



“ Painting on the trash is my gift to everyone
Francisco de Pajaro on turning trash into art
» M9 ”



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Students to pay for college membership

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has announced that students starting courses in September 2015 will have to pay a college membership fee to help finance changes to the structure of colleges that are being implemented next year.

Students doing degrees which last three years or longer will pay a one-off fee of £30, while those enrolled on two-year courses will pay £20.

Visiting students and those enrolling in a one-year programme will face a £10 membership fee.

Distance learners, people signed up to Continual Professional Development (CPD) courses and those studying at the Centre for Lifelong Learning will be exempt from paying a membership fee, which the University has stated will be “lower than equivalent charges at other collegiate universities”.

Sam Maguire, YUSU President, told *Nouse*: “The college membership fee is vital to ensuring that everyone gets something positive out of their college experience.

“10 pounds a year is not a lot considering that at other institutions you pay up to 50 pounds a year.

“However, the fee has to be justifiable, and if students next year do not feel like they are getting value

for their money, they should communicate this through their Junior Common Room Committee/Student Associations, and YUSU.

“Some of the money generated should also go to the student committees who are underfunded, and I want to work with the University to ensure that this happens.”

Michael Duncan, Chair of Vanbrugh College, said: “Compared to most collegiate universities, our colleges are woefully underfunded.

“While the University’s willingness to moderately increase the amount of money it spends on colleges is a step in the right direction, it is simply not enough.

“More importantly, the University should pull itself together and find the money from elsewhere, rather than coming up with new ways, such as this affiliation fee, to squeeze money out of its already overcharged students.”

The changes to the way in which colleges are structured were approved by the University’s Senior Management Group this month, following the trial of a pilot scheme in James, Langwith and Vanbrugh during the last academic year.

The pilot scheme saw the roles of College Provost and Dean replaced by College Principal and Officer. Constantine adopted the same staffing structure when it opened

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Plans for Heslington East building approved

Lewis Hill
DEPUTY EDITOR

CITY OF York Council has approved planning permission for the University to construct a brand new building on Heslington East.

The building will be known as The Piazza, and will be located just

south of Langwith College.

The £25m building project will provide catered accommodation on Heslington East for the first time, as catering facilities will be included in the new building.

It will see roughly 100 rooms within each college on Heslington East become catered rent. All rooms

on Heslington East are currently self-catered.

The Piazza will also add study space to Heslington East with seminar rooms, a lecture theatre and conference facilities.

The addition of The Piazza is

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News

News in brief

University set up fund for Festival of Ideas

The University of York has recently agreed to offer grants of up to £2,000 to organisations or individuals who wish to submit an application to perform at next year's York Festival of Ideas. Applications will be assessed against criteria including creativity, effectiveness in engaging young people, quality of project and engagement with the festival theme, which will be "Secrets and Discoveries". The York Festival of Ideas was created in 2011 by the University of York and has since become the largest free festival in the UK.

York musician highly praised for New York performances

An Anniversary Reader in the University of York's Music Department has received a number of positive reviews after directing 'breathtaking' performances in New York. Robert Hollingworth collaborated with I Fagiolini, a top classical vocal group from the UK, and Circa, an Australian circus company, to produce the show. The performance featured a combination of acrobatics. It was called "wondrous" by the *New York Times* and "astonishing" by the *Wall Street Journal*.

New academy set up for Physics graduates

A new academy has been launched with the aim of encouraging more Physics graduates to pursue technical careers. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has awarded the White Rose Industrial Physics Academy, which seeks to help Physics graduates develop their industry-relevant skills, £2m. Dr David Sweeney, HEFCE Director for Research, Education and Knowledge Exchange, said: "We look forward to working with York and its partners as the project develops."

Reporting by Tess Pullen and Amy Wong

>> Continued from front

the latest development in the long line of construction on Heslington East which in recent years has seen the addition of Constantine College and the York Sport Village.

Speaking of the approval of the plan for The Piazza, David Duncan, University Registrar and Secretary told *Nouse*: "We are delighted that the Council has given its approval for the construction of The Piazza building (subject to some further work in funding and contractual arrangements).

"The building already has planning approval, and we hope to complete it for use from late 2016. Encompassing teaching, study, catering and social facilities, it will represent a major enhancement of provision for students living and studying on Heslington East."

Sam Maguire, YUSU President, told *Nouse* that he is "excited" by the introduction of The Piazza as it will "deliver much needed catering, social and study space on

Heslington-East."

He added: "It will also include the introduction of an ethically sound foundation programme which will be very interesting. I have also asked the University that we consider in the building plans to consider whether we can provide flat floor provision in the building as that is what our clubs and societies have asked for."

Tara Anison, Chair of Goodricke College, commenting on her role with the plans of The Piazza said: "It's fantastic to see the University further their plans towards The Piazza building.

"Planning permission has already been approved and there have been several discussions regarding The Piazza building and the best possible use of the space, which I've been involved in."

She went on to say: "The University now understand the need for study space, catering provision and recreational space on Heslington East, all of which will hopefully be solved with these new plans."

Meanwhile, Alex Byron, a second-year Langwith student, told *Nouse*: "I think it's great to see the university continuing to invest in the new campus, giving us the additional services, like study space that we need.

"It will also be good to see more students coming over and using the campuses' services, showing that we're more than just a few nice buildings, but rather an amazing, growing community." Byron added: "This, along with the proposed health-centre and shop, shows that Heslington East is the place to be!"

Other future construction projects on Heslington East include the new basketball courts as well as plans for the construction of a purpose-built Junior Common Room for Langwith College.

Speaking on the overall development of Heslington East, a second-year English Literature student told *Nouse*: "I think the introduction of Constantine College this year has really made a big difference to the general atmosphere on Hesling-

ton East.

"Having more students on this side of the University because of the greater number of accommodation blocks has helped Heslington East become more lively.

"Hopefully, the building of more facilities like The Piazza will convince more students to come to Heslington East.

"When I've been speaking to other students around the University, it seems like Heslington East has a reputation for being really quiet and dull.

"I think the ongoing development will really help to change people's minds about Heslington East."

As well as the continuous development of Heslington East, there are also plans in place to develop parts of the Heslington West campus.

In addition to the proposed construction of an on-campus nightclub, Maguire has revealed that parts of Derwent, James and Vanbrugh will be demolished and rebuilt over the next 10 years.



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University to introduce college membership fee for new students

IMAGE: NOUSE

>> Continued from front

this year. From August 2015, every college will be led by a part-time 'Head of College', who will be supported by a full-time 'Assistant Head of College'. The role of College Administrator will stay the same.

The University has confirmed that the changes to the way colleges are structured will "[carry] an increased cost" but expects students to have a "more rounded college experience as a result."

It is also hoped the new structure will provide a "more comprehensive network of welfare and support for students" and "[facilitate] student development and college activities."

As a result, the Head of College and other members of college staff will be no longer receive free accommodation as they do under the current structure.

However, college welfare tutors will get a "significant" weekly rent subsidy of £120 in place of a full accommodation fee waiver to "ensure equity" between them.

College welfare tutors are not able to choose which college or court they reside in but can specify accommodation preferences when

applying for the role.

The University has promised to "work with college tutors to ensure they are in appropriate accommodation for their needs".

Jemima Busby, Welfare and Community Officer, told *Nouse*: "The college tutors are a really great part of college life. A lot of their work is done behind the scenes and supporting students while continuing their studies. This year, the college tutor training was developed to support them and equip them to be an even bigger asset to [colleges], especially through signposting students to support."

The decision to move to the new staffing structure was made by a panel including both academic staff and representatives from the student population. The panel was chaired by Jane Grenville, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Students.

A University of York spokesperson told *Nouse*: "This new structure ensures that we retain academic oversight of our colleges, which is central to York's philosophy of living and learning communities, as well as providing a full-time staff presence to manage the day-to-day operations of college life."



The changes were made following the trialling of a pilot scheme in James, Langwith and Vanbrugh

A close look at the college system

Sam Maguire
YUSU President



The college system needs to be reassessed to ensure students get the most out of it

With the introduction of the college membership fee next year and increased University investment in colleges, I think it is important to consider where our collegiate system is and what exactly they should provide. The fee is only justifiable if it improves the range and quality of opportunities available to students and the support they get from their college.

A modern approach

Many of the colleges around the world are centuries old or are built on the model set out by the Oxbridge and Durham Universities. Our colleges are not and I for one think this is a strength because we believe in 21st century values.

Consider that at three colleges in Durham their Junior Common Room head is known as the 'Senior Man' irrespective of their gender.

In many colleges across the world they have morals and standards which are of a similar age to their buildings.

This simply would not happen in our colleges. We have colleges that support movements for equal-

ity and who are not embedded in archaic tradition. This must continue.

International Students

The additional investment by students into colleges must come with a greater focus on integration of all students. This is difficult when for many, colleges are simply a foreign concept as we do little to sell

“The fee is only justifiable if it improves the range and quality of opportunities available to students and the support they get.”

the system to potential international students.

We put up a major barrier to integration in our colleges by the fact that we separate out people with different let lengths in accommodation. Fifty-one week lets are desirable for many international students who wish to stay for their summer

in York. However, when many home students opt for 39 weeks, this is an immediate barrier to establishing the diverse mix of students we aim for.

There is also the need for inclusive activity to support interaction with one another. We must consider why more of our international contingent are not getting involved in college sport, attending events and running in elections.

Facilities

One thing I have been banging on about in every University committee I sit on is the importance of maintaining a range in the price of accommodation.

This is vital as over the next 10 years Derwent, Vanbrugh and James will be demolished and rebuilt on Heslington West. These are our cheapest blocks and we cannot build £127 a week replacements. Also important is ensuring that these rebuilt colleges have study, social and catering provision.

These facilities help a college become a community and efforts must be made to extend the provision available in all colleges across

campus.

College 'Welfare'

Our student committees have been the leading lights of colleges for many years and they must continue to do so for years to come. However, I believe one thing should change - the name and role of 'Welfare Reps'.

Thankfully, many Junior Common Room Committees and Student Associations have changed the name and description of the role recently. It is important that someone on a college committee is in charge of running proactive campaigns, providing information for students and signposting students to the professional services available at the University.

Welfare does not describe this properly and in fact we have seen students in those roles performing duties out of their remit and outside of what they are trained to do, and this is dangerous. Those who have been reps are students who worked tirelessly. This should never be discredited but it is time to move forward.

We will have a full-time Head

of College, a properly trained and managed tutor team. It's time our committees stay out of 'welfare'.

Freshers' Week

The quality of the Freshers' Weeks this year, which were predominantly delivered by the college committees, was excellent. They are really switching on to providing a programme which offers something for everyone.

However, Freshers' Week is still a time which alienates many people from collegiate life and I challenge the newly elected committees and the full complement of Heads and Assistant Heads of Colleges to develop a week which integrates everyone.

A final word

This is not exhaustive. Other key areas of improvement are in the introduction of proper college outreach programmes, soft skill development and the postgraduate experience. I would like to hear about your college experiences and what you would like to change. Please email me at s.maguire@yusu.org.

News

Landlord refuses to let house to students because of their gender

Tess Pullen
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A GROUP of students from the University of York were recently denied a property they were interested in renting through Union Lets because two of them are male.

The group, which consists of three female students and two male students, received an email explaining that the current landlord of the property they wished to rent refused to let his property to a group that was not solely female.

The email said the landlord had had “problems in the past with a mixed household” and so wanted to “have an all-female house the next academic year”.

The letting agency was apologetic about the situation, saying it felt the group of students would have been “perfect tenants for the property” and even offered them an alternative property.

However, one of the students stated he was “overall shocked and hurt that [his] gender would stop [him and his] friends letting a house” and was concerned that the letting agency would support a landlord that would discriminate against a particular gender.

Questions have been raised about whether such discrimination is based on the stereotype that women are tidier than men and would thus keep the house in better condition.

Beth Curtis, President of Uni-

versity of York Feminists, called the belief that female students make better tenants “patronising”. She said, “Gender doesn’t define personality, behaviour, or whether you pay the bills on time - it’s nowhere near as restricting.”

“What could justify that idea, asides from the outdated belief ‘women are better around the home’?”

“Through that assumption, you end up reducing around 50 per cent of the population to rigid gender roles, pigeonholing us as all housewives-to-be, when in reality you can and should be able to express your gender in a thousand different ways.”

There is also concern for students who do not identify as either male or female but have found that when signing for a house they must state their gender or potentially decrease their groups’ chance of getting their ideal house due to their reluctance to conform to the gender binary.

Jaz Millar, one of the University’s trans* representatives explained, “Lots of transgender people, such as myself, don’t identify as a man or a woman.”

“When our estate agent asked us ‘how many men, how many women?’ my identity felt an inconvenience to my housemates. If they’re judging us on gender balance (which suggests sexism) would giving an explanation about the gender spectrum really warm them



IMAGE: UIC DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Five students were told they could not rent a property because the landlord wanted a group of girls

to us? We wanted the house. When someone asks you ‘man or woman’ they don’t expect ‘no’”

Maddie Boden, LGBTQ Officer, also expressed concern, saying, “Trans* and non-binary people are already a significantly greater risk of homelessness because of their gender identity.”

“Declaring your gender as a part of obtaining housing while at university is an unnecessary request

from a landlord and refusing housing on the basis of gender is a direct violation of discrimination laws on exactly this issue.”

The Equality Act of 2010 states that it is “unlawful for a person who has the authority to dispose of premises (for example, by selling, letting or sub-letting a property) to discriminate against or victimise someone else in a number of ways including by offering the premises

to them on less favourable terms; by not letting or selling the premises to them or by treating them less favourably”.

Whilst the landlord may wish to rent his house to an all-female group, such discrimination is potentially against the law.

Union-Lets are not affiliated with YUSU. The letting agency unable to respond to *Nouse’s* request for a comment in time for printing.

Students collect 32 rucksacks as donations for the homeless

Irina Istode
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS AT the University of York have collected 32 rucksacks of donations which will be used to help homeless people in the city over winter.

People were invited to drop off items such as woolly hats, underwear and tins of soup at YourSpace on Friday as a part of a university version of The Rucksack Project.

The founder of the original Rucksack Project, Matthew White, describes his initiative, now a worldwide volunteering movement, as being “an incredibly simple one”.

He states on his website: “Go to charity shops, get a rucksack, sleeping bag, flask (fill with hot soup), spoon, gloves, hat, fleece, undies, socks and extra food, take it out and give it to a homeless person.”

White started the initiative in Bristol in 2009 by putting together a rucksack as described above and handing it to a homeless person on the street.

Harriet Page, Volunteering Officer, told *Nouse*: “We’re so grateful for all of the students who came along to donate to The Rucksack



IMAGE: HARRIET PAGE

The Rucksack Project was founded in 2009 to help the homeless

Project! Over 30 rucksacks and countless more donations is an amazing collection that the homeless [people] of York will definitely appreciate over winter.”

James, Goodricke and Alcuin were particularly praised for their

efforts and for, “really [getting] into the spirit by donating bags and t-shirts”.

Page added: “We also have a fair few items that shall be given out as Christmas presents by York Arc-light Shelter for the homeless.”

Study shows top university jobs still filled by white men

Amy Norton
NEWS REPORTER

RECENT STATISTICS from the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) reveal that diversity within the highest paid university positions is still out of proportion, with black academics constituting a particularly low percentage.

The data gathered by the charity, which seeks to support equality among UK higher education institutions, highlighted imbalances in departments in relation to staff’s gender, ethnicity, age, and disability.

Using data collected in 2012-2013, the report draws attention to the gender gap in senior positions, with males three times more likely to occupy such roles. Only 20 per cent of vice-chancellors across the country’s universities are female.

The general gap is most prominent amongst science, engineering and technology departments, with only 16 per cent of professors female.

Despite a 70 per cent increase

in the last ten years, professors from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds represent just 5.9 per cent of university departments as a whole.

Wages were also uneven across white and black groups, with 30.7 per cent of white professors earning £50,000 or more, compared to 17.4 per cent of black academics.

However, 34 per cent of academics of Chinese ethnicity were paid over this sum, with this group also containing the lowest proportion of staff paid less than £30,000.

The University of York sets out objectives every four years in line with the Equality Act, reviewed annually. Key objectives in promoting equality included providing an Equal Pay Review every two years, and “to take remedial action as appropriate”.

York’s ‘Equality and Diversity Annual Report 2013-14’ showed that the University’s overall gender pay gap was 21 per cent, in terms of average salary.

Newly ratified societies revealed

Lewis Hill
DEPUTY EDITOR

OVER TWENTY new societies have been ratified by YUSU for the current academic year.

The newly ratified societies include Fashion Society, Sewing Society and A Society of Ice and Fire, which is dedicated to the popular series of books and hit television series *Game of Thrones*.

A couple of societies have been ratified but as of yet are not running at the moment or are still gathering support.

These include the Hip Hop Society, the University of York American Politics Society and the Six Trees Native American Society.

Two societies dedicated to European countries have recently been ratified with both German Society and French Society gaining recognition.

Chelsea Farrington, Chair of the newly ratified French Society, told *Nouse*: "When I first started York there was no French society and I thought that it would be a great opportunity to bring people together with connections and interests with the French language and culture as well as providing informal language support."

Speaking of the society's plans for the future, Farrington said: "We have many ideas in the pipeline such as French food evenings, French film events and much more."

She added: "I'm so happy we got accepted and hopefully the society will be here for many more years to come!"

A society dedicated to one of England's political parties, UKIP, called York University UKIP (YU-UKIP), has also been ratified by YUSU.

As well as the newly ratified societies, there are several other societies that had their application for ratification turned down by YUSU. These include PranksSoc, the University of York Book Group and the Belly Dance Society.

Marta Donati and Minna Jeffrey, Co-Chairs of The Antigone Collective, a human rights theatre group that was denied ratification, told *Nouse*: "Although it's a shame that we haven't been ratified by YUSU, and this makes certain things more difficult, we are still very enthusiastic about our project."

They added: "We are planning to do many exciting things in the future."

Other societies that yet to be ratified are the York Peace Project and the Commercial Awareness Society. One society, AIESEC York has not had a decision made regarding its potential ratification and is subsequently under further investigation.

Commenting on the latest ratification process, Chris Wall, Student Activities Officer said: "It's



IMAGE: SISSI ROCHA

The University of York Wine Appreciation Society's application for ratification was approved by YUSU

exciting to see so many new societies being ratified. Sadly we can't ratify everyone who applies as many groups already exist, just under different names. We welcome anyone

who wants to set up a society to e-mail activities@yusu.org and we'll see what we can do!

"I'm excited to see what these new groups will bring to campus

and after meeting with them for societies training, I know their enthusiasm will keep York's excellent reputation for society activity as high as it is."

LFA confusion for students taking credit modules

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

SEVERAL STUDENTS who enrolled on a Languages For All course for credit were informed they had to move up a level midway through the term.

The students were contacted in Week 6 after it "became clear" that a number of them were taking a level which "might be lower than appropriate".

In total, eight of the twenty-seven students taking a Level One Plus or Level Two Plus language course for credit were found to be studying at a level that was "too low" for their existing knowledge.

Six of these agreed to switch to a different class, whilst the other two were allowed to continue to study at their current level after their situations were brought to the attention of the Special Cases Committee.

One of the students who was allowed to stay in the same class told *Nouse*: "I found out about this via an urgent email sent after I had my LFA supervisor meeting."

"I replied as soon as possible, but the experience was very worry[ing], as I would have had to go up a level in my German LFA which would have meant more work."

"I was also worried about what might happen if I were to decide that I couldn't do German Level Two - obviously you can't pick up another degree module in Week 8 of term."

"To be honest, there might be

other factors that led to this slowness in response. I feel disappointed with the speed at which LFA got back to me: the first email was on November 5th, and the solution came on the 19th. That's two weeks, for an urgent (their words) matter.

"There were summative assessments being handed in for academic modules I might have had to start in Week Eight and I had assessments to turn in myself for my other modules, so that added to the pressure."

A spokesperson from the LFA department said: "There are certain restrictions on the levels of LFA course students with prior language qualifications can take."

"These restrictions are in place to ensure parity for students and to avoid simply accrediting language learning done elsewhere."

"It would not normally be permissible for instance for a student to take a course for credit at a level lower than that of a language qualification already achieved."

"All students considering taking an LFA module for credit are requested to attend a one-hour information session in Week 1 where LFA staff explain how LFA for credit works, and answer any queries."

It was said to be "normal" for there to be students who have to move up or down a level in the first three weeks of teaching as some of them register for classes which do not match their previous language qualification or experience.

The LFA spokesperson ex-

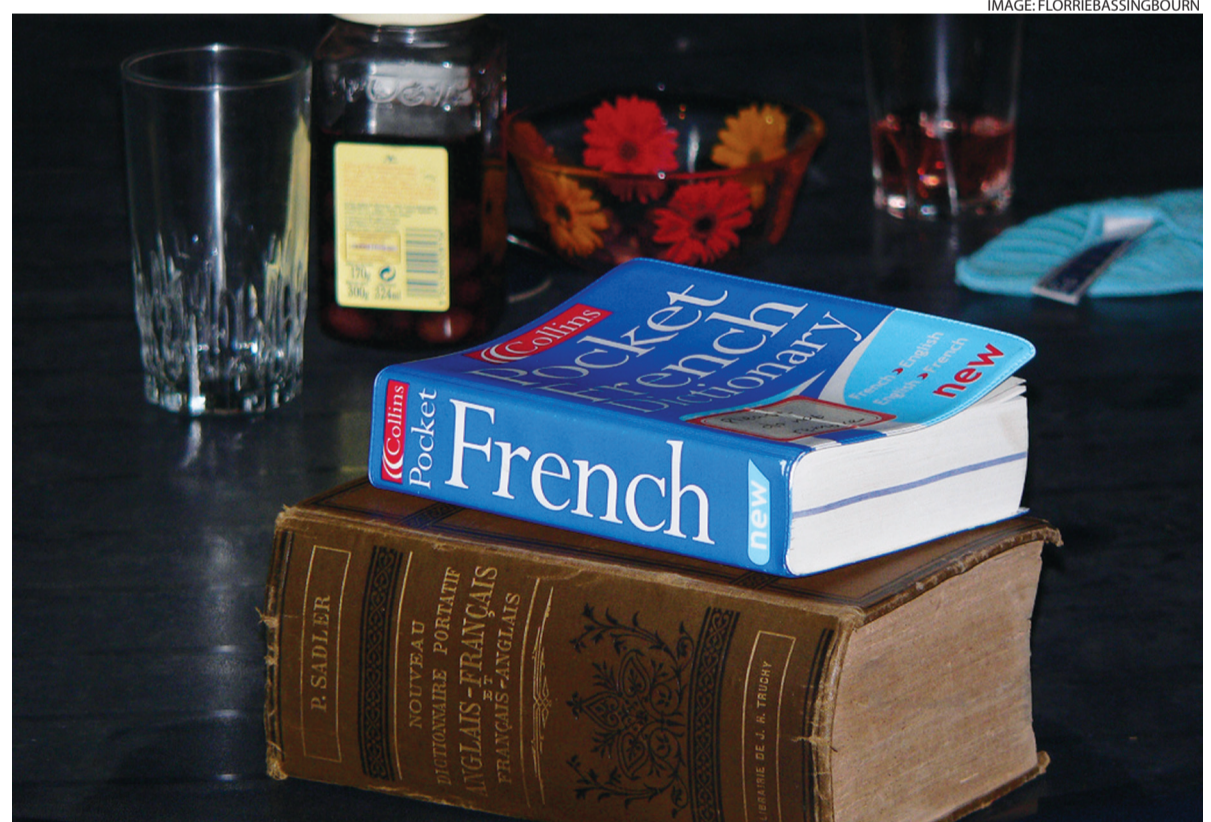


IMAGE: FLORRIEBASSINGBOURN

Eight students taking a Languages For All course for credit were asked to move up to a higher level

plained it can take a "little time" for tutors to realise this before saying that students who opt to learn a language for credit would receive clearer guidance in future.

