



Roses 2015 Previews

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Nouse



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Campus nightclub plans shelved

• The £450,000 renovation costs ended up being more than twice the publicised estimate

Grace Marsh
EDITOR

PLANS TO install the first permanent nightclub on campus have been ground to a halt.

Sam Maguire, YUSU President, confirmed that the University will not be converting the Derwent squash courts into a club.

The project was originally estimated to cost £200,000. However, Jon Greenwood, Director of Commercial Services, told *Nouse* that an

additional investment of £250,000 would have been required in order to make the area wheelchair-accessible and renovate the toilet facilities. Greenwood estimated the total renovation cost would therefore be over £400,000.

He said the University "cannot afford to do all of that work at the moment" but confirmed that the plans to improve disabled access and refurbishing the toilets will still go ahead.

Greenwood told *Nouse*: "We

always said the nightclub was subject to building work quotes as we did not know the extent of the work required and we were working to a specified budget."

The decision comes after concerns were raised by students that the venture would not be a worthwhile investment.

Maguire explained that a compromise was reached following discussion with college JCRCs and Student Associations alongside lobbying from YUSU. He said that he

hoped the outcome "will please everyone".

The squash courts, which are situated below the bridge linking Derwent and Alcuin Colleges, currently function as a general space for student clubs and societies.

Plans would have seen the area converted into a nightclub facility with a capacity of 250 people and proposed opening hours of 23.00 – 03.00 every Saturday during term time.

According to Greenwood, in

order to turn the squash courts into a nightclub, sound-proofing work would have been required at a cost of around £70,000. A further £50,000 would have been spent on DJ kit, with VAT and other charges costing around £30,000.

The University stated that the nightclub, which would have been licensed by the University's Commercial Team and have no affiliation with YUSU, could have opened as

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Editorial

Nouse

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A note from the Editor

I didn't expect to be saying it, but it is actually nice to be back on campus. Unsurprisingly, my Easter plans of revision and essays didn't really go to plan, so now I'm spending the weekend making a newspaper to make everything just that little bit better.

It's well and truly exam season on campus judging by the difficulty of getting a seat in the library and the

number of moaning posts on YikYak. Social media has been brought alive by students complaining about the number of GCSE and A-Level students spotted in the library when York students can't find seats. Should the University do something about this like many other university libraries? It is difficult to say, but the bottom line is that students shouldn't

face such a struggle just to find a seat.

Our front page reveals the latest on the Derwent nightclub saga, which YUSU has revealed will not go ahead. It is nice to see that student concerns regarding the extortionate amount of money which would be wasted on it have been listened to. With the tuition fees we are paying, £250,000 on refurbishing

a squash court which functions fine as it is, would have been a ludicrous decision, not to mention the effects it would have on the clubs and societies that currently use the space.

We hope you enjoy this edition, which includes lots of great pre-Roses coverage. Look out for our exam edition which will hit campus media bins on Tuesday Week 4.

Grace



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News in brief



York professor injured in 131ft fall

A Chemistry professor from the University of York suffered major injuries to his head, neck and chest after a fall in the Lake District on 30 March. Professor Sir John Holman, 65, was walking in Sour Milk Ghyll, Borrowdale when he fell approximately 131ft. A member of the Keswick Mountain Rescue team was made aware of the incident and went directly to the scene, after which two other vehicles, an RAF Sea King and an air ambulance were sent for. Professor Holman is currently recovering at home.

Man released from bail in Claudia Lawrence case

A man who was arrested on suspicion of perverting the course of justice by police investigating the disappearance of Claudia Lawrence has been released from bail. North Yorkshire Police said the decision was made following consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service. Information the man provided was said to have "progressed the investigation and clarified certain issues". The man was arrested on 23 July. Lawrence was last seen on 18 March 2009 and worked as a chef at the University of York.

University Queer Fest announced

It has been announced that a 'Queer Fest' will take place at the University of York on 4 May. The event, which has been advertised on Facebook and on Tumblr, aims to celebrate York's queer diversity. The pages outline how Queer Fest "invites [people] into the lives of inspirational members of LGBTQ members of the community". Tess Pullen, Chair of LGBTQ Social, told *Nouse*: "We hope to inform and entertain the University with a week of events that celebrate the queer community and its talented members."

First Tedx talk to take place this week

The first TedxUniversityofYork talk will be taking place on 25 April in the Dixon Studio. The talk, entitled 'Exploring Reality', will be addressing questions such as what reality is and whether everyone perceives it in the same way. The talk will include guest speakers from the University, notably Dr Gustav Delius from the Department of Mathematics and Professor David Wooten from the Department of History. Deborah Talmi, the director of the emotion-cognition lab at the University of Manchester, will also be present.

Nouse

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Want to write for us?

Get in touch: editor@nouse.co.uk

We are always on the lookout for writers, photographers and cartoonists to join our team. It doesn't matter if you have never written for *Nouse* before, send an email to editor@nouse.co.uk, or to muse@nouse.co.uk for Muse sections, to get involved.



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Maguire describes new plans as a more 'worthwhile investment'

>>> Continued from front

early as by the end of the academic year.

Maguire described the decision as one which will result in "worthwhile investments for users of the space", adding: "I am really happy with this outcome as it has a positive effect on the current users of the space as a flat floor area for martial arts, dance etc. and those who run club nights."

"Most importantly, it isn't a large investment on something that students didn't want which was a £250,000+ investment into a permanent club."

Rosalie Dowding, Chair of Derwent College, said: "The nightclub would have been a complete nuisance to those in the Derwent accommodation. Although the concept of a nightclub on campus is brilliant, the location was a bizarre choice as it would have catered to only a fraction of the student population."

A petition was set up by a stu-

dent at the University against the plans to build the nightclub.

Joe Foxon, organiser of the petition, explained that he was glad that the University had decided to listen to student concerns and he was "glad that the University has decided to realise that there are a number of better things to spend such a huge sum of money on".

The petition collected over 480 signatures.

David Duncan, University Registrar and Secretary, told *Nouse*: "We are still investigating the possibility of refurbishing the building beside the Chemistry bridge for multi-purpose use. It doesn't make sense to have facilities such as this on campus and not to maximise use of them to enhance the student experience."

The opportunity will remain for students to book the space for one-off club nights through a Temporary Events Notice. However, this will be restricted to 10 per annum as stipulated by the law.



IMAGE: PETROC TAYLOR

The on-campus nightclub would have provided students with an alternative option to the clubs in the city centre

Frustration over introduction of new healthcare costs for non-EU students

Deborah Lam
NEWS REPORTER

NON-EU STUDENTS have expressed their frustration after being informed that they now have to pay a new Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) when renewing or applying for a Tier 4 student visa.

The cost, which was introduced on 6 April, will be calculated using the duration of the student's course and the period of leave given after the course ends.

Although students from Australia and New Zealand are exempt from paying the IHS, all other non-EU students will now have to pay £150 per year plus an additional £75 for leave lasting six months or less.

Nur Hisyam, a second-year Philosophy student, said: "[Although] I think the fee is warranted even for the duration of a year, perhaps they should stagger the cost of fees so that it would match the length of a person's stay."

An email sent to students in January 2014 appealed for examples of how they had benefitted from the current legislation in order to present a case to the House of Lords in favour of keeping the existing laws. However, the IHS was introduced "despite concerns raised by the Lords".

One student, who wished to remain anonymous, agreed that some monetary distinction was needed between local and non-EU students,



IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF YORK HEALTH CENTRE

A University official said the University believes international students should have 'unfettered access' to the NHS but felt that the cost was unjustified.

They said: "How many times would a person need to go the doctors to ever make [the cost] worth [it]? It may be [worth it] to cover hospitalisation fees or serious illnesses, but no one is planning to break something every year. It just encourages more people to go to the doctors for the smallest cough or

sniffle."

Choon How, a second-year English student, suggested that "health services for international students should be charged on a per-use basis, like most other countries".

He added: "If you tax people to enter, they simply won't come, and then good luck trying to persuade your local students that tuition fees

have to rise because international students are no longer coming."

However, he said that he thought that the surcharge would ultimately be unlikely to dissuade international students if they "are willing to fork out so much money to study here in the first place".

Commenting on the introduction of the IHS, Roberto Avelar,

International Officer, issued a reminder that the University provides financial support for international students.

Avelar said he hoped that "this won't affect people too negatively".

However, he admitted to being frustrated by the IHS on a personal level, telling *Nouse*: "It's obviously a complicated issue ... but it is frustrating that my uni fees are already almost twice as high as [local] students' fees and I now have to pay a yearly £150 fee for healthcare too."

"It is frustrating given the significant contributions that international students already offer through elevated fees."

He added: "Taking approaches like these only works to disincentivise future students from applying as it's already expensive enough."

David Duncan, University Registrar and Secretary, said: "As an institution, we call on all political parties to remove students from immigration targets, and to allow international students post study work visas. We also believe that international students should have unfettered access to the NHS while studying at York, and should not face excessive monitoring requirements."

Duncan added: "As a University, we will continue to work with YUSU and the GSA to make it as easy as possible for international students to settle in and be active members of the community."

News

Liberation groups across Yorkshire come together to form new network



IMAGE: YORKSHIRE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY NETWORK

The Yorkshire Equality and Diversity Network plans to work together on campaigns tackling issues such as inequality, domestic violence and consent

Ashley Reed
NEWS REPORTER

ACTIVISTS FROM universities and colleges across Yorkshire have recently come together to create a region-wide Equality and Diversity Network.

The group aims to build closer links between liberation groups in education through collaborative

campaigns and by offering training and support, sharing resources and hosting cross-university events.

They plan to run campaigns focusing on awareness about equality and diversity, domestic violence, and consent, as well as a region-wide 'Why is My Curriculum White?' campaign, questioning the lack of diversity both within academic institutions and the curriculums they

teach. This campaign is based on the one that originated from University College London last year.

James Smith, the LGBTQ Equality Officer for Leeds Beckett University and one of the leaders of the new Network, recently visited the University of York to speak to the Disabled Students Network (DSN). He encouraged York-based activists to join the group and be-

come involved. Speaking to *Nouse*, Smith explained: "The main aim of the Network group is to provide a chance for liberation groups and representatives to come together to network, but also to work more closely together on joint collaborations such as events and campaigns."

"It also means you know exactly who your counterparts are in other universities and colleges and

helps to promote intersectionality between our different liberation groups." He also mentioned a proposal to host a Yorkshire Equality and Diversity Conference this autumn. Smith said: "One of the main issues with the NUS conference is that only a small number of people get to go to events, which is a shame as these kinds of things help to inspire students to get more involved."

Zohra Khan, Disabled Students' Officer, told *Nouse*: "In terms of DSN plans and involvement, we thought we could organise events, talk about 'Access Your Future' and invite other liberation groups across Yorkshire to get involved with this."

The 'Access Your Future' event that the DSN has held three times since 2013 gives speakers from liberation backgrounds a chance to give speeches on issues that matter to and affect them.

Speaking on behalf of the Women's Committee, Katherine Mellor, Women's Officer, said: "I'm not sure we're in a position yet to comment on how effective we'll find it, but I think it's a good resource for keeping in contact with other local liberation campaigns and events and it's definitely something we'd be open to getting more involved with."

The Network will be hosting its fourth meeting on the 27 April at the Leeds College of Music.

Paralympian to speak at DSN event

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

PARALYMPIC SWIMMER Elizabeth Wright has been announced as one of the speakers for 'Access Your Future', the Disabled Students Network's flagship event.

Wright will be joined by several other speakers at the annual one-day event, including councillor Gavin Harding, who was made an MBE last year.

The Australian swimmer won three Paralympic medals over the course of her sporting career, including a bronze medal in the 1996 Women's 200m Butterfly and a silver medal in the 2000 Women's Freestyle Relay.

Sasha Thorpe, a former York St John University Disabled Students' Officer, and Zara Bain, a teacher, writer and researcher, who also speaks about disability in higher education, will also be present at the event.

Zohra Khan, Disabled Students' Officer, told *Nouse*: "Access Your Future' is entering its third year and I hope as a network we bring an event that's a great success, speaking about important issues such as disability in the workplace and in higher education."

The event is scheduled to take place on 3 June in P/T/007.

Alleged political bias of NUS' 'Liar Liar' campaign comes under fire

Ciarán Morrissey
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE NUS' recently launched 'Liar Liar' campaign, estimated to have cost £40,000, has been criticised for being politically biased and a waste of money.

The campaign draws attention to the Liberal Democrat MPs who pledged not to increase tuition fees but then voted to triple them once in office.

A Facebook event has since been set up in response to the campaign urging people to troll the NUS by donating to the Liberal Democrats.

The creators of the event accuse the NUS of "being dominated by Labour students" and "aggressively pushing an agenda that hasn't been endorsed by the many it is meant to represent".

The event description states: "It's conspicuously odd that no such campaign was reserved for Labour when they broke their promises on fees not once, but twice."

Over 200 people are currently listed as 'attending' the event.

Rachel Edwards, Events Officer for the University of York Liberal Democrats, said: "This is just another case of the NUS acting as a campaigning wing of the Labour Party, wasting £40,000 on a cam-



IMAGE: NUS

The NUS' recently launched campaign urges students to 'show politicians that they can't lie and get away with it' this campaign. Spending £40,000 on what is effectively a smear campaign targeted largely at one party is not something that represents students as a whole.

"Until the NUS gives all students the chance to vote on its leadership and policy, it'll remain unrepresentative, undemocratic and irrelevant to ordinary students."

Naomi Barrow, a second-year student at the University of York, added: "I completely disagree with

However, Stephen Harper,

NUS Delegate, said: "I think it's a good idea."

"Poor student voting turnout inevitably leads to our needs being overlooked so mobilising the student vote over such a hot issue should hopefully lead to positive change. It's high time the NUS means more to students than a discount card."

The NUS were contacted for a statement but did not respond in time for printing.

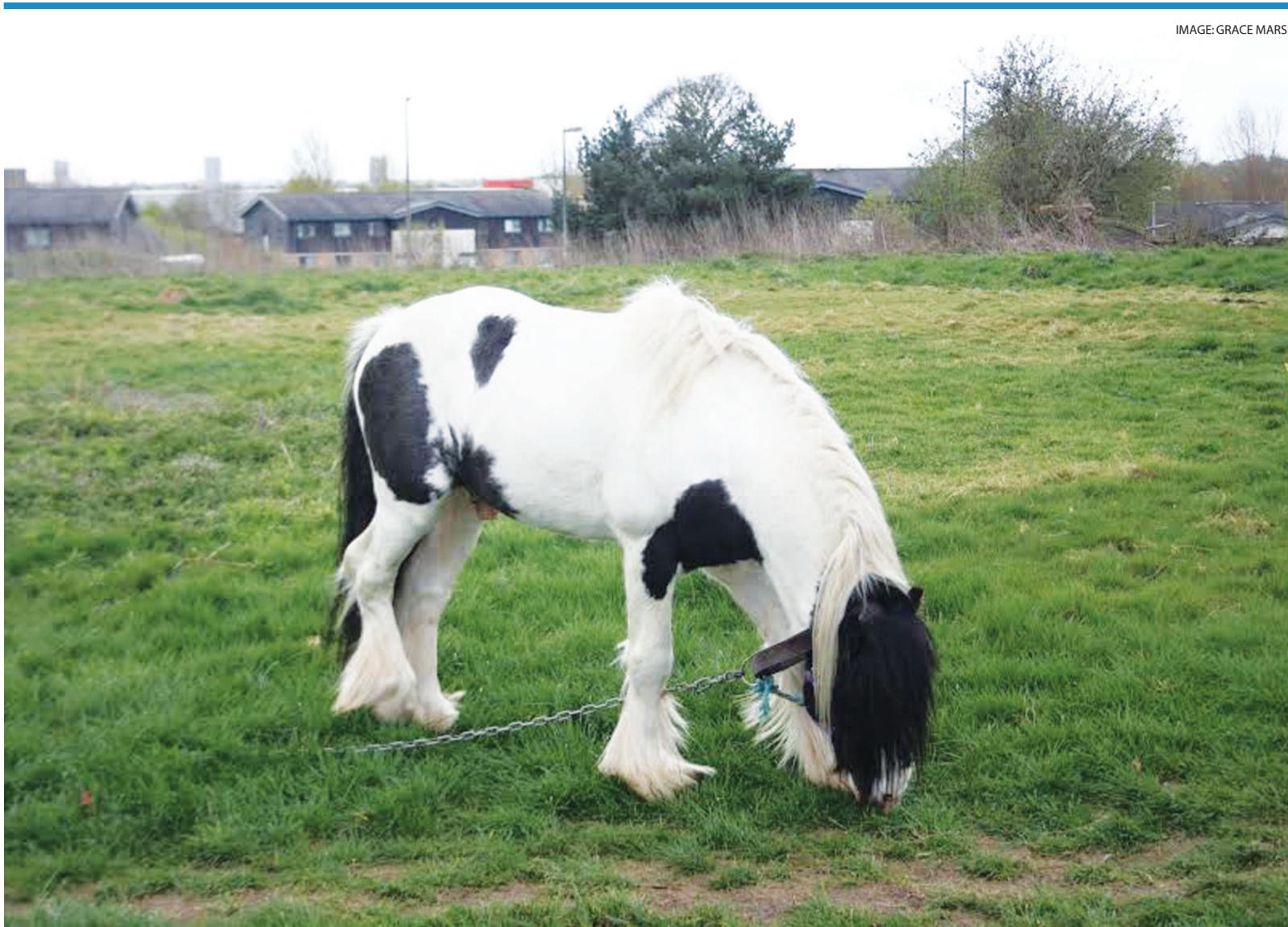


IMAGE: GRACE MARSH

University vows to reduce cost of sanitary products

Bea Angier
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY has committed to working out a solution to providing cost price sanitary products.

