



Anthony Horowitz

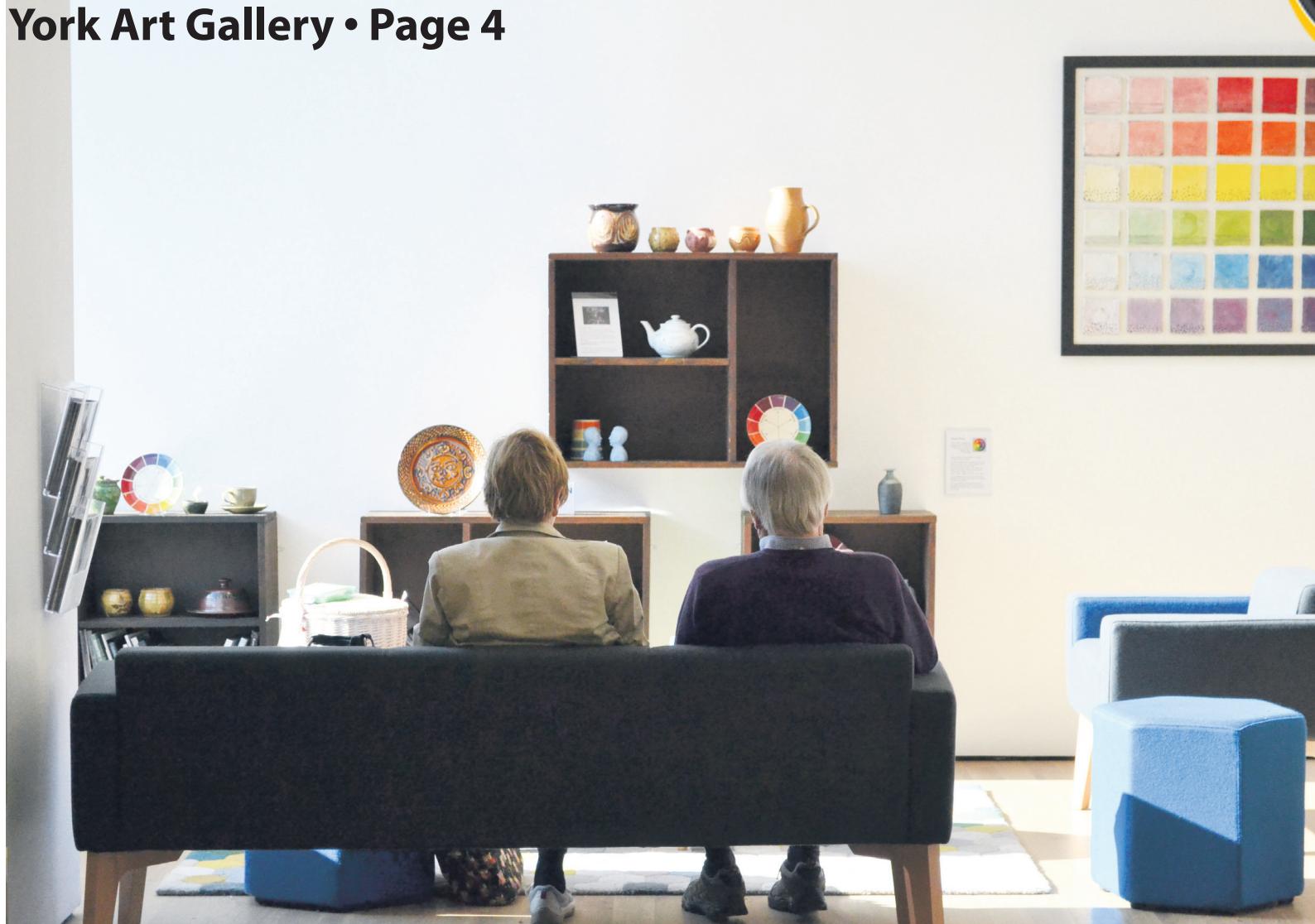
>>M4-M5



Nouse

Guardian Student Publication of the Year Runner Up 2014

York Art Gallery • Page 4

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• Who's Who?



Put a face to a name for the new York Sport committee

Sport P27

• Noel Fielding

On the 60s, handcuffing lightning and satsumas



Arts M7



• Fashion Week



Our Fashion writers with the latest trends from London Fashion Week

Fashion M10

• Proactive Apps

To help the average student banish time wasting



Science P21

Over two hundred students refused top ten accommodation preferences

• Despite indicating ten accommodation preferences, 221 students failed to receive any of their choices

Alex Hall Lewis Hill

A FREEDOM of Information request has revealed that 221 first-year students failed to receive any of their accommodation preferences.

A new system for allocating accommodation was introduced this year. It required students to select ten preferences based on a combi-

nation of college and room type in May, prior to receiving their A-Level results.

Halifax College had the fewest first choice room allocations on Heslington West, as only 95 students out of the ones included in the statistics were offered a room in the college as their first choice.

Goodricke College had the fewest first choice room allocations on

Heslington East, with just 125 students offered a room.

Just over 20 per cent of the students who were included in the data provided by the University were allocated to their fifth preference or lower.

The statistics provided by the University did not include details of allocations for students who applied for accommodation late or

who gained a place at the University through clearing.

Forty-five per cent were allocated their first choice of accommodation under the new system.

Alcuin College had the highest proportion of first choice room allocations on Heslington West with 196 students gaining their first choice. In contrast, Langwith College had the highest proportion on

Heslington East, with 201 students receiving their first preference.

Under the previous system, the choice of available accommodation was dictated by random email batches sent out to students across one day, giving them access to the live accommodation system.

A first-year student shared his

Continued on Page 3

Editorial

Nouse 

Est. 1964

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A note from the Editor

Welcome to the University of York! Or if you're a disgruntled third-year like myself, welcome back.

A lot has changed since we all left for our holidays, festivals and interrailing trips three months ago. For example, Vanbrugh Paradise has been transformed into a giant pile of mud now known as Vanbrugh Piazza.

If you've fully exhausted all conversation avenues, the vast majority

of which I can only assume start with the classic, "how was your summer?" - then perhaps the first edition of Nouse for this academic year can provide some icebreakers.

Our front page reveals that over 200 students failed to receive any of their accommodation preferences. Thankfully, alternative college accommodation has been found for them, but it does highlight one area in which the new

accommodation allocation system could be improved.

If initiating conversations using accommodation statistics isn't working, then maybe turn to our arts and culture supplement, Muse.

We have a fantastic interview with Noel Fielding as well as an interview with York alumnus Anthony Horowitz. Our writers have also previewed some of the biggest video games, TV shows and fashion

trends to keep you up to date. If you're keen to join a sports club this term, then turn to the back pages to find out who's who in the York Sport Union.

If you fancy writing for Nouse and aren't offended by blunt society plugs, then come along to our welcome meeting on Tuesday, Week 2 at 7pm in P/T/005/A. Stay safe and good luck for Freshers' Week!

Lewis



Labour's Percy Pigs **P10**
Comment



Nick Boles MP **P16**
Politics



In Our Time **M16**
Features



Halo 5 Preview **M12**
Gaming



News in brief

On & On to come to University

On & On is to host its opening party night on the University campus in the Roger Kirk Centre. The event, to take place on 9 October, has previously been held at Fibbers. The line up includes Chesus (aka Earl Jeffers), Troy, Pol and Chris Walsh. Tickets to the event cost between £6 and £9. Chesus is a House artist that has performed across Europe that is having influence on several labels at the moment. Past On & On acts include Mak & Pasteman, Low Steppa, Outboxx and Krystal Klear, among others.

Changes to the library introduced

This year sees the introduction of a hot water tap in the library – meaning that students can access hot water twenty four hours a day, seven days a week to make tea, coffee or even pot noodles in the library. This will be beneficial when the library cafe is closed. In addition there is now a laptop loan system operating in the library. There are 50 laptop stations in the library which are all accessible for four hours at a time with a student card. Fourteen iMacs have also been installed in the Harry Fairhurst building.

GSA launches mental health website

York's Graduate Student Association (GSA) has launched a website called Mind Your Head. The site provides a support network and information on mental health. Jelena Horvatic, former GSA President wrote: "Ken Leach and I were able to start a campaign that we hope will help students". Mind Your Head gives tips on how to deal with stress, where to go to for advice and information about what mental health is. The website also aims to reduce the stigma that surrounds mental health illnesses.

Willow recreated at York clubs

After the closing down of the much loved Willow, several venues across the city have begun their attempts to recreate the Willow magic. Mansion has now launched its Willow Take Away on Wednesday nights with prawn crackers and Willow DJ Max, at an entry price of £2-£3. Fibbers are also set to bring back Willow on Sunday nights. King Fong Mondays are possibly being introduced at a venue that has yet to be announced. The nightclub closed its doors after 43 years on 26 July 2015.

Nouse

Est. 1964

Want to write for us?

Get in touch: editor@nouse.co.uk

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



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Deborah Lam
Back page photo:
Phillipa Grafton
Second page photos:
Left to right: Beth
Fereday; Policy
Exchange; John Mc-
Cafferty

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Fifty-five per cent of first-year students fail to get first choice

IMAGE: NOUSE



Under the new system, Langwith had the highest proportion of first choice room allocations on Heslington East

>>> Continued from front

with *Nouse*: "I wasn't exactly thrilled when I didn't get any of my choices, especially when I spent so long narrowing down the options. However, now I've settled in I'm not that bothered by it and I'm now looking forward to the year ahead."

Meanwhile, a second-year Mathematics student commented: "It is important that new students should feel happy with their accommodation as it is the first impression they get of the University. I think the new system has definitely helped to improve that."

A third-year Environmental Science student also agreed that the new accommodation preferences system was a vast improvement on the old one.

He told *Nouse*: "I remember having to constantly refresh the webpage when choosing my accommodation just to get through to the selection page."

"The new system sounds like a vast improvement on the old one and it appears that more people will

be allocated accommodation that they actually want, instead of leaving it down to chance."

"However, it is very disappointing that, despite expressing ten different preferences, some students have not received any of their preferred accommodation options."

David Duncan, Registrar and Secretary, said: "The University's accommodation booking system invites students to express their preferences for the location and type of room they would prefer."

"Overall, we are satisfied that the system is working well, with the vast majority of students being allocated to their first preferences."

"Inevitably, in some areas demand exceeds supply; in these instances we offer rooms in colleges which are as close as possible to the preferences expressed by students."

"Where, for whatever reason, students are unhappy with their room allocation, we will of course do our best to offer them alternative accommodation."

University departments undergo talks about new opt-out lecture capture

Alex Hall

DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

MORE DEPARTMENTS are entering talks about moving to an opt-out system of lecture capture.

The system, which works on the basis of lecturers having to specifically opt-out of having their lectures recorded rather than opting in, hopes to increase the overall number of lectures recorded and made available to students across campus.

It has already been implemented widely across the Psychology, Biology and Chemistry departments, and has been well received by both students and staff.

It is also due to be implemented in the Computer Science and Environment departments this year.

A second year Psychology student, who had all of her lectures recorded last year, spoke to *Nouse* about the positive impact this had on her studies: "I was able to spend time listening to parts of lectures that I didn't quite understand or wanted to hear again."

"It was also really useful to catch up if I missed a lecture. I felt like I got value for money in my first year."

Thomas Ron, Academic Officer, has been working closely with departments over the summer to ensure that they are made fully aware of the benefits that opt-out lecture

capture can bring.

Departments that have already agreed to enter talks include: Electronics, Language and Linguistics, Law, Mathematics, Philosophy, Economics, TFTV and Politics.

Physics have already agreed to move to the system without the need to hold discussions at their Board of Studies meeting.

Ron spoke to *Nouse* about the benefits that an opt-out system can bring for students: "Lecture capture is a vital way for students to get the most out of their university experience."

"Hearing something once is often not enough; having the ability to hear it again ensures that all students can be given the opportunity to learn to their true potential."

Lecture capture is also recognised as a vital tool for students with access requirements.

Students who currently rely on handheld digital devices will gain access to higher quality recordings and not have to worry about running out of storage space.

The new system also gives students a chance to catch up with their lectures should they be ill and have them stored online to review again prior to exams.

Ron was also keen to emphasise the role that Course Reps and Department Reps can play in helping to improve student experience and

encouraged students to apply for these roles: "Course and Department Reps are a major way for students to have a voice and make their departments fit for purpose."

They are there to listen to students and ensure that we are in a strong partnership with each department.

I urge anyone who is interested to apply for Department Rep or run for Course Rep as it is a rewarding way to get the most out of university."

Applications for both Course Reps and Department Reps are open now and can be made via the YUSU website.

A third-year Applied Social Science and Social Policy student commented: "I think that this is a nice idea because it will be useful for disabled students with hearing impairments, students who have to miss lectures because of personal circumstances, or students who use lecture notes in their revision."

A third year Biology student told *Nouse*: "I'm really pleased that the rest of the University are catching up and using the opt-out lecture capture system."

"I'm also pleased that Thomas Ron has fulfilled one of his election policies and it is encouraging to see how pro-active he is in pursuing his objectives that he set out at the start of term."



Electronics and Law are two departments who have begun opt-out talks

News

University to provide scholarships to several refugees in response to crisis

Amy Bishop
NEWS EDITOR

ON BEHALF of YUSU Ben Leatham, YUSU President, has released a statement detailing the University's plans to support refugees in the Mediterranean.

There will be a number of scholarships available for refugees fleeing the crisis in Syria who would like to learn in a safe environment at the University.

The scholarship packages will total £500,000 and include a fee waiver of the entire cost of tuition, as well as £8,100 living costs.

Those who wish to study at the University as part of a scholarship package will be given "scholar rescue status" and three undergraduates over the next three years will benefit from the scheme.

Support for students currently at the University whose funding is affected unexpectedly by the crisis is also to be given, including financial help.

Professor Koen Lamberts, the vice chancellor of the University, has said: "Our commitment to helping refugees reflects the University's core values of justice and equality. We are facing a major refugee cri-

sis in Europe and the University of York will play its part in providing a safe and secure environment for displaced people to study, research and prosper."

There is to be a collection point for food and clothing items at Your-Space in the Student Centre which is being organised by RAG.

The University will be working with Yorkshire Aid to distribute the items. RAG is also looking to collect for Unicef throughout Freshers' week and the beginning of term.

This money is aimed at helping to treat those in need of medical attention and get vital medication to them. Leatham wrote: "It has become apparent over the past weeks that this is an issue that has really captured and engaged the York student body.

"It's important to our students and a strong, decisive response that reflects the University's commitment to the core values of justice and equality is welcomed."

The University is also launching a Give As You Earn scheme to encourage staff to contribute to the new refugee scholarship fund.

Research is being done in the University into the migrant crisis by Dr Simon Parker and Dr Simon Robins, from the Department of



The scholarship packages offered to refugees will total £500,000 and include a fee waiver of tuition fee costs

Politics and Centre for Applied Human Rights (CAHR) respectively.

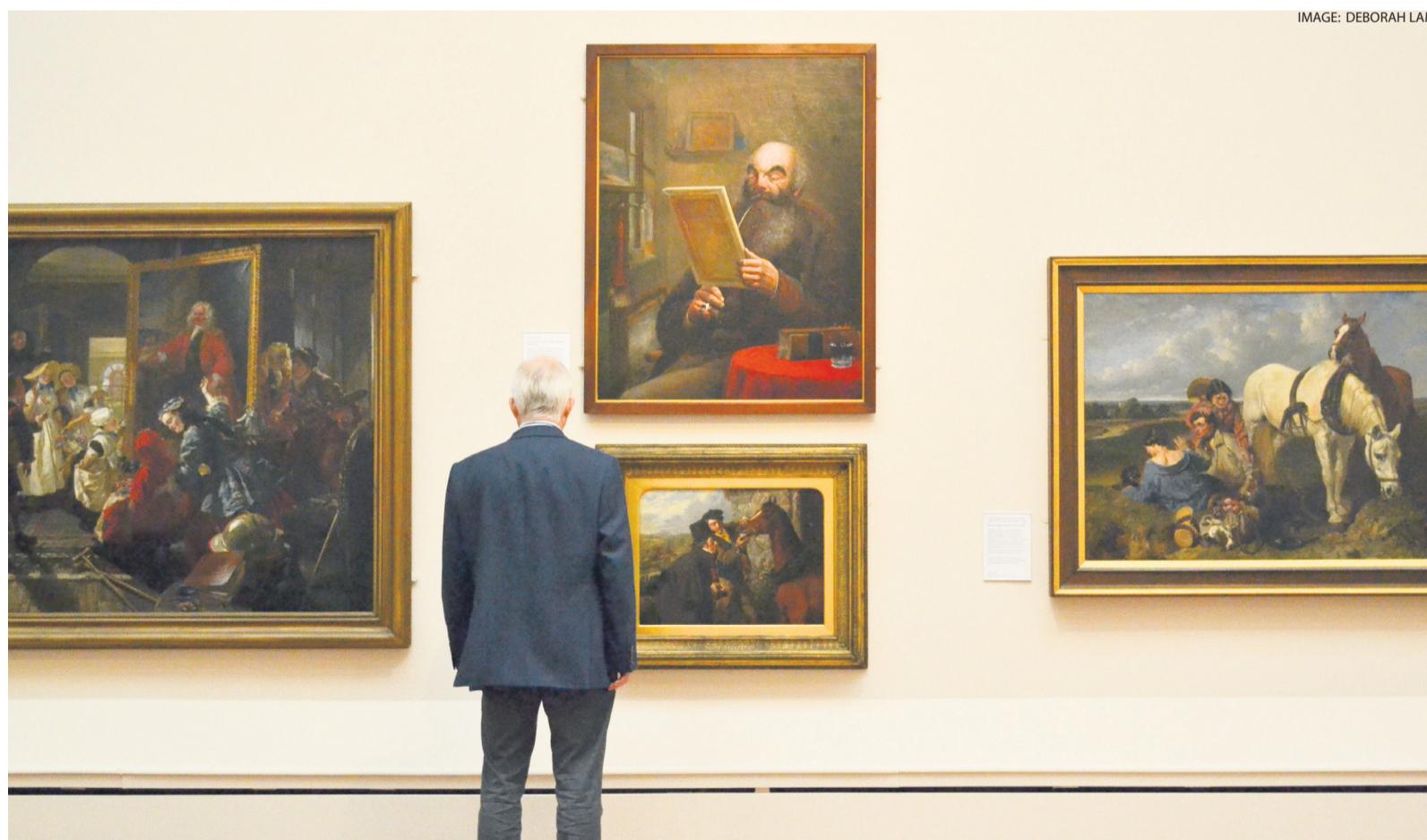
The two have been awarded funding from the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) Urgency Call to conduct the research. Dr Parker's research is looking into the human cost of the Mediterranean crisis. Dr Robins' research is looking into generating data so that there can be a systematic collection

of information about migrant bodies that have been found, and information from people looking for loved ones who have gone missing.

Across Britain the public have been trying to do their bit to help with the crisis with one in three Britons having contributed to the relief effort in some way, according to figures from the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF). Many were

moved to help by seeing the image of three year old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi washed up drowned on the beach in Turkey.

About 500,000 migrants have been moving to other countries during the crisis to flee for safety. The European Union recently struck a deal to relocate 120,000 refugees across the continent using mandatory quotas.



York one of the safest student cities

Amy Bishop
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York has been placed in the top ten universities in England and Wales with the lowest crime rates in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The results are based on the Complete University Guide Crime Survey, and they only include those universities that are listed in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The survey takes into account crimes of burglary, robbery, violence and sexual offences in the cities or towns as a whole, not just crimes against students.

Durham University took pole position on the table and the University of York came in 8th. Other universities in the top ten included Bangor University, the University of Oxford and the University of Bath.

In the Complete University Guide Crime Survey the University of York came in 21st and York St John came in 17th place.

At the top of the survey was the University of Buckinghamshire, followed by Falmouth University and then Durham University.

York Art Gallery

The York Art Gallery, which officially opened on 1 August, has reopened to the gen-

eral public. The gallery has commissioned a collection of Italian Old Masters, which was curated and

created by Mark Hearld. A collection of more than 2,000 ceramic works is also on display.



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Welcome Meeting

Tuesday Week 2 at 7pm in P/T/005a

Tom
Sport



Deborah
Muse



Lewis
Editor



Holly
Sub-Editor



Amy
News



News

Students team up with police for project on honour based violence

Alex Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A GROUP OF students within the English Department are set to work on a new project with Cambridgeshire Police to help tackle the growing problem of honour based violence within the UK.

The project, dubbed 'Operation Synergy' aims to use the plot of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet to create a mock case which will eventually go to trial, and be extensively documented and filmed to produce a training aid that will help to educate new police officers about honour based violence, and how to deal with the issue.

The students involved will largely be responsible for creating and independently managing the social media profiles of the characters that feature in Romeo and Juliet, using the text as a springboard to develop individual modern-day personalities and posting regular updates to play the story out in real time, with the Montague family on Twitter and the Capulets on Facebook.

One perception that the project is trying to address is the association of honour based violence as a crime (or crimes) committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community, with largely ethnic or religious minorities.

Sergeant Phil Priestley, University of York alumni and one of the project's leaders, emphasises that this is not always the case: "The mainstream media have been guilty of reducing honour based violence to a point where it is seen as a modern phenomenon with an almost



The plot of Romeo and Juliet will form the basis of a mock case that will eventually go to trial as part of the project

exclusive focus on Islamic communities. HBV is also often wrongly conflated with the concerns that exist towards Jihad and extremist or radicalised behaviours within a minority of Muslim communities. In reality HBV is not a new phenomenon at all - it has existed in almost every nation's history since records began."

It is hoped that the project will try to dispel some of these misconceptions. "What we are trying to do", Sgt Priestley adds, "is separate the facts from the fiction, and create a genuine discussion based upon reliable information and practical experience."

The project is also an example of ways in which departments can develop good relationships with

their alumni.

Third year English student and Operation Synergy member Emily Willis, spoke to *Nouse* about her time so far on the project: "It is a privilege to be involved in this project. The team gets to contribute to combatting a historical as well as culturally widespread system of violence based on honour, while undertaking the exciting task of adapting Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. I can't wait to see the results."

Sergeant Priestley was also confident that students at York would be able to help with the project: "I live in Suffolk and work in Cambridgeshire. I immediately wanted to go back to York to find the group that would become the backbone of this project, I knew that I wouldn't

be able to find a more practical, intelligent and enthusiastic collection of people.

"I have to say that I've been impressed by the group as a whole, the quality of ideas and contribution has been outstanding. It actually makes me feel really proud that I graduated from York."

The project has also proved that distance does not always have to be a hindrance. The team hold monthly catch-up meetings online and communicate more regularly through Facebook.

The team are actively recruiting for new members to join the team to work on developing new characters. Contact Phil Priestley at Phil.Priestley@cambs.pnn.police.uk for more information.

New 'geek culture' festival announced

Niall Whitehead
SENIOR REPORTER

GEEKFEST, THE University of York's first 'geek culture' convention, is set to take place over two days on 17 and 18 October.

The event, organised primarily by students James Lees and Lindsey Dalzell, will serve as a showcase for Special Interest societies such as DougSoc, HAZSoc, the Medieval Society and the newly-ratified Tolkien Society.

GeekFest will take place in the Exhibition Centre and entry will be free. It will take place from 10am to 9pm on 17 October and from 10am to 5pm on 18 October.

It "aims to promote all aspects of geek culture from art and game design to LARP [live-action role-play] and Manga", as well as to "let people try new things and perhaps pick up old

hobbies again".

The scheduled events have been divided into four categories. Those taking place on the Main Stage include the Cosplay Masquerade, Geeky Comedy, Q&A panels (including Ask an Artist) and an 'On the Spot Cosplay' event, as well as a quiz testing participants' knowledge of geek culture.

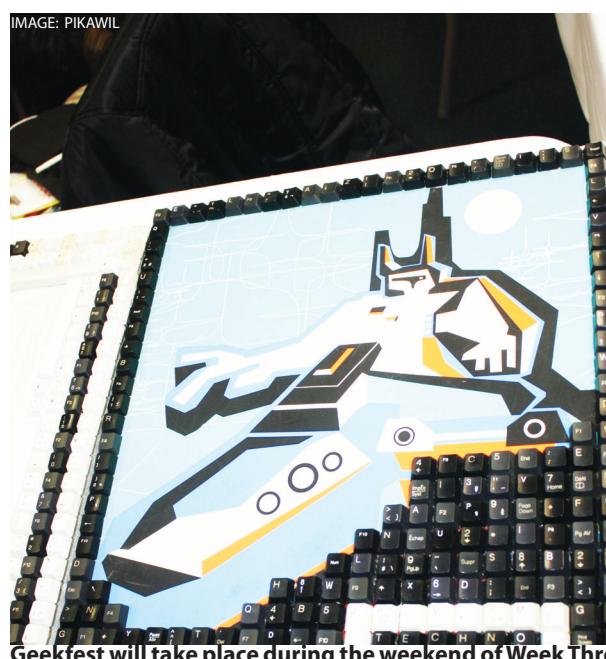
More than 20 societies are offering workshops, which will take place at certain times and can be booked at the start of the convention. HP Muggle Society has offered to teach newcomers how to play a round of Quidditch, while the Tolkien Society will offer classes in writing in Elven script. Medieval Society, meanwhile, will offer a workshop in swordfighting for any potential convention-goers.

All of the groups involved in the convention

will have stalls in the Convention Hall throughout the day to demonstrate their society's activities and interests, and several stalls will also be selling nerdy merchandise. An 'Artist's Alley' has also been organised, where artists such as ChaoticiaChan, Mike Walters and IllustratedJai will be selling posters and prints.

Several rooms have been set aside for societies to screen films and episodes of television shows, and two rooms will be available for visitors to play board games and card games. Computer games can also be played in the event's dedicated LAN room. These will be available throughout the convention, with various tournaments and "lots of timetabled events to help people get involved".

Other events will also be available outside the four categories, such as the Me-



Geekfest will take place during the weekend of Week Three

dieval Society's battle re-enactment and HAZSoc's Humans V Zombies starting ceremony. Finally, a social night will be taking place

featuring drinks, dancing and geek-themed music.

Tickets for entry into GeekFest are available through EventBrite.

Study reveals spending habits of students

Amy Wong
DEPUTY EDITOR

A RECENT SURVEY has found that the average student spends four times more money on alcohol than they do on food during their first year of university.

The survey, conducted by UK lottery site Lottoland, found that students spend approximately £60 on alcohol and nights out compared to £15 on grocery shopping a week. In total, 2,109 students responded to the survey.

Seventy-four per cent of students who responded to the survey, conducted by UK lottery site Lottoland, even admitted to buying the cheapest food available so that they could spend more on alcohol and club entry fees.

The survey also found that respondents spent an estimated £90 on accommodation, £25 on transport and £30 on clothes, shoes and accessories.

The students who responded to the survey estimated that they had used up the student loan payment they received during their first semester of university after only six weeks.

Sixty-two per cent of respondents said that their budgeting skills have improved since their first year of university.

Only ten per cent said they are now less careful about how they spend their money.

Just under 30 per cent of students who responded to the survey said that their attitudes to spending had not significantly changed since they started university.

Seventy-three per cent of respondents said that they worked part-time when asked how they funded themselves after they spent all of their student loan.

Over half of respondents said that they borrowed money from their parents, while 34 per cent said that they relied on their student overdraft.

Dan Hawkins of Lottoland said that the amount of money that students spend on alcohol is "somewhat concerning".

However, Hawkins added: "It is positive that so many of the older students have revealed that their spending becomes a little more sensible during their later university years, and this is no doubt due in part to more emphasis being put on education and exams than nights out!"

He also noted: "Moving away from your hometown and starting a university degree is often the first time that young adults will have the chance to move away from their parents control and start taking responsibility for their own lives."

A second-year English student told *Nouse*: "It's natural that students want to go out and have fun but it seems excessive to spend £60 a week on nights out."

"You can still have a good time without spending a huge amount of money."

