



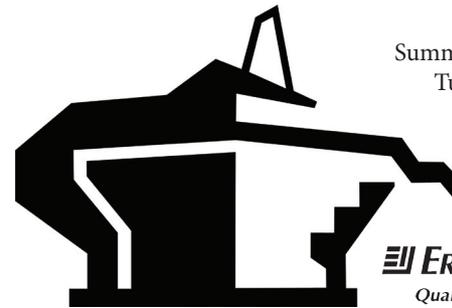
# Yorkshire's Cultural Olympiad

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# NOUSE



Summer Term Week Five  
Tuesday 22 May 2012  
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## Concern over international academic misconduct cases

AGGIE TORRANCE

■ A “disproportionate” number of international students still involved in academic offences

**Rose Troup Buchanan**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT cases continue to involve a “disproportionate number” of international students, despite the University having identified the problem in 2008.

Students “emphasised their need for assistance in becoming familiar with the UK assessment system”, despite the University acknowledging it “remains concerned at the disproportionate number of academic misconduct cases in areas where there is a high proportion of international students”.

The information emerged in a review conducted by the Quality Assurance Authority for Higher Education (QAA), which was published in May, after conducting an investigation over the previous months.

Mike Anstey, YUSU International Officer, stated that although the report was “generally a very positive report and an accurate reflection of the University”, he did note that “there is so much more that can be done”.

In the last academic year, 30 undergraduate students, 16 from overseas, 10 from China, one from Hong Kong, two from Kazakhstan, and a single student from Russia were involved in academic misconduct cases. This is an increase from the previous two years. In 2008/9, 12 overseas students, seven Chinese students, and in 2009/10 14 overseas students and 11 Chinese students were involved in academic misconduct cases.

A University spokesperson stated: “The academic integrity tutorial continues to be developed, improved, and made accessible to all types of students.

“We have introduced an introduction in Mandarin. We are considering a similar initiative in some other languages.”

In 2008 it was revealed that international students were 2.5 times more likely to be involved in an academic tribunal compared to their British peers.

International students make up 23 per cent



Falsification, fabrication, or plagiarism is broadly defined as academic misconduct by the University

of York's total student population, which presently stands at 15,782, of which 11,748 are undergraduates. International students come from over 120 different countries.

The report noted that international students “did not always understand the assessment requirements and requested more formative assessment opportunities.”

Anstey continued: “I think this was just an indication that this area is one where we need to

work on ensuring that international students are not prejudiced [against].”

Academic misconduct is broadly defined by the University as cheating, colluding, fabricating, personating, or plagiarism of other work

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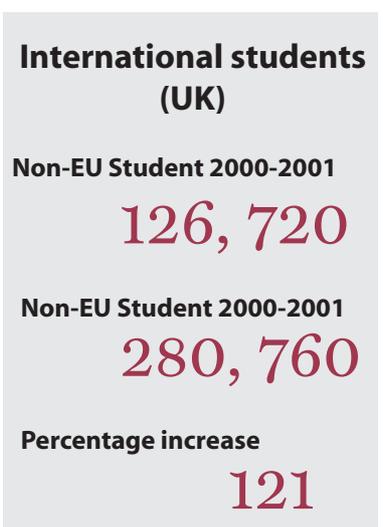
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which is not the students. There are strict guidelines students' research: "unethical behaviour" and "dishonest interpretation of results" are defined as academic misconduct. Anstey stated there was a need

"There are different methods the University can implement to ensure that international students aren't prejudiced [against] and support is rendered to them if needed"

YUSU International Students Officer  
Mike Anstey

to examine the "different methods that the University can implement to ensure that international students aren't prejudiced [against] and support is rendered to them if needed. I believe the very small proportion of misconducts that they refer to is a result of confusion and not so much a product of deliberate deceit - so we have to try and minimise this potential for confu-



Statistics from Universities UK report, and the Complete University Guide

sion." Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, said: "International students often come from countries which have a different academic culture, particularly when it comes to recognising the contribution of others and their work. The University needs to ensure that it is effectively supporting these students in the transition to the UK higher

education environment." Although the University does offer an introduction to the Academic Integrity tutorial in Mandarin Chinese, it was only introduced this academic year, and the review suggested the need for further assistance to international students upon arrival at the University. Anstey seconded this, saying: "this [academic tutorial] is still

a very basic facility", which needs improvement and expansion. However, he did state that: "a respectable effort has been made to try and accommodate them [international students] and edge them into the UK system."

Anstey further questioned the financial possibilities of extending the offered language tutorials, although he said: "There are other methods we can employ and explore to aid international students during their transition from their countries and respective systems

"The University needs to ensure that it is effectively supporting these students"

YUSU Academic Activities  
Graeme Osborn

to the UK system. Whether this is mentoring, or additional talks and guidance rendered during their time at university."

Joy Yixin Zhang, International Students Association Welfare Officer, commented on how pleased she was that the University was showing some interest in the matter, having had one PhD student come to her complaining how she had been mistreated by her department.

However, Yixin Zhang stated that the University should not focus entirely upon the international students' level of English: "Sometimes I hear from some international students who speak English very well, saying they cannot even understand some other people (because those people cannot express themselves properly). I think the University should at least be a little bit more strict with [all] prospective students' English level."

She went on to say that: "I think the University could have done better to make international students feel at home."

International applicants to the University, whose first language is not English, are required to show evidence of their English language ability, and most departments have a minimum requirement of at least IELTS (International English Language Testing System) 6.5.

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Summer Reading Programme launched

The University is in the process of launching a new Summer Reading Programme for undergraduates starting at York in Autumn 2012. This new innovation will encourage new undergraduates to read the same book over the summer, and then discuss its themes in discussion groups with current college students. The University website states that it hopes that the programme will give students "something different to discuss with their new College mates". Current students are encouraged to suggest ideas for the upcoming summer's text.

New facility for the Roger Kirk Centre

The University is investing £100,000 in a new food servery in the Roger Kirk Centre. The work is set to begin on the Monday 11th June and will continue for three weeks. Temporary facilities will be installed to cater for customers while the work is carried out; all service and opening times will remain the same. The Roger Kirk Centre features the Galleria restaurant and one of the University's Costa Coffee outlets, making it the largest catering outlet on campus.

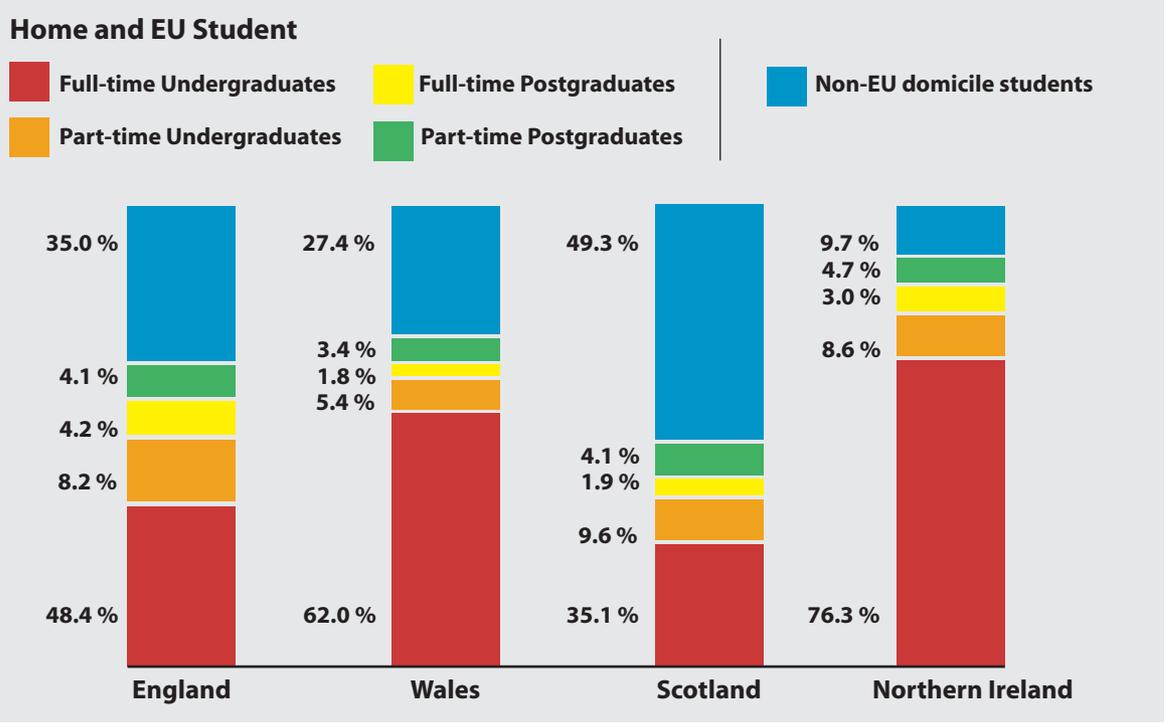
Vehicle traffic around campus reduced

An annual traffic survey, conducted by an independent body on behalf of the University, has shown a reduction in vehicle traffic. Vehicle movements have decreased by five per cent in the last year, from 10,380 to 9,824, while cycle journeys have increased by 32.5 per cent, from 4,347 to 5,764. The results have been linked with initiatives by the University to encourage more environmentally-friendly transport, for example, improvements to cycle and pedestrian routes. The results come in the context of a 15.1 per cent increase in the University's population between 2011 and 2012.

Reporting by Ross D'lima

Income from course fees by country of institution (2010-11)

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# Agencies to publish full student addresses

● Local letting agent criticises plans for a new law forcing companies to reveal students' full addresses

**Laura Hughes**  
NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS IN York could see landlords revealing the full addresses of properties on their websites under a proposed change in law.

This new alteration of the law and amendment of the principal regulations, proposes the EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) and the full postal address of a property is made available with all house publicity.

This means that agents will have to reveal the full address of student properties on their websites when advertising them for the following year.

Robert MacMahon, Access Properties York, believes the amendment is "not necessary and potentially harmful." MacMahon told *Nouse*: "I would have thought that the relevant information without the full address would be quite

"I can appreciate that many students may prefer that the full address of their current house was not available online"

Access Properties York  
Robert MacMahon

sufficient for the advertising purposes and I can appreciate that many students may prefer that the full address of their current house was not available online."

With the exception of Sinclair,



Robert MacMahon from Access Properties York has called the proposed changes unnecessary and potentially harmful to University of York students

an agent will usually only reveal the name of the street rather than give the full address. Concerns surround paragraph 4 of The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) which amends regulation 6. In paragraph 5 of the amendment, the option to exclude the full address does not apply to residential property.

MacMahon is encouraging students to take a minute of their time to sign an e-petition on the government's website, in which cam-

aigners call on the government to consider removing the full postal address from Energy Performance certificates. The campaign closes on 3 July and currently has 1,881 signatories.

Earlier this year, *Nouse* reported on students' concerns that letting signs and information published on the letting agents' websites were risking their safety, in areas already susceptible to crime.

First-year student Neil Webb doesn't believe it is necessary to

make the full address available: "That anybody will be able to see it makes me slightly uncomfortable."

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, commented: "I am concerned about the implications of this proposal, and I think that local authorities and agents need to be careful about what information is put out online.

"Although the agents may own the properties, there needs to be some attention paid to the potential ramifications on the residents of all

of that information being made public. I think the proposal has potential, but only so long as security is kept as a priority."

Earlier this year Alan Bennett called Sinclair Properties "irresponsible" for "publishing the full address of the property, with photographs," which meant "anyone could just sit at home on the computer and gain vital information to student properties".

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# YUSU LGBT proposes adding "Queer" to acronym

**Thomas Cox**  
NEWS REPORTER

YUSU LGBT have announced their intention to add "Q" to their name.

The current acronym stands for "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender", to which the Q is adding "queer" and alluding to "questioning". This is intended to widen the possible circle of persons to whom the group would be relevant, having found the original possible identities too limited.

It aims to retain the meaning of the original group, and widen the possible circle of people who could be associated with it.

There are many definitions for sexuality, which some may find complex, and the "Q" aims to simplify these by sheltering them under one category. These include the asexual, someone who does not feel sexual attraction to others, and the anthrosexual.

Anthrosexuality is a sexual orientation where an individual's attraction to another person is not restricted by gender presentation or biological sex.

It also aims to reject the necessity to define oneself within a single category in providing a single word



LGBT officers believe the addition of 'Queer' to their acronym will serve as an umbrella term for the undefined

to accommodate all. By "questioning" this implies students can define themselves as "queer" if they remain unsure of their sexuality.

Leon Morris, LGBT officer, said of the change that "the main purpose of Queer is to reject identity categories. Most categories just

don't suffice for the majority of people and I believe that this has an almost blocking effect to 'coming out' for many, as they just don't know what they are.

"It acts as an umbrella term for those that do not want to identify as L,G,B or T even if these identities

remain for those who prefer to self-identify as one or more of them. I would say that adding Queer to the name allows many people to feel more comfortable with their identity. Representation is key."

There has already been a vote in favour of naming the society

LGBTQ Social.

The option of the additional 'Q' has been well received, one Goodricke officer said: "I think that anything that's promoting inclusion and community in LGBT has got to be a positive thing.

"The general vibe about the name change is filled with enthusiasm and positivity, hopefully it'll create a more welcoming and open

"The main purpose of Queer is to reject identity categories"

LGBT Officer  
Leon Morris

image for YUSU LGBT than it already has today."

The LGBT social society runs campaigns on LGBT issues and aims to fight homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and heterosexism to help create a safe and inclusive environment.

The society looks out for the welfare of LGBT students at the University of York by holding drop-in sessions, providing information and support, and running welfare campaigns.

## News

# Disabled student facilities placed on top floor

PHILIPPA GRAFTON

**Celia Scruby**  
NEWS REPORTER

CONCERNS HAVE been raised regarding the disabled facilities in the new Langwith buildings on the Heslington East campus.

Last week members of the Langwith JCRC raised their concerns with the University over the fact that the rooms which catered for disabled students, which have lower sinks and appliances, had been placed on the top floor of one the new Langwith Buildings.

Lauren Bray, Langwith Welfare Rep explained that this was problematic as, in an emergency or even a fire drill the lifts would automatically shut down leaving any disabled students with “no way of getting out of the building of their own accord.”

She added: “Disabled students would have to wait for a fire officer or a member of the emergency services to carry them down stairs.”