YUSU started selling sanitary products at cost price in January. However, Beth Curtis, a third-year English student, successfully submitted a policy proposal to get them to continue doing so and to lobby the University to do the same.

Sam Maguire, YUSU President, told *Nouse*: "Our supplier is more expensive than [the one used by Jon Greenwood, the Director of Commercial Services], so we are working out if we can get out of our contract so we can both get them even cheaper."

He added: "I am really pleased the University has stepped up and matched our commitment to selling sanitary products at cost price."

"This will hopefully make things cheaper for anyone who goes through the menstrual cycle and are already penalised because of EU Law that places tax on these products."

Izzy Lomas, President of the University of York's Feminist Society, said: "Sanitary products are absolutely essential but unfortunately very expensive."

"Making cheaper sanitary products available would be of enormous benefit to students at York, particularly at a time when so many are struggling financially."

"It is encouraging to see YUSU following in the footsteps of other student unions to address this problem."

Horsing around

Two students have suffered minor injuries after approaching horses tethered on open spaces close to campus.

One student was kicked by a horse while another was bitten and suffered some bruising to her upper chest.

David Duncan, University Registrar and Secretary, told *Nouse*:

"There have been two recent incidents of students receiving minor injuries when they have approached horses tethered on open spaces close to the campus."

"In the first, a student was kicked by a horse which she had approached from behind; in the second, a student was bitten by a horse."

"While neither incident was se-

rious, we would strongly encourage students not to approach animals with which they are unfamiliar."

"If students have concerns about animal welfare, these should be reported to the Security staff, who will contact the RSPCA as necessary."

The tethering of horses on university land is unauthorised.

Student calls for letting agencies to alter 'problematic' gender questions

Tess Pullen
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

JAZ MILLAR, Trans* Rep for the LGBTQ Network, has created a Change.org petition to persuade student letting agencies to remove the gender specifications on letting forms or add an 'other' or 'prefer not to say' category to rectify the current issues that this specification of gender binary causes for trans* identifying students.

Millar told *Nouse*: "Being asked about the 'male to female split' of my group when looking for houses made me feel pressured [to go] back into the closet as a non-binary transgender person."

They added: "I started making plans to do something. I issued a survey and to my surprise 75 per cent of people responding said the question had also made them feel uncomfortable, either because of transgender issues or worries about gender discrimination."

While not all letting agencies currently explicitly ask for a person's

gender when letting a house, Millar stressed that it is not just the filling out of forms that is problematic but also letting agents questioning gender breakdowns within groups when viewing houses.

Millar explained that they were targeting agencies that specialised in student housing in York as they believe that "we have real power over them, this could actually make a difference in trans* gender people's lives and trans* inclusion in this city."

A second-year student, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "Feeling pressured to conform to a gender binary when looking for a house to live in for next year can cause a lot of anxiety, which doesn't help when finding a house is already a stressful process in itself."

The petition will be presented to York letting agencies on 25 April to coincide with the end of Trans* Awareness Week.

It has currently been signed by 130 people.



IMAGE: PHILIPPA GRAFTON

The petition calls for letting agencies to add an 'other' or 'prefer not to say' category when asking about gender

News



IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD

York one of the unsafest places to be a student

Abigail Hettle
NEWS REPORTER

THE CITY of York has been ranked the ninth most dangerous place to be a student.

The survey, conducted by StuRents.com, draws upon research into 64 towns and cities across England and Wales.

It focused upon areas of high student occupancy, where 535,468 crimes were recorded between February 2014 and January 2015, to show how likely students are to be exposed to crime.

According to StuRents.com., 387.4 crimes per 1000 residents were recorded in York in 2014.

In comparison, in Brighton, which ranked the most dangerous place to be a student, there were 829.4 crimes recorded per 1000 residents.

Egham was deemed to be the safest place to be a student, followed by High Wycombe and Bath respectively.

There were 56.6 crimes per thousand residents recorded in Egham in 2014.

These statistics include recorded crime involving non-students as well as students.

Despite York's high ranking, the city has previously been named the safest place in the world for short break tourists.

Only one per cent of the 2075 participants considered York a risky tourist destination.

Carnival comes to town

Saturday saw the city centre play host to York Carnival, an event organised by students from the University. The annual event took place in Parliament

Street and branched out into a city tour. It merged students with members of the York community, and was an opportunity for participants to showcase a variety of performing

arts. Two stages boasted a huge array of talent, and with various local food stalls providing sustenance for the event, it certainly benefited from the good weather.

Women's Officer calls online abuse during NUS conference, 'harmful'

Tess Pullen
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

KATHERINE MELLOR, YUSU Women's Officer, has called online criticism of a clapping ban implemented at the NUS Women's Conference, "incredibly harmful", saying it was "hurtful to see some of the tweets [coming] from the delegates themselves".

The clapping ban was introduced after the University of Oxford's Women's Campaign tweeted the NUS Women's Campaign requesting "feminist jazz hands" instead, as the clapping was "triggering some peoples' [sic] anxiety".

It has also been claimed that doing jazz hands creates a way to show support for a speaker without disrupting them.

The NUS urged people to "be mindful" of others.

While the so-called "clapping ban" has been a standard protocol at NUS conferences for several years and jazz hands are British Sign Language for 'consensus hands', it is the

first time that there has been such a negative backlash from both online trolls and delegates present at the conference.

Twitter users discussed whether the NUS Twitter account was satire and mocked their inclusiveness as "political correctness gone mad".

Mellor told *Nouse*: "The controversy stemmed from the request for delegates to use sign language rather than clapping, which is designed to be more accessible to people who use hearing aids, have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Meniere's disease and many other conditions."

She added that both she and Ananna Zaman, the other Women's Officer, supported the request and were "shocked and disappointed by the reaction it received from some delegates and the wider internet audience in particular".

Mellor said: "Using sign language in this context is standard practice at NUS conferences and indeed in many other activist circles. Ultimately we don't think it was a

coincidence that it was the Women's Campaign that was targeted so vehemently... Unfortunately it's all too common for feminist movements to be targeted by online trolls."

Mellor posted on Facebook during the conference advising members of the Women's Committee to avoid using Twitter.

However, she added: "We still kept our spirits high, ignored the trolls and continued with our inclusive activism."

"It was a good chance for us to share ideas and resources with other delegates facing similar challenges to us, and we chose to focus on that rather than the unwarranted and ill-informed media coverage and the trolling it provoked."

A spokesperson for the NUS issued a statement following the clapping ban, saying: "The request was made by some delegates attending the conference."

"We strive to make NUS events accessible and enjoyable for all, so each request is considered."

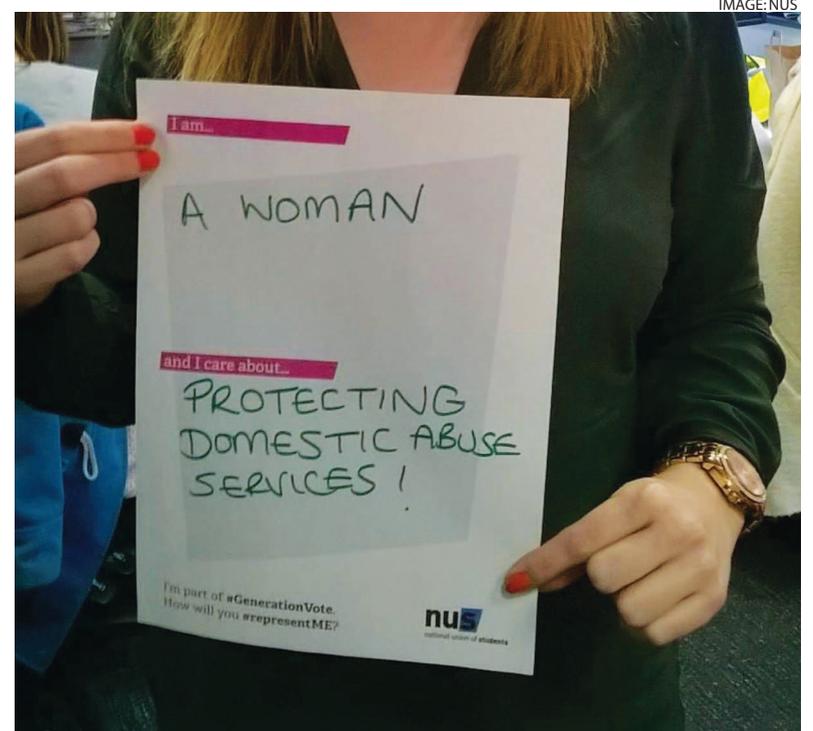


IMAGE: NUS

This year's NUS Women's Conference happened towards the end of March

Plans to turn pub into drop-in centre for recovering addicts

Dominic Madden
NEWS REPORTER

A CHARITY FOR recovering alcoholics and drug addicts has bought a local pub with plans to convert it into a drop-in centre.

The charity Changing Lives had their offer for The Melbourne on Cemetery Road accepted on 17 March.

Andy Ryan, the charity's operations manager, explained how a drop-in centre would really aid its work. He stated: "This will be a real asset to the recovery of the community, and the community as a whole."

Changing Lives has centres in Gateshead and Blyth where Ryan said the recovery centres have proved successful.

He added: "We have been looking at purchasing a building for the last 12 months, so that we can follow the same model that Changing Lives has elsewhere.

"Somebody will be there to help people get back into work and education. It is about rebuilding lives and getting people back into the community."

The North East has some of

the highest alcohol consumption rates in the UK. It is estimated that 45 per cent of men and 37 per cent of women are drinking more than twice the recommended amount in a single day.

Ryan said: "Everyone is going to have their opinion and we will be here to dismiss any myths and inform people about what's going to be happening."

He also stressed the need for a recovery centre which is tailored to the city's needs.

However, apprehensions about the plans have already been expressed within the local area.

One Cemetery Road resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "There will be a few objections about the planning application."

They added: "There is some concern within the street. I can say that for definite."

A statement posted from The Melbourne's Facebook page suggested that the pub "intend[s] on objecting to all planning".

The Facebook post said: "They want a fight??? They've bloody well got one...."



IMAGE: THE MELBOURNE

Changing Lives, a charity that supports vulnerable people, bought The Melbourne pub last month

Survey suggests Green Party will have the most support from York students

IMAGE: GREEN PARTY OF ENGLAND AND WALES



Ciarán Morrissey
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

RESEARCH CONDUCTED by York Student Think Tank has suggested that the Green Party is the most popular political party among students at the University of York.

30 per cent of respondents said they would vote for the Green Party if the General Election was held tomorrow.

In comparison, 28 per cent said they would vote for Labour and 17 per cent opted for the Conservatives.

Only eight per cent and four per cent of York students surveyed said they would vote for the Liberal Democrats and UKIP respectively.

Of the students surveyed, 49 per cent felt strongly or very strongly that their vote counted.

In contrast, 35 per cent of respondents said that they felt their vote didn't count for very much, with seven per cent saying they felt their vote didn't count at all.

Ninety-three per cent of respondents indicated that they were likely or very likely to vote, with two per cent saying they were very unlikely to vote.

Three per cent of respondents said they were unsure whether they

were voting or not.

The survey also found that 31 per cent of respondents were unable to name their local MP.

York Student Think Tank collected responses from 255 home students at the University between 18 January and 1 March.

Fifty-eight per cent of the respondents were female and forty-two per cent were male. The mean age of the students who responded to the survey was 20.7.

Speaking about the election in general, David Duncan, University Registrar and Secretary, said: "Whichever party or combination of parties forms the government after the election, we expect that funding for research will be tight - probably tighter than it has been over the past five years.

"York has witnessed more than a dozen general elections ... and has continued to grow and thrive. We are very confident that it will prosper regardless of which party comes to power in May.

"However, we will continue to lobby government to ensure decent funding for higher education and fair treatment for all students, whether from the UK or overseas."

Thirty per cent said they would vote for the Green Party if the General Election was held tomorrow



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Survey shows considerable financial struggles of students

Amy Bishop
NEWS REPORTER

A NEW SURVEY by Student Money Saver has found that 73.8 per cent of students believe that their maintenance loan is not enough to live off, with 50.2 per cent of students saying that they rely on their parents for money during their time at university.

The survey, which had 988 respondents, also found that 28.9 per cent of those asked said that they could not afford to put the heating on when it is cold.

In addition, seven per cent had been in the position where they have had to take out a payday loan to cover their costs, with 40 per cent of those saying that they regretted it.

Just under four per cent of students said that they had done something illegal for money. Forty-one per cent of those surveyed said that they have gone without food because of money concerns. When struggling for funds students have often resorted to raising money by selling their possessions, with 33.3 per cent of students admitting that they had tried to sell possessions in order to pay for rent, pay bills or buy food. Just over 21.1 per cent of stu-

dents said that they have done 'other desperate things for money, other than selling possessions'.

The vast majority of students said that they had problems with money, with 74 per cent agreeing with the statement: 'I am worried about money', and 60 per cent of respondents either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the statement: 'I feel financially secure'.

Just under 30 per cent of students surveyed disagreed to the extent that they have considered dropping out of university because they cannot afford to be there.

Charlotte Burns, Editor of Student Money Saver, said: "The fact students are living in serious poverty is completely unacceptable."

Less than half of the students surveyed had a job while they studied. An anonymous student told the website, "I have applied for many jobs, but have had little success."

Concerns have been raised by Tom Felton, Content Editor for Student Money Saver, about the struggles experienced by students, who are "facing bigger financial challenges than any other generation".

The Student Support Hub in Market Square supports students worried about their finances.



IMAGE:NOUSE

A recent survey found that a large number of students struggle financially

- 73.8% of students said their maintenance loan is not enough to live on
- 41% of students have gone without food because of money concerns
- 28.7% of students said they have considered dropping out because they can't afford to be there

Campus laundry service cleans up its act

Jamie Summers
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

SAM MAGUIRE, YUSU President, has announced the washing machines on campus will now be cleaned on a daily basis, rather than once a week as they were previously.

The news comes after an investigation by YUSU into the service, which is currently contracted out by the University to Circuit Laundry.

YUSU set up a feedback form for on-campus students to record their experiences after a growing number of complaints that, following a cycle in the machines, clothes were coming out unclean. The form was first advertised by Maguire on 30 March.

The company had informed YUSU at that stage that they had not received any complaints "in the previous couple of years" from anyone at the University, and that to their knowledge, all of the machines were working well.

There is an option on the company's website to register complaints.

Maguire asked students to submit any relevant information about their experiences and to back up their experiences with photographic evidence.

After receiving feedback from a range of students, YUSU liaised with Circuit to improve the service on offer, and the machines across campus will now be cleaned daily to ensure that they are cleaner.

Students have reacted positively to the news. One third-year student told *Nouse*: "It's good to see YUSU doing something about the Circuit machines."

"I haven't lived on campus for two years now, but I remember there being problems with them when I first came to the University."

"They were ridiculously expensive to use, and more often than not you'd have to put laundry through two washes because it would never be clean." The student added: "Ideally, Circuit's monopoly on the service needs to be broken up, but hopefully with the machines being cleaner, it will at least be a small improvement for the students that currently live on campus."

A first-year student said: "The washing machines on campus are very expensive and don't even clean your clothes properly. Hopefully the changes will stop students wasting as much money on washing."

Sam Maguire told *Nouse*: "This is one positive step forward in improving laundry services on campus and for that we are really happy."

However, he added: "We have to keep working to fix the other two common bits of feedback, that is to ensure that prices are competitive and that the machines actually dry effectively."

"I am confident that we can make progress on both issues in this final term."

University seeks recognition for representation of women in science

Leah Huws
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY of York has announced that it intends to apply for a renewal of its Athena SWAN Award, for its work in combating the underrepresentation of women in science.

Commissioned by the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU), the award celebrates the work of individuals and departments that work in the science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) sector. It is given after a consideration of the number of women in academic roles, as well as the progression of students into STEMM courses, and can be awarded at bronze or silver level.

A University spokesman said: "The University is highly committed to equality for all staff and students. Among the many equality initiatives with which we are involved, we are very pleased to be one of the UK's leading institutions for its Athena SWAN accreditations in science departments. It is in this context that the University is now delighted to announce that we are re-applying for renewal of our institutional Athena SWAN status, which is cur-



IMAGE:FEMFEST

FemFest celebrated the achievements of women in science at the University by photographing them last term

rently at bronze level."

However, the University's enthusiasm for the renewal application has been met with scepticism from some students.

A second-year Biology student told *Nouse*: "I find it comforting to walk into the Biology Department and see posters about women in science because we need to keep up a

dialogue about it and keep reminding people it's an issue."

"However, the mark of real success won't be with something like this award, it'll be when attitudes towards those in STEM are truly untainted by sexism - which isn't where we are now."

David Duncan, University Secretary and Registrar told *Nouse*:

"The number of awards already collected by the University is testimony to the commitment to promote women in science at York. Achievement of a silver award would be a further positive step forward." The outcome of the University's re-application for the Athena SWAN Award is expected to be confirmed within the next six months.