They said: "We are... liaising with departments to ensure that additional checks are put in place earlier in the term - and on both sides - to monitor students' qualifications

and registration to the appropriate level of course."

George Offer, YUSU Academic Officer, told *Nouse*: "LFA courses are an excellent way to support and add to your degree at York and I'd always encourage students to enrol on a course suited to them, courses are leveled to ensure students' language skills are being stretched

and improved, and so students are learning alongside others of similar capabilities."

This year, 1,827 students enrolled on an LFA course, an increase of approximately 3 per cent compared to last year.

Just under 10 per cent of these students are taking LFA classes for credit.

News

UCU marking boycott over pension changes suspended until January

Lewis Hill
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY and College Union (UCU) and Universities UK (UUK) have confirmed the suspension of the marking and assessment boycott until a Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) meeting on Thursday 20 January.

UCU and UUK have also agreed to a series of meetings between now and January with the aim of reaching an agreement on the reforms to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). The marking boycott, which began on 6 November, originated from the proposed plans to move university staff to a career revalued benefits (CRB) pension scheme in order to reduce the Universities Superannuation Scheme's estimated £8bn deficit.

A spokesperson from the University of York said the University welcomed the development and hoped it would "[give] both parties the opportunity to explore an agreed solution in the negotiations". They added: "We are keen to work with York UCU to communicate our joint views to the national negotiators."

"More generally, we look forward to continuing our constructive working relationship with York UCU." The University's announcement that it would dock all the pay of staff participating in the boycott for its duration, attracted wide-

spread criticism, with several academics publishing open letters on the subject. Dr Simon Hall, a Senior Lecturer from the University of Leeds compared the university's reaction to that of a nineteenth century mill.

A third-year English Literature student told *Nouse* she was "appalled" by the decision and called it a "condescending snub ... which makes a complete mockery of the University's principles of equality and upholding the best ethical standards." The University has since confirmed it will not be withholding the pay of the members of staff who participated in the marking and assessment boycott before UCU suspended it.

However, it was suggested this decision may be reviewed depending on the outcome of the planned talks. The University said: "Should the action be resumed at a later date, the University's Senior Management Group will re-consider its position with regard to the withholding of pay."

Speaking of the suspension of the boycott, a second-year English Literature student said: "I do sympathise with the staff who will be affected by the pension changes and it seems that there has not been clear communication between the University and its employees."

"However, it's a relief to know that the boycott has been suspended



IMAGE: CHURCHOPUNK

The University will not dock the pay of staff who participated in the boycott this month but may do if action is resumed later - I was really worried about the impact on my degree as it was happening so close to some important assessments."

Earlier this month, in a blog post, Sam Maguire, YUSU President, stressed the need for the University to communicate with

its employees more effectively. He told *Nouse*: "The delay of the marking boycott is obviously good. We pressured our university and UCU to communicate better about their shared desire to consider other options for the pension plan which they did. This has also been the case

between UUK and UCU nationally.

"Now it is up to them to work together and get a solid plan in place, however I am concerned that this may not happen and the University must put a plan in place for if the boycott restarts so that the effect on students is minimal."

York Sport Union strip for charity calendar

Grace Marsh
EDITOR

A CHARITY NAKED calendar produced by York Sport Union is now available to order online. The 2015 calendar features contributions from sports teams at the University, with all proceeds going to RAG.

According to York Sport, the calendar will "promote the diversity of sports... at York" and "showcase the range of equally strong and beautiful athletic body shapes that come with playing these sports".

The university clubs featured in the calendar include football, women's rugby, golf and YuSnow. Team members will be naked in the photographs, covered only by their respective sports equipment.

The naked calendar aims to include a broad selection of sports clubs at the University. Each month will show a different sport and as many as the photographs as possible will be action shots.

Grace Clarke, York Sport Tournament Secretary, told *Nouse*: "We would really like to use this calendar to increase the awareness of the lesser known sports in the York Sport Union as well as gaining the

support of the bigger clubs."

Cass Brown, York Sport President, had positive things to say about the calendar. She said: "One of the York Sport Committee's goals for this year is raising more money for charity than ever before and Sasha, the Events and Fundraising Officer, is hugely keen to make this happen."

She continued: "The committee decided to create the York Sport Union naked calendar in the hope that it will raise lots of money for RAG. We've seen some extremely successful university sports club naked calendars. For example, the Warwick Rowers raised in excess of £300,000. If we can share in just a little bit of the same success, we'll be over the moon."

Georgia Paton, Volunteering Officer, told *Nouse*: "York Sport's naked calendar is an exciting new addition to the Sport/RAG relationship at York, and shows off how easy and fun it is for everyone to get involved in fundraising." The calendar costs £7.50 on pre-sale and can be bought on the YUSU website until Sunday. Physical copies will be sold in Week 10.



IMAGE: PHILIPPA GRAFTON

The charity calendar will feature photographs of a wide variety of sports clubs, including swimming, water polo and lacrosse

Petition started against 'terrible' plans to spend thousands on a campus club

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

A STUDENT has set up a petition calling for the University to reconsider its "terrible" plans to build a nightclub on campus.

The Change.org petition, which was started by Joe Foxon, lists a number of ways in which the £200,000 being used to build the club could be "better spent", stating that this list is "non-exhaustive".

The suggestions include making bus services cheaper for students living off-campus and building a bigger supermarket on-campus selling cheaper products than those currently offered in the campus shops to "reduce the cost of living" and "create precious jobs".

The petition, which currently has 286 signatures, also argues the money should be put towards developing the University's welfare and healthcare services.

It suggests that the "great service" offered by the Open Door team would "really benefit" from more funding and that female students should be supplied with free sanitary products.

It goes on to suggest an on-campus pharmacy, which has been proposed during previous YUSU elections, would be a "much more useful investment" as the nearest one is currently a 15-minute walk from the Health Centre and some

Halifax students face a 25-minute walk if they need to collect medication. The petition also proposes using the money to host and more widely publicise an Alternative Freshers' Week.

Foxon told *Nouse*: "My personal reason for creating the petition is because I want YUSU to promote more non-drinking and responsible drinking events, but other people have put forward some great suggestions that deserve to be taken into consideration."

It has been argued that the building of an on-campus nightclub would provide a safer option to going out in the city centre and some students have welcomed the decision.

One third-year student said they thought the club was a good idea as it would provide a "neutral space for inter-college interaction" while another third-year student felt it would "liven up the campus".

Callum McClafferty, who was recently elected Vice Ents for Derwent College and has held events in the squash courts where the club would be built, said that developing the space would not need to cost £200,000.

He went on to say he thought it would be a "good investment" provided the University made sure they involved students in the development of the space.



IMAGE: PETER IVESON

The night club would be built in the squash courts situated between Derwent and Alcuin and is expected to cost £200,000

Students troubled by council tax demands

Tess Pullen
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

SEVERAL STUDENTS at the University of York have received "irritating" council demands for council tax, including court summons and multiple phone calls.

The tax is used to cover the services that the council provides to residents, such as rubbish collection, emergency service and local transport.

Full-time students are exempt from paying council tax providing their course requires them to attend university 24 weeks a term.

Jack Elliot, a second-year Music Technology student explained how despite submitting his council tax exemption form in June, he received multiple letters threatening to fine him over one thousand pounds.

Elliot explained that the letters seemed automated, as the household was also receiving letters to previous tenants asking for council tax money.

He said: "If one person had taken a minute to check if we had requested exemption, they would not have sent us the fines and it would have saved so much paper. I have enough on my plate without threats

from the council too."

Dean Bennell, a second-year English student experienced a similar situation after filling out both an online and paper form.

Bennell received several final warning letters and threats of fines, despite a phone call from the council reassuring them that they had nothing to worry about.

However, Bennell's household received a court summons which was not retracted until they phoned the council to inform them that they would attend their court date wielding their exemption certificates.

Bennell stated that he "wasted hours filling out forms, making phone calls and having to go to the University to get exemption certificates."

The constant threat of debt collectors culminated in him being told he was being taken to court. Once the issue was resolved, the council did not offer an apology or compensation but told Bennell it was a system error.

Stephanie Michael, an Economics student, also received court threats and told *Nouse* that while "the situation was successfully resolved in the end, it was still irritating that [she and her housemates]



IMAGE: PHILIPPA GRAFTON

Several students have received letters and court summons for failing to pay council tax even though they are exempt from it

were wrongly summoned to court in the first place, given [they] had taken care to ensure that our exemption certificates were sent off together and met the deadline".

Jemima Busby, Welfare and Community Officer, said: "I have experienced this problem myself. It

can be very worrying for students who have not lived in the private rented sector before.

"I would encourage students to give feedback on the process to the council if they come across these issues.

"The Student Support Hub can

also advise students on housing related issues such as council tax. I would encourage students to get in touch with them if they have any housing concerns."

City of York Council did not respond when contacted for a statement.



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Campus accommodation rent prices increase for the fifth year running

Grace Marsh
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has increased its campus accommodation rent prices for the fifth year in a row, with an average increase of £19.135 per week or 19 per cent between 2011/12 - 2014/15.

Complete price lists for 2015/2016 have not yet been made public, but the data available suggests a similar increase rate to what has been implemented so far.

Figures provided by the University show that the average weekly rent price for accommodation in 2014/15, when taking into account single and shared twin rooms was £118.385.

However, in the academic year 2011/12, the average rent price was £99.25 a week when taking into account single and shared rooms twin rooms.

The price of a standard economy room such as those in Derwent College has risen by 20 per cent over a four-year period (2011/12 - 2015/16). For a 40-week rent, this is an increase of £691.60, from £3432.80 to £4124.40.

A third-year Economics student told *Nouse*: "Given the state of the economy, these aggressive rent increases are unjustified.

"In first year, I had an upgraded

standard room in Halifax College, and I was paying more per week than a friend with an economy ensuite room in Alcuin.

"These rent increases would [only] be justified if the quality of accommodation had also increased over the period."

A standard room with a shared bathroom is £121.94 for the 2015/16 academic year, but was only £91.97 in 2011/12 - a £29.97 or 33 per cent increase over four years.

For a self-catered standard room there has been a rise of £28.84 a week, which represents a 31 per cent rise over a four-year period.

The price for a standard ensuite rent has risen by £16.10 per week, which is an increase of 14 per cent over the same four-year period.

A spokesman from the University told *Nouse*: "The University reviews rent prices annually in full consultation with the Students' Unions through the rents group."

They went on to say: "This is in order to meet the annual costs of providing the accommodation." These annual costs include utilities, staffing, catering costs etc."

The spokesman also cited: "Operating a rolling programme of refurbishment, and the financial commitments of funding/borrowing arrangements."



IMAGE: MATTCORNOCK

On-campus prices have increased by £19.135 per week or 19 per cent on average in the past four academic years

Delays in the arrival of Erasmus grants leave students on years abroad with financial worries

Grace Marsh
EDITOR

STUDENTS ON years abroad have been hit by the late arrival of their Erasmus grants.

Some students have received their grants up to three months later than planned, leaving those students who are dependent on the Erasmus grants in financial difficulty.

The Erasmus grant is a maintenance grant provided by the European Commission to students on their year abroad as part of the Erasmus scheme.

All participants of all nationalities are eligible to apply for the Erasmus grant, providing they are registered on a full-time degree programme.

This year, the existing Erasmus system was replaced by a scheme called Erasmus+. This has created delays in the processing of paperwork that the British Council, the charitable organisation responsible for setting up study and teaching opportunities for UK students on their year abroad, must send to the European Commission.

The European Commission is responsible for the release of the

grants to students, who then receive this money through their home university.

Students experiencing the delays had not been told when they would receive the grant that they are owed, having been under the impression that it would arrive at the start of the academic year.

According to a statement released by the British Council last week, as of 19 November, 66 UK universities have yet to be paid their Erasmus grants, leaving hundreds of students without the money they are designated.

A student at the University of York, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "The year abroad is stressful enough already but the huge delays in the grant payment have made everything worse.

"I've had to extend my overdraft twice now. I realise it's not York's fault that everything is delayed, but for ages they weren't even able to give us a rough date of when to expect the payment."

Several petitions have set up on Change.org addressed to the British Council, urging them to resolve the situation. One such petition is

called 'When will Erasmus funding be allocated to universities? Don't leave us in limbo', which has currently received 105 signatures.

When on their year abroad, students still receive their maintenance loan for Student Finance, however for some students this is not enough to fund them.

A second-year student at the University expressed her concerns about the situation.

She said: "I am currently applying for a teaching placement through the British Council for my year abroad, which I will be going on next year.

"Hearing this news is worrying as I receive a low maintenance grant from Student Finance and can't survive on the money from my parents. I will be relying on the Erasmus grant to financially survive next year. Without it, I won't be able to."

Figures show that the demand for the Erasmus grant has grown by 9 per cent on last year, but the overall budget has increase only by 100 per cent.

As well as the late delayed payments, the amount of grant received has been subject to cuts.



IMAGE: JAMES WHITESMITH

The Erasmus grant is a form of financial help for students who go abroad

News

Accommodation application process altered in time for next year's freshers

Grace Marsh
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York has confirmed that it is implementing a new system for students applying for on-campus accommodation.

The system was launched for accommodation applications for current students on 4 November and will go live next May to applicants who have chosen York as their firm or insurance for September 2015. Room offers will be allocated once results are confirmed and students become unconditional offer holders.

The new and updated system is designed to provide students with a more convenient accommodation application process.

It is hoped that this will address the problems encountered in previous years when trying to apply for on-campus accommodation.

The previous system saw students choosing accommodation based on which rooms were available at the time when they were able to access the website.

Under the new system, students choosing accommodation by submitting an ordered list of preferences.

Students will choose five accommodation choices within the collegiate structure, specifying college, room type, let length, catering options, bathroom facilities and price, in order of importance.

The previous system left many students unhappy with the process of applying for on-campus accommodation.

A first-year English and Politics student told *Nouse*: "It was re-



IMAGE: LAURA HUGHES

The new system will mean that next year's students will apply for accommodation before receiving their results

ally inconvenient to have to wait in a queue on the online application system after I'd already fulfilled the entrance requirements for the University.

"I was only able to choose my room several hours later."

A second-year English Literature student shared a similar opinion, saying: "It was an absolute disaster. No one knew what they were doing when we phoned up. It caused unnecessary stress."

Feedback from current students regarding the introduction of the new system has been positive. Comprehensive information about accommodation, let lengths and colleges is featured on the websites students use to apply. Students in

the user testing session described the new site as a "one stop shop" of the information needed to choose accommodation.

Laura Hallett, Project Manager of the new system, told *Nouse*: "At the user acceptance testing we did, almost all of the students commented that they preferred the system over the one they'd previously used to apply. It was said to be a sophisticated, intuitive website that was enjoyable to use - one student commented on how similar it was to ones used to book hotel accommodation online."

The application system is designed to be more straightforward and user-friendly, with a combination of instruction-based text, and

additional information boxes. It is hoped that this will make the accommodation process more similar to that of the more modernised systems of other UK universities, allowing students to choose their accommodation based more tightly on their interests and preferences.

Hallett said: "All in all, the students' experience of applying for accommodation will be improved and it will also provide a fairer process of allocating student accommodation. The new system will mean that there is no longer a rush to apply for accommodation on one day.

"The process of applying should also be more informative, easier to understand and, most importantly, free from worry and stress."

Steps taken to reduce delayed exam notices

Abigail Hettle
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY is reinforcing measures to ensure that communication errors made during last year's exams are not repeated.

Several university exam papers contained mistakes during the last exam season. For example, there were several errors in an Economics paper.

While the majority of students were informed of these mistakes, some students who were seated in separate locations were not informed until later.

To prevent this from happening again, all reports of senior invigilators will be checked alongside reports of invigilators from rooms where students did their exams separately.

This will ensure that any mistakes are known about and all students are informed as soon as possible.

David Sissons, Course Representative for Economics and Related Studies, said: "[During the] last exam period there were a few cases where messages and information were not relayed to all students taking an exam.

"This was reported as soon as possible, time will tell if the measures put in place will be sufficient and it will be inexcusable if the January exams have similar problems."

George Offer, Academic Officer, told *Nouse*: "This was not a widespread issue and affected only a tiny number of students. However it's great that the University are just as keen as we are to ensure fairness for all students no matter what their exam arrangements are."

University sees rise in research council income

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

THE AMOUNT of research council income awarded to the University of York in 2013-2014 was 41 per cent more than the previous academic year, making the University one of only five institutions who saw an increase of more than 20 per cent in the amount of funding they were awarded.

The data was revealed in a table compiled by *Times Higher Education* which ranks universities according to the amount of research council income they received in the last academic year.

Other universities which saw a rise in research income included the University of Reading and the University of Surrey, which was awarded £111m, an increase of 85 per cent compared to the previous year.

The list was topped by Imperial College London, which was awarded £114m in 2013-2014, followed by the University of Oxford, which was awarded £94m, and University College London, which was awarded

£78m.

Imperial College London has occupied the top position in the list of research grant winners for four of the last five years, having placed third last year.

It was recently revealed that research councils gave out 22 per cent less funding during the last academic year despite the fact there was a 9 per cent decrease in the number of grant applications submitted in 2013-14.

The University of Bath saw the biggest fall in application with a 30 per cent decrease, while the University of Cambridge saw a 22 per cent decrease.

The University of York was one of only eight of the top 27 institutions for research council income according to the list which submitted more grant applications in 2013-2014.

Out of those eight universities which submitted more applications, only the University of Manchester and the University of Southampton saw their success rate increase.



IMAGE: JUSTYN HARDCASTLE

The University of York applied for more grants than last year and saw a 41 per cent rise in research council income

Keeping you safe at night

Charlotte Wainwright examines Nightsafe's progress after their first successful term in action and how their members have tackled the challenge

This year, the University of York Students' Union launched Nightsafe, a student-led scheme that provides help and support to students in vulnerable situations during nights in town.

Launched primarily to compliment welfare and safety provision in York city centre, the team works closely with York's clubs and police, ensuring that students who are overly intoxicated are able to get home safely. The service, the first of its kind in the UK, is simi-

lar to the 'Street Angels' scheme, yet contains no religious element. Its aim is to provide a friendly face on nights out and a person for students to turn to if they require assistance.

The Nightsafe team is currently made up of 46 volunteers, all of whom have undergone intensive training to ensure that they are fully equipped to deal with difficult situations that may occur on nights out.



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The Nightsafe team is currently made up of 46 volunteers, all of whom have undergone intensive training to ensure that they are fully equipped to deal with difficult situations that may occur on nights out.

The first round of training, which took place in September this year, consisted of a five-day-long training course, covering topics such as active listening, provided by Nightline, and drug and alcohol awareness, provided by the charity Lifeline.

Other training included conflict management, provided by the North Yorkshire police,

"The committee also ran an A&E liaison team, who helped any students in need of the emergency unit"

which instructed members on how to deal with aggressive and non-cooperative people and first aid training, provided by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. The courses were both organised and paid for by YUSU.

The first Nightsafe shifts began in this year's Freshers' Week. Though the initial training prepared the teams for a broad range of situations, the volunteers were still very much thrown in at the deep end.

Bhavin Patel, Nightsafe's Project Coordinator, tells me just how "hectic" the first shift proved to be. "The Sunday of Freshers' Week was the first time we were out. Straight away we were dealing with incidents.

"Generally, you'd be dealing with one, and another would suddenly happen right next to you." The week involved numerous calls to the

home-safe taxi, a vehicle supplied by Streamline that agreed to carry vomiting students, without an additional charge, as well as the provision of water bottles and foil blankets, to students who needed them. The committee also ran an A&E liaison team, who helped any students in need of the emergency unit.

For some, this help was a genuine matter of life or death. "We dealt with a woman who wanted to commit suicide," says Patel, "but who we fortunately managed to get talked out

of it. The volunteers did a really good job getting out there."

The feedback Nightsafe received for their efforts has been incredibly favourable, with the police, CCTV cameras and bars all commenting that they have been a "massive help". The team justifiably believe that they have made a big impact this year, in terms of making York safer for new and returning undergraduates.

"Some students initially turned away, saying to their friends, 'Who are these people in the bright orange jackets?' But the more they've become aware of us, the more they've realised that we are just a friendly face to be there if you need help."

"On nights out, drunk people will now come up to you, even if they don't need help, and say 'Thank you for helping my friend the other week,'" Alice Lovell, a Nightsafe volunteer, tells me. "We definitely have awareness now," states Publicity and Social Media Secretary

Peter Gaffney, "not just with what we do, but as a brand."

This brand awareness has reached unprecedented heights. Nightsafe now boasts the fastest growing student Facebook page in the region, as well as one of the fastest growing pages in York itself.

Its online response has been simply phenomenal. "Whenever we post something on Facebook, hundreds of people look at the post, not just on their news feed, but actively click on them to read them," Gaffney says.