Annual light festival set to return to York

Isabelle Scott
NEWS REPORTER

RETURNING FOR ITS 10th consecutive year, the Illuminating York Festival is an annual celebration of light taking place across the city from the 28 - 31 October. The Festival was one of the first of its kind in the UK, where in order to showcase the beauty of York, artists will be lighting up the city while the nights grow darker, using projections, light shows and even a canopy of disco balls.

This year, the Festival has been designed by two artistic curators for the very first time. The artists, Hazel Colquhoun and Andrew Knight, have planned a lamp-lit Promenade through the city, following five sets of artists' installations. The tour will culminate at the Museum Gardens, metamorphosed by light and sound into a celebration of the natural world. One of the five installations will be a sky of moving mirror balls hung above the Shambles, blurring the medieval aesthetic with a modern and kitsch design.

Lauren Marshall, the Hall Manager for Merchant Adventurers' Hall, another destination within the festival, commented: "I am particularly looking forward to seeing the Shambles get its disco on with Mar-

IMAGE: YORK MINSTER



City landmarks including York Minster will be lit up during late October

cus Beck and Simon Macro's 'Join the Revolution'. It's not often you get to see a Medieval street covered in glitter balls!"

In addition to the five main attractions along the Festival Promenade, there is a range of Festival Fringe events, including late night openings of the York Art Gallery and Hotel Chocolat, a Bloody Tour of York and a Guy Fawkes Trail among others. Merchant Adventurers' Hall, the medieval guildhall, will have a candle lit tour through the building, highlighting how it was originally illuminated centuries ago.

Marshall also describes the im-

portance of the festival for the city: "It is completely different to any other event in York and it brings different organisations, groups and individuals together to create something utterly unique."

For this reason the festival is popular among local residents, tourists and students alike. Stephanie Fan, an international student at the University of York commented: "At home I am familiar with the Hong Kong city lights, so I am excited to see a historic city such as York lit up in a whole new way!"

The Festival was one of the first of its kind in the UK.

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York Student Think Tank research reveals communication issues in Halifax College

Abbie Hettle
NEWS REPORTER

THE YORK Student Think Tank's first commissioned research reveals that students in Halifax college are unhappy with the college's communication system.

The society conducted an in-depth investigation over 20 weeks, the objective of which was to develop recommendations and suggestions for the college to implement.

The study, commissioned by the Halifax Research Team, involved a series of focus groups, student interviews and surveys alongside contributions from college staff. From this pool of resources it seems the findings overwhelmingly endorse the enduring reputation of the college as an outsider.

The published report details numerous issues with the current communication system. Among these is the fact that information was fundamentally not reaching students due to a "convoluted method of distribution".

Indeed, the report highlights a key area of concern – college emails. While the results of the surveys demonstrate a clear preference for

email interaction this reality appears unsuccessful.

Several of the focus groups reported not reading emails because they received too many or because the emails were considered personally irrelevant. In response to these concerns the report recommends creating a centralised system for communicating with its students.

To build upon this suggestion the Think Tank has called for a "definitive protocol" for college social media outlets designed to oversee where, when and how information is distributed.

The proposal follows concerns over the appropriate use of official social media accounts. Common complaints focused upon the amount of spam and the relevance of the information. With 40 per cent of students who filled in the online survey preferring to receive news about events via Facebook the Think Tank places a large emphasis on improving this area.

The report goes on to raise concerns about Halifax College's inclusion of Second and Third year Faxers. Within its featured recommendations the report states "there is not much reason for second and



IMAGE: PETROC TAYLOR
York Student Think Tank's report raised concerns about the College's inclusion of second and third-year students

third years to go to Halifax". It ref-

erences the high demand among its students for a bar at JJ's but quashes these demands "due to viability reasons". Instead the Think Tank approves the setting up of study spaces to attract non-residents to

projects' principled and innovative quality stating that the team "hope both our findings and suggestions will live up to the high standard we set out to achieve". The full report can be found on the York Student Think Tank website.

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Study finds a quarter of young people cook two meals a week

Tom Armston-Clarke

NEWS REPORTER

A RECENT SURVEY has found that over a quarter of 18-25 year olds cook only two meals per week for themselves. Despite the best efforts of Jamie Oliver and TV shows such as *The Great British Bake Off*, a large majority of young adults appear to struggle to cook basic meals when they move out.

According to the Vouchercloud.com survey, the top three reasons why young adults only cook two meals per week are 'not knowing how to cook many meals' (28 per cent), 'can't cook' (27 per cent) and a quarter were 'too lazy to cook for themselves' (75 per cent).

Chris Johnson, Head of Operations at the firm spoke on the matter saying: "Hopefully, parents will look at the results of this study and spend more time with their children in the kitchen before they fly the nest and discover they can't in fact fend for themselves."

Students often get a bad reputation for their inability to cook and look after themselves. However, the

survey was not restricted to students.

When asked their reasons for leaving home, only 21 per cent answered university, with 25 per cent 'needing own space' and the majority of 42 per cent said that independence was the reason.

Over one quarter admitted to hoping to find a partner who would cook for them instead of learning to do so.

Until this dream becomes a reality for the young adults, almost two thirds got their remaining meals from their parents' home despite more than two thirds leaving home to get away from them.

Other meals came from takeaways, which accounted for 59 per cent so it is no surprise that on average 18-25 year olds spend more than double on takeaways than they do on supermarket food.

Timothy Silcock, a third year Social Policy student said: "To be fair in first year I cooked as little as possible because my kitchen in halls was disgusting and I hated my

Laziness was the top reason for not cooking meals

housemates so I wanted to spend as little time as possible there, but how do 18 year olds not know how to cook basic meals?"

It was not just cooking for themselves which proved to be a struggle - even cleaning and waking up on time proved to be other tricky skills that many were unable to cope with doing.

This is a worrying state of affairs especially since there are numerous YouTube cooking channels only clicks away.

Many believe that this is merely a product of the society we live in whereby celebrities, fashion and beauty are more important than knowing basic life skills such as cooking and DIY.

"How can these people not know how to cook but they can build a whole city on Minecraft? People need to get their priorities in order, it's pretty embarrassing to be fair", said Dan Jones, a second year History student.

Vouchercloud.com carried out the survey of 2,413 UK adults. It is the UK's most used multi-channel money-saving brand that has helped consumers save over £19mn.

IMAGE: WILLIAM CHO



A lack of culinary ability was a popular reason for not cooking meals

York climbs seventeen places in QS World University Rankings

Benjamin Reid

NEWS REPORTER

THE QS WORLD University Rankings 2015/16 has moved the University of York seventeen places up since its 2014/15 list from 120th to 103rd.

York has also been listed as the 29th best university in the world for the English Language and Literature subject and the 80th best university for its Arts and Humanities faculty. The Arts and Humanities faculty has previously been ranked at 40th in 2013.

An English Language and Literature student said: "I feel extremely proud to be studying a course so highly esteemed on a global level."

The QS World University Rankings is an annual publication ranking universities by the British educational and careers advice company Quacquarelli Symonds. It began in 2004 in partnership with Times Higher Education (THE).

The ranking is based on various indicators including a global survey of academics, the ratio of students to staff, the number of citations per faculty, a global survey of graduate employers and international faculty and student ratio. York has received



The University of York is up seventeen places in the QS World University Rankings for 2015/16 to 103rd

high scores of 87.1, 81.1 and 76.1 for international faculty, international students and citations per faculty respectively. The University of York has 15,372 students of which, 3,788 are international students.

York also has 1,485 members of academic faculty staff of which 502

are international.

Therefore, one in four students at the University of York is an international student.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been ranked as the best university in the world for the fourth year running. Harvard Uni-

versity has been ranked second and Cambridge has been ranked third.

The highest position that the University of York has held is

70th which it was awarded in the 2009/10 QS World Universities Rankings, in which Harvard University came out on top.

New payment system trialled by YUSU

Alex Hall

DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YUSU IS ROLLING out a new payment system across its campus bars, cafés and shop.

YoYo Wallet allows students to link their credit or debit card to a mobile phone app, meaning that payments can be made simply by scanning your screen.

The app also collects points for each transaction, allowing students to earn rewards, such as free drinks and meals.

It is hoped that the system will help to reduce queues and eventually replace traditional chip and pin machines across campus.

The app is available to download now for both Apple and Android devices.

A second-year student told *Nouse*: "For a long time, the credit card payment systems in YUSU bars and food outlets have been antiquated. This, alongside the relaxation of the minimum spend rule for card transactions, represents much-needed progress in this area."

A third-year student also welcomed the new system, saying: "I think the fact you can earn rewards is a good idea."

Comment

Labour's Percy Pig preoccupation

Labour handing out Percy Pig sweets may be a crackling good laugh, but it detracts from the serious issues at hand

Few stories have caught the imagination of the general public quite as much as the allegations made by Lord Ashcroft in an upcoming book that the Prime Minister might've once performed a sexual act involving a pig's head during an initiation ritual at university.

The story has spawned countless hashtags (#baeofpigs being a personal favourite), memes and a hastily put together but nonetheless artful Cassetteboy mashup. Numerous people have noted the similarity that the allegations have with the controversial Black Mirror episode.

Charlie Brooker, the series creator and apparently unwitting Nostradamus, tweeted, "S***. Turns out Black Mirror is a documentary series". When there is satire written about you that pre-dates a scandal by three years, you know you must be doing something wrong.

Labour have kept silent on the subject, although it has been noted that press officers have been handing Percy Pig sweets out to journalists. It's possible that such sweets were the only ones they had in the office, but it does seem a cheap shot which compromises the integrity of those involved. Labour Leader (and vegetarian) Jeremy Corbyn has been

quoted as saying "I don't do personal attacks" and indeed that does appear to be the official response. The Percy Pig debacle, however, comes across as a ham-fisted jibe that takes away from legitimate criticism of Tory policies. Referencing #piggate is just as petty as the countless smears spread by the right-wing media against Corbyn: "he probably hasn't porked a pig, but I bet

“ ”

It's hard at this point to tell who are the pigs and who are the men

he does it wearing a red gimp mask to the tune of the Internationale" or something to that effect.

As much as we, the general public, want it to be true, whether or not the act occurred is irrelevant. I was disgusted by David Cameron well before I was presented with an uncomfortable mental image of necrophiliac bestiality given to me

by Lord Ashcroft. It makes more sense for Labour and for us to keep our heads about us while pigs and politicians alike are losing theirs and look at the "real" news.

The government's austerity measures have disproportionately affected the poorest and most vulnerable people in society. Over the next five years, more people will be plunged into poverty. More than 80 suicides have already been directly linked to welfare cuts to disability and mental health services.

Cameron's government has doubled the national debt, continues to appease bankers with tax breaks while daring to claim that his party represents "hard-working people". Young people alone have been screwed much harder than any poor sucker of a pig.

Leaping on the trial by Twitter (or trotter) bandwagon takes away from the fact that there are more pressing issues to discuss. Handing out Percy Pigs is inappropriate, no matter how sweetly they taste of schadenfreude. A Bullingdon oik getting his comeuppance will always be satisfying but to crudely paraphrase George Orwell, it's hard at this point to tell who are the pigs and who are the men.

comment@nouse.co.uk
www.nouse.co.uk/comment



Evie Brill Paffard

IMAGE: BETH FEREDAY



Junior doctors condemn new contract

The new contract has the potential to discourage the future workforce of the NHS



Jacob Miller

Junior doctors have condemned a disastrous new contract which comes into effect next summer. The contract will reclassify a junior doctor's normal week, known as "plain time", to include Saturday and until 10pm every night of the week. They currently earn a basic rate salary of £23,000 and gain top-up pay for irregular hours.

The government has claimed that the new contract includes a 15 per cent pay rise. Although because of the contract's reclassification of normal working hours, junior doctors will not receive additional pay for many of the new hours they have to work, which had previously been designated as irregular. The result is that many fear they will be facing a pay cut of up to 40 per cent.

Fiona Hill, a third year medical student, told *Nouse*: "As a medical student it's demoralising. I am happy to work hard; I went into the profession because I want to care for people. I am not happy to work 80 hours a week and endanger people's lives."

As Hill suggests, the changes are incredibly dangerous for patient safety because of the potential to overwork junior doctors. Fatigue and stress are a deadly cocktail for

fatal mistakes. In a 2014 report by Washington-based foundation the Commonwealth Fund, our health service was rated the best in the world; surely we are not going to let go of that great achievement by maltreatment of the very people who are instrumental to that success.

The demoralisation that will result from punishing hours and lower pay also has the potential to

“ ”

The changes are incredibly dangerous for patient safety

discourage the future workforce of the NHS from a career in medicine. In particular, the contract may put junior doctors off choosing to specialise in areas of emergency care, such as A&E, because they often have irregular hours.

Eleven Royal Colleges have written to the Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, warning that the pro-

posed contracts represent "a real and present threat to the current stated priorities of the NHS". When the potential impacts on staff retention are analysed, the assessment of the Royal Colleges is not unreasonable. There are fears that the unfair nature of the contract will cause an exodus of young junior doctors to other countries, such as Australia.

Indeed, recent figures revealed that in just three days last week 1,644 young doctors had already begun the process of applying for the necessary certification. So it appears that these fears are becoming a reality. This follows the loss of 3,400 senior nurses and over 1,000 matrons between 2010 and 2014. It is hardly rational to push out more workers upon whom the future of our NHS depends. Junior doctors should be paid well. They sacrifice five years for an intense course at medical school, and their huge efforts are reimbursed with a burden of debt, longer hours, and a pay cut.

The government's actions are an insult to the people who keep one of our most precious institutions running day after day. The NHS, since its conception, was designed to be a system of care - let's extend that care to those who the NHS relies on for its existence.

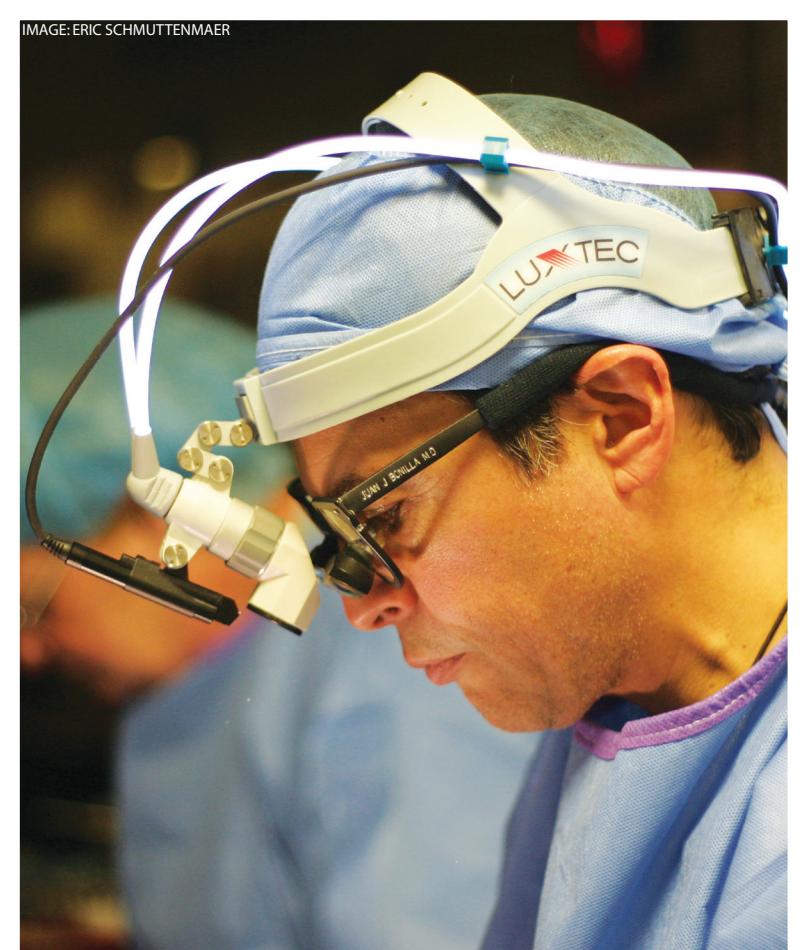


IMAGE: ERIC SCHMUTTENMAER

DWP rulings unfit for purpose



The suicide of Michael O'Sullivan following a WCA test that ruled him fit to work should be the last straw

Michael O'Sullivan was declared unable to work by his GP, due to severe long-term mental illness, including recurrent depression, anxiety and agoraphobia. However, when he underwent work capability assessments (WCAs) in 2012 and 2013, they ruled him fit to work.

Two years ago, after six months living on jobseeker's allowance, he committed suicide. This week, the coroner's report on his death concluded that it was a direct result of the WCA result. While the report

is the first to make a causal link between a WCA and a claimant's death, the connection is not new to disability campaigners. The Department of Work and Pensions released figures in August that revealed an average of 90 people every month die within 6 weeks of being ruled fit to work.

The news was released with enormous reluctance and despite a claim from Iain Duncan-Smith that they did not exist. While no causal link can be drawn from them, it does throw doubt on the notorious

assessment process, which has faced widespread condemnation from several parties.

The DWP has responded to every condemnation with the assurance that the system has improved, but the frequent failures of the current system form only part of a wider problem. People are facing a culture of doubt, against both their claim to disability and their claim to benefits. Political motivations, the cuts to the welfare budget and the anti-benefits attitude of the government, are undeniable. The

WCA prioritises the political and financial, where health and wellbeing should take precedence, and the deficit is no excuse.

The bureaucratic approach to handling disability has been seen before, with the hugely unpopular "Bedroom Tax", which can penalise disabled people for needing separate and bespoke bedrooms.

“”

The DWP released figures that revealed an average of 90 people every month die within 6 weeks of being ruled fit to work

Its overly simplistic definition of a 'spare bedroom' is clumsy and insensitive, and the WCA has a similar problem. The assessment splits individuals into binary categories, which can fail to account for the complexities of someone's life. However, if those complexities are to be acknowledged, a representative from a company dealing with 100,000 claims every month is not going to have the time or resources

to do so. That their conclusion has more weight than a GP, who has a medical understanding of someone's condition, seems nonsensical.

'Disabled' covers far more than someone permanently wheelchair-bound, but the WCA's single instance of assessment assumes every case is consistent. In reality, conditions often fluctuate in severity, and one day's capabilities are not representative of every day. This is particularly seen in people with mental illness, a particular point of concern. The simplistic ruling gives no consideration to people who need flexibility and ongoing support.

Finally, it is still the case that a vast number of jobs are inaccessible to disabled people. Disabled people are 30 per cent more likely to be unemployed, and while 40 per cent of working-age disabled people are employed, a further 25 per cent are without work.

The coroner's ruling this week is a new conclusion to a familiar story. In 2012 and 2013, at least 60 suicides were linked to fit-to-work rulings and subsequent benefit withdrawal; this, at the very least, show that the process does not account sufficiently for mentally ill claimants. There have been multiple attempts to highlight the trend, and the DWP's tweaks have repeatedly been inadequate. An overhaul is needed. Michael O'Sullivan's death should be the last straw.



Shkreli's pharmaceutical scandal



Martin Shkreli's reaction drew attention to his price rise

Quite clearly, among the first considerations of Martin Shkreli upon his purchase of the rights to Daraprim, a drug taken widely by those affected by HIV, was 'how can I make money out of this drug?' He knew what he was buying into; Daraprim is on the World Health Organisation's 'List of Essential Medicines', a list aiming to cover the absolute basics required within a healthcare system for it to be effective. Given that the medicine is deemed essential by the WHO, and due to lack of alternatives, people are going to buy it. If they don't, then they will face severe health complications. But then, why should that stand in the way of profit?

From a purely logical point of view, Shkreli's position is very smart. He has bought access to an essential good, and now is in a position to reap the benefits. In most other sectors, this would be a wise move; it would almost guarantee a massive profit, at least until an alternative product was created. However, in the world of medicine, morally unscrupulous actions can have a very real effect. It can cost people their

lives, especially if they cannot afford access to these vital drugs.

On the other hand, Shkreli does have a point. In the process of the internet campaign against him, he reminded the global community that no alternative drugs exist; while this one can be produced cheaply, it has been around for 62 years now. He claimed that he would use part of the 5000 per cent increase in price from \$13 to \$750 per pill to finance work into improving the drug.

Unfortunately for Shkreli, he did himself no favours with his handling of the scandal when it broke. In response to mass criticism from a range of parties including major HIV/AIDS support related charities, he opted for a somewhat aggressive series of tweets. If anything, this only escalated the situation further, drawing more people in, and seeing Shkreli labelled a 'socially bankrupt sociopath', among other things. When asked during a series of high profile television interviews if he would consider lowering the price, he said, very simply, 'no'.

Then, on Tuesday, following what probably seemed like a never-ending torrent of abuse, and briefly

winning the title of the 'Internet's Most Hated Person (for today)', Shkreli gave in. While no new price has been set, he has promised it will be affordable, and lower than the \$750 price he originally intended to set. But, other companies have hiked prices for similar reasons before. So why did we get hooked up onto this particular case?

It is almost certainly simply due to the manner in which Shkreli conducted himself. Numerous other companies have also raised the prices of drugs on similar grounds. If he had acted politely from the start, presenting his promise to ensure that it would remain accessible to everyone, he might have been successful.

He would probably have made a huge amount of money too. Unfortunately for him, his somewhat less than scrupulous methods to generate huge profits quickly fell afoul of his own big mouth, and a lot of angry people on the internet. If he hadn't opened his mouth, it would likely have passed unnoticed except by those suffering the consequences.

Well done internet, have a sticker, you did good.



Comment

NOUSE



Est. 1964

EDITORS' OPINIONS



Student job statistics reveal financial failings

Jacob Miller

A new study by money saving website VoucherCodesPro.co.uk has revealed that over a third of students are funding their university life through "online" work. 23 per cent sold clothes online, while 19 per cent did webcam work, and 11 per cent worked in pornography.

In addition, insurance firm Endsleigh have recently discovered that eight out of every ten students have part-time jobs during term time to pay their way through courses. This is unsurprising given the expenditure intensive nature of university life.

However, the situation is exacerbated by the means-tested nature of university funding, such as student grants. Students encounter difficulty when their parents' income fluctuates. The means-test does not take into account such complexities. The result is that by the time a student enters university their parents' income may have changed substantially.

The government's replacing of grants with means-tested loans will worsen the situation for students in the long term. Although the government have stated the poorest will receive an extra £550 per year, they will graduate owing up to £53,000 in total, compared with £40,500 when the maintenance grant was still in place. Moving from grants to loans will not alter the inability of our means-testing system to factor in the complexities of people's lives. It will place a burden of debt on the poorest.

There is no need for people to mock other accents

Ciarán Morrissey



I don't know what it is about putting a bunch of unconnected people in close proximity with one another for the first time, but some people just go ham for accents. That can be pretty cool – the Glaswegian and Scouse accents are objectively entertaining to listen to, and hearing different pronunciations and slang can maybe keep you entertained for 20 minutes or so.

But you will find some types of people who will crack up like small children if someone north of the Tyne says 'book', someone north of the Trent says 'bath', or someone from near the Tamar says 'alright'. Make a mental note of their names, and avoid them. This will be the peak of their social skills.

Some people may offer perspectives on life and the world, others may have mental stories about their mates back home (these stories will invariably be false), but the 'Accent Snob' will offer nothing but giggles and weird comments. Inevitably, even those with the least offensive and rare of accents will realise that this humour has never been funny, that comparing accents is about as fun as watching Frasier, and that it's just a bit petty and tiring.

So as annoying, as aggravating, and as exhausting as these people may be, they're not worth worrying about.



The funding of scholarships for refugees is inspiring

Amy Gibbons

I am so proud to be a part of the University of York this week.

On 21 September, it was revealed that the University will be fully funding a number of scholarships specifically for refugees affected by the current crisis in Syria. In his statement the following day Ben Leatham, YUSU president, praised the University for holding up its 'core values of justice and equality', and taking notice of students' concerns. He went on to outline YUSU's commitment to doing its part, and concluded with the statement 'I feel a positive and decisive set of actions led by YUSU and incorporating colleges, taking place during freshers shows new students who we are and that we will take action.'

The news just goes to show that York is truly committed to providing equal opportunities for all, and supporting those who persevere despite terrible hardships. I think the University's response has been inspiring.

I watched a fantastic video on YouTube recently, outlining why we have an obligation to provide support and opportunities for refugees, in which John Green, the video's narrator, condemned our privileged hostility to the "other". He said, quite simply, 'We are all one species sharing one profoundly interconnected world; and humans, all humans, are "our people".' This week, York prioritised compassion. We welcome all.

IMAGE: U.S. EMBASSY TEL AVIV



University's technology fair shame



The University of York should stand against immoral companies

Eran Kahane

This October, the Careers department will be holding its Technology Fair, where a wide variety of companies "strut their stuff" in an attempt to recruit students.

These events can be vital for students wanting to get their foot on the hyper-competitive career ladder. However, some employers develop products whose only purpose is the destruction of human life. Three such companies will be participating in this year's Technology Fair, namely BAE Systems, Thales and Qinetiq.

BAE Systems is the UK's biggest and the world's 3rd largest arms producer. Thales is a French company in a joint project with Israeli drone manufacturer Elbit Systems. Both traded with the Israeli state, whose army commits war crimes against civilian populations in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon.

BAE Systems manufactures systems installed in the Israeli air force's F16s. These fighter jets have been implicated in the deaths of hundreds of civilians in the last few years, including the murder of entire families in single missile strikes.

Thales and Elbit are collaborating on the Watchkeeper drone, based on the Elbit-designed Hermes 450 drone which is used on a regular basis in Gaza to direct helicopter, jet and missile strikes. During the 2012 attack on Gaza (Operation Pillar of Defence), 23 per cent of total Palestinian deaths were due to drone strikes. In December 2008, 12 Palestinian civilians were killed by a drone strike outside the Gaza Technical College while waiting for

a bus. Nine of them were students.

Qinetiq operates the UK Drones testing centre in Wales (using Israeli technology) and supplies arms and explosives to oppressive regimes such as Saudi Arabia. The Islamic kingdom is considered to be one of the least democratic countries in the world, ranking lower than Iran and Burma in the 2012 democracy index.

These are a few examples from a long list of operations in which BAE and Thales products were used

“ ”

Our role in global society should be one of education, enlightenment, and productive enterprise, not destruction... and occupation

to deadly effect. Not all of these crimes make use of drones and F16s, but they are an integral part of the occupying army's arsenal.

The economic context in which occupation occurs cannot be ignored. Israeli companies benefit from increased sales after each military operation as their products get "battle-tested" on Palestinian populations. Last year, the Israeli arms industry made a massive \$5.6 bil-

lion in revenues.

Arms exports make up a very large chunk of Israel's overall exports, which account for 40 per cent of its annual GDP. The economic cycle we see here is that Israel produces weapons, tests them on civilian populations in highly-publicised "wars," and profits from subsequent sales increase.

These profits go into expanding research and development and manufacturing even more weapons. As one report explains, "As long as Israel benefits from the business of war and occupation in foreign markets like the UK, it has little incentive to stop its unlawful acts."

Israel's imports of weapons from the UK are extremely profitable, however many argue that they are unethical and illegal.

UK government regulations state that companies may not be given export licences if there is "clear risk" that they will be used for internal repression, "provoke or prolong armed conflicts" or where the buyer will use the weapons "aggressively against another country or to assert territorial claims."

Despite Israeli military actions falling under this purview, the value of licences awarded to UK companies exporting to Israel amounted to £53.2 million (for military use) between 2010 and 2014.

The University shouldn't allow companies such as these to advertise jobs at campus career fairs. As students, scholars and scientists, our role in global society should be one of education, enlightenment, and productive enterprise, not destruction, killing and occupation.

EY Career Networking Evening

Join us at our EY Career Networking Evening for the chance to meet our people.

You'll learn more about EY, our impact on global business and the clients we work with on the issues that are shaping tomorrow. You'll also hear more about the opportunities available to you, so that you can start thinking today about the impact you want to make on business and your own career.