Comment



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Politics should beat personalities



Amy Bishop

Candidates' personal lives should not be scrutinised

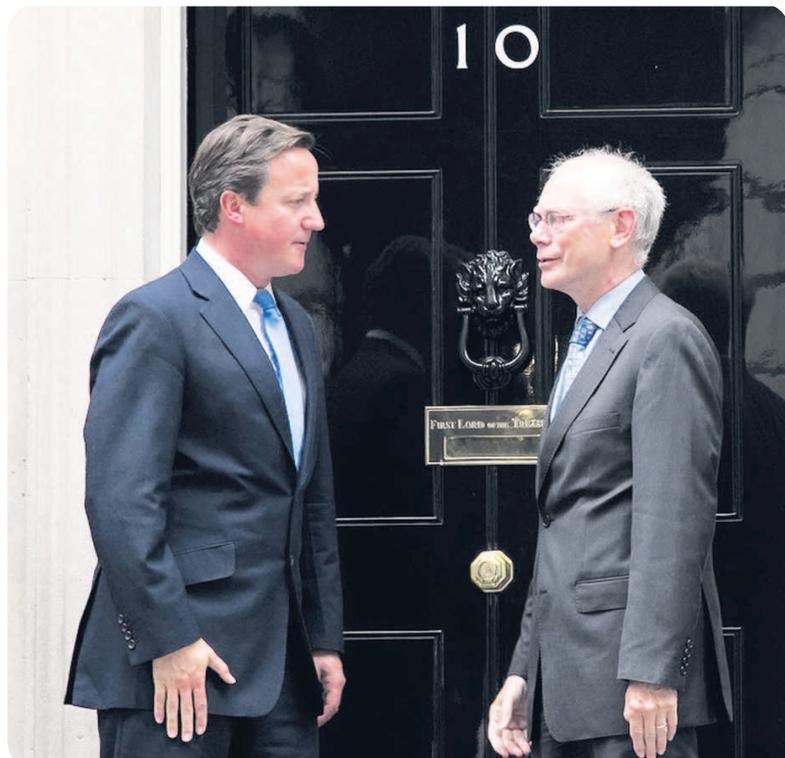


IMAGE: PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

In the build up to this general election there have been stories published about Ed Miliband's love life, and there have been questions asked about family rivalry regarding his brother. This is not the first election to bring in the personal lives of candidates.

However is it right? Should the press and the public consider political candidates' personal lives, or should judgement be based purely on policies?

I would argue that as much as personal lives can be considered to an extent if they reflect on how a candidate will make decisions as a leader, the focus should be on what their policies are and what they have done previously in their political careers.

To get any other job, your personal past would not be considered at all. No one would ask in an interview to be a teacher "so how did you meet your spouse? It's important for us to be able to judge your character": It would have no bearing on how you might perform the job at hand.

This should be the same in politics too. Unless it is something that would really affect the job you are going to do then the press do not need to print it, and the public should know not to take it into consideration when choosing how they vote. The public must also be aware that what the media write about the private lives of politicians can often be misleading, and what is actually happening is very different to what is being printed.

It is true that high profile politicians have chosen a profession that involves a life in the public eye, so some aspects of their private lives will be known to people. As well as this, they are representing the nation. However, any scandals would be more a reflection of the flaws of the individual, rather than the nation which is powerless to control what their public figures do with their own lives.

As long as they are not breaking the law, or have not been convicted of a serious crime in the past, then their private lives for the most part should remain their own business.

Knowing nothing about a candidate's private life is not the answer either though. It can help the public to trust a candidate more if they know more about their family and character, for instance if they have a family then they may be more understanding of the need for better education or the need for child care. Politicians without families are still likely to be aware of this too, so again their private lives become irrelevant.

In addition, some things are printed in the press are from many years ago, sometimes even decades ago, and the individual and their lives may have changed a lot since then. Therefore is it really fair to judge a politician if they might have behaved irresponsibly in their younger years?

Ultimately, when people are deciding who to vote for and the press are printing election-related stories, the focus should be on what policies the candidates are proposing and their ideological stance rather than irrelevant information from their past private lives.

The Relentless pursuit of energy boosts



Liam Dooley

We should reconsider the side-effects of energy drinks

We've all been there. The exam period is wearing you down, and getting up at stupidly early times every day just to get a seat in the library has left you feeling drained. Caffeinated energy drinks have got your back, offering you the get up and go to do

“ Often, many people regularly drink energy drinks without ever considering their side-effects ”

all of the things that you really need to get done today.

It starts off as one can to wake you up, but then you have another to keep you going once the buzz comes down, then even more to make sure that you stay awake during your all-nighter to meet that essay deadline that you probably shouldn't have left so late. Pretty soon, you're doing this day in day out, without even realising what these sweet, energising drinks are actually doing to your body.

For starters, just look at the sheer level of caffeine that is in just one of these drinks. In a single can there can be up to around 215mg of caffeine and those are just the levels

reported on the labels. Many drinks contain 'masked' forms of it, like guarana for example. To put this into perspective, the average cup of coffee contains roughly 100mg of caffeine.

So what's wrong with too much caffeine? Well it has been known to cause heart problems like convulsions and palpitations, potentially type 2 diabetes and to have psychological effects such as anxiety and sleep disturbances.

More often than not, many people regularly drink energy drinks without ever really considering that they can have some pretty detrimental side effects. The cans don't come with much of a warning, besides the fact that small children and pregnant women aren't recommended to drink them, so you just continue pouring them down your throat in the hopes that they'll make your studious life so much easier and nothing else.

Now, I'm not trying to say that having the occasional energy boost from a caffeinated drink will automatically make you a picture of ill-health, but rather that a consistent overconsumption of them can be dangerous.

It is suggested that you should limit your caffeine to 400mg a day, so if we work from this basis then it shouldn't be so bad.

But the thing is that for many students, energy drinks have become a staple part of their diet, especially around the exam period. If you find yourself saying something along the lines of "I can't function until I've had my drink", you've got to realise that there is a problem and you're becoming dependent on a substance that's detrimental to your health.

For an added bonus, energy drinks have found their way into your nights out too! Offers on Jägerbombs can sound pretty appealing when you're becoming a bit tired from clubbing all night, but they are a pretty dangerous concoction! Energy drinks and alcohol are bad enough on their own, but together they can leave you in a pretty bad place.

The stimulant of the energy drink masks the effect of the alcohol on your brain, making you feel less drunk than you actually are, therefore you're pretty likely to keep on drinking beyond your limit.

Knowing your limit is an integral part to keeping yourself safe on a night out and anything that distorts your view of this probably isn't the best move. So the next time that you're at the bar, it would pay off to just try and think about whether those five Jägerbombs are actually a good idea.

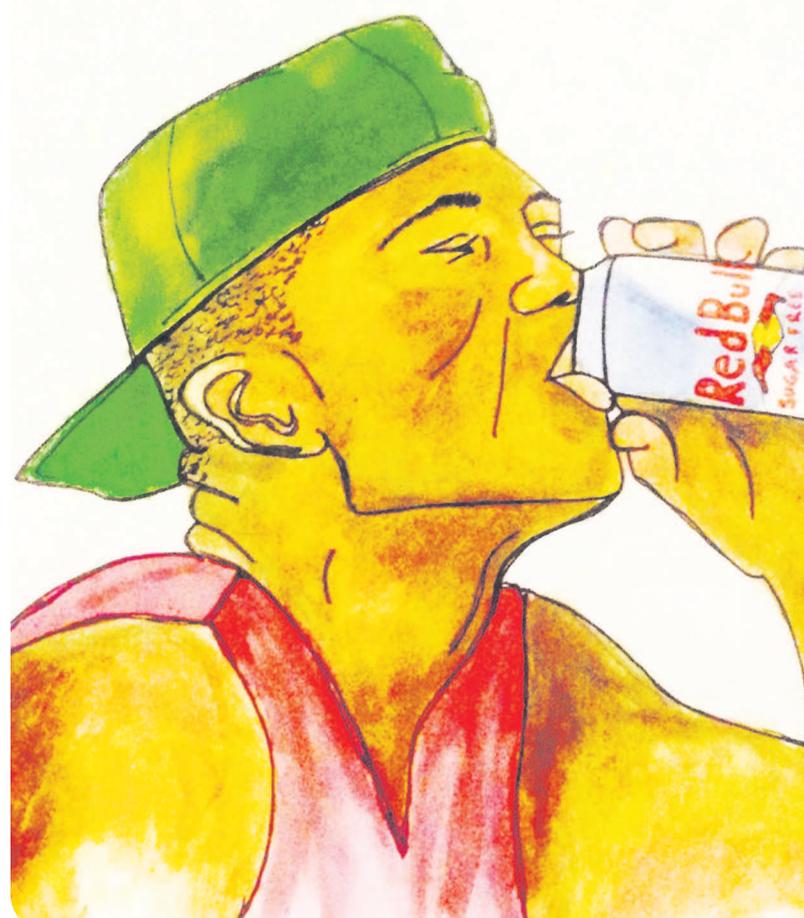
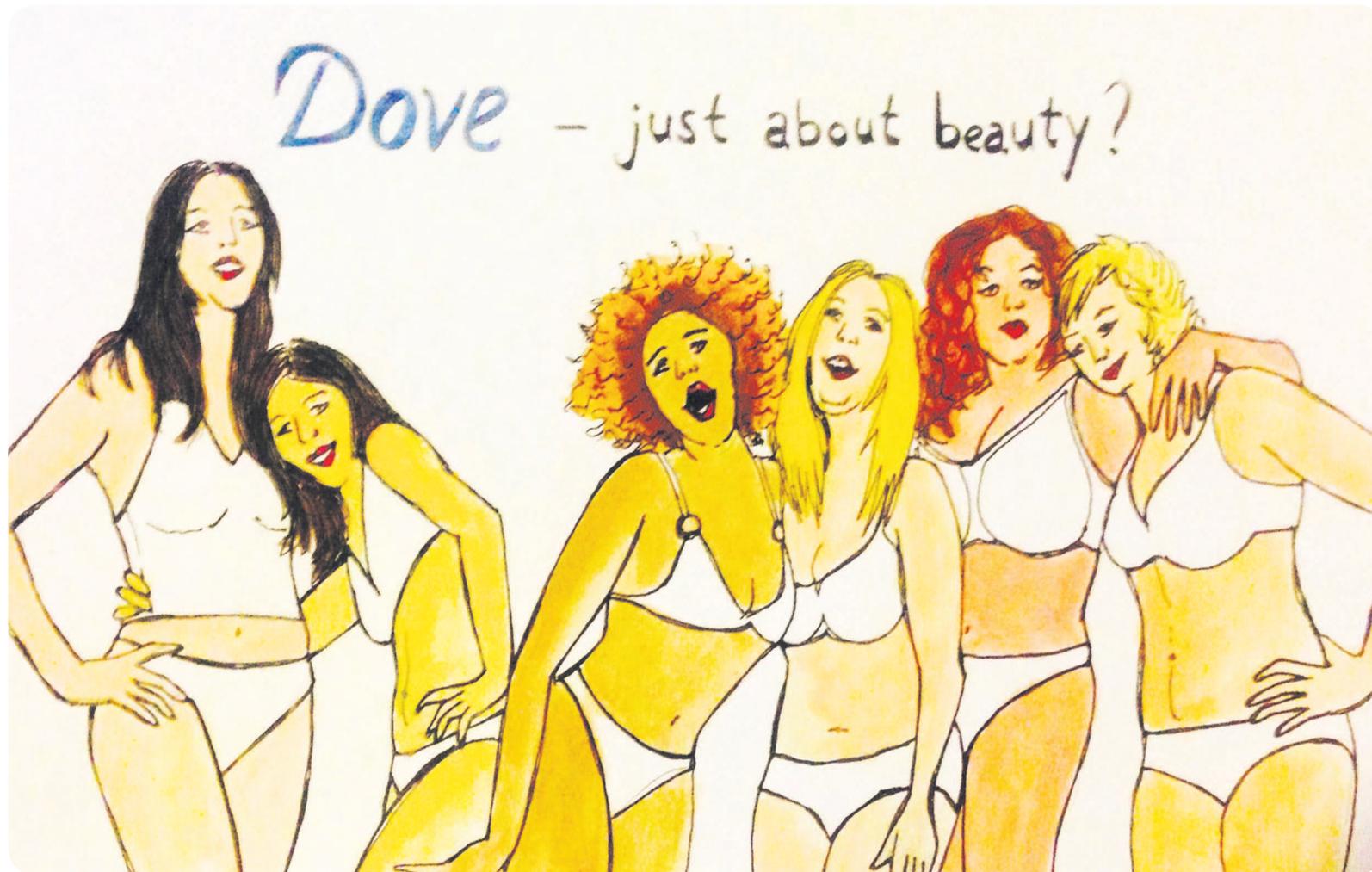


IMAGE: LUCY WEGERIF

VIEWS FROM THE OUSE



IMAGE: LUCY WEGERIF



Dove shouldn't just celebrate female beauty



Deborah Lam

'Average' shouldn't be a dirty word - you can love yourself regardless

Ladies (and gentlemen), the majority of you reading this probably look average. And that's okay.

In the latest campaign video by Dove, a skin and hair care company, two signs bearing "Beautiful" and "Average" are respectively placed over two identical doorways, side by side in major cities around the world.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the majority of you reading this probably look average. And that's okay”

Women of all nationalities and ethnicities from San Francisco, Shanghai, Delhi, London and Sao Paulo were then interviewed about which door they walked through, discussing how their choices revealed how they perceived themselves and even if it aligned with how the world perceived them.

Women who picked the "Average" door reflected on how damaging their choice was to their self-esteem, deeming "Beautiful" as something that was out of their reach.

The second half of the video, however, showed women making

the triumphant decision to walk through the "Beautiful" door.

Getting over 5.5 million views in just one week with ubiquitous comments applauding Dove's thought-provoking campaign, the video has certainly highlighted pressing issues about self-worth.

The comments section were peppered with some people divulging how they bawled and at what parts, and others trying to ride the inspirational body-positivity bandwagon by telling everyone unfortunate enough to read to "Smile, you're beautiful!"

Cynicism aside, the video alone proves problematic. Apart from the exclusion of men, which opens up a veritable can of worms in and of itself, the campaign exposes society's worrying preoccupation with superficial appearances, even with its well-meaning message.

Yet, the positive entrances didn't read 'Intelligent', 'Kind' or even the more general 'Great', they read 'Beautiful', which very specifically targets physical self-image.

As much as one can argue that the beauty the video discusses is an inner beauty, one that permeates the way you see and value yourself, the very choice of "Beautiful" is problematic. When contrasted with "Average", it points specifically to a matter of appearance.

It doesn't take a mathemati-

cian to tell you that 'average' is not a dirty word, it is what most people are. Just as the standards of society discussed in the video construct our idea of beauty, it has been driven into our minds in this hypercompetitive world that the only way to gain any self-satisfaction is to be exceptional.

Being okay with how you look isn't good enough, you need to think yourself beautiful. But thinking you are beautiful does not equate to being content with how you look; narcissists still get plastic surgery all the time.

There is nothing wrong with striving to be better, whether that be by studying to get better grades, dressing in a way that makes you

“We should not measure self-worth by beauty”

feel good or simply trying to be a better person.

But when we measure self-worth by beauty, even if we declare ourselves beautiful, we are not resisting the pressures of advertising or unrealistic ideals of beauty in the media, we are letting them dictate the yardstick with which we value ourselves. We are admitting that

beauty is really that crucial a part of what constitutes a person.

There is a need to reassess the way campaigns promote values of self-worth and starting by removing

“There is a need to reassess how campaigns promote self-worth”

superficial appearances as criteria indicative of what people think of themselves. It distracts from all the things that constitute 'inner beauty', all of which will be lasting marks of a good person when ephemeral, fickle looks fade.

There will come a day when you are old and wrinkly, and you may not be able to confidently enter yourself into beauty pageants, but it does not mean you don't love yourself as much as every selfie-snapping teenager does, and you certainly don't have to walk through a door marked "Beautiful" to prove it.

That said, the choice between beauty and the mediocre, at least, forces us to come to terms with how we see ourselves. When confronted with the decision, which would you choose?

Personally, I'd just pick the nearest door.

It's Roses this week, isn't it? I hadn't noticed. For those of you who don't know, Roses is the annual sportsathon between us and Lancaster University, which Lancaster won last year. This year, they're coming to our campus - well, I for one welcome our new Lancastrian overlords, and have helpfully provided a list of extra potential events for them to try (aside from the Lake-Drinking Contest, in which they go first).

HORSE BOXING! Inspired by whoever decided to get close enough to a horse to get bitten. Both parties wear gloves, and when the horse inevitably falls and breaks its leg since it can't walk on the boxing gloves, you win! It's a stable choice! It's the mane event, to stirrup the emotions! Everyone's a whinny! (*You're fired - ed.*)

CAPTURE THE KING! Essentially Capture the Flag, using the rotting corpse of King Richard III. Teams from York and Lancaster must break into his crypt at Leicester and then hoist him back home on the flagpole. Loser has to pay his parking fine.

THE 100 METRES! A sprint track is set up outside JB Morrell, except nobody can actually come outside and race because JESUS exam season is RIGHT HERE and IF YOU TALK AGAIN I WILL SLIT YOUR THROAT. Entrants therefore gaze sadly at the track while posting comments on Yik Yak. Points for passive-aggressiveness, self-deprecation or comparing yourself to a goose.

HUNTING YOUR FELLOW MAN! 12 of the new arrivals from Lancaster are given a bow and arrow and some berries and dumped in a field. Winner gets one of those box-chairs in JB Morrell, so it's worth it.

GOOSE IDENTIFICATION! Which we'll win easily, of course. Name all the different varieties of geese, from "that one" to "that other one" to "that bastard who bit me near Biology".

COMPETITIVE FILM-WATCHING - EXTREME!!! Nobody actually does any sport, but we all watch an inspiring film about boxing. Winner is the first one to sing "Eye of the Tiger" by heart.

BOAT RACING! Have we done that yet? Two teams row boats and the first one to cross the line wins. Probably. I haven't thought this one through as well as Horse Boxing.

And that'll be the Roses! Which maybe we can actually WIN this time. Here's to hoping!

Follow the debate:

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NOUSE



Est. 1964

EDITORS' OPINIONS



The University's nightclub plans are forced to shift

Niall Whitehead

The University has changed their plans regarding a campus nightclub. They planned to spend around £200,000 clearing out the squash courts and replacing them with a clubbing venue, complete with a mirrored wall, elevated DJ booth and a seated lounge area, which would have opened two nights a week.