"We already have twice as many fans as Street Angels do, and they've been operating

for a lot longer than we have. That was a personal goal."

As well as aiding York's nightlife, Nightsafe has also launched other safety schemes, including 'Bob the Burglar', in collaboration with the police.

The scheme, which ran on 20 and 26 October, saw Lovell, Jemima Busby, Welfare and Community Officer, and a YUSU staff member, working alongside the police by testing doors at homes throughout York to see if they were locked.

The scheme has gone a long way in helping to make students more aware of the risk of home robberies, as Lovell is quick to point out.

"As students, you're targeted more. We could tell which houses belonged to students, so clearly burglars could too. Most people were shocked.

There was one girl who was on her own, who was in the shower when we arrived, and the door was unlocked. The police were in her house for a good ten minutes shouting 'Police!' but she didn't hear anything. But from the door I could see an Apple Mac, iPhones and another laptop.

The whole place could have been cleared out within ten minutes, and she didn't even realise. It was really quite scary. Its definitely made people more aware, and I think they're really grateful for what we did."

Working with the police has also been an eye-opening experience for many of the volunteers. For Lovell, it has led to a new found respect for both the force and club door-men. "The bouncers and police respect you so much more on nights out. They treat you so

much differently when you're wearing a high visibility jacket - they're really nice to you!

They might turf someone out of a club, and you might think that's the end of it, but we hear on the radio that they'll then phone CCTV and say this person is drunk and alone, can you watch them please.

"They're really, really good, and it's the same with the police. I've been amazed at how fast the police have been responding. I was on a shift that started with quite a major incident, and the police came within 25 seconds of me radioing it in.

They are really hot on it, they just don't have the manpower to do everything they'd like to do."

It is for this reason that Nightsafe has proved to be so useful. "It's only a small team, but it makes a big difference. Three people can do a lot of work."

On a personal level, the Nightsafe experience has led to a different perspective on the students' own nights out.

Patel states that he has learnt "just how intense the night-time economy can be," whilst Lovell and Gaffney have become far more aware of what both themselves and their friends are drinking.

Nightsafe hope that other universities will soon follow suit, introducing similar schemes across the UK.

"We want to send the template to other universities," Patel tells me. "In bigger cities like Manchester and Liverpool, Nightsafe teams would be really helpful.

"We'd love it to be nationwide. That's our long term goal."

The team have made an undeniably important contribution to the safety of York students, something which Patel is incredibly proud of.



much differently when you're wearing a high visibility jacket - they're really nice to you! Though many people have a strong perception of bouncers being "authoritarian" and "cold", Gaffney tells me they are in fact quite the opposite. "The thing we've found is that

"Everyone has the same goal: make York safer. Nightsafe is really important, and York's a lot better with it."

If you are interested in becoming involved in Nightsafe, please contact nightsafe@yusu.org.

Comment



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

Grace Marsh



Britain's pubs face unhappy hours

Chain pubs and supermarkets threaten the pubs of York

Widely known as the unofficial pub-capital of the UK, York has its fair share of public houses, which at the present time are at the centre of a heated debate. Two local York pubs have recently been taken over by supermarket giants Tesco and Co-operative. A loophole in planning law allows pubs to be converted to supermarket stores without planning permission.

The future of York's pubs are threatened in order to make room for more supermarkets to add to the over-saturated market. Apparently there aren't enough Sainsbury's Locals and Tesco Express's around.

Pub closures are a creeping phenomenon taking place across the UK and one that is unwelcomed by many, including students. According to The Campaign for Real Ale, UK pubs are closing at a rate of 30 of week, with an average of two pubs a week being converted into supermarkets between January 2012-14. Although, it is important

to note that it is the pubs further away from the centre of a city which are affected by this, those in the centre are more prone to being taken over by the larger pub chains.

Tourism in York links closely to the pub industry. Let's face it, there is a pub on pretty much every street corner and most of them are brimming with some kind of history which should be preserved.

For this reason we should welcome petitions such as 'Be vocal for your local', started by the York Press. York residents should be given the right to have a say in the future of the York pub industry, particularly as it plays such an important role in the city's touristic and financial makeup.

The survival of independent pubs is not only threatened by supermarket takeovers, but also the growing increase in pub chains adding pubs to their corporate army. Something which could be considered worse than supermarkets sucking any inkling of independence

from York's drinking scene is the dominance of pub chains such as Stonehouse. Yes, they may serve up competitive prices, but is it worth drinking in a characterless environment in order to save a few pennies?

Off-campus favourite pub The Charles is part of the Stonegate chain, something that not many of us know about because it's not exactly made explicitly clear, and that's for a reason. Such pubs within the chains are made to feel 'independent' as it's more likely to draw customers in.

In terms of price, some of the more traditional independent pubs cannot compete with the low prices that the pub chains offer. This forces them to consider selling the land off to potential investors such as supermarkets.

The future of our local pubs is jeopardised by money-hungry corporations. Something should be done to protect our pubs, as it would be a shame to lose an important piece of British culture.



IMAGE: LUCY WEGERIF

Amy Gibbons



Uniformity or individuality?

School uniform can either segregate or intergrate

The topic of school uniform has always been a particularly controversial one. Over the past couple of weeks, however, it has launched new debates amongst teachers, parents and students alike. A pupil in St. Ambrose Barlow in Salford has faced suspen-

“Many argue that a strict uniform enforces discipline, helps create community and eliminates competition amongst pupils”

sion for his hairstyle, an attempt to emulate footballer Sergio Aguero. Before that, Elizabeth Churton of Hanson Academy in Bradford sent over 152 pupils home in one day for 'offences including the wearing of hooped earrings and the wrong kind of shoes', according to *The Independent*.

Many argue that a strict uniform code enforces discipline, instils a sense of community within an institution and eliminates competition amongst pupils, creating a level playing field.

However the fact that a head-teacher has the authority to turn

away over a tenth of her student body on account of their dress still begs the question: should uniform ever take such priority? And, by extension, is uniform necessary at all?

It does follow that good uniform makes for a stable learning environment; there are no excuses for disputes over who wears the most fashionable clothes or who can't afford more than what Tesco or Morrisons have to offer.

Unfortunately, however, young people do not always need such ammunition to taunt each other. As Emma Jacobs observed recently in *The Guardian*, "if teens want to bully others they will find their motive and means".

Perhaps uniforms could deter bullies, to an extent, but "frankly it takes more than stipulating the right shade of blue shirt to eradicate bullying from schools."

In that case, should uniform ever take priority over attendance?

It is common opinion that there is little point in having a uniform code if it is not strictly enforced. This being said, there is a thin line between strictly enforcing a dress code and being excessively pernickety.

When a student is sent home, consequently missing out on their morning learning, for wearing the wrong colour socks, for example, it is evident that something is amiss.

Students should look smart if

they are to wear a uniform, but they should not be robbed of the identity to which they are entitled. Those in favour of school uniform often claim that it is necessary to prepare students for appropriate dress conduct in the workplace.

What they so often fail to acknowledge is that these students are still only children. In an age in which youth is more short-lived than it has ever been, it is crucial that young people are able to freely, enthusiastically and clumsily discover themselves.

By enforcing the standards of the white-collar workplace, teachers leave very little room for the establishment of identity which is so critical in an environment as competitive as today's.

Kids will always try to find a way to make themselves heard, and to enforce a uniform code as strictly as Ms Churton has done is to deny them that right.

However, despite its frustratingly inflexible nature in schools such as Hanson Academy, uniform is, for the most part, a sound concept, which makes students fundamentally equal.

But a line must be drawn between what we claim to be 'equal' and what we enforce as 'invariable'; we must leave students room for growth, just not in the sense that we buy shirts two sizes too big at the beginning of term.

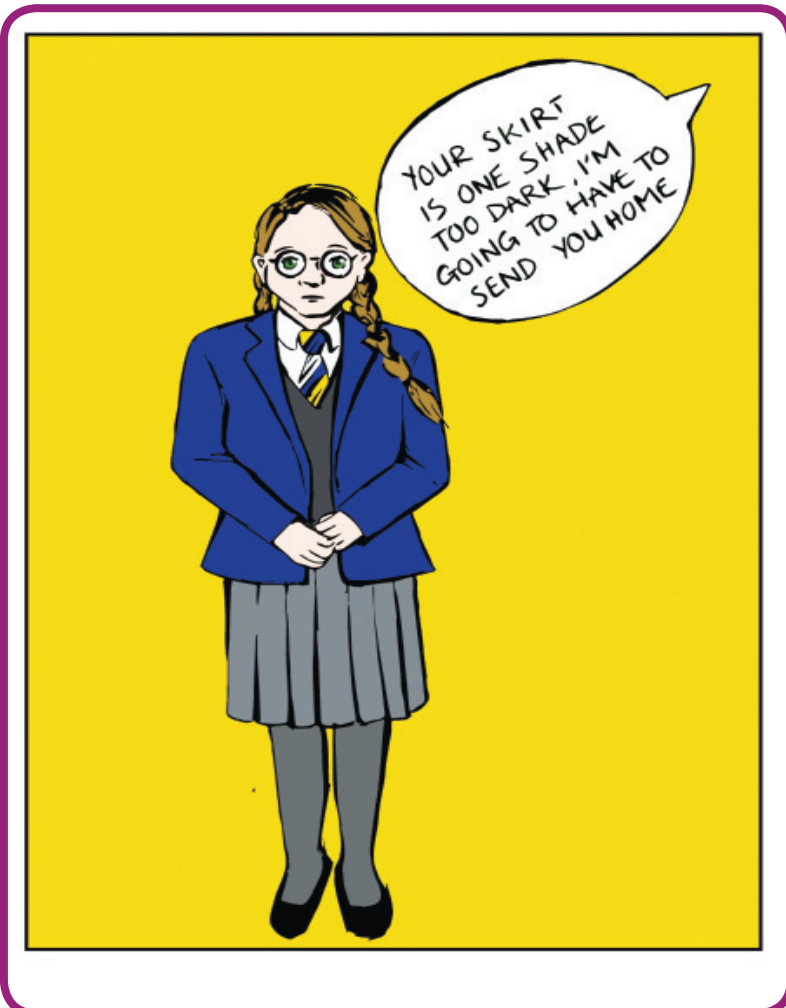


IMAGE: KATE MITCHELL

Comment

VIEWS FROM THE OUSE



IMAGE: KATE MITCHELL



Derwent's nightclub plans require caution

Thomas Ron



A nightclub on campus could be a blessing but only if implemented properly

The university seems to have pulled a bit of a shocker on students with their proposals for a university run nightclub, and the reception has been mixed. On one hand a nightclub could be really nice and lead to a campus atmosphere, similar to other universities.

However, the proposals leave more questions than answers. Simply reading through them suggests

“The proposals leave more questions than answers”

that the university has not truly thought this through, and has failed to consider some potential problems that could lead to this being a waste of money.

The first issue is how competitive this nightclub will be. The university has stated that the capacity will be 250 people, which is very small compared to Kuda, Fibbers, Salvation, and Revs. Any college looking to host a Fresher's Week event would probably have to take their business elsewhere, due to high demand.

Additionally, the existing clubs already have another advantage; they're in town, near many more

bars than the ones on campus. It does not seem very likely that societies will start organising campus bar crawls, when a greater variety of both bars and nightclubs already exist on our doorstep.

Currently, the market for student nights is dominated by The Willow. The other clubs get lip service, as they are connected to YUSU and can give free entry. However, a university club that is in no way affiliated with YUSU would not get any of these favours, meaning societies have no incentive to go to

“If it did make money and that money was reinvested towards students that would be fantastic”

these clubs. Most individual students would probably go straight to The Willow. Perhaps if Campus Services restructured their bars to be cheaper, or turned this nightclub into 'The Willow on Campus' it might work.

But even if this nightclub can,

hypothetically, compete with its rivals in York, the second issue is the cost. The university has stated this nightclub will cost £200,000. To put that in perspective, more than the amount of money needed to give every student £10 printer credit a year.

Now, I'm not saying that we shouldn't have fun, if the nightclub succeeds then this may be money well spent, to give students a safe experience where independent acts can flourish.

However, there are real doubts on how competitive this nightclub would be. If it did make money and that money was reinvested towards students, that would be fantastic. It would go a great way towards providing students with the materials they need.

Conversely, if the nightclub proves a flop, starts losing money and ends up costing the university a lot more, then that is a serious problem. The university needs to sit down and fully consider this before any action is taken. The nightclub idea is not unequivocally bad. If it is well done then it could be a great experience; many other universities have established similar clubs and managed to succeed.

Keeping students safe on campus by omitting the infamous

drunken totter home is obviously an advantage this nightclub could offer, as well as more practically saving them money on taxis. Inde-

“The nightclub idea is not unequivocally bad. If it is well done it could be a great experience; many other universities have established similar clubs and managed to succeed”

pendent acts should also be encouraged, and if the university plays its cards right then it could really be a selling point for York.

However, if it is not well thought through then this could be a serious waste of money and resources on a failed project. The university has promised to consult before any action is taken, and that is good. Hopefully, these plans could lead to a serious benefit for students, and the university as a whole.

Here's a secret, so hold the newspaper really close to your face - these columns, technically, are supposed to have a theme. And this week, our theme is achievement! Christ. Just thinking that sentence made me feel like Sir Alan Sugar's going to fire me.

Firstly, kudos to humanity, because a few weeks ago we threw a robot at a comet and then the comet sang, so we appear to be living in a Star Trek episode. But then we're also a species that cries at adverts for shops. I personally had to be carried away sobbing during my shopping after a tannoy informed me that it IS, nicer at Nisa. So we're back to square one.

I don't know which made you sadder. Sainsbury's did an advert about the Christmas truce of 1916, providing an artful sort of brand synergy between buying your radishes and war dead. Then there's the child that buys a stuffed toy for his best friend Monty, a penguin that only he can see. His parents look on, confused. "Kill them", whispers Monty. "Kill them. THEY DON'T BELIEVE."

I specifically ASKED John Lewis whether that advert ends with the parents' murder due to penguin-based psychosis, and they never replied. Their silence is damning. You heard the truth here first.

Meanwhile, well done to whoever's in charge of the building works on University Road. After ten weeks, bus stops have been moved from University Road to slightly further up University Road, and the library stairs have been moved from the pavement near the road to the road. Students and drivers will benefit! Somehow. Maybe everyone gets a free bus.

Congratulations to whoever won JCRC elections! Since I moved colleges for second year, everyone whose name I know's on a different ballot, and without the kind hand of cronyism to guide me I had to resort to actually looking up policies. In the end, I picked the candidate who cornered me as I left my flat.

Politics through peer-pressure. Maybe that's how we cure apathy. Vote Labour, or Ed Miliband turns up in your doorway and cries.

And our last achiever, you! For _____! That's blank. I don't know you. If you achieved nothing, fill it in with a Cards Against Humanity card. I recommend the one about the squealing hog.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all go away.

Follow the debate:
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Comment

NOUSE

Est. 1964

Central Hall or York Minster?

Is it possible to feel sorry for a building? Central Hall's had a rough week. All those 'spaceship' and 'Soviet Union design' jokes have finally coalesced into actual action, with a petition on change.org demanding we move our graduation ceremony to the Minster.

The Minster certainly has its advantages. It's an internationally-renowned building, practically the poster-child of York as a city, and has the grandiose, ornate beauty generally attached to religious cathedrals of a certain age. Meanwhile, Central Hall's a spaceship. Maybe it just needs to be a better spaceship - make it bigger on the inside, or rig it up to play 'Hooked on a Feeling.'

But on the other hand, Central Hall's weaseled its way into becoming an emblem of the university in its own right (although not to Heslington Hall's extent). And with it actually being on campus, it's a much bigger part of most students' day-to-day lives, especially if they take advantage of the concerts and shows there. I say 'most' on purpose - not everyone lives on Heslington East, or even on campus - but then not everyone's been in the Minster, either.

Either way, York St. John's existing contracts and religious origins mean we probably won't get near the place anyway. Ah well.

Erasmus students need financial security

A year abroad is meant to be an enriching and exciting addition to your degree, but not when you can't afford to financially fund it. Many students on their year abroad are yet to receive their Erasmus grant, or received it several months later than expected.

Without the additional grant, students have to rely on their student loan, which for many, doesn't cover the mounting costs of the year abroad.

On the year abroad, no money equals no fun. You want to be able to make the most of probably the most memorable year of your student life without having to adopt a stingy attitude towards your expenditures.

Who knows what students would be missing? Perhaps less opportunities to meet other Erasmus students in strange European nightclubs. Or, on a more serious note, less opportunities to enjoy the plethora of experiences that a year abroad can bring.

Imagine if you couldn't afford to fund your year abroad to the point where you had to consider coming home early or, if in France, were forced to start selling baguettes on street corners. That wouldn't be fun.

Live by the sword, get investigated by the sword

As the old *Assassin's* saying goes, "Nothing is true, everything is permitted." Except for wandering around campus with your sword out, apparently, and no, that's not a euphemism. Although, I wouldn't try the euphemism either.

A HAZSoc member recently sparked a police investigation on campus, after bringing their LARP (live-action roleplaying) sword to a round of Assassins (a lighthearted game where you pretend to kill your friends and get points for it). Rumours flitted around Facebook of "a man in camouflage holding a knife" and helicopters circling over Constantine, but the truth was considerably less exciting.

HAZSoc have been reminded of the perceived danger these weapons can present, and - wisely - have taken steps to ensure this doesn't happen again. Having talked to YUSU to discuss precautions, HAZSoc will now notify police next time an Assassins round takes place.

So they can get back to killing people with impunity. Now that's a Christmas happy ending for you. Top THAT, Monty!

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The great York Minster ding-dong: where to graduate?

Victoria Chater-Lea



Should our graduation ceremony be moved from Central Hall?

In recent news, a Change.org petition has gone viral around the University, with students voicing their opinion on graduation in the Minster compared to the traditional ceremony that takes place in Central Hall. At the time of going to print, the Minster petition had nearly 4,500 signatures compared to the mere 19 supporters of keeping graduation in Central Hall.

The University has previously agreed that ceremonies cannot take place in the Minster because

“The Minster petition has nearly 4,500 signatures compared to the mere 19 supporters of keeping graduation in Central Hall”

of the diverse range of faiths in the secular student body. However, York St John University students graduate in the Minster because of their strong Christian foundations. This is seen as unfair by York University students, especially as many students of a non-Christian background expressed that the Minster would not alienate anyone, and offers an unparalleled experience that really cannot be obtained

anywhere else.

Responses from students at the University seem to be pretty divided. Adam Jordan said, "It's a joke that we don't graduate in the minster." Niall Durrant commented: "It would feel more formal to graduate in the Minster. However if they moved the graduation to the Minster now, then it's a shame that so many students missed out."

Other students didn't really care about the petition. Jason Nolan had this to say: "I think the whole idea of the petition is a waste of time, they won't change it. Besides, the University isn't affiliated to the minster in any way." Kevin Holmes added, "If we don't graduate in Central Hall, then what will the building really be used for?"

I have only been in Central Hall three times in my University life, most notably for the induction fire talk in first year - and that didn't make much of an impression on me. Do people really want to graduate in a building that reminds them of painful exams? Or would they rather graduate in an iconic landmark?

Graduating in the minster has its attractions. First and foremost it's a much prettier building than Central Hall - photos would look more spectacular in the Minster gardens. Additionally, it can accommodate a larger number of

people, which beats the two tickets per person that Central Hall offers. I don't want my family to travel hundreds of miles to be stuck watching me graduate on a screen in Physics.

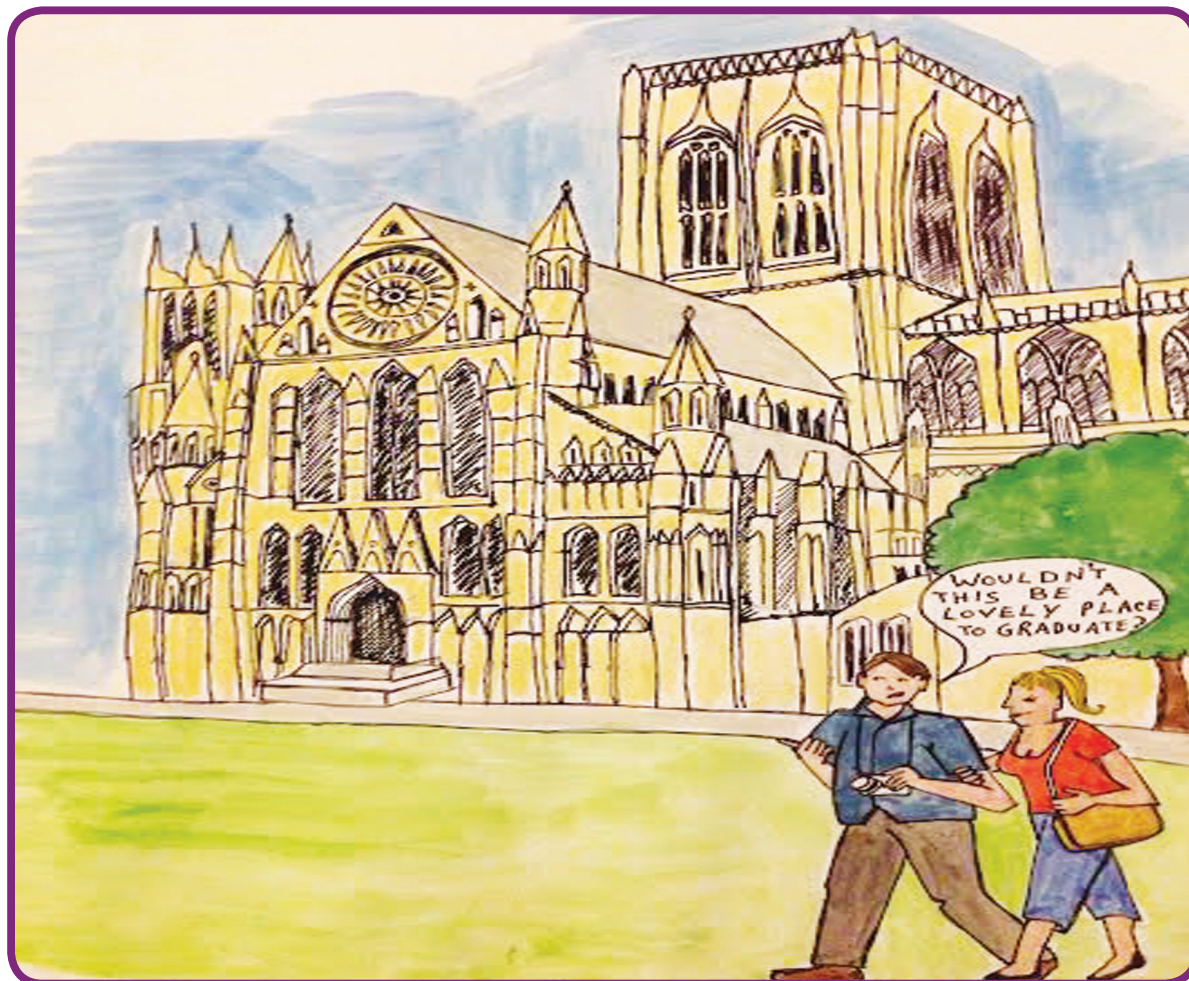
The Minster offers an additional attraction to prospective and international students. An additional bonus is that being located in town, all the attractive bars and restaurants are right on the doorstep. For me, the Minster reminds me of my family as my dad and I would take advantage of its free entry (for students) at the beginning and end of each academic year. I'd personally like to end my University career how I started it.