University of York EY Career Networking Evening

Tuesday 6 October
6.30pm - 8.30pm

The Lakehouse,
The Ron Cooke Hub,
University of York,
Heslington,
York YO10 5GE

You'll be able to have your questions answered in person by a wide range of talented EY people – from intern alumni to partners – who'll be on hand to share their knowledge, insights and career experience.

Whether it's advice on our application process, a discussion around which opportunity might be right for you, or information about our different service lines and industry insights, no question is too small.

Join us and other students at this event, where you'll be able to network with EY and your peers.

Register now
ey.com/uk/students

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Comment

Topical Tweets



CLASH OF COMMENTS

Is Jeremy Corbyn the right choice for Labour leader?



YES.

Jeremy Corbyn's election as Labour leader has provoked a stream of accusations that he was the wrong choice for party leader and would make Labour unelectable. However, there are indications that he is more electable than is often portrayed.

A Survation poll in August revealed that he is the most popular candidate among voters of other parties.

This translates into public support for many of his policies. Nearly two thirds support nationalisation of rail and energy. Indeed, over 50 per cent of Conservative voters support rail nationalisation, as well as three quarters of UKIP supporters.

A recent poll confirmed that he is the best candidate to regain seats in Scotland, with a third of SNP voters more likely to back Corbyn's Labour party.

Even Margaret Thatcher was viewed as an electoral disaster by many of her colleagues when she became leader. She was not seen as sufficiently close to the "centre" to attract new voters. Given the shifting state of public opinion, it would be unwise and arrogant to proclaim someone as unelectable when they have been in their role for just over two weeks.

A good leader creates positive change. Even if he does not win, Corbyn has already changed the political landscape by attempting to move away from the Punch and Judy politics, which so many have come to despise, with his policy of "no personal abuse". A sensible, mature debate is the kind of positive change that so many have been craving.

NO.

Jeremy Corbyn has emerged from the fringes of the back-bench to become the new Labour leader.

Unsurprisingly, his first week on the job has ruffled a few feathers. From installing his far-left chum John McDonnell as Shadow Chancellor to remaining silent during the national anthem, he has started his career with a peppering of gaffes.

According to a party insider in Corbyn's constituency, the Labour leader has realised that his role "isn't just about policies, but it's a huge managerial task."

This statement shows that Corbyn has a lot yet to learn.

He is, admirably, a man who has worked with great effort on the hard left of Labour. He was a

successful trade union organiser before being elected as a Labour councillor in 1974 and an MP for Islington North in 1983.

Corbyn has sat on just three select committees in his entire thirty-two year career in parliament and there is a good reason why he has never held a position any higher:

he is known for voting against the party whip over five hundred times, making him the most rebellious Labour MP of an era.

There is something honourable in Corbyn's principled stance, but it stands to reason that a man who has defied his party countless times won't be able to control rebellions against his leadership.

The fact that the hard-left of Labour has been in isolation for the last few decades is due to politicians like Corbyn.

The phrase 'pick your battles' is advice that he has so far ignored, from his passionate denunciation of the press to his anti-monarchist

stance. Corbyn evidently lacks pragmatism.

His silence during the national anthem was bound to cause national outcry. His appointment of John McDonnell was controversial to say the least, and his Eurosceptic views have resulted in widespread criticism.

Additionally, a depressing amount of Labour talent has refused to serve in Corbyn's cabinet. Chuka Ummuna, Rachel Reeves, Emma Reynolds, Tristam Hunt, Liz Kendall and Yvette Cooper are massive losses to the Labour front-bench.

Admittedly, Corbyn cannot be blamed for all of the drop-outs, but the news does reflect a widening split in the party.

As a result, I am pessimistic that Corbyn can hold together a party in political freefall. Many of his ideas are backed by solid support, but there is a big difference between having good ideas and possessing the necessary skills to lead the opposition.

It is true that Corbyn should always have a place in the Labour Party. However, just because he is a confident and long-standing MP does not mean he will be a successful leader.

A leader must command respect. A leader must be experienced. And a leader must be able to work with the full spectrum of their party.

Unfortunately for the Labour Party Jeremy Corbyn lacks these qualities. He has spent his entire parliamentary career representing his own views to the party, and now he must prepare to represent the party to the country.

Can he do it? I hope he can, but I fear he won't.



Lucy

@dinosardances

Beyond excited for @UniOfYork Freshers now @scott_mills is coming to Halifax! I'll be whoooooooing all night

Sept 21



Grace

@GraceJones_

Someone on the York freshers page has asked if they need to take a washing machine with them oh god

Sept 15



clee

@cleopalmer_

Feel like everyone else will have finished their degree by the time freshers move in to York uni, hurry up and get me there

Sept 21

Yakking About



"Student Finance: Your money has been sent" A beautiful text to receive

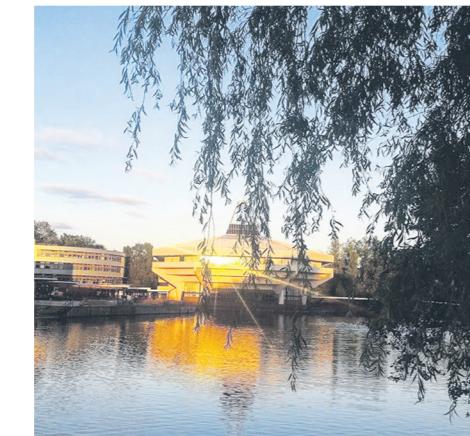
73

Waiting for the freshers fair to get free pens instead of buying any, hope there's a good selection this year

48

We are 2nd years and my house mate just messaged me to ask where the printers are in the library

36



@pelindincer The welcome week has started today. I wish I could go back to 2013 and enjoy the most of it again...

#minstagram

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



@uniroyork Perfect day for an ice cream - look out for the stand outside the Exhibition Centre #yorkopenday



@ffionwyynn Moving day #familia #hermosa #jacyjwc #argentina #bitersweet #moving #rucksack #yearabroad #goodbye ...

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FEATURES • GAMING • ARTS • FASHION • THE SHOOT • MUSIC • FILM • FOOD & DRINK

MUSIC.

Noel
Fielding

Part-time artist,
full-time comedian
and former Dondylion



MUSE.

M8 Remaining retro

This year's London Fashion Week suggests 70s style is here to stay

M9 In his DNA

Fashion talk to Manuel Facchini about his Spring/Summer collection

M10 The best bits of LFW

Our top five moments from London's biggest fashion event



FASHION.

M14 Queens of the Stone Age

The band's bassist Michael Shuman talks about reviving Mini Mansions

M15 Seeing music differently

A look in to experiencing Reading & Leeds festival with a visual impairment



MUSIC.

M4 Anthony Horowitz

Muse Editor talks to the beloved children's author about politics and writing fiction

M16 In Our Time

The producer of the long-running radio series discusses the show's success

M18 Capturing change

Photographer Sarah Wong tells us about photographing cross-gender children



FEATURES.

ARTS.



M6 Braving Brutalism

Arts make a case for the appeal of Brutalist architecture, showcased at our very own University of York

M7 Fielding questions

The Arts Editor chats to Noel Fielding about the appeal of stand-up and avoiding playing safe

GAMING.



M12 Halo 5

The Gaming Editor previews the newest addition to the *Halo* franchise and discusses whether it'll live up to expectations

FILM.



M13 Autumn on the screen

The Film team outline their recommendations for this autumn's best films and TV shows

FOOD & DRINK.



M17 Bland to brilliant

Craving a home cooked meal? Food give their top tips on how to make your meals tastier and more substantial with minimal effort

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Top left to right: James Hostford, Michelle Shiers, Rex Features

Bottom left to right: Teenage Cancer Trust, Mckay Savage

@NOUSEMUSE

Editor's note



Deputy Muse Editor Kate Barlow has a sense of impending doom

So, back to another year at York. Or, for some of you, welcome to your first year. Freshers, be prepared to be met with scorn and bitterness by all non-first years. It's not personal, everyone's just jealous of you lucky bastards who actually get to spend this year not worrying about the state of your degree. Everyone else, all I can do is wish you good luck.

For me, going into my third and final year, I feel a mounting sense of panic for the start of term. Turns out that spending the entire summer metaphorically closing my eyes and covering my ears whenever anyone mentioned the dreaded dissertation was probably not the best way to ensure a stress-free first term. To that guy who is reading this smugly after having already done all of his research and written a first draft, you may get a First but literally everyone on your course hates you.

But mostly, I feel that final year means only three terms to do all of those things that I've always said I wanted to do here: a ghost walk (they run every night; to have not completed this yet is truly shameful); joining a new society (*Nouse* seems to have sucked up all my willpower and time to join anything else); a countless number of pubs, restaurants and bars that I've been meaning to go to but still haven't, in large part due to the fact that I've opted to spend pretty much every night out for the past two years in Willow. Perhaps not all that sadly, no longer.

To try and tick off all of the must-dos while also trying to coordinate the mountain of reading that is handed to final year students is certainly going to be a challenge.

But at least I'm equipped with the motto I've started every year with: this year I'm going to try harder. Words which, within a couple of weeks, get drowned out by cheap trebles and inevitably results in too many last minute late nights in the library.

I was once told by a wise person (or probably *The Tab*, to be honest) that while at uni you'll only have time to juggle two out of three of the following: a social life, a good degree, or sleep. As third year approaches, this only becomes more apparent and I haven't decided which one I'm willing to compromise. After spending nine grand a year, let's just hope it isn't the degree.



Brick by brick

Since the early 1970s, fans of LEGO have been making stop motion 'brickfilms' of ever increasing complexity and skill. Prolific YouTube brickfilmer Michael Hickox talks about his craft

I made different types of videos when I was younger. Brickfilms allowed me to create videos by myself, and on a much smaller scale. Also, I found my brickfilms were much more popular on YouTube, so I decided to follow what my fans wanted.

Over the years I've become better, and started making more money... but I haven't really increased production. As videos become more complex and of better quality, they become more difficult to create. So although a person becomes much faster and more skilled, that effort goes into quality over quantity.

I work quite well with myself. I have animated with other people before, and it has positive aspects. If someone else is working nearby, that pressures you into working hard and not slacking off. When you're alone, it's much easier to get away with taking breaks and giving up easily.

I watched a lot of cartoons as a kid, and still am a fan today. My favourites were older cartoons like Tom and Jerry and Bugs and Daffy. These shows had dialogue, but the central story was based around the animation alone.

The amount of time put in to a video varies greatly. If a video is simple, I'd say the animation takes somewhere around 20 hours. As more characters are introduced, and more advanced animations come into play, it gets really slow. I've had single camera angles take close to four hours to complete. The beauty of stop motion, though, is that you don't have to do all of the work in one sitting. Although it's a lot of time and effort, I suppose it's a good thing that a seasoned animator like myself still isn't fully aware of the time input. Everyone asks this question, but I still don't have a solid answer.

The single biggest challenge with animation is dealing with failures. If you bump your camera, or a structure falls apart... you've got to start all over. To this day, I still get furious when I mess up, and lose my last hour or so of work. You start to get used to it happening, but that doesn't make it any

easier to deal with.

Over time, I've learned to have a different mindset when animating. When starting a scene, you have to relax, take your time, and have the mentality that you're there to complete your task and not just put in time. If you watch the clock and say "I'm only working until noon," you'll become aware of the time loss, and feel anxious when it's time to quit but you're still in the middle of a shoot.

My favourite video to date is Lego Pizza Delivery 5. It's part of a series that started as an inside joke, with everyone in town wanting to get a pizza. That video was a tremendous amount of work, and I'm very happy with how it all came together. I'm actually completing the 6th episode right now, so look for it later.

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I watched a lot of cartoons as a kid, and still am a fan today

My advice to people starting out, is constant improvement. When you make a video, pick one thing you didn't like about it and aim to improve. For example, there was too much light flicker. Now when you make your next video, make this your primary focus. If you fix one thing at a time, you'll start getting much better. Also, by working on one thing at a time, you can focus on finding the root cause of the issue. It's just good problem solving. Lastly, I like to say that you need to animate for yourself, but allow others to enjoy your works. The fun comes from seeing your own ideas come to life, and if you're animating for someone else... it becomes work and no longer play.

Interview by Jack Richardson

MUSE'S CULTURE CURRENCY OUT IN

Pig-gate

It looks like David Cameron's slate wasn't so clean after all, and it's come back to bite him on the arse (or penis). At least he doesn't have to run for another election.

Jeremy Corbyn

This old-school hippy who many thought a joke candidate earned nearly 60 per cent of the vote for Labour leader. Let's hope he hasn't got bestiality in his past.

London Fashion Week

Muse may have brought you brilliant coverage of LFW Spring/Summer 2016, but it's over now and let's face it, it's always going to be strange seeing summery clothes in Autumn.

Pope Francis' wardrobe

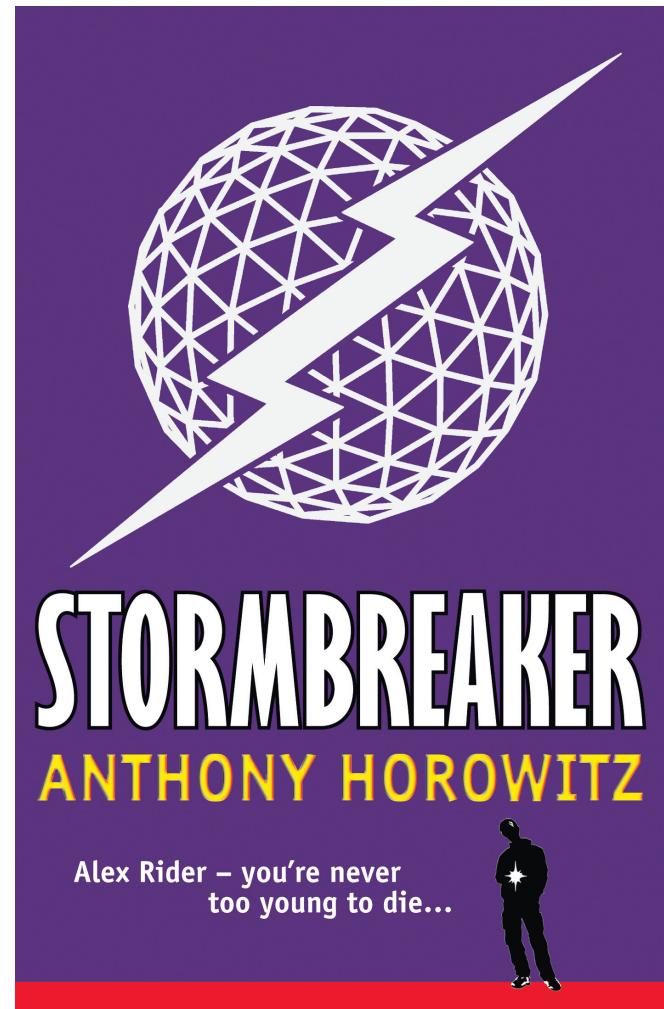
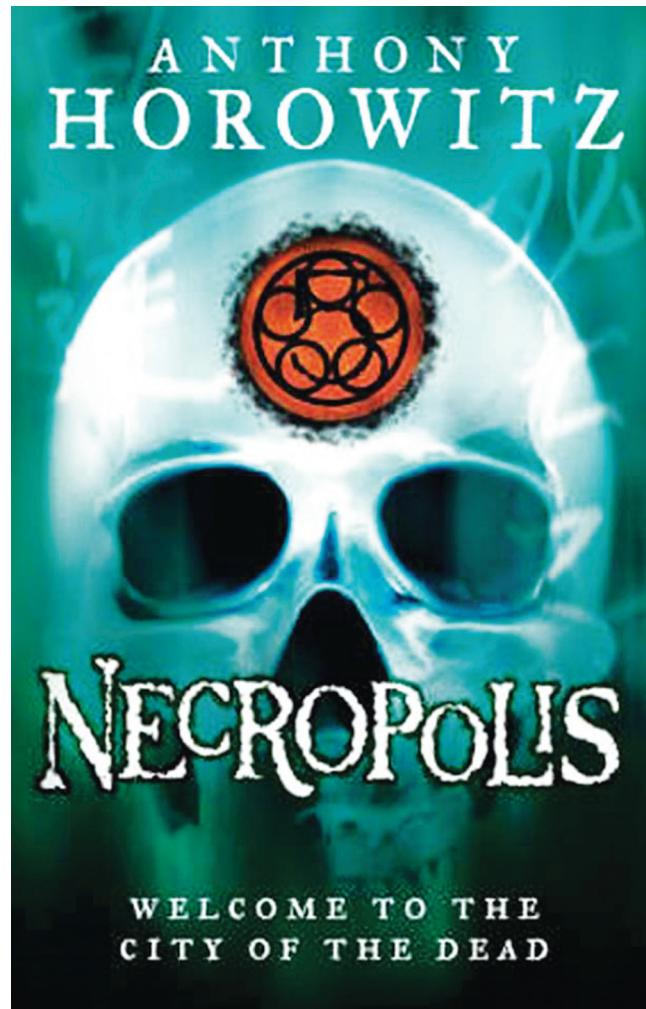
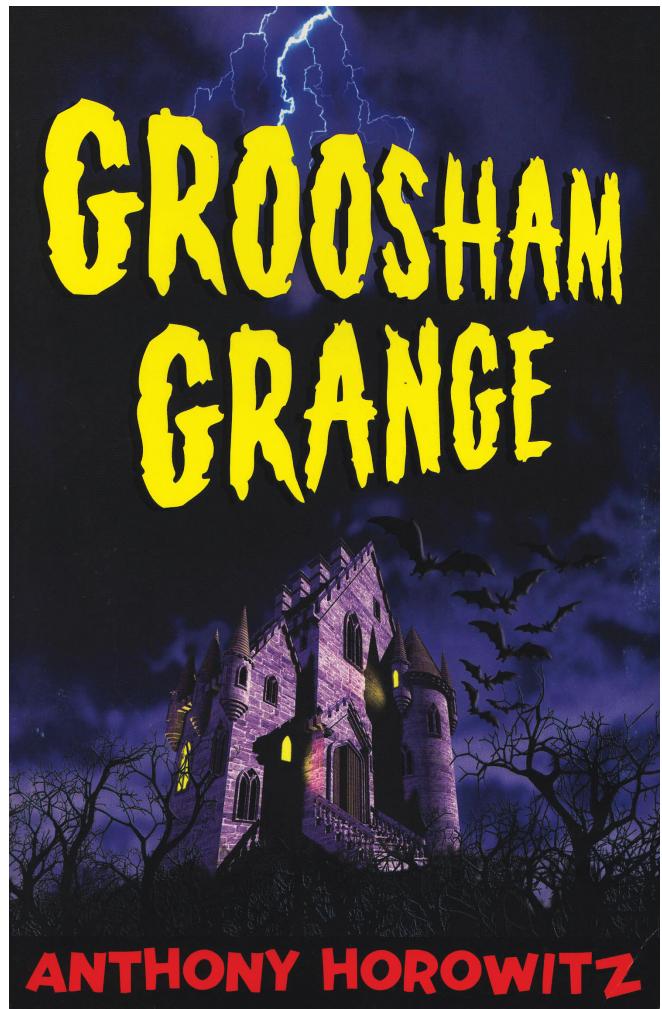
With heightened media interest in what Pope Francis wore in his US tour was apparently serious. So look out for affordable swatch watches, orthopedic shoes and white robes.

Suffragette

Historical movies are always iffy, but when you pack Carey Mulligan and Helena Bonham Carter and Ben Whishaw and Meryl Streep, it's hard not to get excited. Hopefully the cast isn't compensating for bad direction.

Bad guys and teenage spies

Author, journalist and screenwriter **Anthony Horowitz** talks to Deborah Lam about the business of children's literature and the changing villains in our stories



Author of the *Alex Rider* and *The Power of Five* series, screenwriter and University of York alumni, Anthony Horowitz requires no introduction.

When he graduated from university in 1977, the hugely successful young adult writer "had absolutely no ambition to write for young people whatsoever". In his time at York, he flourished in what he called a "fantastically creative environment", spending his three years "writing plays and books and poetry and all sorts of things". But he makes it clear that while York was conducive for his craft, it was not where he started writing: "I was a writer before I came to university," he clarifies, "I was born a writer; there was nothing else for it."

The city also had a part in his writing, the first book of *The Power of Five* series *Raven's Gate* situated in York. "*Power of Five* came about because of my love for Tolkien growing up and wondering if it was possible to write a book similar to *Lord of the Rings* in some ways, but set in the real world," he explains, "If it is possible to have mythical creatures fighting each other, but in the streets of York."

The *Alex Rider* series, on the other hand, was born out of his love for Ian Fleming; James Bond transposed into a fourteen-year-old. Underneath the seemingly benign idea of a teenage spy, however, is a more sobering inspiration, coming from the political atmosphere of the time, particularly the Iraq War: "They were inspired by the invasion of Iraq and by the sense that we can no longer trust the government or intelligent services; that we were, if you like, children who can no longer trust adults." Having "provoked the books and gotten [him] angry enough to write them", the thought that has gone into the pages of exciting, fast-paced adventures that we consumed as children demonstrates the depth and complexity of his stories.

Horowitz is sharp and critical in equal measure, but despite his confidence is always carefully guarded when answer-

ing my questions. Offense is his best defense when he sees an "implied criticism" of his books at the mere suggestion of a parallel between his characters in his young adult novels and the demographic he writes for. "I think that it would be very hard for me to write convincingly about an Asian boy or an Asian girl, or, shall we say, an Afro-Caribbean boy because it's

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They were
inspired by the sense
that we can no longer
trust the government;
that we were, if you like,
children who can no
longer trust adults

not my experience," he reasons, "I think you can only write what you know about and I'm really writing about the boy that I was. If I were a braver writer, I would perhaps have pushed the boundaries a little further." He is also incredibly shrewd and prudent in his considerations: "Somebody once said a very interesting thing to me which is that if Alex Rider had been Muhammad Rider, I could knock two zeros off my sales. It's a terrible thought, but it's probably true."

Giving the rationale for his preoccupation with the limi-

nal position of fourteen and fifteen year-olds, he elucidates, "I'm interested in that brief window in your life when you're neither a child nor an adult; where you're not yet independent, where you can still be taken out of your comfort zone very easily, but where you have nonetheless the beginnings of the adult you will become." But the ages of his protagonists are also carefully calculated. Introducing the arithmetic of children's literature, he reveals, "Young children like to read about children older than them. It's as simple as that. If my character is twelve, fourteen year-olds are not going to read about him. It's very, very easy to arrive at that age."

Despite the extremely deliberate decisions he makes for his target audience, he sharply defends the mature socio-political undercurrents in his young adult fiction, particularly in the last few books of the series. "It doesn't align to the target audience because you're suggesting that I'm writing the books specifically to please the audience, rather than writing the books based on what I see and what I'm inspired by," he says chidingly. Citing the banking scandal, MPs' expenses scandals and scandals in the church and BBC, he maintains that his work is a product of "a very peculiar time when all the pillars of the state have proven themselves very untrustworthy" and that current affairs fuel his books, "translating them into the fairly simple terms of the sort of young adult fiction that I write".

Speaking particularly about the final installment of *The Power of Five* series *Oblivion* that described a near-apocalyptic world where evil supernatural forces had taken over governments, he summarises it as "a collection of all the bad things that are happening in the world in one book." He expounds further, "The Old Ones, these mythical creatures, do appear in the book, but the book is not about people in armour with horns pointing their finger and sparks coming out. What the books are about are conglomerates and industry and poli-

1977

Stormbreaker,
the first in the
Alex Rider
series,
published

Graduated from
University of
York with a
degree in
English and
History of Art

2000

Raven's Gate
published,
starting the
*The Power of
Five* series

2005

Feature film
adaptation of
Stormbreaker
released

2006

House of Silk
published as a
commissioned
sequel to
Conan-Doyle's
novels

2011

Awarded
an OBE
for services
to literature

2014

tics and the people who are destroying the world, and I think that's what makes a book stronger. I just had no particular interest in doing devils and witches. The point is that they are the monsters."

Astutely pragmatic, he is acutely aware of the sort of writer he is and will not apologise for it. "Well, I'd like to write a huge novel, like a 19th-century Dickens novel, set in the 21st century," he says in a rare moment of contemplation, "I'd like to write something that was more based on character and society and less on violence and chases. I'd like to write a book that was more meaningful. But I know my limitations, I know what I'm good at, so whether I will write that book or not remains to be seen." His immensely practical sensibility is nearly defiant of the image of the idealistic children's author as someone who couldn't care less about numbers and figures or popularity, but it is his unapologetic self-assuredness that is the most disconcerting.

He enjoys being a contrarian, refusing to defend his genre against criticism of adults who enjoy reading young adult fiction. While acknowledging the right to read whatever people want, he admits, "I personally find it slightly strange when adults, on mass, read young adult fiction. And even when *Harry Potter* was at its height, the sight of fully grown men immersed in the world of Hogwarts, I thought it odd, to be honest with you. There is so much wonderful fiction out there that is for adults, why not start there?"

His eloquence mostly hides his guardedness, but he is blatantly cautious when we broach the subject of education, prefacing his remarks by reminding me that he is "not entirely qualified to answer your question." "I think teachers are doing a pretty good job and they don't need people like me to criticise them," he says carefully. He chooses a conservative answer: "If I could change anything in schools it would be the libraries, I would make every single school in the country have a librarian. It's not at the moment statutory, but it should be. I would have much more time allocated to reading texts for pleasure rather than taking paragraphs out for exams. And I would have fewer exams, fewer league tables and more discovery about what writing has to offer. My feeling is that the syllabus is too narrow. I'm sorry that children can come out of school and have never read poems by some of the poets that I love."

Safely championing creativity "both in reading and in writing", he refuses to name examples of particular texts that he would like to see on the syllabus to avoid being self-defeatingly "prescriptive". "At what age are you talking about? Primary school? Secondary school? I think I've answered the question. I don't think there's any need for me to give you a list

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I'm one
of the very few
writers in the
country who is
brave enough to
support Michael
Gove publicly

of writers," he spits with finality.

Highly intelligent, he is a man of contradiction. On one hand, he is so shrewdly brilliant that he has practically made the creative endeavour of writing a business venture, and yet he is also a young adult writer who holds "meeting young people who like [his] books" as the most rewarding thing about his profession, even now as he is "stopping writing for young people to a large extent". Although he is never vulnerable at any point in our conversation, he is at his most sincere as he reiterates, "I love the idea that I've been a tiny part of people's lives."

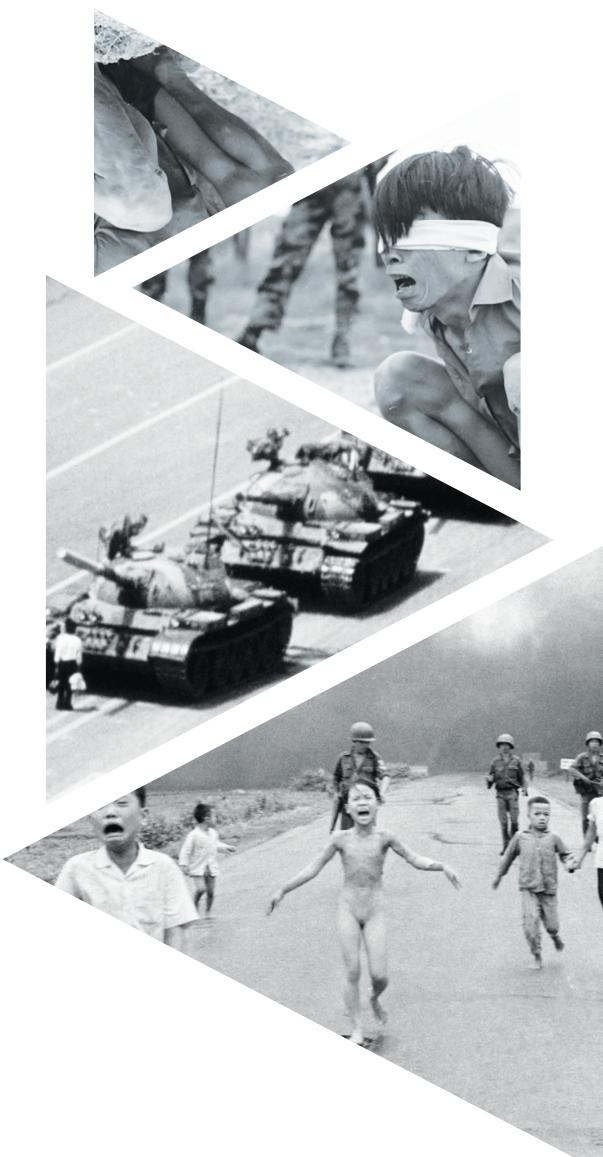
Throughout the interview, Horowitz remains intelligent, articulate and expressive either explaining the rationale behind or confidently defending his decisions. Even his revelations are measured, calculated and

never quite revealing. It may have been more than a little ironic that he bemoaned being disappointed that, in an interview with Michael Gove, they didn't have a "franker" conversation. "I'm one of the very few writers in the country who is brave enough to support him publicly," he says, the only time in the interview when he was visibly frustrated, he said "I did think that he would talk to me in a more humane way, that he would understand that I was not there as a journalist, I was there almost as an admirer, to try and understand the man that could possibly formulate all these dictates in education."