Student reactions to the idea consisted of about two days of excitement, followed by a general tidal wave of dissent once we all remembered that building nightclubs actually costs quite a bit of money. Then came the petition on change.org, and pertinent questions in YUSU electoral debates – and yes, the comment pieces both here and elsewhere.

Could we not spend the money on the Open Door team, cheaper off-campus buses and on-campus supermarkets, or a pharmacy? Was anyone going to go to campus and use a nightclub that could only fit 250 people? Would it cause sleep deprivation? Wouldn't it just promote heavy drinking culture, at the expense of the sporting societies who regularly use the squash courts? All were valid points which made the eventual decision somewhat inevitable.

So Derwent will never have "Asbestos" – my favourite potential name for the club – and it's a good thing. And that's £200,000 the university won't be spending on a nightclub. It'll be interesting to see where it goes.

Jacob Miller

The myth of student apathy



York Think Tank has recently found that 82 per cent of University of York students are very likely to vote in the General Election. This research seems to dampen the fears of an apathetic younger generation, which have circulated in recent years.

It is good news that young people in York appear to be politically engaged. Democracy should act as a method of government responding to people's concerns, and a way of spotting and responding to potential problems in our system. An economy, after all, consists of people- taxpayers, consumers, workers – and a nation can only flourish when its people do.

More young people voting creates a more complete picture of the nation, which allows for government legislation to be more specific and appropriate. However, rather than attack or preach the benefits of voting to the apathetic, we need to examine why apathy exists.

In 2013, research by Guardian/ICM revealed that half were angry at MPs and a quarter bored by the issues. This alienation was strongest among 18-24 year olds. So we must question if politicians truly represent our electorate, and if our electoral system enables people to vote with their convictions. In York, at least, the youth apathy syndrome seems to be a myth. However, this does not mean that those voting are satisfied; there are good reasons for apathy which must be addressed.



Sanitary products should not be subjected to taxation

Amy Gibbons

In light of the recent debates concerning the taxation of sanitary products in the UK, the University has declared itself "committed to working out a solution to providing cost price products".

Sam Maguire, YUSU president, working in collaboration with John Greenwood, Director of Commercial Services at the University, told *Nouse* "Our supplier is more expensive than Jon's so we are working out if we can get out of our contract so we can both get them even cheaper".

It is, or should be, universally accepted that sanitary products are essential, not 'luxury' items, as the five per cent VAT they are subjected to implies.

Despite being granted a 'reduced rate' tax, sanitary products are still classed as the latter in relation to other 'essential items', such as food products, equipment for welfare purposes, water supplied to households, even books, maps or magazines. It seems absurd that incontinence products are under the 'zero rate' bracket, whilst women have no choice but to pay extra for their comfort and security.

I think it's fantastic news that the University is doing what it can to tackle this issue. At a time when students are harder pushed than ever for money, young women should never be penalised in terms of taxation for their essential welfare.

Transgender children deserve to have our attention



Katy Marshall

The majority will never regret their decision

Anne Fine's *Bill's New Frock* is a story about a young boy who, one day, wakes up to find everybody believes he is a girl. He is forced to wear a dress to school, is treated differently by his peers, and at one point faces the dilemma of which bathroom to use. Bill knows what gender he is, and that everybody else is wrong. It is, effectively, the story of a boy who is trans for a day.

But when Bill wakes up the next morning, everything is right again. There is no such easy resolution for trans children, who face constant dismissal: it's a phase, a rebellion, they're making it up, and they'll grow out of it. It is easy, therefore, to ignore or silence a child's wish to transition.

“It is easy to ignore or silence a child's wish to transition. It's a phase, a rebellion, they're making it up, they'll grow out of it”

Transitioning is an aspect of being trans that not everybody feels the need to go through, and those that do can pick and choose what aspects of their gender they want to present.

While surgical intervention makes up the majority of mainstream trans narratives, and is what most people think of when transi-

tioning is mentioned, other medical interventions like hormone treatment and puberty blockers also exist.

The other, and arguably greater side to transitioning is social transitioning, an umbrella term which encompasses changing pronouns, names and appearance, and small everyday things such as the gender on your driver's license. Even simple acknowledgement can make a huge difference, and it is often denied.

A person must be 18 in the UK to access any surgical option, and must have lived as their gender for at least a year – social transitioning is currently, therefore, a requirement. However, treatment to prevent the changes of puberty is extremely beneficial to young trans people, as puberty is the most common point at which gender dysphoria begins – anxiety, depression or disassociation with your body.

Preventing the changes of puberty not only makes other aspects of the transition easier, but also helps passing – being read as the correct gender. If a trans person wants to pass, the better they can do so, the safer they are.

The fear is, of course, that trans people will regret their transition. From the reports and testimonials I have read, it seems that very few trans people actually change their mind and want to return to living as their designated gender (that which was given to them on birth, based on their genitalia).

Instead, the main reasons

seem to be lack of support, medical complications, or simply to escape transphobia. The NHS cites a study that, across 20 years, found that 96 per cent of people who had received surgery were satisfied.

The Trans Mental Health study, which had 900 respondents, finds that 86 per cent of those who went through physical transitions had no regrets, and 10 per cent had only minor regrets, which included when surgery was difficult or resulted in complications. It is therefore ap-

“The concern that a child is making a life-changing decision is valid, but in this case, unfounded”

parent that the majority of cases are worth going through with.

The concern that a child is making a life-changing decision is valid, but in this case, unfounded. Evidence suggests that if we insist on doubting young trans people, we should give them the benefit of that doubt, and allow them to make their own decisions.

The best thing that non-trans people can do is to be accepting, accommodating, and to simply listen to a child who declares their gender to you.

This, it has been shown, will resolve the majority of regrets. Bill need not have worn his frock at all.



IMAGE: TIM EVANSON



Luke Birtwhistle

US policing desperately needs reform

Following the Walter Scott case, racial bias in America's police forces must be

In 2012 we marked the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech. Although America has come a long way in terms of racial equality since that day in 1962, highlighted by the fact that they have their first black president. However there is still a long way to go, especially in terms of attitudes towards African-Americans within institutions such as the police force.

On the morning of Saturday 4th April 50-year old African-American Walter Scott was making his way to an auto parts store, when he was pulled over by North Charleston police officer Michael Slager for a non-functioning brake light.

A video from Slager's dashcam showed him walking to Scott's car before returning to his police car, at which point Scott fled his car with Slager making chase. In this chase Slager fired his Taser at Scott, with Scott being hit once.

When Scott ran again Slager fired at him

“ This is a disturbing and disgraceful event, but it is not shocking ”

eight times with his handgun, hitting him five times, according to a Scott's family lawyer, with at least one bullet entering his heart. After firing the rounds, Slager told the dispatcher "shots fired and the subject is down, he took my Taser".

In the report of the shooting Slager had said that he had feared for his life after Scott had taken his Taser, and he shot at Scott because he felt threatened.

However an eyewitness to the shooting filmed the event showing that Scott had not in fact taken Slager's Taser and that Scott was "just trying to get away" from the Taser. In an interview with The Today Show the eyewitness, Feidin Santana, said Scott "never grabbed the Taser off the police. He never got the Taser".

Although this is quite clearly a disturbing and disgraceful event, it is not shocking. African-Americans being shot by policemen is an all too common occurrence. According to the US Bureau of Statistics there were 2,931 "arrest-related deaths" from 2003 to 2009, 41.7 per cent of the casualties were Caucasian

“ Events such as these are an all too common occurrence in the US ”

while 31.7 per cent of casualties were African-American. While these statistics alone don't seem that remarkable, when you factor in that African-Americans make up just 13 per cent of the US population, it means that a policeman is thrice as likely to kill an African-American as they are a white person. The statistics are even more damning when the focus is on 15 to 19 year olds, with African-Americans in this age bracket being 21 times more likely to be shot at and killed by a policeman than a Caucasian of the same age, according to ProPublica.

There may be some justification for the higher "arrest-related deaths" of African-Americans compared with Caucasians, due

to the fact that African-Americans are disproportionately more likely to commit crimes with them carrying out 38 per cent of murders compared to 31.1 per cent for white people. However in a vast number of these "arrest-related deaths", such as Walter Scott, the 'criminal' posed no threat to society. How on earth can a person being pulled over for a non-functioning brake light be perceived as a threat to

society? In cases like this it's hard to see how the murder can be anything other than racially motivated. Even when the 'criminal' may be predicted to pose a threat to society there has to be a better way to deal with the danger than just shooting at them. For a policeman to ever feel the need to use a gun it should be as a last resort. Sadly a lot of the time it does not seem as if this is the case.



IMAGE:VELO_CITY



Abbie Hettle

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should the University let "safe-spaces" spread?



Ciaran Morrissey

YES.

The movement among universities worldwide in implementing a 'safe spaces' policy, to safeguard accessible and respectful environments for student involvement, has been met with widespread criticism. Among the cries of "repression of free speech" and "undermining open debate" we should reconsider our understanding of the term and remember that 'safe spaces' are a necessity for ensuring useful discussion.

Campuses are inherently diverse and, thus, conflicted places. The coming together of people from all over the world makes it an exciting, lively environment to learn and discuss. But this diversity also creates difficulties. One must be attentive and mindful to the differences intrinsic to diversity. Conflicts in opinion and experience are bound to happen and therefore so is the potential to offend.

The current state of the UK campus is one full of hierarchies. We would be foolish to think that, even now, academic institutes are not rife with stigma and stereotypes involving anything from the course you take to your gender. Therefore, open debate and discussion is far from the safe space it should be. The self-entitlement of some students alongside cases of male chauvinism are symptomatic of a culture that stifles cohesive and

useful debate.

'Safe spaces' should be understood as an environment that protects the honest, open discussion that students seek in higher education. The culture of learning as it exists now prevents this at a fundamental level.

Let's look at a seminar setting. We can all recognise the kind of discussions that occur there. Someone will say something controversial and heated argument will break out. There is nothing inherently wrong with this. The problem arises when we cause offense, ignore politeness and forget that we are students in a classroom. These distract from the discussion at hand and only serve to quash the arguments made.

Students calling for 'safe spaces' do not want to suppress freedom of speech or contentious debate. Instead, they seek consideration and a respectful attitude from their peers. If we approach open debates with the maturity that they require, then there would be no demand for 'safe spaces'.

The movement for 'safe spaces' needs to be engaged with, not just branded an incursion on the privilege afforded to us by higher education. We can either mollycoddle those who feel they are entitled to fruitless, unbridled debate, or make it accessible and useful.

NO.

A safe space is an area in which discussion and debate is monitored to create an atmosphere in which members of disprivileged groups do not feel victimised. It can take the form of a space that's only open to members of the LGBTQ community, a place for women only, or anything along those lines. It's a wonderful thing that York doesn't have them.

We're told that these spaces are there to shield the downtrodden and unfortunate from hearing ideas that may cause them mental anguish. We can't, with a straight face, claim that women, or the LGBTQ community, or whoever, are incapable of hearing views they disagree with. It makes those groups look over-emotional, irrational, and on a lower level than the rest of us.

When we introduce a safe space policy, we invite certain segments of the student body to drop out of the debate entirely. We tell them their views can't be challenged, that they can run away from 'harmful' ideas when they are raised. We both put them on a pedestal and portray them as children who can't hack a proper debate.

Campus isn't representative of society as a whole. It's already a lot more inclusive and a lot more inclined to acknowledge and cater to the needs of members of the student body.

If we go one step further, and sanitise the views allowed on campus, we're setting them up for an even larger culture shock once they leave. Social movements have always come up against heavy opposition, and today is no exception. In inviting members of marginalised groups to ignore other views, we're removing their ability to respond to this opposition.

It speaks volumes that there are those on campus who would claim the discussion was closed and that the validity of safe spaces should not be questioned. This is a university. Everything is up for question. Are we here to learn, engage, and form beliefs to carry with us throughout our lives, or to invent the new orthodoxy and make sure everyone else marches in lock-step with it? By allowing groups of students to drop out of the debate, and placing their ideas in a sacred box so they can't be criticised, how can we claim to be preparing them for life in the big, bad world?

Meeting people who believe stupid and offensive things that make you angry is an unavoidable part of life, and of living in a free society. If, upon graduating, a student is unable to articulate their views or hear and respond to criticism of their beliefs, then the University has failed in its job. Safe spaces will only encourage this.

Comment

What are you most excited to see at Roses?

The Roses tournament begins next week, once again pitting many of our sports teams against those from Lancaster University. We asked which event was most exciting...



I'm most excited about seeing pole exercise, and the routines everyone has come up with.
Ivi Sanchez,
second-year English



I'm a big fan of basketball and sport in general, but I'm most looking forward to the atmosphere at Roses.
Simon Baron,
first-year History

I'm really looking forward to the boxing at the opening ceremony!
Becky Harris,
first-year Biology



Definitely the tennis. Fingers crossed the bubble stays intact.
Grace Marsh,
second-year French and linguistics

Topical Tweets



Helen Wright @HelenWHear
Register for the brand new @TheBHF Ride of the Roses Lancaster to York bike ride. 100 miles 12th Sep #York-Hour #cycling
13/04/2015

Giving to York @GivingToYork
Support Roses sports at York & have drinks with England's Roy Hodgson & Greg Dyke - http://spsr.me/1AO78hy @YorkAlumni
16/04/2015

Grad FC @Grad_Fc
WE ARE GOING TO ROSES! Playing against York grad Saturday at 2pm. come and support to see a game with more hip replacements than goals.
18/04/2015

Simon PETER @ativiejalegusto
"@spid3rwom4n: York=Stark, Lancaster=Lannister" Game=War, Thrones=Roses.
17/04/2015

What's to be done about the Grand National?

Is keeping up the tradition worth the cruelty?



Amy Gibbons

I think we're probably agreed that, in the 21st century, animals should not be made to suffer for sport. We don't tolerate cockfights or dogfighting, and bear-baiting has been illegal in England since 1835.

According to the Animal Welfare Act of 2006, animal abuse is punishable by a fine of up to £20,000 and 51 weeks in prison.

Why then, every year, do we as a proud nation parade to Aintree, paying up to £95 per ticket, to witness a race that is potentially lethal even to the most skilful jockey and obedient stallion?

Despite trying to understand

“I think we have probably agreed that, in the 21st century, animals should not be made to suffer for sport”

and appreciate the significance of the event's heritage, I can't fathom a rational answer.

According to The Independent, in 2014, fewer than half of the horses competing crossed the finish line. Some collapse, some go lame, others take flight in terror, and others still are injured or killed. The fences are too high for safe competition and designed to be difficult to manoeuvre.

The course is brutal (16 hurdles across almost 4.5 miles), and horses are known to be anxious in competition; as Caroline Allen writing for The Express clarifies 'Horses do not choose to run.'

They have a strong inbuilt "flight"

mechanism, so the fact they run fast and jump over obstacles simply cannot be taken to mean they enjoy it.'

Two horses died during this year's weekend festival. They were forced to run, and they were killed. According to Animal Aid, on average, one horse dies for every 50 entered into the Grand National.

So how is this sport still deemed acceptable, and even entertaining? I find it fundamentally shocking that spectators continue to 'ooh' and 'aah' as jockeys are flung from their collapsing steeds, at horses breaking their necks and legs and getting crushed under the hooves of their terrified 'rivals', at scenes of such chaos, abuse, and death that in practically any other context would stun us into silence.

Unfortunately the Grand National's cruel influence isn't reigned in once the winner is determined and the unlucky few, or often rather half of animals are escorted away, traumatized, broken, bruised, lame, bleeding, or lifeless. Allen further reports 'There is a common misconception that the top racehorses live a life of luxury', when in reality they are treated rather like "battery horses".

Controlled breeding, involving the administration of hormones and sedatives in mares to force cooperation, is common. Foals often don't make it past their second year due to chronic inbreeding.

Horses have restricted space in which to live and are known, according to Allen, to develop behaviours similar to those demonstrated by animals in captivity; they become agitated and anxious in their unnatural environment. The horse racing industry is a factory of cruelty, and it is appalling that it continues to profit today.

Natalie Bennett, leader of the

Green Party, has condemned the abuse and threatened to conduct a review of the sport, alongside that of greyhound racing and other animal welfare issues in the event of a parliament with Green influence. The Guardian reports, when 'asked repeatedly whether a ban of a racing event would be a potential outcome of any review, she [Bennett] declined to explicitly rule it out.'

So what's to be done about The

“In 2014, fewer than half the horses competing crossed the finish line. Some collapse, some go lame or are killed”

Grand National?

Animal Aid proposes that we reform the race in order to reduce the risk of injury and damage being done to the animals; to make the course safer we should demand that the number of horses running is drastically reduced (from 40 to fewer than 30), and enforce new restrictions on fence height and the number of fences per mile, amongst many other welfare improvements and safety procedures.

But even once reformed to the best standard that it can be, The Grand National will suffice to be little better than 'a typically hazardous jumps event - the kind that saw, in total, 145 horses die on British National Hunt racecourses in 2013.'

So, I suppose, the question remains: why is that we continue to believe that this cruelty is worthwhile?

