

Our New Hope?

Does Rian Johnson's latest Star Wars installment live up to years of hype? **M.14**

Farage Strikes Back

New referendum support **P.16**



Nouse



Est. 1964

The University of York's longest-running student society

Tuesday 23 January 2018

YUSU shop to close

Oscar Bentley
DEPUTY EDITOR

YUSU HAVE ANNOUNCED that their sole retail outlet is to close for business after over ten years of trading. YUSU Shop, situated on Market Square alongside Nisa and Peacock's Hair, will be closing at a date after the end of the current academic year, following the decision not to renew their leases, which end around the final quarter of 2018.

A press release from YUSU President Alex Urquhart, embargoed until Monday 15 January, revealed the planned closure, with the statement later being shared on the Sabbatical Officer's official Facebook profiles. Urquhart cited the changing nature of the retail industry for the closure, explaining how operating a retail outlet on campus had been a struggle for YUSU for many years, and that maintaining the outlet is no longer sustainable. YUSU shop has reached the point where "it is no longer financially viable to continue YUSU shop in its current form."

The statement further noted that changing market trends, the advent of competition, both online and locally, and rising costs in general, were significant contributing factors to the decision to close the doors of YUSU shop for business. It also noted how the retail industry as a whole has been faced with an unprecedented revolution, with customers leaving a traditional high street model, a trend which has been "well documented recently in the national media."

Shop staff were informed about the decision prior to the announcement. Redeployment opportunities

Continued on P.6



Graduates at last weekend's six graduation ceremonies included an honorary degree for BBC Correspondent Orla Guerin (not pictured)

40% of energy on campus is renewable

- 2 417 676 kWh of energy used at the University is generated from renewable solar and biomass sources
- Carbon management plan hopes to upgrade facilities and reduce carbon emissions by 43 per cent by 2020

Jacob Phillips
EDITOR

AN INVESTIGATION BY *Nouse* has discovered that last year the University of York used 2 417 676 kWh from renewable energy sources, which is 40 per cent of all heat and electricity used. This means that the remaining 60 per cent of electrical energy consumed comes

from CHP self-generated electricity.

This is a marginal improvement on the previous year, in which 38 per cent of heat and electricity on campus came from renewable energy sources. The University depends on two main sources for its renewable energy, namely solar and biomass. Solar energy is prominent, with 26 253 kWh of electricity being generated from the 80 solar panels, placed in various locations across both campuses.

Meanwhile, the University's carbon management plan states that increasingly using biomass boilers will directly prevent 3 468 tonnes of carbon from being emitted by 2020.

Overall the carbon management plan hopes that the University will produce 20 476 tonnes fewer of carbon dioxide by 2020. In order to do so, it plans to update usage information and monitoring by upgrading facilities to make them more eco-friendly. Introducing new

low carbon sources is also listed as a priority if the University is to achieve its goal of reducing carbon emissions by 43 per cent by 2020.

Currently the main source of heat energy on the university campus comes from the central boiler house. This facility dates back to the 1960s when the University was originally founded, yet it is to witness a significant upgrade.

Continued on P.5

CONTENTS

NEWS

Dame Professor P.4 ●
York Professor is presented with a DME

Nisa Yet to Open P.7 ●
Hes East Nisa has failed to open as planned

MUSINGS

New Columns M.20 ●
Check out the winners of our column competition



POLITICS

German Coalition? P.16 ●
What would a coalition mean for the SPD?

Iranian Protests P.17 ●
Resignations weaken the PM's position

FILM & TV

Black Mirror M.15 ●
The TV team decide the five best episodes



THE SHOOT

Time's Up M.10 ●
Women speak the truth to powerful men

COMMENT

Cabinet Reshuffle P.9 ●
The Tories need to be more diverse

Media Monopolies P.13 ●
National and student media need competition

BUSINESS

Public Debt P.18 ●
Why high debt does not harm the economy



SPORT

Nouse Tries P.24 ●
Adam Philpott has a go at floorball

2017 Review P.26 ●
The Sport team look at a year in campus sport



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

There are many things which are permanent in this world: rocks, student debt, energy, my housemate's 'love of disco' (according to him)... but there is one thing that seems to be unshakable. This contentious topic is the pronunciation of the word 'Nouse.'

The *Nouse* puritans in the office swear that the name of this paper is a sophisticated triple pun, master crafted by a genius from the 1960s who somehow employed classical references alongside geographical banter to become a York legend. There are rumours that there are cave drawings of this Aristotle-like figure in the Borthwick Archives.

Nouse's Wikipedia page states that *Nouse's* name is a triple pun. Firstly, it's a pun on the geese ridden 'Ouse'. Secondly, 'nous' means intellect or common sense in Ancient Greek. However, this seems like pretentious crap to me. My favourite pun is also the most self-deprecating. Hopefully it is true that the name 'Nouse' was actually formed by leaving the space out of the words 'No use.'

In addition the name seems to be far from common sensical. No one seems capable of pronouncing the name of the paper without some kind of confusion. Many pronounce it in the same way as you would pronounce 'mouse' or 'house', although I do think the team share many qualities with mice (particularly how we hide in a hole in a wall called the office.)

Others 'correctly' pronounce it in the same way you pronounce 'Ouse.' However, this seems to sound more like 'news' making it very difficult to explain who you are writing for.

Walking around saying you write for 'News' seems almost Ron Burgundy-esque.

Therefore the most practical and distinctive way to pronounce the paper is pronounce it as 'No-use.' At least that way whoever you speak to will remember the paper at least for its weird ass name.

I do disagree that *No-use* has no use though. It is great to use for paper mache or for wrapping your fish and chips in, and if you're skilful enough you can even make origami swans or paper planes. Jokes aside, campus media is very valuable. Student media is not there for your CV: there are more impressive things to put. If your liver has survived whatever horrendous things go into Society's jagerbombs then surely that is more impressive.

Being a part of student media does not necessarily have to be some play pretend version of the *Guardian* in which writers play 'my dad is bigger than your dad' with *York Vision*. Instead, student media can help project student voices to find out whether the university is actually successful.

Nouse is not just a university prospectus. If you have noticed that lots of students are dropping out on your course then why not let the student body know? Maybe you just don't care at all about the upcoming YUSU elections, so why not explain why you don't care? If you can be bothered to read this far you can be bothered to help *Nouse* be more than useless.

Jacob Phillips

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

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Piazza Building opens as YUSU sabbatical officers solve societies' campus storage crisis

Imogen Bellamy
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY IS converting a room in the newly-opened Piazza Building on Campus East with the aim of creating storage space for students. This comes after a YUSU sabbatical officer-led campaign to get more room for societies, sports teams and students after it had not been planned prior to construction.

The five sabbatical officers dressed as elves on 13 December and proceeded to take a comically large, two-metre-tall Christmas card to Heslington Hall with the purpose of telling the University that it was unacceptable for the lack of student storage to continue in lieu of a formal petition.

Nouse have been informed that the storage situation on campus had become so dire that there had been dilemmas regarding ratifying new societies due to the lack of available space for keeping items or for operating activities.

The card, containing the message "All we want for Christmas is flat floor and storage space", was signed by over 100 people, includ-

ing student chairs, societies and sports teams, and members of staff from both YUSU and the University. The issue affected a wide range of people across both campuses.

The building, which opened to students on 8 January, contains seminar rooms and labs, a 350-seat lecture theatre, a restaurant and various work spaces for students including study booths, box seats and

a silent 'library' area on the top floor of the building.

However, the University did not go far enough originally to cater to the needs of all students. While the facilities would only originally provide venues to reduce hunger pangs (with burritos and Sunday roasts served at the restaurant) or those stereotypical student caffeine cravings in the form of Starbucks, the

Piazza Building will now contain what has jokingly been referred to as the "Piazza box".

The room was originally intended to be used as an examination location, but will now be refurbished so that there will be some room for storage space. It is located on the ground floor of the Piazza building.

A second year Theatre, Film

and Television student told *Nouse*, "The piazza building will hopefully help to alleviate Campus East's ghost town reputation and make it slightly more of a destination. It's only been open a few weeks and it's already packed all the time, yet there are no fewer people than usual in the Ron Cooke Hub, meaning it must be attracting more people to Hes East already. The afternoon menu in the restaurant however is better than the lunchtime menu in my opinion."

Alex Urquhart, YUSU President, was happy to talk about the success of the sabbs' initiative: "The issue of storage space, specifically for student activity, is currently being addressed. As a result of our campaign last year, the university have agreed to install more storage space into the large flat floor room on the ground floor - to enable more student-led activity to operate in the building."

He did, however, express concerns regarding University processes. "There is a wider issue on how storage space for students is considered in the early stages of development. I am currently working with the University's Estates department to ensure that students' needs are a priority from day one."



IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF YORK, ARTIST'S RENDERING

New kitchen ushers live-in library for the win

Samuel Chadwick
NEWS EDITOR

A "GAME CHANGING" new facility has been added to the University's main library in the form of a student kitchen in LFA 124, on the first floor of the Fairhurst building.

While there has been a staff kitchen on the floor above for some time, students have had to rely on the cafe or trek to their accommodation to access hot food or water.

With a microwave kindly donated by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) and a contraption discharging boiling and cold filtered water on tap, this will no longer be the case. Students must, however, provide their own cutlery. The GSA

celebrated by handing out free study mugs in the Research Study area opposite the new kitchen.

The press release from the library strongly suggested that the new addition was implemented as a result of "listening to student feedback". YUSU also pointed out the work of multiple officer groups, with a press release stating: "Thanks to years of YUSU sabbatical officer teams lobbying for this, we can finally announce it's been achieved - the library has opened a kitchen for students - AND IT HAS A MICROWAVE!! (as well as hot water boiler and a cold filtered drinking water dispenser)".

The YUSU sabbatical officers' post was showered with 136 likes and comments including: "now I won't have to wait for you to trek across campus for some hot water",

"no more cold pasta", and "I have always loved the library, this only increases that love". Mikey Collinson, the YUSU Activities Officer, joined the deluge of praise, calling the kitchen "a huge win for students".

Library authorities emphasised that the kitchen was on a trial basis, with its provision subject to a review at the end of the summer term.

YUSU president Alex Urquhart commented: "I'm chuffed. This is something students have long been crying out for and to have the dream finally realised is a huge win. The library is a real hub for students and it is encouraging that the University has been so receptive to students' wishes. I would ask students to keep in mind it is open on a 'trial period', so make sure it isn't left in a state otherwise it could potentially be closed. ENJOY!"

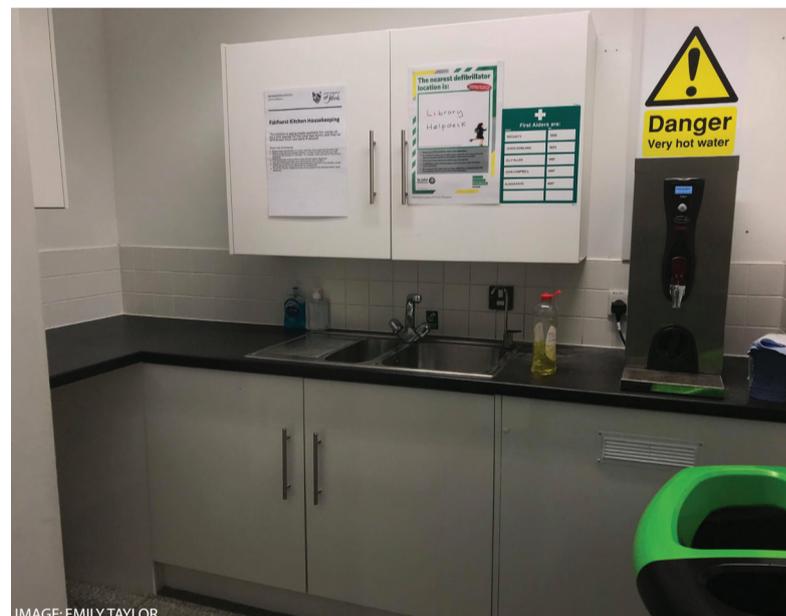


IMAGE: EMILY TAYLOR

NEWS IN BRIEF

Smoking shelter

The "No Smoking" area outside the library has become even more oxymoronic with the addition of a smoking shelter. Now York students can give themselves lung cancer without risk of windchill under the plastic panes of the bus shelter-esque structure. It must be tough to see for those who quit cigarettes this New Years.

Night time noises

There are now security staff stationed near Heslington Hall at night. "After various concerns around noise, raised by local residents around the area, YUSU and the University have situated additional staff to remind students to be mindful after a night out," said Alex Urquhart. Is it a coincidence that it's near Derwent?

Urquhart petition site

This term sees the much-anticipated roll out of Alex Urquhart's promised petition site. This is an opportunity to bypass YUSU's policy submission process, often critiqued for being inaccessible to the average student. People can start their own petition, or add their voices to somebody else's cause.

BBC journalist's honorary degree

BBC War Correspondent Orla Guerin received an honorary doctorate on 20 January during the University of York's most recent wave of graduations. She was presented the award by Politics tutor Dr Nicole Lindstrom. She is already in possession of an MBE and an honorary degree from the University of Essex.

Urquhart to run marathon for RAG

Samuel Chadwick
NEWS EDITOR

ANNOUNCED TOWARDS the end of last year, YUSU President Alex Urquhart is running the Manchester marathon on 8 March to raise money for IDAS (Independent Domestic Abuse Service, a York-based charity helping anyone affected by domestic abuse) and Action for Children (a national charity that supports children and young people affected by abuse, neglect, and socio-economic deprivation). The two causes were voted by students to be YUSU Raising and Giving's dedicated charities for this academic year.

Urquhart is pledging for donations (via Just Giving, linked on the Facebook page 'Alex Runs for RAG') from across the community in order to reach his fundraising target of £2000. His training so far has involved gym sessions with Laura Carruthers, the YUSU Sport President, and doing the 5k Saturday York parkrun on Heslington East.

The marathon itself was described by Urquhart on the Just Giving page as "26 miles of blood, sweat, and tears in aid of RAG". He continued his mission statement by saying that: "I want to do something that challenges me and tests me, but with a charitable benefit."

Founded at York in 1991, RAG is student-led committee aiming to "provide exciting and adventurous activities that raise crucial awareness and valuable funds for local, national and international charities".

Furthermore, according to their website, RAG can help students with publicity materials and fundraising equipment. In 2016/17, YUSU RAG raised over £120 700, according to YUSU's recently released yearly impact report.

When asked what he'd like to achieve, Urquhart said: "I'd like students to engage with the charities I'm fundraising for (IDAS and Action for Children). These charities were chosen by students but I hope my run improves awareness of that. I'd like to encourage more students to get active themselves, in whatever way they'd prefer. Taking the time to run or go the gym, even when I'm really busy, helps me clear my head and stay positive. Finally, I hope to inspire more people to fundraise. I never thought I'd do so much of it during my time at uni but it's been a lot of fun and really rewarding. I'd also like to finish the race and hit my target of £2000! Any support would be really great!"

Votes for BAME rise as YUSU turnout falls

Imogen Bellamy
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York YUSU elections may have seen a downward trend in voter numbers, but an upward interest in Part Time Officer (PTO) positions, particularly that of Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Officer. While the University's voter turnout has decreased from 34.3 per cent in 2014 to 25 per cent in 2017, the number of votes for BAME officer have more than doubled.

This may reflect the increased interest of BAME voters in wider politics, as voting results from the

2017 General Election show that the turnout among BAME voters rose by six percentage points.

The winners of the BAME officer vote in 2016, Sophie Flinders and Gabriella Obeng Nyarko, won against one other candidate with 767 votes. This vote increased to 1634 when Demi Daniel and Afoma Ojukwu won in 2017. Although they ran uncontested, if we compare half of their vote (817), this is an increase of 50 individual votes.

The position of BAME Officer also received the most votes in total, when taken in comparison with the other YUSU PTO positions. Whereas BAME had 1868 valid votes in total, when including RON (reopen nominations) votes, the next highest voter turnout of Disabled Students Officer had 1720,

and the position with the least had 1200, being that of Mature Students' Officer.

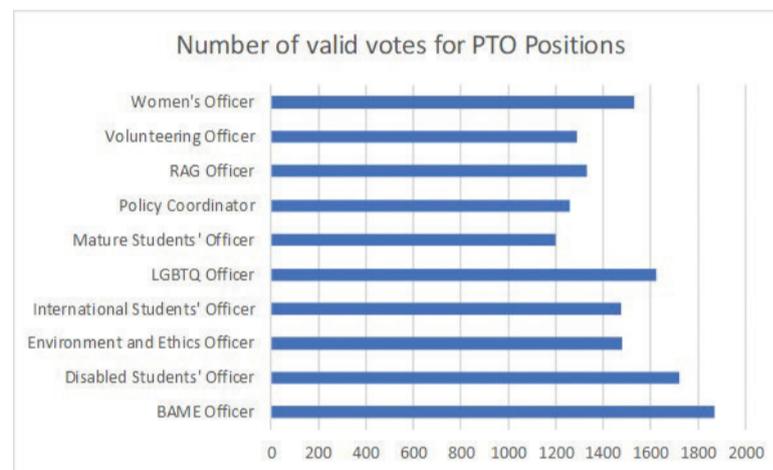
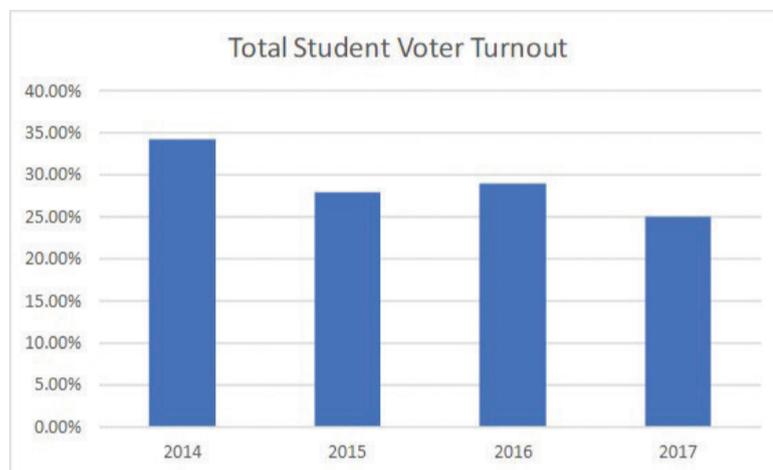
The University of York prides itself in consistently placing within the top ten Universities for student election turnout, so this decrease in total voters is a trend YUSU will wish to stop in 2018. Regardless of this, the increased interest in BAME student positions is a positive. At the time of writing, there were three nominations for the position.

When asked if they had any specific BAME voting statistics, YUSU gave this statement: "We don't collect data on BAME students voting in the elections due to it being sensitive information, however this year we do have more BAME nominations than in pre-

vious years and are aiming for all the officer group nominations to be more diverse than ever and are working to encourage this as much as we possibly can."

Current BAME PTO Afoma Ojukwu was keen to downplay her success, saying, "Thanks to the efforts of the previous BAME officers, awareness of our network had been increased. Additionally, myself and Demi, although we have friends in common, have a lot of friends in different circles so I feel we were able to pull from lots of places."

She also had a message for any potential candidates this election: "It's a fantastic role and I've really learnt a lot about the power of the student voice in effecting change, not just in the University but also nationwide."



York professor made Dame in Honours

Georgie Smith
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YORK PROFESSOR Pratibha Gai has been appointed a Dame (DBE) after being recognised in the New Year Honours for services to chemical sciences and technology.

Gai works as Professor of Electron Microscopy in the University's departments of Chemistry and Physics. She is also a co-director of the JEOL nanocentre on campus, which undertakes research on the nanoscale, underpinned by innovative instrument development in electron and scanning probe imaging and spectroscopies.

Professor Gai's career has led her to pioneering work on advanced electron microscopy to analyse dynamic gas-catalyst reaction on an atomic scale. Gai has also been instrumental in world-leading research on the dynamic atomic processes, which has led to the development of new nanomaterials and chemical processes that can be used in a range of high technology applications including catalysis, energy, healthcare, chemicals and food coatings, and dynamic electron microscopies. The chemical process and electron microscopy

inventions developed by Professor Gai are now used worldwide.

Professor Gai responded to being recognised for her work in the field of chemical sciences and technology: "I am truly humbled to receive this national honour and delighted that the research has received this wonderful recognition. This honour belongs to all the outstanding co-researchers and staff I have collaborated with. I am grateful to them and my main funders the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)."

Koen Lamberts, the University of York's Vice-Chancellor, praised Professor Gai as "an outstanding academic who has contributed hugely to chemical sciences and technology over many years. She is an inspirational leader in her field and this honour is a wonderful acknowledgement of the impact her research has made in the world."

One of Gai's colleagues, Head of the Department of Physics Professor Kieran Gibson described the awarding of the damehood as a "richly deserved" recognition for "her sustained level of international excellence in studying matter at the scale of individual atoms. It is testament to all her work in developing novel ways of imaging the nanoscale in real time, which has huge impact across the fields of chemistry, physics and beyond."

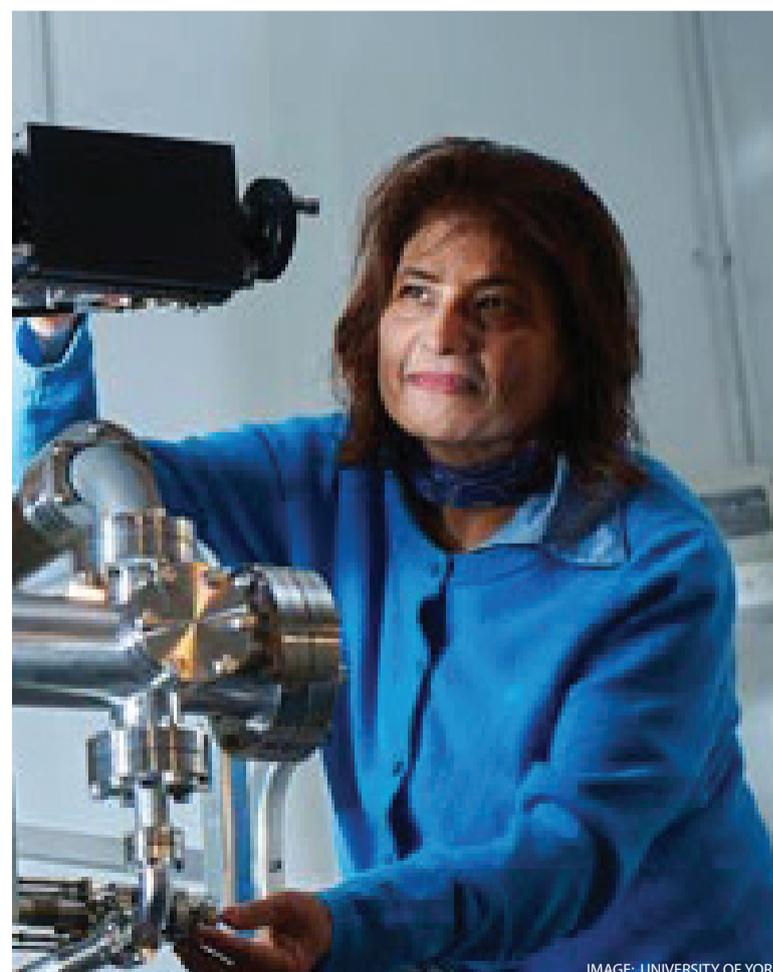


IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Prof Pratibha Gai has been appointed a Dame in the New Year Honours

Tackling the sanitary stigma

Eloise McMinn Mitchell
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YUSU AND HALIFAX College are taking steps to address the issue of period poverty at the University. Mia Shantana Chaudhuri-Julyan, YUSU Community and Wellbeing Officer, announced a new partnership with The Red Box Project on 15 January.

The Red Box Project is an organisation that works to help students that may not be able to afford sanitary products, preventing their educations from being affected as a result. Educational institutions that sign up with Red Box receive a free box containing sanitary items donated by members of the community. The box is available to pupils in the school or university who, upon request, receive a prepared brown paper bag with the necessary sanitary items.

The Red Box Project began as a crowdfunded initiative. Their early online posts stated the desire to help people that experience periods avoid “anxious embarrassment” and not have to miss lessons or stay at home just because it is their time

of the month. They have the aim to prove that periods are perfectly normal and there should be no reason for them to get in the way of anybody’s education. The Red Box Project believe that their work is made up of “a simple scheme, made with love for [those that experience periods] in our community”.

The Student Union’s alliance with the Red Box Project has resulted in the project providing free supplies for people who cannot afford it themselves at the University of York. Sanitary items were made available as of Monday Week 2 (January 15) at the YUSU offices in James College. People can collect packages from the Helpdesk at the Student Centre. YUSU is also encouraging students who are able to make donations of their own to do so in the same location.

Mia Shantana Chaudhuri-Julyan’s alliance with Red Box is one that she believes will help students in their day-to-day life. Period poverty is an issue that has achieved increased awareness within the last year.

The charity group Plan International found that 1 in 10 girls or women aged between 14 and 21 in the UK were being affected. As a result, they believed that many of those affected would skip school or

work in order to avoid struggling in public or they would use unhygienic alternatives, such as tissues.

Meanwhile, the Halifax College Student Association (HCSA) is already providing cheaper sanitary products to its residents. They are selling items at a lower price, with Tampax Tampons for £2 and Always Ultra Pads for £1.50. The low-priced sanitary products have been bought in bulk and sold to the students for zero profit.

James Mortimer, the HCSA Vice President for Wellbeing and Liberation, believes that if this new scheme is successful it can be expanded to sell a broader variety of sanitary products. He told *Nouse* that “If this scheme is successful we hope to expand it to sell a greater variety of sanitary products so we can really combat period poverty, and the stigma surrounding periods, together as a college”.

Menstrual cycles have repeatedly been an issue at the University, with residents living in Halifax having previously been provided with just one sanitary bin for a house of approximately ten people. Most recently, *Nouse* has received reports that gender neutral toilets in the new Piazza Building on Heslington East have not contained the necessary provision of sanitary bins upon opening.

Although this has now been rectified, Mia commented on this issue: “Access to sanitary facilities and products is a necessity, not a luxury. YUSU is committed to this ethos and is, for example, working proactively in this area to ensure that students have access to sanitary products for free. These can be picked up from our help desk, where we are also asking individuals to donate at the same location in order to sustain this project.

“I would encourage any complainants regarding a lack of sanitary bins to report the issue to the relevant University service and seek advice if necessary.”



IMAGE: FASTILYCLONE

Vanbrugh top in Switch Off

>>> Continued from front

Subsequently, modern technology is needed if the University hopes to improve its environmental footprint.

There are currently eight staff dedicated to the University’s environmental impact. In addition to these teams each department have their own Green Impact teams, which consist of volunteer members of staff and students.

In addition, an annual Student Switch Off campaign run by the NUS at universities includes York prizes and incentives in order to encourage students to participate. At the time of writing, Vanbrugh College was the most environmentally friendly college, whereas James College currently ranks at the bottom.

Similarly, the University is

highly respected for the amount of wildlife there is on campus. As joked about by many students, the University is famous for its significant number of wildfowl, and a diverse number of species of bird can be found in the bird sanctuary which has been established at the southern end of the lake on Hes East. Various bee-friendly habitats have also been established across campus in order to try to boost the wellbeing of the ecosystem through higher pollination rates. The University won a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Green Flag ‘Bees Needs’ Award for its work in 2015.

Although the University is improving its environmental footprint, and compares well to other universities in regards to its high use of renewable energy and its diverse wildlife, it has been criticised

in People and Planet’s 2017 university league. The university is currently classified with a 2:2 ranking, and is placed 73rd out of 154 universities.

York has suffered in these rankings as a result of a lack of focus on its ethical investment and its low scores for the category of water reduction, and is ranked 15th out of the 24 Russell Group universities. York St John University is ranked in 97th, while Roses rival Lancaster is positioned 110th.

A University spokesperson commented to *Nouse*: “The University is home to an abundance of wildlife. The evolving landscape is designed not only to provide a beautiful and tranquil environment for work and study, but a habitat capable of supporting an increasingly diverse range of animals and plants.”

What’s On...

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

ComedySoc Show, Wednesday 8PM, Weekly, V/N/045 £3

Laugh Till You’re Thor, Tuesday 30 January, 8PM, Valhalla, FREE



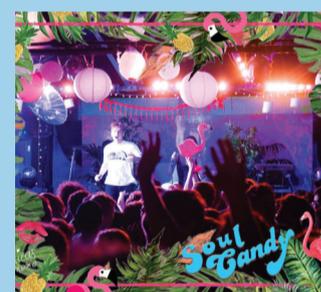
Featured: On&On, 02/02, Fibbers

On&On are back in 2018 and are planning their largest event to date. On&On informed *Nouse* that there will be lots of surprises at the festival of

light. Expect live performances, laser shows, special effects, glitter, confetti, fancy décor and more. £5/£7 tickets available now.

LipSync Lollapalooza, Sunday 18 February, 9.30PM, Fibbers, £8 on the door

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



Featured: Soul Candy, 16/02, Fibbers £5/£6/£7

Had Las Chicas found what they were searching for? Is this love or lust? Paris beckoned with its mysteriously irresistible strangers hiding in the

shadows. Where else could a passion so deep be found in a chance encounter? Follow the call of the disco ball, find your Parisian Valentine below...

Charity art display by The Northern Youth: ‘Unconventional Spaces: House’, 25/01. £3

Pantomime Society: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, 25 – 27/01, Central Hall 7.30PM. £4.50.



Featured: LitSoc Spring Fling, 01/02 Pitcher and Piano

Let’s face it, we have all imagined ourselves in the 1950s aesthetic. Whether you are into rock and roll or rocking a petticoat,

Litsoc’s 1950s-themed Spring Fling is sure to be your thing. Jive with us 7-11PM Thursday 1 February at Pitcher & Piano. Also watch out for our Poems and Pints events!

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL INCLUDED

A requiem for a meal deal

>>> Continued from front

will be offered for retail staff, while student staff will automatically be offered another position within other outlets operated by YUSU.

YUSU is working to identify how the services which are “most valued” by customers, such as bike safety equipment, bus tickets, and the postal service, can be continued, partnering with the University to try and ensure this. Places these services are offered include a new postal depot in the Piazza building on Heslibgton East, with bus tickets being available purchase directly from the buses and online.

While YUSU Shop is closing, a retail presence is still planned by the organisation including an expansion of their current online services, which allows societies to offer merchandise which can be purchased individually by members rather than having to do a whole society merch order. Any future retail offer by YUSU will be designed with the changing demands of students in mind.

The announced closure appears to have gone down badly with students online, with 33 crying reactions and 11 angry reactions on Urquhart’s Facebook post of the statement, compared to only eight like reactions and one love reaction at the time of writing, with the crying reactions including one by the personal Facebook account of YUSU Academic Officer Julian Porch. History of Art student Fanni Brezcku also expressed frustration with the decision in a comment on the post, noting that it was

“the only retail shop on the whole of the uni campus that offered decent vegetarian & vegan options at a good price. It would have been nice if you’d have asked the student body’s opinion before deciding to close down the shop.”

Urquhart told *Nouse*: “We survey shop users in a wide variety of ways and have been monitoring students’ views on this for some

products students want in a way which supports our other charitable activities (like advice, sport grants and costs, societies grants etc). We have said we will try to retain access to the things which add value to students’ lives (like bike safety gear, stationary, bus tickets, branded merchandise etc) but we will provide these products in a way which is more efficient and more effective and doesn’t put at risk the union’s current investment into other membership activities and wellbeing support.”

Regarding complaints of a lack of consultation, Urquhart said: “Consultation started with all the affected staff this week and will continue through the coming months right throughout the process. The law on consultation with staff is clear and we are following this comprehensively to ensure we protect jobs and the products that students value and want to maintain access to. We are working hard to find suitable redeployment opportunities for all staff affected.”

33 Number of crying reactions on Facebook

time. Through our annual student satisfaction survey, we know that students consider the value for money of the products at YUSU shop to be falling as they can access cheaper products delivered to their door via supermarkets and online retailers.

“As a student union charity we want to provide the services and



IMAGE: OSCAR BENTLEY

Samaritans drop-in sessions to be held twice weekly

Georgie Smith
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF York is expanding its networks of support for students by introducing twice weekly drop-in sessions with the Samaritans on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Samaritans is a charity which aims to provide a listening ear and emotional support to those in distress, who are struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide. Sessions are completely confidential and Samaritans volunteers offer a non-judgemental, empathetic and congruent listening service. By listening and asking open questions volunteers are able to help people explore how they are feeling and work out how to move forward.

Students are encouraged to talk through any problems affecting them, whether you’re struggling with academic issues, personal crises, or general wellbeing. January can be a time when people experience poor mental health or stress due to a variety of reasons.

When asked how the campus sessions will benefit students at York, Community and Wellbeing Officer Mia Chaudhuri-Julyan expressed: “The Samaritans provide

a completely confidential listening service which is amazing to now have here on campus as an option available for all. For anyone who wants to drop in for a chat with them about anything at all, you can find them from 6.00PM to 8.00PM every Monday (in LFA/130) and Wednesday (in GNU/001).”

If you suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder, as 1 in 15 people do in the UK, the shortened January days can leave some feeling unmotivated and irritable, with a persistently low mood.

These widely relatable stresses have led to the nationwide phenomenon of ‘Blue Monday’ being marked on the third Monday of January, and for 2018 this fell last week on 15 January. Branches of the Samaritans across the UK, however, have been aiming to turn Blue Monday into ‘Brew Monday’ and will be celebrating that simple but great tradition of getting together to talk over a cup of tea or coffee at events across the country in the hope of banishing the January blues.

The hope is that the Samaritans drop-in service on Campus will offer York students an additional channel of support and advice. The Samaritans can also be contacted by email or phone, and you can call for free any time, from any phone, on 116 123 or 01904 655888.

York to host its annual Model UN Conference

Eloise McMinn Mitchell
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNITED NATIONS Association is hosting a Model United Nations (MUN) Conference this term, called York MUN 2018. Taking place from 2-4 February, the conference will be hosting over 100 attendees from universities or colleges across three different continents, with more delegates still expecting to confirm.

The conference will host keynote speaker, journalist and politician Natalie Bennett, who will be speaking on issues to do with their slogan ‘The End of Experts?’ The overall Secretary General will be third year Physics with Philosophy student Nick Meadowcroft-Lunn. He will be working with the Deputy Secretary General Sara SchjØdt Kjaer, a fellow third year student in the same degree. Both have several years previous experience working with MUN, and enjoyed last year’s event. This annual event

had its largest ever conference last year and it is hoped that the 2018 conference will be even bigger and better.

The five General Assemblies that are being simulated for this conference will investigate issues and tensions arising from the current political climate that threaten the effectiveness and legitimacy of international groups, such as the United Nations and European Union. Ensuring the continued competency of the aforementioned bodies is key in resolving shared security, economic and human rights issues, and according to Robbie Almond, Under Secretary General for Socials for YorkMUN 2018, is “vital in the survival of cosmopolitan bodies like the United Nations and the European Union”.

This conference will allow students from all over the world to engage with each other over relevant and current issues and share varying perspectives and potential solutions. York MUN will also be hosting a crisis scenario which will involve three smaller cabinets as well as the five General Assemblies.

One of the topics they are looking to debate is the ‘Creation of a Kurdish State’ in the Security Council as well as new Brexit negotiations.

