling is tiring. It should be kept in mind that most activities for a chronically ill person will be incred-



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

ibly tiring. So surely, they should try and find a way to live their life in the way that makes them most comfortable. They should be asked about what is right for them, instead of being forced to do what healthy people think chronically ill people should be doing.

Each person is different and the experiences of a chronically ill person are so unique that one rule cannot be applied to all. People are too quick to judge a person's circumstances and their abilities. A person who is chronically ill already faces number of challenges and restraints that a healthy person does not. How can someone healthy feel the need to further impose their own version of restrictions? A chronically ill person constantly feels left out of things, but at the same time feels the need to 'prove' how ill they are. Many chronic illnesses do not have obvious physical symptoms, so many people find it hard to grasp just how ill a person can be. This leads to judgement and doubt in a chronically ill person: if they do not look sick and are able to do things like travelling, then surely it cannot be that bad?

What needs to be understood is that a chronically ill person faces very serious compromises in terms of how they live their life. One day they may feel better and be able to go out but the next day they always have to pay for it. Travelling allows these compromises.



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

# Tender is the Night in the city of Aix-en-Provence

**Megan Johnston**  
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

DURING THIS current season, the South of France makes us think of ultra glamorous parties, from the Cannes Film Festival to St. Tropez beaches, inspiring F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*. Just further inland however, a modest 30-minute bus ride north of Marseille, lies the university city, Aix-en-Provence (Aix pronounced Ex). A tranquil and attractive inner-city village, as it were, its enticing boulangeries and cafés make quite a contrast to the Riviera lifestyle. I would not call Aix a city-break but it is by no means a country retreat either. Ideal for long weekends, it will – like the habitual, warm and freshly-baked baguettes – leave you wanting more.

For one, there is a great concentration of museums, art galleries, studios and exhibitions, most of which are built into renovated 17th century façades, such as local treasure the

Musée Granet. Housing works by 15th and 16th century French, Italian and Flemish painters, the collection here is a long evolution of pieces from private owners, which formed a municipal gallery in 1838.

Visiting its neighbour, Musée Granet XXe, is also essential. This modern collection contains works by Cézanne, Monet, Picasso and Léger, and resides in the gothic chapel of the Pénitents Blancs des Carmes. The space here maximises its voyeuristic capacity by partitioning the high, open ceiling into additional storeys and dividing the ground floor with long corridor galleries, enabling visitors to have a vantage point from wherever they are stood.

While you could probably see every artistic thing that Aix offers in the space of a long weekend, it would soon feel like a dull use of your time. The views from the atelier of long-term resident, Cézanne, which is also open to the public, capture the striking natural landscape of the

Provençal region, including the nearby Montagne Ste-Victoire.

This protected natural beauty can

be reached from Aix by a 40-minute bus journey, and a round-trip climb of the mountain itself takes an estimated four hours including a picturesque lunch at the Croix de Provence summit. It becomes much more of a dexterous clamber for the final third of the ascent with the views at the top becoming more and more breath-taking the higher you go. No need for specialist climbing equipment: just a sturdy pair of shoes, lots of water and a camera.

Another scenic backdrop worth visiting is Les Calanques – rocky inlets of the Mediterranean Sea between Marseille and the port town of Cassis – and the national park surrounding it.

Aix is filled with plenty of scenic squares and streets for market shopping and alfresco dining. The old quarter is accessible along the cours Mirabeau: a tree-shaded boulevard running through the centre of town, lined with cafés including Les Deux Garçons where famously Cézanne and Zola would drink together. For something cosier, hot chocolate is often the order of the day in town. While Book in Bar adds a bookshop to the drinking experience, Coco Bohème offers half-priced hot chocolate on rainy days and stays open late with an assortment of board games.

This is the city for a no-frills escape to the suburbs with bread and injections of culture aplenty.