Universities like Oxford and Durham have allowed students to

“At £9,000 a year, I want my graduation to be as memorable as possible”

graduate in their cathedrals, yet here we are not allowed to take advantage of arguably the most spectacular building in York. This seems a real shame to miss out on what could be such a prestigious occasion. At £9,000 a year, I want my graduation to be as memorable as possible.

IMAGE: LUCY WEGERIF



Comment

The UCU marking boycott needs the support of students

William Hornett



The boycott is a minor disruption to preserve a fair education system

The University and College Union (UCU) balloted for a marking boycott, with 76 per cent voting in favour of the proposed action. This began on 6 November but has been suspended until 15 January pending negotiations with employers. So, what has angered such a large portion of the lecturing body?

Action is being taken over proposed changes to pension schemes which drastically threaten the retirement pay of lecturers. The Universities Superannuation Scheme, the body in charge of lecturers' pensions, has calculated a massive deficit in pensions.

To combat this, they propose making massive cuts which, in some cases, will result in the loss of up to £200,000 over the course of a lecturer's retired life. Pensions act as deferred pay, meaning this adjusted scheme is really a pay cut of astronomical proportions.

However, when UCU did the calculations, they were left with a rough surplus of £1.1bn. So, how did the USS come up with such a massive deficit? Frankly, no one really knows. The Employers Pension

Forum says: "The results from the 31 March 2014 will not be available until the end of 2014 but are expected to indicate a continuing substantial deficit."

They will not release the data they claim to have collected until it is too late for any industrial action to be carried out. This means that we can only estimate the size of the supposed deficit by looking at the scale of the proposed cuts. With this

government's record of butchering public services, it is unlikely that the

“These cuts have no economic foundation, and are simply an ideological attack on the pay and conditions of lecturers”

cuts will be reasonable.

According to UCU President, Mark Taylor-Batty, "They have taken everything that is currently in the pot, and subtracted everything that is likely to be owed in the future." This, on its own, is nonsensical,

but it gets worse. The government's scheme doesn't include the income of £1.5bn being generated by lecturers currently, which alone could cover all of the pensions which need to be paid out right now. Ignoring such an important factor shows that either the people making these calculations are incapable of simple arithmetic, or that these cuts have no economic foundation and are simply an ideological attack on the pay and conditions of lecturers.

As students, it is tempting to think UCU's marking boycott harms us. However, it does not. True, it will be irritating not having your work marked immediately, but once the boycott is over you will still get your degree. Other than this, there will be no disruption to students' lives. UCU members are out to protect their pensions from austerity, not to

harm you.

We students can stand in solidarity with lecturers on the boycott. Let them know of your support, sign the open letter against York's 100 per cent pay dock policy, and let other students know why you support the boycott. If this escalates to strike action, we should be on those picket lines, showing that the fight for decent pensions is directly related to the fight for a fair, decent and free education system, currently being dismantled by austerity.

This attack is part of a nexus of related assaults to education budgets, GCSE syllabuses, teachers' pay and tuition fees. We cannot fight on these fronts individually. Support these lecturers; the people at the core of our institution, and the ones for whom we should be most thankful.

IMAGE: KATE MITCHELL



Meet the meat?



Liam Dooley

A teacher in an American school recently decided to kill and skin a rabbit in front of his 10th grade biology class (that's Year 11, to us). The man restrained the terrified creature, before proceeding to break its neck and then skin it.

Some students had asked to be shown precisely how rabbits are slaughtered and processed, and after initially refusing, he had decided to run this voluntary class. The resulting parental backlash showed us all that - obviously - 'high school classroom' and 'graphic demonstrations of animal slaughter' still don't quite go together. But it also brings to light how sensitive we all are to the killing of animals, despite our general willingness to eat them. So are we hypocrites? Should we be more aware of what happens in supplying our demand for meat?

Most of us - myself included - enjoy living in a blissful ignorance about where our food comes from. It is often argued that should everybody learn about what happens in food production, many of us would go vegetarian.

In 2013, according to the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, 2.5 million cows, 10 million pigs, 12 million sheep and 902 million chickens were killed for the production of food in the UK alone. These statistics are quite startling, but numbers on a page do not do justice to the sheer volume of deaths. It is quite saddening when you consider how many animals are born and killed just to meet this demand.

What many animals go through in the food production process can be quite shocking. Animal rights groups have frequently raised concerns about the methods of transport, herding, and killing in some slaughterhouses. However, this has meant that over time the experience and quality of life of food production animals has been greatly improved.

It is currently law that, with few exceptions, all animals must be stunned into unconsciousness before the process of 'sticking', where the animal's throat is cut with a sharp knife ensuring rapid blood loss and eventually death. This is probably what the teacher was demonstrating. As you can imagine, it's a horrifying spectacle.

And yet, even after knowing all of this, I will almost certainly keep eating meat. It seems that our society is desensitised to the idea of the slaughterhouse, and regardless of the facts, figures, and even the videos available, it never really seems quite real. So we create a kind of willing ignorance towards it, and never really consider what it entails.


There should definitely be more public awareness about the methods that produce our food, so that we're forced to acknowledge their existence consider them much more often. Just maybe without demonstrations.

Topical Tweets from the Twittersphere




 **@SAConstantine**
Constantine College 23 Nov


Fake Christmas Eve in The Forum.

 **@yusuprez**
Sam Maguire 11 Nov

Check out the sabbs @yusuactivities @YUS-UAcademic @yusuprez with our xmas jumpers

21 Nov **@katebren9**
Kate Brennan 

York is the perfect city for Christmas shopping

21 Nov **@YorkSportPres**
Cassandra Brown 

Fri 28 Nov sees the @CollegeSportYRK XMAS awards and drinks! Ticket incs entry, 2 free drinks & a raffle ticket strip!

Comment

What was your ... *Favourite part of this year?*

Getting to know some really great and interesting people



Meg Bow,
first-year student



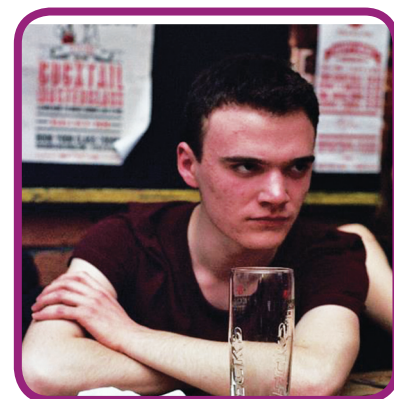
Getting to see Peace live (even though it was bloody freezing)

Lily Papworth,
first-year student

Engaging with people who are enthusiastic about the same things as myself



Louis Chilton,
second-year student



Going to pole exercise after a film marathon and four hours sleep

Glen Taylor
second-year student

We need to treat people with anxiety properly



Katy Marshall

Mentally-ill adolescents should not be treated like children

Psychologists from the University of Reading have recently called attention to problems in the treatment of adolescent mental health, specifically anxiety.

Their concern is that teenagers are being treated in the same way as children would be, and this fails to address the specific needs of the group. While the report has gone largely unnoticed, it highlights a very important issue.

Young Minds, a charity dedicated to youth mental health, has researched the prevalence of problems and offers statistics: 11.5 per cent

councils have frozen or cut funding towards mental health, waiting lists are long, and there is a lack of beds, forcing patients to travel and be separated from support networks. In the worst cases, patients will be transferred instead to adult mental wards, or if violent behaviour is a symptom, to prisons.

Treating adolescents in the same way as children not only oversimplifies their causes and triggers, but can exacerbate them, making them feel as though they are not being taken seriously. There are problems and challenges specific to that age group that will not be addressed with a child's standard of treatment, such as relationships, exams, and preparation for university or work. It is the age most people begin questioning their sexuality, and hormone fluctuations and puberty make managing your emotions harder.

Young women in particular experience a marked increase in low moods and a worsening of body image. These factors all indicate specific mental health concerns for young people.

When an adolescent makes the difficult step to seek mental health

treatment, care needs to be tailored to their specific issues. Cognitive behavioural therapy, a common form of treatment for anxiety and depression, focuses on addressing and managing triggers.

This requires an acknowledge-

“To ignore the differences between a child an adolescent is damaging and discouraging, and limits the success of child treatment”

ment of age-related problems, and a therapist must be trained to deal with them, not just those which are also experienced by children. Better therapy leads to better results, and less chance of relapse or a worsening of condition, which in mental health can lead to dire consequences.

It seems like simple common sense to say that treatment needs to be centred on the individual, and take into account external factors like age. To ignore the differences between a child and an adolescent in the latter's treatment is obviously damaging, discouraging, and limits its success.

When the rate of youth mental health problems is over one in ten, it affects everyone in some way or another. As such, youth mental health and the deficiencies of the system surrounding it are something we should all be paying attention to.

“11.5 per cent of those between 11 and 16 have a mental health disorder. To expound on this, 4.4 per cent of these are classified as anxiety disorders.”

of those between 11 and 16 have a mental health disorder. 4.4 per cent of these are classified as anxiety disorders.

The parameters also include conduct disorder, depression and behavioural disorders such as ADHD. However, they cannot claim to be anything more than estimates, as a significant number of cases go unreported or undiagnosed.

Care is also lacking. Over half of

“Treating adolescents in the same way as children not only oversimplifies their causes and triggers, but can exacerbate them”

#minstergram

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

Sometimes I forget that I'm in a different country. Then I look up and see this beauty. I'm so lucky to be living in one of the most amazing towns in the world. #yorkminster #uniofyork #mastersabroad

@dejohnson18



A life size game of chess on campus!
#UniofYork #UniversityofYork #York #UoY #campus #university #students #alumni #grads2014 #2014grads #freshers2014

@morgantrvs

The Winter Shoot

Out with the new,
in with the old

MUSE.
25.11.2014





M8. Editors ask if *Birth is a Dream* is an invasion of privacy or art

ARTS.

M8. Waste not, want not: Francisco de Pajaro takes trash and turns it into art



M20. Wake up on Christmas morning to a healthy, delicious breakfast

FOOD.

M21. Muse remembers WWI by looking at how food brought soldiers together



M12. The Winter Shoot takes on vintage with fur coats and tweed

FEATURES.

M22. Carol Rossetti fights sexism with her thought-provoking illustrations



M6. Music Remedy talk about creating a unique clubbing experience

GAMING.

M5. The Gaming editor gives his two cents on the gaming and violence debate



M14. Former contestant of *The Voice*, Becky Hill, talks to Muse

FILM.

M18. The film team sit down with famous director, Mark Herman



M19. Film review of Benedict Cumberbatch's latest movie, *The Imitation Game*

MUSIC.

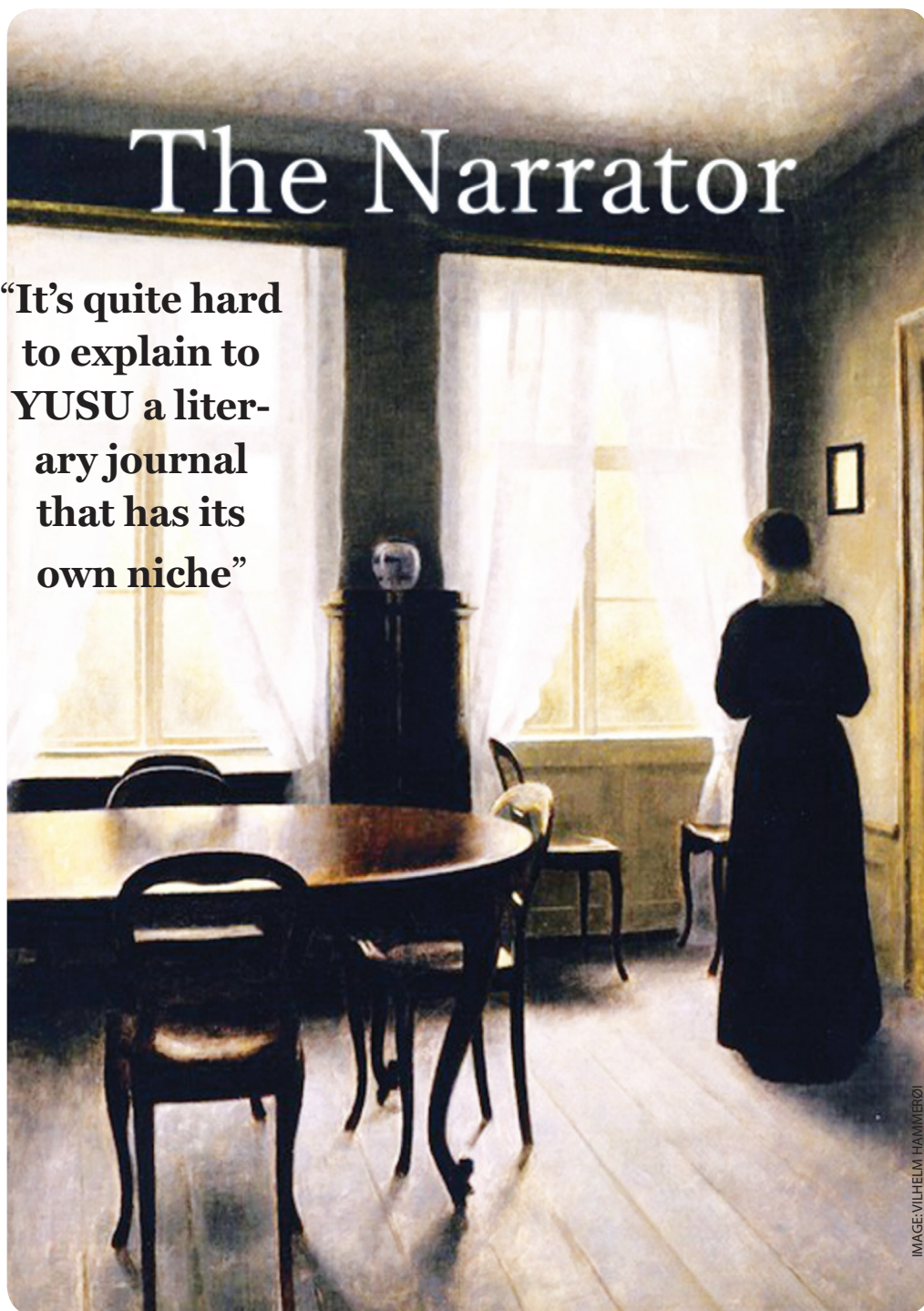
M16. We catch up with our favourite local band, Glass Caves

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The Narrator

“It’s quite hard to explain to YUSU a literary journal that has its own niche”



The Narrator

York students **Emily Willis** and **Sam Kaufman** talk about setting up their own literary journal

We found a niche for critical writing that aspires to academic standards outside of the course. It gives people an opportunity to cut their teeth on a properly referenced, properly academic style of writing and we didn’t find that anywhere else. We thought it was important to have this writing style in dialogue with the creative side so it’s an equally balanced journal (Sam).

We’ve had Sophie Warning do a piece inspired by Danish literature of Kings. She translated from the original because she speaks the language and then we’ve had Martin did a piece on the Tarantino film. We’ve had poetry about hypochondria, creative writing about psychology and imprisonment and dementia, various things related to mental illness. It’s just been fantastic to see what people have come up with. (Emily)

We divide the responsibilities. We each have our strengths and weaknesses. Emily is very, very good at structuring and organising submissions and requests and getting the journal into a coherent form. (Sam)

Sam’s really good at making things look really professional, you know, all the sort of stuff to do with the Facebook and the website. (Emily)

We’re not a ratified society so we owe so much to LitSoc for publicity and helping us out. Another big challenge was our lack of financial knowledge that we need to set up something like this. So we started from scratch and we’re

just learning as we go. (Sam)

It’s quite hard to explain a literary journal that has its own niche to YUSU because obviously they fund a lot of literary things already. I think it’s quite hard to explain to them when you’ve only got a limited amount of words and they haven’t got much time why it’s valuable. However, we still think there’s a lot that’s valuable. (Emily)

We did an event recently with York TheatreGoers which was ghost stories read on Halloween. We got a lot of people, well, some people who came to that who didn’t do English and were very interested in that. It just depends on who decides to submit them. We wouldn’t reject them based on the fact that they didn’t study English. (Emily)

I think I’d invite Emily Dickinson to dinner, just because I recently wrote an article for The Narrator about one of her poems. She’s one of the very few authors I’ve found that you can’t pin down to a meaning. You can’t say, “This means this,” with any sort of conviction because there are just so many voices and it’s almost as if the voices kind of go into nothingness and you can’t hold it down. It changes its meaning and I find that really fascinating. (Emily)

Can I go for two? Okay, it would probably have to be Thomas Pynchon and Don DeLillo. It wouldn’t be a very light-hearted dinner party, but I’d sit back and I’d listen and I think it would be slightly bizarre. (Sam) **M**

Editor’s note



New Muse Editor, Deborah Lam, hopes that you will like her

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas. And Christmas looks like torrential rain, northern winds and shivering, miserable students. As we like to think of this time of the year as being one of generosity and kindness, I’d hope to be met with these two things as a new editor. After all, becoming an editor is a lot like being a fresher – you have to try to get people to like you before they learn just how weird you are.

Christmas weather is unkind to both the students of York and their feathery counterparts. For any of you who have somehow failed to notice the huge flocks of ducks and geese that usually populate campus: this vast absence of waterfowl (save the odd duck) is not the norm, prompting the observant student to wonder, ‘Where are our beloved birds?’ Their disappearance has left a bird-shaped hole in our hearts. Something is afoot. The air isn’t just claggy, it’s sinister.

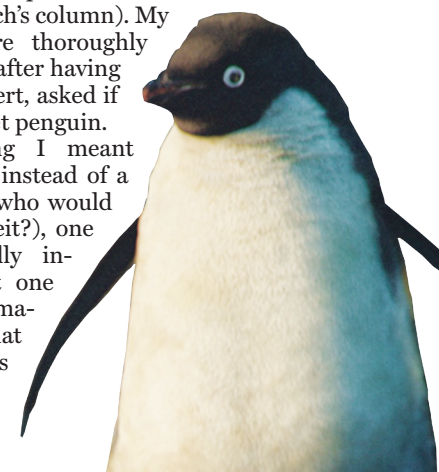
Two possible conspiracy theories explain this: either the University has begun a covert mission to cull all the waterfowl because a goose has taken a chunk out of Koehn Lamberts’ leg or the ducks and the geese have decided to fly south earlier than usual to join forces and come up with a plan of attack for the coming spring.

Freshers, you have been warned. Nowhere is safe on campus. Even Alcuin’s tactical location on top of the hill won’t be an advantage when the geese form a blockade around the hill and starve students out of their safety. Survivors will have to be evacuated to York St. John. This is the apocalypse as we know it.

So as this will probably be the last Christmas we ever get, let’s revel in the merriment, the food and the Christmas adverts. Sainsbury’s have given John Lewis a run for their money with their controversial advert that still managed to tug at the heartstrings and make grown men cry (or so I’ve heard). Food and Drink have jumped on the World War One Christmas bandwagon, so if any of you have qualms about glorifying the war, you can talk to Muse secretary, M.Y. Hand.

Since I have been living under a rock (or overseas, as an international student), this is my first experience watching the annual John Lewis advert. In line with the theme of anthropomorphic birds that this haphazard column has unconsciously developed, the department store’s latest offering stars Monty the pernicious penguin who participates in prostitution (see Callum McCulloch’s column). My housemates were thoroughly amused when I, after having watched the advert, asked if we could get a pet penguin.

Thinking I meant the toy penguin instead of a real one (really, who would want a counterfeit?), one of them casually informed me that one cost £95. Oh materialism, what would Christmas be without you?