It will not all be work-based, however, as they will have both a bar crawl and a ball to celebrate the event and encourage integration between delegates from all over the world. While students from the University are not able to go and spectate the event specifically, they are encouraged to sign up and attend a United Nations Association training session. The UNA works hard to make sure their delegates are as prepared as possible and are running a MiniMUN that will simulate the WHO and focus on disability rights.

The association has already hosted one training session this term, that was based on looking at situations in Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova. They looked at a variety of conflicts those countries faced. Some of their work was based on solving issues caused by ethnic tensions, border disputes or annexations.



IMAGE: YORK MUN

York MUN’s team will be hosting over 100 attendees from three continents

Library Christmas tree brings joy to local charities

Imogen Bellamy
NEWS EDITOR

A CHRISTMAS TREE was placed in the library foyer at the end of last term to encourage students to donate presents to charity. The initiative, the idea of Academic Officer Julian Porch, involved the traditional pine tree being decorated using tags with writing suggesting a present and whichever organisation it was intended to be donated to.

Examples of gift suggestions from the festive tree included “biscuits”, “women’s pyjamas size 8 to 16” and “tea or coffee”. The wide variety of requested products, which included toiletries, clothing and chocolate selection tins, were a result of the charities included. Refugee Action York, York Foodbank and Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) are all local Yorkshire charities. IDAS is also one of the two charities that YUSU Raising and Giving currently supports, alongside Action for Children.

The different tags meant it was easy for students of any income level to be able to donate a present, as the assortment of items wanted had a large range of prices. It seems that the “big ticket” requests did not prevent people’s generosity, however, as the gift labels were put on the tree three times by members of library staff.

A third year Politics student, who had been working in the library during the winter holidays, told *Nouse* his thoughts: “I’ll admit; when I saw how many tags there were on that Christmas tree, I thought filling it up would be an

ambition at most. However, the generosity of York students continues to defy expectations - even during their busy assignment periods!”

A third year English student, who had donated a gift, said, “The tags made it very easy to donate something. It didn’t take much effort and it was heart-warming to see how fast people brought in the presents. I hope that it becomes an annual tradition as it’s not difficult for students, it cheers people up during the essay season and it looked to me like it went really well.”

Julian Porch, when asked to tell *Nouse* about the new charitable initiative, replied, “The sabbatical team were deeply moved and proud that my out-there idea and collaboration with the library to have a Christmas tree where students could take a tag listing an item needed by one of three local charities (Refugee Action York, York Foodbank and Independent Domestic Abuse Service), buy, wrap and put it under the tree has had such an overwhelming response!

“The library staff had to restock the tags at least two times, and people gave almost 150 presents. There are even people who had written cards to go with their present to whoever will receive it.”

Porch also had a grateful message for all of the University of York students that gave any donations to the scheme: “Thank you so much to everyone who gave up their time and money to contribute to this, your gifts will make a huge difference to lots of people this Christmas. What a genuinely lovely thing for the community, and something to be so proud of.”

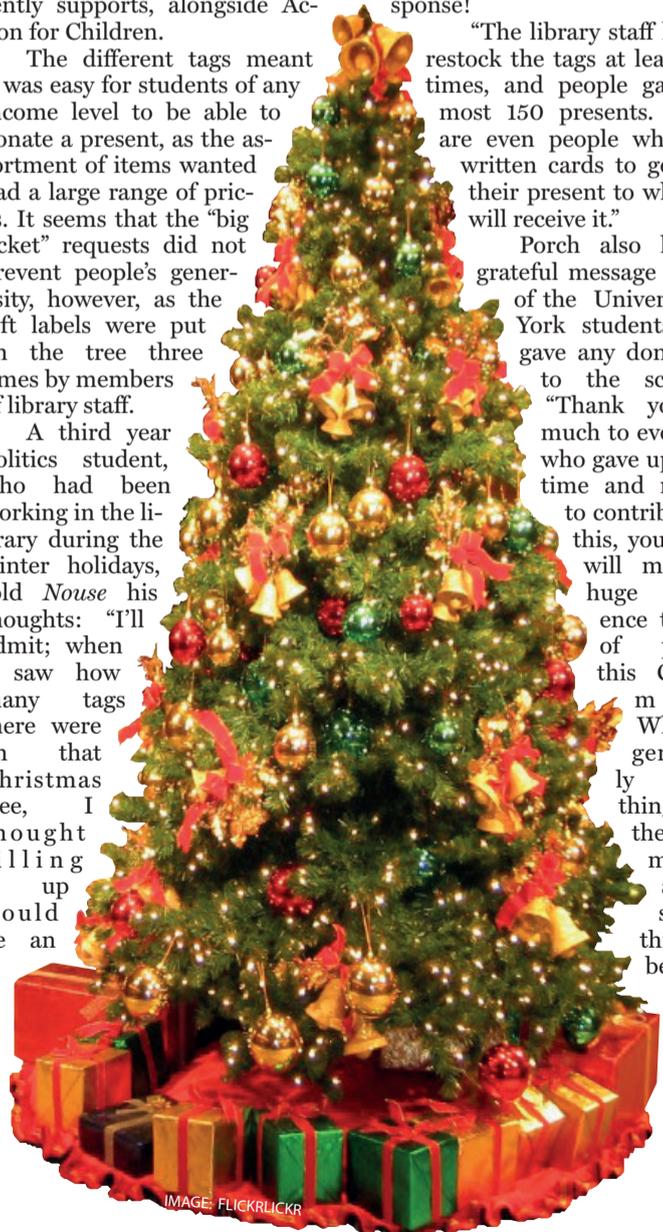


IMAGE: FLICKR/UCKR

New giant TV in Greg’s Place

Samuel Chadwick
NEWS EDITOR

GREG’S PLACE HAS A “new permanent addition” in the form of a huge TV screen. Erected in front of the wall of the Vanbrugh dining hall and Junior Common Room., it is located outside the history faculty building, next to Central Hall. While a new bakery chain there may cause confusion: that a part of Hes East is the new ‘Greggs place’, York’s west campus, home to ‘Greg’s place’, is not losing out.

When Greg’s Place (named after the former student, Chancellor of the University, and Director-General of the BBC, Greg Dyke) was unveiled in October 2015, it promised to be “a hub for the entire campus community on which performance, art, events and student enterprise will be showcased and allowed to flourish.”

However, other than interspersed concrete slabs, foliage and a hollow wooden box hovering over the lake (creating a nice atmosphere for relaxation during the hot summer days in York), Greg’s place has remained devoid of developments – until the jumbo-sized screen was put up.

The University stated that the screen was “the final element of the leaving presentation by Greg Dyke

when he retired as Chancellor”.

Nouse understands that the screen was originally proposed back in 2015 when Greg’s Place was originally being developed. Why the idea was postponed until now remains unclear.

YUSU’s Twitter post wondered “how amazing will it be watching England win the #WorldCup on this! #MaybeJustMaybe”.

“It’s a good idea”, a first year Economics undergraduate told *Nouse*. “I look forward to seeing how it’s going to be used”.

A History and Politics student also commented that “it would be good to see charity film screenings or something like that”.

While the potential usage of the screen is still “under consideration”, the University also added that applications for its use might legitimately include: live streaming of graduation ceremonies, key sports matches and other significant events, way-finding and directions, (especially during busy events such as Open Days), film screenings, and advertising.

The screen, supplied by Pioneer Group (an electrical signage company), is approximately six metres by three metres, and has a resolution of 1000 pixels by 500 pixels.



IMAGE: IMOGEN BELLAMY

Hes East Nisa still not open

Oscar Bentley
DEPUTY EDITOR

NISA SUPERMARKET on Heslington East is still yet to open despite being advertised as opening in early January. In a sponsored Facebook post on the UoY Campus Food page advertising the supermarket as opening on 4 January, the development is currently still under installation.

Subsequent posts advertising the supermarket revised the expected opening date to just ‘January 2018’ and later ‘early 2018’, indicating that the project is likely to have experienced multiple delays.

When asked for comment on the delay, a University spokesman said that the project is still on track and is set to open on 23 February, yet offered no explanation as to why Nisa was initially advertised as opening on 4 January, with the Facebook post advertising this date still available to view publicly.

Nisa supermarket on Hes East is part of the new Kimberlow Hill Retail Park development, located on the Kimberlow Hill rise next to the bus interchange on Heslington East, it’s 4500 sq ft large and began construction in February 2017. *Nouse* previously reported on other outlets set to open in the park, which includes franchises Subway and Papa Johns, an independent gelateria, and an Indian restaurant.

Unity Health is also set to relocate from its current building on Hes West to the development, alongside a pharmacy. One more unit in the park remains to be leased.

Gregg’s opened in Kimberlow Hill before the start of term, with a Greggs spokesperson telling *The Tab*: “We’re delighted to be able to invest in York and provide our valued customers with a modern and convenient new shop. We hope our new and existing customers enjoy the wide range of products on offer.”

The retail park is the result of a partnership between the University and Evans Property Group, who have already partnered with the University on Hes East accommodation, leading to *Nouse* reporting in 2013 that offshoot company Evans University Accommodation

Limited was registered in the “tax haven” of Jersey. Kimberlow Hill is 20 000 sq ft of floor space and is estimated to attract some 75 000 visitors annually.

A University spokesperson told *Nouse* that “The Campus East shops are on schedule. The supermarket, the Indian restaurant and the burger/pizza restaurant will all open at the end of February and the barbers will open in about a month’s time. Greggs are already open.”

On the apparent delay of Nisa’s opening, one Langwith student told *Nouse*: “I’m not really fussed since I prefer doing a bigger shop at somewhere like Morrison’s, but that is a pretty substantial delay. If they can’t get it open in time then they shouldn’t make promises that they can’t keep.”



IMAGE: OSCAR BENTLEY



IMAGE: ADAM WYLES

Debate on Yorkshire devolution ongoing

Ed Smith
NEWS REPORTER

THE ONGOING DEBATE of Yorkshire devolution continues as Dan Jarvis, Labour MP for Barnsley Central, pressured Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Jake Berry further on the government's position with regard to the growing devolution movement, and whether the government would accept his outlined plan of greater economic and political powers by 2020.

The recent Brexit decision has compounded desire and boosted momentum for the devolution movement. Mr Jarvis added that both movements share similar symptoms of "overwhelming powerlessness and ambition to take back control" especially as South Yorkshire receives £300 less per person, contributing to the widening North-South Divide. This was widely supported by Yorkshire Labour MPs, who agreed that the wider Yorkshire plan would "create the best opportunities for each community."

However, Jake Berry's response that the government will consider Yorkshire devolution in due course because of more pressing matters, much to the dismay of Labour MPs, clearly demonstrated the inability of this government to resolve the institutional divide between central government and local communities. This was aptly put by Hilary Benn MP, who described the government's position as not being determined enough, as "where there is a will, there's a way", and you need look no further than Brexit to corroborate that statement.

Despite the SNP expressing neutrality with regard to the question of Yorkshire devolution, SNP MP Tommy Sheppard described how his party and Scotland will watch the "devolution debates with great interest" as the constitutional base of England is challenged.

The debate comes after Barnsley and Doncaster, the constituencies for both Mr Jarvis and former Leader of the Opposition Ed Miliband, almost unanimously voted for a 'One Yorkshire' plan that is backed by both MPs, opposing the government's plan to back a Sheffield City region.

This is forcing the hand of the government as Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which has the housing brief added to the title in the latest cabinet reshuffle, has now proposed an initial interim Sheffield region, which will then have the opportunity to encompass more of the county.

The growing pursuit of a Yorkshire-wide deal has progressed symbolically because of the overwhelming decision in Barnsley and Doncaster to seek devolution. In addition, Ryedale Council made the decision to support the creation of



How much less South Yorkshire receives per person

a "combined authority" in late December last year to incorporate as much of the county into a devolved union. However, this was not completely unanimous as Cllr Paul Andrews contended that the council should be "careful what you wish for."

With resistment from Westminster slowly eroding, Rachael Maskell, Labour MP for York Central, states that it is "vital" for the Yorkshire wide movement to "maintain pressure on Government to fall in line behind the local leadership." This is crucial if the grassroots movement were to eventually achieve and develop devolution, particularly if it were to achieve greater political and economic autonomy by the 2020 deadline that Dan Jarvis articulated in the Westminster Hall debate two weeks ago.

New universities regulator marred by controversy

Oscar Bentley
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE OFFICE FOR Students (OfS) is a new regulator for universities, due to take over from the current Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), and was established by the Higher Education Research Act 2017.

It was dubbed "the most important legislation for the sector in 25 years" by Viscount Younger, the bill's sponsor in the Lords, while Universities UK, an organisation which advocates on behalf of 136 different universities and colleges of higher education, said it was "the first major regulatory reform". However, despite not even having taken over the responsibility of university regulation yet, the OfS has been marred by scandal over the last couple of months.

One point of controversy is the OfS' somewhat surprising focus on, and powers regarding, free speech. Former Universities Minister Jo Johnson warned universities in a speech on boxing day that they must "open minds, not close them", and attacked policies such as safe spaces and no-platforming. The OfS has been granted the power to fine and suspend universities which it finds to be infringing upon freedom of speech. Universities are already legally obligated to uphold free speech under the Education Act 1986.

A University of York spokesperson rejected the idea that there is a lack of free speech on campus, commenting that: "The University is committed to providing platforms where diverse views are debated and challenged in a respectful and intellectual environment.

"The University is required

by Section 43 of the Education (No. 2) Act 1986 to take 'such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured on University premises for members, students and employees of the University and for visiting speakers.' This is included in our University Regulations - specifically Regulation 10."

However, most of the controversy surrounding the new regulator was the appointment of Toby Young to its board. Young's appointment was announced on New Year's Day and was immediately met with backlash, leading over 221 000 people to sign a petition for his removal, questioning his suitability for the post.

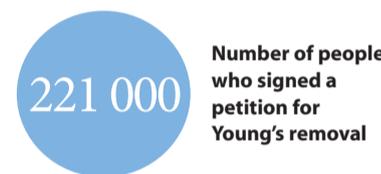
While appointed due to his credentials as a director of a free schools network, a key policy introduced during the Coalition, Young's further qualifications of teaching at Cambridge and Harvard, as announced by the Department for Education, were found to have been misleading, as he was not appointed to any academic post.

Perhaps the biggest source of controversy came from Young's past comments, calling wheelchair ramps "ghastly inclusivity", while labelling working class students attending Oxford and Cambridge as "universally unattractive" and "small, vaguely deformed undergraduates". He has been labelled misogynistic and homophobic, tweeting on multiple occasions about the cleavages of female Labour MPs sat behind former Labour Leader Ed Miliband during Prime Minister's Questions, and described a gay celebrity as looking "queer as a coot".

Prime Minister Theresa May was forced to wade into the debate, denouncing Young's comments and stating that if he continued to make similar ones in the future he would find himself out of public office.

Young finally resigned on 8 January, describing himself as becoming a "caricature" and that his appointment "has become a distraction from its vital work of broadening access to higher education and defending academic freedom." This came just hours after student publication London Student made Young aware that they knew of his attendance at a Eugenics conference held at UCL.

The commissioner for public appointments, Peter Riddell, has launched an investigation into Young's initial appointment, dubbing it a "serious failing". Riddell noted that the OfS' interview panel "made no mention of Mr Young's history of controversial comments and use of social media" in their re-



Number of people who signed a petition for Young's removal

port to ministers, and highlighted flaws in the recruitment process.

Furthermore, the OfS has faced criticism for a lack of student representation on its board and an overreliance of board members who come from the business sector, rather than education. The only student representative on the boards is Ruth Carlson, a civil engineering student and course representative at the University of Surrey. Shakira Martin and Amatey Doku, NUS President and Vice-President for Higher Education respectively, both applied to sit on the board but were rejected.

When asked for an opinion regarding the OfS, a University spokesperson said: "We support an Office for Students that will protect the interests of students and the reputation of the higher education sector."

YUSU President Alex Urquhart shared concerns with *Nouse* regarding the OfS, while remaining optimistic about the regulator's intentions: "I share the concerns of many York students about the market-based approach that's underpinning the regulator and I think there's a risk it views students, and HE more widely, through a narrow lens as a result.

"At the same time, YUSU has welcomed the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the OfS's priorities and to meet with the OfS Chief Executive, Nicola Dandridge. It's clear that the OfS is in listening mode and it's encouraging to see this on issues that students really care about, like value for money. Going forward, I would like to see the OfS place more focus on student voices, in the mechanisms and processes of the regulator itself, as well as in sector institutions more widely."



IMAGE: HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM COUNCIL

Stop selling students short

2017 saw the focus taken away from students - time to give it back

Jacob Phillips



There has been a wide variety of opinions on how successful 2017 was as a year. For many it will be remembered predominantly for being the year in which we were constantly bombarded by the media with references to a President that resembles a Wotsit, and talk of a second referendum became more repetitive than an Ed Sheeran song. For me personally, 2017 was everything I have come to expect of a year at the University of York. Many a day was spent being chased by geese or wasting half my student loan on YUSU Shop meal deals. I moved into a second year house and my relationship with my housemates reached a level of cooperation similar to that represented in a wholesome meme, while thankfully our house does not look anything like Shrek's swamp.

Although 2017 was not particularly eventful for me, it was an eventful year for the university as a whole. If you look back at the front pages of this newspaper from 2017, many were very negative. Revs was proven to be overworking their staff and their managers were constantly hitting on them; high levels of drug abuse were reported at Big D; many students missed their LFA exams; and the University seemed to forget about having to house all of its first year students.

More recently, a homeless couple were able to walk into the University and use private facilities, unnoticed by security, and it was reported that students are living in terrible conditions off campus. Of course, negative news is often more engaging than positive news and makes more headlines, but there are many questions that the University must answer here. A bigger concern for most students is the decline in York's reputation. York has

fallen in the university rankings, ranking 20th in the country after regularly featuring in the top ten. This will impact both investment in the University and the perception of its graduates. There were also concerns about how York students represented themselves.

For me the most concerning event on campus last year was the Hockey White T-shirt Social at the beginning of last term. Universities pride themselves on being forward thinking, open minded places and

If students are going to get the most out of York then they must be the University's priority

students are often critical of older generations for their conduct. This event conveyed the complete opposite and made York look like an embarrassment nationally. It is disappointing that simply giving students a pen and a blank canvas immediately descended into racism and hate speech. Although this is perhaps a criticism of all students and the binge-drinking culture which we subscribe ourselves to, York must act to prevent similar events from taking place on campus again. There have been many incidents at York over the last few years. In addition to the hockey scandal, the 'ambulance chart' which Halifax freshers used to compete against one another to see who could end up in A&E the fastest was a shocking story. Prior to this in 2014, the hockey team were again in the national news for their poor conduct.

It seems that the University is failing to set an example of how students should behave when they

first arrive and perhaps unfortunately there needs to be a clearer message about how students' inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. To give the University the benefit of the doubt, unfortunately there is not much that can be done in these situations and often it is too late for action to take place.

This year has thankfully not all been doom and gloom. Question Time was hosted on Hes East which was a big achievement and allowed the University to prove that not all its buildings look like retro UFOs. In addition there have been some very entertaining moments: back in January a student found a snail in their sausage and chips at Monks Cross; a poster of Jeremy Corbyn dabbing rapidly sold out at Freshers Fair; and, possibly most entertainingly, Marmite was announced as being good for the brain by York researchers. So around 50 per cent of the population will be pleased.

However, it seems that the University has a lot to answer for. In 2017 students were not the centre of attention and the outrageous behaviour of a small group of students was all that seemed to represent York's students outside of campus. The University should be providing students with things that are useful rather than focusing on making a profit. Rather than selling half the space at Freshers' Fair to businesses, why not provide more space for societies so that students do more than just go to Kuda every Tuesday? Why not focus on improving teaching standards in order to boost the University's TEF ranking to gold instead of solely focusing on research? Why not look to protect students who live off campus to ensure they are living in good conditions and are not being ripped off by landlords? If York wants to remain prestigious, it needs to do more for its students, so they are presented in a good light. If not then the scandals will continue and new students will begin to look elsewhere.

Please in 2018 can students be made the first priority.



IMAGE: LOWES CATO DICKINSON

Every day I'm (not) cabinet reshuffling

The mediocre white man remains in fashion

Jack Edwards



I've just returned from watching *Darkest Hour*, about a headstrong Prime Minister hampered by his Cabinet's obstinance and desire to rid themselves of their leader in a time of desperate national crisis, when they should be rallying for victory. You'd be forgiven if you thought I had just watched this week's PMQs. This 'omnishambles' reshuffle was like watching an episode of the *Apprentice* 20 years in the future, where a liberal Lord Sugar hired everyone, afraid of hurting the feelings of the snowflakes arguing in his boardroom.

The root and branch reform of CCHQ may be the single ray of sunshine in this dismal week of political dismay. Having trailed Labour by 47 per cent among those under 25 in the 2017 general election - ultimately denying the Conservatives a majority - the cream of the 2015 intake, including the highly regarded Deputy Chairman James Cleverly and the Vice Chair for Youth, Ben Bradley, will have a tough time trying to revitalise the party's fortunes among younger voters. In the days when Momentum are mobilising some 200000 supporters for canvassing and campaigning, the Conservatives can no longer idly ignore this demographic if they want to win in 2022; rebuilding the youth wing of the party - shut down in 2015 following the tragic death of young Tory activist Elliott Johnson - should be imperative to any future election strategy. This must also be backed up by policies, such as those being pumped out of Michael Gove's DEFRA, and where input from fresh talent across the party may help to recapture the youth vote.

For the Cabinet reshuffle, however, it may be more pertinent to indulge in a little Kremlinology. The Frank Underwood-esque Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson seems yet again to have exerted

his influence over Ms May. Despite the talk of fresh talent being drawn into the Cabinet (with possibly even some faces from the 2015 intake), many ministers have either been simply moved or allowed to stay in place, with some uninspired firings like Justine Greening and Patrick McLoughlin. Whispers abound in Westminster that Williamson and May deliberately kept fresh faces at lower level ministerial posts in order for there to be no viable rival for the Defence Secretary when he seeks the leadership himself in a 2019 contest. While this is far from confirmed, Williamson has shown himself to be a ruthless political operator in the past; the leak that sunk the career of previous Defense Secretary, Michael Fallon originated from the Whip's Office, the post held by Williamson at the time. The Defence Secretary is also the closest thing there is to a "Mayite", having been one of the first to support her leadership campaign, and having made himself indispensable to her since the start of her premiership.

It is the first time since the election that Ms May has looked so desperately weak. Despite asking Jeremy Hunt to become Business Secretary, she instead expanded his current role, a move surely unprecedented in modern history. While it is eminently sensible to have Health and Social Care coordinated from Richmond House, for the Prime Minister to not only have been rebuked but also forced to hand out a promotion is surely all the evidence her enemies need to suggest that she is well and truly finished, gone by the end of Article 50. The departure of Damian Green means that she now has few friends in the Cabinet. It is very possible that Hunt - seen giving animated performances at Christmas Dinner parties, including one hosted by Michael Gove - is positioning himself for the leadership, threatening to resign from the government and trigger a contest.

In the Machiavellian maze of Westminster, it is no wonder that as the enemy tanks pen her in on all sides, Ms May is looking for any soul, no matter how untrustworthy, for an amphibious evacuation.



IMAGE: JAY DYER

America is turning into the real shithole country

Donald Trump continues to hurl accusations without giving the key issues the context they need and deserve

Virginia Stichweh



On January 11 Donald Trump reportedly called a number of African nations and Haiti “shitholes” and enunciated a preference for having Haiti removed from an immigration deal, protecting those who illegally came to the US as children from deportation. He added that he would prefer immigrants from Norway.

So, here’s a New Year’s resolution worth considering: don’t let your practice of reading about the world be dictated to you by the emissions of the current President of the US. Donald Trump is a man of profound ignorance. He is a man who uses expletives instead of adjectives. Accusations of racism and demands for an apology were quick to follow his remarks on Thursday. Those are perfectly legitimate concerns. But enough attention is given to Trump’s abusive language and infuriating utterances. Why not carefully think about the issue at hand instead? The issue is Haiti and Haitian Americans. So, in the

spirit of defiance, let’s learn things about Haiti that Trump doesn’t care to know. After all, defiance is a trait on which Haitians pride themselves ever since 1804.

In 1804, after 12 years of revolutionary war, the formerly enslaved African population expelled three colonial powers (the French, Spanish and British) from what had until then been the French colony of Saint-Domingue. It then became Haiti.

The slaves, having been shipped across the Atlantic from different parts of Africa by force, were originally united by a Voodoo priest on the basis of their shared religion. But it was only when Toussaint Louverture, a former slave himself, joined forces with the rebels that they started to achieve military success. It is the only time in history when slaves rose up in revolt and successfully established a state.

Here is a fact for the

consideration of Donald Trump: it was this war that left the French government so bankrupt that Napoleon had to sell the Louisiana territory to the US: a purchase which in 1803 doubled the size of the US. Since their revolutionary triumph over the colonialists, Haiti has seen less glorious times. In the subsequent two centuries Haiti has seen 32 coups. It is a politically unstable state and, even more so, a corrupt state. These days it is most famous for the earthquake in 2010 that left a quarter of a million dead, and

for being the poorest country in the Western hemisphere. Correspondingly, emigration, especially to the US, has been high ever since the late 20th century. Today, though exact population estimates are difficult, up to one in ten Haitians lives in the US. Their lives have

come more uncertain with the election of Donald Trump. 59 000 Haitians will face deportation in July 2019 as the US government is ending the protection granted to them after the 2010 earthquake. More deportations will follow, should the administration not change its policy.

Trump’s comments are eerily reminiscent of the xenophobia of a different age, namely the early 20th century. Immigrants from Norway are not as ‘foreign’ to the US as immigrants from Haiti; Norwegian immigrants do not form culturally distinct communities whereas Haitian Americans, almost half of whom are settled in Florida, do. Part of Miami is called “Little Haiti,” Haitian Creole is heard on the streets, Haitian restaurants and barbershops line the streets and Voodoo is still practiced. They celebrate their heritage.

Recent events would justify a celebration of the fact that their ancestors were the first to write a constitution that didn’t discriminate on the basis of colour.

Recent events would justify a celebration of the fact that their ancestors were the first to write a constitution that didn’t discriminate on the basis of colour.



It’s time to nurse the NHS back to full health

The NHS is not the envy of the world, and politicians need to rediscover the radicalism behind its founding

Joseph Silke



The NHS is once again in a state of crisis with all non-urgent operations in England postponed, yet public debate remains heavily constricted. Healthcare provision is deeply contentious but public discourse on our health service is severely lacking. We all want a sustainable, universal service fit for the future, and building such a service begins with an open mind and a willingness to consider radical action. The National Health Service was conceived over 70 years ago across party lines. Clamour for universal healthcare accelerated during the turmoil of the Second World War. The Liberal Party’s William Beveridge recommended the provision of universal healthcare in his famous 1942 report and in 1944 the Conservative Health Minister Henry Willink published the White Paper which would form the foundation of the NHS launched under Labour in 1948.

The principle of free delivery at the point of use was Britain’s great invention. Other developed nations, aside from the US, recognised the value of the principle but decided

to implement it differently. Comparative studies of different systems reveal why. The Lancet ranked the NHS just 30th globally last year behind Germany, Spain, and Italy among others. The much-cited Commonwealth Fund study, also from 2017, ranked the UK 10th out of 11 for health outcomes, particularly for cancer. An open and honest collective spirit devoid of party political sniping must be harnessed again to create a system that can keep up with evolving needs. The principle of universal healthcare free at the point of use exists across most of the developed world. One might get the impression from some, however, that only two healthcare systems were ever devised: the NHS and the American model. One of the great fallacies of the health debate is that to be critical of the current NHS model is to endorse the American one. We all recognise that NHS staff work hard; to be critical of the NHS model is not to be personally critical of health professionals too. Even the best doctors and nurses have limited potential within a tired system. This is echoed in figures released this past week, showing that the NHS is haemorrhaging thousands of staff who no longer trust that they can work under the current strained resources, and fear providing an inadequate quality of care.

Funding is crucial, but the prob-

lem goes beyond that. The NHS was not designed to cope with our ageing and expanding population. Everybody wants to keep the NHS free at the point of use, but we should not fear looking to other systems on the continent or farther abroad who abide by that same principle but opted to adopt different models. To cling to a sacred cow is to let down patients. I am not going to advocate any specific other system for Britain to adopt. It is simply crucial to recognise that the NHS has been experiencing the same problems for decades under all governments in Westminster or in the devolved assemblies. We must be open as a nation to the notion that a model devised in the 1940s might be unfit for 2018, and simply indebting future generations by borrowing ever more money might not be enough.

All options that maintain the universal principle should, of course, be considered. Insurance-based schemes subsidised by the government, which ensures protection for all, are the standard in most of the developed world. It is also necessary to look at preventative measures and strengthening social care. Only with an integrated approach can we find the best solution to this most pressing of issues. By being more open to our own fallibility we can secure the future of universal healthcare.



The University keeps letting down renters

Student tenants need to be advised of their rights and given guidance in order to avoid dodgy landlords in York

Finn Judge



Housing, housing, housing. If Tony Blair were to run for office today, it would almost definitely be the slogan for his campaign. This is the kind of incessant prioritisation we could do with in York: next year, the weekly rent on my house will go up by a fiver per student, which shouldn't affect a third year like myself - except the viewings won't end and I'm sick of not leaving my dirty laundry on the bedroom floor. Please, can some unfortunate group just cough up and sign for it?

Except it doesn't seem to be that easy for York students. At a time when maintenance grants are, well, no longer in existence, and the City of York Council is literally run by an anti-Labour coalition on the basis of not building houses on the green belt, it's hardly any wonder that students are feeling the pinch. Basic economics dictates that, when demand exceeds supply, prices go up. Are we getting better service for this premium? Au contraire.

Just two editions ago, Nouse reported that 7 in 10 off-campus properties exhibit signs of mould or damp, while nearly half have not had an up-to-date gas safety check. You would think that, flush with

new student cash, these landlords could invest in some quality - but their track record indicates otherwise. The story was similar in 2014: *Nouse* polled the student body and found that 44 per cent of students lose their deposits altogether, with 88 per cent believing their loss to have been unjustified.

Three years after that poll, my own landlord chanced it. After we cleaned the house from top to bottom, he claimed that £1500 of repairs and cleaning had to be undertaken for the house to be in good shape again. This, conveniently, was the same sum as our combined deposit. However, he offered us a 'discount' of only charging £500 - so long as he didn't have to provide receipts. If, he warned us, we asked for them, he would be 'forced' to withhold our entire deposit.

We called his bluff. I asked for the receipts, and also whether he had protected our deposit in a government-backed Tenancy Deposit Scheme: a legal requirement for all landlords. For a few days, there was silence. The next thing I know, we've all received personal cheques of £300 from his own bank account, first class in the post - with a short explanation that "circumstances have changed". His expedient inability to do maths probably hadn't.

For us, this was a crisis averted. For thousands of York students, however, they lack the legal knowledge to fight back - leaving them

vulnerable to chancer landlords. I know for a fact that my old landlord still does business with student letting agency APYork (avoid at all costs), who refused to take ownership of his behaviour. Legally, they don't have to: it's all on the landlord if the agency doesn't manage the property.

These are the facts York students need to know. More importantly, we need to know which landlords are reliable and who to avoid. The annual YUSU Housing Fair, while a step in the right direction, fails to go the distance: students need ongoing support for when issues arise throughout their tenancy. Not enough landlords are signed up to YorProperty; voluntary accreditation remains far from the mainstream.

I'm hoping that the idea of a landlord rating system resurfaces and gets implemented soon. One simple Google search of APYork brings up a whole host of their derogatory responses to reviews of the agency. Why not create a safer space - an intranet, even - for students to exchange their stories? There's so much this union can do to avoid students getting ripped off. We have the scope: now it's time for more ambition.

In the meantime, with two new colleges on the way, it would be nice if the University was to build more than just the usual Premium accommodation. Though I won't hold my breath.



IMAGE: RACHEL SIAN

There's a lot Riding on Yorkshire devolution

One Yorkshire must mean One Yorkshire: time to bring our historic territory back under the White Rose once again

James Hare



The news that Yorkshire looks likely to be granted devolution as a whole, rather than as a disparate collection of city regions has brought a smile to the face of many Yorkshirefolk, myself of course very much included. Yet we should not stop there, for while devolution is certainly a cause for a great deal of celebration, Yorkshire must have loftier aspirations - starting with regaining the territory ripped from it by generations of London bureaucrats, unable to understand culture even if it was spat into their overpriced lattes or sprinkled over their caviar.

As the graphic contained within this article shows, Yorkshire is currently about as complete as a second-hand jigsaw. Land has been pilfered from God's Own County by County Durham, Cleveland (as it once was), Cumbria, Greater Manchester, and worst of all the poor

relation of all the counties, Lancashire. Ask the Scots if devolution would be worthwhile without Dumfries or Galashiels, or the Welsh the same question about Wrexham or Monmouth. We all know the answer would be no: why then should Yorkshire accept the loss of Middlesbrough or Saddleworth?

That is not the only affliction forced upon this proud region by Southerners unable to comprehend the rich history it holds - understandable considering that the entire South is in effect a collection of London suburbs. Yorkshire has been divided into four by bureaucratic meddling, a disruption of the natural order unlike anything seen since Nigel Farage began to be regarded as a serious politician. There is reason and meaning in the

three ridings being the unit of division, and each day the monstrosity of South Yorkshire is allowed to exist scars the mental physique of even the proudest Yorkshireman. Put it back into the West Riding where it belongs, and divide York up like post-war Berlin once again - let devolution be the catalyst for righting another historical wrong.

There will be those telling us that this cannot be done, that administrative boundaries cannot be redrawn on a whim, and that a Norman era method of division is outdated almost one thousand years later. These people are likely to be incorrect by virtue of not being from Yorkshire, but we shouldn't condemn them simply for being the losers of the lottery of birth. Instead, they should be educated - quite possibly for the first time in their lives - and realise the error of their ways. Perhaps they could even leave their cushy Westminster

bubble for once in their lives and head up North to hear from the natives, experts on this matter, though they may be scared away by the dire state of our infrastructure.

However this dream could easily die a death, much like proud Yorkshireman Sean Bean in every

Yorkshire must have loftier aspirations than just devolution ”

film or television appearance he makes. A stumbling block to a One Yorkshire devolution deal still stands in the shape of Sheffield City Council, who have so far proved steadfast in their commitment to trying to get a special deal from themselves under the auspices of the Sheffield City Region - one must remember they effectively live in Derbyshire after all. However, considering the ineptitude with which the Council handled the chopping

down of trees in the city - a task remarkable in its simplicity - it must be said that many Sheffield residents would likely prefer to be part of One Yorkshire, simply to escape from the incompetence of their current overlords. The criticism Neil Kinnock raised of Liverpool Council in the 1980s when he wasn't busy falling into the sea comes to mind, with the former People's Republic of Sheffield acting in a most uncomradely manner.

Restoring Yorkshire to its former glories should be considered the Lord's work - it is God's Own County after all - and it is the duty of all patriotic Yorkshirefolk to do what is necessary to take back what is rightfully ours. Yes, it won't be easy. Nothing in Yorkshire ever is - but then it'll give us yet another thing to complain about, and that is after all our national sport. So I call on you, my Yorkshire brethren, to rise up and make the White Rose fly above the towns stolen by our dastardly neighbours once again. Yorkshire expects that each and every farmer - and his wife - does their duty. And remember that at the end of the day, it'll be reet.