The issue was raised at YUSU’s Disabled Students’ Network, where the implications of this matter were also discussed.

Emma Hersey, YUSU Disabled Students Officer, said: “I will be raising this issue with the University as I am very concerned about these planning decisions, as they do not seem to have been taken with the best interests of disabled students in mind.”

Bray commented on the situation saying that: “It seems like



Langwith JCRC raised their concerns to the University after learning rooms which will cater for disabled students will be placed on the top floor

a massive oversight for a campus which is meant to be ‘so wonderful’, it just demonstrates a lack of common sense.”

Concerns about the design of the new building were also raised by Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer. He stated that he was “still a bit concerned that the planning went ahead this way, and I think that students with mobility issues should be put in ground floor rooms wherever possible.”

Anna Lewis, a second-year History and Politics student, commented that she thought these plans were “a massive oversight, a waste of money and hardly encour-

ages disabled students to come to York”.

**“I will be raising this issue with the University as I am very concerned about these planning decisions”**

YUSU Disabled Students Officer  
**Emma Hersey**

Suzanne Dekker, Langwith College Administrator, was questioned about whether she had heard of any problematic issues, but she said: “I have not heard of any issues with the buildings. I have

only heard really positive things”.

However, when the concerns were highlighted to Dekker she commented that: “The Fire Officer also works out a personal escape plan for anyone with special needs or disabilities to ensure they can escape should the unthinkable happen”.

Dekker added: “These rooms are not just for wheelchair users, indeed they are usually occupied by students with other needs and, more often than not, by able bodied students”

She continued that in her 12 years of involvement in University life, she had found that “demand

for these rooms is fairly low”.

Hughes also added: “I have had some assurances that the lift operates regardless of fire (unlike many lifts where the power stops working in this circumstance).”

Indeed, Mick Elliot, the University Fire Safety Officer commented: “There is no problem with the design in terms of fire safety.”

However, there are still concerns that the perception of placing accessible rooms, which cater for disabled students, on the top floor of the new Langwith building on Heslington East, might discourage disabled students from applying to York.

## Heslington’s new Sport Village

**Philippa Grafton**

With just over a couple of months to go before the opening of the new Sports Village, I took a little tour around the site to find out exactly what to expect. Whilst the exterior is entirely finished, the cluttered, yet bare interior is an entirely different story.

It is, however, easy to ignore the building site mess and see how the finished product will be; the reception is a fairly large space which, my guide, Mel, tells me, is going to accommodate a little cafe overlooking the pool with plenty of seating.

The pool area consists of the training pool, a 25m pool with a

shallow end, separate changing for members and non-members and a viewing gallery overlooking the entire space. The pool should feature electronic starting blocks as well as an electronic scoreboard, all so much more sophisticated than current swimming facilities available to students.

Just tucked slyly away from the pool, and apparently exclusively for members, is the jacuzzi and miniscule steam room. Whilst disproportionately small, it will, no doubt, be extremely popular.

The gym, situated upstairs, is large and, whilst it does not overlook the swimming pool, it does have inspiring views of the car park and ventilation unit. A dedicated

weights area should be included at the far-right of the room, featuring a mirrored wall.

Finally, with three spacious and well-lit rooms available for classes, an outdoor pitch currently being built to FIFA standards and outdoor changing to accompany that, the new Sports Village certainly has a lot going for it.

With so much potential and a great deal of building still going on, I can’t help but feel a little dubious about the opening date, currently set for early-August, despite Mel’s assurances that “it’s only the superficial things left to do now”. Only time will tell, but with my newly-bought membership, getting fit has never seemed so exciting.

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Above: Langwith student social area and cash machine. Right: the new Sport Village is still under construction



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

Ross D'lima

Conceived in 2002, and put forward for planning in 2004, the possibility of facilitating a 50 per cent expansion in the student population was ambitious.

Obtainment of the 166 hectare site in 2007 put in motion the first phase of development: a £200m investment in the relocation of Goodricke College, the construction of the York Law and Management schools, and departmental buildings for Computer Science, Theatre, Film and Television.

The modernity of the Ron Cooke Hub and The Catalyst underpin the principle behind the development, which fits into the University 'vision of a 21st century campus'. In this respect, the moder-

nity of Heslington East is a University triumph.

As part of a further £60m investment, Heslington East will see further changes this Summer, with the completion of the relocation of Langwith College.

Costing £30m, Langwith will provide self-catered accommodation for 645 students, ranging from first-year undergraduates to PhD students. The influx of students will be - in the eyes of many Goodricke students - more than welcome, helping to add vibrancy to a community which has been referred to as a "ghost-town".

The completion of Langwith in September 2012 will coincide with the opening of York Sport Village. The £9 million facility-funded by both the University and the Council - includes a competition standard

swimming pool, gym, and external AstroTurf football pitches.

All facilities will be available for use by the public as well as students and staff, which it is hoped will help to integrate the two communities.

The progression of Heslington East marks an interesting departure in the history of the University. The 'new' facilities could well alter the interface that currently exists between Heslington West and East; the former accepted as the heart of the University, and the latter seen as something of an appendage.

Yet, as each year passes, with new students having no conception of the University of York without Heslington East, and with disproportionate investment in that side of campus, this could well change. Overtime, the heart of the University could indeed shift eastwards.

# THE HESLINGTON EAST STORY

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# Going against student stereotype: BAE motion fails

Neil Johnston  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A MOTION to 'disarm York' has been rejected by students. One of two referenda students voted on last week was the motion: "Should YUSU lobby the University to discontinue all research contracts with BAE systems?" It was voted down by 788 votes to 443.

The BAE motion aimed to make YUSU actively lobby the University to discontinue its acceptance of research funding for BAE Systems. If passed YUSU would have had to attempt to discourage the University from accepting such contracts. As previously uncovered by *Nouse*, the University's investment in contracts with companies such as BAE has been rising in recent years.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, claimed that research undergone at the University of York was completely non-military in potential, citing the University's existing ethics policy.

The 'No' campaign also claimed a precedence might be set for rejecting other research and referred to this as "apocalyptic". It was also argued that UK arms export



regulations prevented the kind of unethical trade the 'Yes' campaign mentioned.

Louis Fletcher, a prominent member of the 'Yes' campaign, said: "While the outcome of the referendum is regrettable, we would nevertheless like to express our deepest

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



thanks to all those who campaigned and voted in our favour. We believe the 443 votes we achieved go some way in disproving claims that this campaign was pedalled by a small and vocal group of students.

"Throughout the campaign, at least in a personal capacity, the deepest resistance shown was from those departments recipient of BAE research funding: Computer Science and Electronics."

Matthew Kilcoyne, a 'No' campaigner, stated: "We're extremely pleased that University of York students have seen through this motion and rightly rejected it, our Student's Union can now get on with the serious business of representing all student's views in the issues that really matter to them."

## COMMENT

Laura Hughes



Was it ethical apathy or the instinctive tendency towards self-preservation in times of economic insecurity, that determined the outcome of the motion to challenge the University's relationship with BAE Systems?

The failure of the referendum, which asked whether the Union should "lobby the university to discontinue all research contracts with BAE" has shaken the student stereotype of the sixties.

The idealism, the activism, the political campus battlegrounds that shaped history are a thing of the past. Potentially 15,000 students could have voted in last week's referendum and whilst 1,272 students voted for or against this motion, this figure is depressingly inconsequential.

Despite BAE's controvertible record as a weapons and defence manufacturer and evidence that the University has conducted research for MBDA, the missile defence company, in which BAE holds lead shares, we have voted to preserve our allegiance.

BAE is well known to have sold arms to oppressive regimes in Zimbabwe, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia and has been fined millions under allegations of corruption. Has our disinterest allowed for a minority of the student populace to chose to sacrifice our ethics for a 'career in killing'?

As one of the largest employers of engineers in this country, the opportunity for work experience and the potential career opportunities students can gain from the research contracts the University holds, has overshadowed BAE's complicity in human rights abuses.

What has happened to the political activism and sense of social obligation students in the West had during the sixties? Perhaps the ineffectual nature of last summer's protests against tuition fees has led students to place precedence on their own career prospects. Or is it that students no longer believe in protest as a means of procuring change?

The result of this referendum is indicative of our priorities, and exposes the large number of students who feel no compulsion to engage in campus politics or the reputation of the university. We have lost the idealism of the politically engaged, agitated student of the sixties.

The media capitalised on the violence of the protests last year

and went some way in creating the image of the drunk, violent, lazy, squandering student.

Let us shed the current conception of contempt and complacency that surrounds us and regain a sense of collective social responsibility. Students throughout history have been the force behind several of the best-known instances of protest and have served as a purposeful force of powerful resistance.

In Syria security forces are killing students following anti-government protests, in Chile last year student protesters contributed to a dramatic fall in Piñera's approval ratings and vocalised their discontent with Chile's disproportionate levels of inequality.

In Russia today, it is the urban and educated youth who hold the power to shake the political establishment and demand real alternatives. Students in Syria are demanding an end to military siege. In Quebec students are opposing an emergency law set to restrict their demonstrations and shut universities. What do students in the UK stand for?

When students in the UK took to the streets over tuition fees they were right to do so, but ultimately charged with self-interest. Let us re-engage with the wider political picture. Our power is real but not realised.

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# Students miscalculating units

TIMBRAUHN

**Tom Witherow**  
NEWS REPORTER

THE RESULTS of a survey, conducted by YUSU in the autumn, have revealed only half those who claimed to know the definition of a unit of alcohol, 10ml of pure ethanol, were correct.

839 people completed the survey, of whom 350 were freshers, with almost 90 per cent of participants completing all the questions.

The survey sought to formalise what was suspected through anecdotal evidence – that students are drinking considerably more than government guidelines.

The effectiveness of Union and government efforts to educate young people of the effects of alcohol, and the ‘unit system’ of measurement, was also covered.

Binge drinking, defined as consuming half the weekly guideline allowance of 21-28 units, in one night, continues to be a source of concern.

A number of students admitted to drinking more than 20 units in a night, with what the report describes as a “large number” drinking over 30 units per night.

The majority of those drinking beer or cider said that they tended to drink three pints or less in an evening, however, this is often in combination with other drinks – the most popular being spirits, of which 4.38 drinks is the average – and in itself is double government guideline allowances.

One unit of alcohol is about equal to half a pint of ordinary



Binge drinking is defined as consuming half the weekly guideline allowance of 21-28 units in just one night

strength beer, lager or cider and there are one and a half units of alcohol in a small glass (125 ml) of ordinary strength wine.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, said: “I think the guideline has some worth, but it’s surprising to realise how few drinks you need to go above that limit.”

35 per cent of respondents drink on three or more nights per week, but there was a perhaps surprising proportion who don’t drink on any night, 18.5 per cent.

Anisha Wilmink, a first-year English and Politics student in James, told *Nouse*: “I didn’t know

how much a unit was in terms of ethanol, but I do know from the government posters, and labels on drinks.”

Anisha views sports socials as a key factor in binge-drinking: “they play games and must contribute a lot. There’s definitely more pressure coming from a sports social than from a friend.”

Hughes revealed he believes binge drinking becomes “alcoholism when someone feels that they are no longer in control over what they are drinking or over their need to drink.”

Also under review were the

ages that students started drinking. 30 per cent of first years who responded stated they had been drinking regularly for more than three years.

Hughes has said that the findings will be useful in shaping the Union’s policy towards excessive drinking.

“We will be using the findings to inform our campaigns in this area, such as posters about the effects of alcohol, and events to highlight how to have a good night without being completely drunk.”

**COMMENT >> Page 10**

## Students voice support for LGBT campaign

**Rachel Banning-Lover**  
NEWS REPORTER

OVER 250 signatures were collected in two hours for a petition supporting consultation for equal marriage for same-sex couples last Thursday.

Members of YUSU LGBT Committee offered free slices of Pizza to students outside the library who signed the petition. Rainbow coloured pins were also given out for students to wear to show solidarity. The event aimed to raise awareness of LGBT issues, according to Catherine Hennigan, YUSU LGBT Secretary.

Hennigan commented: “Overall we collected 260 signatures, which have now been inputted into the website [c4em.org.uk](http://c4em.org.uk). Bearing in mind it was only a couple of hours of campaigning in between lectures/revision etc, we were overwhelmed by the support.

“We were extremely pleased with how the event went, especially as there was such a fantastic turnout, and feel it was a positive way of YUSU LGBT marking the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.”

Last Thursday marked the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT).

## Visa controversy affects Philosophy PhD student

**Tim Wingard**  
NEWS REPORTER

A PhD student with teaching responsibilities in the University’s Philosophy Department, has been forced to leave the country half-way through term due to visa issues.

Esha Senchaudhuri, who was originally registered for a student visa at the London School of Economics, took on a sixth-month contract to provide teaching cover for Philosophy undergraduate classes at the University of York.

However, six weeks before her contract was due to end, her application for a work-after-study visa was rejected on a technicality. This meant that she was forced to return to her native USA in order to reapply.

Since 2008, the UK Border Agency has introduced a five-tiered visa system for non-EU immigrants based on employment skills. When Senchaudhuri first came to study at LSE she qualified for the tier four visa, which granted her the right to study in the UK.

However, holders of this visa are not permitted to work in the UK, so when Senchaudhuri was awarded her contract at the Uni-

versity of York she had to reapply for a tier one visa, a category which the UK Border Agency website describes as including “migrants with desirable professional skills”. It was at this stage that her application did not succeed.

Senchaudhuri, who wrote her PhD at LSE on the topic of ‘liberal theories of public justification’, taught stage two Philosophy undergraduate modules and PPE MA modules while at York.

The University confirmed to *Nouse* that she completed her marking commitments online and that her teaching responsibilities are being undertaken by other faculty members whilst she is back in the US. The University has confirmed that Senchaudhuri has now successfully secured a tier one visa and will be returning to the University.

Changes to the student visa regime in the UK, for example the closure of the post study work visa, and the government’s crackdown on migration mean there are numbers of foreign students being put off coming to Britain.

International students currently contribute £5 billion a year to the UK economy.

## University apologises for the delay in publishing 2012 exam timetables

**Martin Spurr**  
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has come out and apologised for the late publication of this year’s examination timetable after many students had voiced grievances about the delay.

Many students did not receive their personal timetable until the end of week 10 in the spring term, or in some cases not until the Easter break, and Jennifer Winter, the Assistant Registrar for Student Progress, has acknowledged the distress this caused students.