Callum McCulloch:

10 things I've learnt this week

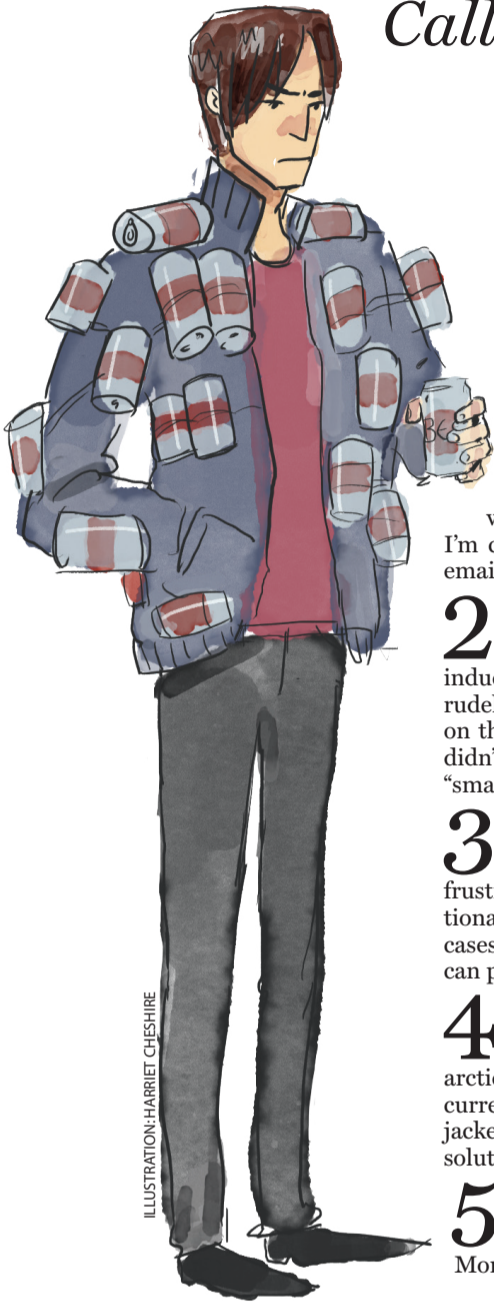


ILLUSTRATION: HARRIET CHESHIRE

- 1 I need to make more male friends. Watching El Classico on my own in D Bar as none of my friends knew of its existence was a particularly low point this term. I'm currently taking applications, please email for further details.
- 2 Don't flippantly joke about drugs with bouncers. After drifting off to a peaceful, triple-vodka Irn-Bru induced sleep in the toilets at Revs, I was rudely awoken by five bouncers banging on the cubicle door. Unsurprisingly, they didn't appreciate me joking about having "smashed two grams in there."
- 3 More Americans have been married to Kim Kardashian than have died of Ebola. It is immensely frustrating how Ebola became internationally recognised as a threat only when cases occurred in locations most people can point to on a map.
- 4 I need to buy a new jacket. For someone who considers Birmingham as being in the North, these arctic temperatures are ruining me. My current tactic of constantly wearing a beer jacket doesn't seem a sensible long-term solution.
- 5 John Lewis' Christmas advert is sickeningly sexist. What better way to cheer up misogynistic Monty, the prejudiced penguin than by

- purchasing him a female sex thing. Shame on you, John Lewis!
- 6 Moustaches are exiled to one month a year for a reason. Ryan Gosling is the only man-God who can pull one off, and he could make a Jimmy Savile Halloween costume seem fashionable as well as tasteful.
- 7 JCR elections are so much more fun when everybody's drunk. Why can't the General Election next year be as boozy? I'd love to see Ed Miliband 'strawpedo' a VK; surely the only way to increase his laughably poor polling figures?
- 8 You need to be rich, funny and good looking to make a woman orgasm. These are scientific facts. I found this depressing news on the internet in a report by Albany University. Don't ask me what I typed in to find it though...
- 9 I'm not doing a proper degree. An informed and interesting discussion of Ovid's Metamorphoses descended swiftly into a debate over Twilight and fan-fiction: so this is why English students are practically unemployable.
- 10 I have a farcical lack of work to do. This has allowed me to play too much hockey and get stuck - like Nikki Minaj trying to climb through a cat flap - in anything and everything on Netflix. What else is first year for?

The Tender Things by Sam Hickford



ILLUSTRATION: HARRIET CHESHIRE

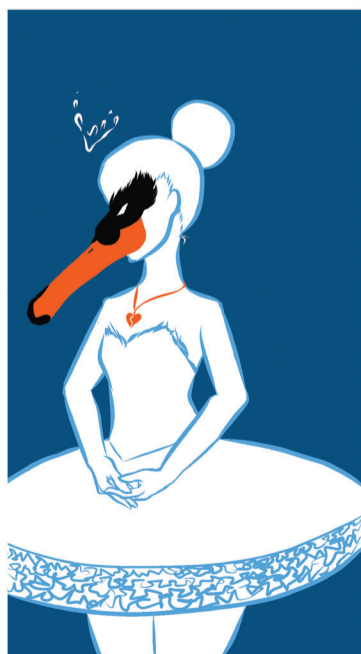
It is the tender things I bring to mind,
When working in a futile frenzy, stuck
Sweating feverishly in endless deadlock
A little stress stirred up with every stride.

Gently, you put your snow-white hand on mine,
Wild notes played out from winter's stirring mist
The cold air christened each trembling kiss,
And then, for some reason, we said goodbye,

The world was ours, and then it slipped away,
Eternal campus palaces, stopped in time,
Rivers forming frozen oceans, divine:
Every vain concern was led off far astray.

That was first year. Now I *go* to 9 A.M.s,
Yet even though we're both in final year,
Taint not your gorgeous face with violent tears
As you punch for some vending machine M&Ms.
Girl.

The third installment of the lakeside murder mystery serial from **Alexandra Craven**



Kingfisher's Court
#3 A S Craven

"I'm afraid my cousin and I had not been speaking for quite some while."

"I heard he had dealings with the duck. And I know he fought that awful upstart Grebe."

"I couldn't tell you any more than that."

"Just keeping to myself."

"What were you doing during th- HEY!"

"This is a crime scene!"

"STOP!!"

"And you?"

GAMING.

A gaming revolutionary

Games designer **Charles Cecil** tells Alfie Packham about the making of his latest creation



When the PlayStation was introduced in 1994, indie game developers felt it. Production budgets swelled between the mid-90s and the mid-2000s with the rise of the games console, and it soon became impossible for smaller studios to compete with the likes of Sony or Nintendo.

That is, until the year 2007, which would see smaller developers respawn via the touch-screen smartphone. Thanks to Apple's iPhone and similar devices that followed, the internet became ubiquitous, and the 'games-consolidators' found their grip on the industry beginning to loosen. Since then, once obscure point-and-click games have been allowed to expand into the lucrative poke-and-prod market of the gaming app. App stores brought fresh opportunities for indie designers, and now they're rewriting the industry rules.

"Things were moving quite slowly up until the release of the iPhone," says Charles Cecil, a BAFTA-winning games designer based in York. Cecil is a man of adventure – of point-and-click adventures, to be precise. The founder of Revolution Software is best

known as auteur-developer of the cult *Broken Sword* franchise, an 18-year-old series inspired by the history huddling of Indiana Jones.

In a departure from their PC origins, his games have enjoyed a resurgence through iOS and Android. "Once," Cecil tells me, "well-funded American and Japanese companies could control the routes to market. Now, the huge disruptive changes have allowed small developers to thrive."

Cecil was there for the conception of the video game as we know it. In the pixelated Eighties, it was hard to imagine such a cottage industry turning over \$80bn a year as it does today. Cecil wrote his first game in 1986, the text-based (and typo-laden) *Adventure A*, on the Sinclair ZX81. "The ZX81 had 1kB of memory," Cecil says with a smile. "My iPhone has 64 million times as much. It's unbelievable what British developers and programmers were doing within that 1kB."

The iPhone reference is hardly incidental. Apple's gadget was in every sense the game-changer seven years ago. Where pre-

iTunes retailers reserved three or four slots on their shelves for new game releases, the now omnipresent app store is stocked with over 1m apps. With constant advances in technology, smaller developers like Revolution have found themselves nimbler on their feet than big-time publishers like Ubisoft or Electronic Arts.

Revolution's latest release is *Broken Sword: The Serpent's Curse*. Had this game been distributed through a publisher, Revolution would have received less than a mere seven per cent of revenues. "When we wrote the last two *Broken Swords* three and four, the publishing model was really stacked against us. We couldn't afford to fund it ourselves again, we would have gone bankrupt," Cecil says. By simply raising the money to distribute directly through portals like iTunes, Google Play or Steam, his game could earn 10 times more in standard royalties.

The choice was straightforward for Cecil:

ien to me. I have no doubt that it happens, but it's alien to an audience that follows adventure games."

It's particularly difficult to generalise about an audience when crowdfunding allows direct communication with thousands of them. "A good number of them were really hardcore. On one hand, that's quite scary because, if you screw up, then there's nowhere to hide ... But I think we managed our community quite well. We had the most wonderful feedback from really lovely people."

Faced by the murk of what is yet to come for gaming, Charles Cecil says: "Don't ask me to tell the future ... Digital distribution has blown everything out of the water."

App stores have become the most viable distributors for the bedroom coder – and that could mean anyone has a shot at big time success. "Angry Birds could be written by a group of students," Cecil tells me. "You'd need a really funky artist, a really great level designer, and a

"My iPhone has 64 million times as much. It's unbelievable what British developers and programmers were doing within that 1kB"

Broken Sword 5 would be funded by its own fans. In two weeks, the Kickstarter appeal raised a hefty \$850,000 from 15,000 people. Many of these people were part of a hardcore group of gamers loyal to him since the 1996 release of *Broken Sword: Shadow of the Templars*.

Of course, "hardcore gamer fan base" is a phrase of mixed connotations. It resonates uncomfortably with the GamerGate controversy, which has seen women subjected to death threats for speaking out against sexism in the industry. But it seems some gaming spheres play nicer than others: "You hear these appalling stories of misogyny in genres like the first person shooter – this is totally al-

mediocre programmer." Why only a 'mediocre' programmer? "The game's physics was public domain, and was free anyway! Three people could have created a level of *Angry Birds*, working within three or four months."

Today – this videogames veteran says – is the day for aspiring designers to get noticed. Not since the early 90s has the games industry seen such profound change to the way games are made, published, and distributed, as in recent years. "The barriers to entry were so high previously. There's never been a better time to become a games developer. If you really are passionate, write a game."

These are exciting times for the adventurous. **M**

Violent video games dodge the bullet

Adam Koper looks into the debate on violence in video games

Since gaming first became popular, there has been debate as to whether violence in video games is harmful for society. 'Now4', a study conducted by Stetson University in Florida has found no link between the consumption of violent video games and rates of youth violence.

Led by the psychologist, Christopher J. Ferguson, the study used ratings assigned by the Entertainment Software Rating Board to identify violent video games, and focused on the sales figures of these games. The study found that the popularity of violent video games has had no effect on rates of societal violence.

In fact, the results of Ferguson's research show that rates of youth violence decreased whilst the consumption of video game violence went up. Although, as the article accompanying the study points out, the research cannot actually show what caused the drop in youth violence, and it's unlikely that gaming is responsible.

Nevertheless, the results of the study will be helpful in changing the way society views gaming. Violence in video games has

been a source of recurring controversy, with some claiming that it can lead to real world violence. Activists such as Jack Thompson in the United States have spent years claiming that video games are harmful for young people and society as a whole.

In the past, Thompson has taken aim at games such as *Grand Theft Auto* and *The Sims*, claiming that they can corrupt young people and children. He continues to campaign for tougher laws regarding violence in video games. It seems unlikely that such activists will simply give up the fight despite the findings of this new study.

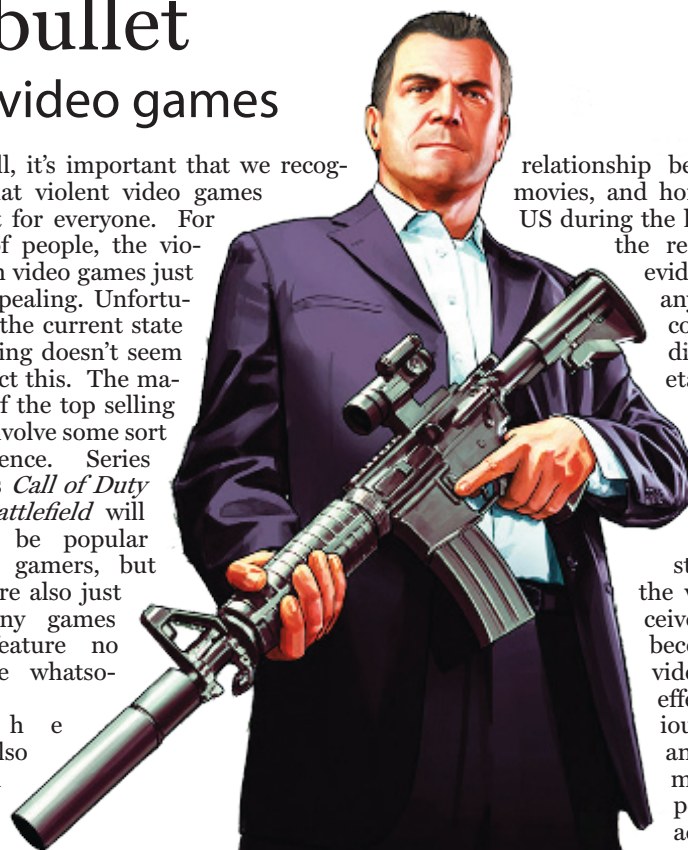
Whilst this may be the case, it will be hard for activists such as Thompson to curb people's enthusiasm for gaming. Gaming has finally entered the mainstream culture, and is no longer seen solely as a hobby reserved for geeky young men. Just about everyone plays video games from time to time, and in that way, gaming is becoming increasingly similar to the movie industry. Many of the games played by millions across the UK feature some form of violence, and yet it has had no noticeable effect on our own society.

Still, it's important that we recognise that violent video games are not for everyone. For a lot of people, the violence in video games just isn't appealing. Unfortunately, the current state of gaming doesn't seem to reflect this. The majority of the top selling titles involve some sort of violence. Series such as *Call of Duty* and *Battlefield* will always be popular among gamers, but there are also just as many games that feature no violence whatsoever.

The study also looked at the

relationship between violence in movies, and homicide rates in the US during the last century. Again, the results showed little evidence of their being any link between the consumption of media violence and societal violence.

All of this is good news for gaming. Since it has moved into mainstream culture, this kind of study helps to change the way gaming is perceived by society. It has become clearer that video games have little effect on our behaviour in the real world, and studies like this might encourage opponents of gaming to accept this.



Is Music your Remedy?

York alumni **Katie Barrett** and **Penny Longstaff** speak to Connie Shaw about the unprecedented success of York-born club night, Music Remedy

Images: Joshua Swaby



“It started off as a club night in York. We created it two years ago when I was in second year as a one-off event for charity. We just thought we’d bring some good music to York.”

These are the words of Katie Barrett, a York Sociology and Criminology graduate who, alongside Penny Longstaff (PPE graduate), co-founded Music Remedy in 2012. The duo now hosts club nights in York and London in order to showcase brand new, up-and-coming DJs, primarily of house and electronic genres.

Penny summarises: “The core of it is that we love music. We want to put on a good night and have fun while also bringing in artists who people won’t have seen before.”

Created from an initial desire to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, Music Remedy has now grown exponentially as an entertainment platform, motivating the decision to move from the student dominated area of York, down to the capital.

Katie explains how the rapid growth in popularity of their startup took both students by surprise: “After we did a couple of nights the concept got bigger and bigger, more people started coming and we started booking DJs from all over England, not just from York. It started off quite small and now it’s taken on a world of its own.”

Indeed, as well as raising money for over four different charities through ticket sales, Music Remedy has now, as Katie

explains “become a sort of platform for DJs to promote their music.

“As well as hosting club nights we also have YouTube and SoundCloud channels. We get constant emails from DJs asking us to showcase their music. So as well as running club nights for people to enjoy, it’s also a good way to help artists get their music out there.”

Music Remedy’s promoting potential is encapsulated by the success of one of their early featuring DJs, Wayward. Since performing at Music Remedy’s second event, the intoxicating

“After we did a couple of nights the concept got bigger and bigger, more people started coming and we started booking DJs from all over England”

Balearic and soulful rhythms of the Leeds duo have stirred up a storm with Black Butter Records, to whom they have been recently signed.

Black Butter Records is one of the biggest electronic music record labels in London, home to other well-known artists such as Bipolar Sunshine, Jess Glynne, and Rudimental.

As Music Remedy went from strength to strength, the realisation of its potential as a business struck both of its founders. Penny elaborates how, at the beginning of the enterprise, “we gave 100 per cent of our profits to charity and at the same time we got to showcase some great DJs that we really liked.”

However, this reality began to change over time.

“It became something that we could see ourselves doing in the future, and as a result we had to limit the percentage that was given to charity. It just wasn’t feasible to give all our profits away considering the growing costs of hosting events.”

Despite this shift in focus, Music Remedy continued to support charitable causes, conducting club nights in aid of Save The Children and St Catherine’s Hospice.

“The fourth charity we acted in aid of was Professor David Cunningham’s research fund, which we chose because the father of a very close friend of ours had recently passed away.”

Professor Cunningham is a Consultant Medical Oncologist, Head of the Gastrointestinal Unit at The Royal Marsden, and Co-Director of The Institute of Cancer Research.

“The charities became a lot more niche because we weren’t able to give them as much as we did at the start, but because they were smaller, the money that we did provide made a huge difference, so it was quite rewarding.”

Although for Katie and Penny, Music Remedy’s London launch seemed to define a shift in priorities concerning the sustainability of the business, both remain adamant that York will always retain its charitable aspect. The potential for the business to thrive in a larger city undoubtedly became evident from the success of Music Remedy in York in the summer of this year.

As Katie describes, “The last York night this year in June



went really well. It was held in Fibbers. We managed to get over 500 people through the door."

Of the six club nights Music Remedy has conducted, five have sold out at pre-sale, while half have gone on to reach maximum capacity on the night.

Transferring the business to London was an irrevocably daunting prospect: Katie explains how she approached it with mixed feelings: "In London it's a completely different kettle of fish, it's so saturated, there are so many club nights. However, at the same time you're targeting an audience that wholeheartedly wants that kind of club night; in York it was a lot harder because there wasn't much of a music scene, so getting people to come along was more of a challenge."

Penny also voices some of the pair's initial financial con-

"In London it's a completely different kettle of fish"

cerns: "Moving down to London, we didn't know exactly how much it would cost. It's far more expensive putting a night on in London than it is in York".

In the entrepreneurial world, finances are often central to a business' failure – however, this threat has not yet curbed the determination of Music Remedy's co-founders. When asked how they were able to support the business financially at the beginning, Katie explains how it was tough, but manageable.

"Whenever you're starting a business, finances are often going to be a problem, but to be honest, we just scraped together what we could from our student loans, and prayed to god we got it back." The resolve and business drive of both Katie and Penny has rewarded them with well-deserved success.

"We've never made a loss, we've always done really well and managed to get our money back, but at the end of the day even if we didn't, we still enjoy what we do, and still hope that everyone has a good night."

In spite of higher financial demands, the wider audience of the capital proved advantageous for Music Remedy, whose recent London club night sold out: "The London night went really well, we worked incredibly hard."

As Katie goes on to explain, running your own business can be extremely difficult and requires constant commitment. "We were in London most nights handing out flyers; we put a lot of effort into it.

"Only Penny and I actually run the company, we do all the promotion ourselves, we design all the posters ourselves, it's a lot of work, and for it to go so well was really rewarding."

Despite the individual sacrifices, Katie and Penny stress how much they are indebted to friends and family who supported their venture in its early stages, and who continue to remain a part of Music Remedy.

"At the start, we had a lot of support from our friends, and there's no way we could have done it without them. They were the ones that turned up to the first few nights after us nagging them and trying desperately to show them that they would have a good time."

However, the real success, as Katie expresses, came after the first two nights: "Suddenly people took it upon themselves to come along and everyone started really enjoying it."

Moreover, what was particularly exciting for Katie in coming south was attracting "a huge pull of people from London who we didn't know. This was really nice to see because we were very intrigued to find out how they knew about us."

As well as celebrating the successes of London, Penny stresses the importance of learning from each event. "Every single night there's been an unforeseen glitch, and it definitely helps for the next time to know what we can improve and address in the future. The more experience you get, the more you start to figure out what works and what doesn't."

However it seems the girls have hit the club night scene at exactly the right time, as Katie explains, "I can definitely see the progression of the industry from when we first started Music Remedy, when there was probably only two or three nights including Itchy Feet, Freakin and Bangers & Mash.

"Then when the electronic music scene slowly started to kick off again, especially in York where it wasn't that prevalent, a lot of club nights have emerged and it does get a little bit competitive." However, Katie insists that it's just "friendly competition" because "we're all interested in the same thing, everyone who runs club nights is into music, and it's nice to see other club nights do well."

Indeed, Katie explains how the nature of the business creates opportunities to communicate with other people on the music scene, which has led to Music Remedy collaborating with other successful promoters including record label, Mohobelo and York based promoters, Shoko.

"When you run a club night at a university you become a group with others doing the same thing, and you communicate a lot with each other to make sure your nights don't clash. You get to know other club promoters quite well, and the manager of Shoko got in contact with Penny and said he'd really like to get us on board." These partnerships not only help reinforce Music Remedy's exposure but also allow for a wider variety of featured artists.

"The DJs we book are DJs that we really like, and listen to. However, it's not just about playing music that we want to play, it's about reacting to the response of people attending the nights. When we first started, Music Remedy showcased quite a mix of music, including techno, house, and disco, but it's be-

come a lot more niche following the feedback we've had. Our last night in York was centred on disco; it's currently a genre that people really want to listen to."

Although both founders are into "all types of music," Katie suggests that "the best way to [create something as successful as Music Remedy] is to stick to what people are enjoying and mould your night around it, because then you can't really fail."

Indeed, the surge in electronic music across the UK in recent months, coupled with the increased popularity of house stands Music Remedy in good stead for a promising future.

Music Remedy returned to York last week on 21 November, where they hosted Room 2 in Fibbers in collaboration

"Our last night in York was centred on disco; it's currently a genre that people really want to listen to"

with Shoko. They aim to host a second night in London before Christmas, while also looking into running some more nights in York in the New Year.

When reflecting on the achievements of Music Remedy both girls attribute their success to the simple fact that they enjoy the work that they are doing: "It's just developing what we love into something profitable," explains Penny. "Running your own business takes a lot of time and effort, but we don't see it as work because we really love doing it."

For Katie, "the company has evolved from a really strong passion for what we do, we absolutely love Music Remedy and we've got so much determination behind it ... it's nice to be able to show people that."

When coming to university, Katie professes that she had never considered becoming an entrepreneur: "Running a club night was the last thing on my mind, it was nothing I had ever imagined. It kind of came about without me even noticing, and now I'm just doing what I love doing."

Penny has been similarly taken aback by the longevity of her entrepreneurial journey which began when Music Remedy was founded. However, she strongly advises other young people to take such leaps of faith: "If you believe in something, just go for it." M



Is it Art? Photojournalism v Privacy

Yes

Deborah Lam

If the things that differentiate photos for charity from photos for art are merely better composition and lighting, privacy shouldn't be a contentious issue when documenting the experiences of mothers in Africa.

Photojournalism does not exploit pregnancy as a subject of its art, but allows us privity into the emotions of anxiety, love and sorrow that accompany pregnancies in countries such as Malawi, Mozambique and Uganda. It is extremely personal, but it's also precisely what makes the pictures so powerful.

Birth is a Dream takes motherhood, a concept so familiar to us, and challenges the idea of motherhood as we know it, giving us insight into a world where mothers risk their lives for a chance to have children. It is only through the intrusiveness of the pictures that we can be fully immersed in the frightening foreign reality in which pregnancy is life-threatening.