EDITOR'S OPINION

2018: A brave new world

Saskia Starritt



2018 marks my 20th year on this planet, a fact that I find entirely terrifying. It is not that I don't feel ready to say goodbye to my teen years, but rather that I am panicked by the state of the world in which I must do so.

The past few years have been politically tumultuous, to say the least. When trying to envision what the next decade of my life will bring, it is Brexit that I find particularly concerning. As someone unable to vote in the referendum, I was devastated by the result. Of course, this disappointment was not shared by the young people who voted Leave, however, there is no denying that the lack of communication to the public regarding negotiations has been shambolic. Our so-called 'strong and stable' government seemingly has no idea what they are doing or what Brexit will mean for our future, both as individuals and as a nation.

Moreover, I am embarking on adulthood at a time when a man who refers to nations as "shitholes" and brags that his nuclear button is "much bigger and more powerful" than North Korea's has managed to assume leadership of the 'Free World'. Trump's presidency is an embodiment of the generational disconnect so evident in our world today: its impending impact, particularly on international relations and civil liberties, is something I loathe to think about. The volatility of our world, also demonstrated by increasing terrorist attacks, ongoing nuclear threats, energy crises, the mistreatment of refugees and more, constantly fuels my anger towards the irresponsibility of the thoughtless 'baby-boomers'.

It is naïve to suggest that we are the first generation subjected to the mistakes of our predecessors;

this is simply the nature of the beast. Whether it be the anti-Vietnam protestors of the '60s or the MTV-sinners of the '80s, young people have always found themselves at odds with those at the top of our familial and governmental hierarchies. My fears for the future are nothing special. But, what is unique to young people now is that, despite feeling helpless about and misrepresented by current politics, our voices have never been heard more. Everyone always harps on about the negative implications of social media, but we must not forget that sites such as Twitter and Facebook provide young people with a space where we can express our undiluted opinions and publicly question those who we perceive to be making our futures unstable. Attempts to drown out these criticisms and opinions are considered an infringement on civil liberties, and thus we have a larger presence in the public sphere than any generation of young people before us. We are at the forefront of debates on issues ranging from gender, sexuality, race, to ethical eating. Not only that, if you look at the world around us, these conversations are manifesting real change. Moreover, the emphasis on young people within Jeremy Corbyn's 2017 election campaign, and the noticeable effect that this had, suggests that our influence may be trickling into mainstream party politics.

The notion of 'coming of age' and entering my twenties at a time when the world's fate is so uncertain may be somewhat anxiety-inducing, but ultimately I have faith in those alongside whom I am facing this challenge. The words and actions of world leaders may be a complete contrast to what I personally believe, but the outpouring of resistance against such individuals and the progressive views shared by my peers makes me, perhaps foolishly, hopeful that entering my thirties will be a less fearful venture.



IMAGE: JAY DYER

The winds of change must continue to sweep Hes East

New buildings are not a substitute for the lack of community feel

George Mallinson



Heslington East witnessed the opening of the Piazza building on 8 January in what the University hopes will be the final piece of the jigsaw in bringing the new campus onto an even standing with its older counterpart. There is no doubt that something has been missing from Hes East for some time, meaning that it can at times seem isolated and separate from the main campus. There are, however, those who argue that instead of continuing to invest in Hes East, the focus should be shifted to ageing buildings on Hes West.

The problems on Hes East are by no means a secret; students have complained for a while now about the lack of atmosphere and buzz that there is on Hes West. There is hope that with the new Piazza building, which will provide a large auditorium, a lecture theatre, new offices, as well as a restaurant and study space, will help to change this.

During the day, the building should provide a mecca for activity as students from both campuses converge on it in order to attend lectures or seminars that have been rehomed in the new development. There is no doubt that students will find this an inspiring space in which

to work, and Computer Science undergraduates who have already had multiple lectures in the new development have been impressed with the stylish, modern appeal of the space.

The building also contains a restaurant as well as providing a service which will allow for Hes East's first ever catered accommodation. This will hopefully provide an early evening buzz around the Piazza as students come together to share their meals; it is likely then that the activity created by this new development can detach the campus from its current reputation of being a bore.

The problems on the Hes East campus are by no means a secret ”

In addition to the Piazza building, investment in the Kimberlow Hill Retail Park has brought with it several outlets to Hes East, including a Papa John's and a Greggs. This is something that members of the three Hes East colleges are more than happy about. It is hoped that all these new attractions can start to make the campus feel like a home rather than just a place to live, which is without a doubt a goal worth investing in.

From Hes West, however, come growing calls that injustice has been served. While the juggernaut of Campus East development rumbles on, with new, modern-age buildings springing up year after year, some buildings on the main campus are in desperate need of some loving care.

One resident of Eric Milner A, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that "it does seem unfair that so much money is going into Hes East when in here we have power cuts and leaks happening on a regular basis". They went on to say that "it wouldn't take much to solve these problems, but it's the little things that can get annoying". With blocks such as Vanbrugh's Eric A and B, and the Le Page blocks, alongside James' infamous M 'prison' block remaining just on the edge of liveable at times, it comes as no surprise that some residents of these blocks feel marginalised.

What these accommodations do have, however, is an immense sense of camaraderie, and perhaps they will come to appreciate that this sense of togetherness and atmosphere is what the University is striving to create for Langwith, Goodricke and Constantine students. Hes West students should also bear in mind that the Piazza building is for the use of everybody, not just those on Hes East. With this most recent development now complete, perhaps the focus can shift to revamping the dilapidated old buildings of the main campus.



CARTOON BY HOLLY HUXTER

"I wish that these men would return to the shadows in 2018"



Student media rivalry on campus is a necessary evil

In order for *Nouse* to evolve and improve, we need our rivals back in print

Jan de Boer



I remember when I first attended university, I was astounded by the number of societies devoted to the publication/spread of news and comment. I was practically spoilt for choice as I wandered into the exhibition, like a duckling without its mother, trying to find a place that would set me on course to my dream job, media and journalism. I have now had the pleasure of working for *Nouse* for two years and that time has been highly enjoyable and engaging. Above all, however, it has taught me the value of competition in student media. Whether it be at a highly contested election or competition, when we distribute on campus, competition is necessary for *Nouse* and other outlets to grow.

Nouse has sadly been one of the only newspapers that has distributed print editions in recent months with the recent complications at *York Vision*. This has meant that we have been to some extent unopposed on campus. This is bad for students as one of the key aspects of university is the diversity of opinions afforded by not only lecturers but by media outlets. *Nouse* only stands for a cross section of 135 writers in a large and diverse university. We can only publish within our financial means and therefore

in terms of opinions, we can't catch them all. That's why a newspaper requires competition in order to guarantee that the mood of the students at the University does not go unnoticed. The student community deserves another group of eyes on the story so that the narrative never goes unchallenged. Without competition, *Nouse's* monopoly will not be a report on the news of the day, it will become unchallenged, the only "news".

Student media will always thrive on competition ”

University life is often seen as the prelude to the 'real world' and campus media are part of that. In a world where the newspaper can leap into the extremes of the political underworld, I hope that students attend university on the metaphorical fence in politics. We need to guarantee that students leave university with a broader political horizon than they came with. This means that *Nouse* and others can be the bridge between the campus news and the national. You can go to the *Guardian*, you can go to the *Mail*, but it was student media that got you there. With only *Nouse* in the mix, the coverage and comment can be one-sided. That is why *Nouse* comment is reaching out to

all parts of the political spectrum, but without a counterbalance to us, I don't think that it will be enough.

What's more is another newspaper other than *Nouse* means that all the writers and editors of *Nouse* will strive to make the newspaper better. A fighter will not train to the next level if he is the sole king of the field. Students should demand the best from their university and by extension they should hold media societies to account; other media societies are in a prime position to do that. Even though I am an editor in *Nouse*, for the good of the paper, I think its hegemony must end and end quickly.

So what can be done? Obviously *Nouse* can't be split in two and form into east and west by way of an Iron Curtain. YUSU needs to stimulate media societies to innovate their papers and other media platforms. Of course these new investments must come with strings attached because societies need the incentive to publish instead of resting on laurels in the form of online views. The news outlets on campus must be diverse in outlook and must compete with each other to improve. This is in order for students to choose their media source with confidence in their reliability and quality. It is ultimately up to students to get involved in student journalism on campus in order to make both us and our media rivals better. Besides, it's never fun to play volleyball with yourself. You always win, but somehow you always lose.

Lords, not Lord

Those mixing their faith with politics ought to consider travelling along the road to Damascus

Oscar Bentley



In an interview on ITV's Good Morning Britain back in September 2017, Conservative MP and meme lord Jacob Rees-Mogg said that he was "completely opposed" to abortion in all cases, including those of incest or rape. Rees-Mogg named his Catholicism the reasoning behind his views, citing that "life is sacrosanct and begins at the point of conception". He also used his religious views to explain away his opposition to same-sex marriage, telling the programme that "Marriage is a sacrament and the decision of what is a sacrament lies with the Church, not with Parliament." He described the Church's teachings on morals as "authoritative", declaring that abortion was "morally indefensible".

So, Rees-Mogg is reasoning that a pair of views which many find outdated today, given that abortion and same-sex marriage are rightly accepted largely in society, is because of his steadfast Christianity. However, as Iain Rowan noted in a fantastic letter published in the *Guardian*, Rees-Mogg only seems to follow the Church's teachings if and when it suits him. He's consistently voted to reduce welfare benefits, for the bedroom tax, and against raising benefits in line with prices. How does this match up to Jesus showing compassion for the poor and the lame in the Bible, or his proclamation that "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God"? He's also consistently voted against increasing the tax applied to incomes over £150 000, or higher taxes on bankers' bonuses, and for reducing capital gains tax. So how does that match up with the Bible's teaching that "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God"?

Rees-Mogg isn't the only politician who seems to pick and choose what teachings to follow from his faith when it suits him. The Republican party in the US, three quarters of which are white Christians, are just as culpable. The party leadership, including Senate Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, both of whom are apparently devout Christians, pushed through

a tax bill in December that gutted Obamacare which helps with medical bills, potentially leaving the poor with huge medical debts, this could not be further from Jesus' mission to help heal the poor, which was also free of charge. Donald Trump is another apparent Christian, yet does his border wall and constant xenophobia against Mexicans (and pretty much every race other than his own) adhere to the teaching of love thy neighbour?

In 2012 Ryan described the House budget he has crafted as being inspired by "my Catholic faith", only for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to send him a letter a week later declaring that the budget "fail[ed] to meet" the moral teachings of the Church, and that a spending bill which relies on "disproportionate cuts in essential services to poor and vulnerable persons" does not help the poor, or the hungry, or the homeless, or the jobless, all of which are required by the Bible.

This month, Tim Farron said that he regretted saying that gay sex was not a sin after the issue dogged the Liberal Democrats' election campaign, claiming that the teachings of the Bible were clear on this, leading current Lib Dem leader Vince Cable to disavow his comments. When Farron resigned, he said that being the leader of a progressive party and a Christian "felt impossible", but surely the Bible's teachings on aiding the poor and the powerless are innately progressive. The issue of gay sex seems an odd point to get hung up on, especially when only a handful of Bible verses refer to homosexuality.



So many of these Christian politicians are able to explain away their bigoted views using their faith as a scapegoat, shifting the blame, yet disregard that principle when it suits them. Imagine if Muslim Mayor of London Sadiq Khan had said the things that Rees-Mogg did on Good Morning Britain; it would have been used as an excuse to claim that Muslims' faith prevents them from integrating into modern society. Politicians need to stop equating their politics with religion - especially when so many times they couldn't fall further from it.



Dom Hofmann @dhof

RIP vine. it's been 1 year since shutdown, a week before its 5 year anniversary. 17 Jan 2018



A.B. @AlannaBennett

When it comes to a case like Aziz, people are freaking in part bc it might mean A LOT MORE PEOPLE are guilty. And up til now in the reckoning we didn't have space for anyone but monsters you should ban from sets/society. 17 Jan 2018



Christinade Bellaigue @cadebellaigue

Why does UK need to borrow the Bayeux Tapestry when Reading already has this awesome Victorian reproduction, sewn by 85 women embroiderers in 1885? 17 Jan 2018

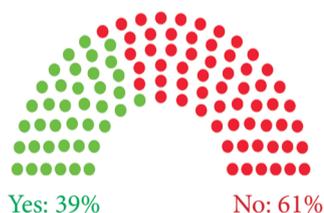


Jeremy Corbyn @jeremycorbyn

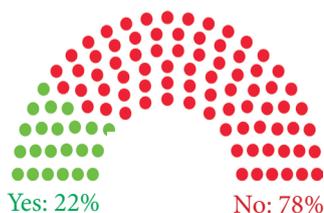
The @Conservatives' tax cuts for the super-rich and big business are being paid for by longer waiting lists, ambulance delays, staff shortages and cuts to social care. #PMQs 10 Jan 2018

BY THE NUMBERS CAMPUS POLLS

Should seminars be an assessed part of University degrees?



Are you excited for the YUSU elections?



Source: Nouse

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should seminars be an assessed part of university degrees?

YES.

Ed Smith



Seminars are the lifeblood of any arts or social science degree as it enables students to challenge, share and contribute ideas across a myriad of topics. However, when a seminar is strangled by silence, because the majority are inadequately prepared, the development and learning of each student withers.

Discussion in seminars is essential and improves key life skills by encouraging communication and bolstering confidence, which are crucial in any future graduate level career. Furthermore even when applying to a job in Waitrose a shelf stacker you have to deliver a pitch to a group about a chosen item that is sold in store.

Nonetheless, not to get sidetracked by Waitrose, the growth in confidence and flow of ideas in a seminar will indefinitely lead to greater debate and thus greater learning for all as I do not know anyone who has learnt effectively from a two way conversation between one student and a seminar leader.

Moreover, if seminars were to be assessed, it would be an easy way to push marks up, even if it the assessment does not have a significant weight to it, merely by contributing once or twice per seminar. This in turn promotes the completion of set reading and actually turning up to seminars. I have more often than not seen sixteen names on a sheet and counted only three people present, including myself, detrimentally affecting all involved.

It is clear that the opposition

to my view will rebuke the claim, stating that people with anxiety and conditions that prevent them from either participating in discussion or turning up, will be severely disadvantaged if seminars were to be assessed. This is a strong and convincing argument.

Nevertheless, becoming more comfortable with fellow classmates, by discussing set reading or how your day has been, may help reduce stress and the anxiety of public speaking, especially as seminars are usually made up of no more than twenty people. Furthermore, nervousness can be harnessed into more positive energy such as adrenaline, additionally helping those suffering from mental illnesses.

I am not contending that seminars should be assessed solely on contributions to the class as a whole. Assessment could occur when class discussion breaks off into small groups to discuss more in depth, which would help those who suffer from anxiety about public speaking become more comfortable with adding to class discussion.

Topics and ideas discussed in seminars are key to the greater performance of students, and I have incorporated many of the ideas that I discussed, which were directed effectively by my seminar leader into coursework pieces, demonstrating how seminars can help one personally develop.

Therefore seminars should be assessed, especially within the arts, humanities and social sciences, because they are a platform for informal exchange where ideas can be refined and applied. This helps personal development by strengthening confidence and pushing people to prepare adequately, which are both key skills in any career after

NO.

Stella Newing



Seminars are one of the most rewarding and stimulating aspects of my degree. It's a chance to test out new ideas, learn from your peers, and receive feedback, all of which I think should be able to be enjoyed without the pressure of assessment. Crucially, a seminar is not rehearsed; it is impromptu discussion, normally with only a loose structure prepared by the tutor. Can that unpredictable setting ever really be a reflection of someone's best work? You can prepare as much as you like for a seminar and still not necessarily be able to contribute to the level that you'd like in every part of the discussion.

If I'm honest, I find the idea of relying on other people for a portion of my grade problematic. We've all been there in a seminar when you feel like you're the only one talking. This isn't me saying: "I'm amazing, everyone else is rubbish", because obviously that's not the case and I don't think that. But sometimes you end up in a seminar group where not everyone is as responsive as you'd hope, or the conversation doesn't progress to cover interesting and important topics, so you don't get to showcase the work you've prepared.

I get it, that's the point of a seminar. And it's true that the assessments often encourage attendance and participation. But I do think that you should feel satisfied that the mark you've received is a result of your work and effort alone.

I feel the same about group

presentations: they're excellent practice and invaluable preparation for The Real World but not the same objective method of testing as an essay or exam. Seminars do not have the benefit of anonymity that written assessment does; it is no longer wholly unbiased marking. Of course, the markers are experienced professionals and are not going to be swayed by personal preference, but many students have voiced issues with the grading system for seminars. It is a far more tenuous method of marking that is, naturally, difficult to keep fully consistent.

For the people who don't contribute that much in seminars, this is a really serious argument as well. Some people find the seminar a very intimidating environment, and it is not a place where they can produce the excellent work that they are capable of. I realised fairly early on in my first term at university that I had to make a conscious decision to shelve my embarrassment and shyness in seminars, and offer answers even if I thought they weren't right or any good. Not being a particularly confident or outspoken person, this took some effort and, while I'm very glad I was able to make that decision, not everyone does or can. I don't think someone should be penalised for not thriving in what is a pretty intense academic setting, where they may be suppressing original and insightful ideas.

I can see that there are a couple of subjects, such as Law, for which seminars are a more relevant method of assessment, as communication skills are vital. Generally speaking though, seminars should be an opportunity to experiment, talk, and listen. It is not the ideal method of assessment, so why do it? Keep

#minstergram

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



@rhymeandribbons I was thoroughly underprepared for the rain today



@doodlesdawg It's scarf and coat weather. (Pre snow Sunday strolls)



@bettys1919 Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

MUSE.



VEGANUARY
MORE THAN JUST A MONTH

FILM & TV

14

M14 Chay Quinn and Cameron Craig debate *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* and whether it lives up to the original trilogy

M15 Jasmine Onstad praises *Big Little Lies* and its superb soundtrack

FOOD & DRINK

M19 Antastadios Proios Doukas explores a niche flavour "umami" and how exactly to detect its presence in our food

Andrew Hurst provides a guide to dining out in York on a budget



ARTS

M6 Rosemary Evans looks into Rupi Kaur and "Instapoets" while Charlie Ralph reminds us about the importance of art by Holocaust survivors

M7 The Arts team review the literature of 2017 presenting their top finds, biggest book regret, and those they wish they'd managed to read

6

FASHION

M9 Robyn Ball argues for the protest power of Fashion while Peter Jacobs explores the unique style of Yiyun Ding

M10 Fashion shoot editors Lily Abel and Daisy Wallis add to the #metoo campaign with their own *Nouse* edition



FEATURES

M4 Fran Carruthers talks to local vegan restaurant El Piano and students about the challenges and benefits of animal activism

M8 Gallery director Jeff Clark speaks to Emma Jacob about broadening public awareness of urban art

M16 Oscar Bentley explores coming of age through culture, film, and theatre



GAMING

17

M17 Patrick Walker examines Blizzard's current use of their Overwatch League and the E-Sports community

Hamzah Abbas explains Nintendo's January Direct and their plans for 2018

TRAVEL

18

M18 New travel editor Seren Hughes explores places of interest in Penang. Meanwhile, Flavio Sansa makes a case for Albania and highlights capital Tirana

MUSIC

M12 Jacob Phillips reviews the winners of BBC Sound of 2018, including Sigrid and Rex Orange County

M13 Beth Colquhoun argues why more people should buy and collect vinyl, and her top tips for getting into the hobby



“...It is such a beautiful building!
A mini palace in York”



MATTHEW GREENWOOD, A TOUR GUIDE AT EXPLORING YORK, GIVES HIS INSIGHT INTO THE CITY OF YORK

What is the most enjoyable thing about being a tour guide?

I would say it is the expression on people's faces when they're surprised by learning something new about York, or when things piece together and they make connections between things.

What is your favourite place, area or building in York and why?

Well actually, it's quite appropriate because it's Kings Manor, which is a University of York property. I would say because it's such an understated building in terms of its history – the fact that it was the council of the North for a period, so therefore it was parliament for the North of England, essentially. And that's not a well-known fact outside of York. And for the fact it is such a beautiful building! A mini palace in York.

Tell us a weird fact about York which not many people would know.

One thing that springs to mind is the fact that Henry VIII stayed just once, in York with wife number five, Catherine Howard, and they stayed at the King's Manor where she was having an affair with Thomas Culpeper. They were spotted in the rose garden, but it's possible that he used the bathroom at the side of the house, which is now the smallest window in York, which is right at the very end of the King's Manor building. It's a little window on the far left-hand side as you look at the front of the building. A slightly more gruesome one would be that Henry VIII had a man called Robert Aske hung to death in York. Aske was a leader of a rebellion in the North of England against Henry VIII, and it's said that he was hung until he was almost dead but then he was

left in a metal cage for the birds to peck his eyes out.

In your view, what is the most interesting aspect of York's history, and why?

I'm not going to go with the obvious Roman and Viking history. I'm probably going to go with Georgian history, because it's an element of York's history that's not well-known or particularly well-marketed. It really was, if you like, the Northern version of Bath. There were perhaps 60 Georgian townhouses around the city – many of which are still there – and wealthy families owning each one of them. And three important things sprung up in that period to serve the wealthy people. One of them was the racecourse, second one was the original Theatre Royal, and the third one was the Assembly Rooms, which is now ASK.

If someone was wishing to become a tour guide, what advice would you give them to help them be successful?

I would say that, basically they need to ask themselves, have they got a passion for wherever it is that they're guiding, or the subject that they're guiding about. Then it's getting that passion across to the audience, and turning facts into an engaging narrative.

What is the most challenging thing about your job as a tour guide?

One of the most challenging things can be doing a tour for people of different nationalities who don't necessarily speak great English, or are at different levels. And the tour has to be in English because they speak various languages, but you don't exactly know what level of English they have. And there may be an interpreter on the tour as

well, so that would be the most challenging, because the main thing about being a tour guide is creating that engaging story, but it's tricky doing it in a way that it's simplistic enough that you don't lose the message.

When is your favourite season in York and why?

On a personal level, I guess summer time and Christmas time, because it's great to see York in all its glory when there's nice weather in summer; Christmas time because York is so magical at Christmas time. But from a professional point of view, I would say probably late spring, that's when York is busy, business-wise, but not too crowded.

What are your aspirations for 2018?

From a commercial point of view, obviously more tours. I guess we're always attracting more people from China and South East Asia, and that would be an ambition to see more visitors from those places choosing our company in 2018.

As students we may be less likely to do some of the typical tourist activities in York, but is there anything you would suggest doing before leaving university?

I'd probably say spend just one weekend, during their time in York, just going to two or three of the museums, if they can. Whether it be going in the Minster or the National Railway Museum, or going in some of the smaller, off-the-beaten-track museums like the Merchant Adventurers Hall, or Barley Hall, or the Regimental museum. And to make sure that they do a full circuit of the walls while they're at university.

Interview by Fran Carruthers

EDITOR'S NOTE



MUSE EDITOR EMILY TAYLOR ON BURNING GOAT EFFIGIES

When January rolls around it feels almost obligatory to write something on the new year, the new start and the new me. Well I hate to tell you that the new me is the same mess as the old me. So instead, let's not do that. Rather, settle down kids, and let me tell you the tale of the Gävle goat.

Every year a giant, very flammable straw goat is built in Sweden to celebrate Advent. Almost every year, it's destroyed. It has been stolen, kicked to pieces and lost its legs, but mostly it just catches fire. One time it burned down, was rebuilt by high school students and then was hit by a car. Another time it was burned down by a flaming arrow shot by vandals dressed as Santa and gingerbread men. When Yeats described the “vast image out of Spiritus Mundi” I can only imagine he was picturing the burning carcass of the Gävle goat.

For this production week, this has been my favourite topic of conversation in the *Nouse* office. Firstly, it is absolutely hilarious. Secondly, it's incontrovertible evidence that Sweden is the greatest country, having bought us the holy trinity of IKEA, ABBA and the Gävle goat. Finally, humans are ridiculous creatures. It's great that they build a giant flammable goat in the first place, but true beauty is found in the continuation of this Sisyphean task of building something beautiful that is constantly destroyed by drunk idiots. It's the kind of tale that epic poetry is written about.

At New Year's I often feel less like a new me and much more like a straw goat that's been destroyed thirty seven times over the last fifty years. New starts come and go and more often than not we fail over and over, but nevertheless we still believe that this year will be the new start. This year the goat won't be reduced to a pile of ash. We are ridiculous creatures but we'll keep trying regardless.

The most recent Gävle goat defeated the odds and survived, perhaps heralding a good start for the new year. If it's 'new' you want then this is the right issue of *Nouse*. We have pieces from our new Travel (M18) and Food & Drink (M19) editors. We have the winners from our column competition (M20). A debate on the new Star Wars film (M14). Want some new music? Then check out the summary of the Sound of 2018. (M12).

Who knows? Maybe this year I will finally turn over a new leaf and maybe the goat won't burn down again. But most likely I'll still be the same me and the goat will go down in a spectacular blaze.

IMAGE CREDITS

Cover: fsHH

Opposite, from top: Takedahrs Evertt Collection/Rex USA, Veganuary, Wikimedia Q&A: Visit York

VEGANUARY: FEEDING THE TREND?

FRAN CARRUTHERS TALKS TO STUDENTS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES ABOUT THE LASTING CHANGES BROUGHT BY VEGANISM

“With the BBC recently reporting that around 3 per cent of the UK population identifies as vegan – a figure that has tripled in as many years – veganism looks to be a lifestyle that is here to stay. Chain restaurants, food retailers and supermarkets have leapt on the vegan bandwagon, creating new menus and releasing new and improved “Free From” and “plant-based” alternatives to meat, eggs and dairy, to cater to growing consumer demand for animal-free products.

Critics of veganism claim it is a health fad adopted by the young and trendy, yet increasing evidence about the health-related and environmental benefits of plant-based lifestyles makes it harder to argue this claim. True, veganism may appear to be favoured by the likes of the rich and famous – from Ellie Goulding to Brad Pitt – but it is being adopted by an increasing number of people for a wide variety of reasons. All the while people try to shoehorn veganism into this or that stereotype, more and more unexpected heroes come along and prove us all wrong.

At this point, it is probably worth mentioning that I myself am vegan. Having made the change just over a year ago (though not through taking part in Veganuary), I have been overwhelmed by the vast growth in awareness, understanding and tolerance towards plant-based diets. Yet the breakneck speed at which brands have responded to the growing demand for vegan products does make me wonder. Undoubtedly, for any restaurant chain or supermarket, catering to

customer choices is a logical move – but are these changes here to stay? And with growing numbers of people choosing to go plant-based, will this increase resentment from those who oppose veganism?

For those who are not aware, Veganuary is a campaign that began in the UK in 2014, founded by husband and wife Jane and Matthew Land. The initiative involves taking a pledge not to eat any animal products for

“ Unlike the number of people who will inevitably revert to drinking after a dry January, veganism is set to last

the entire month of January, and while there is no requirement to stay vegan after the challenge, the assumption is that many will be swayed, or will at least reduce their consumption of animal products. Veganuary has quickly spread on a global level, and the Veganuary website will soon be translated into

all major worldwide languages. This year, a record number of over 100 000 people took the pledge.

Going vegan in the New Year might be part of your new year’s resolutions, motivated by the abundance of health benefits and possibility of weight loss. Yet unlike the mountain of optimistically-purchased gym memberships that will be tossed aside come 1 February, or the number of people who will inevitably return to drinking alcohol after a “dry January”, veganism is set to last beyond the month. In a survey by the Vegan Society last year, over two thirds of those who took part in Veganuary 2017 intended to stay vegan, while the majority of those remaining aimed to at least reduce consumption of animal products.

I decided to speak to some members of the University of York’s VegSoc, who are currently taking part in the challenge. Elsa Robinson, a third-year History student, is trying Veganuary this year, having been a vegetarian for three years. I asked her, what were the main reasons behind her decision to take part?

“Veganism has been a goal for me for a long time, but I was putting it off while at university as I figured I was already stressed enough with everything going on, and I didn’t need the additional bother of worrying too much about my diet! But over the Christmas period I came to the realisation that I would probably always be finding excuses, and that if I really did believe in animal rights and fighting climate change, I might as well start



IMAGE: VEGANUARY

trying to make a positive difference now.”

I was curious to know what had been the hardest aspect about taking part in Veganuary. “Social situations can sometimes be challenging, for instance not being able to have a takeaway pizza with friends anymore, or having to remind myself that coffee shops won’t necessarily have vegan options, although most places are quite good now. Other than that, I find meal planning slightly harder than before, perhaps due to the fact that I can’t just put cheese on everything anymore!”

Indeed, for many people, cheese certainly seems to be a big obstacle. Along with chocolate, bacon, and cake, it seems to be generally conceived as one of the hardest foods to give up. But with vegan alternatives springing up everywhere, traditional products might see declining popularity. In a recent report by Rabobank, the world’s leading financial services provider for the food and agribusiness sector, the vegan protein market was “estimated to reach \$16.3bn within the next decade.” The report also found that the growth of veganism has stimulated “increases in other market areas, including a \$1.15bn value for vegan eggs, \$2.5bn estimate for vegan ice cream, and an impressive \$28bn for vegan milk in the next four years.”

When I asked Elsa whether she plans to stay vegan, she responded, “I hope so!” adding, “I think that veganism is an incredibly important movement. I know that it tends to have a negative reputation, especially online, but in the real world veganism can be a huge force for good. So much is coming to light about the role of animal agriculture in climate change, deforestation and species extinction, as well as the health advantages of going vegan. I predict that many more people will turn to veganism very soon.”

I also spoke to Izzy Moore, another member of VegSoc (and of course, our lovely *Muse* Deputy Editor!) She told me she had not taken part in Veganuary, but had gone vegan in the summer, when she was “mainly inspired by people discussing it over social media and watching documentaries.” Referring to Kip Andersen’s *Cowspiracy* (2014), which underlines the far-reaching environmental destruction caused by animal agriculture, and *What the Health* (2017), which details the meat and dairy industry’s influence on government health guidelines, Izzy tells me these “probably accelerated the transition the most”.

As is the case for many people, there are multiple reasons for which she has made the change, falling into the umbrella categories

IMAGE: EL PIANO



IMAGE: EL PIANO



of health, animals and the environment. “I believe veganism is an achievable way to produce significant change for the planet, animals and yourself. [Since going vegan] I feel like an active participant rather than a bystander to these injustices. Even if it involves being slightly awkward ordering at restaurants.”

Indeed, although the world is changing rapidly and awareness towards veganism increasing, there is a long way to go before being vegan is a total piece of cake. “I’ve been in the position before where I’ve had to tell friends that I can’t go to a certain restaurant because they don’t have any options. It’s not the worst problem in the world, but it contributes to the notion that veganism is difficult and restrictive, and I suspect puts people off the whole concept of it.”

I ask her whether she thinks that veganism, for all its rapid popularity, could be seen as something of a trend. She cannot help but partly agree. “But, I think the fact that being vegan is a bit of a trend at the moment is only a positive thing. Increased exposure and choices in supermarkets and restaurants means people are encouraged to make vegan choices and hopefully they’ll be motivated too by the benefits for animals and the planet, but

Increased exposure and choices in supermarkets means people are encouraged to make vegan choices

if they don’t and they simply fancy a falafel burger - well that’s fine too.”

In an effort to understand veganism from a business standpoint and find out more about consumer attitudes, I speak to Magdalena Chavez, manager of El Piano, a fully-vegan restaurant in York whose menu is also free from nuts, gluten, refined sugar and palm oil. Since opening their doors 21 years ago, they have won countless awards such as the York Café of the Year award, as well as being finalists for several national awards including the Free From award and Best Family Restaurant. Evidently, El Piano is something of a jewel in the crown of York’s plant-based food scene.

I ask Magdalena what being vegan means to her. She is keen to differentiate between the terms “plant-based” and “vegan”, stating, “I prefer to say ‘I eat a plant-based diet’, which gives the listener information about me rather than ‘I am vegan’, which is a statement of identity and, by definition, excludes the identities of those who are not. I’m an older person, so I’ve recognised over the years that when people figuratively jump up and down and say ‘I’m a feminist’ or ‘I’m a Labour Party supporter’, or whatever, what that’s also saying is, ‘If you’re not, then we’re separated.’”

This question of inclusivity, of connectedness, is clearly central to El Piano’s ethos. It is reflected in the choice to not use refined sugar, gluten, nuts and palm oil in any of their food, in order to meet the needs of an array of dietary requirements.

Magdalena says, “There’s a social - and maybe even spiritual - interaction when you break bread with people, and if everybody can eat everything on the table, how nice is that? The exception to that might be the palm oil, which has come out of an awareness of the environmental damage that the palm oil har-

vesting does. That one’s a bit of a stand-alone, it’s really about ‘hmm, let’s just get rid of that’. And that was exciting because that has meant that we don’t use any solid fats. And to make cakes and pastries without using solid fats has been an interesting challenge - but we’ve managed it!”

But what, I am keen to know, are the implications on her business? Surely, when the restaurant opened 21 years ago and there was far less awareness about veganism, there was less of a demand for this type of food?

Magdalena admits, “In the beginning I was the business. What was important to me had to be reflected in a business I was operating. The case for opening a vegan business twenty years ago was zilch, commercial suicide. The word vegan [at that time] was as likely to be associated with Star Trek as with the kitchen. But a family business can ride the storms.” And ride the storms it has done, rising up as a leading local business while staying true to its founding ethical and sustainable ethos.

I ask her if she thinks that veganism, at the moment, can be seen as a faddy lifestyle choice. She is hesitant, agreeing that, “at the moment, it is a trend. Some of those who have chosen it today will not be choosing it tomorrow. The wider point is that a plant-based diet will increasingly become attractive because environmental considerations will require it, thus it will be more economical to eat less animal products. Ultimately it will not be just a trend, but very likely a necessity.”

But surely, as an all-vegan restaurant, they have received negative comments from people?

“This is just a joke really, but sometimes people come in and say things like (groans) ‘Oh, are you vegan’ or, ‘God I never eat any vegan food’ (laughs)... And the thought in my head is, ‘Hmm... so you’ve never eaten an apple?’ If we’re talking about just getting rid of animal products, which are more generally costly, scores of people have had diets of vegan food without necessarily calling it that. So I wonder if this label of ‘vegan’ is suggesting to people that there’s something weird, wonderful, strange and inaccessible about this diet - when actually, for the vast majority of us, a very high percentage of our diet is vegan anyway.”

And if it is not, perhaps it should be. The health benefits of eating more plant-based food are undeniable, with documentaries such as *What the Health* and *Forks over Knives* highlighting the dangers of the typical “American Diet” (which has arguably migrated over to the UK). Even the NHS guidelines about vegan diets are largely positive, with

A plant-based diet will become attractive as environmental considerations require it

their website stating that, “With good planning and an understanding of what makes up a healthy, balanced vegan diet, you can get all the nutrients your body needs.”