As admirers of his books, perhaps we can only try and understand the man that could possibly create such extraordinary worlds in young adult fiction. M



IMAGE: ORION PUBLISHING



Lasting impact

Katy Sandalls reminds us that strong images can change minds, but not always politics

One of the biggest clichés that one can think of is that a picture is worth a thousand words but how true is this? One photograph seems to be proving that this is indeed the case.

Recently the world has been forced to reconsider its position regarding the crisis in Syria because one photo came to light, the photo of Aylan Kurdi, a young Syrian boy who lost his life trying to reach Europe with his family.

The photograph of Aylan is by no means the first to cause such media uproar. One need only have a limited understanding of history to think of others; the protestor in front of tanks in Tiananmen Square and the small children running from a napalm attack in Vietnam are perhaps the most obvious examples. In both cases the stark reality of what was happening in China and Vietnam was transmitted to the rest of the world and led to high profile condemnation of the actions taking place. Their impact was incredible but perhaps not in the political manner that Aylan has appeared to be.

In the case of the individual at Tiananmen Square known only as Tank Man, his photograph went on to symbolise non-violent protests while also creating many questions for the Chinese government to face. The largest of which was what had happened to the man? Was he killed? Or did he escape? To this day no one knows the fate of Tank Man. However, what is clear is that he did not change political actions towards China. Foreign powers may have condemned the action but no intervention was made and the topic remains taboo in China even now, 25 years after the event.

The case of the children in Vietnam is slightly different. Its effect on political change was important but was not as instant as Aylan has appeared to be. The picture was taken in

1972 towards the end of the 20 year conflict but by no means did it change US foreign policy in Vietnam immediately. The image was significant in that it became the most striking and memorable in a public opinion backlash against the war that had been growing, especially in the US, for a long time. The increased media presence and coverage of the war had been one of its many downfalls and had steadily turned political feeling against the conflict. Several months later the US signed the Paris Peace Accords which was to end US action in Vietnam. Kim Phuc, the young girl in the image has since become a UN goodwill ambassador and lives in Canada.

All three images proved important in changing people's opinions in some way, but why? Perhaps the most suitable solution to this question is to think of what a photograph supplies that the written word cannot. A photograph doesn't need any specific skills to translate what is being said and so is immediately available to an international audience. A photograph is however, relatable. People can look at it and wonder 'what would I do if that boy was my son?', 'how would I feel?'. It brings out compassion in a way that a document cannot. This effect has been amplified because his image has circulated around the world at a speed that could not have been thought of even 25 years ago with the photograph of Tank Man.

As far as people's actions are concerned images like that of Aylan Kurdi will always produce a response that can never be matched by the written word; the personal touch that cannot be easily replicated. When it comes to political actions photographs can be important, but this very much depends on the situation in which they are taken. They may well prove themselves to be the catalyst for action but can just as easily become a symbol of wrongdoing; the response can only be subjective.

demolished to make way for a more modern and contemporary design.

It must be acknowledged that Brutalist architecture was never intended to be elegant. It is not a misguided intent at architectural grandeur, but a statement on residential architecture. For example, Alison and Peter Smith of the Tower Hamlets created the housing estate as an experimen-

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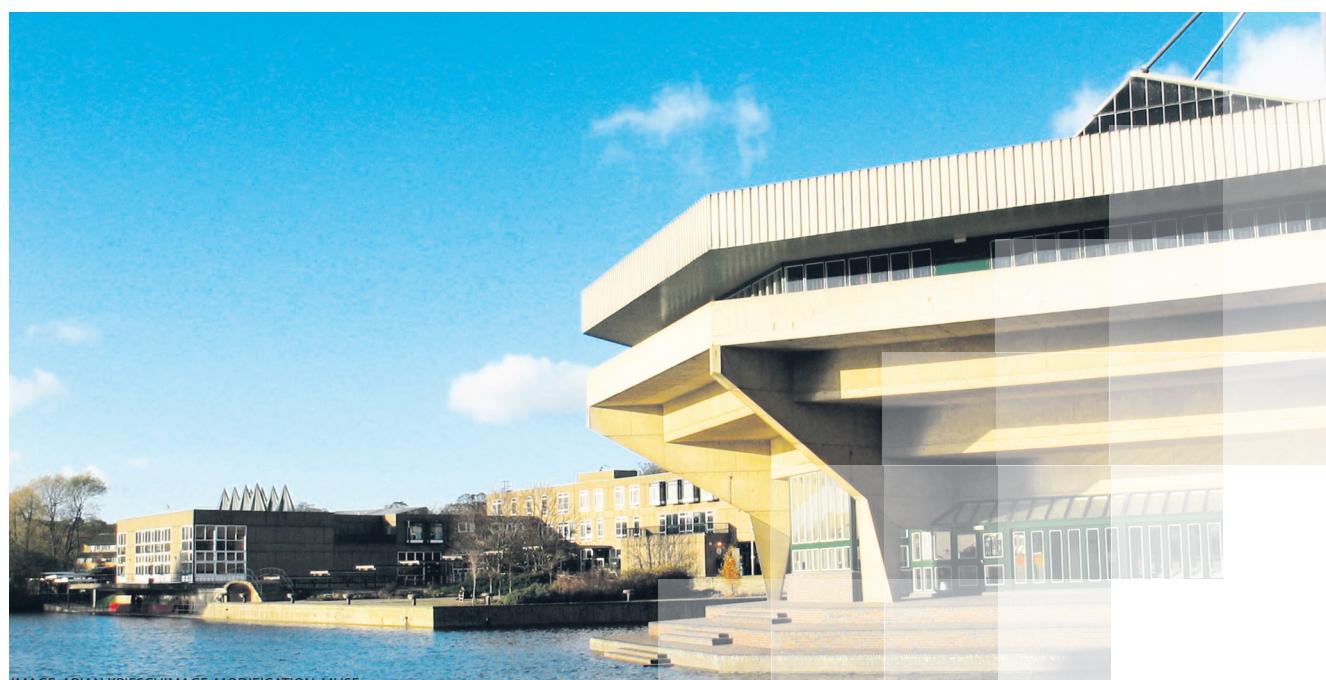
Brutalist architecture has a place firmly in the heart of York

tal solution to post war public housing demands and the Smiths have stated that it was intended to be ugly as they saw ugliness as an authentic British trait.

Another integral, yet often overlooked aspect of Brutalist architecture is that it was publicly funded, and the architects were often anonymous, working in the public sector and in local governments, a rarity in today's age. These spaces are also highly politicised as long term tenants are being removed from housing such as the Balfron Tower in Poplar, designed by Eren Goldfinger, in order that these sought after postcodes can be renovated into desirable housing ready for private sale. Brutal architecture, designed as a solution for public housing demands is becoming a site of social cleansing as existing tenants are removed to the urban outskirts.

While it might sound entirely logical to strip York campus of its 60s eyesores, its constantly freezing Vanbrugh accommodation, its silverfish infested kitchens, we may be being slightly naïve to simply call for the demolition of York's pebble dashed history. A university born in the 60s shouldn't sever its roots to the 1960s architecture that is literally its foundations.

The Brutalist architecture of York and its University represents the unsung anonymous architects of the 60s, the experimental architecture which has long since been dismissed and the history of the urban landscape that exemplifies post war Britain. Brutalist architecture has a place firmly in the heart of York, symbolising the transition from medieval town to modern city that York has undertaken.



Building blocks

Tess Pullen provides concrete proof for why we should defend Brutalist architecture

When you envisage the architecture of Britain, what comes to mind are buildings such as the striking Gherkin, prestigious and sprawling stately homes and iconic architectural feats such as the 2012 Olympics Aquatics centre, but one thing that people do not normally consider when contemplating great architectural feats is the Brutalist architecture of 1960s Britain.

The great expanses of concrete that are frequently considered to plague York's campus, (Vanbrugh college anyone?) would hardly be on the top of your list of buildings to

visit. Yet as of 25 September this architecture will be considered worthy of a National Trust tour, with locations such as the Southbank Centre opened up to public tours. As the National Trust explains, these buildings will be the Trust properties of the future.

This opens up the debate as to whether these controversial buildings should be protected and admired, or whether the likes of Vanbrugh College and Stonebow House, described by architectural critics as "sheer visual misery" and often considered one of York's greatest eyesores should be

There he goes again

Noel Fielding talks to Joel Down about his tour, trying to 'handcuff lightning' and the allure of 60s dust, as first discovered by The La's



Comedy seems to be something of a curse for Noel Fielding. He's been doing it for long enough but he jokes that writing is like "stabbing yourself in the eye with a biro" and complains that being a comedian is like "a mental illness because you're always watching it back thinking 'Oh why did I do that?! Why did I say it like that?!" You can never get it right." However, that hasn't stopped him; he has hopes of penning a feature film and will start an extended UK tour of *An Evening with* this winter. With so much lined up, it's no surprise that I catch him fully caffeinated: two coffees in, with Jeff Goldblum cresting the horizon. "I'm pretty hyper anyway, so anything that makes you fast, I literally turn into The Fly" he says, with a buzz of laughter.

"What I like about [stand-up] is that it's kind of Punk..." he replies when I ask him about the attraction of being back in front of a crowd, "If it's not working then you know about it straight away." Even if his bubbly personality and ability to laugh at just about anything makes him the polar opposite of 'Punk', he's not one to play it safe on stage and recalls a routine at a charity gig that was completely out of place. "Sometimes, as a stand-up you're just a bit of a pervert, you know, you go towards the danger, because you can do gigs, and you know how to do them (in front of your own crowd) so you try and make it harder for yourself. Like, I wonder if I could do this tied up in a sack. It's idiotic really". Fortunately, he has managed to spend his entire career surrounded by people who think in the same way. Rather than help untie the sack, they tend to get distracted by the colour of the rope. "In the *Boosh* we just used to try and make each other laugh, because you've done the show every which way you can, you've stretched it, you've added bits, but you still have to remain disciplined and remember that people coming to the show are seeing it for the first time. It is hard to do that, especially when you've got Rich Fulcher in the show, because he never says the same thing twice so it's quite easy to go off on a tangent."

A long standing member of the comedian's idiosyncratic creative circle, Rich Fulcher is, according to Noel, the master of curve-ball one-liners. "There was a bit where he used to come out as a robot in the future, and I'd ask what he'd been doing and he used to say, 'I've been fucking...' and it was something different every night. Once he said 'I've been fucking a burnt shephards pie'", he lets out another stifled giggle, "but it's the perfect example of the words and the way the words sound; it is poetry in a way." This touches on the style that gave *Boosh* part of its appeal as Noel demonstrates, suddenly pacing through a few well-remembered lines: "I'll be all over you like a flannel, I think in the first series of Mighty Boosh I said you're as edgy as a satsuma," he continues, satisfied, "Satsuma is such a great punchline." I agree, but wonder if there's any trick to coming up with these verbal knockouts: "It's like trying to handcuff lightning, catching it while it comes out fresh." Noel and Julian preferred to leave their script only part-internalised for just that reason, "so that it was still zingy", and could be re-written on the spot.

Zing, lightning and satsumas are just some of the things required for a successful script, but what Noel insists you don't need is too much control. *Luxury Comedy* (or "the weirdest show I've ever made") is a case in point: "I think editing yourself and writing it and being in it is just too much. Someone should have just gone 'you can't edit yourself, this is madness.'" He recalls spending a long time making everything look as good as it sounded, but with hindsight sees that "like Lee Mavers - I was probably trying to put 60s dust into it," a neat reference to an anecdote he'd just told about the La's singer, doubling nicely as a fable about perfectionism. In his head, Mavers, who wrote indie anthem 'There She Goes' could apparently hear their debut album without fault, but when it came to recording he soon worked out that, contrary to the inner workings of his mind, the band were running off modern equipment; what they needed was made in the 60s. Pandering to his despotic needs, they re-recorded the entire album on aged machines but

something continued to eat away at him. Everything had been cleaned, and as a result, the sound lacked 60s dust. Noel laughs, "Everyone's thinking by that point: you've got to let it go! I totally understand what he was doing, and I feel like that sometimes."

Luxury Comedy, which had a turbulent two-series run from 2012, split critics and fans in every direction but Noel doesn't look for a way out and unlike the La's, won't be about to sever any association with his work. "*Luxury* was just a reaction to having done *Mighty Boosh* for ten years, and also to how famous we'd got, because we didn't really think - I mean we thought we'd get a cult following, but it did really get ridiculous at one point." In contrast, "people who'd watched *Boosh* saw it and went, 'What's this?'" Half of them hated it, and half of them loved it, and in a way - they teach you this in art school - that's the best reaction."

Noel doesn't remember much about Croydon Art School, only that he saw a trained professional "regurgitating goldfish" as part of the apparent 'entertainment' during fresher's week. He admits that he was probably

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Sometimes,
as a stand-up,
you're a bit of a
pervert. You go
towards the
danger

"quite lazy", going on to say, "if you're an art student, you just have to look at it as having some time to do what you want." He lists hanging out with film students and dressing up as Jesus - for stand-up of course. But the most important lesson he learnt at uni came from Turner nominated Dexter Dalwood: "he taught me that there wasn't any difference between the ideas I was having in my comedy and the ideas I was having in my art. I had sectioned them off in my head, so that was quite revolutionary to me." Does the divide still exist in some form? "I love painting and drawing but I never try to do too much, because I don't want to make it into my job... I sort of just do it to relax." It's a minor annoyance to him that he puts "too much in" most of the time and compares this to the frenzy of his comedy, concluding that "the simplest stuff is always the best." Brilliantly, on one occasion, he attacked a watercolour with such vigour that he ended up giving himself repetitive strain injury. "I felt sorry for myself," he says sheepishly, "then I read about Michelangelo when he was doing the Sistene chapel and was looking up at such an angle all the time, that the weight of his brain pushed against his vertebrae and changed the shape of his skeleton. And he almost went blind as well. I thought, well, I should probably stop moaning."

It's impossible to have a dull conversation with Noel Fielding, darting as he does from one topic to another, and then out of the room, to hunt down a delivery man who seemed intent on disappearing. A few minutes later he comes back with the parcel, a film - inspiration for his own - picks up the thread again and returns to the point. "There is some weird thing that happens with art" referring to how serious everyone is about it, "why not imagine that when the artist made something he was pissing himself with laughter?" There's no point imagining anything else with Noel Fielding because you can almost guarantee that the part-time artist, full-time comedian and former Dondylion - has been doing just that from the very beginning. M

Noel Fielding will perform his live show at Scarborough on November 21st. Also available on DVD.

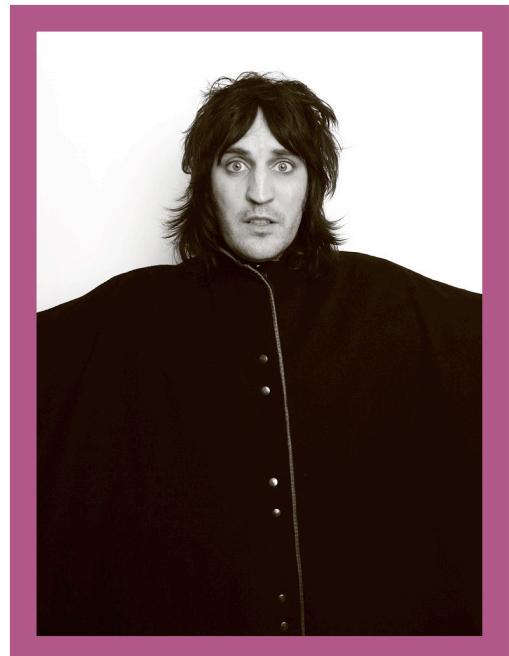


IMAGE: TEENAGE CANCER TRUST



IMAGE: DAVEBROWN

Catwalk trend report

The 70s are here to stay according to London's biggest fashion event



BY PPQ



BY J.J.S. LEE



BY ORLA KIELY

Words by **Grace Howarth**
 Photography by **James Hostford**

The 70s trend, popular this summer, is clearly a style that is here to stay. Classic features of the retro look were seen across the catwalk shows. PPQ designers Percy Parker and Amy Molyneaux gave the trend a twist, interweaving Chinese prints onto their bell-bottom jumpsuits and halterneck blouses.

An era famous for more rather than less, the flounced sleeves and countless ruffles add volume to the looks, emphasised by the models' candy floss hair styles and copious amounts of decadent sparkling jewellery. The stringent colour palette of black, white and electric blue nicely tie the whole collection together, while platform heels complete the evocative look. Similarly visible in Orla Kiely's collection, lilac pinafores and high neck wallpaper print blouses feature alongside crisp white poplin georgette dresses. Accessories included platformed peep toe shoes and pastel coloured T-Bars while wide headbands tied neatly around low ponytails complete the 1970s 'poolside imagery', from which Kiely took her inspiration.

The third designer to pay homage to this stylish era was J.J.S.Lee. Her collection heavily featured delicate high neck shirts of billowing silk tulle, co-ordinating with matching wide leg trousers. Stripes in candy pinks and whites and parrot greens, reminiscent of a market bazaar, complete the nostalgic look.

Spotted at London Fashion Week

Words by **Rachel Paix** Photography by **Rob McConkey**



Ciara

Ciara stuck to chic and minimalist, modelling a modest white shirt, combining it with a black Topshop suede skirt. Sophisticated and stylish, Ciara posed for photos among other fashion A-listers such as Alexa Chung and chairman of the Arcadia Group, Sir Phillip Green.



Poppy Delevingne

Appropriately dressed in Topshop's Autumn/Winter collection, the model and socialite attended this season's Topshop catwalk show in style. Poppy completed her look with an oversized faux fur jacket and sunglasses, perfecting her 70s chic look.



Jourdan Dunn

Having swapped the catwalk for the frow this season, Jourdan joined fashion royalty including Vogue Editor Anna Wintour. The model combined the contemporary with the classic, stunning crowds in an embellished leather mini-skirt and a nautical turtle neck.



Suki Waterhouse

The model and actress attended the Topshop event in a floor-length, vintage-patterned dress which embodied autumnal tones. She combined this with a rich fur shawl and a pair of intricate white sunglasses, matching a scarlet red clutch bag to her equally bright lips.

A new identity

Manuel Facchini speaks to Beki Elmer about fusing together irreconcilable concepts in his London Fashion Week Spring/Summer collection

Hidden in the depths of London's notoriously quirky and cultural West End, The Vinyl Factory played host to Histoire D'A(r)mour, Manuel Facchini's Spring/Summer presentation. The dimly lit room was void of any decoration, its blackened floors and walls foreshadowing the gothic nature of Manuel's designs.

As the first model strode out into the spotlight it was evident that Manuel had set out to create a feminine and empowering collection. The structural silhouettes and bold geometry alluded to that of a female warrior, shaping the bodices in a way which truly celebrated the female anatomy.

The Central Saint Martins graduate combines two seemingly separate worlds in his latest collection. The Italian-born designer was influenced by Victorian-Gothic architecture and embodies his ideas through techniques used to create sportswear. Given his eclectic and innovative combination of concept and materials, I'm intrigued to ask Manuel more about the thoughts behind this season's creation.

Manuel begins, "My collection has a strong DNA that starts from two totally different stories, or different fields. So the gothic part stems from an eagle's wings, then transforms into cages and skeletons."

This is evident in the rib cage like patterns across a number of Manuel's pieces, and in the skeletal body art on the models' legs.

He continues, "They're very geometri-

cally interpreted, they're not photographic as you can see. It's a study of the pattern of the body itself. This is to make sure that the designs are strong, but at the same time feminine."

"So they're very graphic and [have] geometric shapes as you can see, but at the same time there's sportswear which contrasts to the gothic feeling. Gothic and sport

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My collection has a strong DNA that starts from two totally different stories

are very unusual to see together. So I've tried to create a new DNA that is composed and created from each branch."

He then goes on to explain how the sportswear element is captured using form-fitting technology, seen in sportswear, to create garments which fit like a glove and embrace the female figure. For example

mini-dresses with structured shoulders, in the spirit of rugby players, are formed using 3D processes. The result is a glamorous look where skin tight bodices are contrasted with voluminous skirts.

"That's what I want to create: something that has got a really strong atmosphere, but at the same time is wearable and feminine."

Manuel appears incredibly passionate about his designs. During the presentation he thrived among the audience by getting up close to his designs and creating his own film footage.

Upon asking him about his favourite piece he stressed the material work which has gone into the collection. "My favourite piece was the first dress, which has a lot of body work underneath with a piece of leather across the front to constrain the bodice. Everything is placed really nicely."

In his work, the designer juxtaposes the use of thick jacquard in both solid and fluid forms. In keeping with the sportswear element, scuba fabric is used for embellishment to create wings and couture trousers are trimmed with details stolen from sportswear.

The innovative use of textiles is integral to the brand. Manuel explains, "It was a lot of work to create the set because I don't buy fabrics, I create them. There's a lot of study behind the collection. It's a long process: I start from a sketchbook and two totally different ideas and I try to blend them together with a new vision and a new DNA."

Looking back to Manuel's monochrome debut collection at London Fashion Week last season, the Spring/Summer collection is comparably vibrant, with clashes of neon greens and scarlet reds.

Manuel explains, "Because of the concept of the collection, American football and Gothic feathers, I felt that some colours could be interesting because of the mood of American football. These lines and these processing techniques would be interesting because we're in summer and it's easier to create with these colours."

Finally I ask Manuel about the most challenging part of creating this collection. "Definitely to create the pattern of the feathers, because to combine the fabric and the idea was very hard. You have a lot of technical limits and you have to play around with graphic design and the possibilities that you have with that exact feather. So you have to play around with it and make sure it's going to be great. It's a lot of work with a lot of attempts to make it happen."

This is only Manuel's second appearance at London Fashion Week yet it appears that his unique and dramatic approach to his collection has captivated the mindset of many fashion followers. Borrowing the colour palette and techniques from the sports world and applying it to his fascination with the Gothic, Manuel has successfully created a wearable collection which empowers the female form. M



IMAGES: JAMES HOSTFORD

LFW SS16

Top Moments

The Muse Fashion LFW team bring you their top five best moments from the Spring/ Summer season with the most memorable quotes from the people who attended

1 | PPQ

London-based design duo Amy Molyneaux and Percy Parker's catwalk show was a star-studded, highly anticipated event. Former *Made in Chelsea* stars Millie Mackintosh and Kimberly Garner, as well as rising R&B talent Tallia Storm all took their seats on the front row. The PPQ Spring/Summer collection blended modern tailoring with 70s style. Electric blue co-ords styled with extravagant gemstone jewellery courtesy of Rocks & Co made for a sophisticated look. Juxtaposed with the sharp tailoring was a delightful combination of bell-bottomed flares and flowy gypsy tops, which harked back to the 70s. The vibrant and dynamic atmosphere of the collection made it a show to be remembered.



IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD

2 | Bora Aksu

Set at BFC Show Space at Brewer Street's multi-storey car park, Aksu's new collection featured floaty ethereal lace in powder pinks and delicate whites. The light and fluid materials of silk tulle and organza contrasted with more impervious cottons and brocades offering depth to the pieces. The collection then transforms into more vibrant oranges and fuchsias influenced, as the designer states, by the changing colours of the skies at sunset. Aksu's collection takes inspiration from early 20th century photographer Etheldreda Laing. Her work features vivid and colourful photographs of her daughter in the garden of their Oxford home.

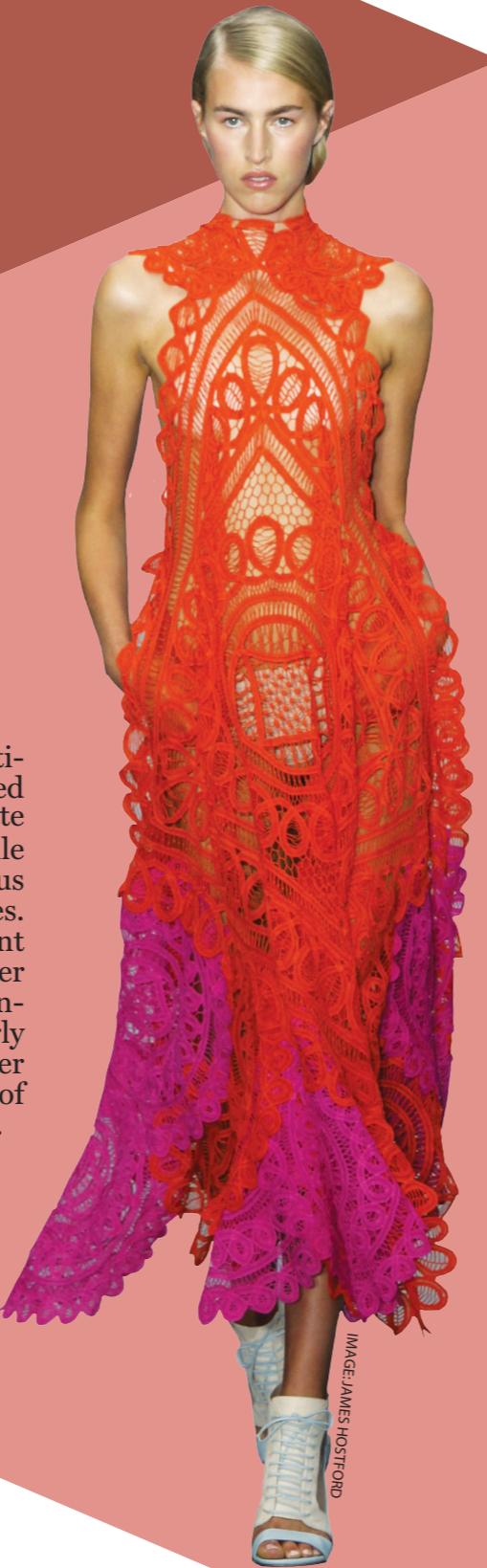


IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD

3 | Orla Kiely

Set on a miniature golf course shaped in the pattern of the label's infamous floral designs, Orla Kiely's Spring/Summer collection was both playful and glamorous. When asked about the influence behind her collection, Orla Kiely emphasised: "Palm springs and Lily Pulitzer meets the Stepford wives."



5 | Niro Wang

Niro Wang's collection demonstrated the ability to modernise linen classics with unconventional and intricate displays of linen. Ethical and sustainable fashion was enhanced through designs featuring delicate tree and leaf prints. The collection demonstrated the execution of simplistic design, clearly marking the relevance of understated fashion at LFW.



IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD

4 | Danielle Romeril

Frayed hems, layering and verdant colours make up Romeril's collection. Her inspiration comes from photographers Viviane Sassen and her series 'Paradise Lost' from which she takes the name of her collection and Jackie Nickerson's shots of African farmers in work attire, highlighting the raw and durable textiles.