“As the head of the Exams Office, I would like to acknowledge and apologise for the delay in the production and release of this year’s exams timetable for summer term. I know that the uncertainty resulting from not having your personal timetables was difficult for you, and apologise sincerely for that.”

Winter promised that next year there would not be a repeat of this year’s problems and students would be given their timetables in good time: “We have completed a full review of the causes for the delay, and have substantially changed our procedures to ensure that the same problem is not duplicated in



JACKHYNES

The late release of exam timetables had caused upset amongst students

any future years.

“I am therefore making a public commitment that the draft timetable will be available for consultation by the beginning of week six and the final summer exam timetable for the CAP [common assessment period] in 2013 will be released by week eight of the spring term.”

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, praised the University for “accepting responsibility”

on this matter.

“The late release of the exam timetable was an issue that I placed at the centre of my manifesto after receiving numerous complaints from students.

“I am glad that the University have accepted responsibility for the mistakes this year and taken action to ensure that next year’s timetable will be out early enough for students to plan their revision and other commitments.”

## News

## Alcuin

Alcuin ENTS will be putting on a Quiz on Wednesday, taking place at 7 pm in the JCR. The event is part of a push to encourage greater college participation from Alcuin students.

## Derwent

The announcement of the acts for BigD has received a mixed reception. The headliner announced so far, Reverend and the Makers, has attracted criticism online.

## Goodricke

The Goodricke College Council, chaired by the Provost, is holding a meeting this Wednesday. All members of the college are invited, though you are requested to email sarah.hay@york.ac.uk if you plan to attend. Coffee and lunch will be provided.

## Halifax

A team of student volunteers has turned an abandoned lot next to the college laundrette into a budding vegetable garden. The produce should be ready by the end of the summer term.

## James

James College has been awarded a Vice Chancellor's award for Outstanding Achievement for its innovative approach to internationalisation. The James College newsletter stated that: "This is a great recognition for the JCRC and the College Team and all the effort and energy that has been put in during the last few years."

## Langwith

To celebrate Langwith's migration over to Heslington East, a day of festivities will be held on 16 June. Events include karaoke, face-painting, live music and bouncy castles.

## Vanbrugh

Vanbrugh's Summer Sports Party will be held on 13 June to celebrate Vanbrugh's successes this year, however big or small, meeting in V-Bar to start a night like no other in Vanbrugh Sport. Vanbrugh students from all clubs, and none, are welcome.

## Wentworth

The GSA are planning an overnight trip to Glasgow on 26 May. Accommodation, transport and breakfast are all included in the £50 ticket price.

Reporting by Tim Wingard, Ross D'lima and Laura Hughes

## Greens Launch 10:1 Campaign

Lizzie Lynch  
Alex Osborne

THE UNIVERSITY of York Green Party have launched a new campaign on campus aiming to cut excessive university pay.

Campaigners are demanding for the publication of top-to-bottom pay ratios, and hope to work towards a 10:1 pay multiple, arguing that the current highest average in the public sector of 15:1 is not promoting great enough equality.

The campaign launch, which occurred on Wednesday, included a speech by the renowned co-author of *The Spirit Level*, Richard Wilkinson. Mr Wilkinson's research emphasises the importance of reducing wage and social inequalities, arguing that these factors are detrimental to society.

Inequality, Wilkinson stated, is more about "Monkeys than Marx", a concept that is centred around his belief that those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds suffer from feelings of heightened negative self worth.

Byron Karemba, the York Labour Party Chair, told *Nouse* the "non-partisan Living Wage campaign which the York Greens are still part of is mainly focused on campus" whereas the fair campaign supported by the Labour society is a "broader national effort".

The Greens' campaign hopes to address these problems through raising awareness of excessive disparity in pay ratios.

Caroline Lucas MP, leader of the Green Party, commented "It simply cannot be right that the large pay packets of senior manag-



The Green Party are campaigning for publication of University pay ratios

ers in universities are increasing while their students face a worsening struggle against skyrocketing tuition fees and departments suffer some of the biggest spending cuts in a generation. This national campaign for a fairer pay ratio, a Living Wage for workers and contractors, and for far greater transparency in universities shows that the Young Greens are really leading the battle for greater equality in our society."

Whilst the University of York Green Party have been an active part of the Living Wage Campaign on campus, they are keen to stress their support for both campaigns and have assured Living Wage campaign co-ordinator Dilan Gurgur that they are still fully on board.

Both campaigns seek to raise

awareness of wage inequality at the University as well as nationwide.

Lisa Camps, Chair of York Greens and Head of Campaigns for Young Greens added: "adopting the Living Wage is part of the national Young Greens 'Fair Pay Campus', in terms of campaigning here at York, we will continue to work with the Living Wage team in much the same way as we always have.

"The 10:1 ratio aspect of our campaign is a more of a national, long-term aim and so is something that we'll work on in a strategically different way. However, I feel the two campaigns complement each other well and we've all found it refreshing to put aside party allegiances and come together for our shared values."

## Students struggling to find space in library

Harry Meek  
NEWS REPORTER

STUDENTS ARE struggling to find space in the Library as students are saving places for friends arriving later and holding onto desks for long periods of time.

The library have admitted "there is very little to be done about" saving spaces.

The high demand of students and the lack of library space means it continues to be under-pressure, with study rooms fully booked well in advance.

Graeme Osborn, YUSU Academic Officer, admitted: "I'm afraid that there is little that can be done in the short term, the library are looking at getting back one of the large rooms in the Harry Fairhurst which is used for teaching at the moment however with the library now fully refurbished I believe that the focus has to be on other study spaces around campus."

Indeed, Osborn was quick to point out that "most students who use the library and the Harry Fairhurst Building don't actually need the proximity to the books, it's the quality and quantity of study space that attracts them" referring to his manifesto pledge he added that "the Brian Blessed Centre for Quiet Study (or New Building) in Heslington has been reopened for students to use after being closed for a short period."

LEADER >> Page 12

## Roses marred by organisational disorder

Neil Johnston  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

ROSES MAY have proved a successful sporting spectacle once again, but the tournament was also marred by several organisational failures by Lancaster.

Problems with the accommodation athletes were provided, which in most cases was lecture theatres, were raised at the Community Assembly last week. Not only were there still piles of tables and chairs that needed to be cleared away but there was very little space and students were squashed in together.

To add to the sleeping difficulties, it was said that many teams had to share the same room and athletes who were yet to compete were disturbed during the night. Teams that had played that day would go into town and come back drunk, waking up athletes that were due to play the next day.

Another issue raised at the assembly concerned the timetable. Many competitors complained that the timetables were completely incorrect, meaning many athletes were left confused as to when their fixtures were, which could have led to a lack of preparation before matches.

One of the worst cases was one of the lacrosse matches being moved to the other end of campus with only 10 minutes notice. While the closing ceremony was moved forward an hour which altered arrangements for coaches.

There has also been heavy criticism of the points system. Some high profile sports received very little points, whilst climbing received 18 points, more than any other sport. Competitors called for a more coherent system as the points awarded to each sport seemed to be disproportionately weighted.

Disappointment has also been expressed at the lack of a flagship event. Last year 3000 people attended York's comparable event, however Lancaster claimed there were no suitable facilities, despite the fact there was a stadium 20 minutes away.

Sam Asfahani, York Sport President, commented: "A tournament on the scale of Roses will always have organisational issues, as we had last year. The most important thing with any tournament is to debrief and learn from any mistakes made, which there always will be.

"We intend to take into account all feedback and deliver the best Roses yet in 2013."



AGATHA TORRANCE

# A history of activism?

As students voted against the BAE motion in the YUSU referendum last week, Neil Johnston examines the archives to see whether York has had an abundance of student activism

Last Friday a motion calling on YUSU to lobby the University of York to 'disarm' was voted down by students. This was one of two referenda students voted on after a week of campaigning. The BAE motion was particularly relevant given the long running criticism the University has received concerning its connections and investments in arms companies. It is just one of several campaigns York students have been involved in over the last few years.

In the aftermath of last week's motion, how important has student activism been at York? And is it now dying away?

From campaigns for YUSU bars, to taking part in national protests. York students have never been shy from activism over the last 10 years.

The 'Save Our Porters' campaign has been a long running dispute between students and the University since the University first outlined plans to cut portering services in 2002. An occupation of

"Perhaps the rejection of the BAE motion shows a change in mood amongst students"

Heslington Hall and campaigning from YUSU, academics, students and campus media meant the University backed out of plans to cut services in 2007. However, this campaign has been one of ups and downs. In 2009, the University ignored a campaign to save portering overnight as well as at weekends and went through with their plans to cut the service. But a continued effort by students has meant the University will now be reintroducing 24-hour 'night-time' staffing next year.

The debate over University investment in the arms trade has been one where students have been active over the last seven years, since it was first discovered the University had shares in BAE systems in 2006.

November of that year saw members of York Amnesty International occupy the lobby of Heslington Hall, disrupting a presentation by a weapons manufacturer. This action provoked the University to form an ethical investment policy

group. Increased funding, and investment in these companies, like BAE, has provoked further attempts to change the University's policy with the latest being last week's motion.

When it came to the intense debate over tuition fees York students were never far from the action. Over 400 students took to the streets of London for the original student 'demolition' protest in November 2010.

Although most protested peacefully, one student was involved in the violence at the Conservative Party headquarters in Millbank. In December that year, students continued their pro-

tests back in York when 30 people staged a two-week sit-in, in the Exhibition Centre. This show of activism called themselves the 'Great York sit-in'. Continuing the opposition to the tuition fee increase, around 300 people took part in two marches through the city.

And in November 2011 a small group of students went down to London again for fresh tuition fee protests, despite no YUSU financial or organisational support for their trip.

York students have lived up to the stereotype of 'student activists' over the last 10 years. But perhaps the rejection of the BAE motion shows a change in mood amongst students and an acknowledgment of the tough job market that graduates find themselves moving into. As macro-economic conditions decline, the willingness to protest may suffer too.



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

GEORGE LOWTHER



Save our porters  
2002-2009

2002

After the University decided to make a third attempted reduction to the portering services students occupied Heslington Hall. Continued campaigning and strong pressure from YUSU, academics, and a high-profile *Nouse* campaign forced the University to step down.

This campaign was re-ignited in 2009 when the University introduced reductions in portering that meant Derwent, Vanbrugh, James, and Halifax lodges would not be staffed overnight or at weekends. Although there was another high profile campaign the University decided to go through with the changes.

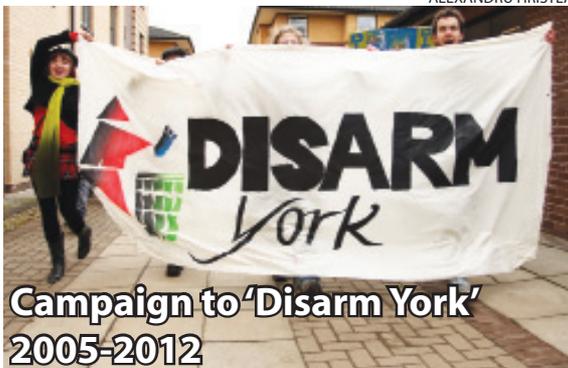
2009

2012

However, continued campaigning has meant the University will reintroduce 24-hour portering next year.



ALEXANDRU HRISTEA



Campaign to 'Disarm York'  
2005-2012

2006

Students and national pressure groups condemned the University after a *Nouse* investigation revealed York shares in BAE, the UK's largest arms company. In May 2006 Ric Lander, the then York People and Planet Chair, said the University's investment policy showed, "a complete lack of interest and understanding on the issue."

In January 2008, a CAAT report into military involvement in UK universities detailed 59 arms projects at York, totalling £7.5 million. It is also revealed that the ethical investment motion that the University recently passed would not include research funds.



2008

2009

In March 2009 YUSU President Tom Scott announced to campaigners that the University Council has passed the ethical investment policy, three years after it was first tabled.

SAM NEWSOME



Tuition fees  
2010-present

2010

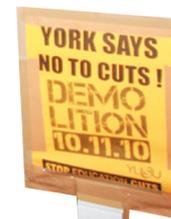
After the Government outlined its intentions to raise the cap on tuition fees, York students took part in the protests in London. YUSU organised eight coaches and over 400 students took part in the demonstrations. The vast majority of students protested peacefully, however, at least one student was involved in the storming of Tory HQ.

Students continued their protests in December 2010 when around 30 people took part in a two week 'Great York sit-in' within the Physics/Electronics building. They attempted to force the University to release a statement in opposition to the planned raising of the cap on tuition fees, but failed to do so.

2010

2011

Despite no support from YUSU a small group of students still took part in a protest in London in November 2011.





# Comment

Alex  
Slingsby

Deputy  
Comment  
Editor



## Escaping the student stereotype

Alcohol awareness education is simply not sufficient to deter students from the national stereotype

**Y**USU's endless endeavours to moderate student alcohol consumption seem to have taken a turn for the worse as survey respondents revealed what we already knew - crazy nightlife antics were not that uncommon.

Statistics from the latest YUSU Alcohol Use Survey show that, out of the 839 students who took the survey, 20 per cent drink alcohol three times a week, with the general consensus being that it is perfectly normal to get drunk twice a week. Following the past two alcohol-fuelled terms, this is hardly surprising news.

Plus, the survey was carried out in term one, following freshers' week and a bucket-load of alcoholic events, and I doubt that everyone has entered into the summer term with the same priorities in mind. But it's certainly paved the way for the next year to follow suit.

The figures suggested that many of us consume 30-40 units on a weekly basis. That's twice the recommended maximum units for men (21 units), and almost three times what has been recommended for women (14 units).

So I can't help feeling that if 839 alcoholics filled out the same survey, it would yield similar results. But before we get all defensive over our precious, fleeting, expensive student life, there's no denying that these results, available for the world to see on YUSU's website, tell us exactly what we have already known for a long time: we are doing a remarkable job at fulfilling the student stereotype. And this is

why Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, has suggested that we need to be better-educated on alcohol. He is right, but it's going to take more than a couple of flyers littering the University to improve the statistics in time for next year.

Because right from the word 'go', we jumped into our crates of Fosters like it was going out of fashion. It's almost expected of you. Students spend a lot of time (and student loans) getting familiar with alcohol, and the excuse is that we're 'fulfilling the stereotype'. But it isn't because we all happened to miss those sugar-coated alcohol-awareness classes at sixth-form, and it's definitely not like we were the first to come up with the idea of

alcohol; we drink because everyone else does.