IMAGE: NICOLAS BRIGNOL

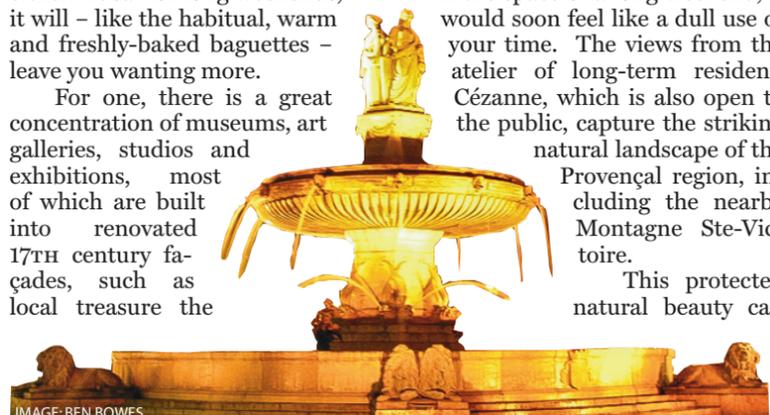
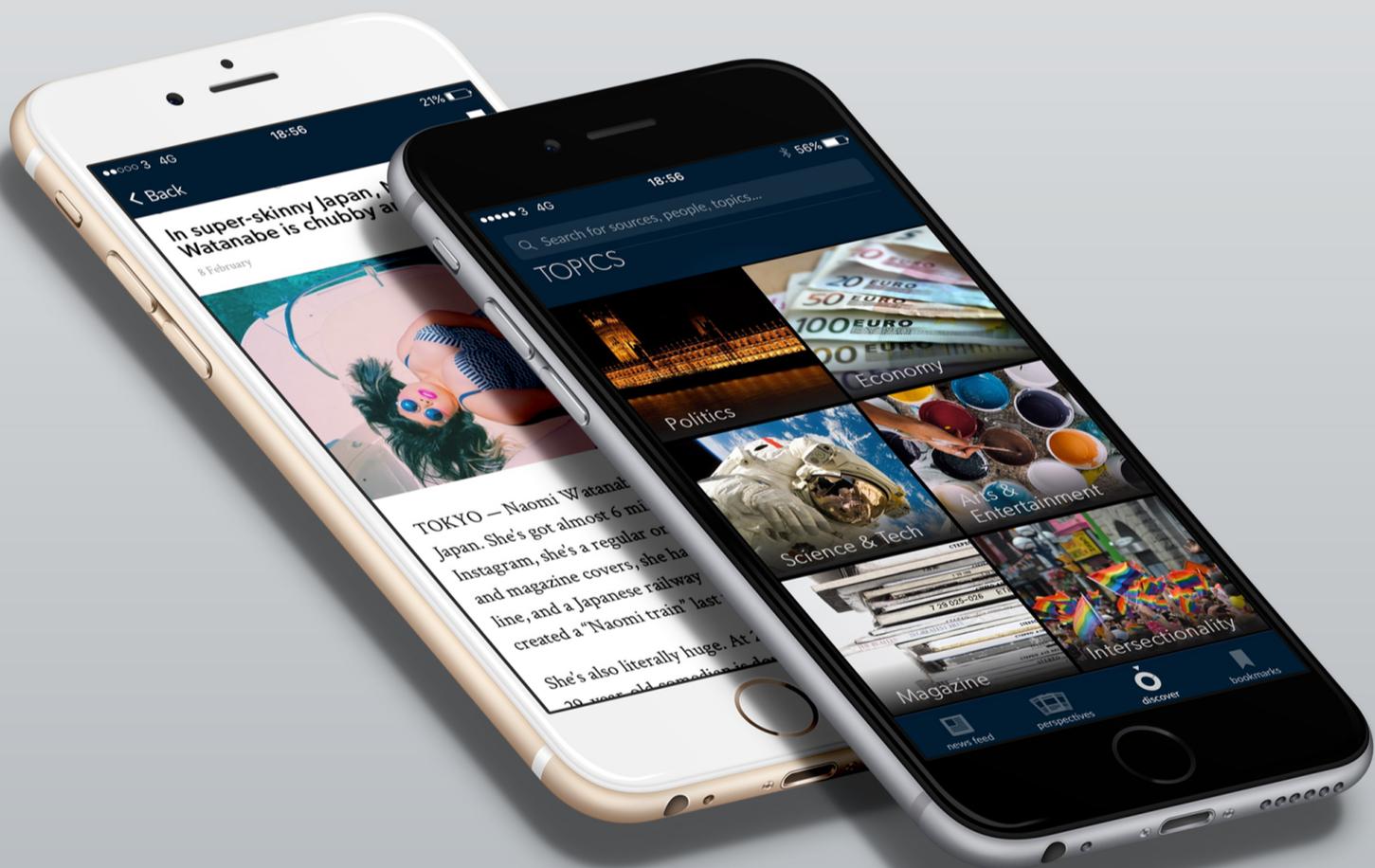


IMAGE: BEN BOWES



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# NOUSE TRIES... Skydiving

Jacob Phillips takes the leap for Nouse and tries skydiving for the 1st time



**Jacob Phillips**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

"IT'LL BE YOUR coming of age." The words my stepmum uttered to me as it was revealed to me on my 18<sup>TH</sup> birthday that she had booked for us to go skydiving.

I remember vividly looking down at that voucher with a face like a horse's arse. Little did my stepmum realise that I was scared of flying. To make matters even worse, it was revealed that the whole experience would be filmed and consequently there was no chance to tell loved ones that I'd made the whole experience look more casual than it was.