IMAGE: ROB MCCONKEY

Game Preview: *Halo 5*

Adam Koper

Platform: Xbox One

Release date: 27 October



Having the exclusive *Halo* series has always been a big selling point for the Xbox, from *Combat Evolved* on the original console right on through to *Halo 4* on the Xbox 360 and Xbox One. A couple of years ago at E3 2013, Microsoft announced that this extensive series would be expanded further with the addition of *Halo 5*, which is currently being developed by 343 Industries and will be released on October 27th.

The hype that has surrounded *Halo 5* has been kept going by a strong marketing campaign, that makes the most of the mystery surrounding the Master Chief. The *Hunt the Truth* podcast series features comedian Keegan-Michael Key as the voice of a journalist aiming to uncover the true story of the Master Chief. The series was massively successful, so much so that a second season has been confirmed by Microsoft.

What can we expect from *Halo 5*? More of the same - well balanced first-person-shooter mechanics that have been perfected over the years. It's also been revealed that the game will be locked at 60 frames per second, and that this will be achieved with the help of a dynamic resolution. This basically means that the resolution will decrease during the most intense scenes, so that the game can still run smoothly. This was implemented in a demo version, shown at Gamescom earlier this year - according to the journalists given special access to this demo, the dynamic resolution works well and keeps the game running smoothly.

343 Industries have also been working on a new game engine for *Halo 5*, which is the one of the reasons for the long wait. The new engine has been built with the Xbox One in mind, with better light-rendering technology being just one of the improvements that are being talked about. The story is split between two groups of Spartan soldiers, one of which is headed by the series' protagonist Master Chief, the other by the character Spartan Locke. Not much has been given away in terms of story - all we know for certain is that Locke is on a quest to track down the Master Chief.

We also know that the character of Buck (the protagonist of *Halo ODST*) is set to return, this time as a hard-as-nails Spartan. A few weeks ago, *Halo 5*'s opening cinematic was revealed, showing a team of Spartans lead by Locke, jumping out the back end of a plane and then freefalling onto the surface of an alien planet, before tearing a whole army of enemies to shreds. The visuals were frankly stunning, especially those of the character models, which looked virtually real at some points in the video.

While there have been many positive developments, not everyone is satisfied. The cynics out there will feel vindicated by the lack of split screen multiplayer, which will no doubt feel like a betrayal to anyone who has ever played it in previous editions. Previously, you could always rely on *Halo* for the best split screen action, allowing a group of friends to goof around in all manner of ways.

Developer 343 Industries claims that the decision to remove split screen was part of an effort to deliver a true next-gen experience, although why split-screen could be holding them back from achieving that goal remains unclear.

Nevertheless, as the series' first proper outing on the Xbox One, *Halo 5* is shaping up to be yet another exciting outing for Master Chief. There is no doubt that this latest title will be the best looking *Halo* so far and will probably quench the fans' thirst for interplanetary conflict for a few years at least.

A Variable State of mind

Indie developer **Jonathan Burroughs** talks storytelling and *Twin Peaks* with Adam Koper

Jonathan Burroughs is one half of the two-man team that leads Variable State. This relatively young indie studio caused a stir last year when a demo of their current project *Virginia* was shown at the EGX 2014 convention. There was universal praise for what seemed to be a brilliantly unique game, with some critics ranking *Virginia* as one of the best games of the convention. Working alongside Terry Kenny, it looks like Burroughs' first game could be a big hit.

Burroughs took a long and meandering path to get to this point. Despite taking mostly science courses at A-level, he started on an art degree, a decision he later regretted. "I found myself kind of drifting for a little while, ended up working in a shop in Woking selling picture frames, and that wasn't exactly where I wanted to be." Having spotted a job advert in a local newspaper, Burroughs became a games tester for Electronic Arts. From there, he moved into game development, working on *Battlefield 2: Modern Combat* for Playstation 2.

Burroughs admits that his entry into the world of game development was almost accidental. "I always feel a bit guilty if I'm ever asked the question 'How's the best way to get into games?', 'cos certainly the route I took was a real fluke I think. I feel very lucky for it, but it's certainly a difficult field to get into if your aspiration is to get into the studio end of things."

Variable State was set up by Burroughs and Terry Kenny in January last year. The two had become friends while working together for the company Deepmind in London. Burroughs describes Kenny as "a very accomplished animator and 3D artist," with whom he shared a passion for indie games such as *Gone Home* and *Kentucky Route Zero*. "I think we wanted to have a go at doing something like that, do a game that was per-

ing it's a walking simulator," and admits that it "really isn't a game in the traditional sense of puzzle solving, or applying skill to master a complex challenge."

The focus point here is on the storytelling. "It's far more about immersing yourself in a story and experiencing a story, really almost like watching an animated film, from the first person perspective. You drive your character through the scene and there's some degree of interaction, but it's not an adventure game like a *Monkey Island* game - there's no picking up objects for an inventory and figuring out how to use those objects. It's certainly not *LA Noire*, there's not that kind of role-play."

You'd think that a game which puts such an emphasis on storytelling rather than gameplay would naturally rely on dialogue, although rumours on the internet had it that *Virginia* would feature no dialogue whatsoever. When I asked Burroughs about this, his answer was quite direct. "That's completely true, yes, now that is right. So partly for practical reasons we were a little afraid of doing [dialogue], it would add an extra dimension of quality to achieve." But this has ended up working in their favour, he tells me. "There's a large cast of characters in the game and they're all fully animated and their performance conveys a lot of the drama in the game, and also we had Lyndon Holland our composer who has done an incredible soundtrack for the game, and I think we don't miss the dialogue at all. I think in fact that it adds a useful ambiguity to the storytelling so it leaves an amount up to interpretation. I think that's very useful."

On paper the story bears a noticeable resemblance to the nineties' television show, *Twin Peaks*. When I bring this up, there's a hint of regret in Burroughs' response. He tells me about how his friendship with Kenny was partly the result of the pair's love of a certain type of nineties television. He names *Twin Peaks*, *The X-files* and *The Outer Limits* as being part of this group. While he describes these programs as being "the starting point" for the project that would become *Virginia*, he is quick to make it clear that the game will not be weighed down by its influences. "I think maybe we were at risk of referring to that a little bit too often, I wouldn't want people to think *Virginia* was a pastiche of *Twin Peaks* or even really that much directly inspired by David Lynch [...] It's certainly not trying to be *Twin Peaks* as a game."

So far, Variable State haven't released any video footage of *Virginia*, and only a handful of images. Little has been seen or heard of the game since a demo was shown at EGX 2014, but Burroughs was quick to explain the secrecy, telling me that "since then the game's changed enough that I think we can't continue to show that demo, but nor is it quite far enough along that we can show what it has become, so I think we will have something to show before long." It seems that Variable State are taking their time, which is reassuring in an era characterised by unfinished games. Hopefully it will have been worth the wait when *Virginia* is released next year. **M**

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animated film

hops a bit more personal."

Virginia will be the first game to come out of this vision for more personal games. Set in small town America, the story follows an FBI agent brought in to work on the case of a missing boy. The game describes itself as "a first person interactive drama." When I ask Burroughs what they mean by this, he jokingly tells me "it's a slightly pretentious way of say-



Ones to watch

Liam Dooley and Rhys Thompson preview autumn's big and small screen offerings



HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU, SERIES 50

The BBC's long-running satirical panel show starts its fiftieth series next month. Jeremy Clarkson is already booked to make his first post-fracas BBC appearance - an incident that will probably take all of thirty seconds to come up. Rumour has it that the production team had planned to present him with a steak dinner at the start of the last series, but he withdrew from the show as the muck hit the fan, so this will be their first chance for revenge.

Although the programme has lost some of its edge as it has aged in recent years, it is still one part of a tiny group where genuine political arguments can mix successfully with humour. Watching team captain Ian Hislop launch into one of his rants about a guest he dislikes or a news story that annoyed him is still just as entertaining as it was in its heyday. Paul Merton also seems more invigorated in recent years, with his wildly surreal comments often lightening any overly serious political moments.

BBC1, October



UNFORGOTTEN

ITV have a great line up of upcoming new dramas. One of the highlights is Chris Lang's new crime series *Unforgotten*. The show focuses on a 40-year-old murder case that begins when the body of a young man is discovered underneath a demolished house. The principle of a cold case TV drama is hardly new (*Waking the Dead*, *Silent Witness*, *New Tricks*), but *Unforgotten* differs from these by being a six-part series dedicated to a single story. Lang's script offers a more realistic and psychological interpretation of the detective drama format, which allows the characters to develop over the six episodes.

Perhaps the main selling point of *Unforgotten* is the incredible cast. Nicola Walker (*Last Tango in Halifax*, *Spooks*), Tom Courtenay (*45 Years*, *Quartet*) and Trevor Eve (*Kidnap and Ransom*, *Death Comes to Pemberley*) are some of the best actors in the country, so it's very exciting to see them all embarking in the same project together.

ITV, October



THE WALKING DEAD, SERIES 6

After the shocking conclusion to the previous series and the return of a familiar face, things are set to be shaken up in Alexandria. As we have already seen, unlike Rick and his group, the Alexandrians have been protected since the very start of the outbreak and have not learnt to survive. In series six, there will still be a division between those who want to learn from Rick and those who see his group as a threat to their way of life. With an increasing number of walkers appearing outside Alexandria's walls and a threatening group of survivors setting their sights on our heroes, will they learn to co-exist before it's too late?

Robert Kirkman, the creator of *The Walking Dead* promises that "a few of the things coming [in the next series] deal with very cool, very beloved parts of the comic series and expand them in ways that die-hard fans are going to love." If he keeps his word, series six promises to be as action-packed and utterly thrilling as ever.

Fox UK, October



SPECTRE

In what is probably the most anticipated film of the year, *Spectre* continues the James Bond storyline that began in *Skyfall*. Naomie Harris and Ralph Fiennes return as Moneypenny and M respectively, following their scene-stealing introductions in the previous film. Sam Mendes is back behind the camera as director and has promised an exciting tale that sees MI6 under threat, with a dangerous trail across the world that leads to the mysterious organisation SPECTRE.

Admittedly, that does all sound like a standard Bond movie and the highly critical Sony emails that were leaked last year haven't helped to sell this new addition incredibly well. However, the global success of its predecessor and the exciting official trailer should give us all some confidence that the latest film will be a worthy addition to the franchise. At least it can't be as bad as *Die Another Day*.

Released: 26 October

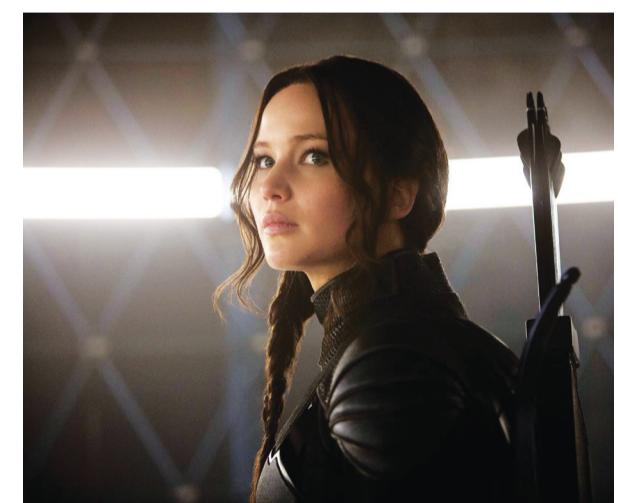


SUFFRAGETTE

This British drama film centres on the immensely brave members of the British women's suffrage movement and their extraordinary struggle to secure their right to vote. It is inspired by the true lives of the Suffragettes, who risked all that they had in their fight for equality. These women were ordinary working people rising up against a brutally misogynistic state in an effort to reclaim some control over their own lives.

The star-studded cast includes: Carey Mulligan as Maud Watts, Helena Bonham Carter as Edith Ellyn, Natalie Press as Emily Davison (the Suffragette who famously stepped in front of King George V's horse at the Epsom Derby) and Meryl Streep taking up the role of Emmeline Pankhurst, the leader of the Suffragette movement. If anybody is going to portray these very important historical events with the right amount of drama and sophistication, it will be these brilliant performers.

Released: 30 October



THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 2

The epic conclusion to *The Hunger Games* film adaptations is set to hit cinema screens this season. We return to Katniss, Peeta, Gale and Finnick as they prepare for one final conflict with President Snow, hoping to end his brutal rule over the lives of the people of Panem.

Snow has rigged the Capitol with the very traps, beasts and challenges one would find in his cruel and twisted Hunger Games. As Finnick says to Katniss, but more importantly to the audience, "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 76th Hunger Games." *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2* promises to combine the very same life-or-death situations as the actual Games themselves with the revolutionary flavour that was introduced in *Mockingjay – Part 1*. It is always sad to see the end of such a fantastic franchise, but it looks like they aren't going to let it go out without a bang. May the odds be ever in their favour!

Released: 20 November

'It's been a long time coming'

Queens of the Stone Age bassist **Michael Shuman** talks to Chris Owen about reviving side project Mini Mansions with fellow band member **Tyler Parkford**



IMAGE: MICHELLE SHIERS

Michael Shuman, California rock star with all the trimmings and front man of Mini Mansions, is probably the only musician to have headlined R+L and also played support slots for the likes of Royal Blood and Arctic Monkeys. It's for the former that he, Tyler Parkford and Zach Dawes are preparing to take to the stage in the outer reaches of Yorkshire – Royal Blood chose to bring their ten date UK tour to Bridlington of all places, and Mini Mansions have the task of warming up a rain-lashed, sold-out crowd at the iconic Spa.

"This moment feels like it's been a long time coming," says Shuman, not on playing support in Brid, but on finally giving the side-lined project the attention and lease of life it deserves. Mini Mansions' dressing room is decorated with a chiller full of Budweiser and a cluster of iMacs. Parkford absently rifles through his emails as we chat, but I have Shuman's full attention, and his unwavering, unnerving stare.

"As a band, we haven't really stopped working, privately," he says. Shuman has been QOTSA's bassist since 2007's *Era Vulgaris*, Parkford releases solo material as Mister Goodnite, and Dawes has worked in-studio with everyone from T Bone Burnett to Elton John, but Shuman insists their collaboration isn't just an occasional pick-up or distraction. "Since *Mini Mansions* (2010's self-titled debut) we haven't had the time to be in the public eye, to release music and have people see us play and have them buy our records."

Talking to Shuman is, initially, disconcerting. He is the image of a rock icon: leather-clad, slicked back hair shaved at the sides, with hard yet soft features and an imposing form. I feel as though he should only exist elevated, or from a distance, or on a screen. It's arguably even more unsettling that he isn't intimidating at all – just politely forthcoming, and maybe a little bored. He becomes more animated throughout our meeting, but the air of a caged creature is tangible; encountering one of the Queens outside of the Stone Age is reminiscent of watching an athlete give an interview.

Parkford, thoughtful and big brotherly, is a stark counterpoint, chatting from behind his laptop. He is the band's musical authority, detailing the shape and scope of recent release *The Great Pretenders* as it went through its formative phases. The superb single 'Death Is A Girl' won some commercial radio play for its skittish dance-psych sensibility but, as Parkford notes, the track is a red herring for the rest of the record.

"It's kind of all over the place," he says with a smirk of self-deprecation. "The album draws on West Coast hip-hop to Italo disco, to ambient pop and dream pop, a lot of psych. It's all over the map because we always write material that, as a listener, we'd want to hear. This is definitely like a buffet of every part of the baseball field," he concludes, with fitting creative abandon.

Parkford also calls *The Great Pretenders* a personal album, and thinks that "anyone who does connect to this will take it very personally, not just as a catchy record." In respect of this, it's intriguing that, for their follow up, Mini Mansions have departed the small independent label owned by Shuman's close friend – a chap you might've heard of called Josh Homme – in favour of a much larger multinational outfit. In an age of artistic domination by big labels, it's surprising that a band like Mini Mansions, already with established reputation and little to prove in the way of conquering the world, chose to leave behind Homme's

Rekords Rekords in favour of Capitol.

"It's actually awesome," says Shuman of working with a large label, taking me by surprise. It's not uncommon for sycophancy to creep in when labels come up in conversation in interviews with bands – it is, quite literally, more than their livelihood is worth to bad-mouth their paymasters – though Shuman doesn't strike me as the type to tend towards false flattery. "I've never had a record on a major label," he continues. "Even Queens [of the Stone Age] records were never on a major label. There are hoops because of fucking corporation, but they didn't tell us one thing about what music we should put out, and how to make it."

"Josh is one of my closest friends – but he's not running a record label anymore," he says with some clear evasion. Shuman's contentment seems genuine, and he appears to concur with Parkford that *The Great Pretenders* has been a refreshingly intimate, personal project – perhaps more so than his work with QOTSA. Josh Homme is the only permanent fixture of a band with revolving doors (Queens has had 15 members in its 20 year history, each with their own colour coded timeline on Wikipedia) and, though Shuman seems to have stuck, it's the case that QOTSA is often half-jokingly seen as a solo project with an interchangeable backing band. Now, with Queens on hiatus, Shuman

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Anyone who does connect to this will take it very personally, not just as a catchy record

takes centre stage in an evidently tightly knit triumvirate.

"I think an important part of being in a band is to be in a band that's basically your favourite band, and make that kind of music," he says. "And that's what we're doing. [Zach and Tyler] are like my two favourite musicians, so being in this band is so great."

A continuation of this logic saw Shuman secure Alex Turner in a feature spot for a verse on 'Vertigo'. His Sheffield drawl, sensual and indifferent, is a personification of Mini Mansions' music: urgency and complacency, rock that is at once all frills and none. As Shuman says of the collaboration, "there was no-one hounding each other, it was just the right song and the right verse, and it was organic". It's this attitude that makes Mini Mansions one of those rare bands with music bigger than their name, as far from Homme and the QOTSA machine as Shuman could hope to get.

Onstage later, Shuman's leather and grunge is gone, replaced by a crisp white suit. "Let's have us a dance," he says to introduce 'Death Is A Girl'. The crowd is bemused, having been poised to start moshing to Royal Blood lite. Michael, Zach and Tyler live every minute of their short set, jumping and dancing in a blaze of flair and finesse. Royal Blood's hour is stuffy and self-conscious. Such is the joy of having plenty to give and nothing to prove. **M**

Seeing music differently

Munisha Lall discusses her unique experience of attending Reading & Leeds Festival with a visual impairment



IMAGES: TOM MARTIN, MARC SETHI

I'm as dedicated a music fan as the next person. I'll happily listen to a Bombay Bicycle Club record every day of the week. What I love above all else about music is experiencing the artists I admire perform on stage; watching the music come alive in a sweaty room, or in a starlit field filled with complete strangers who share that same passion, is for me an absolute privilege. It's often said that music is one of life's greatest joys, so shouldn't it have the capacity to bring together all people?

I have retinitis pigmentosa, which is a genetic visual impairment that causes night blindness, tunnel vision and chronic shortsightedness. By day, you wouldn't even know I have RP. I've gone years without some of my friends even knowing about it. It's deceiving though, because when the lights are switched off and the sun sets below the horizon, my eyes stop functioning as they should. I'm not blind, but I probably can't see enough to walk down the street without walking into a parked car or tripping over the curb. So, how does someone

like me, with a light affecting condition, go about attending a festival when, as soon as the daylight hours end, I see the brightly lit stage and pretty much nothing else?

It's not easy to describe what I see in poorly lit spaces; it's not blurry, nor is it pitch black darkness. What I see at night is the world so much dimmer than you probably do. I see the stage, shrouded in a bountiful array of coloured lights, but not the gloom that surrounds it. I see the outline of my friends' facial features beside me, and the dark shadow of peoples' heads ahead and behind me in the crowd, but the ground and the sky are an intense jet black.

My first festival experience was 12 months ago. I took a four hour coach journey down to Reading and spent five days living in a tent. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little daunted by the thought of being packed into an 85,000 strong crowd for Arctic Monkeys or trying to get my monthly contact lenses out in the darkness. I'd never camped before and I certainly

had no idea what sort of obstacles I would encounter at night. I'm a tiny thing as it is, and like most people who are 5'2" I get flung about in crowds pretty easily.

I've faced my fair share of inconveniences and difficulty in dark gig venues and at festivals after dark. There are those who forget to tell you about the approaching stairs, and those who manage to walk you straight into a bollard or even, more embarrassingly, into other people. Then there are those who forget you have a visual impairment altogether.

It's not all doom and gloom though. Attitude Is Everything, an organisation that works with many festivals including Reading and Leeds, improves deaf and disabled people's access to live music by working in partnership with venues, audiences, artists and the music industry. The presence of such organisations, and the profile they raise, not only addresses the barriers people such as myself face in the music festival environment, but also encourages the general public to question our as-

sumptions regarding disability, and for me, that's reassuring.

At Reading & Leeds, viewing platforms are available across all seven stages and signers are available for those with hearing impairments. A little understanding goes a long way.

Presenter Jameela Jamil, founder of Why Not People, recently commented on how "Britain deals with disability by pretending it's not happening". I feel, unfortunately, that this does ring true, but my hope is that with openness and discussion, the embarrassment and awkwardness often associated with disability will be confronted and festivals will continue to become more accessible.

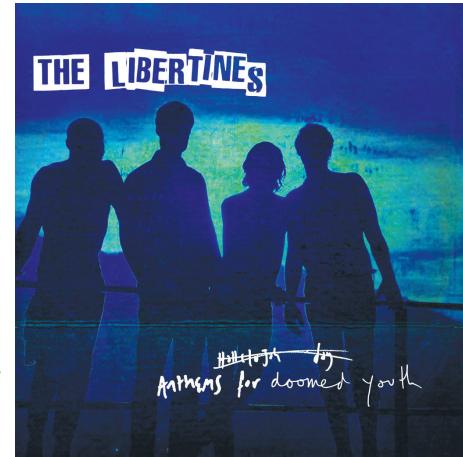
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The Libertines - *Anthems For Doomed Youth*

Lara Shannon



The Libertines once wrote about drugs, heartbreak and the downward spiral of Doherty and Barat. Now they've dropped their deviant vagabond ways, what can they write about to uphold their infamous identity? Although their subject matter hasn't changed their perspective has, demonstrated in songs like 'Iceman' and 'Gunga Din' - proof that the boys in the band have changed their tune. They've injected their trademark je ne sais quoi, tackling depression in 'Belly of the Beast'. The album explores the band's relationships in 'Glasgow Coma Scale Blues', a product of the wounds from The Libertines' split. Unfortunately, they try too hard to recreate their former selves. 'Fame and Fortune' calls for a march to Camden akin to the band's favourite poetry, but coming from grown men this seems a crude caricature. Yet overall, *Anthems for Doomed Youth* is a fantastic example of The Libertines' unique energy, with old gems like 'You're My Waterloo', a fan favourite that's been given a polish. The album's tight-knit sound can be pinned on their new producer; Jake Gosling was exactly what The Libertines needed to create an album that develops and maintains their identity.



Bring Me The Horizon - *That's The Spirit*

Beki Elmer



Bring Me The Horizon were once best known as a scream-core band for heavy metal fans. A sell-out Wembley show and a number two UK album later, *That's The Spirit* has transformed the band into one of the most successful rock acts around. Their success is owed to some killer singles. 'Happy Song's hypnotic chanting is a definite crowd pleaser while 'Throne' takes components of Linkin Park and 30 Seconds To Mars to create tracks you'd happily have on repeat all day. Vocalist Oli Sykes has revealed to NME that the band see themselves headlining R&L soon, and it's obvious that the band are aiming to emulate a much more listenable sound. Unfortunately for metal-heads this shift may be a big adjustment. The mosh-pit inducing lyrics of *Count Your Blessings* resonate more powerfully with rebellion than the comparably feeble words of *That's The Spirit*. The album has been manufactured for success ever since the release of 'Drown', which anticipated a much more sophisticated sound. It's strong overall, but there's something missing from *That's The Spirit*. The slow paced sounds of 'Blasphemy' and 'Oh No' seem to be crying out for the angsty spark of previous albums.



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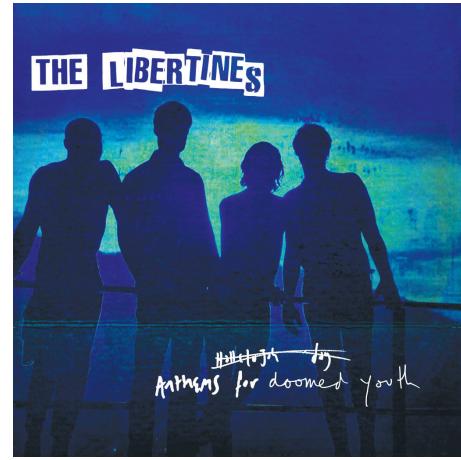
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Lend me your ears

In Our Time producer **Victoria Brignell** speaks to Lewis Hill about the show's past success, its present vigour and its future in universities

How do you decide on the topic for each episode of *In Our Time*?

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Subjects for the show are suggested not only by members of the production team but also by guests, other academics and listeners. We currently have more than 600 subjects on our ideas list so we're not short of topics! We have regular meetings with Melvyn in which we consider what topics will be covered in the next tranche of programmes. *In Our Time* covers science, history, philosophy, culture, religion and classics, and when we are deciding what topics to cover, we try to choose a roughly equal number of subjects from each of these six areas.

How do you select the academics for each show?

Our guests are chosen because they are leading authorities in their field, engaging communicators and passionate about their knowledge. When *In Our Time* began, journalists and writers were often included in the panel. Today, however, we only book people who hold positions at universities or leading museums because it is felt that this gives them extra authority and credibility. To date, our guests have been drawn from more than 50 academic institutions. Guests may be recommended to us by other academics or we may discover their work through internet research. We aim to include at least one person in each edition who has taken part in the programme before.

A number of University of York academics have been guests on *In Our Time* including Jeanne Nuechterlein, Senior Lecturer in the Department of History of Art; David Wootton, Professor of History and Tom Stoneham, Professor of Philosophy.

Along with academics from the University, other well-known figures who have appeared on *In Our Time* are Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal; Steve Jones,

We cater for a large number of people who want to listen to a challenging and intellectually stimulating programme

Emeritus Professor of Genetics at University College London and Mary Beard, Professor of Classics at the University of Cambridge.

In Our Time is also known for giving a voice to women. In the last five years alone, we have had fourteen all-female panels of guests who have discussed subjects like the number 'e', the An Lushan Rebellion and the Icelandic Sagas.

Do you have a favourite episode?

I've thought a long time about this and I find it impossible to choose just one! I read Classics at Cambridge University so I always enjoy working on the episodes which deal with history or cultural topics. However, perhaps the programmes I relish the most are the scientific and mathematical ones because the research takes me outside my comfort zone. For example, I've helped to produce programmes on comets, absolute zero, relativity and the number e, as well as many other scientific subjects.



What is the biggest challenge that you have faced as a producer of the show?

Last year, *In Our Time* was one of the Radio 4 programmes which held a 'Listener Week'. We invited listeners to suggest a topic we should cover and we received 862 ideas. Trying to choose just one idea from that many was a difficult task for the production team! Eventually Kafka's *The Trial* was chosen (broadcast Nov 27th last year).

Why do you think *In Our Time* has enjoyed such long term success?

I think *In Our Time*'s longevity is due to three factors. Firstly, we don't underestimate the intelligence of our audience. We cater for a large number of people who want to listen to a challenging and intellectually stimulating programme. Secondly, we tackle a huge diversity of subjects. To give you a taste of what we offer, this year we have examined Jane Eyre,

“”

We only book people who hold positions at universities or leading museums. This gives them extra authority

dark matter, the California Gold Rush and Sappho, to name but a few. Our back catalogue even includes programmes on eunuchs and the Kama Sutra.

Finally, *In Our Time* is distinctive because it is not bound by the news agenda. Indeed, we sometimes joke that our motto should be "never knowingly topical". While other programmes will discuss a subject because a celebrity is promoting a new book or film or there is an anniversary to mark, we choose a topic purely because it is interesting in itself (we hope!). This gives *In Our Time* a refreshing unpredictability.

Do you feel that episodes of *In Our Time* could be used more as material in university modules?