The survey might have highlighted a few gaps in our ever-expanding knowledge, but most

**"We are doing a remarkable job at fulfilling the student stereotype"**

students are already fully aware of how dangerous alcohol can be, either through experience or plain common sense. It's not smart or

cool, and it's definitely not the safest thing to do, but that doesn't stop us piling into the Party Bus at the first suggestion of a night out.

There's no denying that a lot of us have slipped into the student stereotype; in fact, we were probably pushed in. But no amount of alcohol-based education is going to make students think twice about going out. YUSU need to be focusing less on telling us that alcohol isn't that nutritious and more time providing alternative ways to spend our not so hard-earned student loan. Next year's freshers need to know that there's more to life than the sports socials at Ziggys. Otherwise, come October, it's party time all over again.

BRANDON SEAGER



Rob  
Thomas



## Collusion confusion with the QAA

**T**he Quality Assurance Agency's review of the University of York has given broad praise of the commitment to student learning. One problem, though, is levels of academic misconduct, particularly amongst international students.

The report, and the University, reason that aside from obvious language and cultural difficulties, many are unaccustomed to the University's assessments, resulting in accidental violations.

I do admire the report's curious brand of optimism here. I don't mean to say that crossing the border instantly makes you a cheat and a scoundrel; Britain has a booming supply of its own. However, many foreign students I've spoken to have said that the combination of

studying abroad and high tuition fees brings greater expectations of you and therefore more pressure to succeed. There are genuine areas of confusion for all students, for instance where co-operation ends and collusion begins, or to what extent you need to reference an idea in your work.

The University is partly a victim of its own meticulousness: one student told me that her essay had been flagged with potential plagiarism, despite having checked it herself with Turnitin. Given that I've never used it myself, much misconduct may arise from sheer negligence.

This begs the question of how the University can improve, since this issue was acknowledged four years ago. Their only tangible con-

tribution, the mandatory academic integrity tutorial, has allegedly been "well received by students" - clearly an exaggeration. I recall most discussion of it being along the lines of 'Have you done that damned integrity test yet?' Many think it far

**"There are genuine areas of confusion for all students"**

too vague and obvious in places to actually help.

Personally I'm extremely grateful for the lessons it taught me, like

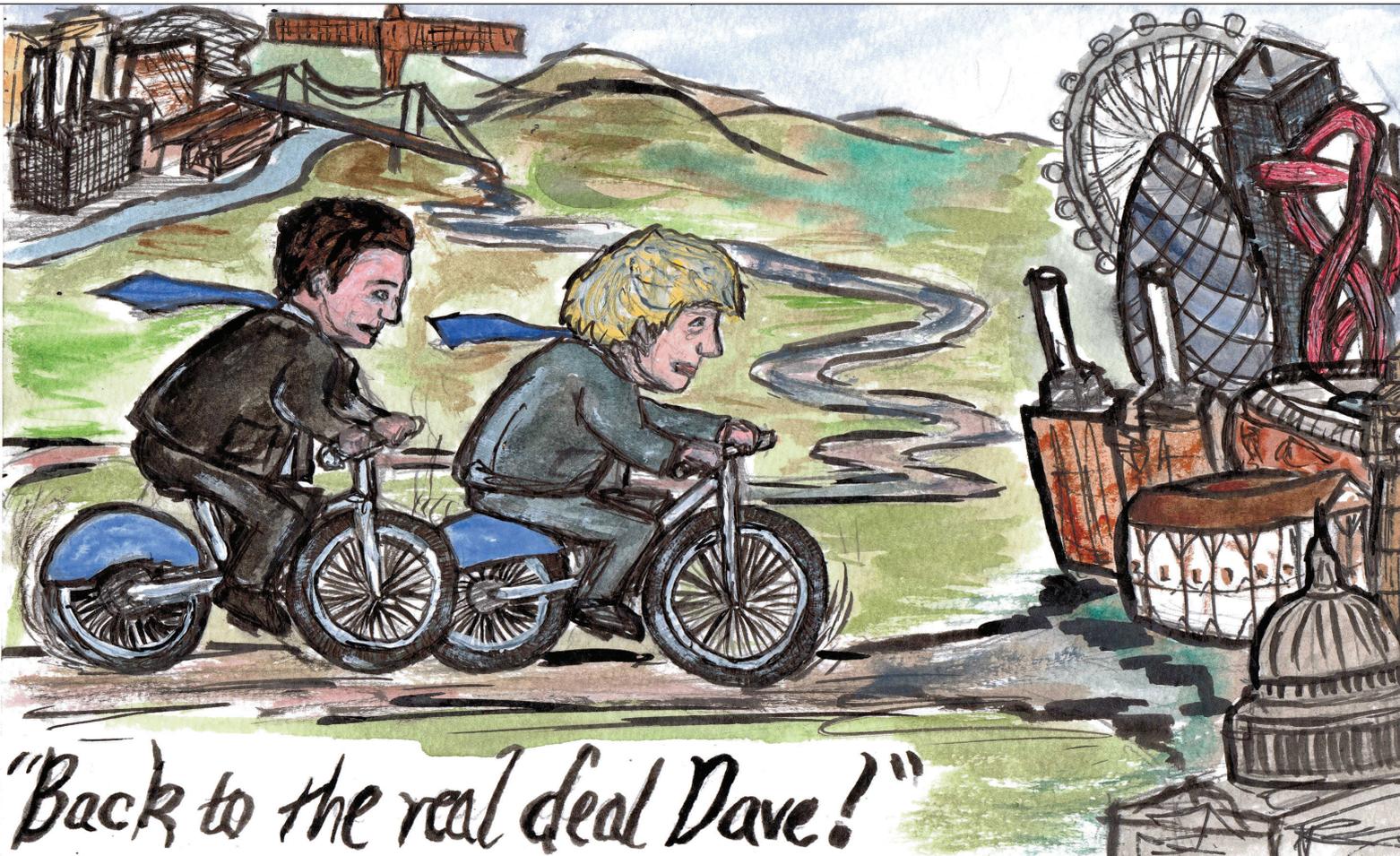
how not to copy in an exam or to falsify data. I don't remember taking it too seriously though; friends and I completed it together to save time. Having retaken and passed the assessment without revising the material, I wonder just how rigorously they're testing us. Perhaps the exam season has sharpened my memory abilities to superhuman levels, but seeing how my revision has been going I think that's unlikely. Considering the unlimited amount of retests, they could have subjected us to a few more trying questions to reinforce what qualifies as misconduct.

Add this to the additional workload many international students face just by choosing to study abroad. It's not an easy task, and comes with its own compli-

cations. Shouldn't the University focus more on assuring that every student knows what is expected of them before pointing the finger? It seems that more needs to be done concerning ambiguity surrounding academic misconduct, especially when the degree is at stake.

Still, this does nothing to combat wilful misconduct, which shows no sign of stopping without more effective detection and deterrent. Having spent the last week painstakingly referencing my latest History essay, I confess I've spent more than a few minutes contemplating cheating to get a better grade. But, I always remember a quote of my father's: "Try to become not a man of success, but rather a man of value." Well, that was actually Einstein, but you get the idea.

PATRICK GREENFIELD



## The Exam Beard

Rohan Banerjee



When dewy actors like Ryan Gosling and Jake Gyllenhaal started showing up on the red carpet sporting cheek fringe and sandpaper chins, it marked the dawn of a post-millennial obsession with facial hair. Something traditionally associated with age and wisdom has since become a sexy symbol of youthful defiance and a *de rigueur* for arts students, the sort who wear chinos and draw their opinions from backyard blogs.

My beard, however, is not a bid for coolness (though coolness is inevitable), or a representation of my political views, but rather an indulgence in one of the more curious campus superstitions I have come across. The exam beard, for those of you who don't know, is one of a myriad of ways to prepare yourself for whatever is waiting for you at the end of term.

The concept is simple. For the weeks leading up to and during your exams, you do not shave. Then, presumably by the grace of some unseen hairy gods, you will achieve good marks. Ok so it's not the most rational revision tactic, and those late night stretches in the library must not be avoided, but having a beard, I've found, does represent a number of plus sides to an otherwise miserable May/June.

In addition to the rugged fashion statement, your beard will give you a newfound rebellious confidence. The university environment is after all a fundamentally militaristic one. And unless you're from Sparta, there's nothing military about a beard. Indeed, your shaggy jowl will make you a free spirit, ready to buck the authority of the mark scheme with some righteous, radical, essay writing, as well as providing you with something to contemplatively stroke that won't get you arrested.

Personally, I find wearing a beard makes you feel two inches taller and a stone burlier, not to mention that it removes the arduous task of shaving from your daily routine. In many ways, it is the lazy man's alternative to weight lifting, and you'll feel far more relaxed going into your exams. It's an experience I thoroughly recommend, if only for the novelty of being mistaken for a lecturer.

Far from the charge of untidiness, the exam beard oozes an intellectual machismo and who knows, it might prove useful on those rare nights out you allow yourself in third term. And while there might be some resistance from jealous friends unable to grow their own whiskery wingman, you must not, for any reason, shave.

Ultimately, the exam beard magic is a binding spell, one that must not be broken prematurely, unless you wish to surrender yourself to the spurious success of a 2.2.



Patrick Greenfield

## All roads lead to London

The Olympics are making our London-centric economy ever more entrenched with the majority of investment, development, and media focus on the capital

In case you have spent the last five years on a prolonged city break in Pyongyang, you will have noticed that the Olympics are in town this summer. Our nation's leaders have assured us that the London Olympics will be "the greatest show on earth", a celebration of Britain that will galvanise, inspire and unify each and every citizen. Budget cuts, Tory sleaze and the implications of a Grecian financial implosion will be brushed under the national carpet as Britain collectively wedges itself in front of BBC1 to enjoy Tom Daley showing off.

Sadly, as I imagine Stratford's sparkling coliseum falling silent in anticipation of Boris and Dave's nauseating opening speech, I cannot help but cringe at the Britain we will display to the world. Certainly, a smiling monarch, charming Etonians and a celebration of power would have been expected the last time we hosted the Games in 1948, but can we really do no better in 2012?

For those of you who weren't about in 1948, the old Etonian David Cecil Burghley opened the Games at Wembley Stadium in front of an unusually quiet George VI and a war torn British public. Is that still the best we have to offer?

As our beloved coalition continues to unravel the accomplishments of our grandparents, it is easy to forget how much Britain has achieved since World War Two. Yet, multicultural democracy, the NHS, and a thriving arts scene aside, David Cameron's gleaming forehead apparently remains Britain's

brightest star.

The main danger with the Olympics is the display of southern wealth. Whilst I have no intention of pandering to the *Guardian* reading know-it-all, the Olympics have unfortunately revealed a London-centric Britain that has an unnerving capacity to isolate large sections of the country. The Whitehall bubble often forgets that most Britons do not live or work in London and will see little benefit from the much revered Olympic legacy. The notion that "we're all in it together" is the only semi-credible piece rhetoric off.

**"Britain should not solely exist for London, the pushy middle classes and white nihilistic men"**

that's keeping the coalition together, they must not allow the Olympics to undermine that.

One thing is for certain: British politics has radically changed since 1948. It now takes days to convert a freshly elected revolutionary Member of Parliament into a Costa coffee swilling tosser and evidently, nobody's finding the solution to post-industrialism at the bottom of a cafe latté. The implications of this trend are not to be ridiculed. If all roads lead to London then educated graduates, business leaders, and

public spending spiral into a black hole of metropolitan dominance and the rest of the UK continues along a path of managed decline. This is not a party specific issue; the New Left and New Right both pursued economic policies that made London, and more importantly, the City the driving force behind the British economy. It is time for a rethink and we must look to Germany for a way out of this mess.

Germany realised a long time ago that an inclusive and relevant education system, a varied economy, and targeted public spending policies produce some pretty impressive results. Frankfurt, Leipzig, Berlin, Munich, Hamburg and Stuttgart are all international beacons of innovation and most importantly, are not geographically situated in one area. Germany's economic might is expressed as a nation, not through one city and the sooner we follow suit the better.

For those of you who have reached this far and are beginning to feel a little uncomfortable underneath your Jack Wills collar, you have good reason to be wary. Britain should not solely exist for London, the pushy middle classes, and white nihilistic men staring at adverts for watches in *GQ*. Our best universities, schools and jobs should be universally attainable purely through hard work and we shouldn't let the Olympics distract us from the realities of our current situation.

Whilst I am sure the Olympics are going to be fantastic, don't let Boris charm you into a hegemonic stupor.

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

## Comment

NOUSE  
Est. 1964

## QAA review should not be ignored

The findings of the QAA review need to be properly followed up, and not just seen as a minor defect. It has been shown previously that the University has been concerned about the proportion of international students involved in academic misconduct cases, and yet that the review still found cause to highlight their efforts, and state international students' concerns, is indicative of the fact that nothing has changed significantly.

International students are a significant part of the student community, so it is worrying that many feel they are not fully integrated into campus life. Perhaps, if we attempt to better involve home students with those overseas socially, there will be an indirect improvement in the statistics.

However, equally, we must be wary of overstating the effects of this survey. Although the ISA Welfare Officer has voiced doubts over the involvement of students, YUSU's International Officer has come out in support of most of the measures implemented thus far by the University. But, this should not be taken as a green-light to complacency and we must continue to exert pressure upon the University to better improve the already existing facilities.

## Housing law should be opposed

The possibility of new housing laws, in the name of ecological benefits, should be treated with caution by the student populations.

Obviously, we should all strive towards being as green as possible, but there must be limits and allowing this law to come into force may do more harm than good. Student houses are already a target for thieves, and is allowing these details to go online further advertising the shiny new Macbooks usually to be found decorating the library reading room?

Honestly, probably not. Although students should oppose the introduction of this law, it is unlikely that the average thief, should they really decide to empty your house, will go onto the local estate agents website in order to work out exactly which house is best suited to his or her thieving binge.

This new law should be fought, but not on the grounds of possible theft. It is an another example of the attitude of pervasive freedom of information which results in so much of an individual's personal details ending up on the ether of the internet, available to all and sundry, and with no protection and no hope of privacy.