#minstergram

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



They saw the suitcase.. #goodbyes #dogs #backtoYork
@loretta_dean



Detail of the Lancaster and York roses from the floor in the chapel of St. George
#westminster #catholic #cathedral #chapel #marble #art #beauty
@theologicalion

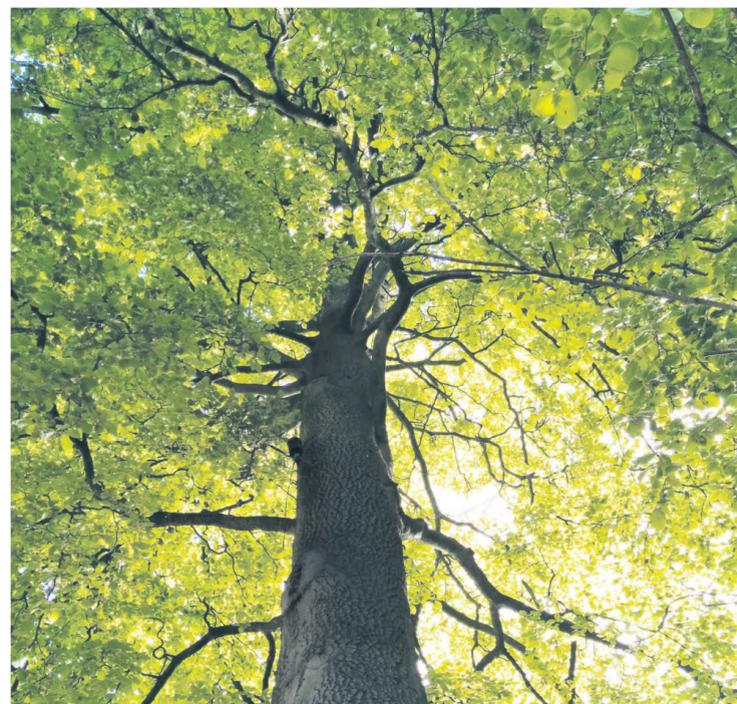
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Photography Competition 2015

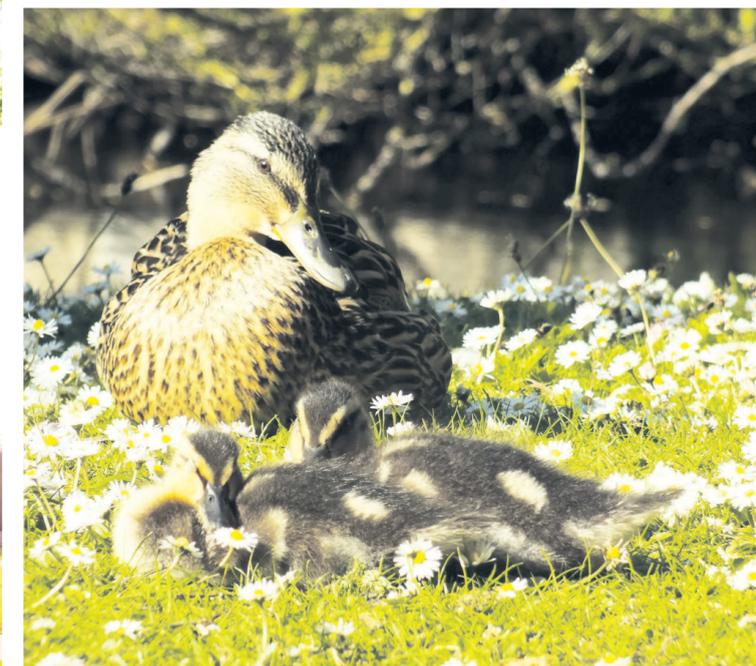
The Nouse Photography Competition is now officially closed and below are the winners of all four categories. Many thanks to everyone who entered and congratulations to the winners.



Portrait: 'Beech Spring Wood' by Robert Simpson



Action: 'Smoking' by Jack Richardson



Landscape: 'Springtime Ducks' by Robert Simpson



Campus: 'View From A Window' by Suzanne Pearson

Politics



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General Election Special 2015

Will Parliament hang?

Alex Davenport
POLITICAL REPORTER

As the Queen dissolved Parliament on 30 March, starting a gruelling and bitterly-fought election campaign, the polls were in agreement about who would win an overall majority: nobody. Instead, we appeared to be on track for further stalemate and more confusion in the form of another hung Parliament. What better time, then, for a TV debate to offer some much-needed clarity on which party would emerge victorious?

Nobody needed reminding of the 2010 election debates when little-known Nick Clegg stole the show with a passionate and engaging performance, illustrating the ability of such debates to offer party leaders a platform from which they can take the initiative in the campaign.

The seven-person debate on 2 April was to be the landmark event of the schedule of regional and national televised debates, offering the only opportunity for other parties to directly debate with the Prime Minister.

Interesting and informative though it was, the impact of the debate on the battle for Downing Street can be summed up by the diverse reactions to it.

Every snap poll, every new analysis of the debate seemed to give a different verdict on the performances of the leaders involved, some of which were so varied that it was hard to believe everyone was talking about the same debate. Where Ed Miliband was voted the best performer in a snap poll by ICM, The Sun accused him of having just lost the whole election. Ultimately, these

wildly differing opinions betray the fact that the only real conclusion to draw from the debate is just how inconclusive it really was.

All the leaders involved will have been fairly pleased with their respective performances, all of which were solid and well prepared, yet it is difficult to see how any of them could have won much favour outside their own support base. Ironically, polls indicated Nicola Sturgeon of the Scottish National Party tended to be the most adept at winning over undecided voters, the majority of whom, living outside Scotland, would be unable to vote for her.

In terms of the result of the election itself, then, the debate on 2 April will not prove to be the sole decisive factor. Instead, in offering smaller parties equal footing with their larger counterparts, it is indicative of a larger trend in our politics: the rise of 'fringe' parties.

As 7 May draws near, it appears ever more likely that these parties will decide the outcome of the election, with the SNP predicted to win as many as 56 of Scotland's 59 seats, and UKIP taking significant numbers of votes away from all three major parties. In this election, it seems likely that the debates will be more useful in understanding the result than deciding it.

KEY POINTS

- Verdicts unclear on the Seven Leaders Debate
- Nicola Sturgeon wins over non - Scottish voters
- Coalition-making will be key to the government formation

BBC'S DAVID DIMBLEBY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ELECTION NIGHTS SINCE 1964. THIS WILL BE HIS LAST ELECTION NIGHT

IMAGE: UK PARLIAMENT



OF THE LAST 22 PRIME MINISTERS, 13 CAME TO POWER WITHOUT BEING VOTED IN AT A GENERAL ELECTION

What are politicians doing for students?

Alice Moore
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The parties standing for election in May are launching their manifestos this week. They cover policies on everything from health to housing, Europe to the environment. But what are politicians promising students? Here's a round-up of what the three major parties propose to do for us.

Conservatives: true to form, the Tories haven't focused on students and young people, preferring to target their traditional, older audience.

The most notable promise they're making to students is the introduction of a national postgraduate loan system for taught masters and PhD courses to replace career development loans.

Other policies on Higher Education include removing the cap on student numbers

and placing more emphasis on teaching in university assessment. They also want to encourage more two-year courses and make more data available to potential students.

International students will be interested to know about the Tories' plans to reform student visas and place more restrictions on staying in the UK after graduation, in order to meet their targets on non-EU skilled migration.

Unlike other parties, who seek to tackle the unfair rental market with their housing policy, the Conservatives would concentrate on helping people onto the property ladder through 'Right to Buy' and 'Help to Buy' schemes.

Labour: the most obvious Labour policy affecting students – or rather, potential students – is their plan to cut tuition fees from £9,000 to £6,000 per year. For those looking beyond university at the jobs market, Labour's

pledge to tackle growth of unpaid internships might provide some comfort. Although, there's no detail about how they'll go about doing this.

In housing, they promise legislation to make three-year tenancies the norm and introduce a ceiling on rent increases. They'd also ban letting agent's fees to tenants and try to improve the quality of what's available to rent through a national register of private landlords.

Mental health is an important issue for many students living away from home for the first time and dealing with new work and emotional pressures. Labour's policy here is to introduce targets so that the majority of patients will have access to talking therapies within 28 days.

Liberal Democrats: the Lib Dems have no specific plans to reverse the hike in tuition fees over which they resided as part of the Coali-

tion. However, they would review the current student finance system across undergraduate and postgraduate education, paying particular attention to student living costs and trends in access to Higher Education among disadvantaged young people.

They also have plans to extend the income-contingent loans scheme they introduced for postgraduates. Nick Clegg is presumably hoping that his party's idea for a Young Person's Discount Card for 16-21s will win him back some popularity with this age group.

This would give young people two-thirds discount on bus travel and potentially other benefits.

In health, the Lib Dems want to introduce a 'student guarantee' to ensure easy access to medical care. They'd also maintain the Disabled Students' Allowance and improve NHS waiting times for young people, particularly for mental health services.

We asked five of the biggest political parties on campus three questions that matter to you about the General Election:

- 1) Why should I vote for you?
- 2) What is your key student policy?
- 3) What makes you different?

CONSERVATIVE

1. Only the Conservatives can deliver a growing economy, fiscal responsibility, and a fairer Britain.
2. A strong economy will ensure that we can continue bringing down the cost of living for everyone, and create more apprenticeships, university places, and crucially: jobs for every graduate.
3. We have a proven record, and we're large enough to make a real difference in government. We don't make rash, emotional, or populist political decisions. We're the party of responsibility, pragmatism, and careful consideration. Also we have Boris, no one else has Boris.

LABOUR

1. We simply cannot have another five years of Conservative rule. We are seeing greater inequality, a fall in real wages of around £1,600 a year and a cost of living crisis that sees 40 per cent of families not having enough money for a socially acceptable standard of living. And yet the Tories tell us that the worst cuts are yet to come.
2. Our key Student Policy is to substantially help disadvantaged students by increasing the amount of grant available, alongside reducing student fees to £6,000 a year.
3. The Labour Party is the only party that can deliver a real recovery felt by all, not just those at the top.

Who will get your up-vote?

IMAGE: P. A. H.



THE SHORTEST PARLIAMENT LASTED JUST 3 WEEKS IN 1640

THE LARGEST ELECTORATE CAN BE FOUND IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT WHEREAS THE SMALLEST IS NA H-EILEANAN IN WALES

Amy Bishop
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

With the use of technology in politics increasing, could this year be the first election in which social media has more impact than any other form of media on public opinion?

Since 2010 the number of people that use Facebook has more than doubled from about 500 million to 1.3 billion. Two years ago, 24 million people in the UK used Facebook and this number increases daily. This makes the website a platform that is so big and influential on people that politicians would benefit from using it.

It is the perfect outlet to access young people, and engage in conversation with the public as a whole. Politicians hold question and answer sessions and post what they have been doing within the community. This has been used more in this election than ever before.

By mid-March, 21 million interactions had been made online in regards to the May election. Elizabeth Linder, Politics and Government specialist for Facebook UK, has spoken about how more videos had been watched and shared online during just the first six weeks of campaigning in this election, than during the whole of the 2010 election. These are not just by the big party leaders, but are ever increasingly being used by politicians at a more local level.

Both David Cameron and Ed Miliband have hired people from Barack Obama's 2012 campaign team who focused on how to utilise social media in politics. Cameron brought in Jim Messina in 2013, and the following year Miliband hired David Axelrod.

Evidence of Messina's impact is shown in how one of the first interviews David Cameron gave in this election campaign was with BuzzFeed in early March. BuzzFeed is a social media website that is purely based

on the internet, showing how the Prime Minister was aware that he needed to engage with an online audience in this campaign. Political analysts have also been using social media to track both which issues are most talked about online and who has the most public support. On Facebook, the most spoken about issue in this election has been health, followed by the economy, tax, Europe and then immigration.

Along with Facebook, Twitter has been used frequently too. There are now 'hashflags' that are small emoji-like icons representing the political parties, that appear next to tweets hash-tagging the ten biggest political parties. David Cameron now has nearly 1 million followers on Twitter and Ed Miliband has almost half of that at just over 400,000, which is still a considerable number of people.

In the UK, political advertising on the TV (with the exception of party broadcasts) and radio is banned, but not on the internet. Therefore politicians have more freedom online too as content is not regulated by Ofcom or the Advertising Standards Authority.

Newspapers and more traditional media outlets are still influential but in this election the impact of social media on public opinion has been more evident than in any previous election.

Interested in getting involved in the election? Join the Nouse Politics team on election night on Twitter with the hashtag nousegeneralelection



@nouseopinion

JUST UNDER 155,000 PEOPLE ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN YORK AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS

Five years with Cameron and Clegg

Oliver Alderton
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Our five years with the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition are coming to an end. We must therefore ask ourselves whether they lived up to the promises made back in 2010, and whether they have set Britain up for a bright future.

The 2010 Conservative manifesto made promises of economic recovery and growth, NHS backing, investing and saving - not borrowing and debt. Among the promises of the Liberal Democrats were a 'fairer Britain', restoring trust in MP's after the government scandals and no university tuition fees.

The most pertinent concern of the Conservative government was to drastically reinvigorate the British economy. The economic growth for 2014 was of 2.6 per cent, accord-

ing to the Office for National Statistics, and while the national debt is increasing, it is doing so at a slower rate each year. Projections suggest that such a trend is to continue for the next five years should they be re-elected. We must remember that the economic legacy of Gordon Brown's Labour government was essentially a broken Britain. As such, it would be fair to say that the Conservatives have done their bit to successfully get the British economy back on track.

Another of the concerns was the average British person's quality of life. One of their most successful policies to improve this was to increase the tax threshold to £10,600. This saw thousands of people being brought out of the tax bracket and there are plans to increase the figure to £12,500 in the future.

Furthermore, when the Conservatives came into office, cancer survival rates were

one of the worst in Europe. Nowadays, they contend with some of the best. This would have been aided in part by consistently increasing funding for the NHS year on year.

However, their handling of the NHS has come under attack: the GP to patient ratio has decreased by about 4 per cent and despite sustained funding there is a need for considerably more. This situation has spurred the current government to promise £8 billion of funding to be channelled to the NHS by 2019.

There is so much more to discuss about the coalition government. Nevertheless, we do know that the legacy we are left with is a complicated one. The wheels are in motion, and perhaps this country is only just getting over the dire economic problems left by the Brown government.

However, we are still facing the highly unpopular 'Bedroom Tax' which is estimated

to negatively affect over 650,000 families. The Liberal Democrats themselves have let many down as they drastically failed in their attempt to scrap tuition fees. The tripling from £3,000 to £9,000 perhaps spoilt their promise of rebuilding trust between the people and politicians.

It is still fair to acknowledge that the legacy left by this coalition is certainly a brighter one than many would have hoped for after taking over from the previous Labour government. The country certainly feels like a more stable one, even in times of austerity.

KEY POINTS
Economy became the key issue for the coalition
Handling of the NHS became an important battleground.

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

1. The Lib Dems combine economic competence with fairness and a desire to free people from poverty. Our being in government has seen growth up, employment up, inflation down and the deficit reduced. We'll balance the budget by 2018.
2. Mental health is an issue we've forced to the top of the political agenda. We have recognised the debilitating effect mental health problems can have on people, particularly young people and students, and have introduced policies to improve services and stamp out the stigma.
3. We value people as individuals. We want to grant everyone a decent education, help those who lose their job, protect people from exploitation, secure a strong economy, and allow people the freedom to live their life the way they choose.

UKIP

1. UKIP represents an alternative to the main parties and genuinely believe in what we stand for.
2. UKIP plans on abolishing tuition fees for STEM subjects with a view to eventually abolishing all tuition fees in the long term.
3. UKIP are not career politicians, almost all of our candidates have done something outside of politics and are from all sorts of backgrounds and communities.

GREEN

1. Vote Green if you want politics that work for the common good. The Green Party offers a sustainable alternative to the outdated politics of the three main parties. Vote green if you think that politicians should work for a just, equitable and sustainable society.
2. We want to scrap tuition fees, as the current system isn't working. It would relieve students of their currently massive debts. Education for all is an essential part of a good democracy, and education for all means free education.
3. We are a sustainable alternative to the three main parties. We want to work for a fair economy, public NHS, a safe climate, free education, and decent homes.

Green Party

Business



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Election 2015: The business aspect

On 5 May Britain will go to the polls to decide who will govern the country for the next five years. In preparation for the event, Samuel Russell analyses some of the bigger financial questions of the election.

IMAGE: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



The Economy in stats

-1.6%

Change in real wages

The difference between the median gross weekly earnings for full-time employees in 2013 and 2014, inflation adjusted

2.8%

Growth rate of GDP

The percentage change in GDP between 2013 and 2014, with inflation taken into account

IMAGE: PLASHINGVOLE



£43 billion

Government's budget deficit

The amount that is added to the UK's public debt each year.

£1.56 trillion

Level of public debt

The total amount that the government has borrowed.

Perhaps the biggest battleground of this year's General Election, the state of the public finances has proved to be a divisive project. The current deficit, the difference between the Government's spending and income, is £43 billion per year. Each of the major parties has different policies in regards to the deficit:

Conservatives

Eliminate the deficit by 2020 through decreasing government spending. Chief targets for cuts are in Whitehall departments, welfare payments and tax avoiders. Plan extremely modest spending increases

Liberal Democrats

Reduce the deficit at a faster rate than Labour but slower than Conservatives. Will target tax evaders and high value properties while cutting spending at Whitehall and reducing welfare payments.

0.0%

CPI level of inflation

The average change in price of a group of goods between March and February 2015.

298,000

Level of migration

The difference between the number of people entering and leaving the UK in 2014.

5.7%

Rate of unemployment

The proportion of the labour force who are not employed but looking for work

7.0%

Graduate unemployment

The proportion of graduates who have left education in the last five years and are unemployed

Labour

Committed to reducing the deficit. Will raise taxation on the richer members of society. Plan to raise the top tax-band to 50 per cent, a mansion tax and increased corporation tax. Also plan to increase spending in some areas.

UKIP

Make savings and reduce the deficit. Sources of savings come from leaving the EU and cutting the aid budget. Also plan to reduce funding for Scotland, stop the HS2 project as well as increasing taxation on middle incomes.

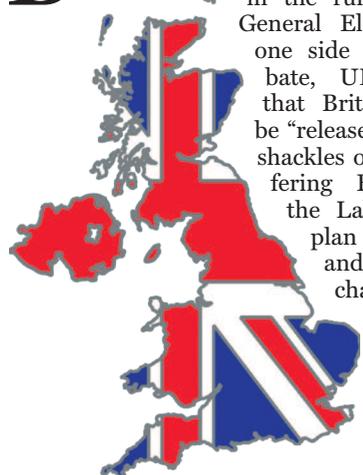
Greens

Plan to increase spending on certain areas, meanwhile raising taxation in others. Targets include the super-rich, those earning above £100,000, and the financial sector, with a financial transaction tax proposed.