Yes, definitely. Since *In Our Time* began on 15th October 1998, more than 680 editions have been broadcast and all of them are available to listen to or download via the *In Our Time* website (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl>). Each episode of *In Our Time* is like a university seminar involving some of the leading experts in their field. Whatever subject a student is studying, there is a strong chance that there's an edition that is relevant to their course. I know that some academics already include *In Our Time* episodes in the reading lists that they hand out to their students. M



IMAGES: JOHN MCCAFFERTY

Bland to brilliant

Nicole Sharpe gives new students five easy tips to jazz up their mealtimes at university



DITCH PRE-PACKAGED SAUCES

Not only are jarred items often full of added sugar and additives, they really don't taste as good as your own creations. It's easy to make your own tomato sauce: fry an onion, add a can of chopped tomatoes, a squirt of tomato purée and plenty of garlic, and you have a basic sauce which can be easily improved and customised by using the tips below. Making a big batch and freezing the leftovers is a great way to save time and money too - perfect for the revision period.



GET SPICY

Jars of spices are available for no more than a pound each and truly open up a whole new realm of possibilities. A good spice to get started with is smoked paprika, adding a delicious smoky flavour to any dish. Other great spices are cumin, garam masala and turmeric, particularly good for making your own curry.



EMBRACE VEGETABLES

Vegetables might not be the first things that spring to mind when discussing the typical student diet but these can really be a life-saver. Simply adding a handful of mushrooms into a sauce will not only make your meal go further, but will add more flavour, texture and nutritional value to your meal. Other delicious additions can be as simple as throwing some frozen peas and sweetcorn in with your dish.



ADD BARBECUE SAUCE

Believe it or not, this humble ingredient can really take any tomato sauce, such as your standard bolognese, to a whole new level. Using canned tomatoes can often lead to a slightly acidic taste, but stirring in a small teaspoon of barbecue sauce counteracts this perfectly and adds a subtly smoky undertone to the dish.

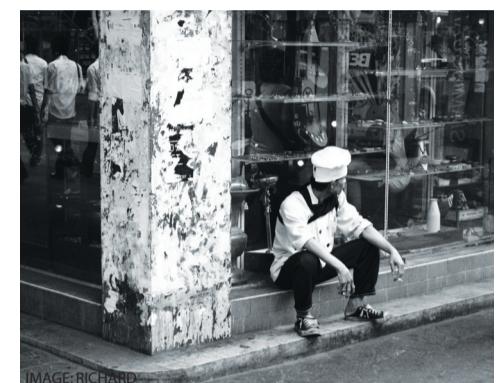


KNOW YOUR HERBS

This might sound a bit ridiculous on a student budget, but you would be amazed at the difference that a handful of freshly chopped basil leaves makes to any tomato based dish. Though it may sound expensive, small herb plants such as basil and mint can be bought for as little as a pound and can provide you with fresh new leaves all year. Even the worst gardeners will find these plants easy to care for; they only need watering when they visibly start to wilt. Plus, when placed on your windowsill, they brighten up even the messiest of student kitchens.

Blog off

Tom Armston-Clarke defends professional chefs and questions just how revolutionary food bloggers really are



The culinary world is ever-changing, and standards of household cooking are improving dramatically. This would not have happened without the help of the numerous cooking shows, books, YouTube videos, and of course everyone's favourite celebrity chefs.

Now it appears that any remotely attractive female with a trust fund can be the next big thing in cooking. Although none of the new breed are actually chefs. Not Hemsley and Hemsley and certainly not Deliciously Ella.

The world of catering and cheffing is brutal, with upwards of 15-hour days on their feet without a break in a boiling hot kitchen, and barely enough money to cover rent and Saturday night beers. If you want to make it as a chef, one has to be prepared to give up a decade of their life in order to become the best: weekends, birthdays, weddings, even daylight becomes elusive. If you are lucky enough to open up a restaurant, it is likely either to get hacked to bits by a 'restaurant reviewer' who doesn't know a beurre blanc from a battered cod, or go under because it's one of the most expensive industries there is.

Why would anyone want to go through this? Because ultimately chefs love food, the ever-changing creativity, and the satisfaction after a heaving service knowing you've made every single diner happy.

I therefore feel great dismay in seeing the latest locusts invade the catering world. With almost no experience in a kitchen and knife skills like my dad, but harnessing a great PR team and a pretty face, they can be all over television, the internet, food festivals and have a book that sells more than 30,000 copies in a week alone. Maybe it's the accessibility of the recipes, which are all very basic yet offer great nutritional value or maybe it is because they aren't 'chefs' that draws the public in: they can relate to them.

With obesity rarely out of the papers, healthy eating is all the rage. However, liberal middle-class yummy mummies aren't the ones who are obese but they're the ones buying the books.

These newcomers don't really care about food, they don't even know much about cooking. They have cottoned onto the fact that the public love food and believing anyone can be a chef. Maybe I am just missing the point and actually courgetti spaghetti truly is revolutionary. Or perhaps they are just providing the public with what they want. Possibly it's that the ground-breaking chefs who have trained hard for years aren't interested in being known to those who don't know about food. For them, gaining a Michelin star and being renowned in the culinary world is more important than the number of followers they have on Instagram.

Capturing change

Photographer **Sarah Wong** talks to Ashley Reed about the sensationalisation of trans* bodies and the struggles of cross-gender children



IMAGES: SARAH WONG

Sarah Wong is a photojournalist and one of the co-authors of *Inside Out: Portraits of Cross-Gender Children*, a culmination of a nine-year project involving the photographing and documentation of the lives of several transgender children in the Netherlands that were all undergoing a gender transition. All of the children involved were being treated at Vanderbilt University's clinic for gender variant children under the 'Berdache' programme and were among the first to be treated with hormone blockers to delay the onset of puberty and avoid the damage that puberty often has on transgender adolescents.

I had the privilege of speaking to Sarah Wong about her work, the children she worked with and contemporary trans* issues.

Confessing that when she started work on *Inside Out* she knew very little about transgender identities, she explained how the idea was conceived. While working on her book *Sophia's Children*, an earlier project that saw her capturing photographs of children at Sophia Children's Hospital, she was reached out to by the families of several transgender children who were keen to have photographs of their children expressing their gender the way they wanted to without the layer of sensationalism many photographers aim for.

"They reached out to me and said 'We would like to have our children photographed like you did for the children in the hospital. We don't have pictures of our children for media purposes because most photographers will take those pictures in a freaky way, making it sensational. We could see that your photographs of the children in the hospital were more like you were reaching out to the children, asking them, 'How do you want to be in this picture?'"

"I said we also have to reach out to doctors and a medical journalist because it's so difficult to explain to the audience. You can't explain it in a fairy tale story or in a spiritual story, you have to reach out to media and society with a medical story. You can also explain that the children are not freak children, they do not have psychological problems, they are not schizophrenic. Some of the doctors just ten years ago thought that these children were schizophrenic."

That medical journalist was Ellen de Visser, a writer for Dutch daily newspaper *de Volkskrant*, who co-authored *Inside Out* and wrote the original article in *de Volkskrant* in 2003. At that point there were seven children involved, though the number eventually grew to eleven. Sarah's hopes for the project were always rooted in the interests of the children – the concept of being seen by the world the way the children always wanted to was ultimately about empowerment.

"You always have to reach out to them and say what do you want to share with the world? What do you want to share about yourself? I loved one of the children who said openly when she was only six, 'If you don't reach out to media, you can't expect society to know how you feel.'

To ensure that the children and their families were protected from media reactions – the subject of treatment for transgender adults is controversial enough, and for children it is doubly so – she ensured that a safety net was in place.

"I always kept asking the parents – are you sure you want your pictures of your family and your children to be in the media?..."

We made a few agreements. They were not to talk to the media themselves, I was always in-between – because of the translation, and because those children were very young and vulnerable and did not understand the effect it could have on their lives.

"Sometimes the children would reach a certain point and then decide they did not want to be in the project anymore. And then two or three years later they would come back and feel they could come out again with a new name or new identity."

As well as this basic level of protection, the families also met twice a year to "catch up", as Sarah described it, "because often the children and the family think, well, we are the only ones." For transgender children and their families especially it is vitally important to have a support network, a community that understands the problems they face.

Transgender children are rarely able to access treatment like hormone blockers due to impenetrable medical pathways, critical parents and fear of coming out. Legal recognition of transgender children's genders is not provided anywhere in the world, and so often coming out under the age of 18 makes transitioning difficult if not impossible, especially if their schools make no provisions for it. For many trans* people, childhood becomes a long wait before they can be who they are inside.

When I asked Sarah whether she believed the treatment the children received under the Berdache programme had helped them, her answer was unequivocal: "They always said, 'We are so grateful we have this treatment, we are so grateful to have this, because if we did not have this we would be very unhappy.' You also know that many of the transgender children who were not able to talk about it or have medical treatment or to have this freedom to experience themselves as another gender, they are very depressed. Lots of those children and people have committed suicide. I can only speak for [the children featured

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in *Inside Out*; they are so happy with this, and it's only possible because this hospital has worked on this treatment.

"All the children find it helpful, and the parents as well. They want to have a happy son, not an unhappy daughter."

Of course, *Inside Out* was conceived in 2003 and concepts of gender within trans* communities has changed drastically. Recent years have seen the rise of non-binary gender identities and greater interest in androgynous, genderless self-expression. In the UK we have seen Selfridges 'Agender' store



launched just earlier this year, and more recently H&M's sister brand '& Other Stories' launched an all-transgender clothing campaign. While the clothes sold at these stores are considerably more expensive than the average trans* person could afford, popular concepts of gender identity and expression are clearly rapidly shifting.

This is all coming at a time when Caitlyn Jenner dominates media headlines and has been featured on the cover of *Vanity Fair*. It's important to keep reality in sight when discussing issues affecting the trans* community – Jenner received huge measures of support and vitriol, but ultimately she could never represent the trans* community as a whole. She will never have trouble finding work due to her gender identity, she will not face estrangement and homelessness as many trans* people do and she made her way through her transition and medical treatment rapidly, bypassing the years of waiting and interrogation by doctors that has become the standard for trans* healthcare. Her transition was as palatable as it could possibly have been for the mainstream audience, made easy by her wealth, whiteness, her binary identity, stereotypical femininity and non-radical politics.

Sarah Wong was quoted in a *Buzzfeed* article earlier this year as saying that the Netherlands "has probably the most progressive attitude toward gender variance in the world – transgender kids included." It is undeniable that the country was a leader in trans* rights twenty to thirty years ago, and recently it has been making efforts to catch up with the current forerunners.

It was only back in 2011 that the Human Rights Watch published their report, 'The Netherlands: Transgender Law Violates Human Rights', decrying the legal requirement for forced sterilisation of any transgender person seeking legal recognition of their gender identity, and while this was repealed in 2013 they are still behind the times – Ireland has recently become the latest country to adopt a law allowing for transgender people to self-define their legal gender, bypassing requirements for medical opinion and legal interference that the Netherlands (and the United Kingdom) still require.

Presently in the UK an inquiry is being held by the Women and Equalities Committee in Parliament into the status of transgender equality as a whole, with particular focus on possible amendments to the 2004 Gender Recognition Act, treatment for transgender people in the NHS, trans* people in education and the 2010 Equality Act and its effectiveness on tackling workplace trans*-related discrimination.

Inside Out is made real by its commitment to life and non-sensationalism, a world away from Caitlyn Jenner and expensive fashion, but it's hard to call it radical now – stories of children transitioning have become commonplace. More often stories of transgender students battling their institutions for their right to transition and live as the gender they identify as are coming up in the news, while Louis Theroux's recent documentary



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Childhood becomes a long wait before they can be who they are inside

Transgender Kids serves as a model for good coverage on the issue.

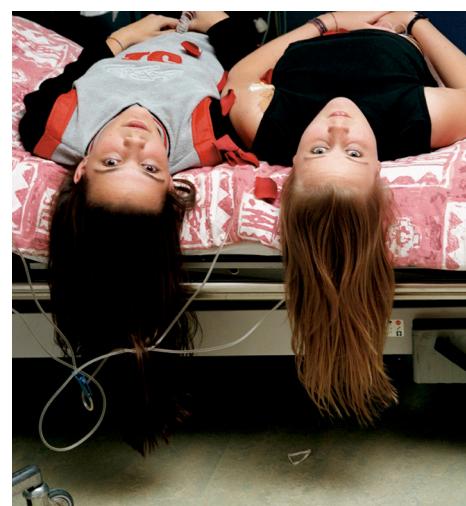
But what about less privileged trans* people? It's far less common to hear about trans* people of colour, for instance, who are disproportionately affected by transphobia. As of August, 19 murders of transwomen have been reported in the US in 2015, 17 of which were transwomen of colour.

Also typically ignored are the stories of non-binary people, though when I asked Sarah if any of the children she had met identified as something other than male or female she had a lot to say:

"I'm studying in the background as how to identify yourself, even as a normal person. I'm a female, a heterosexual female in a normal body. But some of the children are too young to say 'I'm this' and 'this body doesn't fit with me', so sometimes you could say that they identify as genderfluid."

"Some of these children and their families have come a long way to say to these doctors that 'my child is definitely transgender', and that is already a big step. Some parents and children say, 'I'm definitely born in the wrong body' and that means they identify themselves really with the other gender, but I think the next step is to identify not with the body but if you identify more with your personality and the gender between then you might end up with, like you and I are saying, because in the end the soul has no gender."

"And the language of the soul everyone understands." M



Niall Whitehead:

ANTHEM FROM A DOOMED YOUTH

New columnist Niall Whitehead hopes you've had a super-amazing, splendid and phenomenal Freshers' Week

Greetings, fresher! I shake you warmly by the hand, except actually I don't because this is Freshers' Week and by now you've probably got syphilis. Or the plague. Or something new and exciting they'll name after you.

Assuming you haven't got this newspaper so you can fashion a crude nest with it as you stalk coots through the underbrush for food (student debts and all that) you'll have a room by now. Already, you'll have filled up your duck-soaked patch of concrete and insect nests with the usual accoutrements: a tangle of fairy lights to stick it to The Man and his fascist fire safety regime, a wall full of photos of friends and more cheese-graters than you'll probably ever use while you're here (so one cheese-grater, basically).

You'll have met your flatmates! You'll also have met your STYCs – some of whom might have provided a night of scandalous passion if you're into mild authority and shirts with names written on them. Drunk on the thrill of finally being able to buy alcohol, and also on drinks, you'll have embarked on a magical plethora of games like 'Ring of Fire', 'Never Have I Ever' and 'Drink Until People Stop Asking Me What Degree I'm Doing'.

Incidentally, yeah, the three acceptable topics of conversation for the next two weeks are 'where do you come from?', 'what college are you in?' and 'what course do you do?', endlessly looping like a broken sat-nav or the world's easiest round of *The Chase*. Feel proud if you remember about ten names by the end of the week, and just smile and nod if anyone asks you if you know where Witney is.

And together, you'll all have headed out into the bowels of York's nightlife for a week, wandering around clubs you'll never visit again while pledging undying allegiance to whichever college let you in like a sobbing war veteran saluting a flag. You'll have had some fun, made some friends and created new memories. Or possibly one single, blurred-out memory. Of the vague smell of facepaint and shame.

So by now, you're probably playing host to more species than Jurassic World. Not to worry – everyone else is

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You'll have had some fun, made some friends and created some new memories. Or possibly one single, blurred-out memory”

probably the same by now, having collected pestilence like Pokemon cards, and soon every one of your lectures will be half-drowned in a sea of sputtering coughs, as if accompanied by a slowly dying orchestra.

Not to worry, though, because that's pretty much it for settling in. There's Freshers' Fair – where you can get coaxed in by the student-summoning incantation of "FREE CUPCAKES", frantically shed your email address at everyone like a threatened tarantula, and get emails from the Skydiving Society for the next three years. But then, unfortunately, people are going to start inconsiderately insisting you get some goddamn work done.

You'll be able to see where *that* road leads by studying your local third-years. They're the ones you might see stalking the halls of JB Morrell like the Ghost of Dissertations Yet To Come, wearing the expression of a polar bear pacing its enclosure just before it decides to lunge at a tourist and get shot.

But until then, you should be alright. Good luck!

HARRIET CHESHIRE ON HER EXPERIENCE AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT IN CANADA



Callum McCulloch:

10 THINGS I'VE LEARNT THIS WEEK

1 Nepotism is overrated. Working for my Dad this summer may have helped me pay off all the debts I racked up during my hedonistic first year, but I ended up doing all the jobs no one else wanted to. If I have to scan one more tax return, I swear to god I'm going to kill myself. It has however helped me come to the conclusion that I can't work in an office.

2 A marathon is a long way. Upon completing the Bristol Half-Marathon, the last thing I wanted to do was run another one. I couldn't work out whether the concerned looks from on-lookers was due to my pained expressions or my running short-shorts which really are treading the fine line between athleticism and indecent exposure.

3 Labour are fucked. Jeremy Corbyn is to Labour what Jacob Rees-Mogg is to the Conservatives. I appreciate their conviction but neither are fit to lead a party, less so the country. If Corbyn were to reach the helm of the country we'd be plunged back into the 1970s, where British industry went to die.

4 Posh poo still smells of poo. I managed to secure myself a job this summer at the famous Henley Royal Regatta, a part of the country so posh, the foodbank is in Switzerland. Unfortunately, however, my role was strictly limited to cleaning toilets.

5 If you didn't post 40 pictures on Facebook, did you really go on holiday? I'm as guilty of this as the next person but just make sure that when you're stalking through someone's 'Zante 2K15' photo album, don't accidentally like one of the many bikini photos as you'll look like a real creep.

6 All music festivals should be abroad. This summer I ventured to Croatia, along with 95% of Leeds and Bristol's resident pill-heads, for Outlook festival, which confusingly, is not a celebration of Microsoft's beloved email application. There really is no better way of forgetting all about your deep dark thoughts than getting sunstroke on a pebbly beach.

7 My internet habits have been exposed. I discovered recently that more people visit porn sites than Amazon, Twitter and Netflix combined. I'm not sure 'PornHub and Chill' is going to catch on though.

8 I bloody love the Rugby World Cup. I celebrated the opening game in style by engaging in medium to poor banter, singing the national anthem hideously out of tune and spilling curry down my crisp new England shirt. I can't wait for four more weeks of this.

9 I hate anything with the theme 'shit-shirts'. Any time these two words are placed alongside one another they are usually followed by my name. My wardrobe may be wackier than Jeremy Clarkson when he's hungry but I don't wear these shirts for novelty value, I just have terrible dress sense. So next time there is a 'shit-shirts' social, just ask to borrow one of my 'normal' shirts.

10 My phone is trying to tell me something. Every advert that pops up on my Instagram and Twitter feed is for a different niche dating app. Smart phones really are becoming annoyingly smart now.



Politics



Politweets



Jeremy Corbyn
@jeremycorbyn

2nd week as Labour leader. In the first week: majority of women in shadow cabinet, new style of PMQs & 1000s of new members join @UKLabour

21 September 2015



The White House
@whitehouse

"As the son of an immigrant, I'm happy to be a guest in this country, which was largely built by such families." —@Pontifex #PeopleInDC

23 September 2015



Yannis Koutsomitis
@YanniKouts

#Greece PM Tsipras says time of negotiations [with the creditors] is over. Berlin and Brussels will be happy to hear this.

25 September 2015



Donald Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Despite the establishment and the media's best efforts, the people are speaking loudly and clearly. Thank you to my amazing supporters!

24 September 2015



Dan Gainor
@dangainor

The #VolkswagenScandal shows regulations have become so ridiculous companies try to defeat them, not make products. @VW

25 September 2015

Tories, Twitter and Tuition Fees

Politics Editor Katy Sandalls talks to Minister for Skills and Equalities **Nick Boles** about coalition life, Tory majorities and social media

A few years ago you were calling for the reformation of the National Liberals as a party to defend the coalition's record. Now we have a Tory majority. What do you think has changed?

When I suggested this, it was not so much to defend the coalition. It was more that I was concerned that the Conservative party would find it hard to win over the votes of liberal people, perhaps particularly younger people.

As a Conservative party on its own, it needed, in a sense, a diffusion brand. It needed a brand that was a bit less offputting perhaps to some of these people but nevertheless that was still explicitly allied with the Conservative party.

I think the conclusion that I came to regarding the election result is that I'd been unnecessarily pessimistic - so in a sense what I was proposing ... has shown itself to be unnecessary.

You said yourself that the worst of all possible worlds would be a Tory majority of 10. The Conservative majority is 12 now. Do you think David Cameron has got enough leeway with 12 people to steer through what he needs to?

I'm sure there will be stresses and strains over the course of a five-year parliament, but the other thing that you find is that having a very small majority is a sort of innate discipline.

This is the first majority Conservative government for a very long time so there's a pretty strong reluctance on the part of colleagues ... to undermine that. Now we are in the rosy early days. I'm sure that in a couple of years it may be a bit more stressful.

You've said the coalition was a good thing but also that it hadn't benefited you as much as you'd hoped. Do you think that it was generally a success?

I think that it was a very necessary thing and I am certainly proud of a lot of what it achieved, and given the maths that the electorate had delivered, I think it was essential for the stability and good government of the country.

I do think it was much less positive for us than I had thought. What tended to happen was that the Liberals would try and claim responsibility for anything vaguely progressive and liberal and then blaming us for anything that was a bit tough.

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The Liberals would try and claim responsibility for anything vaguely progressive ... and then blame us for anything that was a bit tough

You said that the Conservative party fell into a trap of letting itself be portrayed as extremist at the time.

I'm not sure if we had much choice in the matter having gone into a coalition ... I do think that it meant we had to bend over backwards to try and persuade people that we weren't. Now I think it is a lot more straightforward because ultimately everything we do as a government will be us.

The scrapping of maintenance grants has caused a bit of outrage among students. As someone who looks at skills and higher edu-



tion, what was your reaction to the changes?

It's very difficult generally. The reality is that we have a lot of cuts to public spending that are required to get the deficit down and I can see why, if I was 17, I would be facing the prospect of going to university with some trepidation because of the level of borrowing that would be required.

On the other hand, actually, the more you look into it, it's not like normal borrowing. You pay it back only if you earn more than a certain amount. You only pay it back at a certain rate over time. If you haven't paid it back after 30 years, it gets written off. The bailiffs are never going to come round and take your TV.

No, but obviously there are students who are looking at this and thinking: "There's already tuition fees and I'm not going to get a maintenance grant. It's going to be another loan on top of that." It's quite daunting.

I think it is potentially daunting. What was interesting about the introduction of tuition fees



- because in truth this is the same argument that was made about the £9,000 tuition fees - is that everyone was saying that we are going to see a huge fall in the number of people going to university, especially people from poorer families. Ultimately, the people concerned worked out that the benefit of getting a degree was greater than the risk.

Just under half of people go to university. That means that half aren't going to university. Is it really right that they're paying for an experience that will ultimately benefit the individual more than themselves?

I wouldn't want to pretend that it is a decision that we relish ... and I wouldn't want to pretend that it's not something that is potentially daunting to young people. I would simply say to them that so long as you've got the grades and you've got the application and you're doing a course that isn't a 'Mickey Mouse' course, a degree is going to make you much more than you end up having to borrow.

You spend a fair amount of time on social media. Do you think that it's important for politicians to engage in social media?

I think I have come to a slightly different view over the last year and a bit. Put it this way: you're trying to communicate with actual people who are elected representatives. That's important.

I think Twitter is a snare and delusion. What we have discovered during this election is that the only people on Twitter are opinionated people who already know what they think. You're not getting outside, as it were, of the bubble. You're communicating to [it].

I must say I have tweeted a lot less since the election and I'll probably keep going in a very sporadic way. I don't think it is a way to communicate with unengaged voters. Facebook is probably an exception.

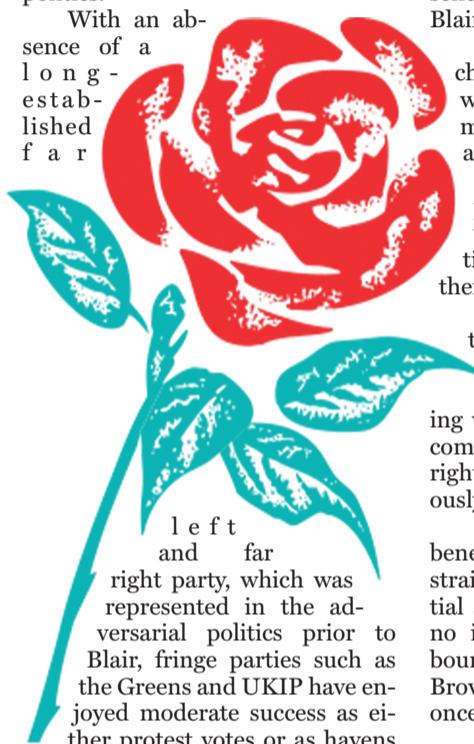
A new start for Labour

Oliver Alderton
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Whether you are a Labour supporter or not, Corbyn's victory in the Labour leadership contest will lead to significant changes for British politics in its current form for the next few decades.

Since Tony Blair became Prime Minister in 1997, both the Conservatives and Labour have represented tepid centre-right and centre-left politics.

With an absence of a long-established far



Left and far right party, which was represented in the adversarial politics prior to Blair, fringe parties such as the Greens and UKIP have enjoyed moderate success as either protest votes or as havens

for far right or left voters.

Had Cooper, Burnham or Kendall become Labour leader there would be little to comment on. It would be business as usual. There would be the inevitable reshuffle of the shadow cabinet and there would be promises of vague change after the disastrous general election defeat.

The Labour party would continue in a similar vein but with a different face in charge and with some slightly different policies, but in essence, it would have had the same Blairite or pseudo-Blairite core to it.

Corbyn is almost a living cliché of the mid-20th century working class Trotskyist Labour member in both his appearance and policies.

With Labour now standing proudly for policies firmly on the left, surely the Conservatives cannot afford to maintain their stance as a centre-right party.

Should they do so, they risk two things in the 2020 general election: either another protest vote for UKIP or simply losing voters to Labour who have become disillusioned with supposedly right wing parties who are only seriously represented by UKIP.

It is clear that Corbyn has benefited from his sincerity and straight-talking. From Corbyn's initial speeches we know that he has no interest in being another Labour PR man, such as Straw, Blair, Brown...the list goes on; Labour are once again the party of dissent.

Despite an overwhelming vic-

tory in the leadership election, Corbyn has attracted many critics.

We have seen headlines focused on Corbyn calling Hamas friends' and inviting Gerry Adams to London in 1984. These criticisms still refuse to die out.

What has struck me as odd are the attacks on him for his anti-monarchical attitudes. Corbyn has explicitly stated he has no interest in pursuing policies to overthrow the monarchy.

Further, the appointment of vegan Kerry McCarthy as Shadow Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary has received more criticism, better described as absurd speculation, suggesting that McCarthy wishes to impose on us some sort of vegan dictatorship.

I stated at the beginning of this article that Corbyn's leadership of the Labour will signify a party lead to significant changes for Britain's politics.

This does come with a caveat: he must continue to win the battle against his critics in the media.

Should Corbyn also continue to win over young voters who are disillusioned with the current political system, Labour will present a seri-

ous challenge in 2020, a challenge that Miliband was unable to provide in 2015 and which ultimately made the Conservatives' victory all too easy.



LEFT WING RIGHT WING



Welcome back readers old and new to Left Wing Right Wing, the mildest of political satires.

We have had a pretty solid silly season with satirists having a field day when it came to Corbyn winning the Labour leadership.

I would be a terrible person if I didn't mention #Hameron. (The hashtag is very important in this of course.)

Good lord, you couldn't make it up, could you? Only Charlie Brooker thought he had done... and even he couldn't believe how much truth there was in it all.

It's at times like this that I think of that poor pig. They would have had a pretty simple life. They would have grown up on a farm, watching the sun rise from the barn in which they were raised and never wanting the limelight that would be ultimately thrust upon them. (Excuse the pun.)

That poor pig just wanted a starring role in *Babe*. The starring role they did eventually land was just a little different to the one they dreamed of...