A testament of the ultimate maternal sacrifice, Paolo Patruno's photography series, dedicated to all African mothers, is art at its most compelling.

Paolo Patruno captures intimate moments of motherhood in Africa, through his photography project, *Birth is a Dream*



IMAGE: PAOLO PATRUNO

No

Lara Swan

Patruno's photographs within his project vividly capture the pain of childbirth, and the awful conditions in which many women bring new life into the world. There lies the problem.

Aspects of life such as this should remain sacred, leaving Patruno's invasion of ill-equipped antenatal wards far from deserving of its status as award winning photojournalism. He joins the trend of artists who continue to push the boundaries of privacy and propriety, which have stretched so much in recent years that little - ranging from *The Great Wall of Vagina* to the use of the ashes of Holocaust victims in artwork - shocks the modern audience.

There are clearly good intentions behind the project, but there is a difference between charitable endeavour and a breach of privacy. I can see the beauty in the photographs, but I cannot enjoy them without questioning what gives Patruno the right to invite anyone to enter into a moment deserving of privacy. We must learn to draw a line between humanitarianism and objectification.

Berlin's cultural uprising

Lily Papworth considers the significance of the Berlin Wall in the city's cultural journey over the past 25 years



IMAGE: IMGUR.COM

At 7pm on 9 November, 8,000 balloons stretching across Berlin were released into the night sky, commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. As the balloons rose, messages from Berliners were read aloud, an orchestra played Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and across the city people celebrated the historic moment when East Berlin was once again united with the West. This was a very poignant moment for Germany, especially considering its capital's evolution over the past 25 years.

Today, Berlin is globally considered as a cultural hub. Edgy, alternative and effortlessly cool, Berlin is the place to be, attracting everybody who is anybody in the creative world, from artists to app designers. Only this week, it was announced that Berlin was the most 'fun' city in the world, but how has this status been achieved? What has this city, - born from the ashes of a violent past - done to deserve the recognition it has today? In order to pay tribute to Germany's historical landmark, we look back on the fall of the Berlin Wall, and how the cultural aftermath has shaped the last 25 years of the city's history.

As soon as the concrete crumbled, endless possibilities opened up to Eastern Germany, as well as the West. The normality of the former was now to be transformed and aligned with the democratic ways of Britain, France and America, and just as these three nations put their paintbrushes to the newly blank Eastern canvas, so did Berlin's young and rebellious. A new identity was forming within the city, one which embraced its unstable past and thrust it to the forefront of Berlin's rhetoric. They were the children of the post-terrorist era and they weren't going to let anybody forget it.

Of course, the street art covering almost every surface of Berlin, particularly on the Wall, stands as a visual reminder of this. It has become embraced by inhabitants as their political freedom of speech - one unanimous voice that speaks the truths that were suppressed for so long.

Alongside these public demonstrations of defiance, within the derelict Eastern Germany, a darker, shadier side of Berlin was also forming. Echoing the atmosphere of the Weimar Republic's seedy cabarets, the Soviet wasteland became the playground for a diverse cultural community. With

newfound freedom, experimentation among the young and reckless became fashionable, and their artistic expression still reverberates today through Berlin's evolving identity.

Although not always as controversial and provocative as before, today, Berlin still allows its culture to be shared by all. Prior to the commemoration on 9 November, Berlin held a two day festival, demonstrating its diverse and wide-ranging cultural activity. Classical music was performed by various orchestras, exhibitions were held, and there was a colourful street festival for all to enjoy: a true representation of Berlin, I feel, and all that its people have to offer.

Of course, the end of Berlin's divide was psychological as well as physical: as the wall came down, so did fixed mindsets from both sides. This abolition of ideologies and prejudices instantly created the potential for the transformation of the city. In my opinion, culture within Berlin did not simply change; it was reborn, and over the last 25 years, it has been nurtured by those who belong to Berlin, allowing it to blossom into the wondrous and diverse place that we find so enticing today.

Trash Talk

Joel Down talks to artist **Francisco de Pajaro** about glorifying rubbish instead of throwing it away

(As the artist is Spanish and speaks little English, this interview has been translated to the best of our abilities, with the help of Susi and Elliot Thompson. We are very grateful for all their help.)

Francisco de Pajaro seems to have more time for trash than he does for artists. He speaks endearingly of this unique medium where he can paint “without filters, without censor”, while other artists represent the opposite, a kind of stiff self-importance. “The art world is where most human stupidity prevails,” he states bluntly, “where vanity and ego is seen ... For me, an artist is nothing special, and making art isn’t either. It’s just another job like any other. Give me a guy who sweeps the street; he is just as important.” Through one swift statement, he cuts through all the bullshit and pretension that art is renowned for, reminding us that it’s “just another job.”

But it’s hardly been an easy job for Pajaro. He has been painting for 20 years, learning surrealist and expressionist techniques, while also working part-time for half of his week. He found that art galleries in Barcelona “were not interested in what [he] painted, and had no space or place to hang [his] pictures.” He

says, “My artistic frustration mixed with the [Spanish] economic crisis pushed me into the street ... I have found here my safety and my personality; my wild action.” Painting on trash offers Pajaro freedom to do what he wants to, yet this was not entirely possible at times. “Here in London and New York, police allows me to paint in the trash. In Barcelona, in everything that does not generate money for the

“Painting on the trash is my gift to everyone”

system, they are not interested. Instead, they impose fines.”

So Francisco moved to London in 2002, taking the advice of a friend who “knew that the people of London had never seen anything like it” and that “it was only a matter of time” before he’d get noticed “out in the media and by word of mouth.” Just a year and a half ago he started to paint full time, continuing to electrify the grey streets with bright, colour drenched forms. His actions could

be described as charitable (“Painting on the trash is my gift to everyone”), but Francisco is also enjoying success through this system, as people stop on the street and ask for commissions. He’s even managed to secure a joint exhibition with urban artists in New York for the coming winter.

This is understandable, given that it’s impossible not to notice one of his creations. He tells me that, “To paint on the street you need to be physically fit and very concentrated. To get a good installation in the trash I have to travel many miles through the streets.” He insists though, that the original start point for each piece is actually our own actions: “I usually do not touch the trash or manipulate it, it is the position as it’s placed by people that inspire me to create an installation.”

Francisco takes the model that the people of the street unknowingly set him and begins to imagine: “I go out without any thought of what I do. It’s all improvisation ... I usually paint pictures I painted as a child in school. Everything is visceral.” Plastic bags holding on to a lamppost; abandoned sofas imprinted with flattened figures and Native American patterns; skips made into sharks: Francisco brings personality, youth and humour to the streets.

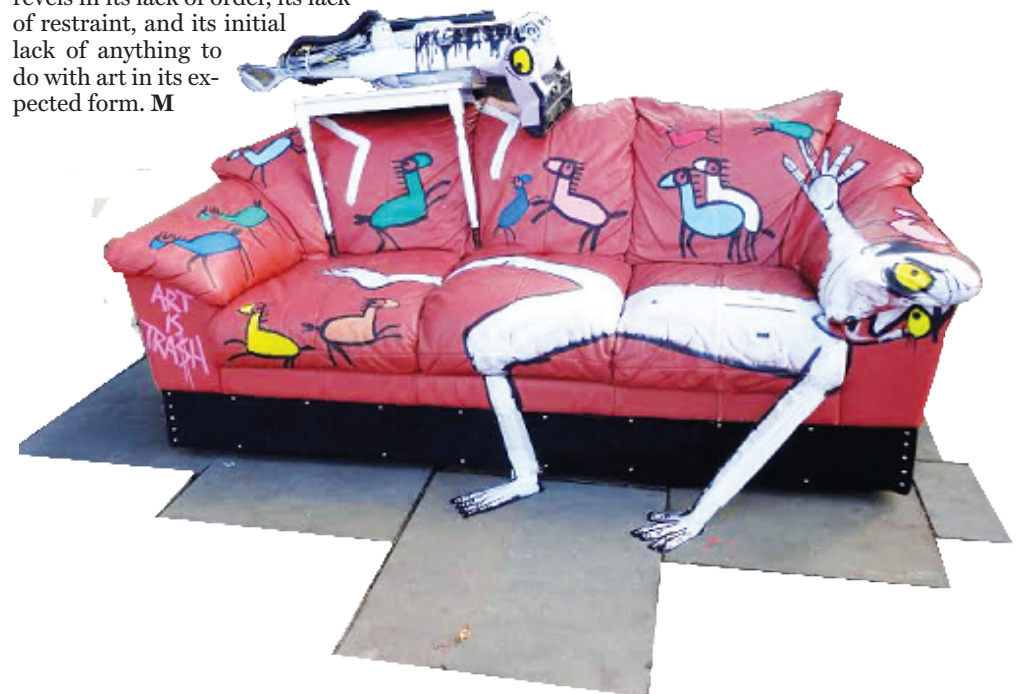
The artist is not afraid to make a statement. He signs many of the pieces, ‘Art is trash’, revealing the undertone of resentment he still holds against the art world. At the same time, he says, “*Art is trash* is a tragicomedy of Spanish culture and of human beings in general.”

We find ourselves reflected in Pajaro’s work, framed in a chaotic pile of rubbish: “crying, content, bitter” but also with “passion, tragedy, and humour.” It is “the life of human beings” in its most raw state. Pajaro maintains that, “In the garbage I paint, I speak, I communicate without expecting anything in return. I want each person to take it as he pleases,” it is “made solely for the sake of artistic creation.”

Through his growing popularity, Pajaro has proved his ability to humbly “create a surprise where [his] work is the star, not [Pajaro]” and to enliven the streets of London, where he “does not need permission to paint.” The ‘lone wolf’ of the modern art scene, he sweeps the streets for any sign of artistic potential: instead of clearing up the mess, he revels in its lack of order, its lack of restraint, and its initial lack of anything to do with art in its expected form. **M**



ALL IMAGES: FRANCISCO DE PAJARO



“For me, an artist is nothing special, and making art isn’t either. It’s just another job like any other, give me a guy who sweeps the street; he is just as important.”

FASHION.

App-appropriately dressed

Joseph Nezman, co-founder of up-and-coming fashion app, Dressli, speaks to Beki Elmer about how apps have changed the dynamics of the fashion industry

In our increasingly chaotic and busy lives, finding the time to scramble through rails of clothing and squeeze through crowds of sale-hunters can seem pretty daunting. We've all had those moments when we've found the perfect outfit, but for one reason or another, have had to purchase it online anyway.

Therefore, it is unsurprising that fashion apps such as Depop, Polyvore and Pose have seen an exponential surge in popularity over recent years. When it comes to analysing the impact of these apps, entrepreneur Joseph Nezman goes one step further. He argues that fashion apps have not only changed the way we shop, but have completely changed who can influence the fashion industry: "What's most exciting to me is the way apps and social media are democratising fashion".

When I ask Joseph what he perceives as the role of apps in the ever-changing and dynamic fashion industry, he emphasises the way they can open doors for people: "I'm inspired by the growing number of young, independent fashion voices using blogs, Youtube, Instagram and other social media platforms to become increasingly influential in an industry that is traditionally very exclusive."

I see his point. To take a popular example, Instagram has grown to over 200 million users, allowing the likes of Alexa Chung, Topshop and start-up bloggers to visually converse on one platform. Joseph aims to achieve similar success with his new app: "Dressli is a chance for talented creatives to connect and expand their audience." After pointing out that many stores are becoming increasingly reliant upon

apps as a method to promote their new lines and campaigns, I pose the question as to whether this will really change the way we shop. Joseph comments, "there are many impressive mobile-social commerce startups trying to 'personalise' your shopping experience using intelligent algorithms and social media curation." Despite this, Joseph draws more attention to the fact that our attitude towards fashion need not change: "Our unique approach is all about enabling authentic human interactions that more closely replicate how people shop on the high street. Dressli does not try to replace or change your existing shopping habits, rather it tries

"What's most exciting to me is the way apps and social media are democratising fashion"

to enhance and improve what you already do: friends and family helping each other find cool stuff."

So, what future developments can the entrepreneur predict within fashion apps? "We are talking with retailers interested in implementing features so that Dressli can be useful when people need help in department stores. Converging offline and online shopping activity is a huge opportunity for apps like Dressli." The designer also reasserts the need to keep discussing fashion in an open and ongoing way: "The fashion app is helping consumers expand their range of access to information, discovery and choice. I



hope apps will continue to create a more meritocratic fashion industry and help surface the next wave of inspiring design and editorial expression.

"It's easy to get lost in all the details of starting any business or competing with the popular trends." As the designer reflects upon the start of his career, he has some advice for student entrepreneurs: "It can be overwhelming and distracting to follow all the latest apps, new trends and industry news. While it's necessary to tell a great story and spread the word, you cannot survive without a solid core value to build upon. I would advise any aspiring students to stay focused on the one simple thing you do better than anyone else."

Finally, I ask him to pitch his top three apps this Christmas: "I'm always impressed by the content and editorial of Free People and Nasty Gal, they also continue to innovate with more engaging features like ASOS.com." The entrepreneur concludes on a slightly more intriguing note: "It's not a fashion app, but I find the features and app innovation of Tinder pretty inspiring."

Fashion apps have proved significant in that they have paved the way for wide-ranging access to fashion, redefining who can now truly influence the industry. Dressli is now available for download from the iTunes Store. **M**

All you need is tweed

Andrew Ang explores the versatility of wearing tweed this season



If there's one thing hard to get right with menswear, it would be the conundrum of choosing a single jacket from the myriad of outerwear choices this winter.

This season, the style savvy man will be opting for tweed. Yes, it's the jacket your professor wore as you sat through those dreadful lectures, but it's also going to brighten up your winter wardrobe.

Think of it as your Autumn/Winter denim jacket, except this statement piece enables you to look effortlessly stylish and suave in both formal and

casual settings.

It's time to shake off the nerdy stigma attached to these jackets and learn how not to be a dweeb in tweed.

The original function of tweed jackets was to provide warmth and camouflage for Scottish hunters. The process of weaving the wool brings out different patterns and colours within the fabric, creating a multitude of combinations as to how it can be worn.

Take a look at this week's shoot to see how to carry off the tweed look this winter. Here's a rundown of the best ways to wear the staple jacket:



The Tie

The tie must always be a darker shade than your shirt and the size of the tie should match the width of your jacket lapel. When it comes to wearing tweed, avoid skinny or shiny ties - they'll look terribly mismatched. Opt for textured finishes and contrast it with the colour and pattern of your shirt. Finally, always go for a knitted tie - they just look better. *Silk Tie, £35 at TM Lewin.*



The Shirt

The key to matching tweed with a shirt is simple - they should contrast each other. Classic grey herringbone tweed jackets are perfect when paired with white or blue Oxford shirts. Checked shirts can offer a quirky, smart casual look. Layering brightly coloured jumpers under your jacket helps to combat the cold weather. *Blue Long Sleeve Oxford Shirt, £25 at River Island.*



The Trousers

Finding the correct pair of trousers to wear with a tweed jacket may seem difficult, but it is actually a relatively simple task. Match the colour of your trousers to a minor, secondary colour of your tweed jacket, or just throw on a pair of dark coloured, slim-fit denim jeans or a classic pair of chinos for a flawless casual look. *Low Rise Super Skinny Jean, £50 at Myer.*



The Accessory

Pocket Squares have always been an indispensable accessory to menswear, as they're a subtle way of expressing your sense of style. Wearing a tweed jacket with a bold pocket square will help you to complete the look. The colours of the pocket square should complement, but not match, your shirt and tie. Polka-dotted and patterned designs are great choices. *Pocket Square, £6 at ASOS.*

Winter beauty

Sarah Martin demonstrates how to create the perfect Christmas party look



The Base: Once foundation has been applied, powder the T-zone with Soap and Glory's 'One Heck of a Blot' powder. Add MAC's 'Harmony' blusher in the hollows of the cheeks, the temple and along the jawline to contour. Tap Topshop's Glow Highlighter in 'Polish' along your cheekbones.
The Brows: Fill in lightly with a matte, cool toned brown. Set with Maybelline 'Brow Drama Sculpting Mascara.'



Look #1:

The Eyes:

Start with Urban Decay's Primer Potion for eyes to mattify and prep the lids. Using Urban Decay's Naked Palette, press on 'Half Baked' over the lid up to the crease with a flat eyeshadow brush and blend at the edges. Add 'Dark Horse' to the outer corner, again blending any harsh lines. Add black liquid eyeliner, creating wings at the corners, and finish with lashings of volumising mascara.

The Lips:

Simply apply Rimmel Apocalips Lip Lacquer in 'Across the Universe' in thin layers, blotting between applications.



Look #2:

The Eyes:

Begin by patting Maybelline Colour Tattoo Crème Eyeshadow in 'Pink Diamond' across the lids. Using this as a base, use 'Sin' from the Urban Decay's Naked Palette to intensify the colour. Then, using a matte dark brown, contour the crease and outer corner for added definition. Add 'Virgin' to the inner corner as a highlighter. Line the lashes with a black gel liner and coat the lashes in mascara.

The Lips:

Add Rimmel Lasting Finish Lipstick in 'Starry Eyed' in thin layers with a lip brush. Blot and reapply.



Look #3:

The Eyes:

Apply No7 Stay Perfect Shade and Define Crème Eyeshadow Stick in 'Cool Mink' across the lid. Using the Urban Decay Naked Palette, pat 'Hustle' on to the outer corner and along the lashline, blending well. Line the lashes with a black kohl pencil. Finally, add mascara and individual false eyelashes into the corners for a wide-eyed flutter.

The Lips:

Apply Tanya Burr Lip Gloss in 'Chic'. Voilà!

IMAGE:TIM KELLY

Girl On Campus

Rachel Thompson sheds some light on current trends



It may sound cliché to begin with a moan about the weather, but you have to admit, this past week in York has resembled something more like a monsoon than just some autumnal showers - we have lakes springing up in the middle of church lawns! In times like these you need something to bring up your mood, and Kim Kardashian came to the rescue with her recent shoot for Paper magazine. The publication intended to "break the internet" by publishing naked photos of the overexposed reality star. French photographer, Jean-Paul Goude, said the images are an homage to some of his 1970s photographs of black women. Bad taste doesn't quite cover it, but the social media coverage of mock recreations of 'that' photo of Kim's ass could brighten any student's library stint. My favourite so far has been the Krispy Kreme doughnut comparison, in joint position with Kim K's rear being used as a bike stand and Boris himself riding the bike.

A few months ago when I saw the advert of Cara Delevingne and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley strutting around the streets of London in their monogrammed Burberry capes, I knew I needed to find a version slightly more in my price range. Of course, this thought didn't coincide with one such as, "these girls are models, what they wear might not look good on a short girl." Ever since, I have been stalking the shops for a vintage style, shawl cape, and last weekend I thought I had hit the jackpot in Topshop, and for only £30. As I strutted into the living room to show off my purchase to my housemates, I was greeted with a "yee ha" as one 'dear' friend exclaimed that I looked like a cowboy at a rodeo, while another asked if it was a new blanket to put on my bed, neither of which shout 'model off duty'!

This month's 'the place to be' event associated with the University was the 'Kits & Tinsel' charity fundraiser hosted in Banyan by UYNC. The dress code was a black and white affair, with the addition of sparkle as a must-have accessory. Seeing as I've already caught the Christmas countdown bug - who hasn't after the release of John Lewis' and M&S' Christmas adverts - I couldn't resist opting for all over sequins. My outfit envy of the night had to be a black and white tailored jumpsuit worn by a remarkably tall (even when I was wearing my friend's dangerously high Carvela heeled boots) brunette. Two words: "Where from?"

Reuse, Acquire, Desire

Grace Howarth and Shahreen Vacha show us three-must-haves for your winter wardrobe

Re-use. You can't go wrong with diamonds.. This classic item will add sparkle to any outfit and is perfect for Christmas parties. *Diamond drop earrings, £14 at Oasis.*



Acquire. This gilet, great for layering, and ideal for keeping warm on cold winter evenings. It would go nicely with blue jeans and boots. *Black Faux Sherling Gilet, £49 at BHS.*

Desire. The red and the black colours of the skirt are very festive, just in time for Christmas. This item would complement a white blouse, jacket, and small, black ankle boots. *Sister Jane floral veil skirt, £58 at ASOS.*



Winter skincare essentials

Our top three skincare products this winter

A chemical exfoliant
Winter often equals dull skin. A chemical exfoliant containing lactic and glycolic acid will remove any dead skin cells and increase skin brightness. Try First Aid Beauty's Facial Radiance Pads (£16) or Pixi Glow Tonic (£18) for a radiant complexion.



A rich moisturiser
Whether you need to use this on targeted patches or all over your face for added moisture, this is a definite must-have to ward off dry, dehydrated skin. Containing shea butter and thermal spring water, Avène Hydrance Optimale Rich (£14) is a great product to consider.



A reliable lip balm
Lips are often the worst hit during the colder months, so it's always best to have a rich lip balm on hand for regular top-ups. NUXE Rêve de Miel Lip Balm (£9.50) is a thick balm containing honey: perfect for nourishing and soothing chapped lips.





All clothing and garments courtesy of Bowler Vintage York. Black court shoes and necklace: model's own.
Fashion Editor and Creative Director: Beki Elmer, Photographer: James Hostford, Models: Emily Shane & Jordan Bonner, Makeup: Sarah Martin, Assistants: Grace Howarth, Zohra K, Andrew Ang, Deborah Lam, Raymond Wong & Shahreen Vacha.



A Winter Wonderland

Set against the beautifully archaic backdrop of York's abbey ruins and the world renowned architecture of the Minster, this edition's shoot is inspired by crisp winter mornings, elegant evenings out and the glorious landscape of York's historic city centre. It incorporates an array of one-off pieces of vintage clothing and experiments with textures of suede, velvet and fur.

For the girls, rich chocolate browns contrast and complement lighter fawns and ooze class. Tartan is an absolute must-have this season; we've toned it down by drawing out the print's paler tones with those of our model's headwear. A beret this winter provides the perfect Parisian alternative to the less sophisticated woollen hat. For a more formal occasion, think luxurious faux-fur shawls, velvet dresses and delicate jewellery.