The European Union: What effect does it have?

Kim Almond
BUSINESS REPORTER

Britain's membership of the European Union is a hot topic in the runup to the General Election. On one side of the debate, UKIP argue that Britain should be "released from the shackles of the interfering EU", while the Labour Party plan to stay and "work to change the EU in the best interests of Britain". The Conservatives



and the Green Party both plan to implement an in-out referendum to decide the issue.

Does the EU offer Britain good value for money? As Britain is a net contributor, it hands over more money to the EU than it gets back. In 2013, Britain's contribution to the EU was £11.3bn. Although this figure sounds like a lot, in that year total government expenditure was £720bn, making EU contributions a tiny proportion of this.

In Britain, EU funding has helped to renovate Birmingham's city centre and railway station as well as building pedestrian bridges in other cities. Our membership of the EU brings even greater financial advantages through trade.

The Single Market allows us to trade freely with other member states without facing tariff barriers. The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills has estimated that as a result of the Single Market, EU member states trade twice as much with each other.

The European Union is Britain's largest

trading partner, as over 50 per cent of our total trade in goods and services are exported to other member states. Additionally, the ability to access the Single Market has driven Foreign Direct Investment, as companies look to base themselves in Britain in order to access tariff-free trade with other member states.

That is not to say, however, that the European Union is without its drawbacks. The most highly publicised issue is the right to freedom of movement. This EU-protected right allows citizens of member states to relocate freely within the European Union. Although this allows Britain to gain skilled workers who contribute to the economy, uncontrolled immigration puts a strain on areas such as healthcare and education.

If Britain were to leave the EU, it would have to comply with EU regulations in order to continue to trade with member states. While Eurosceptics hold up Norway and Switzerland as models of countries that have succeeded without EU membership, this is

IMAGE: PIXABAY.COM



The EU has proved to be a contentious topic

reliant on Britain's ability to negotiate similar relationships with the EU. Otherwise, trade barriers could be placed on British goods being imported into Europe, rendering them uncompetitive.

As it stands, it is impossible to weigh up the true cost or benefit of leaving the EU as we cannot predict the terms on which such an exit would take place.

Winner winner, pick your dinner

James Pascoe
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

Four months into the new year, calender and student, appetite for online takeaway services seems as insatiable as ever. Danish market-leader Just Eat – the food delivery middle-man service that has provided thousands of takeaway outlets with an online and mobile platform – debuted on the UK stock market this month, with share prices of 260p making it the biggest UK technology float in eight years.

Just Eat has continued to swallow up smaller rivals this quarter, with mergers in Mexico and Spain, coupled with further organic growth in key markets such as Britain, pushing it past the £1.5 billion valuation mark.

Despite an increasingly saturated market, it is clear that Just Eat remains the dinnertime favourite for the majority of Britons. Just last month, company executives released figures revealing that 2014 was their best year on record in the UK market.

For starters, the company revealed that its active customer-base mushroomed to 8.1 million Britons by March 2015 – a rise of 37 per cent from the same time last year. The company devoured a further 62 per cent increase in revenue last year to take its total UK earnings to £157 million.

If these statistics weren't impressive enough, for dessert, Just Eat revealed that if you stacked all the burgers they sold last year on top of each other, the pile would be 2,000 times as tall as London's tallest building, the Shard.

Having glanced at the statistics, you'd be forgiven for thinking that the outlook at Just Eat was careering ever-closer to a monopoly of the British takeaway market within the next few years. But the recent redoubling of efforts from Just Eat's main rivals shows that their goose is far from being cooked just yet.

Hungry House are the owners of the second-biggest slice of the UK market share. The firm was established in 2003, significantly expanding in 2007 following a Dragon's Den



IMAGE: BRETT JORDAN

Delivery app competition has heated up faster than a microwave meal in the last few months

bid.

Hungry House has partnered with over 9,000 restaurants and has just seen investors roll out a new £200 million cash injection going towards improving its technology interface. Analysts claim that Hungry House is still on course to IPO in the summer of 2015, as it gears up to mount a serious challenge to Just Eat's crown.

Just Eat executives would be foolish to discount the threat posed by American market-leader GrubHub, as it prepares to consolidate its position in the British market with mooted expansion outside of London set to take place later this year. The firm arrived in the UK in 2013 with its merger with Seamless.

Elsewhere, the emergence of Deliveroo has spiced up the menu in the biggest British cities. Deliveroo focuses on premium quality food that gives customers an alternative to fast-food and unimaginative takeaways.

Partners including established restaur-

rant chains such as Nando's, Gourmet Burger Kitchen, Pho – the Vietnamese noodle chain – and dim-sum providers Ping Pong has seen it establish a strong market foothold in London and Manchester.

Whether York residents will soon be able to enjoy its delights remains to be seen, but the growing competition will hopefully keep Just Eat on their toes, ensuring better quality and service for customers in the coming months.

Other challengers have had to turn to more outlandish unique selling points to attract more market share. Dutch giants Takeaway.com allow their British users to pay for orders from over 7,000 restaurants with the Bitcoin currency, while London's new-kid-on-the-block EatFirst prides itself on its 15-minute average delivery time.

In a market shrouded in increasing uncertainty, one thing seems clear: the competition for takeaway supremacy is starting to get

Campus coffee comparison

Samuel Russell

Ever wondered where the cheapest coffee is on campus? Whether the vending machines are actually cheaper than the cafes? *Nouse* reviews the three places to get hot beverages in the Library based on their value for money.

The Library Cafe

A favourite place to take a break, socialise, or have lunch, the Cafe is open from 8.30 am till 8pm on week days. It serves an array of coffees as well as tea, but here we concentrate on its popular Latte as well as the usual tea.



Tea:	Latte:
Small: £1.45	Small: £2.25
Large: £1.85	Medium: £2.50
	Large: £2.75

Size:	
Small:	350ml
Medium:	450ml
Large:	550ml

The '£1' vending machine

Labelled for its value for money as well as being infamous for its terrible tea, the vending machine in the Cafe is well used. The machine, though, only offers one size, which does slightly limit its appeal.



Tea:	Latte:
One-size: £1.00	One-size: £1.00

One-size: 300ml

The Costa vending machine

This machine has the widest selection of drinks and, more importantly, is available 24 hours a day. The machine, which is cashless, does not charge for card transactions, unlike the £1 vending machine. Unknown to many, the sizes of the vending machine are smaller than those offered in the Cafe.



Tea:	Latte:
Medium: £1.75	Medium: £2.15
Large: £2.00	Large: £2.45

Size:	
Medium:	350ml
Large:	450ml

Verdict:

The vending machine is the best value for money, about 33p/100ml, but the Cafe is almost as good and has a wider selection.

Does the economy even count?

James Humpish
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

“It's the economy, stupid”. The phrase that defined Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign, coined by his key strategist. Then, as now, the country had suffered a contraction in output. Yet is the economy actually the driving force behind this year's election?

In 2008 it was a hotly contested topic, with all three of the parties agreeing that the government had to cut expenditure and the economy had to be stimulated. Infamously this led to the breaking of the Liberal Democrat's pledges and a rise in university tuition fees.

This year the economy has been brought up time and time again in political rhetoric. The Conservative party is often considered to be better for the economy, with 100 business leaders voicing their support for a Cameron government for another five years.

Meanwhile the Labour Party often argues it cares less about business and more about ordinary people. making sure that the businesses serve the needs of the people not their

shareholders. Yet, the opinion polls remain neck and neck, and the debate remains distilled. The economy isn't everything.

While growth and reducing unemployment has had its turn in rhetoric, the issue is seemingly taking a back seat.

Other factors, some of which are new to the political field, have risen to the fore. Questions such as the future of the National Health Service, tax distribution, immigration and the EU have been the focus of this year's election.

There may be several contenders for the single biggest issue at the moment but given pledges to increase investment in public services and to force through increased minimum wages, an actual efficient, high-growth economy has not been a high priority so far. Instead encouraging the economy to treat people fairly seems to be the consensus.

Does this mean that the economy isn't a major factor or does it instead mean that party leaders are broadly confident with the momentum of the recovery? The Conservatives are certainly using the current strength of the economy to justify their policies and are using it as a springboard for their campaign.

A quarter of the leaders debate was dedicated to the economy, but is it still a necessary



IMAGE: PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

The economy is not the number one priority prerequisite for competence? The economy still, though, features highly on most people's list of importance in the political parties.

As the election race heats up it is likely that the leaders will return to their old battlegrounds and the economy will rise to prominence once again.

Science



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York research sheds light on autism

Vanessa Lloyd
SCIENCE REPORTER

Ever wondered why those with autism struggle in social situations? Considering 700,000 people in the UK have this condition, you'd think someone would know why.

In actual fact, the brain processes that cause such distinct patterns of behaviour are largely unknown. I ask Dr Nick Barraclough, from the department of Psychology, whether we're getting any closer to understanding autism's causes.

Since the 1990s there has been much hype about the mirror neuron system (MNS). These brain cells have an unusual ability to respond to both observation and execution of actions, so it is possible that these neurons underpin our ability to read people's intentions.

The inability to understand how others think and feel is one of autism's greatest trademarks so it is perhaps not surprising that the 'broken mirror neuron system hypothesis' has been proposed, which states that autism is caused by faulty processing in the MNS.

There is convincing evidence to

support this claim. Several studies have shown abnormal patterns of electrical activity within the MNS, others have found thinner brain matter volumes here, and another found slower reaction times when imitating body movements.

Barraclough, however, is sceptical. There are a great many repetitive behaviours characteristic of autism that are controlled by brain regions independent of the MNS, so it is highly unlikely that failings in the MNS can fully explain the disorder. Additionally, many studies have failed to replicate the finding that people with autism are slow to imitate be-

haviour.

When asked to copy a specific behaviour, people with autism tend to actually perform very well, so it doesn't seem the case that the MNS is entirely dysfunctional.

The next piece of research undertaken by researchers at the University of York in collaboration with the University of Melbourne will investigate why those with autism struggle with empathy tasks. Previously, researchers have explicitly asked those with autism to observe people's behaviour and guess their intentions.

The problem with this type of research

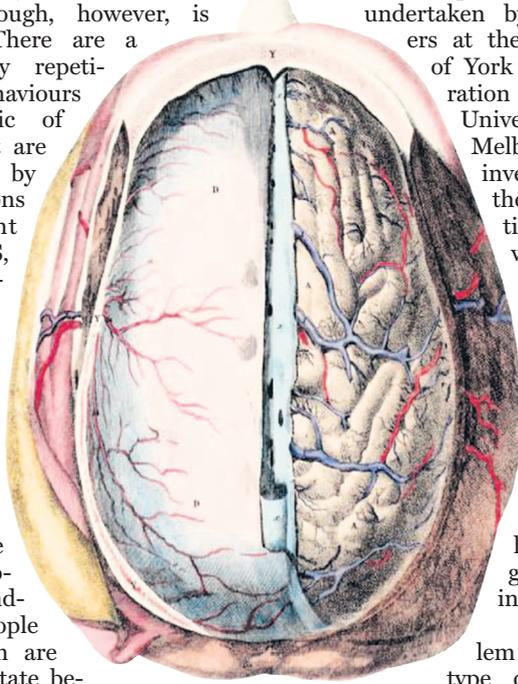
is that it doesn't relate to everyday tasks, and it's possible that compensatory mechanisms, under conscious control, could be employed, allowing them to make inferences about other's mental states in the lab when they can't in real life.

The new experiments will use a way of implicitly testing the ability to infer a person's intentions from their gestures without conscious awareness of the aims of the task. It is hoped that this will give a deeper insight into the thought processes taking place during observations of social behaviour.

I ask Barraclough whether the MNS is the key to unlocking our understanding of autism: "Is it the cause? Probably not. Does it play a role? Probably yes."

He notes that this research is still in its infancy so we don't know very much about the way the MNS interacts with other brain systems.

Until we have further research, we will have to make do with the conclusion that the MNS is likely to interact with brain systems involved in social cognition, but the extent of its dysfunction in autism may have been initially overestimated.



The pill alters the shape of your brain



New research on the contraceptive pill, taken by 100 million women worldwide, shows potential effects on parts of the brain

IMAGE: SHERMER

Emily Collins
SENIOR REPORTER

Ask anyone what a steroid user looks like and nine times out of ten they'll describe a tanned, Hulk-like figure with bulging muscles and veins which protrude from the skin. The reality, though, is that we interact with steroid users every day. In fact, if you're female and having sex, you may be one yourself.

The contraceptive pill is taken by 100 million women worldwide and roughly one third of those of reproductive age in the UK. It works by artificially altering the body's hormonal balance which, in turn, prevents the ovaries from releasing an egg each month. It also thickens the mucus in the neck of the womb so that sperm cannot pass,

and thins its lining so that, even if an egg is released, the fertilised egg won't implant.

With a 99 per cent efficiency, the pill is considered by some to be the greatest scientific invention of the 20th century. There are, however, growing concerns about the side effects of using such medication. While doctors already warn of an increased risk of blood clots and breast cancer associated with the pill, researchers are also speculating about its effects on the brain.

A recent study published in the journal *Human Brain Mapping* suggested that two main brain regions, the orbitofrontal cortex and posterior cingulate cortex, are thinner in those who take oral contraception compared to those undergoing a natural cycle.

These areas of the brain are

involved in learning and memory, emotional regulation, decision-making and reward response, and therefore could explain why some women become anxious and depressed upon taking the pill.

Without any behavioural data, the link between brain morphology and behavioural changes can only be put down to speculation. Another limitation of the study is its inability to differentiate between oral contraceptive pills, of which there are 34 different brands in the UK. Each brand contains varying amounts of oestrogen and progesterone and therefore, if they were having an effect on the brain, we would expect some of them to have larger impacts than others.

"Now, we are superimposing onto [our natural hormone fluctuation] a steroid hormone cocktail

with the potential of marking the brain in dramatic fashion," remarks neurobiologist Craig H. Kinsley in *Scientific American*. "The possibility that an accepted form of chemical contraception has the ability to alter the gross structure of the human brain is a cause for concern."

As with any form of medication, whether or not a woman takes the pill is down to her personal assessment of the costs and benefits.

While an increased chance of thrombosis may be considered a small price to pay for carefree sex, a change in the brain is a far more daunting prospect.

If doctors were liable to warn patients of neurobiological side-effects in the future it could well have fateful consequences for the use of contraception throughout the world.

Science Snippets

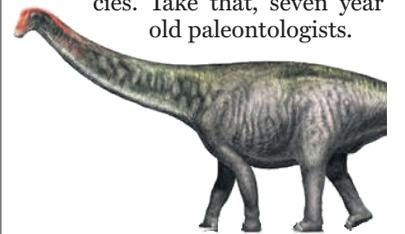
A glass of wine makes you your most attractive

To seem more attractive, the best thing to drink is one, and exactly one, large glass of wine. In a recent study at the University of Bristol, people were generally considered more attractive after 250ml of wine than when sober. The researchers attribute this to increased facial flushing that comes with consuming low amounts of alcohol, along with additional muscle relaxation, which portray a positive mood. It is worth noting that people are considered least attractive after 500ml - one more good reason to drink in moderation.



Brontosaurus troubles

As any good seven year-old dinosaur enthusiast will tell you, Brontosaurus (everybody's second-favourite dinosaur) is not actually a dinosaur. The saga of Brontosaurus is almost as long as its neck: when its bones were first discovered in 1879 they were given the name 'Brontosaurus', but by 1903 scientists had decided that it was too similar to another species, *Apatosaurus*, to be considered a distinct species. But a new study concluded that *actually* Brontosaurus is different enough to be a different species. Take that, seven year old paleontologists.



Shooting into space

A rocket carrying food, experiments, supplies and an Italian espresso maker, lifted off Tuesday afternoon to the International Space Station. The company which launched the rocket, SpaceX, is the first commercial space company to reach the ISS, and now provides regular cargo resupply missions for NASA. But SpaceX don't just want to stop there - in an attempt to design reusable rockets, SpaceX have made multiple attempts to land a rocket on a boat. This week came closer than ever, managing to land a rocket... but then it exploded. It made for an impressive video though.



Meet the bacteria that make you smell

IMAGE: ROSS POLLACK



While you're pumping iron, your armpit bacteria are hard at work pumping out stinky thioalcohols, causing your sweat to smell

Emily Hoyland
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

For those of you who wonder what all those science-y types get up to after their undergraduate degrees, here's an example of one of these fine young people making incredible contributions to the world: Dan Bowden, a University of York postgrad. In collaboration with Unilever, Bowden and his supervisor Gavin Thomas set themselves a challenge to determine what makes human sweat smell so bad.

Sweating is great; helping to maintain our bodies at a blissful 37

degrees celsius and increasing skin cell turnover for a glowing visage. But the ensuing whiff leaves a lot to be desired.

It was found that human sweat - the actual liquid exuded from the skin - is actually odourless. The source of the unpleasant smell is the bacteria residing in the warm and dark areas (a veritable breeding ground for microorganisms) that accumulate sweat.

Research was conducted specifically on the resident bacteria of the armpit. Upon interaction with odourless sweat, the bacteria releases thioalcohols, the odour of which is reported to smell like a

mixture of rotten eggs, onions and meat.