Our gracious leader Mr Cameron has refused to talk on the subject and given the state of any post he makes on Twitter at the moment, it's not hard to see why...

The fact that he hasn't responded is rather telling. Supposedly.

Advice to all students: don't allegedly do anything ridiculous if you have aspirations to become the leader of the country. Definitely something to bear in mind during Freshers' Week.

We know all about Corbyn. I won't bang on about him any longer.

Tim Farron anyone? Nope? Really? He's head of the Lib Dems now - the lot that wanted free tuition then went back on it. Ah, yes, you're with me. Great! He got elected this summer as well. Just no one seemed to notice... at all.

He's not been doing (alleged) things with a pig. He hasn't been challenging the establishment with his radicalness. He's just been being Tim Farron. A quiet looking chap (if a fella can be quiet looking). His election caused no media outburst. No revolutionary changes.

Now he's saying that people will flock to his party. Maybe pigs will fly. Oh wait...



@nouseopinion

Join the debate on Twitter with the hashtag LWRW.

Time for independence?

James Humpish
POLITICAL REPORTER

A whole year has passed since the Scottish Referendum resulted in 55 per cent of the country voting against independence from the United Kingdom. Yet in honour of the anniversary, thousands of Scots have insisted that were the vote to take place today, the result would be a decisive 'Yes' for independence.

Over 10,000 people rallied at Glasgow Square on the anniversary of the vote with a cross-section of SNP supporters, Greens and anti-Trident activists all represented. The question is begged as to whether the decision of 2014 is representative of Scottish preference today.

David Cameron made clear on the anniversary his belief that Scotland is here to stay and that some are almost obsessed with the idea of independence. Indeed, while another referendum could result in a victory for seceding, it may be poor timing.

While his interests are invested in Scotland staying, he does raise the counterargument that some may want independence for its own sake rather than on a premise of doing what is actually best for the country.

Nicola Sturgeon said it would



Is Sturgeon any closer to achieving her dream for Scotland's future?

be wrong to bring about a second referendum "without a fundamental change of circumstances" or belief that "a significant number of those who voted 'No' last year had changed their minds."

The debate revolving around the referendum thus has two points of question. The first is whether a Scottish referendum would result in independence. The second is whether it would be right for another

referendum to be held in the first place. Just because the result might be different doesn't necessarily justify the vote.

The largest sign that a change of circumstances has taken place is the composition of party prominence in Westminster following the 2015 general election.

Changing from six to fifty-six seats out of a possible fifty-nine overnight shows a massive swing

in favour for the pro-independence party and a resounding shunning of the traditional Westminster parties.

The result displays a practical consensus among the Scottish electorate in terms of party allegiance but is this simply the belief that the SNP is the only party seen to represent Scottish interests rather than the best?

With 45 per cent in favour of independence last year and 55 per cent against, the party only need to swing 5 per cent to bring a vote in their favour and this is exactly why they feel that it would be good to have another referendum quickly.

It is through strong and active campaigning that opinion polls believe pro-independence support jumped from 26 per cent to 45 per cent.

The SNP fears that the 45 per cent may slip and that it would be better to spend a few months to build on the already existing momentum.

Time is vital, as the actual results of devolution, following the recommendations of the Smith Commission, have not been given time to be evaluated.

With the government trying to give concessions to Scotland it is only right that a few more years be given to see if the concessions prove successful.

Business

Corbynomics: a new economic policy

Elliott Banks
BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

It is only the second week of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership and we do not have more than a few scraps of information about his economic strategy. His successful leadership campaign focused upon anti-austerity and his desire for a more equal society, and we can assume that will be the central tenet of Corbynomics.

On securing the Labour leadership, Corbyn indicated his intent by appointing the veteran left-winger John McDonnell as shadow chancellor, much to the horror of Labour moderates.

McDonnell, who famously declared his hobby in *Who's Who* as "fermenting the overthrow of capitalism", says he supports a 60 per cent tax rate on high earners. His numerous proclamations favouring higher public spending give a good indication of the direction of Corbynomics.

But what of actual policies? During Corbyn's campaign he announced a controversial plan for people's quantitative easing. The unorthodox scheme would involve the Bank of England printing large sums of money to invest in infrastructure and housing developments.

Corbyn argues, as many economists have, that Britain's infrastructure needs urgent investment.

He believes that this scheme will help develop Britain's infra-

structure for the future, outweighing the initial costs.

However, his scheme has some major issues. Corbyn's plan to order the Bank of England to print vast sums of money is almost certain to lead to higher inflation resulting in increased prices for everyone.

History has tended to show that printing more money also has the effect of damaging business confidence and decreasing the value of national currencies. Weimar Germany is a superlative example.

Corbyn's attempt to rebrand quantitative easing into a permanent state-led investment programme seems likely to be denounced by most analysts.

Corbyn is obviously aware of this and he faces an uphill struggle to assure the public and businesses that his scheme will not damage economic confidence and drive up inflation.

The second policy is arguably much safer territory for the veteran left wing MP: the renationalisation of Britain's railways. With support for rail renationalisation at 66 per cent overall, Corbyn is firmly on the right side of public opinion.

Corbyn's plan is to renationalise line by line when the current privatised franchises run out. This would be the cheapest and most sensible option for the exchequer negating the need for costly buy-outs.

For the paying public, there is no guarantee of a better service or cheaper fares but a single network is likely to streamline the current

disjointed system of different operators with the hope of leading to efficiency.

Unsurprisingly but ironically, this policy has been attacked by David Cameron as an "ideological joyride".

Cameron's government pressed ahead with the privatisation of the successful publicly owned East Coast mainline, despite huge op-

IMAGE: GARRY KNIGHT

position. He may well struggle to counter Corbyn's attractive and popular policy. The commitment to rail renationalisation seems a sensible economic move as it balances the public demand for change with a desire for a more integrated, efficient system.

These two policies are by no means the full picture of Corbynomics, as the full picture is only likely to

emerge in the next year.

One thing is certain - the narrative of austerity is now firmly being challenged in a way that Ed Miliband couldn't. Instead of agreeing in principle with Cameron's economic agenda, like many Labour moderates, Corbyn has rallied the centre left with his call for more public spending, a protected welfare state and a fairer society.



Jeremy Corbyn's economic plans focus on an anti-austerity message and the renationalisation of rail services

How to spend your student loan wisely

Nathalie Taylor
BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

Jumping into student life is hard in many ways, especially when it comes to finance. Gone from the warm embrace of home, suddenly it's all on you (and Freshers' Week is bloody expensive). So

here are some pointers to try and make that money stretch further, and stop you from living on ramen mixed with tears for the last month (unless that's your thing).

Firstly, don't spend it all at once. Be Norway, not Greece. The arrival of your student loan will be one of your happiest days. You've got mon-

ey! But remember – it has to sustain you for anywhere between three and six months. So don't go wild on the first week and throw money everywhere (or spend £50 on Prosecco for everyone on your table at the college Winter Ball).

Secondly, don't miss catered meals. There will be times when you're too tired, too hungover or even too overworked (I'm looking at you, science students) to think that you can make it to the dining hall. Whatever's stopping you, ignore it – you'll be literally throwing money and energy away.

Thirdly, no last minute food shopping. If you're uncatered, this is crucial. Getting food delivered is cheap and easy. Many of the major supermarkets offer delivery slots from £1 and delivery plans from as little as £3 per month – no travel needed (and no broken back).

It often works well to shop with someone or bulk order things such as canned food or drinks that will last for ages. The most useful thing about planning your shopping is that you won't end up running out of things and having to pay the expensive prices at Nisa – convenience

costs.

Fourthly, budget and stick to it. Budgeting is boring. There's no way around it. Sometimes, looking back on the choices that you made with your money will make you cringe, but it's an essential part of keeping your finances in order. Whether a scrawled note or an all-singing all-dancing spreadsheet (spot the economist) which makes you keep track of your expenses, just keep a record.

Knowing how much money you've got left and tracking where that missing twenty quid went is a vital skill. No one thinks that sensible policymaking is fun, but hey, now Germany has all the money.

Buy a student card and a Railcard. An NUS student card is not an essential as many places will accept your university student card. However, if you purchase lots of things online then often this is the only card that is accepted.

If you plan on doing any amount of traveling by trains, the 16-25 Railcard is a must-buy. Giving you a third off all train fares, it easily pays for itself. These benefits cannot be stressed enough. Other loyalty schemes, such as Tesco

Clubcard, Nectar cards and other store cards, are also a great way to save money on purchases you would have made anyway.

Ask for a student discount. So many places offer them. Whether it be restaurants, clothes stores or supermarkets, they all want students' custom. However, because it is such a long list of places it becomes impossible to remember. Just always ask.

Use the York Uni Swap Shop. A micro-economy at its finest, the York Uni Swap Shop is a Facebook group set up to allow students to trade with each other, either independently or at specially organised fairs.

With everything from kitchen equipment and clothes to course books and exercise equipment, it's a safe and hassle free way to earn a little extra cash or to bag yourself a bargain.

So best of luck with your first term at the University of York! Have fun, party hard and if you keep a few of these in mind, you should have money to do so until the end of term – where the Christmas parties await.



Asking for a student discount and planning your food shop can cut costs

The business of student jobs

James Humpish
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

As a student it can be nice to have a little extra income if you can't just rely on your parents or student loan. Whether you want to or because you have to, you might find yourself on the hunt for a job to hold onto while upholding a sufficient level of study and maintaining a healthy social life.

Fortunately, if you have the right attitude and if you keep both eyes open for potential job opportunities, it's relatively easy to find a job in York compared to other university towns and cities. The question is which type of job is actually suitable for you.

Despite their widespread unpopularity among left-leaning individuals, zero hour contracts can actually be really convenient for a student compared to a non-student. For the students that don't depend on a part-time job but appreciate a little extra income, it can be ideal. Zero hour contracts mean employers are not obliged to give their employees work (and hence payment), but it also frees up the student to decline work in assessment periods.

The University's set of student ambassadors is a very good example of this kind of work whereby the University is happy to send out various work opportunities with the only requirement being that each ambassador works a minimum of 30 hours per term. The downside is that in offering themselves up for an opportunity, the student might not always get it.

Ambassadors aside, there is a



If you have the right attitude and keep an eye out for vacancies, you stand a better chance of getting a job in York

plethora of jobs available around campus, with YUSU claiming 95 per cent of their staff are students and the University catering services offering part-time and full-time work to all.

With a job on campus and a university-related employer being able to empathise with the student experience, these jobs can provide a mix of a decent number of hours to work during the week as well as flexibility around particular times of the year, with the added perk of being

located on campus.

These campus jobs are often very competitive due to their convenience and may not be to everyone's tastes in terms of either type of work or desire to work in town. Luckily, York just happens to be one of the biggest tourist hubs in the country and is bursting with cafés, restaurants, bars and shops just eager to be populated with students working part-time. Simply wander through York and hand out a stack of CVs and there'll be a surprisingly

high rate of return calls if you seem capable enough.

Expect between minimum wage and £8 an hour but enjoy the fact that this will complement a loan and that there is no obligation to pay tax on it. Keep an eye on the Careers Gateway as well. While many of the jobs might seem of no interest or are based in another city (or country), there are often some great opportunities available which would have been incredibly difficult to find otherwise.

The Debate: Trade Union Bill 2015

Jake Strong

The 2015 Trade Union Bill passed its second reading in the Commons earlier this month, and will before long face its final vote.

It seems fair to say that, objectively, the new Bill will curb the strength of trade unions. One of the most controversial inclusions – a minimum turnout of 60 per cent for strike ballots to pass, and a minimum 40 per cent of votes in favour for 'essential service' strikes – has been met with alarm.

Let's be clear that this Bill does not mean the end of legal strikes: the Rail, Maritime and Transport union members' strike ballot in May, for example, would still be valid under the new rules. Unions will adapt, fighting for every scrap of turnout with a new ferocity.

What this Bill is certainly moving towards is an ever-more confrontational form of industrial relations: with no move away from the trade union as the paramount agent of worker representation, but plenty to give the impression that they are being backed into a corner.

Consider that as early as March it was clear that Unite was planning to remove clauses ensuring legality of action from its constitution – and then factor in that the new Bill will involve such measures as legally permitted strike-breakers. What emerges is a worrying outlook for the future of peaceful disputes.

It's disappointing that this is still what industrial relations boils down to. Alternatively, more co-operative systems of dispute resolution are available, but it seems they continue to be overlooked in favour of a new chapter in the same long and painful conflict.

Felix Forbes

The new Trade Union Bill is a move to curb some of the last unions able to bargain effectively or inflict tangible, targeted costs despite their size.

As a side-swipe, it also aims to sever at last the link between the unions and the Labour party, slightly giving the game away. Clauses that stipulate strikers' dress code and codify rules on social media posts rather detract from fairer rules on percentages of members who must vote to strike. The Bill has a certain air of triumphalism to it, coming on the heels of the Conservative election victory.

The Rail, Maritime and Transport union, which staffs the London Underground, is one explicit target. London's population is approximately 8.6 million, and the tube serves up to 4 million passengers a day. With a membership of only 80,000, the RMT possesses the ability to paralyse a huge part of the transport system, for unabashedly self-interested reasons.

Once one contemplates the outsized contribution to the UK economy that London makes, a certain sense starts to emerge. The bet seems to be that Londoners will prove distinctly unsympathetic.

Another noted target of the Bill is education unions, whose high-profile walkouts over the last few years are also able to provide a significant upset to much-vaunted productivity.

With the election done, the Bill is a clear shot across the bows of both the organised left and organised labour. Disruption of what is seen as the money-making engines of the UK will not be tolerated.

Business Bulletin

Felix Forbes

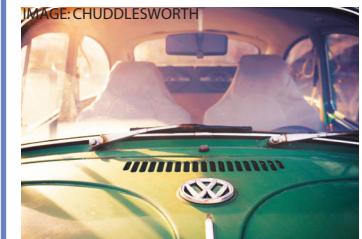
China

China's stock market meltdown over the summer terrified everyone who had expected the juggernaut to keep on going. While China insists that minimum growth targets were reached, observers aren't so sure. Stock markets worldwide tumbled and the Chinese Communist party arrested several journalists, blaming them for causing panic. George Osborne has been touring China and proposed a link between the Shanghai and London Stock exchanges, undeterred by the recent volatility.



Volkswagen

The Volkswagen scandal over falsified emissions tests looks set to spread from the US to Europe as share prices in the company drop by 35 per cent. Volkswagen will discover what it's like to cross US regulatory bodies without sufficient connections on the Hill. A criminal investigation has been launched by the US Justice Department and class action lawsuits seem likely to add to their woes. A media report that BMW had potentially done the same saw shares drop 9.7 per cent in late morning trading on Thursday.



BRICS

The much-heralded rise of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) is one of many predictions that has fallen rather flat. Brazil's economy has suffered colossal damage due to revelations of near-unbelievable corruption at state oil giant Petrobras. India remains mired in official bureaucracy, China's stock market melted, Russia's undiversified economy has rendered it ultra-vulnerable to fluctuations in oil prices and South Africa is crippled by corruption and political turmoil.



Science

Our young home is unusually metal-rich

Georgina Hill
SCIENCE REPORTER

THE INVENTION of the telescope allowed man to view the millions of stars and planets spread throughout the universe, sparking the question 'are we alone?'

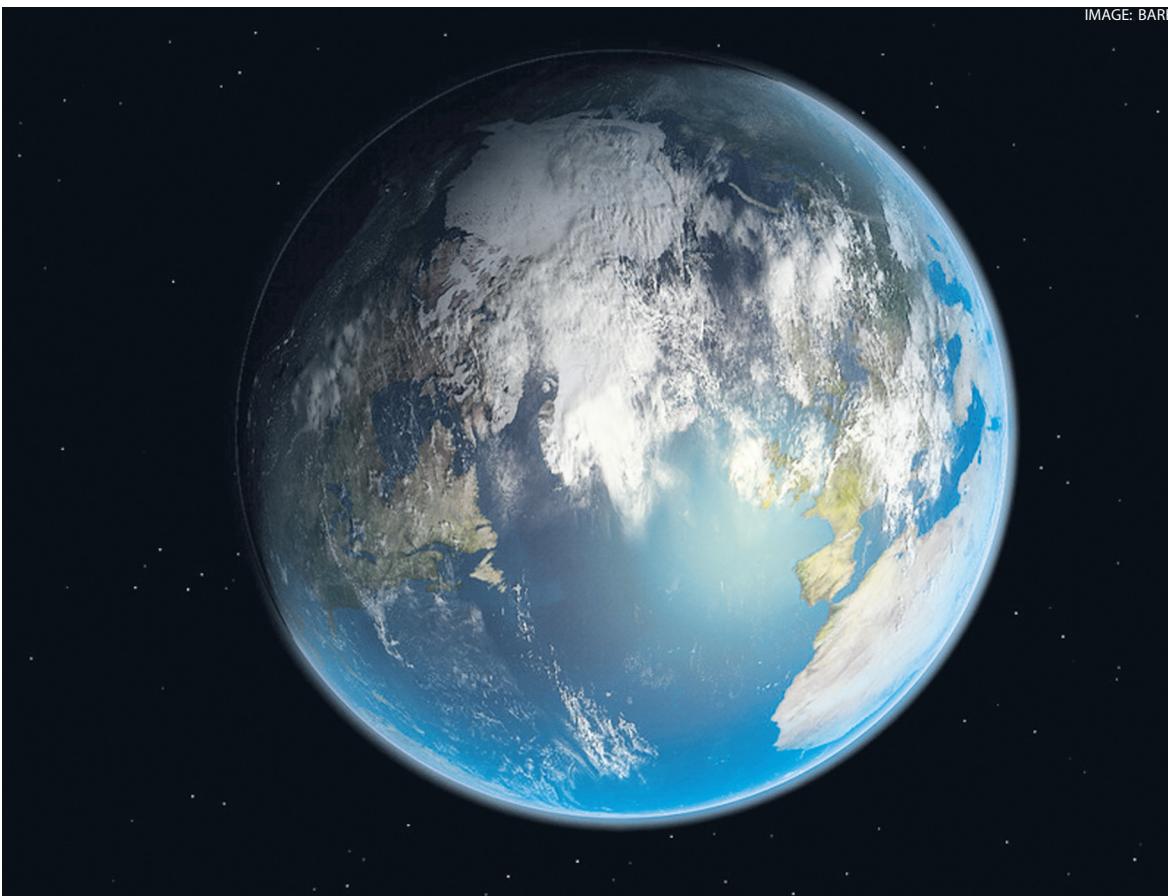
Mathematical probability suggests that we are not, supposed UFO sightings suggest we are not (although they are often evidence of dubious credibility) and the search for other life forms continues.

As technology has developed, sophisticated telescopes and space probes have let us view space thousands of light years away. Almost 2,000 exoplanets have been discovered in the last 50 years. These are planets that orbit a star like Earth does.

Currently, it is believed that a star and its planets form from a collapsing cloud of dust and gas in interstellar space. This shared origin means that the star and planet have the same basic chemical genesis.

To begin with, gravity pulls the shrapnel closer together. As the cloud's centre gets more and more compressed, it also gets hotter, creating a fiery, dense core. Inherent atmospheric motion causes other particles in the collapsing cloud to churn and rotate in the same direction.

This creates thin circumstellar disks that are the birthplace of



Planets we may colonise may be very different in composition due to our planet's exposure to supernovae

planets.

In the atmosphere closer to the hot star, gas is consumed and cleared out, leading to the formation of small, rocky terrestrial plan-

ets such as Earth.

Planets further from the star have a higher composition of gas with cold, icy surfaces. To host life as we know it, a world must have

liquid water and be orbiting a star in order to obtain energy from its radiation.

The 'Goldilocks zone' is the area around a star that is neither

too hot nor too cold for water to be liquid. This is where we find that Earth's composition is very different from most other planets in the Goldilocks zone.

Most strikingly, the planets in other hospitable zones are lower in heavy metals such as iron than Earth is. Planets rich in heavy metals orbiting metal-rich stars tend to be larger and enveloped in huge gaseous atmospheres unlike Earth.

Vardan Adibekyan of the Institute of Astrophysics and Space Sciences in Portugal suggests that this is because Earth is much younger. Heavy metal elements form when a very large star, much larger than our own, undergoes a supernova that scatters particles into interstellar space.

For them to combust in this way, stars must either accumulate too much matter or run out of nuclear fuel at the end of their life time.

So Earth was formed at a time when more stars were too old and had exploded, releasing heavy metals that came together in the cloud that formed our solar system.

Studying the composition of exoplanets in other stars' habitable zones is essential to our understanding of how life can form.

It reveals how these differences in heavier metal abundance affect the suitability of an exoplanet for life and, in the long term, for our chances of colonising said planet.

Biohackers: are they friends or foes?



Biohacking and exploiting genetic potential is slowly becoming a hobbyist activity as well as an academic one

Georgina Hill
SCIENCE REPORTER

As defined by Wikipedia, biohacking is "the practice of engaging in biology with the hacker ethic". Some moral values and philosophies commonly associated with the hacking community are the open sharing of information, collaboration and decentralisation of knowledge. The movement is attributed to Steven Levy, who wrote a book in 1984

called *Hackers: Heroes of the Computer Revolution*. In this, he describes the hacker ethic, which also lists world improvement as a general principle.

A simple Google search reveals that there are labs providing workspace for biohackers throughout the world. They are situated all over Europe, America, South America and Asia. Individuals pay a fee to use these open access labs. Some are academics with a scientific background but most are

novices. With rapid advancements in technology, particularly in the molecular field, come falling prices of equipment for genome sequence and manipulation. So, should we be worried about what these 'underground' labs are getting up to?

For now the answer seems to be a resounding no. Standard lab equipment such as centrifuges are still budget-busting for the amount of funding these labs get. The most basic model costs over £1,000. This means that many projects taking

place in the labs aim to make hardware such as gel electrophoresis machines and magnetic spin plates at lower costs. Reagents such as antibodies, solvents and enzymes are expensive and time consuming to make as a one-man mission. The first hurdle, however, would be sourcing and storing them correctly.

The machines that are capable of isolating genes of interest and obtaining DNA are few and far between in laboratories, so progress is very slow. The creation of a deadly super-bacterium to be set free from carelessness or as an act of evil is impossible since the labs are technologically limited and their use of hazardous substances is very tightly regulated. The chances of someone getting their hands on a lethal strain are negligible.

Most importantly, the principle of community and openness means that the results that come out of these labs are shared with the public, mainly through social media. A search through any of their websites lists current, past and future projects as well as contacts and links to Twitter feeds or Facebook pages. We should be working with these labs to make science more accessible, more engaging and encouraging the larger, better funded labs to do the same.

 **NASA**
@NASA

Mars is a mysterious world, tune in to NASA TV on 9/28 as we announce a major science finding go.nasa.gov/1LTWsUP

28 Sep 2015

 **Neil deGrasse Tyson**
@neiltyson

Universe Busts-a-Move Sunday night: Harvest Moon. Totally Eclipsed. At its closest approach to Earth. bit.ly/1UeRtlZ

28 Sep 2015

 **New Scientist**
@NewScientist

Imagine electric cars could charge themselves by capturing exhaust heat. We've got a road map ow.ly/SFJPJ

27 Sep 2015

 **Guardian Science**
@guardianscience

Artificial Intelligence is not able to 'press the delete key' on humanity just yet | Colin Conwell d.gu.com/CH4v8P

28 Sep 2015

Apps to end procrastination

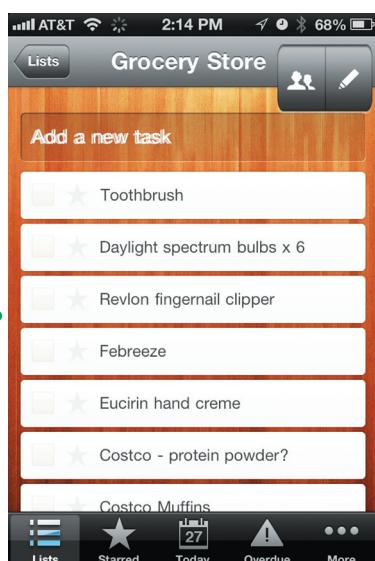
Science Editor Filip Preoteasa guides you through the best apps that make procrastination a thing of the past

Frustrated with your productivity? Do you go through cycles of optimistic and exuberant ambition and crashes where you realise that you haven't done anything more productive this morning other than read your emails? Well, it's time to use smarter tools to fight that, to use the right tech to get you doing what you should - rather than what you really want to be doing.

1. Wunderlist



This app's advantages are an easy, simple and elegant exterior and all the functions of a list app that you'd want. This includes the ability to set reminders, synchronise it with your email, share your 'wunderlists' with other users and making them public.



3. Evernote



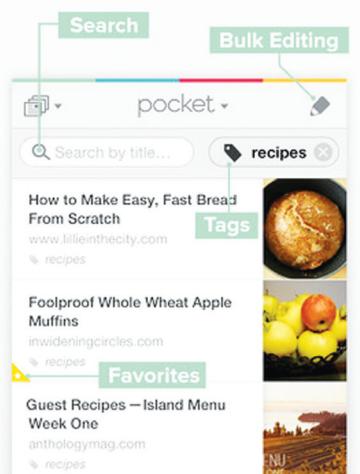
This is a classic must-have app. Other than writing notes, it can be used to audio-record, set reminders and alarms, and share notes and notebooks with work/study colleagues. All of that is available with the free version. I don't know what the Premium Evernote does. It probably massages your feet while proofreading your dissertation.



4. Pocket



Stay Organized



You've made it to university, you clearly have something going on in that brain and you probably enjoy absorbing information. There are tons of activities, loads of people, places, events and inventions to read about.

You can kid yourself that reading the New Scientist for two hours is productive, but who's going to be convinced by that? Reorganise your reading for personal cultivation through Pocket. Simply copy an article's URL to your Pocket tab, and it will save the article to all your devices with Pocket for offline reading.

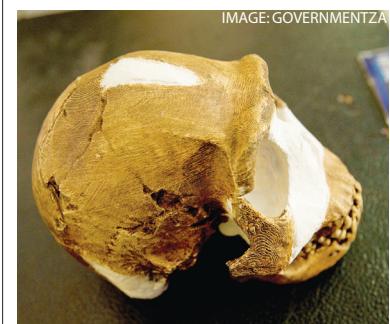
Pocket reads very well on phones and tablets, since it strips the article of adverts, unnecessary pictures and vexing pop-ups.

2. Habitica



For those who believe work should be aesthetically and playfully enhanced, this is the ideal app. You create a pixelated avatar with multiple features similar to the characters of most role-playing video games, including money, health and gems.

The point is to enhance your character by giving yourself tasks such as 'write 200 more words for that essay' or 'get round to drafting that article on useful apps'. Go ahead and 'gamify' your life and use the power of imagery, private heroism and carrot and stick to unlock your potential!



Scientists find that the urge to pee improves your ability to lie

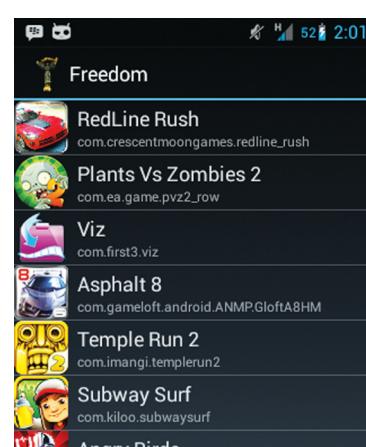
A study conducted by California State University has drawn a correlation between the overwhelming desire to urinate and how believable our lies are. Scientists are crediting it to the 'inhibitory spillover effect'. The self-control and discipline that keeps you from wetting yourself when you're dying for a slash also increases your brain's ability to lie. Lying is a complex task and it is made more achievable when your brain is already operating at high speed trying to ensure that you don't spontaneously empty your bladder in the middle of an important meeting.

IMAGE: NANFAJ

5. Freedom



Now, if you think of the above as childish nonsense and want something serious, look no further than Freedom. The ironically named app is about as brutal as anti-procrastination tools come, with the exception of power outages. You can set it to block your browser, particular websites or the whole internet. You can't unlock the blocked items until the amount of time you specified has passed.