A timeless tweed jacket and burgundy brogues characterise the men's formal look this winter. Jeans are kept slim-fitted and complement the darker tones of the jacket. For daywear, we layer a corduroy navy shirt with beige braces and a Christmassy jumper. Heavy suede sheepskin coats are the ultimate statement vintage piece

The Voice of determination

Upcoming star **Becky Hill** talks to Victoria Chater-Lea about talent shows, touring, and accumulating industry contacts



“I’d describe my music as left-field, soulful, 90’s electro pop,” Becky Hill tells me during an exclusive post-show interview at the Leeds O2 Academy. “When I made this album,” she says, in reference to her brand new EP, “I went in with a lot of producers and I wanted to make a concoction of Ben Howard, Ellie Goulding, Bon Iver and Passion Pit”.

In 2012, Becky Hill featured on the first season of *The Voice UK*. Her powerful blind audition, a cover of John Legend’s ‘Ordinary People’, established her as a clear favourite on the show; two years and two hit singles later, she’s enthusiastically describing the musical

styling of her album while touring the country with Katy B. Needless to say, 2013 was a good year for her. She managed to meet the garage star last year at Warwick University, where Becky was appearing in only her third live gig as a vocalist with Rudimental. After a second subsequent encounter, they began working together, and wrote a track for Becky’s upcoming full-length record in the process.

“It’s been amazing. It’s been like one big work experience for me ... my time on *The Voice* made me more hungry for professional music. There was a point when Kate Read (fellow 2012 contestant) was knocked out of the competition, and she rang me once, and

said, ‘Look Becky, get all the contacts you can in this industry, because once you’re off the show, they don’t help you. You go from being in front of 12 million people on television every Saturday night to going back to your day job. So if you’re not savvy with what you’ve got, you’re not going to go anywhere.’ I think that seriously woke me up, because I knew if really wanted this, then I’d have to work for it.”

Perhaps unsurprisingly then, she wouldn’t recommend *The Voice* experience, yet she recognises that it can definitely be a useful step into the industry. “It was particularly good for me as I was from a very small town in the middle of nowhere, where anything to do with singing or performing was frowned upon – it seemed a bit like ‘urgh, whatever!’ I think a lot of artists today can get plenty of exposure from platforms like SoundCloud and YouTube.

I also think that gigging in your local area is not a way to get into the industry, but it’s definitely good for your work experience, which is what I did.”

When asked about advice for aspiring artists, Becky recommends the Academy of Contemporary Music in Guildford, where she was heading before she went on *The Voice*. “I heard that they have regular label visits, where they audition people at ACL, so I think that’s a start.”

The lessons she learned from her time on *The Voice* have certainly set her in good stead for the future. It was an unexpected yet welcome surprise for many when she rose to mainstream prominence in the company of some significant industry names last year.

Her vocalist slot on Wilkinson’s ‘Afterglow’ saw the single storm to number one on the UK Dance Chart in late 2013, and her collaboration with Oliver Heldens on ‘Gecko’, which topped the UK Singles Chart this year, consolidated her position as one of the most sought after talents on the UK music scene today.

On 9 November, ‘Losing’ was released by Parlophone records as her second single. “It’s daunting to do well, as these singles are your musical children, and you want your children to do well at school...”

It feels like a good time to be set free and become a solo artist. It’s been a long time coming, [after] two and a half years working in the industry.” It becomes evident to me that Becky is a singer in it for the long run, driven by a genuine enthusiasm for music and artistry.

To date, Becky is the only contestant from *The Voice* to have scored a UK No 1. Is ‘Losing’ likely to be her next assault on the charts? “I never write music for radio, and I never write music for No 1 slots. I write music because I like writing music.

“Personally, I am in love with my songs that I’ve written so far, and whether everybody loves it, or nobody loves it, I’ve created an album that I’m really proud of.”

Her most recent release reflects her journey to mainstream prominence and explains her transition into adulthood. “Whether I get to No 1 or not, I’m happy with the music I’m making.”

One thing is certain: Becky is happy with where she is, personally and musically. This means she can look to the future with confidence and contentment.

“The rest of this year is finishing off the tour, and working on promoting ‘Losing’. Next year holds another single, an album, and then festival season; it’s going to be a very busy year. 2014 has been about laying down the foundations of her career.”

On a final note, I ask Becky what she is currently listening to. “Ben Howard’s new album, Banks’ new album, and also ‘Faded’ by ZHU – such a great track. Also Shannon Saunders, and a lot of Kate Stewart, Shift K3Y, MNEK and Sinead Harnett – she’s great! I listen to a lot of up and coming artists, being in that world.” M

“It feels like a good time to be set free and become a solo artist.”

Album Review: One Direction - Four

Alfie Packham

One Direction has taken some four years to release their legacy album. It’s called *Four*, for some reason, and sees the ageing quintet look back, misty-eyed, over their rich and sprawling careers. A 1D record traditionally opens with a bombardment of hyper-mixed teen-pop that glues itself to your eardrums for months at a time. *Four* continues this legacy with tracks like ‘Steal My Girl’. It’s their most mature single to date, mind, with a piano ostinato to prove it. Is this an elegy to lost youth? “I want a love like you made me feel when we were 18,” the yearning lyrics to ‘18’ go, accompanied by arthritic acoustic guitar riffs. We witness a crucial development here, as the boys shed their naivety in wrinkled nostalgia for those distant, tender months of 2010. Even where the more lachrymose tracks are mixed with stompier ones like ‘Girl Almighty’ and ‘No Control’, these excursions feel half-hearted. The result is a dilution of their bubbly formula into a conservative mush of “woah-ohs”. On the slumberous ‘Night Changes’ the boys croon: “we’re only getting older, baby”. Perhaps it’s time for a graceful retirement?



Live Review: Paloma Faith

Katie Woodard

Paloma Faith’s sold out York Barbican show truly emphasised how popular an artist she has grown to be. When she entered in a self-proclaimed ‘meringue outfit’, the crowd erupted; the 33 year-old soul singer always has a focus on the aesthetics of the performance, right down to the improvised flowers worn in her hair, which were sent to her dressing room by a local florist in Fulford. Her band were particularly entertaining, especially the dancing brass players, who appeared to be having as much fun as the audience. During her performance, Paloma favoured promoting her new album over performing hits from previous albums, which would have received a better reaction from the audience. As she progressed through a colourful set, she began to show off her amazing vocal range, with every song becoming more powerful. Although at times the show wasn’t particularly fast paced, towards the end of the set she truly got the crowd going. Her huge hit ‘Only Love Hurt Can Hurt Like This’ encouraged the entire crowd to sing along at the top of their voices. However, the real highlight of the night was her cover of ‘River Deep Mountain High’ by her ultimate inspiration, Tina Turner.



“This isn’t enough for us. We want more.”

Catfish and the Bottlemen are the indie-rock band of the moment, and they’re taking the nation by storm. Lead man **Van McCann** talks to Tom Armston-Clarke to find out if the band’s ambition knows any limits.

Since Catfish and the Bottlemen played York Duchess back in June, the band has exploded. They played over thirty festival dates this summer. Nineteen of their current 30 UK gigs are sold out, on a world tour that takes them from Glasgow to Sydney and back again via San Francisco and Las Vegas. All of the band’s singles have been premiered as Zane Lowe’s ‘Hottest Record in the World’ on Radio 1, and their debut album, *The Balcony*, reached No. 10 in the UK Album Charts. It’s a staggering set of statistics for a band that, 12 months ago, rested in relative obscurity. After several failed attempts to contact the band due to Catfish’s absurdly busy schedule, I was fortunate enough to speak to lead singer Ryan Van McCann whilst he travelled between gigs.

Van spent his early childhood travelling around Australia; in retrospect, it was the perfect introduction to the kind of lifestyle he leads today as frontman of one of the hottest bands of the moment. He speaks with an avid romanticism when I ask about life on the road. “I suppose I fell into pop-

ularity even before I was in a band - I was living out of a car. I don’t know anything different. When I get home I get homesick because I’m not on the road.”

The endearing honesty with which he speaks is striking - it’s a rare quality amongst musicians when being interviewed. “I remember hav-

“When I get home I get home-sick because I’m not on the road”

ing these proper big headphones that were too big for my head [when I was a child]. My dad used to put them on me and play John Lennon and Van Morrison, and I just used to listen to music.”

Growing up in a family with Irish heritage, and spending a chunk of his childhood in a B&B, large family parties with singing and dancing were, he tells me, common practice.

“On New Year’s Eve, in the bar at the B & B, everyone

would be there just singing and dancing, and enjoying themselves.”

His musical obsession did, however, come at a cost - he was expelled from school at the age of 15. He says not from disruptive behaviour, however, but from the knock-on effect of relentless gigging. “I’d get back from a gig at 6:00am, smelling of smoke and booze, and go straight to school. I wasn’t a little shit or anything - I was polite to the teachers and that, but I was just getting into trouble because of the band”.

Since the days of falling asleep in class and smelling like a brewery, the popularity of the band has grown exponentially. Van’s unwavering modesty is unmoved by questions of his new-found fame. “We’re a tiny band compared with others. This hasn’t really even started for us yet. We want to play arenas, stadiums - this isn’t enough for us. We want more.”

Van is an extraordinarily passionate speaker, and makes clear his belief that nobody should settle for anything less than the best they can be. “If you find a girl, start dating and marry her, you should be the best husband you can be, not just think ‘I’ll just make her happy now and again’. Whatever you do, you should be the best you can be - don’t settle for sitting on the bench at Southampton, strive for Real Madrid, or something like that.” With this man at the helm, it’s hard not to imagine Catfish fulfilling their dreams of becoming stadium headliners.

Their commercial success in the UK is impressive, but many indie or rock bands still struggle to pull their weight over in the US. Thr country, however, appears to have taken to Catfish and the Bottlemen. Despite the weather - which he says isn’t ideal for the Irish skin - Van loves the atmosphere over there. “It’s amazing. Everyone’s dead receptive - they’re so positive and they just want you to succeed. Everyone just wants to talk to you and have a good time ... everyone knows what we are about, and are just singing the tunes with a smile on their face.”

This, it seems, is the band’s definitive raison d’être, and the one constant they hope to retain in the pursuit of a sold out arena tour. Van tells me of the band’s dogmatic approach to keeping their feet on the ground, and their mind on the task at hand - they limit themselves to £60 a week each. For Van and the rest of Catfish and the Bottlemen, it’s not about the money or the fame, simply the music, and the happiness it brings to them and their fans. **M**

Headphones on campus

As a first year English student, Music editor Chris Owen has a lot of time on his hands. So he decided it would be a good idea to bother some strangers with their headphones in, to find out what gets York University grooving.

Alex, 3rd year History



What’s playing?

David Bowie’s ‘Ashes to Ashes’.

On which album did it feature?

Scary Monsters and Super Creeps.

Favourite Bowie record?

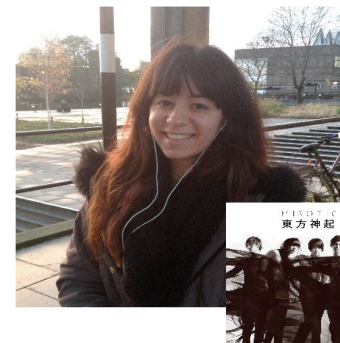
I’d probably go for Ziggy Stardust.

Anna, 1st year Sociology

What’s playing?
I just finished listening to ‘Ultraviolence’ by Lana Del Ray.
On which album did it feature?
Her second album, of the same name.
Favourite song?
I’d actually go for Ultraviolence - it’s a brilliant piece of music.



Elena, postgraduate in TESOL



What’s playing?

A song called ‘Mirotic’ by TVXQ!

On which album did it feature?

The album’s called *Mirotic* too; it’s their fourth, from 2008.

How would you describe the song?

It’s a genre called K-pop (short for Korean pop).

Student, postgraduate in Women, Violence & Conflict

What’s playing?
‘Fake Tales of San Francisco’ by Arctic Monkeys.
On which album did it feature?
Their first, *Whatever People Say I Am, That’s What I’m Not*.
Favourite Arctic Monkeys record?
Has to be the first.



James, 3rd year Archeology



What’s playing?

‘For Those About to Rock (We Salute You)’ by ACDC.

On which album did it feature?

Their 7th album, of the same name.

Ever seen them live?

At the SECC in Glasgow in 1996. I was six.



“No label wanted to release our music”

Enter Shikari's lead guitarist **Rory Clewlow** explains to Ricky Jones why the band refuse to tone down their notoriously intense sound

You were extremely well received performing at Reading and Leeds last summer. Do you prefer festivals at your own shows?

It completely depends on the day or how the audience is. Being hungover or not is a big factor as well. It doesn't really matter if you're playing a tiny venue or a massive festival, or if you're in Japan or England. A good gig really just comes down to whether the stars align. Having said that, I would have to say that Reading is a little bit special. Every time we play there it just feels so right. I've never had a bad show there.

You recorded your last album in Thailand and *The Mindsweep*, your latest album set to be released next year, has been recorded in Lincolnshire. Do you think location can have a significant influence on the sound of the finished product?

95 percent of the writing is done before we get into the studio so I don't feel it makes much difference. We're always writing, even if it's just electronic bits or for fun. Generally it's done at home or we'll just expand on little ideas done on the road. We do the electronic and drum parts on a laptop and leave the guitar parts until later.

What was the writing process for this album, then?

We have got a massive library on a hard drive of tonnes of little ideas, really weird synths. We always look through the hard drive and see if anything sparks our curiosity or imagination and then develop that. One song on the new album has a main riff, which was written by Rou about eleven years ago before I joined the band. It just came out of nowhere.

You have your own independent record label. Was this an active choice to support the independent music scene and stay away from the mainstream labels?

We didn't start an independent label because the independent scene or the DIY scene was something we particularly wanted to support. It's not like we didn't want to support it, but we set up our own label out of necessity, because no label wanted to release our music at the time.

Do you think, then, that the approach you have ended up taking to producing your music has brought you closer to the fans?

Essentially, it's cutting out the middleman. We did have a small flirtation with a major label



when we were doing our second album. We licensed *Common Dreads* to Warner Brothers. It wasn't a record deal as such, but it was a little taster of what it would be like and it sucked so hard.

There was so much bureaucracy involved and it was them kind of sticking their fingers in our hearts. I'm really happy with how the album came out, but it just seemed a bit watered down.

We gave them our second album, and they hadn't had any say in it until we gave it to

them, and they turned round and said, “We need more singles!” Can you get anymore, ‘clichéd major label’?

They tried to turn a couple of songs into something that they weren't, and we just felt a lot of guilt, because any time we wanted to do anything we had to check with them. We do feel closer to our fans in the sense that, if we want to do something, then we can just do it. We will just put it out there if it's a good idea. If you cut out the middle man then you don't have to ask for permission. We have to do things our own way and it has worked really well for us.

What can we expect from *The Mindsweep*?

‘Last Garrison’ is the only song we've put out so far, but it doesn't really represent the album in full. As with our previous albums, every song is different.

How do you go about deciding which songs go on the album?

We consider if the song has a certain energy or certain aspect in it that isn't present in any of the other songs. We're basically looking to make the overall album as diverse as possible. **M**

In the Spotlight: Glass Caves

Beki Elmer catches up with the Yorkshire-based band following the release of their debut album.



The ballsy guitar solos, charismatic vocals and catchy synths of Glass Caves are already a familiar presence throughout the streets of York. Despite such huge success performing and busking locally, the indie-rock quartet now have their sights set on bigger and better things.

“It's exciting,” says vocalist Matt, “but I'm anxious at the same time. This album's been a long time coming.” The band's solid work ethic has seen them touring relentlessly, taking their audiences from the streets to bigger city gigs at the same time gaining

“*Alive* reflects the experiences we've had in life...the ups and the downs.” When discussing the sound of the album he draws attention to the band's diverse music tastes. “I like heavier stuff, Elliot likes Motown and Will is into Reggae. The rockier side is something that joins us.”

It's true. Listen to ‘Let Go’ on their new album and you'll be hit with an eclectic mix of raunchy guitar solos, hypnotic vocals and addictive base riffs. I pose the question of who they'd like to see themselves touring with in 10 years time. “As

a whole we really appreciate The Police and Kings of Leon as bands. U2 have seen everything - they're a bit cheesy but they appeal to so many people. Obviously, the bigger the better!”

It's clear that the band look fondly on their busking roots. “I can imagine we'll continue with it... it's enjoyable playing

“U2 have seen everything - they're a bit cheesy but they appeal to so many people”

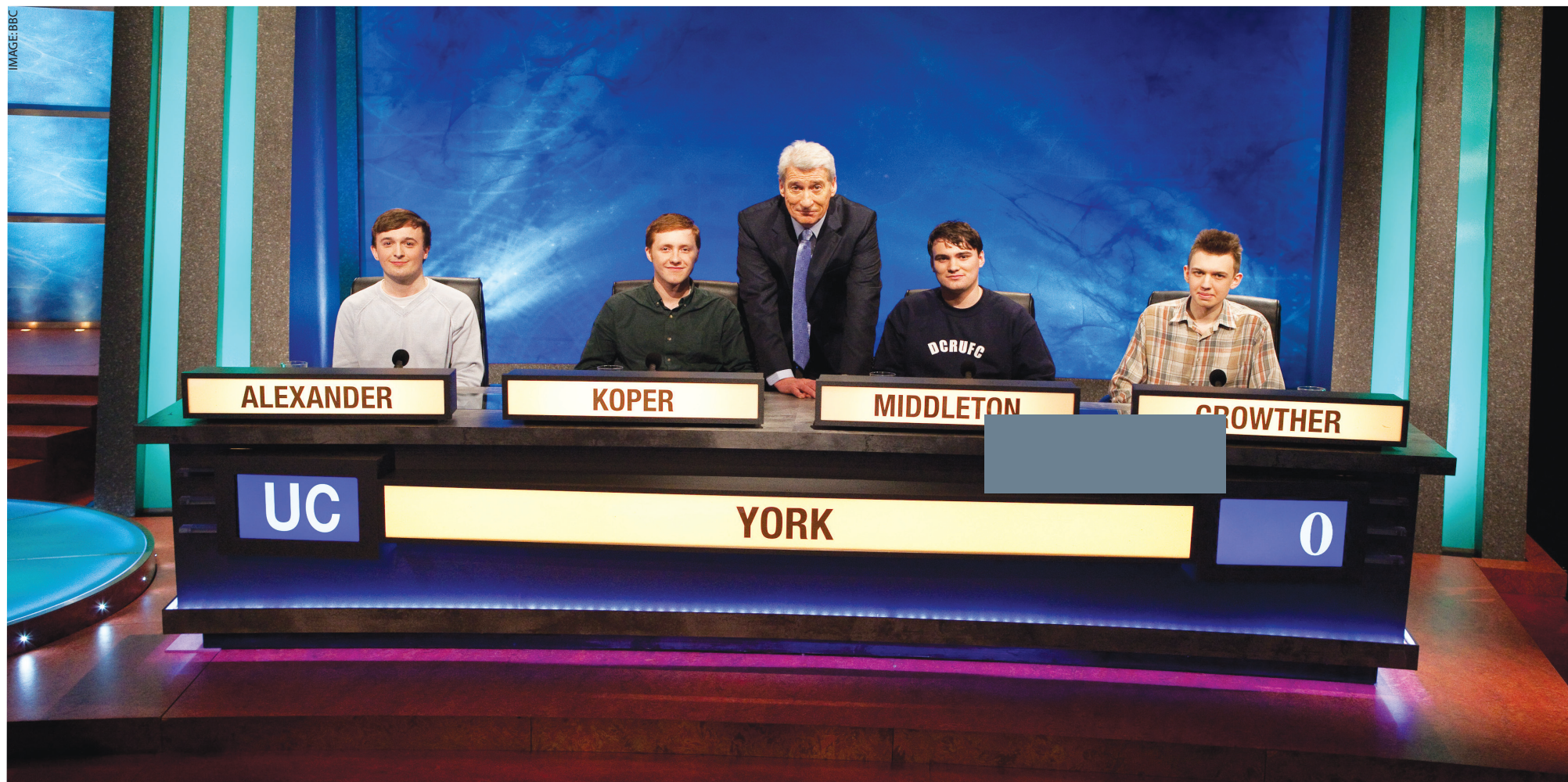
music all day, and it's a great way for people to hear the album. I love intimate venues as there's something special about them, you can see people up close. What's best is that you can appreciate the fans singing your own lyrics back to you.”

Finally, I ask about his experiences as a busker and what students can do to put themselves out there: “I guess it's not as scary as you think. I was at university with a job at Sports Direct.” He laughs to himself, “I really hated it. So we went out on the streets and started busking, and we did a lot better than expected!”

Looking back to the founding of Glass Caves he recalls, “We were stood on the street murmuring out a song and were scared people were judging us thinking, ‘What the hell are you guys doing?’ It's all about having confidence - people take to that. Go out there and just give it!” **M**

Trivial pursuits

Members of **York's University Challenge Team** speak to Connie Shaw about their experiences on one of the oldest and most prestigious competitions to be televised on British screens



A triumphant performance against Corpus Christi College Cambridge last month saw the University Challenge team from York see off their opposition convincingly with 170 points to 135.

Connie Shaw caught up with team members Alistair Middleton, Jack Alexander, Joe Crowther and Adam Koper to gain an insight into what it is like to be part of a University Challenge team.

How did you find the match, were you pleased with the overall performance?

Crowther: "We kept getting slightly ahead and then losing that advantage. Although we managed to pull through in the end, it was fairly tense."

How did you all meet?

Middleton: "The selection process is for individuals, so we only met by being in the team together. It's selected in three streams, Sciences, Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities, and then the best from each one get a place in the team, while the highest scoring runners up enter a play off."

The fact that three of you study Mathematics suggests that your collective knowledge is weighted towards the sciences. Do you try and counter-balance this by assigning each other specific topics to revise?

Koper: "I tend to cover the Social Sciences side of things, though my favourite topic is Geography."
Crowther "We didn't really set ourselves any specific to try and learn, mainly because most topics, Literature for example, are incredibly broad areas which are impossible to revise in a couple of months to any significant depth

or breadth."

Do you train together at all?

Middleton: "There were a few of times, just before we were due to go on the show, where we booked out one of the study rooms in the library and spent a couple of hours an evening doing online quizzes. We also watched old episodes of University Challenge and kept our scores."

Were you mentored by the previous team members?

Alexander: "Not last year, however, we are hoping to change that. This year we're all keen to get involved, helping out with the new team."