It is becoming increasingly clear that Magdalena’s own personal ethos is one of straightforwardness and simplicity, which surprisingly, is reflected in the restaurant’s



IMAGE:VEGANUARY

menu. With enticingly named dishes such as “Mayan Medley”, “Sea cakes” and “Mathematical Chips”, it is hard to believe Magdalena when she tells me that, “almost everything we make uses fewer than six ingredients and fewer than four steps - so it’s actually all incredibly quick to make, very simple.”

Magdalena has recently released a vegan cookbook, *21 Years Free*, featuring a selection of the restaurant’s tried and tested favourite recipes. She is keen to talk about it more, beaming, “Gosh... It’s sold like you can’t believe! We’re astonished. It’s sold all over the world. For a small publisher to be selling more than a thousand copies in a few weeks, is just unheard of. It’s a hardback book, which we’ve not done before - we’ve done quite a few paperback

books, but this has more than twice as many pages

commercial gain, rather than a genuine interest in stimulating change. Indeed, expensive free-from products might market it as a “luxury” lifestyle, pricing out potential consumers, while those which use palm oil or are covered in plastic packaging detract from the movement’s environmental benefits.

Nonetheless, it is evident that Veganuary is part of a huge conversation, which encompasses too many valid arguments to be dismissed as just a trend. Even though going fully vegan is clearly not for everyone, many people are becoming aware of the health benefits of eating this way, choosing to be flexitarian or reduce their consumption of meat, dairy and eggs. Similarly, the movement has increased awareness of the environmental implications of our eating habits, and those who go vegan, vegetarian or flexitarian are naturally likely to think about reducing their carbon footprint in other ways.

Ultimately, it seems inevitable that the world will be forced

to shift towards a more plant-based outlook in the coming years, if we have any hope of producing food in a more sustainable way. As for the numerous studies linking vegan and vegetarian diets to longer lives - in spite of anyone’s pained cries of “but what about bacon?” - it seems that by saving theirs, we might just be saving our own. **M**



IMAGE:VEGANUARY

VERSES OF THE FUTURE

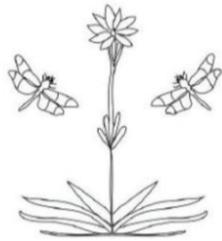
ROSEMARY EVANS EXAMINES THE SUCCESS OF RUPI KAUR'S GROUNDBREAKING POETIC STYLE

It would probably be difficult to argue that poetry has much of a place in twenty-first century popular culture. Unlike enthusiasts of music or novels or art, ardent poetry-lovers are hard to come by. You might know a couple, but the chances are you aren't one. Thanks to its association with fustiness, pretention, and heavy, incomprehensible language, poetry isn't seen as holding much appeal for the modern consumer. This is what makes it so remarkable that the second best-selling book on Amazon in 2017 was in fact a poetry anthology: *Milk and Honey*, by Rupi Kaur.

IMAGE: RUPI KAUR

i do not need the kind of love
that is draining
i want someone
who energizes me

- rupi kaur



Since its self-publication in 2014, *Milk and Honey* has become a literary sensation, selling 2.5 m copies worldwide and becoming a number one *New York Times* bestseller. Kaur's second anthology, *The Sun and Her*

Flowers has seen similar success since its publication last year, and at the age of 25, the Indian-Canadian poet has risen from unpublished writer to one of the most influential voices of the young generation, a point illustrated by the fact that as well as in the usual places like Waterstones and Foyles, you can also find her books in Urban Outfitters among the stacks of cactuses and avocado themed stationery.

Kaur is widely regarded as the queen of the 'Instapoets': young, politically-engaged women such as Wendy Cope and Warsan Shire, who are commandeering poetry for the digital age. Sharing their work on mainstream social media sites, these women use the medium of poetry to explore topics like femininity, sexism and body image. In providing bold, creative contributions to the modern feminist movement, the Instapoets are proving hugely popular, and Kaur is no exception.

However, despite her success, Kaur's poetry receives an equal force of criticism. Among other points of controversy, her use of free verse and minimalist, direct poetic style has attracted condemnation for not qualifying as 'proper poetry', as has her use of social media as a platform for her work (Kaur has 2.1 million followers on Instagram). Critics have parodied her formula on Twitter of using brief, fragmented verse while others have dismissed her poetry as trashy, unremarkable tumblr material: when judged beside the work of 'traditional poets', the Shakespeares and the Byrons of the literary landscape, does her work even qualify as poetry?

Admittedly, *Milk and Honey* is a far cry from the classical poems of Keats and Byron, but that doesn't have to be a bad thing. The 'traditional poets' are undoubtedly talented writers, fully deserving of their place in the (largely male-dominated) literary hall of fame, but unless you're an English academic,

or a very keen and very persistent reader, you will probably have to work quite hard to enjoy their work. All those obscure intertextual references and all the superfluous language that characterises 'proper poetry' (and earns poetry its fusty, pretentious associations) is likely to prove more than a little daunting. Once you've encountered the words 'Lethe-wards' and 'Dryad' in the same stanza (as you will do in Keats' *Ode to a Nightingale*), you might be tempted to give up. Of course, if you do take the time to decipher the poem's subtext, you may be utterly enchanted by it, but how many of us who aren't doing English degrees have time or the knowledge to do that? Yes, Keats' language is beautiful, but what use is that if you can't grasp what he's actually telling you?

One of the most enjoyable aspects of poetry stems not simply from the language but from a sense of empathy, of being able to read a stanza and say 'that's how I feel', or 'that's what I think' after you've been convinced it was just you. It is similar to the satisfaction derived from reading Facebook memes, in that it is therapeutic to find evidence of others' similarity to ourselves. Just like it is comforting to learn from Student Problems' posts that you're not the only one who has a major procrastination problem or hasn't had more than five hours sleep for an entire week, so it is reassuring to learn from Alfred Tennyson that you're not the only one who occasionally feels heartbroken.

While memes are admittedly less profound than poetry, there is a similarity between the two in that both provide us with a sense of reassurance and cohesion. In fact, the work of Instapoets and their use of social media, as well as politicising poetry, is bringing it closer to the medium of memes, producing verse that is short, sharp and accessible: verse that anyone can read and enjoy. And it is this

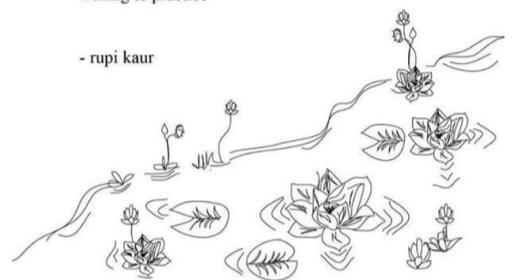
style of verse that has earned *Milk and Honey* its status as a best-seller.

Rather than invalidating it as poetry, Kaur's style represents a departure from its impression of unpopularity and obscurity, and marks the birth of a new variety of po-

IMAGE: RUPI KAUR

to hate
is an easy lazy thing
but to love
takes strength
everyone has
but not all are
willing to practice

- rupi kaur



etry suited to the digital age and accessible to everyone.

Poetry shouldn't be the reserve of literature professors who know the ins and outs of iambic pentameter and the significance of the very niche metaphors in Browning's *My Last Duchess* or Shelley's *Ozymandias*. Like memes, poetry should be open to everybody, and Kaur and others like her are making it so. Undeniably, it is the first time we've seen poetry posted on Instagram (or sold in Urban Outfitters), but that isn't a bad thing. If anything, it is evidence of the fact that although the world is moving forward, it is bringing poetry with it.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: CONFRONTING THE PAST

CHARLIE RALPH STATES THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING WITH THE WORKS OF ARTISTS IN THE HOLOCAUST

It is vital that we continue to remember the more devastating moments of our human history. To list them would be callous to those not included, but the events that define the inhumanity of tragedy should be called upon regularly to influence our actions and attitudes towards present day injustice and prejudice. On 27 January, we commemorate the six million Jewish people murdered in the Holocaust, as well as the millions of people killed in Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Though many seek to turn away from confrontation of these horrific events, to do so would be a fundamental dismissal of the treatment and memorial these victims and their families deserve. The most important thing to do on this date is to acknowledge this crime in any way one can and attempt to learn from the lessons of history.

It could be argued that the most direct way that art can engage its audience is through live theatre. The shared nature of the emotions offered by good theatre is heightened when dealing with a topic of such emotional weight. Perhaps the most direct of all

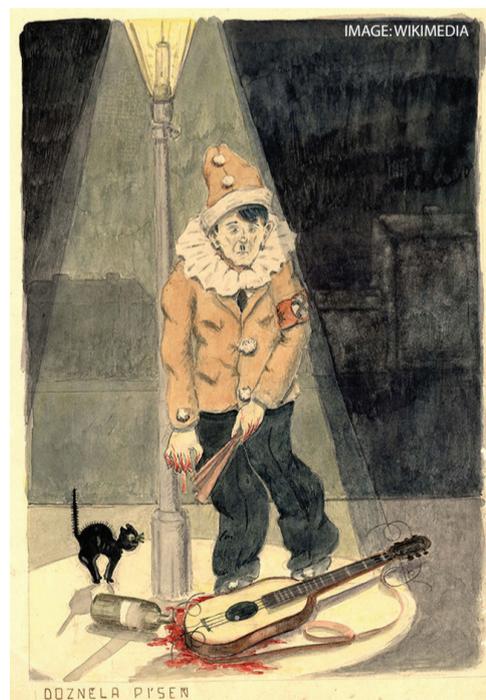


IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA

DOZNELA PIŠEN

confrontations with the holocaust in theatre is Charlotte Delbo's *Who Will Carry The Word?*, an autobiographical play about the French writer's time in Auschwitz. Following the lives of 23 French women living in the barracks during the first, most lethal few months in the concentration camp, Delbo's words are filled with the kind of brutal realism that is only justified and adequately written by someone who lived through that brutality. Of Charlotte Delbo's 230 French nationalist companions captured and sent to concentration camps, only 49 survived. To read her words is an act of vital reverence that is practically one's duty on a day like 27 January. There are many other works of theatre worth discovering that engage with the Holocaust.

There are also other forms of art: works by survivors and individuals which look to uncover the raw emotions that lay at the heart of these horrific events.

A few choice artists to look at are the provocative, grimly comic works of Pavel Fantl and the hauntingly simple works of Nelly Toll. More so than most art, the truth behind these images leaps out of the frame,



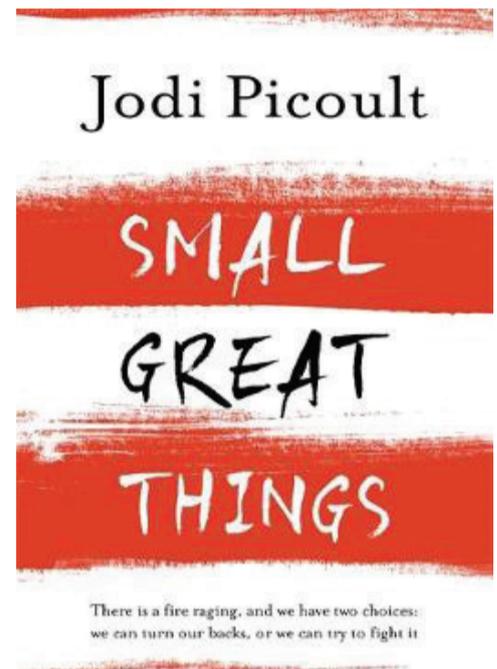
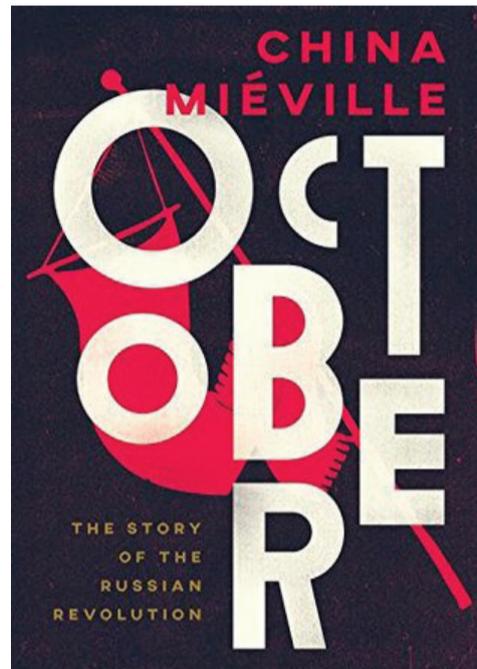
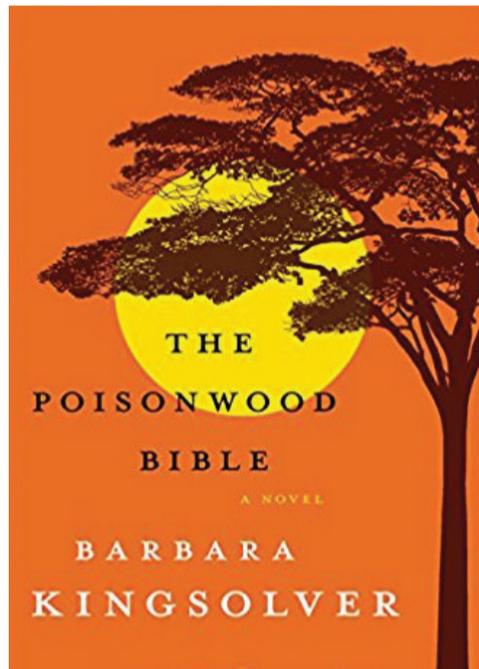
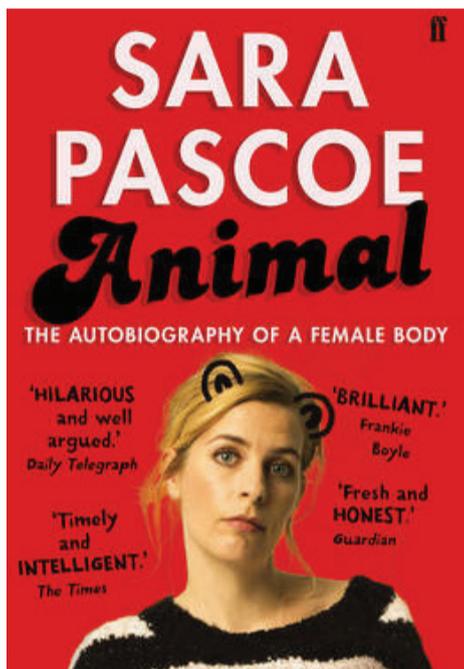
IMAGE: NELLY TOLL COLLECTION MASSILLON MUSEUM

thanks in part to the efforts of so many people dedicated to keeping moments like this alive in our memory.

It is our duty to remember these events and Holocaust Memorial Day gives us the opportunity to take some defined time to give both the survivors and the departed the respect they deserve. While it may be tempting to look away, take some time on 27 January to engage with these works from one of the worst periods in European history, so that you might understand at least part of what they went through.

OUR YEAR IN BOOKS

THE ARTS TEAM LOOK BACK AT 2017 AND DISCUSS THEIR BEST PICKS AND LITERARY REGRETS



The time for making, and attempting to stick to, resolutions is upon us again. The gym, healthy eating, an alcohol ban, we've all been there. But if one of your resolutions was to read more, read something different, or just read anything, then this could be the article for you. The Arts team has compiled our most important books of 2017 (taking inspiration from *The Guardian's* regular feature), in anticipation of another year of exciting literature.

The book I recommended the most.

Stella: *Elmet* by Fiona Mozley. She is the University of York's unrivalled success story, having had her first published novel short-listed for the Man Booker Prize this year, whilst writing her PhD here at York. *Elmet*, dubbed a 'rural noir', is the tale of a family of three living on the outskirts of society in the Yorkshire countryside. It's the kind of book you wish you'd been able to write yourself: lyrical, vividly described and completely beautiful.

Rosemary: *Animal* by Sara Pascoe. This 'autobiography of the female body' by the award-winning comedian Sara Pascoe is essential reading for women of all ages (or, indeed, anyone). A combination of autobiography and anthropology, Pascoe's book is entertainingly and sensitively written, and covers a wide range of topics that are bold and relevant to women today. The result is a very informative but simultaneously very, very funny book.

Charlie: *South Of The Border, East Of The Sun* by Haruki Murakami. I recommended this book the most, specifically to people who said they wanted to like Haruki Murakami but just didn't get him. Murakami's work can sometimes be alienating to his readers and his weirder stuff isn't for everyone, so this simpler story, more focused on romance than the supernatural, is a great book for those who want to love Murakami's body of work but can't.

The book I'm most pleased I read.

Stella: *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* by Muriel Spark. Honestly, I can't believe I spent twenty years of my life without this book. Spark weaves the story of an Edinburgh teacher and her six favourite pupils with the wit and attention to bizarre detail that is so unique to her. The brevity is complete genius; in under 150 pages she addresses betrayal, coming of age, the confusion of romance, and the sinister nature of a teacher with far too much influence. Something about this novella sparkles. I've already read it three times this year alone.

Rosemary: *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. A compelling story of an American missionary family who, in 1959, against the backdrop of the Cold War, move from the US state of Georgia to a village in the Belgian Congo. As well as being extremely absorbing, the novel is beautifully written, and uses an ambitious narrative form of five different narrators. It is definitely the best novel I have read in 2017.

Charlie: *The Bone Clocks* by David Mitchell. This had been sitting on my shelf since I bought a hardcover edition in the first week of release. As a huge fan of Mitchell's work, I was a little worried by the descriptions given that this would feature more of his indulgent tendencies and less of his eloquent writing style and speedy plotting, but it turns out I had nothing to worry about. *The Bone Clocks* isn't Mitchell's finest work, but it is still beautiful and well worth reading.

The book I wish I'd got around to.

Stella: *October: The Story of the Russian Revolution* by China Miéville. This account of Russia's most pivotal historical moment sounds refreshingly distinctive, choosing to retell the fascinating events with an almost novel-like style and a new perspective on the political intrigue. It's now top of my list for 2018.

Rosemary: *The Sellout* by Paul Beatty. Beatty's darkly satirical novel about a man who attempts to reintroduce slavery and racial segregation in a Los Angeles suburb was the 2016 Man Booker Prize winner. It is a novel that addresses identity with revolutionary insight. The fact that I have got to the end of 2017 without reading it is moderately shameful.

Charlie: *Lincoln In The Bardo* by George Saunders. The amount of new books I read this year was pitiful, but this year's winner of the Man Booker Prize was the one I feel like I missed out on the most. It's a fantastic sounding magical-realist novel combining alternative history and a touching personal story. It is everything I like so I'm very frustrated that I haven't found the time to read it yet.

The book I wish I didn't bother reading.

Stella: *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. Though the idea for the plot is undoubtedly interesting and important, the execution is far less impressive. It tells the story of a court case between a black nurse and a Neo-Nazi couple whose baby has died under her care, alternating between the perspectives of the couple, the nurse and her white middle-class lawyer. While Picoult can certainly spin an entertaining narrative, the theme of race is inelegantly discussed and the consistently bold claims that Picoult makes through the voice of Ruth, the nurse, are borderline offensive.

Rosemary: *The Conductor* by Sarah Quigley. Quigley's novel is a fictionalised account of the siege of Leningrad during the Second World War. I was drawn to its content and exploration of a fascinating part of Russia's history. However, this book is a testament to the fact that in fiction, substance is worthless without style, something this novel disappointingly lacks. Despite its compelling plot, Quigley's writing style lacks the sophistication needed to make this book worth reading.

Charlie: *The Miniaturist* by Jessie Burton. I've always been a bigger fan of period fiction in theory than in practice, so I figured this would be the book to finally change my mind on the subject and suck me into its world. I was wrong and was left thoroughly unmoved by the book, feeling particularly disappointed with the pedestrian nature of so much of the plotting.

The book that left the longest lasting impact on me.

Stella: *The Pier Falls* by Mark Haddon. This collection reminded me just how stunning a well crafted short story can be. The whole book is a beautiful selection; each piece is completely absorbing, ending seemingly too soon while simultaneously being a perfect narrative in just a few pages. The title story documents, minute by minute, the collapse of a pier in a seaside town on a summer's day in 1970. It is haunting in its detail of lives being devastated, and left me replaying the images in my head hours later.

Rosemary: *Absent in the Spring* by Agatha Christie. Christie's novel, published under the pseudonym of Mary Westmacott, is not a conventional detective story. Despite being simple and admittedly dated, it is widely considered to be one of Christie's 'quiet masterpieces'. Her exploration of the story and self-discovery of protagonist, Joan Scudamore, provides a powerful insight into the human mind and the way in which we can deceive ourselves into believing what we want to believe.

Charlie: *The Gift Of Rain* by Tan Twan Eng. This piece of literature is stunning in its descriptive imagery and powerful in its vivid descriptions of a tumultuous life in Malaysia during the war. It shone a light on a part of history I had never even considered, and led me to discover so much more about a part of the world I previously didn't know enough about, which is one of the most vital elements of good fiction.

THE ART OF PROTEST

EMMA JACOB SPEAKS TO THE DIRECTOR OF ART OF PROTEST GALLERY ABOUT HIS VISION FOR YORK'S ART SCENE



IMAGE: TED MCGRATH

As I pushed the door open to the Art of Protest Gallery, an urban contemporary art gallery which finds itself at the heart of York's bustling city centre, I found I'd walked into a hive of activity. The gallery had just received a delivery of new art pieces, and there was a buzz of excitement throughout the building. Among the friendly hellos and introductions to friends of the gallery, the cups of black coffee and opinions shared on the new pieces, I found a moment to speak to the owner.

Jeff Clark's vision for the Art of Protest Gallery is clear: opened in 2016 with business partner Craig Humble, the duo aimed to rectify the underserving of contemporary art in the North of England. Having considered areas such as Leeds, Harrogate and Newcastle, the team were unable to resist the cultural and historic appeal unique to York. Clark was determined to make the gallery part of the lifestyle of York, choosing Little Stonegate to set up his gallery, a street bustling with bars and restaurants.

He explained how the street is essential to spreading the word about the gallery; "naturally people will stumble across us", and Clark aims to "convert" those who do stumble upon the Art of Protest Gallery, engaging them in conversation about the artwork they exhibit. With 6.9m tourists taking to the streets of the city every year, the gallery has no shortage of potential visitors.

Clark explained to me the reason why they want to bring more people into the gallery: "the people who love us...they go find the art and we're there for them, but what about the people who wander about aimlessly... what if they stumbled upon us and actually had the chance to look at something, to look at politically and socially relevant artwork? We can then indulge them in a conversation, because artwork doesn't explain itself, and that's what we're there to do, to lubricate and bring it to life."

It is clear that the owners have big dreams for the gallery, their social motives just as strong as their artistic influences. The social commentary and conversation which they offer undoubtedly sets them apart from other galleries in the area. Modern art is necessary within the culture of a city, adding a new dynamic to the existing 'fine art and landscapes' that are common throughout the city of York. He tells me about the way in which he wants to broaden the artistic horizons of the city, noting how many people in the area struggle to name any urban artists aside from Banksy.

The artists he chooses to exhibit clearly attempt to rectify such a gap in public knowledge, with artists such as Joe Iurato and Ludo, both active public artists offering a new perspective on urban art.

The uniqueness and intelligence of the gallery has earned it well-deserved coverage in the media. This December, Jeff and the gallery took part in a pop-up exhibition in Shoreditch along with other galleries which aim to put urban art at the forefront of the art world. In the 12 months since they opened, the world has started to take notice of the Art of Protest Gallery, with their work being recognised in London, New York and Montreal. It is this international appeal that Jeff

Artwork doesn't explain itself, and that's what we're there to do, to lubricate and bring it to life

is so proud of. He tells me about artist Laurence Vallières whose art was introduced to the North of England through Hull City of Culture, before bringing an exhibition to York and the Art of Protest Gallery. Her artwork, sculptures using the medium of cardboard, is "intended to echo the notions of the impermanence and fragility of nature".

Jeff recalls the event the gallery put on to celebrate the work of Vallières, hosting people who ranged from the press to the "chin stroking academics". That is what the gallery aims to do: offer a celebration of all art. Jeff's door is open to all, accepting submissions from any artists, he himself claiming to be constantly prepared to be wowed by a new and emerging talent. His determination to ensure that his art is inclusive and engaging shines through as he speaks to me: "what about the people of the last 30, 40, 50 years who are influenced by the society around them - that could be through politics, through visual culture or the music culture of their lives? That being said,

if you've ever picked up an album, whether that be a record or a CD and you've actually enjoyed the album cover as much as you have done the music, you're probably of the generation that we're trying to aim our artwork at".

As I speak to Jeff, he shows me new pieces that will soon be exhibited in the gallery, all of which were inspired by musical artists and albums of the 20th Century. His selection was based solely on which ones he found were the most meaningful to him and his life. The personal connection Jeff has with the art he chooses brings a uniqueness to the gallery, something which many of his patrons see as the defining characteristic of the Art of Protest Gallery.

When asked why he finds making art accessible to the younger generation so important, he tells me about what he thinks is missing from society today. We, as a whole, are exposed to phenomenal amounts of media and information at all times through social media and online sites, something which Jeff sees as damaging to the way we think and form opinions. He explains how the gallery aims to combat the throwaway nature of society; "we have to create information that not just enlightens people but also energises them and makes them have a reaction".

Art was made to cause a reaction, in the opinion of the owner, and he believes that if his exhibits cannot stimulate a conversation then he's not achieving what he set out to do when he opened the gallery. His work in the gallery sees him encourage those who visit to discuss the art. He is constantly excited about the prospect of a new interpretation or idea that allows him to view the art he exhibits in a new way. When asking people about the gallery, the positive reviews of Jeff and his en-

thusiasm for his creation are endless.

His ability to draw others into his world is astounding, and it is easy to understand why the gallery has established itself as a favourite of art patrons in York. In the past 12 months Jeff has found himself a firm base of talented and dedicated patrons to help him advertise and run the gallery, creating a family of people who share his vision for the Art of Protest.

The distinct branding of the gallery itself offers a comment on the state of society in 2018, with their slogan encouraging people to "join the movement". Once again, Jeff is clearly proud of the brand he has established.

His choice of artists reflects the impact he aims to make on society, with many of them being chosen for their commentary on the social and political climate we find our-

We have to create information that not just enlightens people but energises them and makes them have a reaction

selves in: "artists look at actual things that are going on in the world, and they're going out there...and they record that, and it can either go on a wall, or a piece of paper, or a canvas... [so people] become more mindful of that and like anything it is recorded and documented history rather than a file on someone's news feed". The younger generation provides a perfect canvas for the gallery to begin encouraging social consciousness and an ability to identify what's important among the constant stimulation.

Jeff is clear in the way he wants his gallery to impact individuals: "I remember that artist because I remember the point they made. I remember that gallery, I remember the person in the gallery because they told me something which has influenced me for the better". One thing is for certain, the Art of Protest Gallery is making waves in York, and my visit undoubtedly changed the way that I think about the art world. **M**



IMAGE: BERNARD SHARP

THE PROTEST POWER OF FASHION

ROBYN BALL, INSPIRED BY THE TIME'S UP MOVEMENT, EXPLORES THE ROLE OF FASHION AS A MEANS OF PROTEST

What does it mean to protest? Simply, it is our ability to publicly disagree, to stand up and show society that there is another way of thinking and behaving. Yet what role does 'fashion' play in this greater movement?

Fashion as a medium is a form of expression and often vital in expressing sentiment. It is an influence on social change. Clothes possess the ability to influence society and have the potential to be incredibly powerful as a tool to transmit an opinion to a wider audience. In the words of Coco Chanel: "Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening."

Consequently, fashion cannot be limited to clothes in their independence and is reflective of our wider ways of living. Moreover it mirrors the attitudes of society at a specific moment in time.

Earlier this month at the 75th Golden Globe Awards Ceremony many of the attendees made the decision to wear black garments. This decision was used as a marker of recognising the sexual assaults that have plagued Hollywood for decades. The de-

cision was a nod to the #timesup movement and a stand of solidarity.

In the recent seasons we have begun to see high fashion becoming increasingly political. In the Spring/Summer 2018 Dior show Maria Grazia Chiuri emblazoned the slogans 'We should all be feminists' and 'why have there been no great women artists' atop t-shirts, quoting Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk and Linda Nochlin's essay respectively. This is only one example of high fashion using its influence to express political statements. Designers have long used clothes as an avenue to create

wider discussion. For instance, big fashion brands such as Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen have built their fashion houses upon the ideas of rallying against the norms of society.

Over the course of history, clothes have been used as a liberating social and political force. Because of this they have been able to shake societal norms and perceptions. For instance in the 1920s the flapper movement was a direct reaction against society's attitude towards the feminine form. The loose fitting dresses and blunt bobs were a far cry from the corsetry that society had deemed 'feminine' and subsequently revolutionised the perception of femininity. Likewise, the creation of the miniskirt during the 1960s further transcended how society regards the notion of womanhood.

While the choice of colour or style of clothes plays a role in how we make a stand, equally a lack of clothing is a demonstration in itself. In 1993 at the Lollapalooza festival the band Rage Against the Machine held a nude protest onstage against music censorship. Although the band were soon escorted offstage by police af-

ter having bottles thrown at them, the provocativeness of the demonstration was due to the fact that they were in the nude. Additional movements, using nudity as a foundation, have also created debate. For example the #freethenipple movement on Instagram explores the perceived societal differences between female and male sexuality. As Instagram bans images of female nipples yet not those of men, the movement discusses how society sexualises women and comments on the censorship of female bodies.

Ultimately, fashion is a worthy tool that can be used to solidify a movement and create momentum for a greater movement of ideas and beliefs. While such a message is undoubtedly powerful, the dialectic doesn't begin and end with a dress.

Furthermore, it would be conceited and superficial to give universal credit to clothes. The way we dress ourselves can, however, be the first step forward. It is often the first step society takes to recognise a need for widespread change. All this being said, the ability to act upon thoughts and ideas in order to create a better climate of living forms the possibility for meaningful protest: a feat which goes beyond 'fashion'.

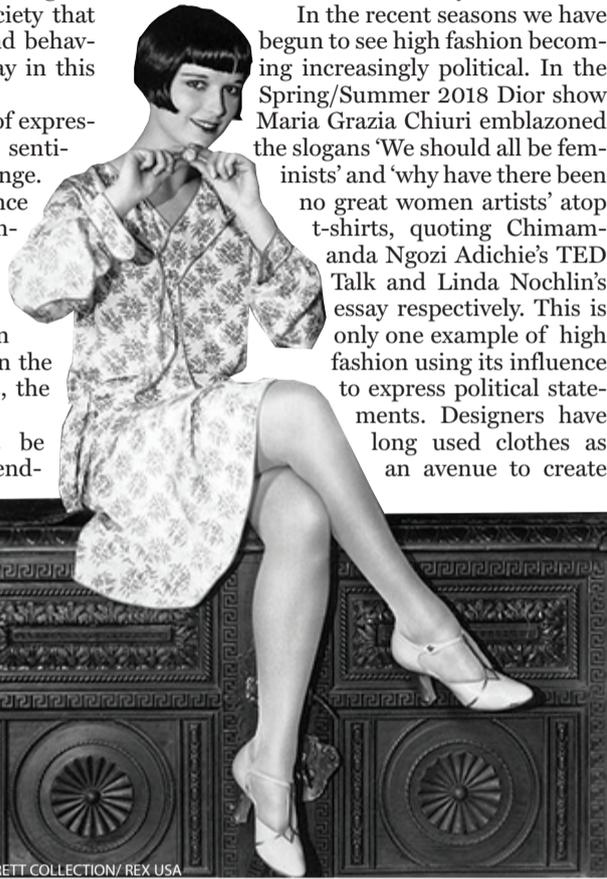


IMAGE: EVERETT COLLECTION/REX USA



BOTH IMAGES: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

THE CHANGING FACE OF HISTORY

PETER JACOBS UNCOVERS YORK'S 'SHANGHAINESE' GEM, HISTORY LEGEND, YIYUN DING



History is a man's game, or so was once said. No more. Thankfully, no more. Academic diversification of this field in the latter half of the 20th century corresponded with a broadening of who studies and pertinently who teaches in this field. It is now true to say that the study of history is dominated by females (in the UK at least). Furthermore, the current state of affairs is one in which, according to UCAS, women outnumber men in up to two thirds of degree courses. Women from poorer backgrounds are 50 per cent more likely to go to university than their male counterparts. This gender gap has shrunk and flipped. History is now becoming Herstory.

The story is somewhat different in pro-

fessorships. A 2015 report by the World University Rankings showed that only 22 per cent of professors in the UK were women. This is obviously not representative of the population.

This brings us to the subject of Yiyun Ding, a History PHD student and seminar leader at the University of York. Yiyun's fashion sense is remarkably unique. What makes Yiyun's fabulous dressing so very wonderful is that she is at times simply unaware of the power of her image. She commented "People might begin to re-examine their own identities through others' eyes, since I had not realised that I possessed a 'Shanghai style' until Peter Jacobs, the fashion editor, linked my dressing style with my indigenous Shanghainese identity."

In this sense, part of the beauty of Yiyun's style is that she does not try at all. Simply put, this look comes naturally, for Yiyun's Shanghai fashion is not an abstract attempt to be edgy but a very real expression of a very real past. After conversing with Yiyun, I learned that she also wants Shanghai to be part of her future. It is always intriguing to interview a non-Englander to find out their perspective on what they view as British fashion. Yiyun commented that "British fashion sometimes emphasises more on formal wear and dressing code"; that this was the distinctive feature of British fashion.

Yiyun was happy to take part in a photoshoot to showcase her look and so it transpired. Yiyun commented that due to Shanghai's history as an international port city, the

fashion that has emerged is a "hybrid of both traditional Chinese aesthetics and foreign fashion influences from many countries." This idea is physically borne out in Yiyun's outfit, which contains Chinese influences (black scarf, taobao, £60; wooden earrings, taobao, £20) and more familiar brands (coat, Reiss, £250; boots, Clarks, £70).

It was a pleasure to work with Yiyun and she was optimistic on reducing whatever gender disparity there still is in the field, as she commented, "I believe in our younger generations, that gender equality is improving in the study of history." York is blessed with a Shanghainese masterpiece in Yiyun. I only hope more women of backgrounds as diverse as Yiyun's can be encouraged by the fact that History is a discipline for all; a story for the masses.



ALL IMAGES: NATHAN CASTRO





TIME'S UP

“For too long, women have not been heard or believed if they dare speak the truth to the power of those men. But their time is up.” - Oprah Winfrey

Shoot Editors: Lily Abel and Daisy Wallis



THE SOUND OF 2018

JACOB PHILLIPS EXAMINES BBC MUSIC'S TOP FIVE CHOICES OF THE SOUND OF 2018



Sigrid

Having achieved 30 million plays on Spotify and YouTube combined, 21 year old pop sensation Sigrid is beginning to burst onto the international music scene. Following her Glastonbury performance last summer, the Norwegian singer has gone from strength to strength, playing at the Nobel Peace Prize concert at the end of last year and more recently impressing the BBC Sound of 2018 judges. With a Peter Pan-styled ability to seem not to age at all and a modest Scandinavian fashion sense consisting of a simple primary coloured jumper and some jeans, Sigrid's music too seems to reflect a youthful, simplistic joy. Sigrid has been prized for her straight to the point attitude. Her song 'Don't Kill my Vibe' was written in response to a group of middle aged male producers laughing at her while she was trying to record in the studio (in my head this resembles some kind of Hunger Games apple-arrow scenario). This led the *Guardian* to coin her as the "next Lorde" of pop music and she has now worked with Stan Smith. If you are a fan of female pop artists, she's the one to watch.