## The Mediterranean state of the library

We're back in the 1940s, and the library has become the Western front. Everywhere you look, ordinary, perfectly kind-hearted people are morphing into German sun-lounger claiming mavericks.

Objectionable xenophobic comment aside, it is unacceptable that people feel they can 'stake-out' desks, saving empty seats for hours whilst other miserable students tramp up and down the aisles, feeling increasingly frustrated and irritated. Despite our frequently questionable behaviour when under the influence, we are generally a timid bunch. We're unlikely to brusquely sweep some other student's work (German sun-lounger type though they may be) from the desk. It is up to the library staff and YUSU Officers to police this behaviour. The library should have no scruples about removing unclaimed articles from a desk into a black bin liner, after they have sat there for hours unattended (except from over lunch).

This problem reveals a greater issue inherent in our shiny new library. The simple fact of the matter is that this monolith of a monument to Brian Cantor's mediocre tenure does not successfully fulfil its sole purpose. It is a badly designed, poorly laid-out, ill-conceived construction that is already causing more problems than it is worth.

Perhaps our German sun-lounger friends actually have the right idea: in order to fully demonstrate the inadequacies of the new library we should all stake-out a desk, and refuse to leave until more desks are provided.

## NOUSE



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## Failed by our own language



Emma Double

Apparently you guys have a hang-up about languages,' an international friend and fellow York postgraduate mused to me a few weeks ago 'like an inferiority thing, because you don't feel you're as good at them as other countries'. My friend hit the nail on the head of something I have undoubtedly suffered from myself, a hang-up about languages, or rather, a lack of them.

Growing up monolingual like many other British kids, I only started learning a foreign language (the classic, French) when I was 11, at the start of secondary school. One of my European friends - who speaks Spanish, English, Italian, French and Japanese - told me that she started learning English at two. This put my eleven into rather a stark perspective.

This linguistic dearth seems to be due to languages' consistent under-prioritisation, both in the education system and in our general cultural attitude.

School children frequently don't learn another language until age 11. Currently, it isn't even compulsory to learn another language up to GCSE. Every year we hear that fewer students are taking modern foreign languages to A-level and beyond, endangering increasing numbers of university language departments.

As a university student it is very obvious that the rest of the world

do embrace languages; at York I frequently meet international students who can often speak at least one other language (if not more) yet study alongside home students and work at the same level in English as a foreign language.

In practical terms a second language can be very useful, and not just for holidays abroad. Institutions are increasingly looking further afield for foreign graduates who are linguistically qualified for their jobs.

Apparently British applicants often just don't have the necessary skills. There is also recent scientific evidence to suggest bi and multilingualism is actually good for the brain, improving executive function and keeping disease at bay.

But language is not just language; you learn a whole new vocabulary and gain insight into a different culture. If the rest of the world is making the effort, isn't it a bit backwards of us not to do the same?

To be fair the University does seem to be aware of this issue. I have been really impressed with the Languages For All (LFA) programme, and their range of language courses. The University could extend free freshers' courses to any year, especially for home students. One can certainly imagine that postgraduates focused on study would certainly take further advantage of such a resource. Though,

York's LFA courses are an exception. In general, Britain appears to be falling drastically behind in languages, through what only appears to be short-sightedness and complacency. It's time it did something about it, before it becomes deaf and dumb - in more ways than one.

JOSH BOSWELL



Emilia Poizi



## The Greek fight continues

I may not drink ouzo, break plates, or say Opa in my daily life. I may not sing loudly, or dance in the middle of the night, but I am proud of being Hellene. The survival of Greece has been in the centre of discussion not only in Europe but all over the world.

Is it shameful to be Greek? Or is it shameful to let crisis destroy the history of the country that invented History? A crisis made by a dynamic that nobody controls, a dynamic that will destroy our world, if we let it. I am not the only one who doesn't like violence and I don't think that very much is gained by burning banks and smashing windows. But behind the spectacular flames, it is this search for a different way of living that will determine the future of Greece, and of the world.

Many questions have arisen from the struggle of saving Greece. But the European banks seem to be only saving themselves. Greece has already been granted a second bailout in order to avoid a catastrophic disorderly default. In an economy without a welfare regime to speak of, the impact of five consecutive years of recession has taken its toll. Almost half of Greece's young people are unemployed, as are one in

five of their older peers. Obviously, burning your country is not a solution, but how can we ask people to meekly accept the ferocious cuts in living standards that the austerity measures imply? Doing so is asking them to agree that the massive creative potential of so many young people should just be eliminated, and their talents trapped in a life of long-term unemployment. It is telling them to regard themselves as

**“Have you ever thought who invented democracy, created the idea of freedom?”**

PIGS and dispense with any pride in their nation.

Have you ever thought who invented democracy? Who created the idea of freedom, politics and philosophy? Who was the father of philosophy and politics? They were all Greeks. The term democracy first appeared in ancient Greek political and philosophical thought. But Hellenic greats invented much

more than democracy.

In August 480 BCE, Leonidas went out to meet Xerxes' fabled army at Thermopylae with a small force of 300 men. This 'against all odds' story is passed to us from the writings of the Ancient Greek Herodotus, yet it has resonance not only in the national but the global consciousness today.

Like those 300, we are all Hellene. We are all subjects whose identity is simply being flattened by the steamroller of a history determined by the movement of the money markets. Millions of Italians protested over and over again against Silvio Berlusconi, but it was the money markets that brought him down. It is the same in Greece: there was demonstration after demonstration against George Papandreou, but in the end it was the money markets that dismissed him. For the Greeks to accept the measures meekly would be to multiply depression by depression - the depression of a failed system compounded by the depression of lost dignity.

It is not just a matter of surviving. It is the last opportunity to stand and fight beside the brave 300, for our identity, our history, and our future.



James Paton

# Britain: a housing market built upon the sand

A false idea of growth, based purely on consumption has blown up in our faces, and will do again if we do not invest in production

The government, and most people, are completely bankrupt; the only institution that is keeping them solvent is the central bank. We have huge bubbles in retail and housing that were going to burst in 2008 but the Bank of England bailed them out by printing money and cutting interest rates. It's not government austerity that is the problem - we need more of it in fact as the government spends too much money. But when interest rates rise, this whole phony economy is going to collapse.

A lot of debt was accumulated since Bank of England independence in the housing sector. The monetary base has trebled since 1997, and lot of this money ended up in houses. As prices and demand rose due to the credit boom, individuals borrowed more and more money against their homes expecting house prices to keep on rising at the same rates.

Retail experienced the same story; people were able to access cheap credit at reasonable rates of interest in order to buy luxury goods. They bought clothes. They bought cars.

As the economy contracted

due to individuals struggling to pay debt, and the US Subprime crisis led to a banking crisis over here, home prices started to fall and two huge bubbles were starting to be deflated.

But the pain of letting them burst would be too much. Too many households would fall into negative equity and many jobs would be lost if the retail bubble was left to crash. The central bank bought up government bonds that were used to bail out the banks, and interest rates kept low in order to keep the housing and retail sectors inflated.

There are two important questions that we must ask. First, is housing a productive asset that produces wealth, or just a place to live? Sadly it is the latter, and isn't productive. How can it be that people sit on assets that do nothing and become richer? It doesn't make sense. Rising house prices are a false sense of wealth that rose due to a credit expansion.

Second, is consumption wealth? We have a huge trade deficit with the rest of the world and this shows that we are borrowing in order to pay for our spending habits. Production is wealth: it al-

lows us to trade with the rest of the world. When we are diverting the scarce resource of credit towards consumption, we are just piling on debt in an area that is not productive and we are making ourselves poorer by keeping the sector inflated.

So for a decade, we have nearly wiped out all our savings and invested it in the wrong things.

As we have a huge amount of money that is invested in areas not

**“Is housing a productive asset that produces wealth, or just a place to live? Sadly, it is the latter”**

creating wealth (malinvestments), we are not going to grow, so government tax revenues are going to stay constant or fall. This is the mother of all bubbles. If investors lose confidence in our bonds as they believe the government won't be able to pay them back, they will sell them

and interest rates will start to rise. The central banks will either buy up bonds to keep interest rates low, causing hyperinflation, or let the price of bonds fall through the floor.

The bubbles will burst and all that debt from housing and retail will be recycled through defaults causing a lot of pain and misery for a lot of people. We really, honestly 'haven't seen nothing' yet, and it is going to be nasty.

However, isn't this necessary? Credit and money is a finite resource that needs to be invested in productive resources so that we can grow. If we want to see growth, the structural readjustments to a production based economy are required. But this can only happen when debt is moved from malinvestments to productive investments.

To offset this pain, we have to let the private productive sector do the work, and get the government out of the way. If we want growth, we need to sacrifice it in the short term so that the capital is recycled. It will be painful but the status quo is only going to do one thing, and that is make the implosion bigger and more painful.

## Comment Bites: from the Nouse website

Nouse welcomes your comments and letters. Please indicate if they are not intended for publication. Email [letters@nouse.co.uk](mailto:letters@nouse.co.uk) or write to: Nouse, Grimston House, Vanbrugh College. Alternatively, comment on [www.nouse.co.uk](http://www.nouse.co.uk)

Dear Nouse, There is so much that is untrue in Laura Hughes' account of the abortive 'Welcome to Palestine' campaign ('Helping Hebron', 1 May) that it is difficult to know where to begin.

Firstly, it shouldn't have to be said that Israel is a sovereign country with the right to deny entry to anyone it deems a threat. Given that many of the hundreds of "activists" who were prevented from flooding into Israel in April - including Carol Pearman, upon whose testimony your entire article is based - are affiliated with extremist hate groups like the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, such security concerns are not unfounded.

Indeed, your article clearly states that Ms Pearman has participated in several of the "non-violent

demonstrations" which take place every Friday across Judea and Samaria. Last year alone, there were 1,129 of these "non-violent demonstrations" in which rocks and firebombs were hurled by "peace activists" at Israeli soldiers.

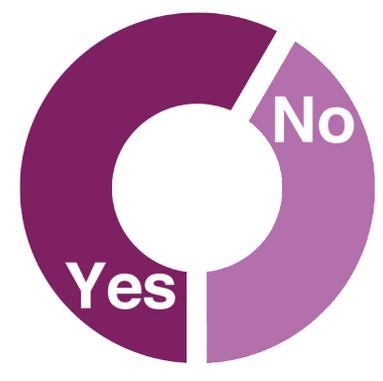
As for your claim that "settler paramilitaries commit brutal crimes against the Palestinian civilian population," I have written at length on this subject elsewhere. You might be surprised to know that even the most inflated and unreliable estimates of "settler violence" put the number of such incidents at little over 400 in 2011. Compare this to the yearly average for recorded Palestinian rock-throwing incidents: well over 4,000.

Jacob Campbell, StandWithUs Fellow (York)

### The Burning Question

This edition, Nouse asked: **“Are you glad to see Brian Cantor, the University Vice-Chancellor, step down?”**

242 people voted, with the majority stating YES



### University VC to step down

Cynic says: May 1, 2012 at 6:55 pm

He stayed a year or two too long for me, managed to leave just before the massive challenges of increased fees. Tough job for his successor.

Oliver Blackburn says: May 2, 2012 at 7:04 pm

[...] As for a successor - an internal promotion most likely to be Trevor Sheldon, although given he gave up the Deputy VC job he might be scaling back his responsibilities. Or possibly just easing Jane into the role so she'd be established in time for the VC change. Who knows eh. Fingers crossed for a league table recovery whatever happens.

Much as I love THE, the university

of the year thing is nothing compared to a regular place in the Top 10. That must be our priority, and a little more student satisfaction is the best way to do that. I hope a newbie notices.

### Sport-TV College Cup special

College Cup Veteran says: May 12, 2012 at 9:37 pm

I remember the attempt at a TV show 3 years ago and this is a lot more polished. The lads you got in the studio weren't too quiet/mumbling which is always important. Really top stuff.

However you can tell this has the potential to turn into a UY AFC love-in which will inevitably mean lots of attention on James and Halifax. Derwent were written off already.

Philadelphia says: May 13, 2012 at 10:21 am

It was obviously shot before the Halifax game. Bit rich from various Derwent people considering last year's podcasts were all about them. And finally, I still think its James or Halifax for the title, I'm in Alcuin btw. Well done Tom Day.

### Ched Evans: consent, crime, and punishment

Chris Ferguson says: May 1, 2012 at 4:55 pm

There is a dichotomy in rape allegations. Assange, Evans and MacDonald are named.

Anonymity must be for both parties or none. False allegations ought to attract a minimum 10 years sentence.



### Pick of the Twittersphere

- Fringe Phantom** @FringePhantom 14 May  
@VanbrughShadow I think we should unite against @BarnGeist along with the whole of @Dramasoc  
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite
- Vanbrugh Shadow** @VanbrughShadow 21h  
@FringePhantom i think you should shut the hell up  
Hide conversation Reply Retweet Favorite  
11:33 AM - 16 May 12 via Twitter for Android · Details
- Library Seats** @LibrarySeats 19h  
desperate times in the library today.. there are however 3 seats in a corridor off the wall directly opposite the main entrance  
Expand Reply Retweet Favorite

# Politics



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**Israel:** Benjamin Netanyahu this week dismissed suggestions that Iran is halting its nuclear programme. Talks on the issue will take place on 23 May between the Security Council plus Germany.



**Myanmar:** US firms are looking to invest in Myanmar after the State department suspended restrictions on the country following reforms.



**Greece:** The leader of the party expected to win Greece's elections, Alexis Tsipras of Syriza, has warned continued austerity will send Greece to "hell".



**The Hague:** The trial of the former Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic was last week indefinitely delayed, after the prosecution failed to disclose evidence to the defence.



**India:** Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has been banned from entering Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium for five years after a row with staff at an IPL cricket match.

## Los Indignados protesters return to the streets of Spanish cities

Patrick Greenfield  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THIS WEEK saw the return of Los Indignados - the indignant ones - to the streets of Spain to restate their anger at the failure of Spanish democracy and protest against the injustices of their current economic strife.

Spain's alarming level of youth unemployment has been well documented in the ongoing Euro crisis and there is growing fear that the legacy of the financial trouble will be a lost generation of educated citizens, humiliated by the realities of joblessness. Who can assure them otherwise?

Many areas now have industrial ghost towns populated by half finished skeletal structures that were frozen in time when the crisis hit.