So after 11 months of trying to avoid thinking about having to throw myself out into the sky at 10 000 feet, I finally summoned the courage to travel to Swindon to tackle my fears.

The nonchalant, casual atmosphere at the airfield was surprisingly helpful. The instructors had endless experiences in jumping from various heights and with all forms of equipment.

Resultantly, my fear was certainly not taken seriously. When I told my instructor it was my first time jumping I received the reassuring reply of "no worries, it's my first jump too."

After a 20 minute briefing about the procedures which were in place to prevent any freak accidents, it was time to be costumed up in a blue jumpsuit. Now resembling a skinny Buzz Lightyear it was time to get into the tiny biplane and to make the 20 minute journey

up to 1000 feet before plummeting down to Earth at terminal velocity.

The plane had a capacity of seven immediately making a very personal atmosphere as I was placed on my instructors lap and I was now clamped onto the 4000 jump veteran. As we rose I was filmed at various heights. 2500 feet saw me smiling full of excitement, however my excitement was certainly inversely proportional to how high we were above the ground, and by the time we reached our jumping height of 10 000 feet I resembled a deer in the headlights.

Naturally the instructors who were accompanying us on the journey took my petrified state as an opportunity to mess around. Once we reached the height we were jumping from the three instructors inside the plane began to make rowing gestures and elegantly sang the words "row row row your boat gently cross the sky, here we go here we go off the plane to die." I don't think I will ever hear a more memorable rendition of a nursery rhyme in my life-time.

Unfortunately we were not able to jump once the door was first open. We were prevented from exiting the plane as a glider was flying around beneath us. However, after waiting for the flying path to clear, it was finally my time to dive out of the plane.

A terrified shuffle brought me to the edge of the plane. I was then left dangling in the air with my legs tucked behind me as my instructor positioned himself. Finally my face was directed towards the entertained cameraman before the three of us dived back towards solid ground.

Within five seconds of being away from the plane, the sensation of flying kicked in and there is no way I can describe such an experience. There is no retching or jumping in your stomach like when you go on a roller-coaster, but rather the feeling of complete freedom.

After 35 seconds of freefalling, travelling down through a cloud as well as having an awesome view of the surrounding countryside the parachute was pulled. A gentle deceleration brought us to a more manageable speed and it was now time to chill in the sky. With the glorious view of Swindon to look down on, I was educated on the whereabouts of the Honda factory, and where Crimewatch had been filmed, before landing back on the floor. My landing was certainly not glorious as I tried to stand up rather than stick my legs in the air so we could land on our bums. Either way I was back on safe ground and with my personal cameraman to interview me about what the experience was like. Having watched the footage back, I don't think I'll ever see myself look happier to be stuck in the middle of a field strapped to a middle aged man.

As I was first to jump from the plane I watched family members come in to land and watch my 52 year old Dad look just as chill as he had done before we had taken off.

Skydiving is certainly not something that excludes people because of their age or physical ability. Our instructors informed us that they had had a 80-year-old man jump that morning. I would recommend everyone to try skydiving fear or no fear. There is no experience which can match it.

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

**Robyn Aitchison and James Voyle**  
SPORTS EDITORS

AS OUR LAST edition of *Nouse* comes to an end, we decided to do a joint editor's comment to say goodbye as sports editors. RIP us.

With the amount of stress and work that went into our coverage of Roses and the lack of fixtures for York teams this time round, this edition has been a mishmash of scattered comment articles, reports from key sporting events around the world, and Jacob Phillips jumping out of a plane.

We had to leave out *Nouse* Tries last edition and leave Jacob 'hanging' (as he jumped out the plane and wrote the article a while back, aha), due to James' exhilarating page on statistics (citation needed).

We hope everyone enjoyed our Roses coverage, as we literally died doing it for you. But we have been resurrected for this edition, and we bring you sporting news from as far as France, South Korea and New Zealand. James has been disappointed

with the Lions of Rugby as they trudge through a lacklustre tour, while being enamoured by the cubs of English youth football.

Robyn, on the other hand, questions our University's ability to break into the top 35 of BUCS and wonders whether our time has passed for this to occur. As well as looking into the future with an optimistic take on Laura Carruthers' incoming presidency and retrospectively analysing Isaac Beevor's time as York Sport President. The ever-rhapsodic Adam Philpott lends his two cents on the parallel universe of university life without sport. A horrifying concept, we know.

This will be the final paragraph we will ever write as sport editors. We want to thank you all for following our coverage zealously over the past academic year. We hope that our successors, whoever they may be, are as sufficiently competent as we were and that they look forward to staying up until 3AM on a Sunday, writing articles about sport'n'shit.

We have just been informed that this is actually not our last edition. We have one more to do at the start of next year. Of course we're not going to change what we've just written because we've written too much for this edition already. So, just ignore everything that you have just read. Until September, R&J.