Rex Orange County

Happy go lucky teenager Alex O'Connor was fast-tracked to the peak of the music industry last year after receiving a friendly email from Tyler the Creator. Alex was invited along to Los Angeles at just 18 to perform on Tyler's highly anticipated album *Flower Boy* and his vocal on tracks 'Boredom' and 'Foreword' helped to make the album more unique. Now 19 and still constantly seeming to need to shave what little beard he tries to grow, Alex's music career seems to be blooming. He performs under the name of Rex Orange County as a result of a nickname given to him by a school teacher. The tracks 'Loving is Easy' and 'Sunshine' both reflect a feel good, relaxed vibe. 'Rex' was brought up in Surrey before attending Brit School for two years where he was pursuing a career to become a drummer. Now releasing his own music independently and performing with Frank Ocean and Skepta, it seems that Rex Orange County's future will be bright.



IAMDBB

IAMDBB's inclusion in BBC Sound of 2018 came as a complete surprise not only to her but also to the British public. Unsigned and practically unheard of outside of her home in Manchester, IAMDBB's no nonsense attitude has caught the eye of the Annie Mac. In her homemade music video for 'Leaned out' IAMDBB is witnessed dancing around with a juice carton and a cigarette in the comfort of her own home. This sums up the ambitions of IAMDBB: to remain fully in control of her own music and to remain thoroughly independent. In an interview with the BBC she described how "music is the only thing I have 100 per cent control of." Her music certainly is reminiscent of her idols Nate King Cole, John Legend and Future. It is a huge success story to see an unsigned artist who predominately operates on Soundcloud reach such heights so quickly and reveals how the music industry is now fighting back. It seems that a record deal is no longer essential for new musicians. A new generation are now growing up making their music in their bedrooms and they are being increasingly heard.

Khalid

Khalid was the most obvious choice for the sound of 2018 after an already successful year in 2017. Last year Khalid won the MTV Video Music Award for Best New Artist 2017 at the age of just 19. When he was just starting up Khalid's main concern was simply uploading his music onto Soundcloud in time for his high school prom. However, now his concerns are spending his time chilling out on tour with Lorde or hanging out with his friend Kylie Jenner. *Rolling Stone* magazine described Khalid as the voice of a new generation. Constant references to new technology can be seen throughout Khalid's debut album *American Teen*. Talk of cellphones, photo albums, ride-share apps and GPS pins are heard on almost every song with one of Khalid's singles 'Location' focusing around the idea of using a feature on iPhones maps. This modern twist on classic pop music topics has made his lyrics more engaging for the millennial generation. Corny, cringey topics of pop music such as relationships and having fun seem to be slightly less embarrassing in Khalid's album than in other more generic pop albums. Khalid has more recently featured on tracks with Kendrick Lamar and Future and is a big fan of Fleetwood Mac, Adele and Bill Withers. Maybe his name will be as well respected in the pop world as some of them. He's already gained a huge American following.



Pale Waves



Pale Waves were certainly a disappointing inclusion. The indie pop from Manchester's upbeat indie trash contrasts massively with the band's aesthetic. Black lipstick and heavy eyeliner reigns supreme and a smile seems to be very painful for their frontwoman Heather Baron-Gracie to achieve. Never have a band looked so miserable when singing an upbeat song. The most unique trait of the band is that they have a female drummer - something that is not the stereotype for guitar-heavy bands. The four piece band have been compared to the 1975 and there are certainly parallels between them. They have been named as Matty Healy's favourite band and they were on the cover of NME with him last month. However, this seems to be because Healy has signed them. Sadly, it seems that he is therefore propping the band up rather than them achieving a reputation on their own. For fans of indie pop Pale Waves may be your thing, however a bolder move from the BBC Judges would have been to provide the fifth spot to a more original band. Both Superorganisms and Alma are more unique in their appearance and would have helped to demonstrate the extent of diversity there is among young music artists.

CHARLI XCX

POP 2

EMILY TAYLOR

8/10

Charli XCX has come a long way from being the best thing about Iggy Azalea's disaster of a career. The past year has seen the fall of many mainstays of pop music; Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, and even to an extent Ed Sheeran, have received a substantial backlash. This form of pop star is no longer capturing audiences' attentions like it used to. They're all still incredibly successful and dominate much of the charts, but there has been a noticeable shift to a new model of pop star. Artists like Charli XCX as well as

Lorde and Dua Lipa are offering an alternative model of the pop star that has ruled the charts over the last couple of years.

Pop music has become more respectable as a genre of experimentation and progression as opposed to the 'paint by numbers' genre of music. The experimentation on the album is hit and miss, but trying and failing is a pleasing change to a genre that often resists such experimentation. Stand-outs are 'Out of my Head' and 'Backseat'. The former is the most recognisable as a Charli XCX and the latter is a synth-driven, slower paced jam combining both the strengths of Charli XCX and the song's collaborator Carly Rae Jepsen.

Collaboration is the greatest strength of *Pop 2*: Charli XCX remains happy to not be in the spotlight of every song, making the album feel like a pop supergroup as opposed to a solo venture. Collaborating with some other stars of alternative and experi-

mental pop music including American rapper CupcakKe, the Swedish singer Tove Lo and the Danish MØ. In a pop scene littered with manufactured feuds, an album of collaboration is something to be celebrated. It does lack the slickness that we have become used to in pop recordings but I'd rather have messy high-octane dance-pop than the slick but bland music that litters the pop charts. Finishing the album is the fantastically bizarre 'Track 10' where Charli XCX's voice is layered to create an EDM gospel choir where voice and electronic sounds become indistinguishable.

It's more than anything a hopeful look, less into the future of Charli XCX herself, but rather into the future of pop music. It simply sounds fresh and new, combining aspects of EDM, bubblegum pop and modern hip-hop.

It's a mess, sure, but for once I feel like this is pop music made by a human as op-

posed to a focus group in the form of a supermodel. Pop that is fun and cheesy can be unique and inventive, and Charli XCX is leading the way in a new wave of pop music.



RECORD REVOLUTION

BETH COLQUHOUN EXPLORES THE REBIRTH OF VINYL SALES AND THE INCREASE IN RECORD COLLECTORS

Technology may be advancing daily, however the nostalgic postwar vinyl movement has enjoyed a new lease of life. The cause of this is unknown, but the figures show that records are on the rise for the first time since the introduction of more modern formats of music, such as the CD and online streaming. According to NME, 4.1 million LPs were bought last year, which is a 26.8 per cent increase compared to 2016. Making 2017 the best year for vinyl since 1991.

The emergence of more record collectors also boosts the byproducts of the hobby. This consists of the essential record stores, resembling the 1980s layout with booths and myriad categories of music. The variety of music available on vinyl may come as a surprise to some. It's hard to shake the visual embodiment of this new uprising: the overpriced-charity-shopper who found that band long before you ever did. Nevertheless these figures of 'individuality' are not solely to blame for the rebirth of this old form of music.

All music genres have witnessed a surge in the demand for vinyl. An example would be the demand for a vinyl copy of Childish Gambino's new album, *Awaken My Love!*; which was eventually released almost a year after all other versions of the album. A question, nevertheless, emerges with this rebirth. Why not resort to a more challenging format of music, rather than lap up new media, such as Spotify and the new Apple Music?

Advancements in music streaming bring the advantages you would expect in modern society. Unlike records, in this format music is portable or 'on the go'. So why fall in love with these restrictive hunks of plastic that require more care than some pets? Not to mention the fragility of the record player itself.

As a vinyl collector myself, I reiterate the mantra that almost everyone who collects these records chants: "but it sounds so much better on vinyl". But I do not lie when I say this. I am not trying to fit in with a certain type of image. I found the crackle of a record and the various steps it takes to play a song very therapeutic. For me, vinyl has something that other forms of music are forever lacking. Newer forms create a flimsy and disposable feel to music, whereas vinyl, many

would argue, makes you value the song more if you must care for it and make a conscious effort to listen to it. A relationship is therefore formed between the listener and their record, and once this occurs you are hooked! That love for a physical record in all its glory formulates emotions similar to that of holding a newborn baby... I imagine. Okay, maybe not as marvellous and extraordinary as new life, but endorphins definitely flow when an aesthetically pleas-

ing vinyl graces your presence. That feeling is emphasised when the record itself makes you feel like you are on a journey. A record is more than the song, it is the packaging and the presentation of the whole vinyl, that adds to the experience.

The Grammy Award for the 'Best Recording Package' was rightly awarded to David Bowie's *Blackstar*, created by Johnathan Barnbrook. This year's winner is still to be announced with nominees consisting of: Magin Diaz, Mura Masa, Father John Misty, The National and Jonathon Coulton.

A brilliant example of a beautifully packaged record is The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper* album. Not only is the vinyl beautifully cased, but it is also perfectly produced with songs flowing seamlessly into each other, and stories being told throughout the tracks. It is hard not to fall in love with every aspect that this record brings. It allows you to fully appreciate each form of music, all its elements and its efforts. It grants value and substance to the music industry; something that couldn't go amiss recently.

Moreover, there is a website worth visiting: artvinyl.com. Here a conversation can be made on the most aesthetically pleasing artwork, with a winner being an-

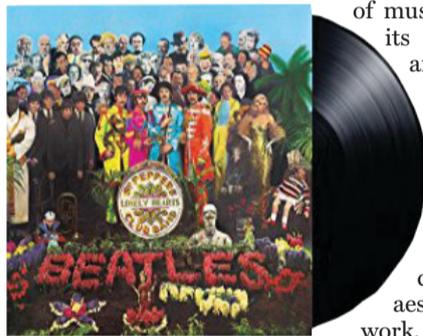
nounced each year.

Last year the winners were Run The Jewels with their album cover for *Run The Jewels 3*.

As with almost everything that becomes popular, it begins to be mass produced in many places that would otherwise not sell the item. Vinyls are no exception: clothes stores such as Urban Outfitters and supermarkets like Asda and Sainsbury's now have a vinyl section to sate the new demand. One would like to hope that mass production would simultaneously bring down prices for music.

However, vinyls are understated and branded as a collector's item, resulting in higher prices when compared to digital media for purchasing the single/album. This results in a major problem with the revival of the vinyl as buying only two records can equal a wallet-traumatising total of around £50.

Certainly, there are pros and cons of record collecting, yet it is still an enriching hobby filled with very little disappointment. It is easier to think of it in this way: if you like the album already, you are only gaining. Owning a record you love is like owning a piece of art; it becomes available to be worshipped and shown off in the visual and aural medium. Personally, I would suggest doing a little research into your financial and spatial availability before diving into the deep end. Once you have dived, enjoy your swim; it's well worth it.



TOP 10 TIPS FOR GETTING INTO VINYL

1. Be smart. Seek out smaller independent vinyl stores rather than the larger chains. Earworm Records in Goodramgate is worth checking out.

2. Be thoughtful, records need love and care. Don't let dust, heat or scratches accompany your music.

3. For storage, it is cosier for your records to lie flat rather than stacked in a bookshelf formation. This allows them to last longer and not bend.

4. Always keep your individual vinyl in a sleeve and your whole record in a plastic cover. This keeps your record safe and the presentation intact.

5. Don't force others to listen to vinyl. Let them explore their own music path. Only then will vinyl listeners be separated from 'hipsters.'



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

6. Just because the record is new doesn't mean it plays well (Catfish and the Bottlemen are especially known for this). Again, always get a receipt.

7. Don't scratch your record for the mixing. You are not a Nineties DJ, if it is not done properly you'll only hurt the record.

8. Grading of records is usually a good indicator of the price range, and also when buying online.

9. A jumping record is not a broken record. It may just need a clean. Use a microfibre cloth or a record-cleaning brush. Also, the needle may just need some dust removing!

10. If the record is second hand, always try it out before purchasing, this can usually be done in a booth. If this is not possible, get a receipt. Surface scratches are inevitable, it is the deeper marks that will cause the real problems.

SHIT MUSICIANS SAY.

Post Malone channelling his inner Trump.

"I smell good. I smell like a normal person. A lot of ladies say that they love my musk."

RIAN JOHNSON, OUR NEW HOPE?

DOES THE LAST JEDI LIVE UP TO THE ORIGINAL TRILOGY? CHAY QUINN AND CAMERON CRAIG DISCUSS

Yes

Star Wars: *The Last Jedi*, has proven to be the cinematic equivalent of Marmite. It is important, however, when considering any new *Star Wars* film, to keep whatever nostalgic bias you might have in check and stop saying that the original saga is faultless. Within the originals, the acting is inconsistent in quality, the story, at a base level, is formulaic and there are many questionable lapses in both tone and plot, with only the comparatively horrific prequels having allowed the original trilogy to be glorified to legendary status.

Considering the objectively poor quality of George Lucas' original trilogy, it really does beg the question as to why the films have such a lasting impact and cultural significance. The answer to this is clear: the parts of these films that are worthy of praise are brilliant. Because of this, the more grating elements of the plot and the frankly annoying acting moments are broadly rendered inconsequential to the overall impact of the movie. Yet it is the very people who have overlooked the faults of the original trilogy who have taken a hatchet to any similar issues in *The Last Jedi*, and therein lies gross hypocrisy.

The Last Jedi had a lot to do to appease two radically different factions of the *Star Wars* fandom: the fans who wish to experience *Star Wars* with the same exuberance that they did when they were children and those who want to see an original film which

progresses the saga. It also had to combat the looming spectre of a saturation point, which when five announced additions to the Galaxy Far Far Away are considered, is perhaps a greater threat to the *Star Wars* universe than J.J. Abrams returning to direct *Episode IX* (yeah, I said it).

For such a tough task, Rian Johnson per-

“**Finn’s journey from coward to brave rebel is beautiful**”

forms this balancing act pretty well, but it seems not well enough to appease all of the fans, with some even signing a petition to strike *The Last Jedi* from the official canon. They cite plot holes, slow plot progression and the non-answering of burning questions posed by *The Force Awakens* as the reasons they have taken what would be an understatement to call a bit of a disliking to the film.

Firstly, it would only be fair to complain about any plot holes after the trilogy has concluded. The examples being discussed could quite easily be part of Disney's higher plan for the conclusion of the sequel trilogy.

The often-maligned pacing of *The Last Jedi* which at the core is about, as some have

put it, “nothing happening during the film”, is a complete oversight of the superb arcs in this character-driven story. Characters both old and new undergo significant shifts in personality over the two and a half hours. Luke's transition from sulky hermit to the revitalised Jedi is a natural progression and even closes one of those dreaded plot holes from *The Force Awakens*. It is evident by the ease with which Luke abandons his commitment to solitude (it takes Rey around two days to convince him to train her) that he, on some level, wanted to be found.

Perhaps most notably, Finn's journey from coward to brave rebel against the First Order is beautiful. His most memorable scene (which I will not spoil for those yet to view) effectively shows his transformation.

Aside from the oversight of the character-driven narrative, critics of the film's pacing and eventfulness also seem to fall victim to the *in medias res* plot. Because the action is right from the off and the film never accelerates from its bombastic opening, it seems as if the rest of the film is slow by comparison. While more critical fans might not like this choice, the boldness of this decision and the generally captivating opening of *The Last Jedi* should justify its right to be considered a minor, if any, *faux pas*. Furthermore, those who criticise the movie for not keeping their attention should consider that it may be them that are the issue.

The red herrings and non-reveals take a different path than

The Force Awakens seemed to suggest, but they are necessary when the on-the-nose, simplistic questions posed by *Episode VII* are considered. To answer these questions in as formulaic a manner as J.J. Abrams raised them in would render *The Last Jedi* far more unwatchable than some say it is.

These non-issues have been created by a class of fan that is ignorant in the face of a glaringly flawed original trilogy and hypercritical of anything that dares to bear the name *Star Wars*.

Watch *The Last Jedi* again with a neutral hat on and your bias to one side, and I'm sure you'll agree. **CQ**

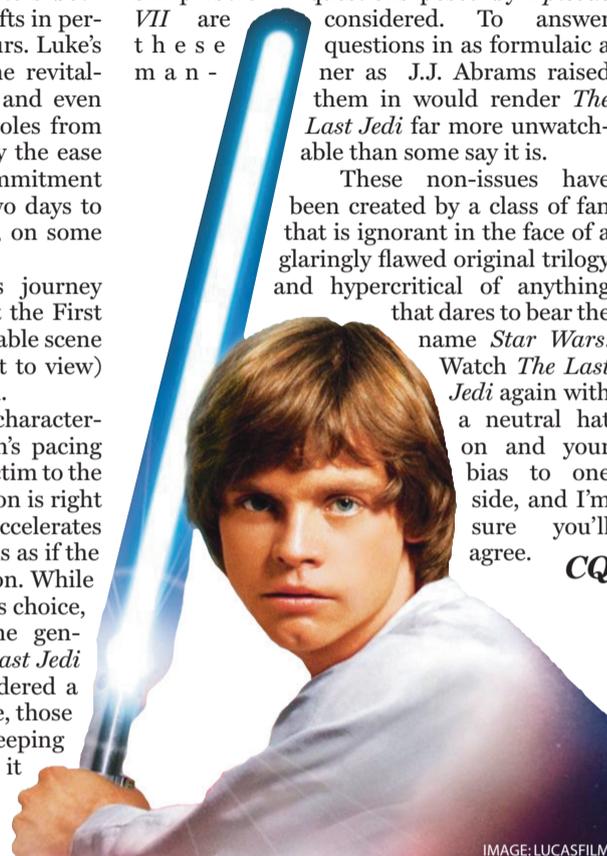


IMAGE: LUCASFILM

No

Star Wars: *The Last Jedi* is not a bad film, but to claim that *Episode VIII* is on par with the original trilogy is absurd. Beneath the veneer of nostalgia and extravagant visuals, *The Last Jedi* is a sloppy science fantasy flick; one which is constantly kneecapped by director Rian Johnson's underwhelming script.

The plot structure of *The Last Jedi* is perhaps the film's greatest setback. The first and second entries into the *Star Wars* franchise – *A New Hope* and *The Empire Strikes Back* – were paced to perfection. Predicated upon Lucas' strong script, *A New Hope* proved incredibly economical with its storytelling. From the film's first shot, the story is clear; the Rebellion, embodied in the form of a tiny spacecraft, are outmatched by the Empire, whose gargantuan Star Destroyer engulfs the screen. Thereafter, the narrative of the film never loses focus. *Empire* proved equally airtight, with slower, universe-expanding scenes set on Dagobah balanced against exhilarating chase sequences involving the Millennium Falcon.

Conversely, *The Last Jedi*, labouring under the weight of multiple plot lines and characters, struggles to pull out of first gear. The Resistance's retreat, which comprises much of the film's second act, unfolds at a snail's pace, proving so drawn out that all sense of tension is neutered. *The Last Jedi*'s greatest failure of plotting is Finn and Rose's subplot, having been singled out as a low-point by virtually every review of the film as it further hinders the already-plodding pace of the film. The film's pacing issues turn what should be a breezy adventure tale into a lethargic crawl, with the utterly redundant sub-

plot serving to frustrate rather than enthrall.

The various new characters introduced in *The Last Jedi* do not aid proceedings. More so than dazzling visuals and set-pieces, *Star Wars*' greatest asset has always been its cast of memorable characters. These characters were generally simple, easily-comprehensible archetypes: the wise sage, the sure cock- b o y . Each had a clear motivation and a defined personality. Consider Han Solo's iconic introduction in *A New Hope*; his cool demeanor, confident speech, and laid-back posture underscore his braggadocious nature. Moreover, Solo's motives are crystal clear; he has debts that need paying.

The characters in *The Last Jedi* lack this clarity, and are given very little time to develop. The worst offender in this instance is Vice Admiral Holdo, as portrayed by Laura Dern, whose motives are entirely unclear throughout the film. We are given little time in which to warm to the aloof admiral, and her mind-boggling decision to withhold her strategy from hotshot pilot Poe Dameron serves to further distance her character from the audience. As a result, the character's emotional payoff at the film's climax falls completely flat. Rose is similarly underserved by the film's script, and Benicio Del Toro's DJ all but disappears off the screen. Returning cast members fare no better. Finn's storyline, for instance, feels like an afterthought; an unnatural addition to the plot which exists merely to give the character something to do. Finn's role throughout the film is not unlike that of Han Solo in *Return of the Jedi*, which felt similarly superfluous.

Tonally, *The Last Jedi* is incredibly off-kilter, with the film's dialogue containing innumerable awkward quips. The opening sequence, for instance, sees pilot Poe Dameron utter a glorified 'Yo Momma' joke in the buildup to a chaotic space battle. Such jarring attempts at humour are a recurring issue throughout the film, undercutting the dramatic tension of numerous scenes. Even in the climactic final battle, Johnson cannot resist inserting a joke, with porgs being flung across the screen. The original trilogy certainly had its misfires in terms of comedy, namely the irritating ewoks featured throughout *Return of the Jedi*, but the use of humor was generally appropriate. There are no jokes

in the climactic lightsaber duel of *Empire*, nor in the trench run of *A New Hope*. By inserting constant visual gags and lines of Marvelesque quipping, Johnson severely disrupts the tone of the film, lending *The Last Jedi* a stilted, uneven quality.

Ultimately, *The Last Jedi* fails in areas where the original trilogy triumphed. Structurally, the film feels incredibly disjointed, mired in subplots which stall the pace of the film. Moreover, said B-plots are filled with forgettable characters, who fail to see any real development. Awkward attempts at humor further upset the tone of the film, undermining the tension of various scenes. The original trilogy were not perfect films, but they were certainly competent. Moreover, they resonated with a generation of moviegoers, and continue to captivate audiences to this day. The faults in *The Last Jedi* are so evident that they completely overshadow the film's many positives. It is silly to claim that Johnson's entry into the franchise is on a par with the original trilogy. “We are what they grow beyond,” Yoda muses of younger generations supplanting their forebears. Unfortunately, Johnson did not see the irony of his words. **CC**



IMAGE: DISNEY

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC

JASMINE ONSTAD EXPLORES *BIG LITTLE LIES* AND THE POWER OF THE SOUNDTRACK

After the buzz around HBO's *Big Little Lies* last year, its domination at the Golden Globes was no surprise. Wearing black and Time's Up badges to collect their awards, all those involved could not escape the poignancy of this show in the context of the current state of the entertainment industry. Reece Witherspoon and Nicole Kidman's women-centric project brought together an incredible cast and crew, coupled with a brilliant plot based around Liane Moriarty's book of the same name.

The show's grim fairytale is centred around five main protagonists, all of whom are mothers with first grade children attending a prestigious school in the wealthy Monterey area of coastal California. Layers are ripped away from the picture-perfect lives of these women over seven expertly crafted episodes, and the story goes into some very dark places. Imagine *Desperate Housewives* but as a cinematic masterpiece with meaty, frustratingly flawed characters.

The tale of complex female relationships, which explores battles with shame and abuse, could not be more timely, and the Golden Globes awards speeches were unsurprisingly politically charged. There are many things that had to perfectly come together to make this show such a success: the jaw-dropping Californian location, the talented cinematic direction, the grouping of such a stellar cast and the innovative editing. On top of all this, one thing that really stands out in this show is its use of music.

A perfectly crafted soundtrack is something that, if done well, can elevate a good piece of work to greatness. Unlike a score, which is written and orchestrated especially for a film or TV show, soundtracks curate licensed music to accompany scenes and can often take center stage. Once attached to a character or scene, a song can take on a whole new meaning and a whole new set of emotions. The upbeat 'Stuck in the Middle with You' by Stealers Wheel will now be forever associated with the iconic torture scene in *Reservoir Dogs*. Who knows if 'All Star' by Smash Mouth would have ever been a milestone of meme culture if a whole generation hadn't associated it with a grumpy green ogre? And who doesn't think of Chris Pratt getting tazed by a prison guard when they hear 'Hooked on a Feeling' by Blue Swede in *Guardians of the Galaxy*? The Marvel blockbuster's soundtrack was an unlikely success and took the charts by storm, becoming platinum even though it was a mix of songs that people had only ever heard on the radio and probably didn't know the name of.

Brilliant scores have always been applauded in the entertainment industry, whether it is the work of John Williams or Ennio Morricone. Film composers have had their fair share of spotlight and acclaim in awards shows and in the public eye. The hard work of the humble music supervisor, however, has long been kept in the shadows. But for the first time last year, the Emmys decided to create an award for Outstanding Music Supervision, finally recognising its integral part in storytelling. In a category containing supervisors from *Master of None* and *Better Call Saul*, the winner was Susan Jacobs for her work on *Big Little Lies*.

The episode nominated was the season finale, which contained an eclectic mix of perfectly picked songs from across the musical spectrum. The culmination of the series is met with the sound of a haunting cover of the Rolling Stones' 'You Can't

Always Get What You Want' by Ituana, summing up the *Big Little Lies* central idea: the age-old truth that money cannot buy happiness.

There's a lot more to the job than picking out your favorite tunes from your Spotify playlist. The music supervisor has to liaise with producers and directors in order to create moments which truly push the story forwards, as well as having a good legal mind when it comes to negotiating publishing rights.

They also have to have extreme empathy to be able to get into the character's mind and truly understand the emotions being experienced. The musical palette created by a supervisor is not only important for heightening the audience's response, but can take into account a character's whole story arc. In an interview with Vox, Thomas Golubic (who was nominated for a Music Supervision Emmy for *Better Call Saul* and has previously worked on *Breaking Bad*) differentiates the role of a supervisor and a composer. "In many ways, the composer's role... is to be in the chair of the audience. Whereas the supervisors are very much crafting and arcing out ideas that we are changing and revising as we go."

Finding music that is both relevant to the story and timeless is not an easy task and was something that was almost integral to the process of putting *Big Little Lies* together for director Jean-Marc Vallée. From the subtle but unnerving clicking of the police reporter's zippo lighter to the dreamlike silence of the flashbacks, every single sound is carefully measured and premeditated.

It is no surprise then, that the music fits so perfectly with the story and the character development.

What differentiates the *Big Little Lies* soundtrack from so many other great film and TV soundtracks is the connection with reality injected into every choice of song. No music ever plays if a character is not playing it themselves or in a situation where there is music in the background. The result is that the music becomes a bigger plot device than just elevating the emotional impact of the scene. It tells the story.

A great example is the use of Neil Young music in the abusive relationship between Celeste (Kidman) and Perry (Alexander Skarsgård). Earlier on in the series when the audience is still not fully aware of the extent of Perry's abuse, he romantically plays 'Harvest Moon' and they dance together as a loving couple. Later on, when Perry is beating Celeste to a pulp, the music leaking out of their son's headphones in the next room is Neil Young, a detail so minute it is almost impossible to notice. To really get into his characters' psyche and piece them together, Vallée even goes so far as to create playlists for each of his characters before he starts filming. This meticulous music curation does something that a score simply cannot do.

There is no denying the breathtaking beauty of a well composed score, but it is worth pointing out the groundbreaking creativity in some soundtracks. Where a score transports you into an elevated state and subconsciously tricks you into caring for the story unveiling before your eyes, a soundtrack connects with an audience on their own terms. Instead of pulling the audience into another world, it brings a bit of the familiar into fiction. Just as we all tie particular

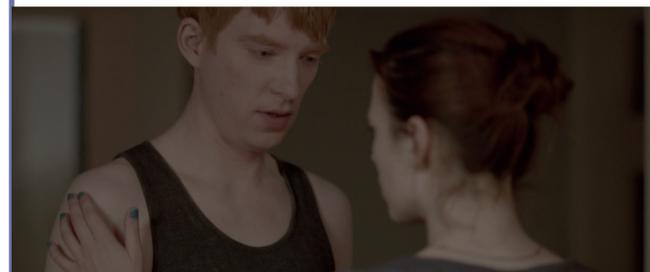
songs to the high and low points of our lives, an effective soundtrack can tie a song to a particular moment in television or cinema, from which it can never be detached.



TOP 5 BLACK MIRROR EPISODES

BE RIGHT BACK

A heartbreaking look into how technology is changing our relationship with the dead.



SAN JUNIPERO

Both a happy Black Mirror and a happy lesbian love story. What a miracle.



SHUT UP AND DANCE

After being blackmailed by an anonymous online threat Kenny's life quickly turns into a waking nightmare.



FIFTEEN MILLION MERITS

Stuck in a life of mindless, repetitive work the only escape is through a reality singing competition.



USS CALLISTER

A fun Star Trek parody and a searing critique of male nerd culture. What more could you want?



THE EDGE OF ADULTHOOD

OSCAR BENTLEY EXPLORES THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING OF AGE STORIES AND WHY THEY ARE SO COMPELLING

“It’s about a girl who is on the cusp of becoming someone. A girl who may not know what she wants right now, and she may not know who she is right now, but who deserves the chance to find out”, says Campbell Alexander, a character in Jodi Picoult’s novel *My Sister’s Keeper*. Now, I can’t claim to have either read the novel, or even to have watched its screen adaptation, in fact, I’ve just spent ten minutes googling to try and find an apt quote to try and start this article off in a way that you have hopefully found at least borderline interesting. But bear with me for a moment, because I think it’s a quote that perfectly encapsulates coming of age.

Coming of age is a universal experience. Every person who has lived for so long has ‘come of age’, either literally or figuratively, as it marks the transition from child to adulthood. Different cultures and societies mark this passage differently: in the UK adulthood is generally considered to be 18 or 21, when most restrictions are lifted by law. Some religions mark it via ceremony: in Catholicism, children go through confirmation at around 11 years old, taking a ceremony in church to start their lives as adults. In Judaism, boys have a Bar Mitzvah ceremony at 13 years old, a ritual where they pledge to become responsible for their own actions, relieving their parents of that duty. Jewish girls have a similar Bat Mitzvah ritual at 12 (Orthodox) or 13 (Reform).

Poy Sang Long is a rite of passage ceremony that I think is particularly fascinating. Buddhist boys from the Shan group in Thailand, aged between seven and 14, take part in a yearly ceremony spanning three days, initiating them properly into the Buddhist community. They dress up in standout costumes, wear bright makeup, and spend the entire three days being carried on the shoulders of their older male relatives. At the end they are ordained and begin their study in the monastery. The ceremony helps the boy’s families amass merit, moving the family closer to achieving enlightenment. It’s a ceremony all about finding your place spiritually, but also within your community. Finding your place in the world.

Imagine for a second that you’re a storyteller. At heart, storytellers only ever tell one story: their own lives, trying to find out how they fit in. ‘Write what you know’ is a phrase as old as time. So, my storyteller, you’ll surely see that coming of age stories are the perfect outlet for telling *your* story. Be it the book, the stage, or the screen, coming of age stories are compelling. In charting the change of a character figuring out their place in the world and how to find

themselves, we can all relate.

Take *Dear Evan Hansen*, the current smash hit musical and critical darling of Broadway, collecting six awards at last year’s Tonys including Best New Musical, one that, incredibly frustratingly for me at least, has still yet to announce its West End transfer. It tells the story of Evan Hansen, a teenager with social anxiety who sees a way to connect with the world after a fellow student dies by suicide. Evan, as with almost all coming of age protagonists, is flawed. His conflict is his inability to figure out how to interact with the world, feeling like an outsider. The song “Waving Through a Window” is Evan’s anthem, summarising who he is at the beginning of the story; musing how long he can spend waving at the world through the window that strands him on the outside.

“When you’re falling in a forest and there’s nobody around / Do you ever really crash, or even make a sound?” is the lyric from “Waving Through a Window” which is really the crux of the musical. Evan is so desperate to make a sound that he fabricates an entire life, achieving what he’s always dreamed of, before it all comes crumbling down. Unlike the rituals of Bar Mitzvah or Poy Sang Long however, there is no one singular rite of passage act that allows Evan to discover who he is; coming of age in reality is not a singular act but often a journey of personal growth which takes years. Evan’s journey shows

not only his psychological but his moral growth, as he transitions into adulthood. Through a series of events that build then deconstruct his character, Evan finally finds how he fits into his world. It’s a journey that has clearly had a profound impact on its audience, selling out every show and propelling Evan Hansen role originator Ben Platt into stardom. People connect to it because it’s a story about connection. It’s human.

The Edge of Seventeen is a coming of age comedy-drama which falls into the ‘growing up is all about romance’ and ‘arguing with family’ clichés which are often present, but reinvents these tropes into a fresh story. Set in the archetypal coming of age setting of a high school like



IMAGE: STACEY MINDICH PRODUCTIONS

classics, *The Breakfast Club* and *Dazed and Confused* (and no wonder it’s a common coming of age setting, as storytellers know it’s a place where most people spend their formative years), it follows star Hailee Steinfeld’s Nadine, another outsider, who’s life becomes unbearable when her only friend begins dating her brother. At this “betrayal”, Nadine flies off the hook and rebels, venting to her deadpan teacher who now becomes her only connection.

Nadine makes a huge mistake, which surprisingly leads to exactly what she desires, before she realises it’s not what she wants at all. Like Evan, Nadine is a flawed protagonist, but rather than reveling in what she’s always wanted as Evan does, Nadine decides against it. Evan and Nadine are looking for a connection, but her revelation is that she’s always had it. Steinfeld herself puts it perfectly: “*The Edge of Seventeen* is a story of a girl trying to find connection and contact with anything and anyone. The most satisfying thing is watching her realise that it’s been there all along.”

The Edge of Seventeen may be a small scale film, and *Dear Evan Hansen* may have begun in not-for-profit regional theatre, but charting characters’ coming of age isn’t exclusively reserved for the indie circuit. Harry Potter is perhaps the clearest example of blockbuster storytelling on the matter, but it’s also the dominant theme of Star Wars. The original trilogy marked Luke’s coming of age through learning of his place as a Jedi master, essentially a ‘chosen one’ narrative, but *The Last Jedi* subverts this and evolves Rey from (once again) the loner who doesn’t know who she is to *spoiler alert* the revelation that she doesn’t come from anywhere special, but is simply a ‘normal person’ fighting for the right thing. Kylo Ren also comes of age, stepping out from under his masters to find his place as a leader.

Director Rian Johnson describes Rey’s coming of age as the crux of the story. “This is very much about Rey trying to figure out how she fits into all this, much like any of us as we’re growing up, as we’re transitioning from childhood into adulthood,” Johnson says. “You’re going to meet people who you think are going to help who don’t. And help is also going

to come from unexpected places.” Audiences may love Star Wars because it’s a galaxy-hopping space opera filled with sci-fi gadgets and epic fantasy, but just maybe they love it more because it’s an incredibly personal story about discovering who you are.

Be it the high school setting of *The Edge of Seventeen* and *Dear Evan Hansen* or the entire galaxy of *The Last Jedi*, these are all intimate stories. All stories (well, all good stories at least) need character arcs and change, but coming of age stories exclusively chart change and personal growth while growing up. Sherlock may learn to open up to John and lower his guard to the world in *Sherlock*, but it isn’t a coming of age: he’s already emotionally grown

In charting the change of someone figuring out their place in the world, we can all relate

up and knows exactly where he fits. Amir finally finding closure after adopting the son of his deceased friend-cum-brother figure who he betrayed as a child in Khaled Hosseini’s excellent novel *The Kite Runner* however is, because it’s not until that point that Amir’s journey concludes that he finds his calling. It’s a bildungsroman; he starts the novel at 12 and ends it in his 30s, but it’s not until that point that he truly comes of age.