The 15-M movement, a name derived from the date Los Indignados first took to the street, is the loudest voice in the call for a new capitalism, a responsible democracy and an overhaul of civil society. They consider themselves as the precursor to the Occupy movement that is still ongoing.

Los Indignados want to construct a Spain that serves the people, not multinational corporations or the ruling class. For the first time in living memory, the majority of young Europeans must expect a worse standard of living than their parents and 15-M feel that the current economic crisis is the perfect



A member of the "Los Indignados" 15-M movement; graduate unemployment is at crippling highs in Spain

chance for a social and civil reformation.

The group is influential online; from their website they spread their message in 11 languages through Twitter and Facebook, inspiring groups like Occupy Wall Street.

They are connected with similar movements in 62 other countries claiming to represent the 99 per cent. Their manifesto is simplistic: "the priorities of any ad-

vanced society must be equality, progress, solidarity, freedom of culture, sustainability, development and above all, happiness." They argue that their frustrating lack of specific objectives and demands is justified by the political diversity of the movement.

While their abstract goals may be hard to be against, such a lack of clarity makes it hard to see what they are working towards. But with

one-in-two under-25s unemployed it is clear getting PhD students into work, and not serving coffee, is among their aims.

But with Spain's future looking increasingly darker, an exodus of graduates looks set to exacerbate the current hardship as young, intelligent Spaniards are heading for Germany, South America and Britain in search of better opportunities.

## Minimum price for Scotland's alcohol

Neil Johnston  
POLITICAL REPORTER

LAST WEEK the Scottish Government outlined its plans for minimum alcohol pricing. With an increased minimum cost per unit of 50p, the government aims to combat Scotland's binge drinking problem.

This is the first time minimum pricing has been tried in Europe. Although a study has suggested health benefits, retailers and the drinks industry are threatening legal action.

The proposal, originally put forward by the SNP in their first term as a minority government, was blocked by other parties. However, it will be passed next week now that the SNP have an overall majority at Holyrood.

The UK government are currently looking at the idea of minimum pricing, but at a cost of 40p a unit rather than the higher Scottish price.

Under the Scottish policy only 16 out of 36 drinks on the official list are not affected, and the plans



The minimum price aims to improve Scotland's severe alcohol problems

have come under criticism for this. It is thought premium labels will increase their own price to differentiate themselves from own brands.

Some of the strongest criticism has been directed towards the fact that the plans will have no ef-

fect on the price of Buckfast tonic wine which has been cited in 5,000 crime reports across Scotland. Although alcohol consumption amounts have started to fall in Britain, they remain higher in Scotland than the rest of the UK.

The new pricing means a bottle of supermarket own brand vodka will go up by just under five pounds while cider will increase to over double its current price.

Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy First Minister and Health Secretary, commented on the plans: "Cheap alcohol comes at a price and now is the time to tackle the toll that Scotland's unhealthy relationship with alcohol is taking on our society."

She argued that health issues mean the policy is now necessary: "Too many Scots are drinking themselves to death.

"The problem affects people of all walks of life. It's no coincidence that as affordability has increased, alcohol-related hospital admissions have quadrupled, and it is shocking that half of our prisoners now say they were drunk when they committed the offence. It's time for this to stop."

It is believed by the Scottish government that introducing a minimum price per unit will enable them to tackle these problems, "given the clear link between affordability and consumption."

# Finding time for gay marriage

The decision by Barack Obama to support same-sex marriage is a step in the right direction. Our Prime Minister should act similarly, argues **Lauren Stevenson**

On 9th May Barack Obama announced his support for same-sex marriage, becoming the first sitting US President to do so. He argued that marriage equality “strengthens families,” having been forced to definitively state his position after his Vice President “got ahead of his skis” and gave his support to the idea three days earlier.

While many were thrilled by the President’s support for gay marriage, political analysts immediately went into overdrive to try and calculate the potential negative impact this may have on Obama’s re-election campaign. Just two days earlier 61 per cent of people in North Carolina voted to define marriage as between “one man and one woman” and banned any other type of “domestic legal union.”

Obama won this traditionally Republican state in 2008 and polls indicate he is locked in a tight race. A pair of polls indicate his support may have cost him in the state and nationwide, but the President’s advisers framed the decision as one made out of principle, not politics.

The important question is whether the announcement was made for purely political reasons. But is Obama prepared to push the matter further, and will it be politically viable in a country where only 51 per cent of people agree with the policy?

The support of the most powerful man in the world is undoubtedly a positive step for



The electoral ramifications of Obama’s decision are unclear; money has poured in but voters may be deterred

those who support gay marriage. However, it is currently a matter for individual states to decide - a position Obama agreed to uphold - and, under the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), gay marriages recognised in six states are not recognised by federal law.

There has been a degree of public backlash to Obama’s support, especially by the 67 per cent of African-Americans who are against gay marriage, and the Church. However, one poll states 60 per cent claim it will make no difference to how they decide to

vote.

“The support of the most powerful man in the world is undoubtedly a positive step”

If the President is re-elected it is likely he will encounter very strong opposition to repealing

DOMA so that gay marriages are recognised everywhere. Hopefully his announcement will not have a negative impact on him gaining a second term so that he does at least have the opportunity to try and put this into practice. Either way he has already ordered his Justice Department to stop enforcing parts of it.

The UK likes to consider itself as more liberal than it’s powerful big brother. But on the surface of things, the US has an African-American leader publicly declaring his support for marriage equality,

while an Etonian leads the UK and is trying to backtrack on the issue after pressure from inside his own party.

David Cameron has publicly declared his own support for marriage equality many times, but others, such as Philip Hammond, have said that gay marriage legislation should not be pushed through when the voters have other, seemingly more important, concerns.

Despite this, equal rights for heterosexual and homosexual couples are much further on here than in the US. Civil partners have the same legal rights as married couples, even though they are not, in the eyes of the law, married.

This is something that needs to be corrected, and should be much easier to do than trying to establish the same legal rights for gay couples in the US - it simply involves a change of name.

There will never be a time when the only thing for the government to focus on is gay marriage, but this does not mean it is not important and should simply be swept aside.

Until all “married” couples can be referred to as such then there is no true equality and it is a shame that gay marriage still remains such a contentious issue, both here and in the US.

Obama’s support for gay marriage is a step in the right direction; at least the US is out of the blocks. Hopefully his decision can help persuade our Prime Minister to press on with the issue.

# Queen’s Speech: ‘Coalition staying the course’

THE LAST WORD  
Tom Witherow



Isn’t the State Opening of Parliament exciting? For one, it provides an opportunity for Londoners to line the streets, little plastic flags in full flow, to grab a peak at our Queen.

On this occasion she was kitted out in her finest furs and a stair-runner of a train in tow, accompanied by Prince Phillip, whose medal count could have caused him to topple over at any moment. But this is by-the-by as, above all, it is a chance for the government to lay out the timetable for the next parliamentary session.

Perhaps it was only me, but the list appeared at first glance to lack those growth-stimulating policies that the government claims are its primary focus. One can understand that the current political situation makes it difficult for the Coalition to push bold or divisive ideas.

But with line two of HRH’s speech beginning: “My Ministers’ first priority will be to reduce the deficit and restore economic stability”, one might expect a little more

in the way of hard economics.

“Competition Law is to be reformed to promote enterprise.” This deserves a tick, but is there any further mention of this? Well yes, but only in respect to supermarkets and their dealings with suppliers.

The establishment of a Green Investment Bank too appears to be a step in the right direction, considering Britain’s strength in renewable sources (especially wind). But these are hardly going to lift us out of recession. Odd considering the latter billed at number three on the government’s list.

This parliamentary session will thus not include the heavyweight policies of Osborne’s first budget which saw VAT rise, corporation tax slashed, and retirement delayed. And so it was with this year’s budget, in which partisan pigeons squabbled over financial bread-crumbs - the Pasty tax being a personal highlight.

But perhaps this is justified? The government are committed to a policy of austerity, and although it may cost them the next election (see France and Greece for reference) it is right that they continue on the platform on which they were



An uninspiring speech saw questions over the Coalition’s growth strategy

elected.

But, what economic policy announcements of the last year really show is that the UK is in fact helpless. With nervous and crisis-stricken European consumers making up 55 per cent of our exports, growth in this all-important sector has been stagnant for eighteen months. The inauguration of a certain Monsieur Hollande will do little for investors’ confidence either. Markets

remain jittery, lending tight, unemployment obstinate.

Although the government must of course not admit it, the policy moves of a small island remain at the mercy of the currents of a sinking continent.

So where has this lack of press left us? Lords reform was expected, but only made it to number sixteen on our shopping list. Despite the inimitable Burkino Faso

and Kazakhstan being the only countries to surpass us in the size of our second chamber, and the fact that our ‘representative’ body has more members over 90 than under 40, it is unlikely that parliamentary time will be devoted to this most divisive of issues.

Our monarch also did not waver as she announced ongoing suffering for the young and old alike.

Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith continues to wade through labour opposition proposing a movement to career-averaged pensions, however these are, like austerity, part of a broader plan announced at the start of the Coalition’s term. Students are hit by the exclusion of plans to spread the cost of university education to private firms.

Another week with a lot of parliamentary noise without much to show for it. It seems the press will have to continue to barrage Rebekah Brooks, our latest Salem Witch.

Oh well, on the strength of LOL-gate, it should at least provide us with some entertainment through the monotony and pain of exam revision.

# Science



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## The importance of being biodiverse

Suraj Rai  
SCIENCE REPORTER

When astronauts visit space they often record that while they have the opportunity to look outwards at the universe, it is actually looking back at the earth that is more enchanting. Their key words being: just how alive, how colourful, but at the same time how fragile Earth looks.

To quote the most famous of these travellers, Neil Armstrong once said: "It suddenly struck me that that tiny pea, pretty and blue, was the Earth. I put up my thumb and shut one eye, and my thumb blotted out the planet Earth. I didn't feel like a giant. I felt very, very small."

We have seen so far in our explorations that life is actually a very rare phenomenon. So far amongst all our neighbouring planets, we can count off on the fingers of one hand the possible areas that might be harbouring life. If we do eventually succeed in finding life beyond our planet, it may not be as wonderful, or complex, or diverse as what we already have in one square foot of British soil.

It is difficult to sum up the variety of life on the earth but we do know that in almost every possible environment, life exists. Although perhaps not comfortably, from deep sea vents to the glaciers to the acid mines in California, more often than not it is simply about sur-



LYDIA & MATT RAVENHALL

The diversity of life on Earth is not only beautiful and rare, it is also vital for the sustainability of life as a whole

living. We also know that we don't know about all the life on Earth. Take the weevils for example, it is the single most diverse group of organisms on the planet, with an estimated 62,000 species that we currently know of. Yet this is only the tip of the iceberg, with new species being identified constantly.

There is no scientific consensus as to exactly how life on Earth began, but there is an agreement that we are harming it, and at an

unsustainable rate. Extinction is a natural process of a species 'lifetime': if it cannot succeed in adapting to its surroundings it eventually becomes extinct. From the fossil records we know that the Earth has lived through five great extinctions, but what is so alarming about this period of extinction, known as the Holocene, is the rate at which species are being lost. The background extinction which is a natural process has been estimated at

10 species in every million per year. However, in 2004 the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) calculated that the current rate of loss was 100-1,000 per million species annually, 10 times the background rate of extinction. In short, the world's species are becoming extinct faster than new ones can evolve.

This decline is not just confined to specific areas, it is global, and the effects of losing these spe-

cies is going to be borne by us and future generations. Species interacting together form ecosystems, growing to form biomes and by living with and off one another they carve out an existence. Through habitat degradation, overexploitation, human-borne invasive species, human-induced climate-change we are effectively pulling apart intricate balances which we rely on to live ourselves.

"The world's species are becoming extinct faster than new ones can evolve"

The diversity of these systems and species are what makes life on Earth resilient. There are species that are especially crucial to our survival, the pollinators for example, without whom we guarantee the failure of our crops. Further thinking in terms of economic worth put their value at €153bn in 2005, which represented 9.5 per cent of the value of the world agricultural production used for human food that year. Of course not all species are directly linked to us as the pollinators, however, the loss of one species could be like the loss of a rivet on a roller-coaster.

Ultimately, what is key for a healthy ecosystem and the "health" of our planet is diversity.

## Self-cleaning clothes, the solution to laundry?

Heather Powell  
SCIENCE REPORTER

What's the hardest part of being a student? Having to shop for your own food? Naps being interrupted by lectures? Or perhaps it's washing your own clothes? If - like me - you find yourself buying new undies to put off doing laundry for a couple more days, then self-cleaning clothes are for you.

It sounds too good to be true. I don't see my jeans jumping in the washing machine of their own accord. But if your shirts have been dipped in a special coating, exposure to a few hours of sunlight can leave them stain-free and smelling fresh, just how mum used to do it. When excited by light, this coating reacts with the chemicals in the stains and breaks down the

compounds that cause the distinctive and undesirable 'I've-been-crammed-in-a-lecture-hall-for-three-hours' odour.

This magic coating has been developed by two future life-savers from the Jiao Tong University in Shanghai, Mingce Long and Deyong Wu, and is made from a mixture of titanium dioxide and silver iodide. Titanium dioxide has already been used in other self-cleaning products such as windows, socks and tiles, where its cleaning properties are stimulated by UV light. Although the sun does emit some light at this frequency, this development never quite made it onto the catwalk, because the sun's ability to excite titanium dioxide was limited. It would be far more efficient if titanium dioxide could be excited by visible light instead.

Enter silver iodide. Well known



Could these be a thing of the past?

for its enhancement of reactions involving light, hence its prolific use in photography, silver iodide enables the coating to be activated by the more-prominent visible range of sunlight. The cotton threads of the clothes are plunged in a liquid mixture of titanium dioxide and nitrogen, before being coated in silver iodide. This gives the clothes a coating which is water-resistant and can be effectively excited by sunlight to break down stains.

The coating has been tested by staining a sample of the fabric with an orange dye, exposing it to sunlight for a few hours, and rinsing off with water. In this time, the majority of the stain has been removed, which is a huge improvement on previous research. The new coating is several times better at getting rid of stains and killing bacteria compared to cotton coated in titanium dioxide alone. The same fabric sample was tested multiple times with equally impressive results, indicating the coating is stable and won't stop working as soon as your 30 day return guarantee expires.