## TEAMMATES

*Nouse* talks to College Sport Officers, Matt and Kate

**Name:** Matthew Smith and Kate Wilkinson

**Position:** College Sport Officers  
**Course:** Mathematics PGCE (Matt) and Linguistics (Kate)  
**Year:** 4 (Matt) and 3 (Kate)

**Most Dedicated:**  
Matt: Matt  
Kate: Matt

**Best Motivator:**  
Matt: Kate  
Kate: Matt's also the better motivator!

**Most Intelligent:**

Matt: Couldn't say, completely different courses!  
Kate: I'm the most intelligent

**Biggest Lightweight:**

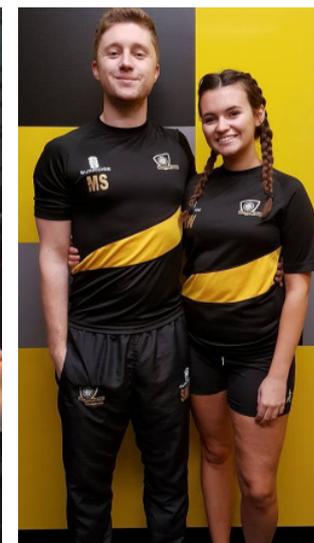
Matt: Kate  
Kate: I'm the biggest lightweight

**Favourite College sports?**

Matt: Badminton  
Kate: Netball

**Favourite University sports?**

Matt: Badminton  
Kate: Basketball



# University would not be the same without sport

Adam explores the many ways that sport has enriched his life at university, and how it could and should for you too

**Adam Philpott**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

MY FIRST YEAR at York has had many dimensions and highlights, but none more so than the impact of sport. While the main reason for going to university is academic, I have enjoyed participating in sport here at York as much as my course.

It's hard to escape sport, which is good because it means that there are more opportunities than anyone can possibly have time for. I remember being able to choose from over 60 different sports at freshers' fair.

I was surprised that anyone would have been able to decide between the more obscure octopush (this is a cool one, Google it) to

classics like rugby; from individual sports like archery to team-based ones such as lacrosse. Whatever tickles your fancy, it is probably available at York; and it is most definitely available for all levels of ability and experience.

Even if there was a club you desperately wanted to be a part of, and it isn't available here you can create it! The VX club at University of York was only started around three years ago, and they're doing pretty well for themselves.

Inevitably, temptation signed me up for way too many sports at freshers' fair, and I still receive emails from clubs I haven't attended yet. In my initial few weeks at university, I packed out my schedule with sport tasters and trials (don't be put off by the word trials. It may sound serious, but a lot of sport, particu-

larly at collegiate level, is casual and all-welcoming) to find a few sports that I would want to commit to in the long-term. In hindsight, that makes me sound organised, but the first few weeks of first term were

I went to a pool taster session and I've never looked back

certainly a mash of drinking and turning up to lectures and sport sessions hungover. In fact, most of first year was like that.

I went to a pool taster session and I've never looked back. I thought it wouldn't be a bad idea to get good at pool (thinking of all the beer money I could win).

From being a beginner with knowledge not far beyond knowing how to hold a cue, I found myself travelling to Durham to play pool in a varsity tournament.

It is sporting events such as this that make sport rewarding and bring the community together as crowds of students turn up to cre-

ate a vibrant atmosphere. And, of course, the pinnacle that is Roses - the annual event which everyone works hard throughout the year to prepare for, and which pits Lancaster against York in the biggest inter-university sports tournament in Europe. Even if you're not participating, it is a great event to go and watch.

If you are an incoming student reading this, or a current undergraduate not part of a sports club, I strongly encourage you, without wanting to sound like an old Sainsbury's slogan, to try something new.

Get involved with sport here at York (incidentally, this is probably a good opportunity to advertise that James College Pool needs another female player!).

As well as giving me an excuse to go to Salvos on a Wednesday, sport has certainly helped me to settle into university life, try new things, meet new people, release stress, and just generally enjoy my time at university more.

Sports clubs

are a really great way to meet new people. By turning up to a sports session, you instantly have at least one thing in common with everyone there.

I met some of my closest friends through sport, because we kept turning up to the same sports sessions. If you don't want to commit to membership of a club, weekly pay-as-you-go open sessions are a great way to experience the benefits of sport without being tied to membership. You can turn up as and when you like.

I do think that you haven't truly been to university until you've experienced what its sporting opportunities have to offer. The changes initiated by York Sport President Isaac Beever will only improve sport, particularly at collegiate level, in the future. So York Sport, I look forward to what you have to bring next year.



# British and Irish Lions surprisingly easy to tame

With underperforming star names, two tries in three games and a hostile coach, can the Lions make a successful comeback?