The next stage in Dan's research is to use this knowledge to create a new kind of deodorant to tackle the stink-generating microbiota. The bacteria producing the most thioalcohol has been found to be *Staphylococcus hominis*, identifying it as a target for reducing underarm stench. In research across the field of microbiology, an agreement has been reached that almost all of the microorganisms residing in or on humans are either not having a negative effect, or positively impacting on the body's ability to function. Using a general

bactericidal agent to get rid of the bacteria would be unwise as this would not only remove the capacity for the armpit to smell, but could also increase risk of dryness and propensity for infection. A perfect substance would target the thioalcohol-producing mechanism of the bacteria without damaging any other bacteria.

Before deodorant testing can ensue, the armpits of many more sweaty participants needs to be tested to find any other bacteria contributing to an individual's aromatic bouquet. As Gavin Thomas wisely put it, "It's an extremely exciting time to be a microbiologist".



Prof. Lee Cronin
@leecronin

UK general election - why does no one care about science? NHS needs science etc meanwhile the German tax payer invests another 5 B euros...

17 Apr 2015



Neil deGrasse Tyson
@neiltyson

If you're curious: First mammals to orbit Earth, in order: Dog, Guinea Pig, Mouse, Russian Human, Chimpanzee, American Human.

13 Apr 2015



Elon Musk
@ElonMusk

Ascent successful. Dragon enroute to Space Station. Rocket landed on dronship, but too hard for survival.

14 Apr 2015



Carl Zimmer
@carlzimmer

Only 30 Ebola cases reported this week, the lowest rate since May 2014.

9 Apr 2015

Magnetically levitating trains are the future of transport

Filip Preoteasa
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

It's not every day that you witness a mixed audience of undergraduates, PhD students and (a very large proportion) of academics focus their attention on a train set. No, these were not members of a hobby club; at least the event brief wasn't advertised to such a demographic.

In actual fact, these people arrived in PX/001 last Tuesday to watch Professor Ludwig Schultz

of the IFW Dresden give a highly entertaining and demonstrative talk. It was titled 'Interaction of ferromagnetic and supermagnetic superconducting permanent magnets: superconducting levitation'. From this snappy title you'd be inclined to think that this would be a wonderfully interesting lecture: you'd be correct.

The visit by the Professor was a marvellous advertising opportunity for the advancing field of superconduction and the rise of maglev transportation.

When a superconductive material is cooled below its critical temperature, its electrical resistance plummets to zero, making it a highly efficient conductor. The critical temperatures are normally impractically low for any technological application, but certain compounds, like Yttrium Barium Copper Oxide has a critical temperature of only -183 degrees Celsius! That's quite a high temperature for superconduction.

With such a material in mass-production, superconducting ferro-

magnets can be made that generate enough of a magnetic field to levitate substantial objects. In a similar way that one can almost push away a magnet by putting two North ends near each other, maglev train tracks levitate whole train carriages, like the Shanghai Transrapid.

Even more exciting and futuristic is the fact that further materials research might make maglev trains more accessible generally. They are frictionless (save for air friction), have low maintenance costs, achieve far higher speeds

than their conventional counterparts, undeterred by icy tracks and produce less noise pollution.

The plan for Professor Schultz and the researchers at IFW Dresden is to develop smaller rail cars for 4-5 people to be used when called upon, in an inner urban environment.

Prototypes have already been developed, the most charming example of which was shown to be a very smug looking researcher travelling along a levitating platform on a Turkish carpet.

IMAGE: MAXINTOSH



Sport

>> Pages 24-27

Previews of all the big fixtures at this year's Roses



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Roses Are White

Cass Brown
YORK SPORT PRESIDENT

It's the 51st year of Roses and I'm sure this will be the best yet. For those who don't know what Roses is, here are some of the facts.

Roses is our annual sporting tournament against Lancaster University. Reprised from the War of the Roses, it's the largest inter-university tournament in Europe.

This year the tournament is being hosted in York with over 140 fixtures, showcasing over 40 sports and involving around 2,500 competitors.

Last year we narrowly lost in Lancaster and I know that this has made our teams determined to bring the Carter James trophy back to Yorkshire.

So many of our clubs have enjoyed fantastic BUCS seasons this year and York has managed to maintain it's highest ever placing in BUCS of 38th. Lancaster sit 11 places behind us and I'm confident we will be victorious.

Roses 2015 officially kicks off on Friday night with Fight Night in Central Hall and a Roses festival around the campus lake where women's fencing and karate will be showcased in James Hall and the Roger Kirk Centre, respectively.

This will be followed by a countdown to fireworks from Roy Hodgson, the England Football manager himself.

Although the boxing in Central Hall has sold out there are plenty of tickets available for the free Roses Festival where the boxing will be projected on to a huge screen for all to see on Vanbrugh Paradise.

Throughout the weekend there's a whole host of fixtures which can be found on the Roses Live website and this year we're particularly proud to be holding a disability sport exhibition in the form of sitting volleyball!

As well as inviting every York student to Roses, we're also inviting York's staff and the local community.

This year we want Roses to be for everyone, that's why we're profiling disability sport and inviting as many people as possible.

All of this will be followed by the closing ceremony on Sunday where York will hopefully lift the Carter James trophy once again!

Roses is the highlight of my year and the same goes for many of our students. It's the one time in the year where everyone gets behind York and comes together for one common cause: to beat Lancaster in the battle of the Roses.

This year, Lancaster are trying to make history by beating York on our soil for the first time in 30 years. Only with your support can we ensure that York succeeds and that in 2015, Roses will, be white.

This year, let's hope that the Carter James trophy returns home to York!

FROM THE SIDELINE

NOUSE SPORT COMMENT



Lewis Hill
DEPUTY EDITOR

In three days time, our bleak, dull and grey campus will be transformed into a sea of red and white for the 51st competition of Roses.

With the big weekend racing towards us faster than Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg after a domestic, it's hard not to reminisce about last year's tournament, held at Lancaster.

One of the first matches I covered was indoor women's football and the fixture allowed me to hear, for the first time, some of the wonderfully creative chants from both sets of supporters.

A Lancastrian favourite was "Lancaster... La La La!" a chant which I'm fairly sure required no more than a couple of brain cells to conjure up. Which in Lancaster's case is probably half of the undergraduate population.

Having said that, the York chants weren't much better, the main one being the constant repetition of "Yooorkshiree." I felt a bit odd joining in with this particular chant, considering I've lived in South Gloucestershire all my life. Before you ask, no I'm not inbred and no, I don't have any extra fingers or toes.

The middle of Saturday afternoon saw plenty of excitement unfold and I managed to follow most of it on our live blog. One story that managed to find its way onto our live blog involved an American footballer being punished by Mother Nature for having a wee on some bushes.

He returned to the pitch with a unique souvenir from his al fresco toilet break. It turns out that he had been stung on the crown jewels by a stinging nettle, which I'm reliably informed is much more painful than giving birth.

The American footballer in question turned out to be one of my friends from my halls in Vanbrugh. However, to protect his privacy over such a delicate matter I'll try to refrain from revealing anything about him.

Therefore, I'll move on quickly, but just before do, I should take this opportunity to congratulate him on recently being elected as the new President of the York Centurions for the next academic year.

It was later on that same Saturday afternoon

"Another highlight was a rather odd encounter with Aloe Blacc"

that I first witnessed just how intense a Roses fixture can get. I was covering the men's hockey firsts and my only previous experience of covering this particular team was watching them suffer a 10-4 defeat at the hands of Sheffield Hallam. My hopes were not exactly high.

Yet much to my own surprise and delight, the boys served up a classic. The match was fast, frantic and there was far too much action for one man and his pen to take down all in one go. Deep into the second half, York had managed to draw level with Lancaster, having been 4-2 behind.

The match ended in heartbreak for the York boys as Lancaster managed to pinch a goal in the

dying seconds to win 5-4. Despite the disappointing final score, the match itself was phenomenal.

Later that night, I was sent to help cover the men's darts with former Sports Editor, Tom Fennelly. One highlight of the evening was watching Tom's eternal struggle as he tried to balance both his pint and iPad so he could drink and update the live blog simultaneously.

Another highlight was a rather odd encounter with Aloe Blacc. Well, less of an encounter, more a case of him giving me a cheeky favourite when I tweeted that one of the darts players walked in to his song, "The Man." Strange things happen at Roses.

The next morning I woke up on a lecture hall floor, feeling a little worse for wear and wondering what could possibly top such a brilliant Saturday. The answer? Ballroom dancing.

The music and dancing was incredibly infectious, so much so that one of the judges ended up doing his best Giovanni Ribisi impression (a.k.a. the creepy dancing bloke in the Seth MacFarlane film, *Ted*.) The amount of hip action was a little inappropriate. There were children in the audience, after all.

Now there is a point to this trip down memory lane. Roses only happens once a year. There is nothing else like it in the York sporting calendar. A former member of the *Nouse* sport team once equated College Varsity to sports day and Roses to the Olympics. This is the big one.

Even if you hate sport, struggle to catch a ball or feel nauseous even looking at a treadmill, do try to go along to a Roses fixture and support the White Rose, you might even enjoy it!

But whatever you do, don't take a piss in some stinging nettles.

Earning the big BUCS

BUCS Chief Executive **Karen Rothery** tells Tom Harle what playing sport at university can do for your employment prospects and how her organisation is responding to discrimination in higher education sport.

Karen Rothery, Chief Executive of British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS), is on a flying visit to the BUCS Women's Football Festival, hosted by York in March. She delivers an engaging keynote speech, drawing chiefly upon her own career and the "daunting" leap from the garment manufacturing sector to sport - an industry in which she had no previous experience.

Karen spends the lunch break picking the brains of York students. She exhibits delight upon hearing that Cass Brown's successor as York Sport President is also a woman, and appears enthused at the magnitude of the upcoming Roses rendezvous with Lancaster.

The hosting of the festival was awarded to York thanks both to the success of its women's football club and the work of club president Ellie Whittaker with Marie Curie, BUCS' official charity partner for the next two years.

For Karen, who sat down with *Nouse* before jumping on a train back to London, it was a highly successful inaugural conference: "This day tries to crystallise the important messages about women getting involved in sport at all levels. We've had some really interesting speakers here today.

"The Sport England 'This Girl Can' campaign has been terrifically powerful in getting women involved in sport, and we've had some great examples this morning from Jo (Drap-

"I understand why people think that BUCS is all about Loughborough... but we aren't"

er), the campaign director, of how women can get around the fear of judgment and take part in sports they wouldn't have otherwise.

Rothery's primary engagement with York has been working with Cass Brown in her role as BUCS Student Director. She was effusive in her praise of Cass: "Cass is a really inspiring person. She's just not let gender get in her

way at all, she's been our best student director of all the ones we've had over the last seven years, and a fantastic workmate actually. She is really focused on getting women involved in sport and doing a fantastic job."

The BUCS mission is to 'enhance the student experience through sport', although Karen explains that, in fact, the impact of getting involved in sport at university goes beyond graduation and well into working life: "In 2013, we commissioned a piece of research with Sheffield Hallam Sport Industry research centre- we wanted to be able to evidence our anecdotal belief that we have held for generations that sport has a positive impact on graduate employability.

"We can now evidence that if you take part in sport, you'll get a better job, you'll earn more money throughout your career - significantly so - and you will have fewer and shorter periods of unemployment. From a graduate perspective, we know that employers are seeking out the skills you gain from playing sport... they are seeking out leadership, teamwork and empathy.

"They are looking for some of the softer skills you develop by playing sport at university. All round, it's a great thing for students to get involved in, especially if they can take on leadership roles in sport, we know that employers are looking for those things."

Karen is clearly media-trained, but she speaks candidly and earnestly about her experiences throughout.

She makes a point of downplaying her own sporting prowess: "I'm not much of a sportswoman I'm afraid! I swam for a club as a kid and played hockey and netball for school but never aspired to be a great sportsperson.

"But the things I learned through sport have stood me in very good stead. That tenacity as an individual swimmer has impacted on my own career, and the sense of self-belief it has given me has been invaluable."

Her brow furrows slightly as we enter uncharted territory; I put to her the notion that BUCS is inherently geared towards serving established sporting universities and ask her where York sits in relation to this.

"I hear that York is 39th in the BUCS table, so that's no mean feat. I understand why people think that BUCS is all about the



IMAGES: JAMES HOSTFORD

Loughboroughs and the Leeds Mets, but I can reassure you that we aren't. We had our Nationals recently and there were students taking part from well over 100 universities.

"We now offer students the opportunity to take part as a novice alongside people who might be going to Rio... I went along to our

"I think women should feel entitled to the top roles and not create our own glass ceiling"

trampoline championships at the Nationals and there were over 800 competitors, making it the biggest trampolining tournament in the UK.

"Even if you'd just started trying trampolining this term, you could still take part in a national competition."

York student and Santander Elite Sports Scholar Steph Clutterbuck, who I interviewed for *Nouse* last month, came fourth in BUCS' rowing nationals as a novice having taken up the sport just weeks before.

Steph has subsequently progressed into the GB U23 squad and is targeting Tokyo 2020. Karen is enthused by this example and at the end, asks me to send her on more information.

"We do likewise in lots of our sports. This, along with our investment of the £50 million provided by Sport England which is all geared towards boosting social sport, shows our commitment to participation as well as performance."

From here, I explain the details of discipline and subsequent suspension of the hockey club earlier in the term.

Karen noticeably winces when I recount some of the details of the case, although the comprehensive response she delivers shows how seriously BUCS are taking such issues.

"I don't think I ever remember being sub-

ject to anything directly sexist within my own career, but I do think it is a major issue.

"We raised this at our AGM, at Cass' behest actually, and conducted a panel discussion with representatives from Stonewall and LSE, where they had also had a hideously misogynistic incident with their rugby team.

"The really interesting thing was that it was it was almost like an Alcoholics Anonymous situation," she reflects.

"We talked about it on the panel and almost everyone in the room basically said 'we have this issue at our university and we thought we were the only ones'.

"Anti-social behaviour around sport is not something that is limited to the Higher Education sector but we think we can start to address it, and I think it's really important that we do.

"There are universities that have highly competitive clubs that create a sense of exclusivity through their high quality of performance. The money invested through Sport England can create new, more social formats for students in which these issues don't exist. There is a way of doing sport that doesn't create this exclusivity. University sport, is, and must continue to be, truly and entirely inclusive."

In her speech, Karen issues somewhat of a rallying cry to fellow women in business and sport.

"We have just finished a recruitment process for our second BUCS Chair - I am not breaking any confidences when I report that of over 30 applicants, only one was a woman, who then pulled out before the process was complete. This was very disappointing, especially for an organisation with a 50/50 gender split, a woman CEO and 2 women on the board."

She pauses, and states: "I feel like saying 'come on, have some confidence and aspiration."

I think we should feel entitled to the top roles and act accordingly, do things in our own style, as women in business and sport, and not create our own glass ceiling by finding reasons not to pursue a career dream which are not to do with how good we are." Karen Rothery is certainly doing things in her own style. **M**



Roses 2015: The Key Fixtures

Matt Kirkum, Rob Middleton and Tom Harle take a look at the crucial clashes that could determine the destination of the Carter-James trophy

Men's Rugby



It has been a difficult year for the first XV. Having finished rock bottom in what was a challenging BUCS Premier North B League, the club will be hoping for success in this year's Roses tournament.

Despite this, club captain Thom Arnott remains positive, telling *Nouse* that "there have been some strong performances and the boys have fought hard in every fixture."

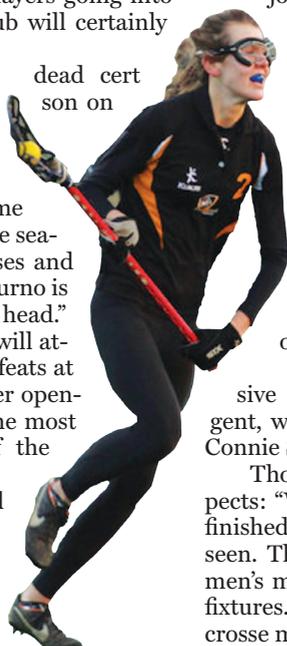
Although it has been tough, a core of players going into next year has emerged which means the club will certainly bounce back."

Going by the form books, a victory is a dead cert for the first team as they look to end the season on a high. Indeed, Arnott expects "nothing less than a whitewash" and is confident in his team's abilities.

"The front row as a collective have had some storming performances towards the end of the season and I expect them to take this into Roses and dominate at scrum time. In the backs, Sam Durno is always dependable and can turn a game on its head."

Meanwhile, the second and third teams will attempt to bounce back from disappointing defeats at last year's Roses. Despite the fixture no longer opening the tournament, rugby remains one of the most eagerly anticipated and popular sports of the weekend.

Arnott added that: "Rugby appeals to all tastes. Whether it is the brutality of tackling and the set piece or the dazzling feet of the boys out wide." With large crowds expected, it would be by no means a surprise to see York dominate every single rugby fixture.



Lacrosse



Lacrosse at Roses has begun to resemble somewhat of a victory procession for the Black and Gold, who will rightly be very confident about securing all 12 points that are up for grabs in this sport. From the last 10 times they have faced their Lancaster rivals in men's, women's and mixed formats, York have lost just once. UYLC President Claire Thomas passed off last year's loss in the men's game as a mere blip: "Lancaster enjoyed an unexpected victory last year in the men's game playing absolutely outstanding lacrosse, so credit to them there, but two of our team's strongest players were away at nationals. This season's squad are brilliant, so we are confident of a return to the customary whitewash."

After gaining promotion in 2013, both men's and women's sides have managed to consolidate, achieving mid-table positions in highly competitive 1B leagues. The men are anchored by George Balmford in goal, while Andy Thomas is sure to catch the eye with his singular quality on offense.

The ladies have a formidable defensive unit, boasting a significant first-year contingent, which allows the likes of captain Chloe Searle and Connie Shaw to express themselves further forward.

Thomas is typically bullish about her club's prospects: "We have excelled this year; both teams have finished third, playing the best lacrosse York has ever seen. The women's game is more dextrous and the men's more physical, but both will be extremely close fixtures." Expect York to pick up maximum points in the lacrosse matches.