But don't throw out your washing powder just yet. Although titanium dioxide is safe enough to be used in white paint and sunscreen, it still has unproven potential to cause damage in the lungs. It also has the added stigma of be-

ing labelled as a 'nanoparticle' - a relatively modern area of science, nanotechnology is regarded with some suspicion as the long-term effects of some of these tiny particles are not yet completely understood.

Even so, the benefits could be immense. Apart from the obvious bonus of not having to do laundry again, the world-wide energy savings from not using washers and dryers would be significant. And that's not to mention the financial advantages, providing that the cost of actually manufacturing clothes with the coating isn't too expensive.

So, I hope that one day soon the splash of muddy puddle up my trousers from biking onto campus will have vanished by the time I arrive. But until then, we'll just have to keep doing our own washing or hand over a suitcase to an obliging relative whenever we pop home.

Top Three:  
Concentration  
Boosters

### 1) Chewing gum

Research suggests that chewing gum may help towards making people smarter by improving memory and brain performance. In tests, scientists found the ability to recall given words improved by 35 per cent among people who chewed gum.

### 2) Meditation

A recent paper in the journal *Psychological Science* tried to identify brain functions that are enhanced by meditating. It found that people who meditated were significantly more successful when completing tasks relating to concentration.

### 3) Taking water into exams

Bringing water into the exam hall may improve your exam grades by up to 5 per cent. A study of 447 University of East London and Westminster students found that those who brought water into the exam scored on average 5 per cent better than those who did not.

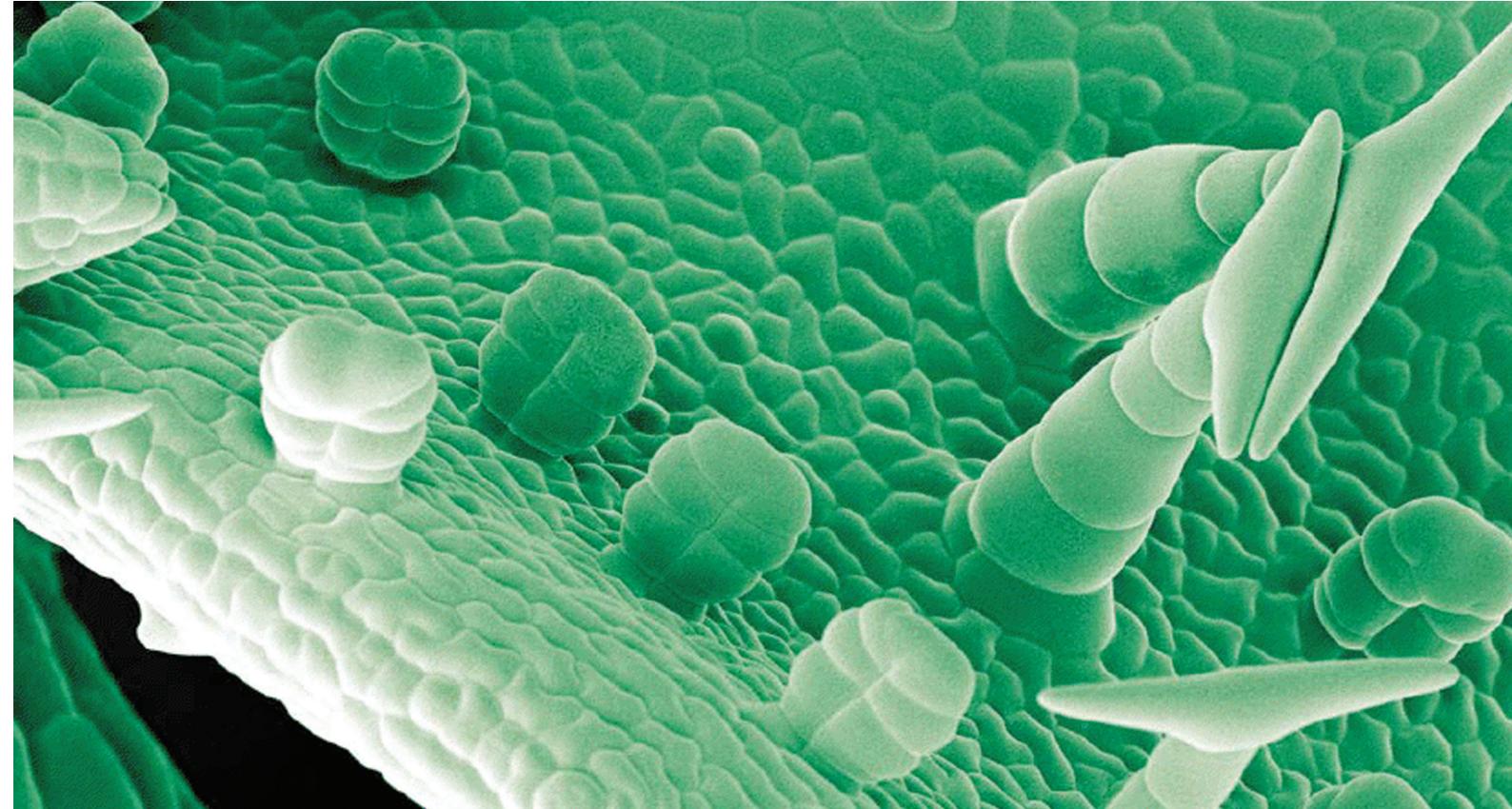


KLEARCHOS KAPOUTSIS

# York's Grand Tour

Professor Anthony Robards OBE, the creator of an upcoming interactive open-air exhibition consisting of stunning images of science and the local area, speaks to **Matt Ravenhall** and **James Cameron**

YORK SCIENCE & INN GRAND TOUR 2012



Just one of the 60 high definition, scientific photographs that will be decorating the streets of York in the summer for Professor Robards' Grand Tour

Professor Anthony Robards OBE has been described as the 'interface between the University of York and businesses, the City and the Region'. He co-founded both the local Science Park and Science City York, was President of the Microscopical Society and has published over 130 books and papers in biological research, both pure and applied. Obtaining his OBE in 2002 for 'Services to Higher Education' and a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the Yorkshire Evening Press Business Awards ceremony in 2003, it could be argued that Professor Robards has played a critical role in the development of York into the city it is today.

He now divides his time between working for the University of York, involving himself with charitable works and sitting on the board of a number of companies. His latest project is the York Science and Innovation Grand Tour, an interactive open-air exhibition around the heart of York which seeks to demonstrate to residents and visitors that science and innovation in York is something to get excited about.

## What's the main aim of the Grand Tour?

To a large extent, it is to take science and innovation to two main audiences. One is the residents of York and the other is the seven million visitors to York each year. To the residents, it's to say great things, there are jobs here for your kids, it's helping to strengthen the economy and York wouldn't be anything like the place it is now if it weren't for science technology and knowledge-based businesses that are growing around the city.

And for the visitors, we're internationally known as a nice heritage place, bit soft maybe, we're not a Manchester or a Birmingham, but underlying York has a real strong capability in its business, we want to show it as a business centre.

## What was the inspiration behind the project?

There was a similar concept in 2008 - organised by Janet Barns, who is Chief Executive of the York Museums Trust, she looks after the Castle Museum, the art galleries, all the city-owned museums and galleries in York. The Museums Trust worked jointly with the National Gallery to produce the last 'grand tour' which had previously been in the City of London. It featured about 50 large-scale high resolution reproductions; Rubens, van Goghs and the like and that was wonderful.

But as a scientist, a lot of my background has been in using microscopes, studying the beauty of nature. When you look at nature on both a macro scale and down a microscope, sometimes you see the most wonderfully beautiful things. And I thought we could use some wonderful images from science and technology and that they would tell a story. So, we've pretty much stayed true to that first ideal.

## Can you tell us a few specifics about what this tour will consist of?

We've got about 60 images, for example, we have some spectacular fluorescent-stained prostate cancer stem cells. They're generally about just over a metre wide and will be in high footfall areas of York, mainly within the walls of the city but a few are outside on the way to the sta-

tion. Most of them will be screwed onto buildings, and laminated to protect them from the weather and graffiti.

The three criteria for our exhibits are that they must be stunning images, it must have something to do with York and it's got to be able to tell a story.

## Who submitted the images?

They're all York-based, although we have some international companies which are based here, for example, Nestlé and naturally we had to be careful that they were not overtly advertising themselves.

We have an image from them which is the cross-section of a cabbage, and it's a nice artistic image. Why is it there? Because all of the pigments in Smarties are now drawn from natural products, such as the red cabbage. So there's a nice story.

One that I particularly like is of a trumpet. We have the bell of a fanfare trumpet which has been computer simulated so that the vibrations have been colour coded onto it.

But why should that be there? Why is that interesting? On each image there will be a short 'Did You Know?', with a few words telling you, for example, 'Did you know that Richard Smith, who lives just outside York, designs his trumpets on the basis of quantum physics to ensure that the vibrations are as perfect as possible and that his trumpets are going to be used for the opening of the Olympics and in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations?' And that's great, but most people in York wouldn't know that. So it's an interesting application of science to a real world problem.

## What's going to happen to the images after the Grand Tour?

Most of the images will go back to the original sponsors, for example, Nestlé is currently in the middle of an expansion of their product technology centre, their research labs, which is going to open in September. They were, when we first spoke to them about contributing, very keen to retain their three images, partly because they would be nice images to have but also because they could be used to demonstrate Nestlé's community engagement activities.

## So how long has this idea been in the making? Did it originate with the last grand tour?

Well I formed the idea quite quickly but then getting people involved with it has been a big part of my life over the last year or so. Firstly, I spoke to a man called Bill Woolley, the Deputy Chief Executive of the Council, because the first thing was that if we didn't get the Council on side, we weren't going to go anywhere. But then, who else? We formed a small company which was purely there as a vehicle to give the project some substance, it features both universities, the council, the Museums Trust, Visit York and Science City York as its partners. So whoever you think would be interested in taking part in this was there.

The York Science and Innovation Grand Tour is taking place around York from 30 May - 31 August, to find out more visit [www.yorkgrandtour.co.uk](http://www.yorkgrandtour.co.uk).

A longer transcript of this interview can be found on the *Nouse* website at [www.nouse.co.uk/science](http://www.nouse.co.uk/science).

## Too much toothpaste?

Jamie Birch

Could the simple act of brushing our teeth be leading us down a path which undermines the aims of dental hygiene? We are all too aware of the dangers of antibiotic resistance when it comes to 'superbugs' such as MRSA in our hospitals. These super-resistant strains become more frequent due to the overuse of antibiotics, creating a situation where the few bacteria which happen to already be resistant suddenly become the majority.

Understanding this, why then can we be so liberal about bathing the bacteria in our mouth night and day with fluoride and triclosan, knowing full well the mounting difficulties we are facing in treating MRSA infections? Triclosan is a common antibiotic added to toothpastes, and fluoride. While it primarily prevents initiation and progression of tooth decay by enhancing tooth mineral structure, triclosan also happens to directly impede the metabolic functions of cariogenic (tooth decay-causing) microbes.

Firstly, the bad news: even at environmental concentrations as low as 19ppm (your toothpaste may be around 1200ppm), we are witnessing evolutionary responses in *S. mutans* (the main cariogenic dental bacterium) to fluoride. This is because *S. mutans* is extremely sensitive to the ingredient, due to its direct and significant inhibitory effects on its metabolism.

So yes, resistance is developing. However, the good news is that the form is a convenient one: strains that resist fluoride have a naturally lower metabolic rate, and consequently have a lower cariogenic potential.

More good news. While data is somewhat limited on the development of resistance against triclosan, a 2004 study concludes that, after inoculating a population of *S. mutans* with triclosan 10 times - allowing it to recover in size after each exposure, providing a huge potential for adaptation - no significant change in tolerance to the antibacterial was observed, unlike in *E. coli*.

The study furthermore cites five reports which concluded that there has been no reduction in the effectiveness of triclosan against dental bacteria, and three reports which suggest that long-term use of triclosan does not select for triclosan-resistant populations.

So for the present, it seems we have nothing to worry about, at least for the specific (albeit critical) microbe I've reviewed here. Any resistance that *S. mutans* gains to fluoride is only favourable to dental care, and there is no evidence so far of it having evolved resistance to triclosan.

We would be wise to continue monitoring its genetics - and indeed, the genetics of any other, even beneficial, microbe these chemicals affect - and may find cause to change our choice of active ingredients if the situation changes at all in the future.

## Sport

## PARK LIFE

**Luke Gardener**  
SPORTS EDITOR

With exam season in full swing and dissertation deadlines passing, sport has seemingly taken a backseat after the frantic nature of Roses 2012 in Lancaster.

That is unless you happen to be playing in any of the 24 College Cup squads.

The tournament captures the imagination of so many across campus whether it be the seasoned college footballers, the university players, or those who just want to follow their fantasy football picks and prove their college football expertise.

We are now over two weeks into the tournament, meaning almost half of the 60 group matches have taken place seemingly before the summer weather has chosen to arrive.

In contrast to last year a thick jacket has seemed more appropriate to bring than the shorts and t-shirts worn by most this time last year.

**“You can be sure that sport won’t be dropping off the radar during exam season”**

It has certainly made for some interesting action on the cold and windswept JLD.

With so many fixtures to cover and the interest in the tournament so high, reporting becomes an even tougher test as every name is scrutinised, every goal description analysed, and every man of the match judged.

However, having the chance to report on matches where the underdogs rise above their supposed potential, shocking pre-tournament favourites makes it all worthwhile.

For the college teams, the tournament is the pinnacle of the football calendar.

There are always shocks and this year looks to be no different with Vanbrugh thirds, Halifax seconds and Goodricke seconds all looking to reach the knockout rounds proper.

Certain players are catching the eye, while all the supporters from each college are adamant that their teams are best set for tournament success, however ludicrous the idea realistically is.

This is the beauty of the College Cup. Everyone believes they are contenders.

And with college cricket, hockey, tennis and more also in full swing you can be sure that sport won’t be dropping off the radar during exam season, no matter how tempting a library session may seem.

After all, we can all use a lengthy break from revision every now and then.

# Petrolheads

Dan Holland speaks to the Karting Club about the thrill-seeking sport and their future prospects

The images that spring to mind when thinking about karting are of a young Lewis Hamilton or Ayrton Senna – grainy home videos that are shown in montages before a Formula 1 race, showcasing the talent held by these sporting greats from an early age.