**James Voyle**  
SPORTS EDITOR

THREE GAMES INTO the Lions tour and Stuart Barnes' commentary is still yet to rise above the level of mediocrity, but at least the rugby is improving.

New Zealand rugby is everything that Barnes' punditry is not: fast paced, exciting, accurate. The Blues showed us that last Wednesday when they overturned the tourists 22-16 with their electric offloading game. Ihaia West's stunning try, which came courtesy of offloads from Luatua and Williams, had television spectators in the British Isles purring, but down in Auckland such scores are commonplace.

Thankfully, the Lions got their summer back on track with a 12-3 win over the Crusaders. While Barnes tried to wrap his head around the complexity of Welsh surnames (it's not 'Wyn Jones', just 'Jones'), a strong starting 15 ground out the win in wet and windy Christchurch.

A quick scour of the internet and you find headlines such as "Lions begin to roar". Ugo Monye said that "The Lions are alive and kick-

ing", but I'm not so convinced. The one dimensional playing style of certain players is becoming exposed by Super Rugby's finest; CJ Stander looks amiss anytime he comes up against a team that plays expansive rugby. Moreover, with the absurd number of offloads and dummy runs made by New Zealand's attackers, opponents are harder to read for defenders, as Jack Nowell kindly demonstrated for us all against the Blues.

Most tellingly, three games in and we have only seen the Lions score two tries. Upcoming opponents the Highlanders have averaged four per game this season.

I stand by my prediction of five tour losses. Perhaps the Lions will scrape a consolation win in the test matches, but they still have to overcome New Zealand's remaining provincial sides (including the Hurricanes, Super Rugby's reigning champions) and the in-

domitable Maori All Blacks.

This tour has already been laced with unnecessary distractions and controversy. Rather alarmingly, Warren Gatland swore at reporters after they questioned his choice of tactics at a press

conference ("I don't know why I have to f\*\*\*ing keep defending myself" - perhaps because you're the head coach of a Lions tour, Warren?).

If at this early stage of a Lions tour the coaching staff are losing the plot, then what hope is there? It seems as if they are more prepared with their excuses of jetlag and explanations than with a game plan. Former All Black Ian Jones said, "It's an easy cop out to say these guys are jetlagged. If you go down the line of a scratch side, with jetlag, you can use that excuse only once on a tour, ever. You cannot go back on that."

Complaints about preparation time and the tour schedule should not be made mid-tour. Of course, for the Lions to set off just days after the culmination of the European season, and to begin training camp with a sizeable cohort of key players missing on club duty, is regrettable and not in any

way beneficial to their chances. Barbarian teams such as the Lions need time to create partnerships and form chemistry and understanding on and off the field. But such complaints are to be made in the inquests following the tour by administrative staff, not mid way through the series by those in charge of formatting a winning side.

Furthermore, the rhetoric espoused by the British media in regards to Lions selection is superfluous and redundant. Much is made of "what it means to put on a Lions jersey". This hyperbole is besides the point. Do we think that New Zealanders don't feel the same pride when those famous All Black shirts are handed out? The argument that the Lions have some sort of sentimental or psychological advantage over New Zealand is invalid.

It's been an awkward first week for the tourists. Coming to terms with the electric style of New Zealand rugby takes time, time the Lions do not have, especially when also trying to mould players from 17 different teams and four countries into a single unit. But the team need to find a fast way to do so if they are to salvage anything from the most difficult of tour destinations. At least, let's pray that Stuart Barnes' commentary improves.



IMAGE: HARRIET CHESHIRE

# Mediocre Murray missing his mojo

Battling illness, injury and a continual struggle on the clay-court, can he make a comeback?

**Robyn Aitchison**  
SPORTS EDITOR

DESPITE BATTLING shingles, an elbow injury and various other illnesses, Andy Murray decided to take part in the French Open and ended up being beaten out by Stan Wawrinka in the semi-finals, in a close match that was a serious back and forth between the two players

**16** Number of wins for Murray so far this year

when it came to winning sets. Wawrinka just edged out with wins in three out of the five sets played, not a whitewash at all on Murray's part.

But it still begs the question of why Murray, the world's current number one tennis player, has fallen from winning victory after victory from 2014-2016, to a measly couple of wins since February so far this year. Murray arrived at the French Opens with only four victories since February and just 16 wins to his name overall this year.

He will keep his number one ranking going into grass-court

season but requires a new aggressive edge if he hopes to keep those points defending his title at Wimbledon. Murray was still proud of this result due to the tough year he suffered previously and was glad he put himself in the position to play in the competition.

He has a newfound level of confidence comparing himself for Wimbledon and winning a third title there. Despite this, as the world's current



IMAGE: WIKEMEDIA COMMONS

number one in tennis, and even prior to these various ailments, Murray still was losing out to people he won easily to in previous years, so what's changed?