Coming of age stories resonate because they reflect things we have all felt, telling us something we didn’t know about ourselves in the process. They feature outsiders because at some point most of us have felt like we’re on the outside looking in. Such stories conclude on a resolution of meaning - providing hope for all those who have felt or still feel lost. As Evan Hansen puts it perfectly, “you will be found”. M

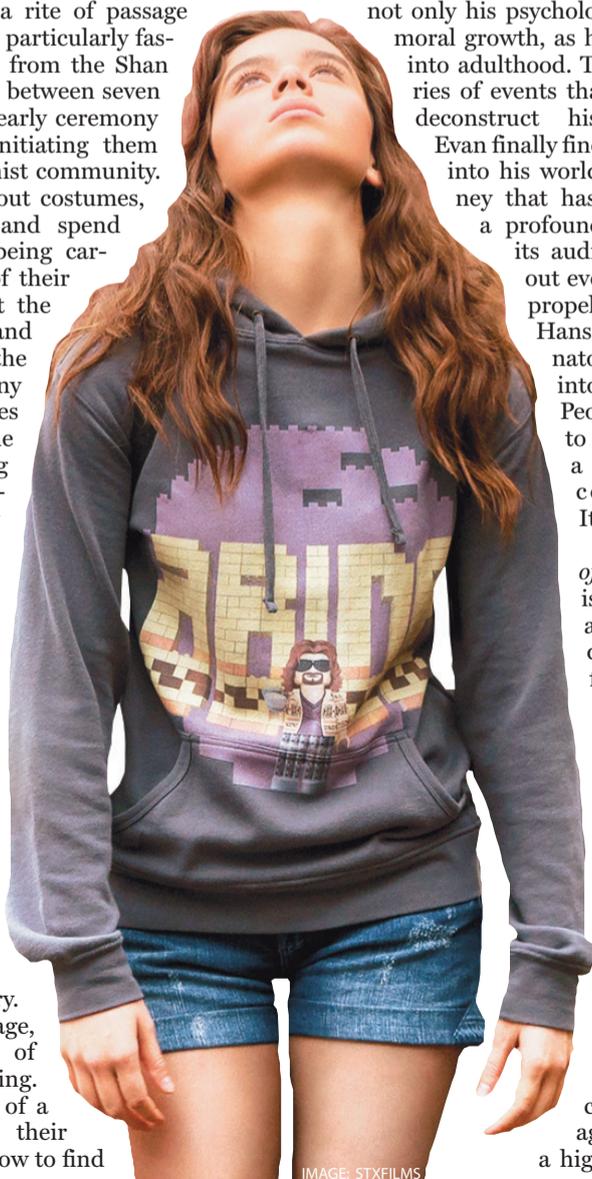


IMAGE: STXFILMS

WHY BLIZZARD NEEDS E-SPORT TO SUCCEED

PATRICK WALKER EXPLORES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OVERWATCH LEAGUE FOR BLIZZARD

Blizzard's first-person shooter *Overwatch* was unquestionably the most popular new game of 2016. The company reported 30 million players within the first year of sales, raising over half a billion dollars in revenue. A year and a half on, the game fosters an immensely dedicated fan base. *Overwatch*-exclusive YouTubers and other content creators spend hours poring over the most minute details of updates to the design, while other fans produce art, write stories, and dress up as their favourite characters. Blizzard, a company that is notoriously conservative with their game design, has found huge success in their first original franchise for 17 years.

One question that faces the company-moving into 2018 is how to sustainably exploit the enthusiasm surrounding the IP. At £29.99, *Overwatch* is relatively expensive compared to its competition, and doesn't particularly incentivise multiple purchases. Once players buy the game, there is little reason for them to spend more money. Blizzard currently have few ways of generating additional income off their existing players. This is important if they want the funds to continue to update and maintain their title. Maintaining the game's popularity as it gets older will also be a challenge. With thousands of shooters released every year, gamers are spoiled for choice regarding what they wish to play.

An entry into competitive gaming solves both of these issues. Once the niche pursuit of tiny online communities, e-sports is now a mainstream multi-billion pound industry. The best players compete in sold-out stadiums across the globe and the largest teams attract colossal followings. Over the last two years,

the industry's explosive growth has reached new heights through investment from American media behemoth Turner Broadcasting and Amazon among others. Viewership is at a record high: 106 million people tuned in to the finals of the League of Legends world championship in 2017. Popular e-sports titles can generate millions of dollars in revenue for their developers through sale of in-game cosmetic items, or real-life merchandise relating to the gaming teams.

Blizzard announced its *Overwatch* League (OWL) in November 2016 in an attempt to support the ballooning *Overwatch* e-sports scene. The game developer managed to attract an alleged \$20 m of team buy-ins from mainstream corporations such as Comcast Spectacor, the Kraft group, and Stan Kroenke, who currently owns Arsenal. In fact, of the 12 teams in the OWL, at least five owners are completely new to the world of e-sports. Each team owner has picked a city for their brand to represent. Nine owners chose American cities. The remaining three

represent Seoul, South Korea; Shanghai, China; and London, England. Blizzard argue regional teams take advantage of regional pride to grow their fan bases: a lesson learnt from more organic sports league like the NFL and the Premier League.

The OWL faces a few initial issues.

Firstly, the region selection is completely arbitrary. This is laughably evident in the London Spitfires.

They're owned by North American e-sports organisation Cloud 9. Their two player rosters are both entirely South Korean. All games for the inaugural season of the league will be played in Los Angeles, California. These regional differences will pose significant barriers to garnering support from a British audience. The only significant link to the UK for the Spitfires is their name. Other teams face similar representative issues.

Viewership will pose another problem. Previous *Overwatch* tournaments have lagged behind e-sport viewership of other popular games like *League of Legends* or *DOTA*

2. Blizzard has had trouble translating their enormous playerbase into large viewing numbers. Whether they can successfully do that for the OWL remains to be seen.

So far, Blizzard's approach has been promising. They have attempted to address viewership concerns by hiring popular broadcasting personalities from other e-sports titles. Auguste 'Semmler' Massonatt joined the team as a commentator this week. He brings with him a large following from the *Counter Strike* scene. Paul 'Redeye' Chaloner has been brought on as an e-sports consultant to the London Spitfires. OWL and its partners have recognised that they need to utilise existing expertise to succeed.

Blizzard plans to fix the problems of shoddy regionalisation by establishing 'home' stadiums from which the teams will play each week. I remain sceptical about when these stadiums will materialise: they will take a while to build, and for now, local interest will have to rely on viewing parties. That said, one such party in Boston on Thursday 11 January for the second night showed huge interest and was shared widely on social media. There's potential to exploit existing regional rivalries too: the Boston/New York conflict has already transcended different sports. With both a Boston and an NY team in the OWL, why not carry it over to *Overwatch*?

If successful, the OWL represents a cataclysmic change in the size and scope of competitive gaming, and the figures from the first week look promising, reaching as high as 441 000 peak concurrent viewers. Blizzard needs this endeavour to succeed. The eyes of the world are watching.



IMAGE: BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT

A DELVE INTO NINTENDO'S JANUARY DIRECT

HAMZAH ABBAS DISSECTS AND EXPLAINS THE NINTENDO'S JANUARY DIRECT AND THEIR PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

Nintendo's much anticipated first Direct of the year took place on 11 January 2018 and revealed a large number of games for fans to get excited about.

The first announcement that Nintendo made at the Direct is a remake of fan-favourite DS game, *The World Ends With You* for the Nintendo Switch. The remake is titled *The World Ends With You - Final Remix* and is slated for release in 2018. The game will support both the traditional touchscreen controls of the Nintendo DS version and also introduce JoyCon support allowing the game to be played while the Switch is in docked mode. In addition to JoyCon support to make combat feel fresh and exciting, *Final Remix* will also introduce a new scenario which will dive into the heart of the story.

Nintendo provided more details on original games for the Switch Console, confirming a 16 March release date for the previously announced *Kirby Star Allies* and revealed the

existence of *Mario Tennis Aces*, which is set for a release this spring. *Kirby Star Allies* will allow up to four player co-op, encouraging players to combine their copy abilities to reveal powerful friend abilities. The game will also introduce new copy abilities for Kirby, including the "Artist" ability which allows Kirby to show off his creativity and the "Spider" ability which allows Kirby to ensnare enemies in webs. *Mario Tennis Aces* will be the first *Mario Tennis* game to have a fully-fledged story mode since *Mario Tennis: Power Tour* on Gameboy Advance.

The Direct also revealed a couple of ports of Wii U games that are coming to Nintendo Switch - perfect for fans who skipped the Wii U. *Hyrule Warriors: Definitive Edition* was the first Wii U port announced in the Nintendo Direct, bringing in all the content (including paid

DLC) from the Wii U and 3DS games. The game will support single JoyCon play allowing for split-screen multiplayer without gamers having to buy extra controllers.

The other Wii U port coming to Nintendo Switch is *Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze*. This stunning, critically-acclaimed platformer will be available from 4 May 2018 and will feature the same base game as the Wii U version with an additional option to play as Funky Kong. Funky Kong is able to use a surfboard in order to protect himself from dangers such as spikes in a level thus making the game more accessible to younger players. Like *Hyrule Warriors: Definitive Edition*, *Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze* will also support single JoyCon play allowing for co-op anytime and anywhere.

As well as games, Nintendo also announced updates to existing software. *Super Mario Odyssey* will receive a free update in February which will introduce a new online

mini-game titled "Luigi's Balloon World." The minigame features both "Hide It" and "Find It" modes. In the former, players have thirty seconds to hide a balloon in one of the game's kingdoms for other players around the world to find in the latter. To play "Luigi's Balloon World," players must talk to Luigi in any of the games' kingdoms. In other Mario related news, Donkey Kong will be introduced as a playable character, this spring, in *Mario and Rabbids: Kingdom Battle*.

Pokken Tournament DX is also due to receive downloadable content - this will be paid and released in two waves. Wave 1 will be released on 31 January 2018 and Wave 2 will be released 23 March 2018. This content is available for purchase via the Nintendo eShop through the Pokken Tournament Battle Pack. The battle pack costs £13.49 and will allow access to the additional Pokemon once released in addition to new avatar items.

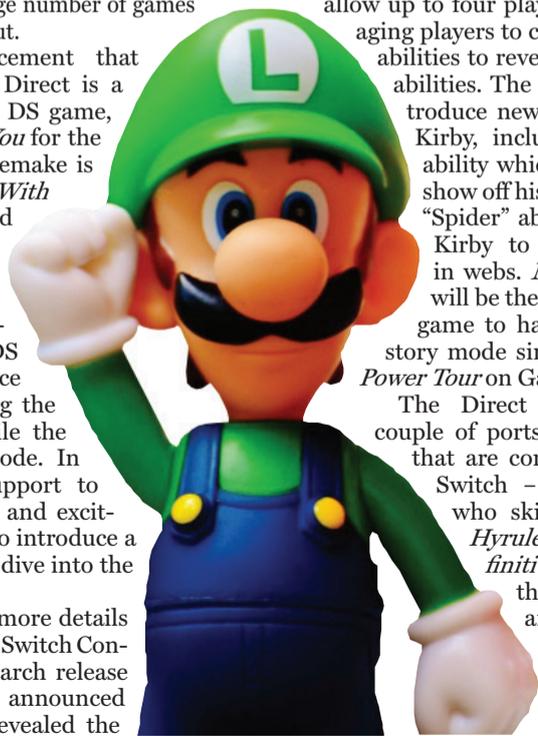


IMAGE: PIXARAY

NAVIGATING PENANG: THE ISLAND OF DIVERSITY

SEREN HUGHES MAKES HER DEBUT AS TRAVEL EDITOR EXPLORING THE VARIETY ON OFFER IN MALAYSIA'S ISLAND STATE

From beautifully preserved heritage to white sandy beaches, from wide stretches of rainforest to mouth-watering cuisine, Penang has it all. It is also perfect on a low budget.

Picture this: I step out of my wonderfully preserved 19th century townhouse with its tropical air wells (for natural ventilation) filled with plants feasting on the sun and rain, into bustling central George Town after a day in the office. It is early evening, so the streets

“ No matter where I turn, I see the vibrant colours and ornate decorations of a temple

are less crowded with tourists and the heat is more bearable. Anyway, the roads are all so small that cars do not drive dangerously fast, and as long as you are within the heritage conclave, walking is easy.

I walk along Armenian Street, and see an old man lighting offerings outside his home. A trishaw makes its way slowly past me, a man peddling his few tourists around in this makeshift vehicle. Further along, more incense, billowing from a temple meets me like a warm hug. I take a long inhale. I turn left and the melodic call to prayer greets my ears as I pass by the large, white Kapitan Keling mosque. Before long, my nostrils are confronted by the stench of durian, currently in season, and sold at every corner from an open truck. No matter where I turn, I see the vibrant colours and

ornate decoration of a temple or a clan house: bright reds off-set by golden Chinese letters, blues and greens of various deities. As I approach the sea, the colourful two-storey townhouses are replaced by pristine and imposing colonial buildings and churches. The vibrancy of life at its very best.

George Town has the heritage movement to thank for its well-preserved state. I was lucky enough to be interning with Areca Books, home to one of the shining lights of the movement, Khoo Salma. Their work is invaluable to retaining the authentic feel of the city. Unfortunately, this new preservation is attracting buckets of tourists, and more and more boutique hotels are popping up in the centre, throwing out the locals and ironically detracting from the authenticity that is so enticing to them. However, this only makes the work of the heritage movement more indispensable.

Anyway, Penang has attracted people to her shores for centuries. Over the years she has welcomed Chinese and Indian immigrants, and been subject to colonial power by both the Dutch and the English. George Town, the island state's capital, is the perfect example of the multicultural, and this manifests itself in the diversity of its inhabitants, its religious buildings, and its food. One feels truly welcomed by the inclusive nature of the very environment, not to mention the friendly people. Everyone seems eager to start a conversation with you, from strangers on a bus to the woman cooking your meal.

Here, street food is the answer all day, everyday: dim sum for breakfast in China Town, nasi goreng for lunch from a hawk stall, chicken biryani for dinner in Little India. Everything is cheap, and no one seems to cook for themselves, which is understandable when you are so spoilt for choice. I was fortunate to be interning with locals, so they took me to all the hidden and best places. Half the time I had no idea what I was eating, but it was sure

to be delicious. Penang is not heralded the food capital of Malaysia for nothing.

Further afield, past the high rises and massive shopping centres, lies Batu Ferringhi and the National Park. A cheap and efficient bus links George Town to these fantastic locations. Batu Ferringhi is a white sandy beach which stretches for kilometres. The water is murky, but warm and perfectly swimmable.

A few more bus stops and you reach the National Park. From there, you can walk through the dense rainforest to Turtle or Monkey Beach. The walk to Turtle Beach is on a well-made path, and many backpackers do the trek in flip-flops. The rainforest was alive with the loudest cicadas I have ever heard, screeching like fire alarms. After an hour or so, we reached the secluded Turtle Beach, another pristine white sandy beach which is only accessible on foot.

The other path takes you to Monkey

Beach, which, by contrast, is bustling with activity. You can sip a beer on a beach-side swing, go horse riding, or do water sports. There was an absence of monkeys on the actual beach, but continuing on up to Muka Head, you were sure to meet with a herd of pesky monkeys, hissing and making advances at you and the tasty lunch in your backpack. The walk up to the lighthouse was all uphill and stiflingly hot, but at the top, a cool sea breeze and fantastic panoramic views of rainforest and deep blue sea stretches out before you, making the effort worth it. Swallows dive around the tops of the trees, and seagulls glide on the breeze, surrounding you with nature.

Penang is truly the definition of travel variety. This one island has so much to offer that it is easy to see why so many different ethnicities call it their home. So much to see and do, at such great budget prices, there is never a dull moment. I only touched the surface.



IMAGE: SEREN HUGHES

BUNKERING DOWN: THE UNHEARD STORY OF TIRANA

FLAVIO SANSA OUTLINES THE BEAUTY TO BE FOUND IN VISITING THE UNDERRATED NATION OF ALBANIA



IMAGE: FLAVIO SANSA

Culture shock is hard to experience within the comfortable confines of Europe. Equally, a properly immersive experience of local tradition is often difficult to attain for the everyday European traveller. This isn't the case in Albania, a small, but not insignificant nation not far from the southernmost tip of Italy. The second one enters the country, the new currency and new language hits you hard.

Visitors usually enter Albania via Rinas International Airport in Tirana, the modern

capital city of an otherwise largely rural nation. Urban Tirana is hospitable to all its visitors, from the budget-oriented to the luxury-seeking, offering a wide range of activities for the curious tourist. I would advise anyone visiting to ensure they take advantage of the free walking tour offered by the city, as the local guide will escort you through local landmarks and narrate the bittersweet history of Albania to which no guidebook can do justice. All you need to do in return is remember to tip.

Bunkers are dotted around Tirana, their preservation serving as a poignant reminder of the nation's past, with some being converted to museums. Thankfully, new construction projects juxtapose the militaristic elements of the city, such as the newly modernised Skanderbeg square. Unfortunately, many of these projects are still underway after years of development, or have been abandoned due to issues pertaining to Albania's general problem with corruption.

Adjoining the square is a must-see museum, chronicling most of the nation's past, from its Roman roots to its communist ca-

pitulation. Suspiciously omitted from museums and exhibitions throughout the city are comments on Albania's history under the Ottoman Empire. To seek out such comment, one should visit Et'hem Bey Mosque due to its sheer historical significance, and observe the magnificent religious frescoes within.

Unique souvenirs include the different styles of Albania's take on the fez hat, the "Qeleshe", and traditional carpets. Unlike many Western European countries, much of what is on offer will be made by hand, making purchases even better value for European visitors considering the generally low prices. Without a doubt, Tirana is easy to enjoy even on a modest student budget.

Food in Tirana is excellent overall. Stuffed vegetables, casseroles, and pastries resonate most with me from my visit. Personally recommended restaurants would be Oda Restaurant and Era Blloku, both serving fantastic traditional Albanian dishes.

Tirana presents an incredible religious melting pot unified by a distinct cultural identity. Historically unique, the statue of national

hero Skanderbeg in the main square exemplifies the story of the Albanian people: one of maintaining their unique identity in the face of great struggle, and of perseverance despite crippling corruption, which is symbolised by an abandoned high-rise building that fittingly shadows the view of this imposing statue.



IMAGE: FLAVIO SANSA

BITTER, SWEET, SALTY, SOUR... AND UMAMI

ANASTASIOS PROIOS DOUKAS TALKS ABOUT THE COMMON DENOMINATOR BETWEEN ONIONS, BEETS, AND BREAST MILK



IMAGE: TAKEDAHRS

What if I told you that you have been tasting a flavour that you might not know exists? Umami is the fifth taste and is responsible for the popularity of a myriad of foods with notable examples including all-time favourites such as ketchup, parmesan cheese, and beef. Umami derives from the Japanese words 'umai' and 'wa' and literally translates to deliciousness, but it is much more than that.

Bitter, sweet, salty and sour have been known to constitute the basic tastes for the past two and a half thousand years but umami was only discovered around a century ago by the Japanese scientist Kikunae Ikeda. Kikunae Ikeda tasted kombu dashi and observed the fact that its flavour did not fit within the four basic tastes. Scientific study and further

research of this fact led to the discovery of umami and the understanding of its function in humans. Umami serves the purpose of alerting the body to the consumption of protein and the facilitation of its digestion. Umami is felt throughout the tongue through receptors that recognise glutamate, which is present in certain vegetables and cheeses, inosinate, which is present in most meats and guanylate, which is present mostly in dried mushrooms.

The taste of umami is defined by two properties: an increase in salivation and flavour lengthening. The increased salivation elevates the taste of food while the flavour lengthening has a notable impact on the aftertaste. In basic terms, it makes food tastier while it ensures that the flavour in your mouth

remains there for a prolonged period of time.

The correct manipulation of umami doesn't only have an effect on taste but on our health as well. The presence of umami allows us to enhance the flavour of our food and as such makes it possible to reduce unnecessary additives and ingredients in recipes. Therefore you can easily reduce your caloric intake, making dieting much easier, simpler and tastier.

So, how does one use umami to make basic dishes into palatable heaven? Try to use ingredients that contain glutamate and if possible ingredients that contain either one of the other two categories. The combination of the different amino acids leads to a much greater effect on taste than just using one of them. An example of this technique is spaghetti bolognese with dried porcini mushrooms as it combines both glutamate (tomato) and guanylate (porcini). Add parmigiano-reggiano and soy sauce and you've got yourself a very flavourful and easy to make dish.

Or, as a shortcut, you can just add Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) to your creations exactly as you would add salt. MSG is a food additive which is very easily acquirable both in stores and online. Some people might have concerns with the consumption of MSG as the Western culture has been promoting the idea that MSG is harmful and causes headaches and many more health problems. However, like the fear of gluten, the fear of MSG is unfounded as numerous scientific studies with double

blind tests did not find any harmful effects towards humans unless there was an extremely high concentration. If you still aren't sure what umami is here are two methods you can use to further understand it:

Cherry tomato method:

Take the stem off the tomato and then chew the tomato slowly and approximately 30 times. Once you start chewing the tomato you will start tasting a combination of sourness and sweetness that fades away quickly. After some minutes have passed you will still be feeling a taste in your mouth. That is umami.

Vegetable stock method:

This method is a bit more complex but it shows you the power of umami through direct comparison. You will need 800ml of vegetable bouillon which can either be made from a stock or by boiling the following ingredients: 1l water, 40g (1.4 oz) broccoli, 40g celery, 40g mushrooms, 15g (0.5 oz) onion, 15g carrot and 5g (0.2 oz) parsley. If you use the ingredients and not the cube make sure to only use the stem from the broccoli, celery and parsley as the rest adds a strong and bitter taste to the bouillon. Don't forget to add a pinch of salt regardless of the method you use. Then, take two cups and fill both with vegetable stock. Make sure you can clearly distinguish the two cups from one another. Then, add MSG to one cup and no MSG to the other one. Sip the bouillon without the MSG first and then taste the one with the MSG. What you will notice is that the second has a much more balanced and firm taste.



IMAGE: TINTONS

DINING OUT WITHOUT SPLASHING OUT

ANDREW HURST SUGGESTS RESTAURANTS WITH GREAT CHEAP FOOD FOR ANY OCCASION



IMAGE: ANDY FARRINGTON

So January is finally upon us, and while Christmas has undoubtedly hurt the purse strings, there's no shortage of places to eat out in York and with more and more restaurants offering deals for students or lunch menus, there's no need to break your budget to eat out once in a while.

Best for dinner with friends: Oscar's

Oscar's Wine Bar and Bistro, located on Swinegate, is the ideal location if you want a change from a cheeky Nando's when din-

ing out with your friends, and, offering a 25 per cent discount on full priced items with an NUS card, it won't break the bank either! The restaurant offers a range of vegetarian dishes and they are particularly renowned for their burgers, which are made from Yorkshire beef and served with fries in a brioche bun which will certainly ensure that you won't leave hungry. There is also an excellent selection of vegetarian options, including a delicious spicy bean burger topped with guacamole for £7.20 and veggie nachos for £8.95.

Best for parental visits: Ambiente

There are two Ambiente restaurants in York, one on Fossgate and one on Goodramgate, with the former being the bigger of the two. The restaurant offers a wide menu and a good wine list as well as pitchers of sangria, with an excellent lunch menu on weekdays from 12PM to 5PM including three dishes from the 'tapas rapido' menu for £10.95. The menu features a range of Spanish classics like paella and calamares, and there are quite a lot of vegetarian options as well. The food is sure to impress and the casual tapas style of dining is perfect for a laid back meal with your



IMAGE: PHIL CHAMPION

parents. My personal favourite is the chorizo y patatas, which pairs perfectly with a pitcher of red sangria.

Best for a date: Rustique

While French food is often associated with a certain perception of snobbery, Rustique breaks the stereotype by serving delicious food in a warm and homely atmosphere. The restaurant is decorated with French posters, and offers a set menu deal with two courses for £14.95 or three for £17.95. This is avail-



IMAGE: RUSTIQUE

able 12PM-10PM Monday-Thursday, 12PM-7PM on Friday and Saturday, and 12PM-9PM on a Sunday. The menu features French classics such as duck confit and more familiar dishes such as steak frites. There is bound to be something to please ton/ta chéri(e). In the evenings, the tables are decorated with candles and the extensive wine menu will certainly help to create a romantic atmosphere for a date. There are two Rustiques in York, one on Castlegate and one on Lendal - and the latter has a roof terrace for dining on when the weather picks up.

Thanks to everybody who entered the column competition. Out of a great selection, here are our winner and runner up...

JULIA HEBRON

Winning entry

IMAGE: NORA_29

So it's a New Year and we all know what that means: time to make an emotional Facebook post about the best moments of the year, and then decide ways to disappoint yourself for the year to come. Maybe I'm just a cynic, but the suggestion of making New Year's Resolutions gets more annoying every year. Don't put your plans on hold for an arbitrary date: if you really want to change, it shouldn't matter whether it's first January or some random day in the summer holidays. Don't jump on the resolution bandwagon if you don't have the actual motivation to follow through.

Let me say - I admire people who really do make SMART targets (remember that acronym? I just spent five minutes staring at the screen trying to remember what the letters stand for) and actually follow through on them. It can be satisfying to think of a new year as a fresh chapter and a chance to begin a journey to a fitter, healthier, productive and #detoxed you. So if you're the kind of person that can spontaneously give up bad habits and transform on the stroke of midnight, then hats off to you.

However, if you're like me and struggle to commit to eating even one of your five a day occasionally, the prospect of some year-long resolutions is daunting. The last couple of weeks of 2017 we get barraged by articles and blog posts telling us how to change this year, with pastel pictures of people in yoga shorts and drinking green smoothies. I read them while downing my fourth caffeinated drink and procrastinating from my essay, and feel anxious about my inability to come up with a list of Goals and Dreams for 2018.

How can I start the year so untethered to concrete objectives? New Year's Resolu-

tions are fundamentally flawed as a concept. I heard recently that 90 per cent of New Year's resolutions fail, and it's no surprise. First of all, you shouldn't need to wait until January to change your ways. Yes, it sounds nicer to start on a nice round one, but setting yourself that cut-off date makes it more likely you'll see the last days of December as a excuse to do the opposite: if I was told that from the first I would no longer get fast food, you can bet I'd spend the end of 2017 single-handedly keeping Dominos in business. Similarly, when you inevitably fail to go to the gym two, seven or 30 days into your resolutions, it's easy to decide the whole endeavour has been a failure and give up.

If you have something you want to change about your life, or an aim to work towards, it doesn't matter what date you start. Start now, start tomorrow, just don't believe that waiting for a specific date will give your plans more weight. If you're truly motivated about your aims - whether that's cutting down drinking, getting a 2:1, or just to drink more water - then make a plan and find a stronger way of holding yourself accountable than the time of year.

I don't want to moralise or crush the dreams of the people who get satisfaction out of resolutions. Perhaps I'm jaded. Perhaps I'm secretly jealous of the pretty bullet journal year plans I see on Instagram. Or maybe I just want an excuse not to change. Either way, take this as reassurance that you don't need resolutions to define you or your year. Change whenever you like (or don't), but making aims just for the sake of it is an unnecessarily stressful way to start the year.

Happy New Year, everyone.

ELEANOR JONES

Runner-up

IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Last September, thousands of students started the next step in their life journey, travelling many miles to settle in a new place, among new people, doing new and interesting things. But for many of these students, starting university wasn't just daunting because of the distance from home, or the fear of having to actually cook a meal for themselves - although really, a pot noodle ended up sufficing just fine. For thousands of students across the country, they were the first in their family to go to university, opening up a whole new dimension of fears and tribulations. The Great Unknown can often be the scariest thing of all - even scarier than the fear of student debt or cleaning rotas.

And, for me, as for many other students, The Unknown didn't start on that first day, when my parents and I attempted to find keys, duvets, sheets and shops that sold decently-priced food. It started a whole year before. My mum and I spent a whole afternoon trying to fathom the inner workings of the UCAS form. Did I have a history of violence? Had I been to prison? Did I have any special requirements? I almost felt tempted to fill in the form for a different me, one who was certainly much more interesting. But instead, mum ticked and unticked all the appropriate boxes, each page seeming to have a plethora of new, unnecessary questions. My friends would tell me how they'd got through the form in an hour. Online forum sites were practically buzzing with people who had useful tips on how to fill it in. Everyone but me seemed to know exactly what they were doing.

In hindsight, I should have started a forum for people like me, as, once I arrived at university, I realised that there were a lot

more than I thought.

When I received my accommodation offer, I started speaking to people online, chatting on Facebook like we already knew each other. My parents and I wondered what the rooms would be like - how many people would I be sharing a bathroom with? Would I be able to get a shower in the morning? Who would my neighbours be? When I told my mum excitedly that I had found my next-door neighbours on Facebook - both boys - she was astounded. "Do they not have separate corridors for girls and boys?" she asked. I think maybe her idea of university was more like something out of Enid Blyton.

Being the first in my family was definitely an experience, and my parents and I learnt a lot that summer. I'm almost jealous of my younger sister. If she decides to go to university, it'll certainly be much smoother path. I think I was probably the most prepared a student has ever been for their first day at university - in theory. Various university web pages had been saved into my favourites folder and I had trawled through endless websites telling me about topics from grading to bus routes. I even found a website that told me about the whole 'Derwent has asbestos' problem - and thanked my lucky stars that I'd been put in Vanbrugh! But after all the theoretical preparation I'd done at home, nothing truly prepared me for university in practice.

I'm so glad I was the first to go to university, even if it did mean learning on the job. It was much more exciting that way. And, let's be honest, all the advice in the world from older siblings or family members can't prepare you for something which can only be lived.

NIAMH MURCHAN IS STRUGGLING TO BUDGET...



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Potential coalition divides German centre-left

Federico Rueda
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

TALKS BETWEEN THE centre-right CDU/CSU party with the centre-left SPD on the possibility of renewing their coalition to govern Germany, has produced a 28-page preliminary agreement. Should the SPD accept it, the document would form the backbone of negotiating the concluding deal. It contains a particularly pro-European Union line, aiming at renewing the 'European project', as well as increasing cooperation between Germany and France. Despite this, the debate on whether or not to accept this draft agreement has divided the Social Democratic Party.

Both parties have had their worst result in the decades since the Second World War. Originally the SPD leader, Martin Schulz, had ruled out an alliance with the CDU/CSU, currently led by Angela Merkel, arguing that the party would position itself as the main opposition to the government. However, following the collapse of the talks between Merkel's party, the centre-left Greens and the centre-right FDP, the SPD has reconsidered its position. Nevertheless, the more left wing sections of the party, especially its youth wing the Jusos, oppose the agreement.

Jusos leader Kevin Kühnert has claimed that the party is beating "its head against the same brick wall". There are fears that it could spell the end of the SPD, since every coalition with the CDU/CSU has resulted in



IMAGE: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

the party being further weakened. Other party members consider that the SPD has given in too much, such as agreeing for a cap on refugee numbers, renouncing the inclusion of more social welfare policies and including things that were already agreed upon by the centre-right in the previous coalition agreements yet were never fulfilled.

The argument was also made that having the SPD in the government would give the AfD an even stronger voice in parliament. The AfD's right-wing, eurosceptic, anti-migrant platform has made it a pa-

riah in German politics, and a coalition with it has been ruled out by all major parties. However, it was the third most voted party in the federal election, meaning that if the SPD were to join the government, the AfD would become the main opposition.

However the more right-leaning members of the SPD such as the Seeheimer Kreis, have campaigned in favour of the agreement. Its spokesman has argued that refusing to join the coalition could be even more dangerous. A recent opinion poll held after the election has

seen the SPD's support drop by two more points. As such, if the agreement is not ratified then fresh elections could be called that could see the centre-left weakened further. The lack of more social policies in the preliminary agreement could also be addressed in negotiations between the two parties once it is accepted.

Nonetheless, the distrust towards the CDU/CSU, as pointed out by Schulz, remains strong, in part due to the party's past record of not sticking to all the agreements made with the Social Democrats once they

were in government. Delegates from the centre-left party are to vote in favour or against the preliminary agreement on Sunday 21 January. The divide can be further seen here, as delegates from Brandenburg and Hamburg are arguing in favour of accepting it, whereas those from Berlin and Saxony-Anhalt largely oppose it. There is as much of a chance for the SPD to accept a coalition, as to reject one. The acceptance of the agreement could result in further stability for Germany, as well as increasing Franco-German cooperation on national and international issues. Failure to accept it could result in either Merkel forming a minority government or the calling of fresh elections.

A minority government would allow Merkel and her party much more freedom of choice on cabinet positions, but naturally, it would still require a voting majority in order to pass legislation. Policies aimed at strengthening the EU are likely to produce a broad support from other parties. Obtaining something similar from the SPD or the Greens on social policies, however, would be trickier. As such, Merkel's own years in office could be numbered. Nonetheless, it is the SPD who are suffering from the strongest existential fears. A fresh election could probably weaken the parties further, however opinion polls have shown that it would not be a major change: Germany would likely find itself in much the same situation as it is in now.

At the end of the day, whether the agreement is accepted or not, the SPD has divided itself over the issue, raising doubts over its own future.

Europhiles find unlikely new ally in Farage

Samuel Chadwick
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

IT STRUGGLES ON in Westminster and Brussels, but nobody other than those delivering it thinks of Brexit anymore. Not until recently, when that daily, mostly trivial and ephemeral occurrence, known to most people as a 'news story', happened.

The little chorus of loud voices advocating a second referendum on our EU membership has been sounding since the morning after the first, but recently it welcomed a surprising new member: Nigel Farage.

It is an ironic little paradox that in doing so he agreed with those unreconstructed Remainers to whom he is usually so opposed. He is certain that the British public would reinforce their 2016 verdict, to finally "kill off" the issue of EU departure for good.

Still, calling referenda merely to "kill off" issues isn't always a winning tactic: just ask Da-

vid Cameron. We cannot know whether this was an off the cuff quip or a clever, calculated ploy.

Or perhaps de facto retirement from frontline politics has simply rendered Farage bored enough to clamour for the next morning's melodramatic headlines?

The *Daily Mirror* declared it a "shock EU-turn". Another newspaper, the *Guardian*, headlined: "Hopes raised for a second EU referendum", and emphasised the genuine jubilation at Farage's comment from pro-EU voices such as Adonis, Blair and Clegg.

What this hardline A-B-C clique seem not to understand is that, put simply, sabotaging Brexit is by no means as easy as 1-2-3.

Firstly, British public opinion on this tired issue is now an odd mixture between most former Remainers' pragmatic, albeit depressed and reluctant, resignation towards its inevitability, and most former Brexiteers' hope for a more prosperous and democratic post-EU Britain.

The argument that there should be new democratic

assent of our new relationship with the EU, just as there was to embark upon a path of negotiating it, is indeed a superficially convincing one.

If the UK were allowed to leave our negotiation, public opinion may be prone to change, strengthening the case for a second referendum. In the unlikely event of a Brexit being seen as unpalatable enough to be rejected in another referendum, the ensuing volte face would likely be

more destabilising than that hypothetical Brexit itself.