As I stand at the edge of a small indoor circuit in Leeds, watching members of the University of York Karting Club, my mind is almost inevitably drawn to some of the most idolised racers in history. And though I am told the difference between the two is “incomparable”, for a casual observer like me there are striking similarities.

The speeds seem, to me at least, scarily quick, their car control remarkable, and their concentration unbroken.

Imagine my shock afterwards when they tell me that this is one of the shortest and slowest tracks they compete on. The karts here can go to about 40mph, but on the bigger outdoor circuits used in the British University Karting Championship (BUKC) the 100cc two-stroke karts provided by CLUB100 will reach upwards of 70mph.

It all sounds a bit terrifying, travelling at 70mph perched atop a tiny kart with only your helmet to protect you, but Club President Andrew Gilmore assures me otherwise. “You’d be surprised that there’s rarely anyone hurt. It can look dangerous sometimes but it’s not as bad as you’d think,” he says.

The event I’m watching is the kind of something they would take beginners to, and the spectrum of driving standards they cater for is huge – from beginners who have never raced before, to some of the most talented young racers in the country.

“We cover a wide range. The new people coming along will do it on smaller indoor circuits, which is a good stepping stone,” says Gilmore of their eclectic membership.

“We like to build people up, go to some larger circuits and get them more experience, and then eventually when they’re up to the task we like to get them involved with BUKC if we can.



Andrew Gilmore in action during round five of this year’s Championship

“It’s not really difficult to get to a good standard. If you’ve done a few indoor events, that’s enough to come with us to a test day because you’ll get used to the karts pretty quickly.

**“You might spin out on the first lap, but you can pick up all of the necessary skills surprisingly quickly.”**

UYKC President  
Andrew Gilmore

“You might spin out on the first lap, but you can pick up all of the necessary skills surprisingly quickly. The standard is really high in BUKC, though. The best thing about it is that it’s a mix of people who are new and want to learn and the people who’ve done it for years

and years.”

For all the fun, I can’t help but notice that the overtaking is not exactly fast and furious; there are only five members of UYKC here, plus a couple of locals. Exam season may have restricted attendance this time, but recruitment has become a serious problem for the club, who have had to rely on experienced members to fill their BUKC teams.

Despite having around 50 fully paid-up members, I’m told that nowhere near that number turn up on a regular basis. There are many reasons for this, not least the distances the teams have to travel for races, but Gilmore insists that if you give it a try then you can get hooked.

“The tracks we go to for BUKC are miles away. There are two in Kent, one in Dorset, one in Wales and one in North London. There is a track we use on weekly events

that’s in Teesside, which is a lot closer.

“I imagine the distances and the costs do put people off because it’s a lot of work just for a day’s karting, but I think once they get involved it’s really worthwhile.”

The travelling also eats into the club’s finances, with fuel costs taking up most of the £600 grant they received from YUSU this year. The club has also been rebuffed in its attempts to purchase a practice car through the York Annual Fund.

But things are looking up and, with a big event planned for next year’s Freshers Fair, Gilmore is confident that more people can follow in his footsteps.

“Next year we’re going to have to have a really big freshers event to get people involved in the small stuff, but then get those people who are interested in the bigger things on board quickly because the test day comes up only a couple weeks after freshers fair.

“I found the karting club at freshers fair. At first I wasn’t sure but I ended up taking a flier and thought it was something I could be interested in. I’ve done it for a long time, since I was nine or 10, but when I came to university I hadn’t raced for a number of years. But a lot of people who haven’t done it before come along in freshers week and really enjoy it.”

So, if you see yourself as the next Jenson Button or Danica Patrick, find out more at [www.yorkuniversitykarting.co.uk](http://www.yorkuniversitykarting.co.uk) or email [karting@yusu.org](mailto:karting@yusu.org).

## UYKC Factfile

- Founded in 1998
- Their A Team finished 35th in BUKC this year, B Team came in 40th
- Events consist of both sprint and endurance races
- Record finish is 7th in the BUKC, set in 2001

# Brilliant week ends in promotion for York City

**Dan Holland**  
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK CITY capped off a wonderful week by securing promotion

back to the Football League with a 2-1 win over Luton Town at Wembley in Sunday’s Blue Square Bet Premier play-off final.

Matty Blair was the hero, as his

PETER IVESON



A move from Bootham Crescent to Monks Cross is also on the agenda

second half winner sent City back into League Two after an eight year absence.

Luton took the lead after just 71 seconds through Andre Gray, but City recovered well and found themselves level when Ashley Chambers smashed home on 26 minutes.

Blair put City ahead for the first time in the match when he latched onto a long throw to fire in from close range, though he looked to be in an offside position, and that proved to be good enough to take Gary Mills’ side back into the Football League.

The result came at the end of a hugely successful week, with City winning the FA Trophy at Wemb-

ley last Saturday, beating Newport County 2-0 with goals from Blair and Lanre Oyejbanjo.

The club also received the news that they have been granted a new 6000 seater stadium at Monks Cross.

Both City and the York City Knights rugby league side will play at the rebuilt Huntington Stadium, after a York City Council planning committee voted 11-4 in favour of approving the project.

The community stadium, which should be completed within three years, will form part of one of the city’s biggest ever developments, with new John Lewis and Marks & Spencer superstores also due to open in the next 18 months.

# College Cup 2012: The story so far

With the group stage about to pass the halfway point, Dan Holland and Luke Gardener assess the first two weeks of action

## Group 1

Table correct as of Sunday 20th May

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Halifax 3rds	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6
Derwent 1sts	2	2	0	0	2	0	+2	6
Langwith 2nds	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
Goodricke 2nds	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
Wentworth 1sts	2	0	0	2	3	5	-2	0
James 3rds	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0

**Best Match:** Langwith 2nds 3-2 Wentworth 1sts - A wonder goal from Jack Donovan set Langwith on their way, before they came from 2-1 down to take the three points in an entertaining encounter.

**Star Player:** Tom Brandreth - The central defender has kept two clean sheets and also scored the winner against Goodricke seconds.

**Comedy Moment:** The refereeing in the match between Halifax and James. With James pressing for a winner, Maxime Reby was cynically fouled by the last man, but the referee only produced a yellow card.

**Who'll Qualify:** Derwent firsts will qualify comfortably. Second place could go to any one of four teams, with Goodricke perhaps favourites.

## Group 2

Table correct as of Sunday 20th May

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
James 1sts	2	2	0	0	11	1	+10	6
Vanbrugh 2nds	2	1	0	1	4	3	+1	3
Halifax 4ths	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
Alcuin 1sts	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
Wentworth 2nds	2	1	0	1	3	8	-5	3
Goodricke 3rds	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0

**Best Match:** James 1sts 8-0 Wentworth 2nds - Although an extremely one sided encounter, the football played by James was mesmerising.

**Star Player:** Tom Clarke - Scored four goals in the opening two games including a hat trick in the 8-0 demolition of Wentworth.

**Comedy Moment:** The crowd reaction when Halifax came back from 2-0 down against Vanbrugh to take an unexpected 3-2 victory thanks to Alec Rieck's late effort.

**Who'll Qualify:** James will easily win the group. Second is likely to go to Alcuin or Vanbrugh, although the former will need to improve.



IMAGES: ANDY DAVIS AND AGATHA TORRANCE

## Group 3

Table correct as of Sunday 20th May

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Goodricke 1sts	2	2	0	0	3	0	+3	6
Vanbrugh 3rds	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6
Halifax 1sts	2	1	0	1	6	2	+4	3
James 2nds	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
Alcuin 3rds	2	0	0	2	1	8	-7	0
Derwent 2nds	2	0	0	2	0	2	-2	-2*

\*Derwent 2nds docked two points

**Best match:** Halifax 1sts 0-1 James 2nds - A fixture that truly defined the 'Group of Death', as Andrew Yates' goal, coupled with a resolute defensive display, was enough to beat last year's champions.

**Star player:** Sam Astbury - The rock at the heart of a Goodricke defence that is yet to concede, and has scored one himself.

**Comedy moment:** A pitch invasion from the James swan during their match against Vanbrugh. Honourable mention must be given to Mike Sutcliffe's insistence on wearing a suit on the touchline.

**Who'll Qualify:** It would be brave to bet against Halifax and Goodricke, but it really could be any from the current top four.

## Group 4

Table correct as of Sunday 20th May

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Halifax 2nds	2	2	0	0	8	2	+6	6
Vanbrugh 1sts	2	2	0	0	6	0	+6	6
Derwent 3rds	2	1	0	1	1	3	-2	3
Alcuin 2nds	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
Langwith 1sts	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	1
Wentworth 3rds	2	0	0	2	0	6	-6	0

**Best match:** Halifax 2nds 3-2 Alcuin 2nds - Halifax had led 2-0 but needed a superb late volley from Luke Stevenson to win, after a double from Jacob Scholz.

**Star Player:** Jon Gill - The fulcrum around which Vanbrugh's attack operates; assured in possession and deadly in front of goal.

**Comedy moment:** Nouse Sport TV star Dave Lewis' questionable choice of shorts, described by one Nouse reporter as reminiscent of a 1980s Liverpool away kit.

**Who'll Qualify:** Vanbrugh and probably Halifax, though they will need to beat Langwith on Tuesday to be confident of progressing.

# The Untouchables take early Fantasy Football lead

**Luke Gardener**  
SPORTS EDITOR

WE ARE now half way through the group stages of the College Cup 2012 and this year's Fantasy Football league is starting to take shape. Below I look at some of the best and worst performers so far.



What a difference a year makes for the striker.

The other man to have scored points at ease so far is Jon Gill, the Vanbrugh firsts midfielder who has scored three times, with two coming against Langwith firsts in a dominant display. He also picked up the man of the match and his

link play with Phil Taylor and Elliott Rous-Ross will ensure that he continues to score well throughout the tournament.

**Best Value -**  
**Jonny Williamson (Halifax 3rds), £2m**

Without doubt, the bargain of the College Cup thus far has been Halifax thirds defender Jonny Williamson. At just £2m the defender has proven an inspired choice, scoring in the win against Wentworth firsts and picking up man of the match. In his second match against James thirds he picked up a clean sheet but he could have scored even more points had he not blazed his penalty over the bar in the same match. He will look to continue his fine form.

**Worst Value -**

**Dan Atherton (Derwent 1sts), £9.3m**

The man who finished second last year has played the first two matches for Derwent firsts without scoring and he is reportedly going to be missing for the remaining group matches. Many a Fantasy Football manager are ruing the selection of 'Dathers', but he will do his utmost to turn his fortunes around come the knockout rounds.

**Honourable Mention -**  
**Tom Redhead (Wentworth 1sts), £6.5m**

There were many candidates for the honourable mention, but I believe Tom Redhead of Wentworth firsts deserves the accolade. His performance in the losing effort to Langwith seconds was spectacular. He scored two goals, picked up man

of the match and looked like the only Wentworth player to be playing to their potential. Redhead will be looking to replicate that form in the remaining group games.

**Leading Team -**  
**The Untouchables managed by Josh Spurling**

Although still early, the leader of Fantasy Football is Josh Spurling of James firsts with his team, The Untouchables. Tom Clarke, James Davies and Spurling himself have scored almost half the points for his team, while Jonny Williamson has ensured his defence have also accrued him points. The other man to make the difference for his team is Jake Mundy of Halifax seconds who scored a hat-trick against Wentworth thirds.

## Driving forward

**Dan Holland** talks to the Karting Club about life behind the wheel

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## College Cup in-depth

A look at the tournament so far and Fantasy Football's top performers

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## COLLEGE CUP

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# SPORT

# Pre-tournament contenders turn up the heat in College Cup

HOAGY DAVIS-DIGGES

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



## Dan Holland SPORTS EDITOR

WITH COLLEGE Cup 2012 now two weeks in, the teams that started the competition as favourites have begun to justify that status.

Halifax, Derwent and James firsts were the three main teams that were fancied, with Vanbrugh offering a decent outside bet, though their performances so far have suggested that they merit equal billing.

James Wilson's Vanbrugh team have won their first two matches at a canter, beating Derwent thirds and, more impressively, Langwith thirds by three goals to nil.

Jon Gill has been in imperious form, setting the standard for his teammates with three goals and a man of the match performance

to his name already, while College Cup stalwarts Phil Taylor and Ziggy Heath have also impressed.

They should collect another victory today when they face Wentworth thirds, which should all but secure their safe passage from the group stage.

James have been the stand-out team of the tournament so far, with two convincing wins in Group Two.

Alcuin firsts, who were set to be James' biggest challengers, were brushed aside 3-1, before an 8-0 demolition of Wentworth seconds that captain Richard Baxter described as "the best football performance I have ever played in on the JLD".

That game highlighted the vast array of attacking talent at their disposal, Tom Clarke bagging a hat-trick, Freddie Ferrao and James

Davies causing havoc, while James Offord was once again confined to a substitute appearance, though he did bag a goal himself.

At the time of writing, Halifax have yet to play what could be a fascinating fixture on Monday against Goodricke firsts. But so far they have certainly been very hit and miss.

For 15 minutes against James seconds they played superb football and looked set to win comfortably, but lost their way when they conceded. Last Friday they hit back with a 6-1 thrashing of Alcuin thirds, the kind of result that had been expected of them.

The so-called 'Group of Death' has proven to be just that so far and expect qualification to go down to the wire, especially if Halifax slip back into their opening game

habits and Goodricke can keep up their good form.

In their opening fixtures, Derwent have looked somewhat like an upset waiting to happen. They have scraped two 1-0 wins against teams that they would have wanted to score big victories against.

The first was after an early goal from David Kirk and a determined defensive display against the Delap-esque long throws of Will Prescott, while the second came about only because of a late Tom Brandreth header.

Ultimately, though, Derwent have two wins and two clean sheets from two games, which is all that matters at this stage.

Group One has proven to be very open, but last year's runners-up already look like they have the knack of grinding out results,

which could buy them some precious time to find a way of playing that can bring out the best from their attackers.

Of course, there is always a surprise package in the College Cup, and there are some outstanding candidates to fill that particular role this year.

Halifax seconds are top of Group Four and will fancy their chances of a top two finish should they manage to beat Langwith firsts in today's late kick-off.

Halifax thirds are also flying, sitting top of Group One after edging their matches against Wentworth thirds and James thirds.

Vanbrugh thirds have also shown that they could be a force to be reckoned with after a couple of very impressive wins.

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