With Murray having said himself that his serve is something he has "struggled with the last couple of months", but in games I've watched of him playing in the French Open, he has lost his sense of aggression and power that you could see in him competing in previous years.

Excuses were made by him that it is clay-court season at the moment and he tends to work better on

the grass, his serves were letting him down as well as the injuries and illnesses clearly taking a toll, as he starts off strong in the Wawrinka match and falls in the final sets losing 6-1 in the end, as tiredness and frustration got the better of him.

Murray does have the potential to bring back success on

the court going into Queen's club, a title he has won five times, but Rafael Nadal is close on his heels, winning his match against Stan Wawrinka in the final of the French Open.

He won by a landslide, winning all three sets against Wawrinka. This is Nadal's tenth victory in the French Open, and Nadal is the first man to win a single Slam on ten occasions in the Open era. The stats for Nadal are incredible, he won 83 per cent of the points on his first serve, as well as not losing a set in the whole tournament.

With these stats backing Nadal, it's no question that Murray would start feeling the heat from the current world number four, as he gains some much needed points taking him up the leaderboard. With Murray struggling, it's obvious that people would start to wonder about his chances of taking the Wimbledon title again.

I wouldn't want to tempt fate and make assumptions, but if I was a betting woman, I would bet an usually high likelihood on Nadal being in the final against Murray this year, and definitely a higher likelihood than usual of him winning the match outright.

Even without thinking that Nadal will win Wimbledon, I think there is reason for Murray to be nervous.

## Sports Committee applications

Applications to be on York Sport Union's committee have been extended until Wednesday 14 June. The York Sport Committee has several positions available such as communications officer, treasurer, tournament secretary (x2), equal opportunities officer, fundraising and events officer and college sport officer. You would be required to attend weekly meetings chaired by the York Sport President and you would work with them to organise major events, as well as voting on new legislation and giving opinions on sport-related projects. It's an opportunity to gain communication skills as well as a real insight into the York Sport Union.

## College sports festival postponed

Due to the weather leaving pitches unplayable, the YUSU sports team has made the decision to delay College Sports Festival. College sports officers Matt and Kate found it "frustrating as a lot of work has been put into the day but [they're] hoping to rearrange in the next few weeks". Hopefully the College Sports Festival will be back up and running before the end of the Summer Term. As well as this, they are also looking into the possibility of holding a college sport event in the Autumn Term to "get people excited for the year of college sport ahead!".

## Bike pumps

One of Isaac Beevor's manifesto pledges was to get bike pumps around campus in all the colleges and four were installed on 30 May, with another four being installed in the near future. Beevor posted a picture of the bike pumps saying he "never would have thought that we would be getting Public Bike Pumps around every College... But they are here!".

## Fresher's fair applications

Applications for Fresher's Fair opened up last week and applications close Friday 23 June, Week 10 of the summer term. As one of the biggest days of the year to recruit new people for sports clubs and gain traction for some of the more unknown sports clubs. Each club will get an exam sized desk as a minimum and York Sport Union will try to accommodate any requests where possible.

# England's young footballers victorious

With victory in Suwon and Toulon, youngsters give hope for future national team success

**James Voyle**  
SPORTS EDITOR

WHILE THE seniors laboured to a 2-2 draw against the most mediocre of Scotland's teams, England's youth representatives were busy conquering the world.

Over the weekend, the Three Lions were victorious in the under-20 FIFA World Cup in South Korea, as well as in the prestigious under-21s Toulon Tournament for the second year in a row. Perhaps the best news to come from the weekend was the fact that the under-21s triumph in Toulon came courtesy of a penalty shoot-out win, a feat rarely achieved by any of England's national teams.

The fact that two youth tournaments were won over the same weekend by teams from the same country will make the rest of the footballing world stand up and take note. The FA has done a great job in supporting youth football in recent years, with £260m being invested in the grassroots level from 2015

through to 2019, with a focus on innovative coaching. Moreover, we are beginning to see the dividends being paid out by the FA's national football centre: St George's Park. The £105m, 330 acre site in Staffordshire is the home of all 24 national teams, both men's and women's sides.

Based on a similar facility outside Paris which nurtured France's 1998 World Cup winning team, St George's Park has shrugged of its initial detractors by churning out a team of talented young men that has now reached the semi finals in Toulon four years on the bounce. The Lionesses also trained there before setting off for the World Cup in Canada in 2015, where they finished third.

The challenge now is how to provide a pathway for these promising young players to break into the senior team. England has had success at youth level before; a quick look at the squad for the 1993 under-20 World Cup, where England managed their best

ever finish up until last weekend's victory, brings up only one memorable name; Nicky Butt.