Even if damage and instability were objective measures, we must take note that predictions either way are but nebulous speculation, a trap of well-educated but misleading assumptions and conjectures into which political commentators too often fall.

Those of us too young to have voted in June 2016 still remember that historic time.

A summer of



IMAGE: GAGE SKIDMORE

acerbic and unincisive campaigning gave way to a fortnight of chaos, before a government was finally mustered left with the tiring and distracting task of negotiating our terms of departure.

Aside from tearing apart our country just as we are starting to unite, a second referendum also risks abruptly throwing a spanner in the constitutional works before any long term costs and benefits of Brexit appear.

In calling for a second referendum, advocate voices thus run the risk of shrouding citizens, consumers and businesses in the uncertainty they claim to abhor.

Laws and economics are crucial, but fundamentally this is a question of psychology and politics. A government is never liked by all, but must be trusted to strive to honour not only its election commitments, but also weightier, rarer and more fundamental forms of democratic assent: referenda.

Perhaps, therefore, the most democratic, and wise, course of action is not forcing a second referendum, but instead enacting the first.

No Executive in NI: a year on

Niamh Carroll
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

JUST OVER a year ago, a visibly frail Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin announced that he would be stepping down as deputy First Minister, thus triggering the collapse of the Stormont government. The row was ostensibly caused by a scandal over a Renewable Heating Incentive; however, as anyone who follows NI politics will know, the issues between the two main parties of the Executive run much deeper.

Perhaps it is inevitable that republican Sinn Féin and staunchly unionist DUP will be intrinsically opposed. Yet the atmosphere between the two parties could be described as hostile. This is not political competition based upon policy comparison and notions of competence, but rather one rooted in identity and a violent past which continues to shape NI.

It was not always this way; there was a time when First Minister Ian Paisley and deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness got on so well that they were nicknamed “the Chuckle Brothers”. This was the most unlikely of political partnerships, yet Paisley, founder of the DUP and firebrand preacher, and McGuinness, a former IRA commander, referred to each other as friends.

Both men are now deceased: Paisley died in 2014, and McGuinness passed away only a few weeks after his resignation last year. There has been a changing of the guard in Northern Ireland politics; for the first time since the modern Executive came into being, none of the party leaders have participated directly in the Troubles conflict. Both Paisley and McGuinness spent time in jail during the Troubles, as had Paisley’s successor as DUP leader, Peter Robinson.

The DUP and Sinn Féin are now both led in Northern Ireland by relatively young women, Arlene Foster and Michelle O’Neill, who had no direct role in the Troubles. This should signal a move beyond NI’s troubled past. Yet, the politics of the North of Ireland continue to be dominated by the same partisan

issues, such as dealing with “the past”, and disputes over whether there needs to be an Irish language act introduced. These are the issues which the DUP and Sinn Féin have cited when challenged over their refusal to re-enter government; however, these issues have been around since the start of the Executive, making it difficult to pinpoint what makes them deal-breakers now.

The NI Executive has been absent at a most crucial time. Northern Ireland will be uniquely challenged by Brexit, yet during negotiations the fight against a hard border was largely fronted by Irish PM Leo Varadkar. For nationalists in the north, Ireland is one country divided by a border. For Sinn Féin to have not been able to take a lead in this vital issue fails the community they profess to represent. Equally, what right does Arlene Foster, former First Minister, really have to speak on behalf of the people of Northern Ireland? While there is no assembly, she is simply the leader of a unionist party in Northern Ireland.

The absence of a government in Northern Ireland is having real-life implications for its citizens. Like much of the UK, NI is experiencing a hospital crisis, but there is no health minister in place to deal with local issues. There are loans for charities waiting to be handed out, but with no executive in place they cannot be distributed. Art and culture centres are in dire need of money to keep their doors open, but with no Minister for Culture no such grant can be approved. Real people’s lives are being affected, but politicians continue to squabble over the same issues. The alternatives, including direct rule from Westminster, seem unlikely to adequately meet NI’s unique needs.

This week, a mural was unveiled by Sinn Féin in Derry, Martin McGuinness’s home city, which bore his picture and a quote from his resignation statement: “no return to the status quo”. Yet, what is forgotten is that the “status quo” was a functional executive. McGuinness and Paisley and others like them worked to create and maintain this system at the end of a peace process, recognising that it was the only way forward.



The previous large protest against the Iranian government took place in 2009 responding to Presidential Elections

Shock at protests in Iran

Seren Hughes
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

PROTESTS HAVE been taking place across Iran, with participants objecting to political repression and the poor state of the Iranian economy. At least 21 people have been killed in clashes with the police, and there have been over 1000 arrests.

The first protests took place on 28 December in Mashhad over the prices of basic goods. Protests have since raged across the country, with tens of thousands of people reportedly taking part. The mood of the protests is now a general anger at the government.

Although Iran has experienced small-scale demonstrations against economic hardship for years, nothing of this scale has been seen since 2009, when millions called for the re-run of the presidential election on claims of fraud. The result was upheld and the authorities stamped out the protests.

Originally, protests were sparked by the failure of President Hassan Rouhani’s government to revive Iran’s economy. Officially, unemployment is at 12.4 per cent, yet

in some areas it is as high as 60 per cent. Inflation is at around 11 per cent, with the price of basic items, such as bread and milk, increasing by over 40 per cent in the last year. The government has also come under fire for spending too much on foreign conflicts in the Middle East. For example, the government supports Syria’s president Bashar al-Assad. There has also been explicit criticism of leading figures from the Islamic Republic, specifically

The mood of the protests is now a general anger against the government

the moderate President Rouhani and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Chants were heard in Tehran’s protests for “death to the dictator” and “death to Rouhani”.

In response, the President claimed that his people were “absolutely free to criticize the government and protest”, yet also stated that security forces would “show no tolerance to those who damage

public properties, violate public order and create unrest in the society.”

Authorities had also blocked access to social media sites in order to prevent the spread of the movement. The blocks have since been lifted, but the media retains signs of censorship, with disparity between reports from protesters and the official coverage. Rouhani has attributed this to the media’s ignorance rather than his own doing. Whatever the case, the full story is not being told.

Iranian authorities have attributed the protests to interference from foreign powers. The US has been most associated; it was one of the few countries to retain sanctions on Iran. Furthermore, the US State Department said it “strongly condemns” the arrests and calls for support for the Iranian protestors.

The protests have recently quietened, but the possibility of a resurgence in the near future is real. It is unsure whether the protests will prompt economic and political change, and what this will mean for Rouhani: the protests could be used to display himself as pro-reform, or it could provide a reason for his opponents to undermine him. However, it is clear that the Iranian people require some form of economic change to pull them out of mass poverty.



LEFT WING RIGHT WING

Thoughts from the Politics Editor

THE GOVERNMENT reshuffle designed to reinvigorate the Prime Minister’s tenure might seem quite inconsequential tinkering to many. There were, however, clear attempts to modernise Conservative Campaign Headquarters (CCHQ) to ensure the party can recover a

majority at the next election. Key to achieving this will be winning over many of the young people who voted for Corbyn’s Labour in 2017.

Theresa May appointed Ben Bradley, the MP for Mansfield, as Vice Chair for Youth. Bradley, who is 29, joined the Commons only this

past year after the snap election. He appeared at the York Tories Winter Ball this past week for his first engagement in post. Yet after only a week in his position, Bradley became engulfed in a media spat concerning comments the young MP made about benefits claimants in a 2012 blog post.

The incident echoes even more inflammatory historic comments made by the new Labour MP for Sheffield Hallam, Jared O’Mara. The MP was suspended by his party but resumed his duties this past

week. A government pick for the new higher education quango, Toby Young, was also forced to resign after historic tweets led to backlash.

Bradley remains in his job but many in CCHQ will no doubt be concerned about this difficult start. Moreover, though, this trend of increasing exposés of young MPs should worry budding young people who covet a position in public life. As more millennials, most of whom will have used social media for much of their lives, enter politics, such discoveries are likely to

become ever more prevalent.

Everybody says silly things when they are younger. Of course outright bigotry and incitement is always wrong, but with controversial comments now recorded online forever, the danger for younger people entering public life is increasingly perilous. The question going forward is how the public will respond to this trend. The two choices seem to be either to elect increasingly robotic, vacuous politicians or to accept their flaws and acclimatise to a new reality.

What next for Carillion and the government?

Nicholas Brown
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

LAST WEEK CARILLION plc, one of the UK government's largest suppliers, entered immediate liquidation in an unusual move that raises huge questions for its thousands of workers, suppliers and customers. But what is next for the company tasked with closing the firm down, and how will it approach the massive task of distributing what is left of the failed corporation?

On 15 January, multinational professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers were appointed as 'special managers'. This role relieves Carillion directors of their duties and passes the responsibility of managing the business over to PwC. The firm has chosen to undertake a complete liquidation, which involves the company being closed down with almost immediate effect. The special managers are responsible for organising the financial affairs, workforce, and the overall closure of the firm. Usually, firms may seek a period of 'administration', where a buyer is sought for attractive elements of the business. The fact that Carillion is closing down altogether highlights the severe financial problems of a company that only three years ago was valued at over £1bn.

The liquidators of the firm have now started the lengthy process of identifying potential credit agreements that they may be able to release money from. Preferential creditors (typically the largest banks) are the institutions that the



liquidators concentrate on paying the most with any funds generated. Smaller suppliers and firms who are owed money from the failed construction company will only receive payment once preferential creditors are satisfied - this is something that in a business of such size is very unlikely. Unite the Union has estimated that over 30 000 other companies are reliant on contracts tendered to Carillion, so the government have understandably been interested in the effect that the collapse will have on the labour market. PwC will be trying to secure

new deals to ensure employees are given security when contracts are eventually re-tendered, but there is no legal obligation for them to do so.

The government have not only expressed concerns relating to job losses, as Carillion possessed hundreds of government contracts that Whitehall are now having to take in house or re-tender. This is a logistical nightmare, considering the firm once provided services for a multitude of different departments including defence, health, and education. This has caused extreme

criticism from the Labour opposition who have argued that the Conservatives acted irresponsibly by awarding eight contracts to Carillion in the aftermath of profit warnings last year.

The Insolvency Service announced last week that the highly contentious pay of ex-Carillion CEO Richard Howson would be blocked under regulations preventing excessive liquidation deals. The highly criticised businessman was set to receive in excess of £600 000 until the end of 2018 in a package agreed when he left the firm at the end of

last year. Many employees were reportedly infuriated with the development as their own future is unclear. Theresa May acknowledged their frustration in Prime Minister's Questions last week saying that it was the government's responsibility to seek the "best value" for taxpayers and noted the government are continuing to liaise with the liquidators to seek a positive deal.

It seems that No. 10 is becoming increasingly interested in the activities of the Carillion board. Last week the Cabinet Office announced that it had fast-tracked an investigation into the behaviour of the company's executives which is likely to look into the management of their financial affairs which ultimately ended in disaster. Meanwhile, several major banks have created special support schemes for companies struggling after losing Carillion contracts.

The future seems unclear with regard to the public sector contracts that Carillion were awarded. The failure of the multinational firm was largely caused by their constant bidding for unprofitable schemes. This was required as they used payments for future schemes in order to fund previous credit responsibilities. This is the key difference between the failure of the group and the success of firms in similar predicaments such as Balfour Beatty and Serco, who were able to restructure by concentrating on profitable schemes. Carillion was plagued by the huge costs of large infrastructure schemes such as HS2 and could not escape collapse. One thing that is certain is that the liquidators in charge have a difficult and highly politicised task ahead.

How important is it to cut the public debt?

Matt Freathy
BUSINESS EDITOR

GOVERNMENT DEBT HAS taken a far more prominent position in the public eye since the world was rocked by the financial crisis of 2007/08 and consequent global recession. Amid widespread unemployment and plummeting incomes politicians seized on calls from the public for greater fiscal restraint in government by asserting that in order to restore the economy to health, sweeping austerity measures were necessary to reduce the size of the debt and deficit.

After years of systematic cuts to public services the deficit has fallen, but has not been eliminated as George Osborne claimed it would be by 2015, with debt stagnant at 89 per cent of GDP. Regardless of their otherwise mixed economic record, the pledge to stem the tide of increasing public liabilities has

long been the cornerstone of Conservative economic policy, a promise now unlikely to be fulfilled until well into the 2020s. This is arguably constitutes failure on the part of the Chancellorships of Osborne and Philip Hammond. But it doesn't matter all that much, and it never did. Public sector debt in the UK has been massively over-politicised, a phenomenon caused by misinformation concerning the causes of the crisis and the nature of public debt.

The financial crash which sparked recessions in 31 of the 35 member states of the OECD and cost the world economy an estimated \$22 trillion was, shockingly, not the fault of the British Labour Party overspending. High debt was not a cause of the crisis, but a consequence of having to bail out the very banks whose behaviour caused it.

In fact, the only significant risk from accumulating public debt is if the burden of interest rate payments causes the government to default on its debts. With this estimated to occur once these repayments reach

around 12 per cent of GDP and the UK's current payments standing at less than three per cent, this is of no immediate concern. As long as a government can be relied on to pay what it owes and thus maintain access to credit then debt in itself is mostly benign with regards to the performance of the economy.

In the wake of World War II British public debt peaked at 238 per cent of GDP, well beyond current levels. Instead of cutting the provision of public services to a country already ravaged by war, Clement Attlee's Labour government created the NHS and the welfare state. Over the following decades debt sank to below 50 per cent of GDP and remained there until 2008, demonstrating that high levels of debt are not necessarily an impediment to prosperity and that such levels can be effectively tackled by investing in public services and social security.

A frequently asked question about public debt is: who exactly do we owe all this money to? For the most part the answer, perhaps sur-

prisingly, is ourselves. About three quarters of the UK's national debt is owed to British citizens and institutions, with pension funds and the Bank of England being the government's largest creditors. 25 per cent of the debt is actually held by the public sector, for which the government pays itself back, including interest payments. This may seem

odd, but many of the finer details of the issue of debt are fundamentally intangible and can be somewhat separated from the average person's economic reality.

This is by no means a suggestion that governments should spend recklessly without fear of consequence, and it is healthy for governments to cycle between periods of surplus and deficit during good and bad times. But debt is not the bogeyman it is commonly made out to be, and is more often symptomatic of broader economic trends than a cause of them. Fiscal responsibility is a key aspect of good governance - and efforts should be made to eliminate genuinely wasteful spending and inefficiency - but it is not synonymous with ideologically driven and potentially harmful debt aversion.



Disney and Fox: 21st Century merger

Oscar Bentley
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE WALT DISNEY Company is set to acquire 21st Century Fox in a landmark \$52.4bn all-stock deal. Disney will take ownership of the majority of Fox assets including the film studio 20th Century Fox and its subsidiaries, Fox Networks Group (though not its flagship US broadcasting network), Fox Regional Sports Networks, Sky, National Geographic, and most of the company's back catalogue.

This merger was announced on 14 December, with first news of negotiations between the two conglomerates reported on 6 November, although talks were thought to have cooled. For each Fox share sold, 21st Century Fox shareholders will receive 0.2754 Disney shares at a value of \$28 a share, or roughly 25 per cent of Disney. The deal is not expected to be finalised for another 18 months, as regulators in the US Department of Justice Antitrust Division review the merger. While expected to go through, it is by no means smooth sailing: 20th Century Fox are continuing to operate as normal and develop film projects independent of Disney, while the DoJ has sued to block a similar merger between telecoms giant AT&T and

Time Warner (the parent company of film studio Warner Bros. Pictures).

While this deal initially pleased many fans, excited that Disney will finally own the rights to *Star Wars: A New Hope* and release a full collection of the saga, or that Marvel Studios can now finally introduce the X-Men and Fantastic Four into their cinematic universe, it throws up a range of industry monopoly issues. Despite Rupert Murdoch's reputation for building his empire, a sale of Fox was looking increasingly likely, given the weak performance of its entertainment divisions and \$13.7bn in debt, which Disney will take on under the deal. Fox has already fallen foul of monopoly concerns, having been halted from ac-

quiring the remaining shares in Sky by UK government regulators due to worries over competition.

Disney will now have a hugely dominant share of the film market (it was already the market leader), and the number of major studios who will potentially fund a project will be reduced from six to five, making it harder for creatives and producers to obtain funding. Matt Goldberg of trade press website Collider also reported that the price of the merger was "too high for consumers", noting the dangers of increased corporate consolidation and warning that risky concepts will no longer be produced due to Dis-

ney's reliance on known franchises.

Disney is approaching a monopoly on the industry, with two entire studios (which will also put jobs at risk, as the mouse house expects to save \$2bn due to merging overlapping assets); an unprecedented number of television channels; and could soon dominate the streaming industry, putting Fox's back catalogue to use for its new streaming service. Corporate consolidation is dominating the industry at present, with CBS and Viacom in merger talks and Deadline reporting that Amazon and Verizon are "sniffing around" Lionsgate for acquisition.

Disney isn't acquiring the entire company - Murdoch is spinning off the remaining assets including flagship network Fox (largely due to FCC rules preventing a merger between any of the majors) into a new company in an effort to concentrate on the profitable parts of the business, with projected revenues of \$10bn.

In addition to this Disney has also agreed to pay Fox a \$2.5bn breakup fee if the deal is rejected by federal regulators. While the giants' merger may seem promising for fans and shareholders, it has the potential to harm the industry through monopolisation, to the detriment of creators.



Republican tax bill boosts big business

George Mallinson
BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

IN THE UNITED STATES, 1 January not only brought about the start of a new year, but also the implementation of a new tax plan. Two major changes see corporation tax slashed by 16 per cent as well as a revamp of the income tax system in the biggest reform since the Reagan era. The White House hopes that this plan, costing \$1.4tn, will boost the economy by creating jobs and encouraging growth. But how will the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act affect both people and businesses throughout the US?

A good place to start is the tax on corporate profits, which has been reduced from 35 per cent down to 21 per cent in a bid to make the US more attractive to firms looking for a home, while freeing up incumbent firms to invest and expand. The sentiment behind this is well placed but experts are sceptical about the timing of such a reduction. Nobel Prize winning economist Paul Krugman explained that "in the short run, nothing" will happen to wages. Firms would first have to accrue new capital which in turn creates demand for labour, and only

then could wages increase. Krugman himself thinks that this process will take around ten years although even then the effect on wages could be "barely visible".

As one of the most attractive countries for business already and with an unemployment rate that is at a 17-year low, this reduction in corporation tax is perhaps completely unnecessary. But Americans can be safe in the knowledge that when hard times do come, their economy will be a more appealing place for businesses seeking haven after these reductions.

American families, however, will be more focused on the changes to income tax. The first thing you notice about the new system is the simplicity, with seven brackets being distilled down to four, with each bracket seeing a reduction which means that households will have more money in their pockets to spend or to save. With many working-class families struggling, there is no doubt this new tax bill alleviates some of the burden from their shoulders.

It is not all good news, however: The Tax Policy Center, a non-partisan think tank based in Washington DC, has found that it is the richest income bracket that will benefit the most, being made 4.3 per cent better off relative to their income com-

pared with 0.1 per cent for those on the lowest incomes. Although no one was expecting Donald Trump to be the one to eradicate the problem of economic inequality in the US, it is nevertheless a shame that this bill may exacerbate rather than heal the divisions in American society.

Although some people could end up paying more in tax, many people stand to benefit from this tax bill. Things are far from perfect

though, and with tax reforms coming around so irregularly there is no doubt that this is an opportunity missed.

Only time will tell how households, firms, and markets will react, but for now the Trump administration will hope that they get a reaction in terms of economic activity. After all, \$1.4tn squandered would leave a sizeable hole in the country's budget.



WEEK IN NUMBERS

Digest of the week's most important figures.

\$1.39

The pound hit its highest level against the dollar since the EU referendum

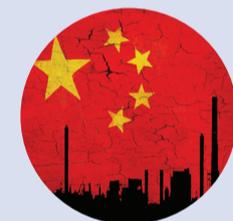


\$70

Oil reached its highest price per barrel in three years

20 000

Number of people in the UK employed by troubled construction firm Carillion



6.9%

Chinese GDP growth in 2017, the first time in seven years that annual growth has increased

53%

Fall in the value of digital currency Bitcoin since it peaked in December



50p

Charges for card payments have been banned by an EU directive, causing the online YUSU store to drop this additional charge

Sustainable energy's potential looks positive

James McNulty
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

THE ENERGY FROM the sun that comes into contact with the Earth (5000Q) in a year is 10 000 times more than the total energy consumption on Earth in the same time period (0.5Q). The energy from the sun hits the Earth as light in a range of wavelengths. This energy, alongside interactions between the Moon and Earth, provides energy which is harvestable via renewable energy sources: wind, solar, and water.

We would only need to harvest a tiny proportion of this energy to become sustainable. Each country needs to individually determine the best forms of renewable energy to suit their weather patterns: in Britain, it seems that wind and hydro are the most promising choices, however, in a sunnier country, solar may be more promising. It seems governments throughout the developed world are starting to recognise renewables' potential: the numbers for 2017 are in and green is proving to be a feasible energy solution.

The proportion of the UK's energy powered by coal has fallen from around 50 per cent a decade ago to just 2.1 per cent in the second quarter of 2017. 50 per cent of energy generation was low-carbon with 30 per cent being from renewables; a 4.6 per cent rise in the figure from 2016. These are pos-

itive signs for the future of renewable energy in the UK.

It is clear, though, that not everyone is convinced. One of the most common retorts to green energy is that it simply 'isn't enough on its own', and many still favour this view; however the data from 2017 is starting to disprove these doubts. We are producing as much energy as we need, and CO₂ emissions from its production are falling. According to the National Grid, between 21 June and 22 September, the carbon intensity of the grid – as measured in grammes of CO₂ emitted per kWh of power generated – was more than halved from its level over the same period four years ago. This reduction was mainly made possible by increases in solar and wind energy with some nuclear energy also in the mix.

Despite these successes, the UK is in what is undoubtedly one of the tougher areas of Earth to produce energy sustainably. Britain is, as we all know, not the sunniest country and we also don't have large amounts of unused open land. All around the world, larger countries such as the US have massive expanses of desert and arid land which come into contact with a large amount of sunlight and wind, and could easily lead to significant carbon-neutral energy production.

It is undeniable, however, that our largest current limitation is battery technology, which is seemingly lagging behind recent developments in renewable energy generation. It is unlikely that we will be able to fully sustain



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

sufficient renewable energy generation throughout winter in mid-latitude nations such as Britain before developments in energy storage allow us to store a much larger amount of energy than is currently possible.

Everywhere we look, we can see the effects of global warming, from examples as mundane as

lettuce disappearing from supermarket shelves due to drought, to the catastrophic hurricane season of 2017 that led to massive destruction in the middle Americas. Awareness is rising with the help of media such as *Blue Planet II*, a BBC programme which, this year, dedicated a whole episode to highlighting the risks posed to our

oceans by climate change. Public opinion is steadily moving toward efforts to mitigate such risks. The most promising approach to slowing global warming, and hopefully ending it permanently, is the use of green, renewable sources of energy instead of fossil fuels. It finally seems that we are moving in the right direction.

The best scientific discoveries of last year?

Josie Rogers
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

2017 WILL GO down in history as the year of the Grenfell Tower fire, Brexit negotiations, and the early days of the Trump presidency. But it was not all doom and gloom. In the world of science there have been some truly amazing discoveries that could change the world for the better. Here are five of the greatest and scientific discoveries of 2017.

Researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia have developed artificial wombs which could drastically improve survival rates for prematurely born babies and reduce complications that they suffer with later in life. In April, 'biobags' were used for lambs born at the human equivalent of 23 weeks early. The lambs were

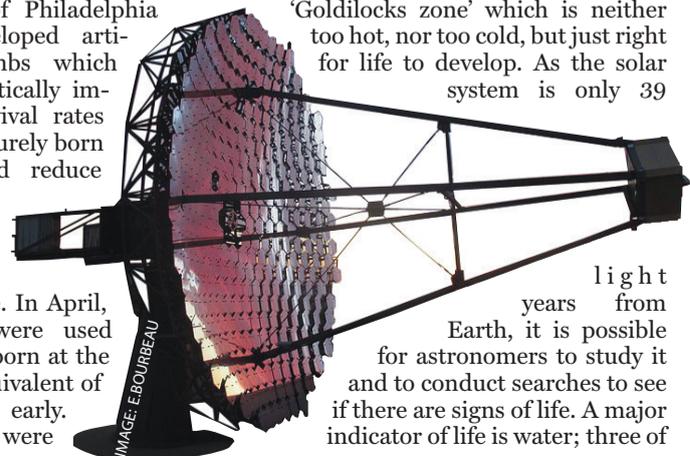


IMAGE: EBOURBEAU

kept in the bags for four weeks and appeared to develop normally. The survival rate for babies born this prematurely is just 15 per cent and 46 per cent of children born before 26 weeks show serious cognitive impairments at the age of 11. It is hoped that in the coming years biobags will help critically premature human babies to survive and develop healthily.

In February, NASA announced the possibility that there could be alien life on the planets surrounding TRAPPIST-1 – an ultra-cool red dwarf star orbited by seven planets. These planets are located in the 'Goldilocks zone' which is neither too hot, nor too cold, but just right for life to develop. As the solar system is only 39

light years from Earth, it is possible for astronomers to study it and to conduct searches to see if there are signs of life. A major indicator of life is water; three of

the planets that orbit TRAPPIST-1 have potential for large-scale bodies of water. These bodies of water are required for life to grow and develop, therefore it is possible that alien life will be discovered at these sites.

In recent years, cancer research has begun to seek to use immunology to treat various forms of cancer. Immunological approaches use the patient's immune system to attack cancerous cells and tumours. Until now, these treatments have only been in the development stage, however 2017 has seen the FDA approve not one, but two of these groundbreaking new treatments. One is used to treat children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (a form of blood cancer) and the other treats adults with advanced lymphomas (cancer of the lymph nodes). Although this type of cancer therapy is very new, researchers and patients alike are excited to see the results of this potentially revolutionary form of treatment and how it could perhaps help find new cures to other forms of cancer.

Another exciting moment in the field of biology this year came when scientists at MIT managed to develop a battery powered by stomach acid, which could be

used to deliver drugs. Ingestible electronic devices are an important substitute for invasive procedures in drug delivery. However, powering these batteries can prove to be a problem. These new batteries are formed from two electrodes (one made of zinc and one of copper), a temperature sensor and a 900 MHz transmitter. Once inside the body, stomach acid transfers electric current from the zinc to the copper electrode. So far these batteries have shown promising signs in trials using pigs but it remains to be seen whether they will be equally effective if they were used in human stomachs.

In April, a new species of shrimp has been discovered off the coast of Panama. This seemingly harmless crustacean can stun or kill fish by rapidly snapping shut its large, pink claw. It can produce sound up to 210 decibels in volume. Dr Sammy DeGrave of Oxford University named the shrimp *Synal-*

phus Pinkfloydi after Pink Floyd. The name is a reference to its pink claw because of the line "By the way, which one of you is pink?" in the song 'Have A Cigar' from the band's album *Wish You Were Here*.

A team led by Floyd Romesburg at California's Scripps Research Institute created an unnatural pair of genetic bases. While those typically incorporated into DNA are known as C, T, A and G, the group named their newly created pair X and Y. After incorporating the bases into a living *E. coli* bacteria, it was shown that the organism still functioned seamlessly.

Many of the discoveries here may change the way we think about the world around us, potentially answering some of Man's philosophical questions, or maybe changing how we approach different areas of science. Hopefully the experimental discoveries listed in this article will become widely accepted. With any luck, 2018 will be a year of equally as many findings.

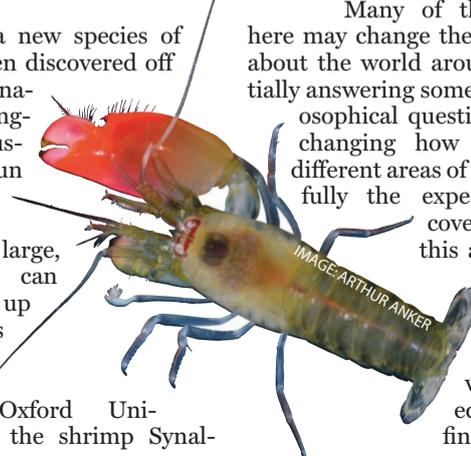


IMAGE: ARTHUR ANKER

Cell engineering is the future

Eleanor Mason
SCIENCE CORRESPONDANT

THE PROJECTED median age in Europe for 2050 is 47.4 years, with one in three people expected to be over the age of 60. A drastic increase in those requiring treatment to amend age-related disorders and degenerative disease is putting further strain on the health-care sector. In 1995, there were just over 40 000 people on the US organ transplant waiting list, and by 2006 this number had risen to 100 000, with only around 17 000 donors. A lack of organ donors has encouraged a shift from traditional patient treatment to new alternative treatments. The fields of cell and tissue engineering have been developed massively over the past few decades, and increasing bodies of evidence suggest artificial organ substitutes are a potential solution to the donor problem.

Tissue engineering is an incredibly exciting combination of the life sciences and engineering, which aims to create biological substitutes to help restore, maintain or improve the function of a tissue or whole organ. This can be done in many ways, in vivo or vitro. Cell engineering is similar; it is the application of cell modification techniques for therapeutic purposes which can involve genetic, mechanical or chemical adjustments. The most obvious cellular modification may be that of a genetic nature; CRISPR/Cas9 is a relatively new, and still very much developing, revolutionary method of altering genetic information. Based on natural systems observed in bacteria when infected with double stranded viral RNA, a simpler modification has been developed to edit genomes. CRISPR technology holds the potential to fix 'faulty' genes and even replace mutations with a correct, functional copy, which holds potential for alleviating the effects of genetic disease or disorders. Some genes can also be regulated by RNA interference (RNAi) which involves small sequences of nucleotides that can bind an mRNA sequence ready to be translated into a protein. Binding to the mRNA sequence, in a RISC complex involving an endonuclease, the mRNA is cut, preventing the translation of the transcript. Experimental evidence suggests that this can reduce or eradicate the negative impacts of faulty genes through interruption of protein synthesis. This has proven successful in treating Pach-

onychia Congenita, a rare genetic disorder caused by a single mutant in one of the four keratin genes. Viral and non-viral vectors, DNA injection and gene-activated matrices using a collagen sponge are further examples of methods used to deliver required genes to a particular area of the body.

From the field of biomaterials, tissue engineering has evolved to

Cell and tissue engineering are likely destined to be the future of medicine

allow organ replacements formed in vitro from scaffolds, cells and bioactive agents. Stem cells hold great potential for these methods, as their ability to be manipulated into various cell types (depending on where they are extracted) is key for culturing cells that are required for the production of a graft or tissue. Various methods of extracting embryonic and 'embryonic-like' stem cells are used, such as somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT). SCNT was a first suc-

pioneered in 2006 from mice fibroblasts, iPS cells are artificially derived from a non-pluripotent adult cell. They can be reprogrammed to 'embryonic-like stem cells' through manipulation of certain genes and transcription factors. These can then be dedifferentiated and used in culture for many different cell types. This technique earned Shinya Yamanaka and John Gurdon the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2012.

In the rare case that a donor is available, it is possible to remove the organ or tissue required, decellularise it, and then add the patient's own cells to avoid immunorejection. Through the application of specific bioreactors and other techniques, this method can be very effective and a natural, extracellular matrix scaffold can be available after multiple rounds of the decellularisation protocol. However, donors are scarce, and other methods have had to develop as a result. It is possible to use synthetic or natural polymers, such as polylactic acid or alginate to form structures that can then be developed to become biocompatible elements ready for insertion to help aid tissue repair or replacement. Synthetic and natural polymers can be used in additive manufacturing techniques such as selective laser sintering (SLS), 3D printing, nozzle-based systems and stereolithography. SLS is very effective for creating bone grafts.

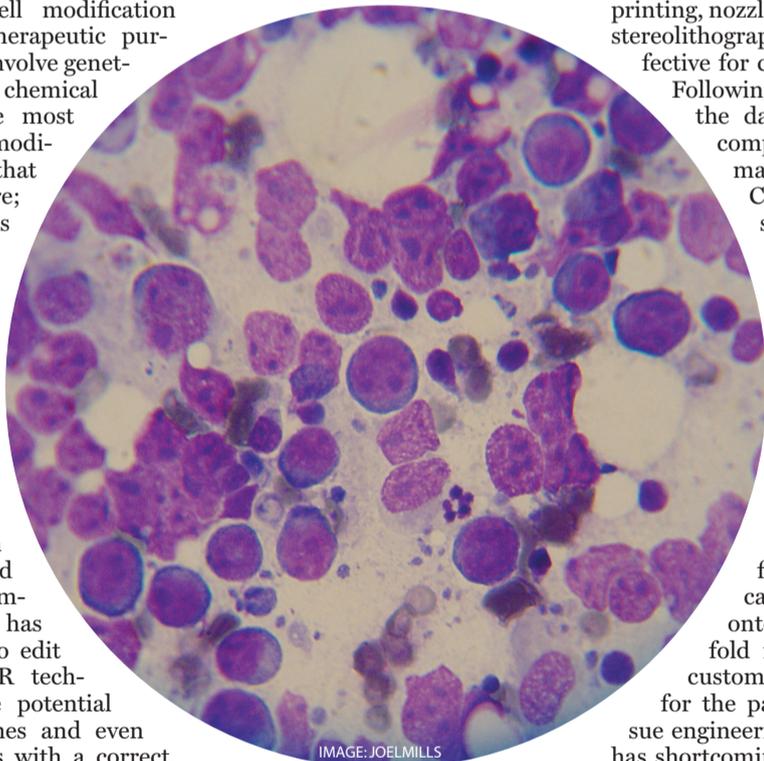
Following a CT or MRI scan, the data is processed by computer-aided design manufacturing (CAD/CAM systems) into a series of thin cross-sectional layers, which are bound together using these various technologies.

Based on a CAD system, the synthetic polymer, such as polycaprolactone, can be used to engineer a bone graft scaffold. Bone growth can be promoted onto the polymer scaffold in order to leave a custom-made graft ready for the patient. Cell and tissue engineering is incredible but has shortcomings within the field, which is why these techniques are constantly being developed.

Increasing research in cellular manipulation, bioreactor technology and scaffold-forming techniques will be imperative in order to help alleviate health disorders and disease-related conditions. This is especially relevant with our increasing global population and consequentially, increasing demand for such treatments. The day when tissues and organs can be synthesised in vitro and tailored to the genetic make up of an individual is close. It is only a matter of time before such methods become common medical practices.

successful in the cloning of Dolly the sheep in 1996. This method involves the removal of the nucleus from an egg cell and then the addition of a nucleus from a cell of the patient, which can then be fertilised in vitro.

Embryonic stem cells can be extracted from the inner cell mass. This isn't as common now due to the movement toward induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. A pluripotent stem cell refers to a cell that has the potential to differentiate into any of the three germ layers - in other words, they are very useful for tissue engineering. First



YORK RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

This edition, Nathan Castro meets with Biology's Dr Ian Graham to discuss his career

Department: Biology

Current project: Measurement of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in bespoke hemp oil seed varieties.