Women's Rugby



The University of York Women's Rugby club have endured a tough season this year in their BUCS Northern 1A League. Finishing fifth out of six, a solitary victory condemned the club to relegation.

However, club captain Thulani Kimbugwe remained in positive spirits when she spoke to *Nouse*, "One word sums up this season for UYWRUFC: progress. We got promoted to a harder league, and lost our coach halfway through the year, and though we are being relegated, our game has improved so much over the season." Kimbugwe pointed out that this year's Roses fixture is not one for the faint-hearted.

"The last time Lancaster was on York soil, there were a lot of ambulances - mostly for their injured players. This is a grudge match of epic proportions and Lancaster will not hold back in the hope of winning all of their matches."

There is plenty of talent on show which should ensure a high level match. "Centre, Mollie Staples, is a force to be reckoned with when she's got the ball in her hands! Juliette Carter, flanker, has some incredible speed that comes out of nowhere! Also, watch our for try saving tackles from fresher, Edith Sandström, who folds people in half".

Women's rugby remains a crowd pleaser and one that exhibits all the unpredictability and excitement that makes the sport a spectacle not to be missed. "It's an incredibly intelligent game and Lancaster are going to come for blood on the 22." As usual, the women's first team will be complemented by two rugby sevens fixtures and Kimbugwe believes York will deliver in all three matches: "We are looking to win all of them. If this game is not the epitome of the War of the Roses, I don't know what is."

Netball



After four consecutive Roses defeats, York Netball firsts are in prime position to buck the trend and grab all four points on offer. A successful BUCS Northern 3B League campaign saw the team comfortably record second place while also claiming the accolade of the only team to have beaten eventual league victors, Leeds seconds.

Unsurprisingly, club captain Hollie Dixon was thrilled with the University of York Netball Club's accomplishments this season when she spoke to *Nouse*: "The club have performed outstandingly this season with each team finishing their leagues in great positions."

"The first team just missed a double promotion, finishing second in their new league, and it has been very exciting making it to the cup quarter finals for the first time."

They should, therefore, take confidence from their performances this year as they come up against a strong Lancaster team once more.

"They are a league above so we know they will come with the confidence to win, although we have beaten teams above their league this year."

The club have had some stand-out performers this year, not least in the first team. The defending duo Lottie Hyett and Chloe Cannon, both new to the firsts, have proven a real force. Megan Gonsalves is a fresher for the third team this year and has dominated the centre court with some fearsome play.

With six netball fixtures to choose from, the sport is likely to attract large crowds with potential victories in every match.



Hockey



Last year's Roses saw a closely fought encounter in the Hockey, with Lancaster narrowly taking the majority of the points, 11.5-7.5. However, an impressive year in the BUCS leagues and a home advantage will mean that the Black and Gold will expect to avenge last year's defeat.

Presidents Tiarnan Cotter and Hermione Warmington, speaking to *Nouse*, detailed a record breaking year for the UYHC: "All six teams have either equalled or beaten their previous BUCS points record. Our Men's seconds got promoted for the second year running and the Men's firsts achieved promotion in their Yorkshire League. All of the Ladies teams finished in the top three of their league, with the seconds and thirds narrowly missing promotion."

Speaking on the opposition, the Presidents were confident that Lancaster's poor form this year would continue.

"Last year saw both the Lancaster Men's and Ladies' firsts promoted, but neither have won a game this season and that will definitely not end with us! UYHC is stronger than ever, and we are confident of securing the whitewash!" Doing so will require a good team performance, but will also rely on individual players putting in good performances. For the players to shine, they need support, and hockey is no exception.

With 100 players expected from both York and Lancaster, the Black and Gold will need extra support to spur on their players. "Come down to experience the most intense match at Roses. If the game itself doesn't get you going, then come for the atmosphere. You will not have witnessed a crowd like it."



Men's Football



The football fixtures are always hotly anticipated, but have not been fertile ground for York in recent years. In 2013, they scored just once in four games, conceding a home whitewash, while only a Josh Bew brace in a 2-2 draw in last year's opening ceremony game prevented another fruitless weekend. The White Rose will be smarting from these defeats and go in search of revenge after promising BUCS campaigns.

President Guy Bowden commented: "We have had a very strong season this year. After achieving promotion last year, the first and second teams quickly established themselves in their new BUCS leagues and showed they belonged at this higher level."

The first team are strong defensively. Joe Fox has been their standout individual this year, offering unwavering consistency in the left-back role. Andrew Naylor, when on song, pulls the strings effortlessly for the second string in the number 10 position, although his side often struggles to keep the back door shut. Dyaus Gohil-Patel has enjoyed a virtuoso debut season for an enterprising Third XI.

Bowden reflected his club's steely determination to put things right this time around: "In recent years, we've been second best to most Lancastrian sides and we are expecting three tough matches. If we match them physically, our quality on the ball should show. The club has been playing some fantastic football this year and we are very confident of avenging previous results."

The indoor format is racked with uncertainty, but on the whole, the White Rose should easily better previous Roses performances.

Boxing Clever

Tom Harle

SPORTS EDITOR

On Friday night, the spotlight will be squarely fixed on the Boxing Club as they contest their first ever competitive fights on the biggest stage at the Roses opening ceremony.

Central Hall will be transformed into a full-blown boxing arena which will see York pit their wits against Lancaster in four official Roses bouts from 6pm.

The club's showpiece, Exhibition Fight Night, has run since summer 2013. The two editions of the event have included female fights, up to seven male contests and mixed martial arts duels, including Muay Thai, a mixed martial art founded in Thailand.

The excitement generated around these events looks to have been matched at this year's Roses, with the York Sport Union as-tounded by the popularity of Friday Fight Night, which is a sell-out.

UYBC train on campus three times a week, under the supervision of their coach Fraser Neill, and has well-established links with York Amateur Boxing Club in Walmgate, where selected fighters train on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays by invitation only.

The club only recently became competitive, affiliating with England Boxing - the amateur boxing regulatory body - this year, and gaining a medical licence just two months ago, which means they are now eligible to compete.

Likewise, Lancaster have also just established themselves as a competitive team as of this year and the rivals recently met to match up fighters.

This suggests the fights should be well-balanced affairs. Three of the four official Roses bouts will be fought at middleweight by Oliver Farrar, Dan Aron and Laurie Twine who, despite the backing of the crowd, lost on a points decision at last year's Fight Night. Club President and welterweight Aaron Dougherty will take part in the other Roses fight.

Dougherty spoke to *Nouse Sport* this week about his excitement ahead of Friday Fight Night: "All four of us box quite differ-

ently and have something unique to offer. This will be most of the team's first bouts, and no head guards will be used, so who knows - you might even get to see a knockout!

"Boxing is effectively an extreme game of chess played with your body, constantly trying to out-manoeuvre your opponent.

"Once you're in the ring there's no one there to help you, it's down to you. Its explosive, fast-paced and anything could happen on Friday night."

Boxer Dan Aron expressed his trepidation, in light of the baying sell-out Central Hall crowd that will accompany his walk-on.

"The idea of fighting in front of so many people fills me with excitement, but also no small serving of terror.

"There are very few moments in life when you find yourself the sole attention of close to a thousand pairs of eyes, so naturally there's a little trepidation.

"It's going to be a massive spectacle, they've really pulled out all the stops and I can't wait."

In addition to the four official Roses contests, two York St John students, Will Pugh-Cook and Sam Kirk, who also train at York ABC have been invited to box on the night.

There will also be a fight between heavyweight Adam Flattery - who could not be matched with a Lancaster opponent - and a non-student from the York area. These bouts will not count for Roses points.

There will be no fight between female students due to a weight category discrepancy between the two girls from York and Lancaster prepared to compete.

YUSU have arranged for a female exhibition bout to be fought and can deliver on their promise that this will be the first time that women's sport forms part of the Roses opening ceremony.

The Roses Festival will run concurrently, centred at the heart of campus around the lake.

A big screen will show the boxing alongside outdoor entertainment and live music. Roy Hodgson will open the tournament at 9pm.



Heavyweight Adam Flattery will fight a local boxer

IMAGE: FRONT LAWN FILMS



IMAGE: PETROC TAYLOR

Last year's version of Exhibition Fight Night, held in the Roger Kirk Centre, was a great success

Debutants gear up for Roses

IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD



Handball is one of three sports now worth points at Roses

Robert Middleton

DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

THE 51ST annual Roses tournament sees five new sports added to the fixture list. This year, handball, kendo, and ultimate frisbee are to be worth eight, four and six points respectively, having only been exhibition matches last year.

These additions could be advantageous for the White Rose, having won two of the three fixtures in Ultimate Frisbee last year.

Many are predicting this year's tournament to be much closer than the last 75 point, home victory for York, so any additions to the fixture list could prove pivotal.

Completely new to the tournament are rugby league and futsal. The addition of futsal to the Roses calendar bodes well for York.

Lancaster's futsal club is still in its infancy, and with York's equivalent one of the best in the country, it could be a reliable source of points for the Black

and Gold this year.

History will also be made, with the addition of the Roses tournament's first disabled sport, sitting volleyball. The fixture, which will be covered and live tweeted by *Nouse*, is set to take place in the Main Hall of the Sports Centre at 14:30 on Friday 24 April.

Naturally, for the new sports, preparation will be key. Unlike the established sports, the build-up to Roses will be something that many new players will not have experienced.

Nouse have spoken to Matt Littlechild, one of the Handball Club's Presidents, as they look to win the first ever points on offer for their sport.

He commented: "We are in the midst of our final preparations, making sure fitness and intensity are at high levels. We're drilling our set plays and making sure chemistry is at the highest possible level. The atmosphere at training has been fantastic, we can't wait."

Despite being played last year, octopush is still set to be an exhibition match

at this year's Roses. Ben Lombardo, Octopush Club President, spoke to *Nouse* about the reasons behind this.

"This year the Lancaster Club has not had sufficient use of facilities to build a team and LUSU have stated that they would not allow the octopush match to be played for points.

This is a real shame as the club has done the best it could in the last 14 months that it has existed, but facilities and mechanisms were not in place to secure the club's continued development.

We at York had a hand in the formation of the Lancaster club as we hoped it would increase the sports visibility and increase participation.

The octopush club will not be deterred by the lack of points available: "We will still play the match, and we will be hosting a one hour session for anyone to come and learn how to play octopush at 15:30 in the York Sport Village.

The match shall still take place and we hope for a good turn-out for support for both teams."

The Fixtures

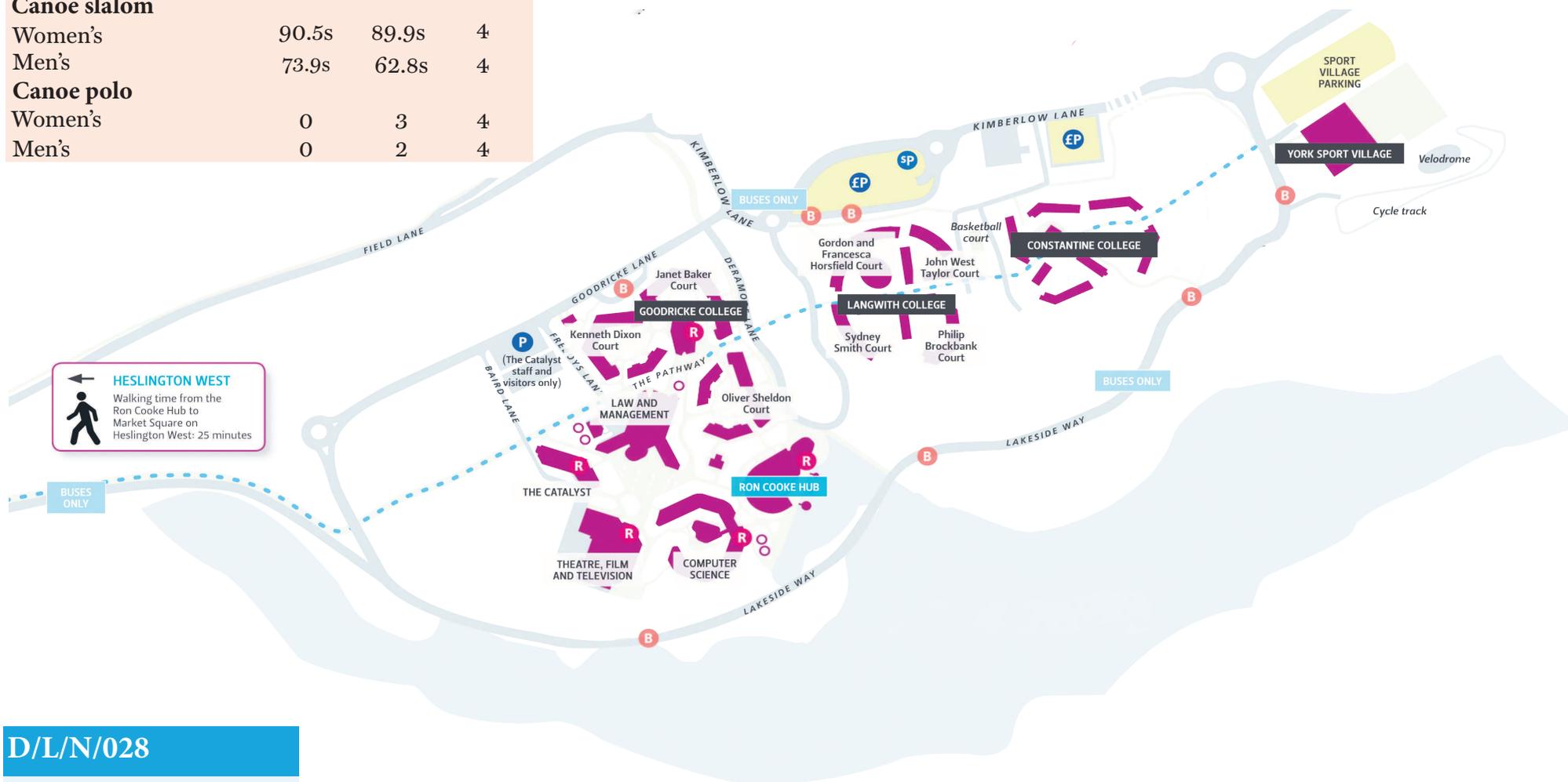


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Roses results thus far:

FIXTURE	YORK	LANCS	PTS
Canoe slalom			
Women's	90.5s	89.9s	4
Men's	73.9s	62.8s	4
Canoe polo			
Women's	0	3	4
Men's	0	2	4



D/L/N/028

Saturday April 25

Pole fitness 13.30
University Challenge 17.30

Sunday April 26

Cheerleading 17.30

V/045

Friday April 24

Comedy 20:00

Saturday April 25

Debating 12:00

HES EAST CAMPUS HILLS

Saturday April 25

Mountain biking 10.30

CYCLE TRACK

Saturday April 25

Circuit race 12.00

YORK SPORT VILLAGE POOL

Saturday April 25

Swimming Men's 13:00
Swimming Women's 13:00
Octopush 15:30
Water polo Men's 17:45
Water polo Women's 19:00

25-24

York lead the historic War of the Roses, with a slender advantage over their Lancaster rivals

1985

The last time Lancaster claimed an away Roses victory in York

75

The points margin by which York claimed the Carter-James in the last home Roses in 2013



Lancaster surged into the lead with wins in the canoe slalom and canoe polo in Saturday's opening Roses events

Roses fixtures in full

Your essential guide as to where and when you can catch all the Roses action this weekend



Nouse Sport



Summer Term Week 2
Tuesday 21 April 2015
www.nouse.co.uk/sport



Club by club
Roses preview
>> Page 24

College Cup draw announced

Jamie Summers
Tom Fennelly

THE COLLEGE Cup draw has been released ahead of the 2015 competition, which gets underway the day after the conclusion of this year's Roses tournament.

Significant changes have been made to the structure of the competition for this year, following the introduction of promotion and relegation in the league structure.

Two new groups will be added alongside the main Group Stage for Vase qualification, while new seeding rules have been introduced

for the first time.

In light of the new structure, teams are now seeded for the four main groups based upon the league division they will be competing in at the start of the 2015/16 season. This means that numerous seconds teams have been seeded in the top pool.

The two highest-placed teams in each group will qualify for the College Cup knockouts; third and fourth-placed teams enter the College Plate, fifth place goes into the Vase, and the bottom side is eliminated.

The highlight of the draw sees the return of the infamous 'Group of Death' in Group

D, which sees current Revolution Premier League holders Derwent firsts drawn alongside James firsts, and Constantine firsts. Derwent and James face each other on Wednesday 6 May while Constantine kick off their campaign against Derwent on Friday 1 May before meeting James on Friday 29 May.

Meanwhile, current College Cup holders Halifax firsts, who will go in search of their fifth successive appearance in the final, will face a tough test against high-fliers Derwent seconds. They will play each other on 19 May.

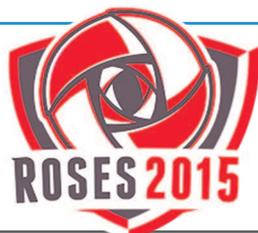
The last side to lift the trophy since Halifax's domination began, Vanbrugh firsts,

appear to have a relatively easy route to the knockout stages. However, Alcuin seconds will be hoping to upset Vanbrugh when they face the Premier League side on Wednesday 20 May.

For the first time this year, 12 lower-seeded sides will take part in a separate group stage to qualify for the College Vase knockouts. This includes a Barbarians team from each campus, comprised of players from assorted colleges, who are not named in any other squads. The top two sides in each six-team group will qualify. The full draw and fixture list will be available online.

Cass Brown talks Roses

York Sport President delivers her rallying cry ahead of the weekend's tournament
p24



Earning the big BUCS

Nouse Sport speaks to BUCS Chief Executive Karen Rothery on her recent visit to York
p22



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