The senior team is a mix of established top division players and a cohort of 'next big things' who miss out on tournament experience at age-grade level. Marcus Rashford, Raheem Sterling and Luke Shaw are all players who were accelerated through the youth

levels but then flattered to deceive



at the top level of international football.

How England's youngsters develop from here will be a function of their exposure to top level football, which will be primarily determined by their respective clubs. Dominic Solanke is yet to appear for Chelsea, Freddie Woodman won his fourteen appearances last season on loan at

Kilmarnock, while Ademola Lookman and Dominic Calvert-Lewis have just a handful of Everton appearances each. Lewis Cook shined for Leeds United but is yet to cement a place in the Bournemouth lineup since his transfer last summer.

It is out of the FA's hands how much these players are given an opportunity to grow hereon in, and we can only hope that their clubs give them the time and space to improve.

# Beevor reinstills confidence in York Sport

**Robyn Aitchison**  
SPORTS EDITOR

WITH THE END of the year drawing to a close, Isaac Beevor's role as York Sport President will also be coming to an end. Laura Carruthers will be taking over his position in YUSU, after winning the position in the YUSU elections, beating out the other candidates with a great campaign.

Looking back on his year, Beevor managed to pass several elements of his manifesto with ease, when further looking into them, policies which I would have originally thought he would have struggled to do due to money and other reasons, he was in fact able to do. Carruthers is excited to carry the baton for herself, but Isaac Beevor still has a couple more weeks as York Sport Union President, and in the interim it is interesting to look back on Beevor's policies and see what he has been able to achieve.

I wasn't a student when Isaac Beevor was running his original campaign for Sport President, but looking back on campaign videos of him rapping with Stormzy backup music and a slogan of "Beevy 4

York Sport President", it's clear how he appealed to the general student population. As well as mentioning the idea of a College Sport card providing discounted club entry for clubs, discounts on going out is obviously going to appeal to most people.

These cards seemed like a good idea in practise, but they seemed to have been harder to acquire than previously mentioned in his original manifesto. Just joining a college sport won't allow you to get the card, you obviously have to apply in order to be eligible; not all college sports get them automatically.

There is a general theme running through most Sport President manifestos - one of inclusivity, awareness and sociability. I would argue that in Isaac's time as Sports President, he managed to achieve quite a lot of the things on his manifesto.

From the expansion of equal opportunities, it's clear that Isaac provided a vast social media presence. His weekly sports emails kept everyone in a continual loop concerning what was happening on campus, and was all in all a helpful service. Various 'Give It A Go' weeks happening throughout the year meant that people could get involved on a regular basis, providing

new opportunities for involvement and socialising. Laura and Isaac's manifestos had similarities showing that the students at the University of York know what areas of sport would benefit from extra attention, mostly concerning mental health, a key part of Laura's manifesto in particular.

With a Roses celebration revolving around the charity MIND, the awareness surrounding this issue has been central throughout the past sporting season.

While people have varying opinions on the presence of MIND and mental health at Roses, the centrality was essential in demonstrating key issues that needed to be addressed on campus.

Beevor's awareness and fundraising for mental health was central to his year as Sport President. While he only slightly stressed it in his original campaign, it ended up being on a whole new level of awareness and inclusivity. The Roses player profiles gave a whole new level to illuminating mental illness, providing people with the opportunity to give their own personal stories and allowing people to realise they weren't alone in using sport as a way to help them deal with their mental illnesses.

With Roses being held on home

ground this year, the chances of York coming away victorious was highly likely. Beevor's presence in the games was helpful in providing a friendly face for people attending matches that they maybe hadn't attended before.

All in all, Beevor's year as York Sport President has been a successful one, and I'm sure a winning streak of success within the sport section of YUSU can be continued with the sport presidency of Laura Carruthers.



IMAGE: BEN WRIGHT AND YUSU

# Loz looking forward to a promising year

**Robyn Aitchison**  
SPORTS EDITOR

LAURA CARRUTHERS is the incoming York Sport President, taking over the mantle from Isaac Beevor. Her manifesto was encouraging and wide-ranging, encompassing a large range of ideas. As women 1s lacrosse captain, tournament secretary, a catchy rhyming slogan, "Cos there ain't no others like Carruthers" and an enthusiastic attitude, she succeeded in winning the sport presidential election.

Her focus on the relationship between mental health and sport and the importance of inclusivity and awareness were key points in her manifesto, and when speaking to her about this, she stressed the "mental and physical benefits of participating in sport", and the idea that "you never know what is going on in someone else's mind".

Laura said that she had spoken to people on BUCS Wednesdays, but had no idea of the things they were battling themselves.

The link between mental health in sport is so important to stress considering that these kind of illnesses are a "fact of life nowadays". Instead of ignoring them, bringing this kind of awareness to light is important and is "really going to help".