Advice to aspiring scientists: "If you're passionate about your subject you'll find ways to solve problems"

Selected publication: The genetic map of *Artemisia annua* L. identifies loci affecting yield of the antimalarial drug artemisinin



OUR UNIVERSITY'S academics pride themselves in conducting research into areas that get us one step closer to solving issues of global importance. This trend is especially seen within the Department of Biology. For this reason, you would have trouble finding a more fitting character to head the department than Dr Ian Graham. To say the very least, Dr Graham is a devoted scientist who has conducted research across institutions including Stanford and Oxford. Dr Graham has attempted to address the real world issue of shortages in plant-based medicinal ingredients. This includes noscapine-producing poppies (*Papaver somniferum*) used for their cough-suppressing and potentially anti-cancer characteristics, as well as sweet wormwood (*Artemisia annua*) more recently applied to treat malaria.

The 1970s discovery that a compound produced by *A.annua* named Artemisinin was useful in treating malaria when combined with other medicinal compounds earned Chinese chemist YouYou Tu the 2015 Nobel Prize for Medicine. It was after her discovery that Artemisinin Combination Therapies (ACTs) became the WHO recommended treatment for malaria in 2001. Following this suggestion, demand for ACTs grew which led to an increase in the price of *A.annua*. This consequently led to a decrease in accessibility for lower income individuals suffering from malaria. The Centre for Novel Agricultural Products (CNAP) at the University established an *Artemisia* focused project in 2006 funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr Graham led the project alongside Dr Dianna Bowles. The team worked to selectively breed a hybrid strain of *A.annua* which yielded high levels of Artemisinin, and was also resistant to particular climates.

After the creation of the strain named Hyb8001r, rigorous test trials were held in 13 locations across China, India, Madagascar and Uganda. In all cases, mean Artemisinin yields of Hyb8001r were higher than those of an existing strain. Hyb8001r went on to be registered in China —the world's largest

grower of *Artemisia*— under the name 药客佳蒿1号 (pronounced YaoKe JiaHao YiaHao first word sounding like 'York') whose symbols mean 'medicine man', 'good *Artemisia* variety' and 'number 1', respectively. The CNAP is now partnered with Thailand-based company East-West Seed to further produce and distribute the high-yielding seeds in order to increase global inventory of Artemisinin and decrease prices making ACTs more accessible for those who need them. Dr Graham was awarded the Heatley Medal by the Biochemical Society last year. The medal is awarded to an individual for their work in applying biochemistry for the widespread benefit of society.

Apart from his long-term work towards improving Artemisinin yields, Dr Graham also led the team that uncovered the gene in *P.somniferum* which allows the species to produce morphinans (class of compounds that include morphine and codeine). Identification of the STORR gene was the last piece needed to deduce the metabolic pathway used by *P.somniferum* to synthesise morphine. The discovery opens many doors including the possibility of creating microbes which synthesise these medicinal compounds. Importantly, it gives us the chance to apply molecular plant breeding techniques to create bespoke high compound yielding hybrids of *P.somniferum*. Previously funded by the opiate branch of GSK, the University team continued working alongside Sun Pharmaceuticals after they purchased the branch. A new poppy variety created by the researchers has reduced the cost of producing noscapine by 25 per cent in the last three years. These poppies provided an estimated 70 per cent of global noscapine supply for cough suppressants in 2016-2017.

The Fellow of the Royal Society believes the most important thing we can do as students is identify what interests us most and pursue these with passion. Coming from a small farm in County Tyrone of northwest Ireland, Dr Graham is proof that genuine passion can bring you one step closer to success.

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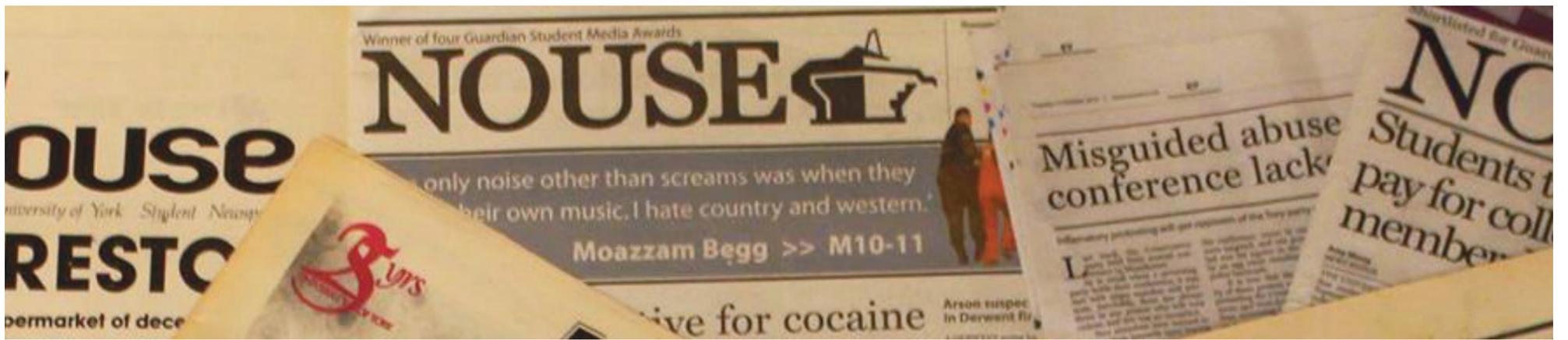
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NOUSE TRIES... Floorball

Adam Philpott sticks his hat in the ring to try floorball for *Nouse*



Adam Philpott
SPORT EDITOR

FLOORBALL. NEVER heard of it, you may be thinking. Neither had I until I reached the 'F' section of YUSU's A-Z list of sports clubs as I searched for my next *Nouse Tries* venture. So I was absolutely turning up to floorball's first training session of 2018 with little more than the assumption that it must involve moving a ball around a floor. Despite this, I am told by my co-editor that I did not look completely incompetent among the other 19 floorballers as he snapped shots of yours truly from the sidelines.

Luckily, I had energetic captain Francis Overton-Eccles to fill my knowledge gap. Floorball is a Scandinavian sport which originated in 1970s Sweden and is probably best defined as ice hockey but without the ice. Sticks are used to manoeuvre lightweight perforated plastic balls around an indoor surface and into 160 x 115cm goals.

The club's short history is remarkable. Founded just three years ago and with less than ten members in its first two years, floorball has seen a tripling of its membership in this latest academic year. The club has also ventured into competitive matches, culminating in a premier Merrell team of the week award last term.

The club does not compete in BUCS or Roses (I'm told Lancaster are too scared to field a team), but they arrange friendly matches and one-day tournaments with other universities. The club's small nature makes it akin to a small country village: everyone knows everyone and

that is one of the club's greatest features. It also means that there are lots of opportunities for beginners.

Speaking to as many members as I could amid the fast-paced session, some said that they joined through a Give It A Go session others, because they wanted to partake in a sport that would tire them out (they sure got what they bargained for), and one could not refuse joining after winning a year's free membership.

It was then time for the session to begin with a light warm-up. Francis, who has been playing since the age of ten, having been born in one of the very few English floorball hotspots, armed me with the equipment needed to work through basic control and passing drills.

We then joined the rest of the group for a shooting drill, in which I had the pleasure of embarrassing myself in front of the group as I fluffed my inaugural shot at goal. However, I think I regained some dignity when I nutmegged the same player twice.

With this quick crash course under my belt, we then progressed to a match. Teams are mixed gender with six players including a goalkeeper. Roll-on subs were a luxury in this energy-sapping game. As for tactics, there didn't seem to be any other than run around and engage in mini stick wars for the ball. There didn't seem to be any boundaries either, with play-

ers continuing play behind the goal and right to the very edges of the arena.

The ball is very lightweight but don't be fooled into thinking it won't hurt if you happen to be in the path of a powerful shot. The copious amounts of padding and caged helmet worn by the goalkeeper is testament to that. I was worried about getting hit at pace with the ball only to experience greater danger from the side-lines, as one ultimate frisbee player came crashing into me through the arena divides.

The session finished with penalty practice. These are not like penalties in football where you hit a stationary ball from a specified distance. In fact, they are much more interesting. Penalties in floorball involve moving the ball forward (and only forward) from the half-way line and shooting from any distance. Although, don't get too close as the goalkeepers have a brave and remarkable ability to steal the ball from you. The more advanced floorballers took this as an opportunity to showcase their skill as they rounded the goalkeeper before scoring. I, on the other hand, was just aiming to get a clean contact on the ball.

Overall, I managed to survive the 90-minute energetic session relatively unembarrassed. It proved exactly why we do *Nouse Tries* - to find hidden gems. The floorball club is an inspiration to smaller sports teams: the club consists of friendly and inclusive people, and is a wonderful outlet for the growing sport. It is not hard to see why the club is going from strength to strength. If you fancy giving it a go, the club enrolls new members all year round, and there could not be a better time to join this up-and-coming club.

If you would like to know more, or if you're interested in floorball contact floorball@yusu.co.uk.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Chay Quinn
SPORT EDITOR



NEW YEAR, new Sport Editor. *Nouse* is back for another edition. First off the bat, I'd like to thank Max Morrison for his contributions to the section for the last two editions. After the mad stress of exam season, BUCS teams are gearing up for their next round of fixtures and the qualifying rounds of Varsity at the beginning of next month. Exciting times!

Congratulations to my co-editor Adam Philpott and York 1s for a brilliant tournament campaign in Coventry this weekend.

Unfortunately for us, BUCS fixtures start again the day after this edition and thus there is nothing for us to report on. Despite this, the section has stories a little more exciting than the never-ending transfer carousel you can find in the nationals (at this point, I wouldn't care if Alexis Sanchez signed for York City).

In the first *Nouse* of 2018, we review 2017 in campus sports with help from York Sport Presi-

dent Laura Carruthers. Trust me when I say that some of these moments really walk the line between good and bad and are well worth the read.

After the hustle and bustle of the jam-packed Christmas sporting calendar, January can seem rather dry, but it is the perfect chance to, in the spirit of the New Year, either take up or start watching sports off the beaten track. Perhaps it's time to try floorball, dodgeball or octopush?

We also preview the upcoming Super Bowl LII and the continuing Australian Open which, it seems, is as open as a major has been in years with the absences of Murray, Nishikori and Williams.

Finally, we cover the Darts Club and their brilliant new wheelchair access stand which was christened with a visit from World Masters Champion and runner-up, Kev Turner and Phil Lees.

If you made it this far, then you have done better than most. I will sign off with a look forward to the great year of campus and national sport we have in stored. With the Winter Olympics in less than a month and the fever of the World Cup which kicks off on 14 June 2018, looks to be a classic year of national sport. And campus sports go even better with February's Varsity and away Roses. It's going to be a great one.

TEAMMATES

Nouse talks to American Football's Julian Prada

Name: Julian Prada

Position: Outside linebacker
Course: Business Management
Year: 2

Most Dedicated:
Dan Denby - he has never missed training or match.

Biggest Lightweight:
Leon Cawsey - he once even spent the night in hospital and required help to go to the toilet.

Best Motivator:
Coach Nick - he's the boss.

Most Improved:
I'd have to say myself! I've gone from third string to the first team.

Most Natural Ability:
Henry Young - it can take three or four guys to tackle him.

Ladies' Man:
Rafe Hallett - he always scores on a night out and loves to brag about it. I suppose the six pack helps.

Best Fresher:
Timothy Sonuga - he can squat 150 kilograms and leg press 350 kilograms.



IMAGE: FACEBOOK

Super Bowl fever descends upon Minnesota

A preview of the end to the NFL season: Super Bowl LII, featuring Justin Timberlake and chicken wings

Alexander Woodward
SPORT CORRESPONDENT

NEXT MONTH, ONE of America's biggest holidays will return again: Super Bowl Sunday, the finale to the NFL season in which two teams will fight for the right to call themselves 'World Champions'.

With the competition set for Super Bowl LII. Which will see the 13-3 AFC Champions New England Patriots face off against the 13-3 NFC Champions Philadelphia Eagles in a rematch of Super Bowl XXXIX, which saw the Patriots win. New England are attempting to become the first team since themselves 2004, 2005 to win back to back Super Bowls.

The event has a massive audience. Around 180 million people in the US will be tuning in, around half of the nation's population.

While still on the fringes of mainstream sport in the UK, a further two million will be watching from the UK, a huge rise from the 820 000 who watched the Giants beat the Patriots in 2008.

This growth in UK popularity can be attributed to the development of the NFL International Series Games being held in the city of London.



Starting in 2007, regular season games have been held in London and this has bolstered calls for a London-based franchise. The Super Bowl is the showpiece end to the NFL and this year, its 52nd iteration, will be held at the US Bank Stadium in Minnesota.

The game has included some

of the biggest moments in the history of the sport including last year's Patriots coming back from 25 points down to defeat the Falcons in the first ever Super Bowl to go to overtime.

Before the game, the national anthem will be performed by P!nk, an event that has added significance

given the recent protest controversies. Previous game performers have included Katy Perry and Lady Gaga.

The Half-Time Show has grown into a spectacle in its own right, with it being a rite of passage for any superstar. This year will see Justin Timberlake as the main performer for the second time. His first

Half-Time Show appearance lives in infamy after he accidentally ripped off a piece of Janet Jackson's clothing. The Super Bowl is huge for the American economy with 30 seconds of ad time costing an eye-watering \$5 million.

Companies aren't the only ones spending big though. Overall, on food, decorations and team apparel, it is estimated that Americans will spend around \$14.1bn more than on Halloween or Independence Day. During the game an estimated 1.33bn chicken wings and 12.5m

1.33bn Number of chicken wings that will be eaten on Super Bowl Sunday

pizzas will be eaten with a further \$2.3 bn will be spent on alcohol. For those wanting to see the match live in Minnesota, they will have to pay an average of \$2,500 for tickets.

All of this combines to create the magic of the Super Bowl: the two best teams clashing on the biggest stage.

Coverage of the Super Bowl will be on Sunday 4 February on BBC One, Sky Sports Main Event and NFL Game Pass. Kick off is at 11:30 PM and the game will finish at around 4AM.

The heat is on Down Under with no favourites

A profile of the contenders to win the 2018 Australian Open: the most open tennis major in recent years

Kathryn Batte
SPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE HEAT IS on Down Under as Grand Slam Title is wide open. Both men and women's competitions lack clear favourites as 2018's first grand slam gets underway.

The Australian Open kicked off in the searing heat of Melbourne on the 14 January, and with the absence of some of the sports best players, the first grand slam title of 2018 is very much up for grabs. Britain's #1, Andy Murray, and Kei Nishikori withdrew before the start of the tournament and there have been question marks over the fitness of Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal as they return from injury. Because of this, many have made the 2017 winner, Roger Federer, the favourite to retain his title.

While the traditional quadrilateral dominance of Murray, Djokovic, Federer and Nadal could continue, this is perhaps the best chance of recent years for a new name to emerge and take the limelight for themselves. Despite this,

bookmakers have three of the previously dominant powers as the favourites for the men's title.

However, there are a few names that could challenge the Swiss who are not in the traditional parameters of the so-called Big Four. Two of them will face off against each other on Tuesday in what looks certain to be a fantastic encounter. Grigor Dimitrov beat Australia's only contender, Nick Kyrgios, to earn himself a place in the quarter-finals in a thrilling game of tennis.

Having won the ATP finals in November, Grigor Dimitrov will surely be fancying his chances at another grand slam title this month. The current world #3 was ranked #40 only 18 months ago, but a fantastic 2017, which included the aforementioned first

win, his Masters 1000 crown in

Cincinnati among four titles, and an Australian Open semi-final appearance, cemented his position as one of the best players in the world. The Bulgarian will be hoping he can go one round further this time and the book-makers' make him fourth favourite with odds of 11/1.

Standing in his way is Britain's only entry in the tournament, 23-year old Kyle Edmund, who is flying the flag for East Yorkshire. The man from Beverley is ranked #49 in the world and got the best win of his career in terms of ranking when he defeated eleventh seed Kevin Anderson in the first round. Victory against Italy's Andreas Seppi saw Edmund reach his first grand-slam quarter-final after coming back from a set down to claim his spot among the last eight. His success couldn't have come at a better time for British tennis with concerns over Andy Murray's future.

The Scot has sent Edmund several supportive messages on Twitter and there is a chance that the Yorkshireman could replace him as Britain's number one before he hopefully returns to action in the summer. No doubt Edmund has done himself proud to get this far and he will fancy his chances at progressing now

he has a taste for victory, but the tie against Dimitrov will be the biggest test of his career.

The women's competition is also hard to predict and arguably the most open it has been for a long time. With Serena Williams absent on maternity leave and her sister Venus knocked out early on, we could potentially see a new champion emerge. Britain's hopes of triumph were dashed when Johanna Konta suffered a shock defeat in the second round to Bernarda Pera, who only entered the main draw due to the withdrawal of other players.

Former world #1, Caroline Wozniacki, booked her place in the quarter-finals with a win over Magdalena Rybarikova in straight sets. The Dane looked confident and determined as she eased past her opponent, announcing herself as a firm contender for the grand slam title. Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro stands in her way of reaching the semi-final but it will be a

tough ask for the unseeded player, especially with Wozniacki in this type of form.

The Ukrainian, Elina Svitolina, also made her first Australian Open quarter-final after beating Denisa Allertova in just 57 minutes and will play Elise Mertens on Tuesday. The unseeded Mertens became the first Belgian to reach this stage in Australia since Kim Clijsters in 2012. Svitolina will be the favourite but Mertens has showed her ability and should give Svitolina a battle.

As we approach the latter stages of the tournament, this has arguably been one of the most open grand slams, we have seen in a long time, in both the men and women's competitions.

The absence of a stand-out favourite could mean that we will see the crowning of two brand new grand slam champions come the 28 January 2018.



Campus sport at York: The best and the rest

Nouse Sport sits down with York Sport President Laura Carruthers to bring you a wrap up of the best York sporting moments in 2017



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

Basketball Roses Opening Thriller

THE 2017 EDITION of Battle of the Roses, the annual commencement of the Lancs-York rivalry, opened with a tantalizing Basketball match between the white rose of York and the red rose of Lancaster. A packed York Sports Centre saw the Lancastrians taking the lead in the first quarter of the game, with York falling further and further behind in spite of the boisterous support the home team received from their fellow students. York entered the last quarter of the game twelve points behind Lancaster, the score being 32-44. It was seven minutes before the end of the game when the winds of change turned the game in York's favour. York's attack managed a three-pointer, followed quickly by four points with shots from the line. With shouts of "York-shire, York-shire" cheering them on, York did what had seemed impossible and pulled even. With 30 seconds left, York Basketball delivered the winning shot and the biggest comeback the Roses had to offer that year.

The match, which is still spoken about in 'Nouse Towers', lives in the memory of the sports team and elevated the scorer of the winning basket. The atmosphere inside the York Sports Centre was electric and kicked off the eventually victorious Roses campaign in fine style, and allowed the hype of this seminal match to permeate through the rest of the Roses weekend.

Lacrosse

ANOTHER MOMENT to remember in 2017 was the success of the York Men's lacrosse 1s. The 1s bounced back in incredible fashion to reach the final of the Northern Conference Cup. After falling at the first hurdle, not being able to get past the first round in the previous two years, York men's saw their fortunes finally turn around with a marvellous run to the final. Despite losing the final 13-2 to Manchester Metropolitan University, this should not deflect from their remarkable achievement of reaching the final. This fine form was supported by their league performances: the men's team won seven games in a row on their way to a second-place finish in the BUCS Northern 2B league. At the end of 2017 the team sat top of their division having won all six of their games with a goal difference of 56, yet another feat to add to their fantastic year.

The Lacrosse team is one of the premier sports teams at York and we can only hope that this success in the top tier of campus sport continues with the men's team going one step further and bringing the Northern Conference Cup to York, and to help achieve York's goal of being a top 35 sports university in the UK.

Swimming

ANOTHER HIGHLIGHT of 2017 was the success of York swimmers, breaking several records as they continued their impressive form throughout 2017. The event saw the women's freestyle relay team of Rebecca Britten, Jodie Alder, Nisha Desai and Ellie Griffin set a blisteringly quick time of 4:16:23 and qualify for a national final as a result. Women's captain Fiona Whiting said of the achievements "this is the best result we have ever had from the women." So impressive were the swimmers, during their competition in BUCS long course in Sheffield, that their brilliance was recognised by British Olympic swimmer, and current backstroke world record holder in 50 and 100



IMAGE: REBECCA HALL

Rowing

WHEN TALKING ABOUT York sporting highlights of 2017, this moment may not qualify as a "highlight" per se but it was so brilliantly terrible that we had to include it: the debacle that faced the rowing team at the BUCS Rowing 8s Head. After not having a suitable boat to race in, the team had to hire a boat in order to compete in the race. However, during the warm-up a footplate on the boat broke. With the boat beyond repair the team had to try and find another boat to hire. The team luckily managed to get another hired boat with time to spare before the race. Unfortunately, the boat they hired was a women's boat designed to hold less weight and as a result a seat broke. The team were then told they could not race without a replacement seat. After a manic period just before the race the team fortuitously managed to find a replacement seat, allowing them to compete in the race. The team eventually finished 14th, 12 places greater than last year. A truly remarkable turn of events, but still some way off the expectations of a team who seem to train more times than they have meals and talk incessantly about the ever-changing world of training to race a boat down the river.

Honorable Mentions

2017 WAS A YEAR full of memorable moments and for all those not already included, here are our honourable mentions: Roses saw the vice-chancellor's croquet interrupted by two hedgehogs after then YUSU president Millie Beach spotted them in a gutter. The two were named Henry and Edward, after the War of the Roses monarchs.

Badminton women's 2s secured the two points for the white rose that pushed York over the winning line in 2017 Roses, the team was unaware of the significance of their win. *Nouse* had the pleasure of enlightening them.

In the summer of 2017 Jacob Phillips, then-Deputy Sports Editor, was a volunteer giving an insider's perspective on the IAAF World Championships, noting both the ascendancy of cheeky Nandos into professional athletics and the incredible dedication and determination it takes to make it in athletics. And it turns out Justin Gatlin is an alright guy after all.

Looking ahead into 2018, we are just hoping that the Roses catastrophe does not repeat itself.

Nouse tries

OVER THE PAST year many a *Nouse Sport* Editor and Deputy Sport Editor have committed themselves to partake in all kinds of sports. We have thrown editors out of planes, drowned them in canoes, made them play underwater hockey, and asked: if they can dodge a wrench, can they dodge a ball? Our favourite *Nouse Tries* have been our current editor and *Nouse Sport* alumni Jacob Phillips' foray into the exhilarating world of skydiving whilst grappling with a fear of flying. Once he managed to get up there and began his descent, he was able to bask in the subtle beauty of Swindon and all the iconic sights that it entails, which consists of one Honda factory and a filming spot for BBC's *Crimewatch*; observations which has made him a very popular man at the Swindon Tourist Board, we hear.

Also notable is when current Sport Editor, Adam Philpott, tried Octopush, or underwater hockey to the common pleb; a sport which, as he put it, would be great as an ice-breaker on your next Tinder date. Adam can't be said to have taken to the sport like a duck to water with

his own words describing his "floundering on the surface... coughing and gasping for air".

Finally, the visual juxtaposition of the deft and toned figures of gymnasts with the hulking physique of former *Nouse* Deputy Sports Editor Jake Tattersdill, provided some of the most hilarious action shots of this year in *Nouse* (although Jacob's pre-skydive look of terror gives it some fierce competition) and had both the editorial team and the *Nouse* readership baffled as to how he managed to defy physics and complete a front flip.

Here's to another year of editors making prats out of themselves. In the next edition you will see Chay take on his first *Nouse Tries* by trying parkour, a sport that he is quoted to have only known from Michael Scott, Dwight Schrute and Andy Bernard from *Casino Royale*. Let's hope that it doesn't end up with him in a cardboard box, however, considering this is a man who had to go to hospital after mis-controlling a pass in a game of five-a-side football. The results should ensue with the same hilarity which Jacob, Jake and Adam set.

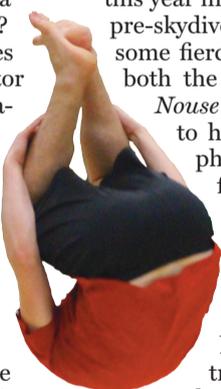


IMAGE: ELLIE HOPLEY

Termed gym memberships introduced by York Sport Prez

On 4 January, York Sport President Laura Carruthers, fulfilling one of her campaign promises, announced on Facebook that she had managed to convince York Sport to offer termly gym memberships to students of the University. She added: "As a special starter offer, until 28 January you can buy TWO TERMS worth of gym membership at the Sports Centre for just 120 pounds!" This offer includes during the Easter holidays.

Autumn term college sport tables are released

Following the end of the Autumn Term, the College Sport at York team have published the final version of the College Sport Table on their Facebook page. Starting the new year on top is Halifax who lead the way with a remarkable 919 points, shortly followed by Derwent (890) and Langwith (808) respectively. If you're wondering how these points are allocated to each college, a guide to explain is available online.

Varsity qualifiers near as college teams prepare to do battle

The qualifiers for Varsity take place from 3-4 February as the colleges fight for the right to face Durham at the Varsity tournament proper on 25 February. York colleges will be looking to avenge last year's 94-31 mauling on Durham's turf. They look to reclaim the Varsity title again after losing their title last year.

ActiveYork awards nominations open

Nominations for the Active York 2018 award are now open for their fifth year. Nominations close on 9 February for a selection of 16 different categories. The award rewards the commitment, dedication and subsequent success of York-based sportspeople with specialist categories for the Young Sportspeople and Student Sportspeople of the year. Nominations are open until Friday 9 February with the winner being announced at a ceremony at the Roger Kirk Centre on Thursday 22 March.

York 1s pocket the title at Coventry Open

Adam Philpott
SPORT EDITOR

THREE TEAMS REPRESENTING the University of York Pool Club made the trip to Coventry to participate in a multi-university tournament. Returning victorious, with York 1s winning the team tournament with a convincing 6-2 win over Leeds 1s in the final.

On arrival it was not hard to find the York team. They were in the corner on the beers by 11am.

Teams from the Universities of York, Leeds, Aston, Warwick, Birmingham, Northampton, and Coventry convened to create a 19 team, 91 player tournament, divided into 4 groups, with the top 2 progressing. York 1s expected to go far in the tournament and this expectation was realised as they stormed their group to finish top and earn themselves an easier next round opponent as top-seeds. The 2s and 3s did not manage to match the 1s success with both failing to secure a top-two finish in their groups.

York 1s' quarter-final match against Aston 1s ended with a comfortable 6-1 victory. Calum Goodwin and Joe Kimbling put York 2-0 in



front before Rowan Gould played the shot of the match – placing his yellow between an over-the-pocket black and the jaw, leaving his opponent with no option but to foul – in his win which made it 3-0. Joe Kimbling secured the fourth frame by potting the black off of the cushion to quash any comeback.

Competing with Coventry 1s in said semi-final. Coventry won the opening frame, but York went on to

win the next five placing themselves firmly in the ascendancy. Coventry kept the affair alive by winning the 7th frame, but Sean Terry dashed hopes of a Coventry comeback by securing the all-important sixth win to set up a North East derby final against Leeds 1s.

Goodwin ensured the first frame of the final went to York. Tom Dee then came out on top in a dramatic finish to his frame against Paul Al-

len in which Allen potted the white when looking for position on the black. Dee sunk the black to make it 2-0. Terry then made it three, before Michael McDermott pulled one back for Leeds.

Despite the intensity of a tournament final, the York team continued to have a beer in hand, if not the cue. And they had every right to be confident with Kimbling making it 4-1. A Dee-Allen rematch resulted in Leeds pulling another one back, but wins from Gould and Kimbling earned York 1s a brilliant victory, silverware, and £375 prize money.

Club president Tom Dee said: "Incredibly proud to have taken down the Coventry Open 2018 pool tournament this weekend... [N]ow hopefully onwards to more pool and trophies the rest of the year!"

York also had success in the singles tournament. Kimbling went the furthest with a run to the semi-final which he lost 2-0 to Birmingham's Sam Eardley. Regardless, his third-place finish was a triumph for the club. Particularly notable was the fact that seven York players reached the last-32 with *Nouse* Sports Editor Adam Philpott amongst them.

The team victory and the successes of the singles players mark this tournament as a seminal moment in the history of the Club.

Campus East sees parkrun's opening

Virginia Stichweh
DEPUTY SPORT EDITOR

THIS JANUARY Heslington acquired its very own parkrun. Parkrun is a collective of locally organised five-kilometre runs taking place on five continents and in eighteen countries every Saturday, free of charge and open to everyone.

Runners register online, and the only thing one needs to bring is a printed version of the barcode one is given upon registration. All runs are timed and what is more, use Age Grading. This means runners are given a percentage calculated with the help of their own time and the world record for their gender and age category, which allows them to compare their time across categories.

On 13 January at 9AM, 532 runners and 26 volunteers gathered on the cycle circuit next to the Sport Village on Campus East for the inauguration of Heslington's course. 532 runners took part, with a group of men and women of all ages: from children below the age of 10 to adults above the age of 70. At the very back of the line-up runners were pushing prams, at the front those who had come with a more competitive spirit surged forward at the queue. Heslington's parkrun is an out-and-back course, composed of two kilometres on the cycle circuit and three on

Lakeside Way, taking you past Campus East and back. The first to cross the finish line that day was Gegan Clarkson, with a time of 16:27.

"It was a lovely parkrun," Mr. Clarkson commented, "first one I have done using part of a cycle track. Great set up and well organised. Great course." His enthusiasm has since been echoed many times. In fact, overall, the Heslington parkrun has received nothing but positive feedback.

Emily Baines (20:36), a 2016 graduate of York and the third woman to cross the finish line that day, also praised the organisation, adding: "the volunteers were really supportive, as is always the case with parkrun."

This is certainly why people keep coming back to parkrun. Everyone was a first-timer on Heslington's course on Saturday but for most it wasn't their first parkrun. parkrun awards badges for participation that come with free T-shirts. The marks are at 50, 100, 250, but of course no one had Dave John Williamson beat, running his 442nd parkrun.

It is in part the concept's popularity which has brought a parkrun to Heslington. The initiative came from the one other York parkrun in Knavesmire, which had become over-popular. But, in the end, it was a group effort: Heslington's current team of run directors and volunteers coming together with the University, the Sport Village and the Student

Union, the latter represented on Saturday by Alex Urquhart, York's Student Union President.

The University is an ideal location, as it has the space, but organisers also anticipated quite a high turnout from University runners. There are after all quite a few of them and Knavesmire is quite a distance to travel for many students. So far, they've not been disappointed. Sean Flanagan (16:42), a University of York student, finished second in the inaugural race. Many others participated and some have already joined the ranks of the volunteers.

"We're ticking so many boxes here," said Rob Hunt, one of the run directors on the Heslington team and Head of Procurement at the University, "community engagement, student engagement, wellbeing." Andrew McMorris, another run director in Heslington, stresses the importance of inclusivity. "The inclusivity of getting people to do walking or run-walking," he says.

Inclusivity has become one of parkrun's central tenets, as the organisation has grown from a group of thirteen runners in London's Bushy Park to an international commu-

nity. Not least does parkrun emphasize that by expanding into new territory. In November 2017, the HMP Ha-verigg in Cumbria became the first prison to have a parkrun.

As diverse as the people, the ages and motivations are, what people bring to a parkrun as varied as ours are their speeds. Forty-five minutes after Gegan Clarkson, the last runners crossed the finish line.

"I t doesn't matter as well" remarks Rob Hunt on that topic. "Everybody is doing their own run." He says this one week later, standing outside York Sport Village, and surrounded by a group of other volunteers, having just cancelled the second parkrun due to ice on the cycle circuit. They have stayed behind, to inform those runners who did not see the cancellation on Heslington parkrun's Facebook page an hour earlier.

Everybody agrees, "It's a run, not a race." If one is writing about parkrun, it is important to mention that, they stress. It's a run, not a race.



2017 Summary

We discuss the best of campus sport in 2017 with Laura Carruthers P.26



Nouse Tries

Adam Philpott tries his hand at floorball P.24



Super Bowl LII

We preview the pinnacle of the US sporting calendar P.25



N SPORT

Tuesday 23 January 2018



Darts Club unveil wheelchair access equipment

Mark Curran
SPORT CORRESPONDENT

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY, saw the University Darts Club host an event with the British Disability Darts Association (BDDA) to showcase their new disability access stand with the intention to show that “darts can be played by anybody, no matter what their physical ability”.

The centrepiece of the event was the club’s new Wildfire 137 stand. The stand was secured with the help of YUSU, as they “saw the potential.” Furthermore, the event was also used as a way to promote disability darts as a sport. The Wildfire 137 allows darts players in a wheelchair to play against somebody who is standing. It allows this due to the board having one side showing a regulation height board and the other showing a lower board for wheelchair players, which is revealed with a simple rotation.

This follows the news covered by Max Morrison earlier this academic year announcing that York Darts Club would become the first university club in the UK to gain



The University Darts Club is the first in the UK to use the Wildfire 137 apparatus

the specialised stand, allowing players in wheelchairs to compete against standing players in a move to try and break down the barriers between able-bodied and disabled sport. Those present at the event included two special guests, the 2017 World Master’s Champion Kev Turner and the runner-up Phil Lees. The visit from the two pros was designed to encourage a new generation of wheelchair players to try out for the York Darts Team. Making darts accessible to all is a massive step and hopefully some more

sports will also follow the example set by the darts team.

The players in attendance from the BDDA had come from far and wide to see Kev and Phil in action, including locations as far as Sunderland and Manchester.

The players from the BDDA and the University were randomly assigned to create two random teams to compete against each other in an effort to show that the event was all about enjoying the sport together regardless of disability.

One team was captained by the current Club President, Mark Curran, and the other by Kev Turner. In what was a close and scintillating game Team Kev edged out Team Curran to narrowly win 6-4, with Alex Deakin winning the deciding match to secure the victory. An honourable mention must go to Jake Walpole, captain of the University’s second team. In a remarkable series of events, York Darts member Jake amazingly managed to beat World Master’s Champion Kev 2-1 to record a memorable victory which

will surely live long in the collective Darts Club memory.

To demonstrate the commitment to equality of the University Darts Club and the event it was unanimously agreed that the two wheelchair players present, Darren Brook and Denis Chadwick, local York residents, would play the last leg to promote wheelchair darts. In a nail-biting affair Denis finished with double one to take victory and the winner’s trophy home.

Although Kev’s team and Denis had won their respective matches, the big winner was darts. The event not only showcased the Darts Club’s commitment to inclusivity but also managed to successfully run an event with a national governing body, which is no mean feat.

After the event, BDDA member and player of the day Tony Pass noted that “The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part and the BDDA were delighted to have been asked to participate in this event.

This is also representative of the wider success for the University

as a whole as it shows that not only does the University support inclusivity as an abstract concept, it actively works towards achieving this goal.

Hopefully word will spread of darts for all and we will be able to take part in another darts event at the University of York in the future.

The event was witnessed by a large crowd eager to see the 2017 World Master and runner-up in action, those watching included YUSU Sport President Laura Carruthers, and the Darts Club thanked Harriet and all the staff at The Lounge, as well as the BDDA for such an amazing and memorable event.

If you’re interested in joining the Darts Club, it costs £10. Membership includes free access to the ranking tournament, allows you to play for a uni team, discounted unicorn darts merchandise and drinks deals at YUSU bars. *If you want more information about joining the darts team, be sure to contact their President Mark Curran at mc1393@york.ac.uk.*