Nanoengineering to help save oceans

Engineers at the University of California have constructed a nanomotor that removes carbon dioxide from water. Using the catalyst carbonic anhydrase, the motors convert carbon dioxide, which contributes to ocean acidification, into far more benign calcium carbonate. It is a fast and efficient method. However, its main drawback is the motor's platinum casing, which reacts with hydrogen peroxide to propel it forward. Platinum is expensive metal, but the researchers are working towards finding a suitable alternative.



Science Snippets

Welcome the new members of the family!

Archaeologists have unearthed a site in the Rising Star cave system near Johannesburg that contains over 1,500 bones of a completely new extinct human species which has been named Homo naledi. Due to the remoteness of the Dinaledi chamber where the bones were found, experts speculate that the site was a tomb. This would indicate a high level of social sophistication. Since the cave is completely pitch-black, Homo naledi would probably have needed torches, an impressive technological feat.

IMAGE: GOVERNMENTZA

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>> Page 27

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A Telling Truth

Johannes Huber
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

Just over a week ago, PBS published an article featuring results from a Boston University study. It demonstrates very clearly the irrefutable link between American Football and chronic traumatic encephalopathy or CTE.

Found in subjects as young as 17, CTE is a degenerative brain disease which manifests itself in 4 stages ranging from Stage 2 rage and depression, Stage 3 memory loss and finally Stage 4 dementia.

It hasn't been a rare find either; in the recent study, 87 of 91 deceased former NFL players tested positive, and 79 per cent of all football players who were examined exhibited CTE in their brain tissue.

Critics of the recent findings have stated that because CTE can only be shown definitively post-mortem, many of those who donated their brains to science would have done so already suspecting brain injury.

While this has certainly affected the results, the overwhelming evidence negates such criticism. The sheer number of American Football players who have tested positive for CTE in this study and others, indicates that the overall problem is very real.

Nevertheless, these newest findings raise questions about how we treat sport, and especially what sports we should allow children to play.

Current research indicates that it is not occasional violent collisions which pose the greatest risk, but repeated weaker impacts which pose the most severe threat.

After all, we are not talking about a sprained ankle or even a broken hand, but about permanent brain damage.

While highly unpopular, if research continues to confirm these findings, serious discussions about drastically reforming or even banning collision sports for minors cannot be avoided.

Without young talent joining teams, a sport will quickly become obscure, as teams struggle to keep up recruitment and interest falls.

It is worth mentioning however, that CTE is not a specific American Football issue. CTE has been found in Rugby and Ice Hockey players, and even Football and Baseball players are not free from it.

Any repeated minor impacts, such as headers, can increase the risk of developing CTE. However, American football, as it is played today, encourages behaviour likely to cause players harm. With a League primarily in denial and actively fighting any new research on the matter, a sport which exhibits these numbers cannot be advised to young people.

FROM THE SIDELINE

NOUSE SPORT COMMENT



IMAGE: BETH WILSON

Rob Middleton
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

Speaking to the Daily Mail ahead of his team's Davis Cup semi-final victory over Australia, Andy Murray insisted that the British side is "not about one individual."

He added, "There are nine or ten players here who all have their part to play and everyone, I'm expecting, is going to perform well."

His teammates took his expectation as instruction, performing exceptionally over the weekend. Dan Evans showed flashes of the maverick quality that saw Leon Smith turn to him in the absence of a fit Kyle Edmund and a firing James Ward.

Jamie Murray showed that he is every inch his brother's equal when it comes to doubles tennis, in an outstanding match against the experienced Australian pair of Sam Groth and Lleyton Hewitt.

It was three hours and 56 minutes that not only reminded people how entertaining the doubles format can be but, crucially, reminded British tennis how much it is going to miss the Murray family when their pseudo-marriage comes to an end.

Show me a family who have done more for their sport than the Murrays. Andy's consistent success in the major championships – he has reached at least the quarter-finals in 14 of the last 15 tournaments in which he has played and has given

en people a reason to watch tournaments with a genuine hope of seeing a compatriot succeed.

Jamie has elevated the status of the doubles game, winning Wimbledon in 2007 and recently striking a highly promising partnership with Australian John Peers which has already yielded two Grand Slam finals.

To believe that the family's influence ends on the court would be to do them a disservice, with Judy Murray's off court influence particularly hard to ignore. Currently, she has a role as captain of the Fed Cup team and was previously Head

“ ”

There appears to be no-one to pick up the proverbial racquet when the Murrays fade into a well-earned retirement.

Coach of Scotland.

Despite having no staff and a negligible budget, she identified twenty players – including her two sons – from which two Grand Slam winners, four Davis Cup players, a Commonwealth gold medallist, an Olympic Gold medallist and Fed

Cup player emerged.

Given the scale of this family's influence, it is worrying that there appears to be no-one who can pick up the proverbial racquet once the Murrays fade into a well-earned re-

“ ”

Where else is the spark going to be found if not in the field of elite competition?

tirement.

British tennis' governing body seems to offer little help. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has only recently regained funding withheld from them by Sport England in 2012 thanks to a refocusing on participation rather than elite development.

Signs of impact from this change in approach appear scarce. Even the success of Andy Murray at the US Open and Wimbledon could not arrest the slide in participation numbers. From 2008 to 2012, almost 70,000 people stopped playing tennis weekly.

Where else is the spark for a surge in participation going to be found, if not in the field of elite competition? Realistically, Andy Murray has four years left compet-

ing at the top of his game, given the physical demand his style of tennis puts on his body. The influence he has on the public and the exposure that his success gives the sport can only be relied on for those four years.

So what about the future? Is there anyone to paper over the cracks in the absence of the current British number one?

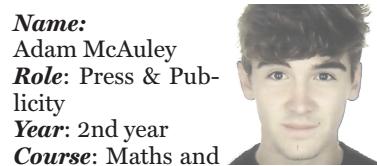
Barring a rapid ascension into the elite from a junior, Britain's best hopes for success lie in Kyle Edmund and Laura Robson. The former is yet to realise the potential that his two junior Grand Slam doubles titles promised and Robson's career is threatening to be defined by injuries rather than talent.

Britain's dependence on the family from Dunblane looks set to be, with the exception of the extraordinary, terminal. It is not a stretch to say that the drop in participation has been offset by people inspired by the exploits of the Murrays. Without their influence, the statistics could look even worse.

Whether the LTA's new initiatives improve the state of British tennis or not, they are indebted to the Murrays for giving them the chance. Without the exposure and positive press that the family generates all year round for an otherwise seasonal sport, the LTA would have been left counting their pennies after a funding cut when investment has never been more important.

Teammates: UYCC

In a new feature, the Men's Cricket Club are the first to shed light on the characters in their dressing room.



Which of your team-mates is....

The practical joker?

Our first-team captain Rob Carr, as well as being a grumpy old man himself, likes to inflict that on others.

The strongest?

Ex-social sec Sage Kugasthan, thinks he can hit a massive ball, his toothpick legs would say otherwise.

A gym rat?

Head of Sponsorship Prash "The Businessman" Patel. He's always on about his 'gainz' and has just secured us a myprotein sponsorship.

The dressing room DJ?

Tim Weston, aka Cromwell, with his endless deluge of poor house tunes.

The most intelligent?

Vice-President Alex Bryant - just have a conversation with him.

The best motivator?

Our club captain Ben Grindell is our main motivator, he even has his very own twist on the "Flower of Scotland"

The best trainer?

Zach "Mitchell Johnson" Smith. He charges in, session after session, 'swinging it both ways'.

The worst trainer?

Tim Weston always has his pads on first, has a hit, then has a knack of sneaking out for the rest of the session.

The most hardened drinker?

The honest answer is no-one; we are probably the wrong club to ask. However, we will go with tee-total Phil Daneshyar, who powers through many pints of milk every Wednesday night without fail.

The biggest lightweight?

John Howe. Half a bottle of red often gets the better of him, making him pipe up about becoming one of our social secs for the coming year. He denies this, with embarrassment, the morning after without fail.

And finally... The longest in the shower?

Ordinary member Adam Berryman, more commonly known as Weeman. All you need to do is look at his Instagram account, which boasts an overwhelming number of selfies with his other half.

UYRUF C boosted by win



University of York 21



Northumbria 14

Zac Khan

SPORTS REPORTER

YORK WERE quicker to react on 22 Acres as they eased to a 21-14 win over Northumbria University in a pre-season friendly.

Both defences lacked organisation, but York were comfortably on top for long periods of the game, despite Northumbria playing two divisions higher in the BUCS Leagues.

The game started well for York as centre Will Thompson capitalised on a handling error in the Northumbria back line, hacking the ball through to score under the posts after six minutes.

The Black and Gold dominated the next 10 to 15 minutes, enjoying the majority of possession and territory.

On 20 minutes, York's hooker Iffy Chukwulobelu was harshly sin-binned allowing Northumbria to kick to the corner.

Northumbria eventually made the extra forward count to drive over from five meters out.

For the remainder of the sin-bin period, York defended multiple phases on their own line, but held firm.

Their line-out functioned extremely well in pressurised situations, led by towering second rows Corner and O'Donnell.

They were then rewarded for their efforts as Northumbria had a player sent to the sin-bin, giving York the opportunity to get out of



The men's rugby First XV had a difficult last year in BUCS, but have gained a morale-boosting win in pre-season

their own half.

Northumbria were fortunate to avoid another yellow card five minutes after the restart after a dangerous tip-tackle on the edge of a ruck.

On 48 minutes, a sliced clearance by Northumbria fell kindly to give York a two-on-one, set up by Cable and excellently finished by the outstanding Matt Barton.

York were 21-7 up five minutes later after a 22-dropout was taken quickly, and some great footballing skills to keep the ball in play put Barton over for his second.

Again, the kick was good, to

give York a very strong lead. The

game became quieter in the final quarter, as both sides made use of rolling substitutes to give their players some game time, ahead of the new league campaign.

Northumbria were to have the final word, albeit in a losing cause, as with less than five minutes to go a big fend and fast run saw the tired York defence broken.

Several tackles came close, but Northumbria's inside centre was able to evade them all and touch down close to the posts.

The simple conversion was suc-

Lacrosse leap into action



University of York 13



Queen Margaret's 5

Johannes Huber

DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR



Vice-captain Connie Shaw netted six in York's warm-up win last week

THE YORK Women's lacrosse team made an excellent start to the year with a dominant pre-season victory against Queen Margaret's.

York did not get off to a good start, however, going 1-0 down in the third minute. Several great saves by keeper Beth Reynolds prevented a greater Queen Margaret's lead.

A quick equalizer following a Queen Margaret's chance, changed the dynamic of the game.

Henceforth, York controlled the game, scoring six more in the first half, while conceding only one more.

The overwhelming pressure

Queen Margaret's had been exerting in the first few minutes of the game had entirely vanished after the equalizer, with only rare chances, which were easily cleared.

After half time, York continued its impressive performance, soon leading 9-3. Most notably, Connie Shaw carried the ball half way across the pitch, leaving several defenders helplessly looking on as she scored just after half time.

By this point, time was clearly on York's side, and increasingly desperate attacks made Queen Margaret's vulnerable to York's ruthlessly efficient offense. In the end, York won by the large margin of 13-5.

If the game as a whole demonstrated anything, it's that it is still early in the season. While the team performed well, the final score is mostly a product of the outstanding individual performances.

But of course it is still early; the match was played with some first years and lacrosse will be optimistic about the year ahead.

Boat Club raise £3,500 on nationwide bike ride

Lewis Hill
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York Boat Club have raised £3,500 after completing a gruelling bike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The group started out with nine riders, Will Fuller, Tom Calvert, Stuart Hosie, Jack Wiseman, Daniel Bendjelloul, Mark Woosley, Abbie Flanagan, Alex Ighalo and Serena Ward.

The ride itself took 12 days to complete. The club have been raising money to purchase a new women's eight rowing boat, which will allow the club to continue to compete at a high level.

Before the main ride, the group completed a training camp in Yorkshire. They completed some hill training on the Yorkshire Dales which helped the team prepare mentally and physically for the challenge.

The ride was very challenging and getting to John O'Groats was hardly a simple task. One member of the team suffered a seizure on the ride north, another had an allergic reaction which required paramedical assistance.

The team also suffered from a virus, which knocked three of the group out of the ride to Scotland. Along with this, the team experienced a variety of injuries on the ride and some were involved in minor road accidents.

The group also suffered from mechanical problems on the ride. The truck that followed and supported the team on the ride broke down just south of Edinburgh.

Although the bike ride was the main fundraising event, it is part of a larger fundraising calendar for

the club, who have also completed a 24 hour indoor rowing challenge to raise funds.

Additionally, the club will be hosting a colour festival on the 29 September to generate further funds.

Will Fuller, the main trip organiser and Development Officer at the club commented: "The trip was extremely challenging, but equally rewarding. Obviously not everything went to plan, but it has all been made worthwhile by the amazing donations we've been given."

"It was a once in a lifetime trip, and the whole team was excellent. Thanks to our sponsors: Up&Go, Fuel10k, and York Sport for their support, and we're already looking ahead to our next challenge!"

Jack Wiseman, the one member of the team who cycled the entire distance said: "Taking part in LEJOG was one of the best things I've ever decided to do!"

"The sense of accomplishment when we finished was absolutely incredible and I saw beautiful parts of the country in a way I never otherwise could."

"The constant physical and mental fatigue was so draining and we encountered so many problems along the way just to add to the challenge."

"I would recommend it to anyone who has the opportunity to complete it, but you'll soon realise why it's described as a once in a life time experience."

The boat club had a very successful season last year. The highlight was their complete domination at Roses. The club whitewashed Lancaster, taking all 24 points on offer and were subsequently named 'Club of the Tournament'.



The typical cycling distance from Land's End to John O'Groats is 969 miles

continued from back

on the progress made under the scheme and their overall development.

However, the York Sport Union are keen to clarify that this was not simply a process of renewal, but that all 15 applications were judged objectively.

Lacrosse were added to the programme into 2013, after York Sport agreed to increase the number of Focus Sports to five.

They saw their men's and women's first teams establish themselves in highly competitive Northern 1A leagues last season under the scheme.

Grace Clarke, York Sport President commented: "The clubs were chosen based on a number of criteria as they truly were the best applicants."

President Alex Bell was pleased with the renewal: "The benefits of Focus Sport, for another year, can help us achieve our aims of having two teams promoted by the end of this season."

"For example, beginners can learn how to play lacrosse and, if they are interested in doing so at a higher level, attend the workshops on sports physiology to get a wider understanding of the game."

Futsal provided the Black and Gold with the highest number of BUCS points last year. The club commented: "We are delighted to have our Focus Sport status renewed."

"This extra support from the University allows our players to prepare, train and recover in an increasingly professional way. Successive seasons with this status will allow us to work towards our aims, one of which is to return to the National League."

The Swimming and Water Polo club have an impressive recent record of sending swimmers to BUCS National competitions.

President Beth Richards said: "We are delighted to be a Focus Sport this year. Throughout the years we have strived for excellence in both training and competitions and the continued support we receive from the York Sport Union often allows us to exceed our expectations."

"This led to our record books being rewritten in the past year, as we qualified for a national BUCS relay final. Our Women's water polo players competed in the BUCS Northern 1A league this year for the first time and defeated tough opposition to finish third."

This year our swimmers aim to reach more BUCS finals at the national championships and continue to break records."

Grace Clarke said of the process: "With 15 incredibly strong applications for just 6 places, it is safe to say that the decision was incredibly tough."

"However, the clubs that were successful are extremely deserving and I am really excited to work closely with them to ensure that they get the most out of the programme."

With strength and conditioning sessions with our new instructor Rob Milner, discounted physio sessions and sports science workshops, I have no doubt that they will benefit greatly from these resources."



Social Snapshot



Grace Clarke
@YorkSportPres

AMAZING NEWS! York has been chosen to be a @BUCSSport Uni in focus on 2nd Dec! HUGE congrats to @UYBClub for their #MYBUC-STEAM video!

10 Sep 2015

Ashley Smith
@ashleysmith1982

@YorkSportUnion Pre-Season Camps seem to be going well so far. Hopefully another year of progress will see us cement that #Top40 placing.

22 Sep 2015

UYHC
@UYHC_Official

Great meeting with @yorkshire-cancer about exciting fundraising opportunities in the coming year. Watch this space #UYHC #cancer-research

25 Sep 2015

Nouse Sport Team
@nousesport

Congratulations to our Deputy Sports Editor @robmid4, who is engaged to be married to the lovely @Claydon94! #wedding-bells

4 Aug 2015

UYWafc
@UYWafc

Freshers, whether a seasoned pro or new to football, come to talk to us at Fresher's Fair on 3rd October! #MyBUCSTeam

21 Sep 2015

York Sport Union
@YorkSportUnion

Fantastic way to top off a dream pre-season, 13-5 win to @YorkLacrosse girls #winning

23 Sep 2015

UoY Volleyball Club
@uyvc1

Our men's and women's trials will happen on 6th October from 4:30-8:30pm. Connect with us on Facebook and find out more!

21 Sep 2015

UoY Netball Club
@u_y_n_c

TRIALS
5-8pm Sunday 4th October
£5 entry
See you there! #UoYFreshers

9 Sept 2015

Women's Rugby on the rise

Tom Harle
SPORTS EDITOR

AS HER team gathered, slowly, on a crisp autumnal morning on 22 Acres for pre-season training, Ruth Whitehead reflected on her inheritance as Women's Rugby president. "Two years ago we gained promotion to Northern 1A, which is a much tougher league" Ruth admits, "We were expecting to be relegated."

BUCS Wednesdays were best forgotten last year, with only one victory in ten games in Northern 1A. Yet, they survived - against the odds. They came fifth, second bottom of their league, and in doing so managed to stave off the threat of relegation. The aim is to build on this and finish in a much higher position this time round.

This intent is articulated by first-team captain Serena Brymer: "We want to be a competitive team, rather than a struggler" she asserted.

"We know the strengths and weaknesses of the opposition. It's going to be a case of working harder and keeping ourselves up there."

Central to these efforts will be their coach Ian Thomson, Lancaster graduate and backs coach at York Rugby Club, who joined the fold in January: "Our previous coach had been with us for two and a half years, but at the time it was definitely the right decision when he decided to leave."

"We brought Ian in in January and the effect was immediate" Ruth said, "We played some teams at the start of the season, and then again at the end, and they couldn't believe

that it was the same team."

Serena testified to Thomson's "strong impact" and stated that the team are "really looking forward to a full season with him on board".

Despite some upheaval, the club can look back on genuine progress. They pulled off a sensational Roses whitewash, winning all three of their games, across sevens and fifteen-a-side formats, earning seven points for the victorious home cause.

Award nominations for Roses Team of the Year and, particularly, Contribution to Diversity at the York Sport Awards were richly deserved. The launch of the Equal Opportunities scheme will play directly to the club's strengths, and they are actively planning to continue their work with LGBTQ students.

Also off the field, they raise money for Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS), a York-based charity for individuals suffering from domestic abuse and sexual violence.

In the minds of anyone that witnesses the Roses routs, the losses of Juliette Carter and captain Mollie Staples will be keenly felt. As much as these were "key personalities", in the words of Brymer, there are individuals ready to step up. The skipper was keen to highlight flanker Megan Hull-Stewart, especially, as an increasingly important figure.

Versatile back Edith Sandstrom, who joined as a fresher last season, and winger Katie Layley should also be key players going into the new campaign, which gets underway at the University of Leeds on 21 October.

Meanwhile Whitehead, who



IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD

UYWRUFC defeated Lancaster 25-10 at last year's Roses, earning seven points for the Black and Gold cause

broke her back last year, has returned bravely to take a non-playing role: She will be heavily involved in coaching and is "looking forward to watching everyone progress and grow individually".

Brymer agreed, and stressed the importance of an "outside pair of eyes" to offer feedback and judge progress objectively as the season unravels.

Next on the agenda is broadening their development squad, which they are looking to embellish with a strong intake of new recruits.

The girls have also spent plenty of time fundraising for a second team, which should provide newcomers with even more motivation to get involved.

Incoming freshers are certain to receive a warm welcome: "I would happily say that we are all friends; like one big family, from which it was really sad to lose some members last year," Brymer says.

The club are out to adopt a number of new faces once again. After 150 freshers signed up for emails, over 60 attended their taster

session.

Although they are aiming to generate a similar if not greater level of initial interest, the challenge is to keep girls attending training sessions and bring them into the fabric of the 'family'.

Whitehead enthuses, "The groundwork that Mollie Staples and Isobel Welby laid is what we really want to build on and not lose just because they've gone." Having listened to the enthusiasms and intent of Whitehead and Brymer, there seems little danger of that.

Sports shorts

Surridge seal kit deal

Surridge have been confirmed as the replacements for current suppliers Kukri for all York Sport Union training and match day kit upon the expiration of Kukri's two year deal. Having been replaced by Kukri in 2013, Surridge have commenced a rebranding which convinced the York Sport Union to repartner with the multisport kit supplier. Grace Clarke, York Sport President, revealed the reasons for returning to Surridge included "impressive delivery times" and "attention to detail that is second-to-none."



Equal Opportunities launched

The Equal Opportunities Scheme has been launched to rebrand the Key Contacts initiative. The scheme aims to ensure that sport is made accessible regardless of race, background, class or any other social barriers people may have to joining a team. Participating clubs will have an Equal Opportunities Officer who will attend a workshop to discuss major issues and barriers, and understand how they can communicate with various liberation networks.



York Sport Union pre-season success

York Sport Union pre-season concluded on Friday with a Sports Day and an inter-club social. Pre-season friendlies saw wins for the men's Rugby firsts, men's Futsal and a 13-5 win for women's Lacrosse.

The week included strength and conditioning training for all clubs, and guest speeches from York graduates Ellie Whittaker and Tristan Hale.

Your York Sport Union

The Nouse Sport Team introduce the key decision-makers in sport at the University, from the York Sport Committee to individual club roles

York Sport President **Grace Clarke**

The York Sport President is the figure-head for sport at all levels at the University. They are primarily responsible for all sports and clubs within the Union, and represent the interests of the student body who have the opportunity to participate in sport within the University. Grace chairs the York Sport Committee. She also works closely with York Sport, the company that owns and runs the facilities on campus, including the Sport Centre and the Sport Village.



YUSU Sports Co-ordinator **Annie Potter**

The Sports Development co-ordinator provides high level co-ordination and development support to York Sport Union's 62 clubs. The co-ordinator is responsible for administrative support, ensuring strong and regular communication to clubs and supporting long term planning with Club Presidents and committees. Annie is your main contact for enquiries regarding BUCS, and distributes weekly fixture lists to stakeholders and student media outlets. She also manages the York Sport Performance Programme, which incorporates Focus Sport and Athlete Scholarships, as well as overseeing the administration of the Athletic Union fee.

Treasurer **Ollie Marsh**

A position which is growing in prominence, the Treasurer holds significant financial responsibility and as such is the signatory to all York Sport Union accounts. Pertinently, this is not to be mistaken with sole control of budgets, but is an advisory role. Ollie consults with clubs on emergency funding issues, manages expenses claims and takes the minutes of Committee meetings.



Communications Officer **Shannon Hardcastle**

The key duties of the communications officer are social-media based. Shannon updates official York Sport Union channels with fixture and result information, and publicises the work of the Union, like training camps and consultation surveys.



Fundraising and Events Officer **Beth Freane**

The Events & Fundraising officer is the axis of communication between the York Sport Union and RAG. Beth oversees the operation of a range of key annual events run by the Union; chiefly, these are the York Sport Dinner, Roses, College Varsity and fundraising events such as Ladies Day.



York Active Officer **Alisha Miller**

This position is only a year old, and has already evolved from the 'Get Into Sport' officer to York Active officer. In essence, Alisha's role is to improve the communication, administration and co-ordination of the York Active programme. The main responsibility is to increase participation levels on a base level, devising innovative and interesting ways of encouraging people to attend York Active.



Tournament Secretaries **Annie Dove and Kitty Lovegrove**

The Tournament secretaries are tasked with the organisation of the two main annual sporting events, namely Roses and College Varsity. Annie and Kitty form the link between York and rival universities Lancaster and Durham, ensuring that timetabling is acceptable to both parties, that umpiring is provided and that both events are well publicised.



College Sport Officers **Amy Gould and Esther Worrall**

This challenging role is to ensure the smooth operation of all of the vast and diverse areas of College Sport activity. This ranges from the 21 weekly leagues, which take place in 15 different sports, to the frequent one-day tournaments and, most prominently, College Varsity against Durham, the third edition of which will take place in York in Week 8 of the spring term. In doing so, Amy and Esther liaise weekly with Sports Reps and individual Sport activators to help the grass-roots level of participation at the university to flourish.



Welfare Officer **Isaac Beevor**

Responsible for the wellbeing of students within the York Sport Union, the Welfare Officer oversees York's initiatives on inclusivity and health. Schemes such as the Equal Opportunities scheme are promoted and overseen by Isaac. As Welfare Officer he also runs injury prevention schemes, and liaises with YUSU liberation networks to aid in making the sporting culture more inclusive.

Club President

The President manages all of the club's activity, representing it and liaising with the York Sport Union to provide the best possible experience for all the club's members. They chair the club committee and manage coaching for their teams.

Captain

Not all clubs have a captain, but for those that do, a captain leads the team during matches. They often organise match day logistics, player registration and kit requirements. They also make on-field decisions to try to lead their team to victory.

Club Treasurer

Equipment, pitches, rooms, travel: every team has expenses. YUSU funds need to be managed by the Treasurer and bills and invoices need to be paid and raised. And in case funding does not suffice, sponsoring can raise additional revenue.

Press and Publicity

What's a competitive match without spectators cheering you on? A Press & Publicity officer is the remedy, advertising matches on social media and sending out updates on upcoming training sessions.; they ensure that the club has a future.

Social Secretary

A team without team spirit isn't much of a team. A healthy atmosphere in a team can work miracles on the pitch; there's no better way to get a good team dynamic than a social, organised by the social secretary.

Teammates

A brand new feature lifts the lid on the characters in the Men's Cricket Club dressing room

Autumn Term Week 1
Tuesday 29 September 2015
www.nouse.co.uk/sport



Nouse Sport



Six Focus Sports announced

Tom Harle
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK SPORT Union have revealed the six clubs awarded with Focus Sport status for the 2015/16 academic year.

After 15 applications were received, Lacrosse, Futsal, Swimming & Water Polo, Fencing and Men's Rugby Union have all retained their status. In the only change from last year's selection, the Boat Club have replaced Football in the final spot.

The scheme, part of York Sport's performance programme, provides certain benefits

with the intention of helping the chosen clubs to achieve high levels of performance and to contribute to the development of the sport across beginner, intermediate and advanced levels.

These benefits include matchday physiotherapy, sports science analysis and strength and conditioning support.

The Boat Club, current Roses Club of the Year, are the newest addition to the programme. President Nick Brightman said of the news: "We are delighted to have been selected as a Focus Sport for this year. With the arrival of a new performance coach and fur-

ther investment from the University in new facilities, we're hoping that it will take the club to a new level."

At the other end of the scale, Football, inclusive of both men's and women's clubs, will be without these benefits after just one year on the scheme.

Despite slightly disappointing Roses displays, all four men's teams achieved respectable mid-table finishes last year, while the women's first team won their BUCS league comprehensively.

Women's football president Sophie Jermy commented: "We would like to congratulate

those clubs who have become Focus Sports this year, who are all deserving of the award. We're very disappointed that we won't be part of the programme, but hope to have some positive discussions with the York Sport Union about how we can develop further. We intend to work hard to succeed regardless of Focus Sport status and hope to have a very positive year on and off the field."

The five clubs who have once again been chosen were subject to a Focus Sport review at the end of the last academic year to reflect

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Going For Growth

Tom Harle talks to the Women's Rugby Club about their aspirations for the year

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Super Murray-o Bros

Rob Middleton considers the fate of British tennis without its royal family

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