Carruthers is following on from



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

incumbent York Sport President, and she said that he has "laid some really good groundwork" for the awareness and fundraising for mental health, something she hopes to continue in her own presidency.

Carruthers was especially excited to bring to life her ideas for Col-

lege Varsity. Her suggestion is that we apply a similar formula to Varsity as we do Roses. She emphasises the idea that it would be nice to give "college sport people that same feeling" as university level athletes do at Roses. Her aim is to make College Varsity a two-day long event, "an ex-

panded, better Varsity".

Support from the Durham Sport Union would be required to make this work, but if this idea were to go through, it would provide great scope for "variations in the turnout for college sport" as they really deserve to have the same level of

university-wide support that is seen at Roses.

The variation in support for sports across the board is something she wants to look into changing, and making sure that people have good turnouts at matches is something that is great for morale both for people at college and university-level sport alike.

Something else that Carruthers will be bringing to the table is her insistence on hassle free kit orders. Changing the kit provider from Surridge may help to provide greater efficiency. Carruthers emphasised how people are currently "ordering their kit in Freshers' week and [are] not able to wear it until near the end of BUCS season".

Laura also wants a change of kit style to white colouring, to tie in with the "Roses are White" slogan. This sense of unity is key in suggesting that "we are one York".

As one of the tournament secretaries this year, Carruthers is already in the know of the ins and outs of York Sport Union. Preparation is key, but "an element of spontaneity is never bad".

All in all, Carruthers says that she is "very excited to get started" and is "optimistic that [she] can carry the baton well". She will be working with the next YUSU President Alex Urqhart to create a selection of university-wide sporting events, and I sure am excited to see what happens next year.

## Nouse Tries

Jacob Phillips tries out skydiving P.24



## Lions Tour

James Voyle predicts a gloomy outcome for the British and Irish Lions P.25



## Busy Beavor

How much has Isaac Beavor accomplished as President of York Sport Union? P.27



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## Top 35 in BUCS is a pipedream for York Sport

**Robyn Aitchison**  
SPORTS EDITOR

WITH YORK FINISHING the year in 46<sup>TH</sup> place with 850.5 points and a win rate of 42 per cent. It begs the question whether York has achieved everything it has wanted to over the year. When YUSU elections were the talk of campus, the York Sport President nominees had one common theme in each of their manifestos, wherein they would comment on how they wanted York to make it into the top 35 on the BUCS league table. York has 65 teams in the BUCS league programme of 2016-17, and has secured 276 wins so far, with 348 defeats and 40 draws.

Several teams this year have accomplished more than expected and some less, with some narrowly missing out on their goals. One team is the men's 1s volleyball team, already very successful in their competi-

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**University of York  
win percentage for  
16/17 BUCS season**

tions, moving up to the Northern 1A league this season, but narrowly missing out on beating their rivals Liverpool in their final match of the season, as they fall to 3<sup>RD</sup> place drawing with Manchester on 15 points.

While the women's 1s and 2s

volleyball teams have only lost one game each respectively. Several teams have achieved highly in their competitions throughout the BUCS season, like the women's Rugby Union teams, losing three games between them.

When speaking to the women's rugby team about their aims for the beginning of the year, they had hoped to "finish in competitive positions in [their] leagues, with an emphasis on developing a club style of play that was aggressive, fast paced and high intensity". The standard of the Women's Rugby Club really rose as a whole over the year. Sasha, the current President of UYWRUFC said that as "the 1<sup>ST</sup> XVI season wore on, the goal became to get as many points on the board as possible - a 110-0 win against North-

umbria for example". The technical expertise of the women within the club became apparent through their crushing victories of others in the Northern BUCS league.

Sasha also remarked how she was "thrilled" that they finished so well in the league as this was the first time that they were able to get a 2<sup>ND</sup> XVI in a BUCS league.

With futsal and lacrosse bringing up the rear of the University of York league table, with losses in all of their matches for women's 1s and 2s futsal. It makes you wonder how these York sport nominees were planning on executing these plans with the current University in the 35<sup>TH</sup> spot bringing in 1068 points overall, were there specific sports they were hoping would bring up the overall tally?

This year, York has done worse than in previous years, ranking in the 15/16 season in 40<sup>TH</sup> place with 907 points, but with the team in 35<sup>TH</sup> place only scoring 1026.5 points, and then the 14/15 season ended with the University in 35<sup>th</sup> place with 891.5 points, suggesting that the bars have been lower in previous years. Not only this, but the University of York in the 14/15 season had a much higher chance of getting into the top 35 in this year finishing up in 36<sup>TH</sup> place. Maybe suggesting that the York Sport President nominees' manifestos were a tad outdated. The implications of this is that York has to try and catch up in some way with the other sporting teams at other universities because the standard is beginning to be raised higher and higher.