Adam, you were the only first year in the team last year, what was that like?

Koper: "I didn't really notice it to be honest, they took the micky out of me a few times but that was it really."

How are you conducting your selection process this year?

Alexander: "We are using a very similar process to last year but the range of questions we're going to ask will be slightly different. Last year in each of the three streams (Sciences, Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities) 50 per cent of the questions were specific to that area and 50 per cent were general knowledge. This year I want to focus a little bit more on specific subject knowledge, so questions will be 70 per cent subject related and 30% general knowledge."

Describe the process of being on television, was it as nerve-racking as expected?

Alexander: "Yeah, I certainly thought so.

When you get in there there's not a lot of time between coming into the studio and the start of filming.

Koper: "It was alright because they make the whole thing feel very comfortable, even though Jeremy Paxman was doing his usual thing of being a grumpy old man, the atmosphere was quite friendly."

Did you meet Jeremy Paxman? What is he like off camera?

Middleton: "Yes, he comes round before and gets a photo with all the teams. When he came over to get a photo with us he said 'Good Morning'."

How do you find fitting University Challenge around your academic work?

Crowther: "I've never really found it that much of a problem, I've wanted to go on the show for years, so it was more that I was doing something I enjoyed. I probably did sacrifice my studies a bit more than I should have in preparation for it."

Alexander: "Also, it was all filmed back in our second years in March, so the work load wasn't as bad."

Do your parents/relatives get excited when they see you on TV?

Crowther: "Yes, definitely, possibly a bit too much. My mum's Twitter was very, very embarrassing to be honest."

Koper: "They do. My grandmother's been telling everyone she knows."

What's the best part about being in a University Challenge team?

Crowther: "Getting to face down Jeremy Paxman."

Middleton: "You get a lot of people tweeting about you."

Koper: "The camaraderie, we go to pub quizzes together regularly and last year I think we won V bar pub quiz nine or ten times."

Do you ever get recognised?

Middleton: "By a couple of people in Willow"

Would you encourage others to try out for the team this year?

Crowther: "You might as well see how much you know, because often people know a lot more than they think they do."

Some people might say having general knowledge is redundant in today's society with the likes of Google and the vast amount of available information online. What would be your response?

Crowther: "While Google makes it much easier to have good general knowledge in some sense, I think it's just nice knowing stuff without having to use technology."

Alexander: "I think a good general knowledge makes conversation more interesting."

Middleton: "I've also just wanted to know things for the sake of knowing them."

Do you have a favourite fact?

Koper: "I learnt something interesting today. There is a cape on the western coast of America called Cape Disappointment."

Despite being knocked out of the competition in the following round by the University of Durham 210 points to 160, Jeremy Paxman said that York was a decidedly "strong team". A new team has now been selected for next year's show. M

“If you didn’t laugh you’d cry”

Mark Herman, director of *Brassed Off* and *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, speaks to Rhys Thomson about film-making, his favourite projects and the controversies surrounding his biggest success



Mark Herman is responsible for writing and directing some of the most popular British films of all time. From *Brassed Off* to *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, his gritty film-making style has been globally acclaimed.

Despite his success, Mark is remarkably modest about his achievements, claiming to have fallen into film by accident rather than design: “A lot of directors you might talk to will be able to name the specific time and place they got hooked and decided what they wanted to do. For me, it was a process of elimination, being pretty much useless at everything else I tried. I went to art school late, at about 26, and went on to do a Graphics degree at Leeds Polytechnic. There I tried, and failed, to get accepted on to every other option but film. So, there was no moment of inspiration, they were the only department that would have me.”

After completing his degree at Leeds, Mark went on to study animation at the National Film School. “There, I found myself working alongside Nick Park (of *Wallace & Gromit* fame) so gave up animation immediately. I then turned to live action, shooting a documentary, and editing, which was, I suppose, the moment when I actually caught the film bug. After that I wrote my first half-hour screenplay, and caught the writing bug too. So there were no magical moments of inspiration like seeing *Citizen Kane* when I was 12 or something, simply a catalogue of failure.”

Brassed Off was made in 1996, and was the film that first brought Mark’s name to the mainstream press. It remains one of his proudest achievements. “It was a film that I thought might appeal to an audience within an eight mile radius of Barnsley, but went on to be appreciated around the world. In other words, we somehow gave global appeal to a very parochial story.”

Starring Ewan McGregor and Stephen Tompkinson, *Brassed Off* tells the story of a colliery brass band and how they try to continue their lives following the closure of their pit.

Despite the political nature of the film - issues of poverty and suicide that come about due to the loss of income for the miners are candidly shown - there are many contrasting mo-

ments of light relief.

“This is an area I work hard on at the writing stage, creating what might be called a comedy out of what was in fact a pretty tragic time for people in those communities. When researching those kind of films, you often come across certain tales which end with the line, ‘If you didn’t laugh, you’d cry’, and I suppose that’s the tone I aim for.”

“There’s a sequence where the character, Phil, attempts suicide and is eventually wheeled into hospital with enormous clown boots on. Listening to an audience react to that, when they feel they should be upset, but actually find themselves

“I knew this story was going to offend a lot of people”

laughing, and emit the strangest of noises, is strangely rewarding.”

The 2000 film, *Purely Belter* further explores the consequences of poverty, including domestic violence, through following the lives of two young football fans who want to buy a season ticket to Newcastle United. “There’s a scene where the drunk absent father is singing karaoke, ‘Always on My Mind’, when his desperate son seeks his help.

“He mixes singing lines like ‘Maybe I didn’t treat you quite as good as I could have’ with hurling abuse at him. Again, it’s horrible and vile, but people can’t help laughing through their grimaces. Some people think these things happen by accident.”

It remains relatively unusual for directors to also write the screenplay for the film, especially when working for the main production companies - such as Walt Disney, for whom Mark adapted *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* - but this is how he prefers to work.

“You need to love it. I would worry that perhaps, as only a director, I might not fully understand the screenwriter’s intentions, although admittedly I sometimes get that on my own scripts too.”

Which brings us to discussing *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. Based on the novel by John Boyne, the film shows the horrors of the Holocaust through the eyes of two children. Bruno is the son of a high-ranking Nazi officer who manages a concentration camp. During the film he befriends one of the prisoners in the camp, a boy named Shmuel, and their friendship progresses to find its chilling conclusion inside one of the camp’s gas chambers.

The film, and the book on which it was based, have been criticised for the implausibility of the situation, an inaccuracy that its adapter and director were aware would create controversy. “It was a particularly delicate area because of the sensitivity of the subject matter. The key thing was to try and make the story feel like a fable.

But while you’re doing that you still have to concentrate on being historically accurate, at least visually. It was totally inaccurate in its main theme; boys that age would not have lasted 10 minutes after arriving at an extermination camp. Although I knew this story was going to offend a lot of people (through that huge inaccuracy), I was still very keen to make it.

“I felt that if this story emotionally engrossed just one child enough to want to learn more about the subject, then it was a film worth making. The story bears absolutely no scrutiny, the film is one you have to enter with your heart rather than your head. It is not a documentary, but, as we’d hoped, it has proved to have been a springboard for education rather than an education in itself.”

After a short while away from film-making, Mark is now preparing to shoot a new film, *Never Say Jamais*. Filming begins in France next year, so he doesn’t want to give too much away, but it already looks set to be another brilliant film that combines drama, pathos and comedy; he describes it as “a grandson and grandfather road/buddy movie” and promises us “Love, lies, deception, boules, all sorts.” **M**

The Imitation Game

Anna Sinclair

“Are you paying attention?” This is the question Morten Tyldum’s new biopic immediately asks of its audience. As the next two hours play out, it’s hard not to give this startling piece of drama every inch of attention span the average student can manage.

The Imitation Game follows the life story of Alan Turing, the Cambridge mathematician who helped crack the Enigma code used by the Germans during the second world war. Turing was later convicted of gross indecency – i.e. homosexuality – and sentenced to chemical castration in 1952, before committing suicide a year later.

The film flits between Turing in Manchester in the early 1950s, his school years at Sherbourne, and the team of code breakers working in Bletchley Park during wartime. These constant shifts, from the bleak, dull greyness of Manchester to the bright, cheery tones of the 1940s, make sure the audience see everything through the tragic lens of Turing’s fate. Unsettling as it is, the injustice Turing faced after his wartime triumphs, rather than the action itself, forms the backbone of the whole drama.

Throughout the film, much is made of the parallels between the Enigma code and the

enigmatic genius of the man behind breaking it. It’s easy at this point to see why Benedict Cumberbatch was the obvious choice for such a role. His turn as another delightfully tactless, insufferable yet loveable mastermind might cry typecast to some. Although some Sherlockian tendencies appear at odd moments – Turing’s complete inability to understand flirting being one of them – inevitable comparisons are silenced by the sheer conviction of Cumberbatch’s performance.

It would have been easy to play up Turing as the quintessentially arrogant genius, yet Cumberbatch makes sure Turing’s humanity is not lost in the face of logic. He instead manages to tread the fine line between the brilliant mathematician and the boy tortured at school for “being different”. However, the audience is left unsure as to whether this isolation is mainly due to the secret of Turing’s homosexuality, or the social awkwardness that accompanies his genius – the film seems to treat them as one and the same.

The other stand-out performance came from Keira Knightley as Joan, one of Turing’s fellow code breakers and a self-admitted “woman in a man’s world”. A welcome relief from the male-heavy cast, Knightley is able to portray a woman of extreme intelligence with-

★★★★★



out compromising on femininity, and does it so well that Hollywood scriptwriters everywhere should be taking notes.

The Imitation Game, then, deserves all the accolades that will no doubt come its way. Without resorting to clichés, it manages to

convey its message with enough conviction to make it poignant. As Joan whispers to Turing as he sits weeping in his home in Manchester, “It is the people who no one imagines anything of that can do the things no one can imagine”.



Lewis

Katy Sandalls

After 8 series, *Lewis* has finally come to an end with ‘Beyond Good and Evil’: a two-parter centred on a police killer named Graham Lawrie (Alec Newman). Lawrie had been put away by Lewis in 2001 and wanted to prove his innocence once and for all.

The story was full of the usual *Lewis* intrigue and mystique, with DS Maddox (Angela Griffin) was right at the heart of it, but sadly not in a positive way, as she found herself a victim of the renewed attacks on police officers.

The introduction of her husband, Tony this week finally helped to develop her character, which previously seemed to have been lacking. There was a real tenderness between the two that is reminiscent of the relationship we see between Hobson (Clare Holman) and Lewis.

Hathaway (Laurence Fox) and Lewis’ relationship was once again up for discussion this week. Whilst it is always interesting to look deeply into the bond between the two, the constant to-ing and fro-ing that seems to have taken place this series has just been excruciating. Once: yes, twice: no. It seems absurd that Hathaway should doubt everything about Lewis at the time when he needs him the most.

As for the story itself, Lewis’ final trip appeared to me to be much darker and more calculating than usual. The cliff-hangers were gripping, with the outcome of the murder trial and Maddox’s impending fate proving a tantalising ending to part one. The resolution was neat and not unexpected; Lewis never fails to show how far people will go for love.

Lewis has provided seven years of absolute delight. There was always going to be the worry that it would be lost in the shadow of *Morse*, or that it would try to be too similar to it. Although there have been the occasional nods back to its past, *Lewis* has always succeeded in looking towards the future.

Robbie Lewis has developed in such a natural way over the past eight series, from a man pained by the death of his wife and struggling to find his place in this world, to one who can contentedly look backwards and forwards in his life without fear.

Right by his side has been the smart, charming, but utter emotional wreck that is James Hathaway. He has never felt like the number two in the relationship, but an equal to Lewis, who once commented that together they make a brilliant detective. Lewis was wrong – together they make two amazing detectives and both will be sorely missed.

Robbie, James, thank you.

★★★★★

Nightcrawler

Alex Killeen

★★★★★

When walking into the screening for *Nightcrawler*, my expectations were ambiguous at the best – promo for the film has been relatively low key. It follows the story of Lou Bloom (Jake Gyllenhaal) as he enters the world of night-time crime and accident journalism on the streets of LA. *Nightcrawler* works to reveal what lies beneath the surface of the City of Angels.

Bloom is, perhaps, one of the most disturbing characters that has arisen from modern film. Gyllenhaal’s performance as an obsessive character, bordering on the psychotic, is absolutely spot on. Bloom’s status as a complete loner and his egocentric ambitions for life emanate through Gyllenhaal’s acting.

The cast also brilliantly emphasises this loneliness. Essentially, there are two other main characters: Nina (Rene Russo), a night-time news director desperate for job security, and Nick (Riz Ahmed), a young homeless man that Nick takes on as his assistant. His main interactions are with these two characters, and tinges of his sociopathic tendencies progressively grow as his relationships with the two develop.

The obsession with money is a huge factor in this film: it is Bloom’s complete and only motivation. Watching him on-screen is like watching a fanatic. He immerses himself

in the world of media, playing on the fear-mongering tropes and self-interest that motivates global and local news stations.

This impact of the film isn’t solely effected through actor’s performances, the cinematography is nothing short of beautiful: landscape shots of LA by night are incredible to the eye, and the glinting lights and static movements create the sense of a zombie city whose atmosphere becomes sinister as the sun goes down. Morals fall and the degradation of the city becomes evident.

The film’s soundtrack complements the increasingly darkening tone of the script. It starts with light-hearted and motivational compositions. When Bloom experiences high moments, the sound is uplifting and, even though he’s a strange character at the beginning of the film, you still unperturbed. Gradually, the music evolves into more ominous tones and traces Bloom’s descent into obsessive extremes, as his already questionable moral compass begins to point south.

Nightcrawler is excellent at what it does. Its twisted and subversive representations of modern America’s relationships with media scandal and the pursuit of monetary gain provide some thought-provoking material, with enough of an entertaining edge to make for a thrilling and tense cinematic experience.



Feeding the community

Emily Myers talks to **Nicky Gladstone**, project leader of Carecent, about providing for the less fortunate of York this Christmas

As Christmas approaches, many people look forward to the festive meals associated with the occasion. Thinking little about their financial circumstances, people flock to the supermarkets to buy turkeys, puddings, gingerbread and pie. This luxury is not available to the most deprived in society: however, there are certain organisations in York which ensure that nobody goes hungry at Christmas.

Carecent is a volunteer-led community based project at the Central Methodist Church in York city centre. The ecumenical centre provides food, clothes and support to York's most deprived individuals. Nicky Gladstone, the project leader, is helped out by around 50 volunteers.

The centre provides breakfast seven days a week from 8.30am to 10.45am, and on a "daily basis feeds between 40 and 60 people".

At Christmas time, the centre hopes to spread festivities and "on Christmas day there is an average of about 40 people". Nicky explains that their customers are socially isolated, often homeless or generally deprived.

She goes on to explain that there are currently around "12 people who are actually rough sleeping on the streets of York at the minute" and not only do they cater for the homeless, but also for "people who feel they slipped outside of society a bit". Despite the circumstances of most, Nicky stresses Carecent has a great community feel.

The centre is completely funded by donations, and hopes to spread the word of what can be donated. As the centre only provides breakfast, they rely on certain types of food: "On one day we will go through about 12 cans of beans, between four and six cans of tomatoes, about the same of tinned spaghetti, three or four cans of corned beef, three or four tins of ham, huge amounts of cereal and two massive pots of porridge."

Of course, every day is different, and the volume of food needed fluctuates depending on how many people attend the breakfasts and how much people consume. The centre provides free food to those who are in need, and at each breakfast time the customers are allowed as much food as they want. Nicky tells us how they'd "rather give four small portions



IMAGE: CARECENT

and have it all eaten than give a massive piled up plate and see half of it come back."

The extreme generosity of the centre ensures that people have a good start to the day and are full as they leave the premises. The centre hopes that the community atmosphere allows "people to connect to the right agencies", whether this be the Salvation Army or Job Seekers.

Nicky tells us how the volunteers interact with the customers and ensure they chat regularly as breakfast is enjoyed. The centre likes to promote the fact that within the community you are "treated like the human being that you are." She continues by stating: "I think that's really our strength, because we're not professional, we're not joined up to any big organisation but we're just genuine and kind to people."

Although the centre is open all year, a spe-

cial effort is made at Christmas to help those in need. Nicky describes Christmas at the centre as "lovely", she tells us how on Christmas Eve they're "open as usual, and when we shut, a whole team of volunteers and customers come in, sit down together and prep all of the veg and decorate the room". Nicky indicated that the day encompasses the true values of Christmas, as it becomes such a "shared experience."

On Christmas Day, the centre opens later than usual, and a full Christmas dinner is served. This provides much joy as deprived people are able to be part of a community on Christmas Day and celebrate the event with others.

"Christmas is always mixed, because spending Christmas in a hostel or going for a breakfast centre Christmas dinner can be a terribly sad thing to have to do ... But it's

actually very happy on the day, it's very, very lovely."

The centre has been around for 30 years, and is well established in the area. It provides a place for people to go and get food, clothes and support from volunteers who really want to make a difference in York.

Nicky smiles as she tells us that the customers often refer to the centre as 'carebears', as opposed to Carecent. This clearly shows how grateful many deprived people feel towards the centre and its volunteers.

At Christmas time many are very charitable and often donate to such causes. The centre currently needs donations of tinned meat, such as corned beef, spam, ham or hot dogs. They also are in need of sugar. The Carecent website has a full description of what would currently be most beneficial to its customers, so take a moment and have a look online. **M**

Breakfast at Christmas

Sophie Mann

Gingerbread Overnight Oats

Ingredients

1/2 cup oats
1 ripe banana, mashed
1/4 tsp ginger
sprinkle of mixed spice
1/4 cup raisins
1 tsp agave nectar
1 tsp almond butter
1 tbsp flaxseed
1 tbsp chia seeds
1 tbsp greek yoghurt
1/3 cup brown rice milk
- or any alternative



Method

Pop all the ingredients into a jar/pot and put it in the fridge overnight. In the morning, top with whatever you like. I choose berries, cacao nibs and pumpkin seeds.



IMAGES: SOPHIE MANN

Apple Pie Porridge

Ingredients

1 apple, grated
1/3 cup oats
1 cup almond milk
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp mixed spice
1/2 tsp vanilla
2 tsp maple syrup
1/3 cup raisins
1 tsp almond butter
1 tbsp Greek yoghurt

Method

Add all the ingredients, except the Greek yoghurt and almond butter, into a pan. Cook over a medium-low heat for about 10 minutes until the porridge is starting to thicken. Add the yoghurt and almond butter. Top with granola, chopped dates and coconut sugar to taste.

Holiday Truce

Holly Knight writes about the edible exchanges of Christmas 1914



Christmas has always been a special time of year, uniting families and friends together all over the world, even if only for one day.

Sometimes, amidst the hysteria of Christmas shopping, decorating our houses and spending ridiculous amounts of money on Christmas parties, it is easy to forget what Christmas is really about.

For me, Christmas is a time for sharing and giving, and a time when all prejudices are forgotten, as for just one day, many people have something in common. The idea of uniting together for a common cause was evident during the first world war as a Christmas Day truce occurred in 1914.

Though the truce was not all-encompassing, it was widespread in the trenches between the German and allied forces. A vital aspect of any culture's Christmas Day is the Christmas meal, and in the trenches

on Christmas Day, both German and allied soldiers shared their traditional foods with each other.

Meeting halfway in no-man's land on Christmas Day, soldiers shook hands, got to know each other and exchanged gifts of food. These included sausages - a traditional delicacy in Germany eaten as a part of the Christmas Eve meal - given by the German soldiers in exchange for chocolate: a huge part of any Christmas tradition, as well as beer, wine, cheese and cake.

Cooking has always been a uniting activity and it was even reported by some sectors that German and allied troops hunted together for hares so that they could celebrate Christmas with fresh meat for their meal.

While this may not have been the traditional English turkey roast with brussels sprouts, potatoes and Christmas pudding,

or the German goose or carp roasts with kale, marzipan and fruit bread that the soldiers were used to in their home country, it would have been the perfect way to join together communally under the ceasefire.

Despite the recent controversy that the Sainsbury's 2014 Christmas advert has sparked, I feel, and I hope many would agree, that the portrayal of the truce shows a real essence of what Christmas 'spirit' is all about, regardless of whether it is right to use the issue as a means of advertising.

Fundamentally, the sharing of these gifts and the act of the truce gives us hope that even in times of complete turmoil and chaos, human beings can unite together and forget their troubles - even national troubles - to celebrate a common festivity that they might be unable to celebrate with their loved ones.

This is what Christmas is truly about.

Christmas disasters!

"A member of my family, who shall remain anonymous, once made mince pies with real minced meat and served them to our vegetarian guest. Luckily he smelled it before he took a bite."

-Emily Clifton, 2nd year English student

"I was serving everyone their Christmas dinner and, despite having been told countless times that one particular guest had a nut allergy, I got distracted and spooned a great hunk of nut roast on top of his turkey. It immediately crumbled, touching every single item on the plate."

-Lizzie Leusink, 2nd year Languages student

"We had a Mexican friend staying with us over Christmas, who wasn't entirely acquainted with our festive traditions. The big day arrived and, to our horror, we came downstairs to discover he had eaten half the Christmas pudding for breakfast: it was raw."

- Sam Zak, 1st year History student

"Forgetting to defrost the turkey has led to an unconventional chicken Christmas dinner on more than one occasion."

- Laura Cook, 2nd year Mathematics student

"After 60 years of suffering Christmas puddings that refused to light, my father finally realised last year that you are supposed to warm the alcohol beforehand. No more eating puddings in the pitch black for us!"

- Molly Bell, 2nd year English student

"A couple of years ago we were having our huge family Christmas dinner and I had fulfilled the role of 'table decorator' with true verve. The table was strewn with confetti and streamers, paper hats, and a heap of sparkly ornaments. Eventually the moment for Christmas pudding arrived. Lights were extinguished and the bulging fireball of brandy-soaked fruit was presented, in all its regal form, to the table. In the moment of its placement, a sudden jolt led to it rolling onto my collection of inflammable trimmings. Having doused the pudding in water, we persevered and forced down the soggy dessert: never again."

- Helena Marshall, 2nd year English student

"Last year, we ventured to my brother-in-law's for a joint Christmas and our first away from home. It became quite clear that we were all out of our comfort zone when noticing her empty plate, my father enquired whether Mrs Joughin might like a 'stuffing up her end?'"

- George Dabby, 2nd year History and Politics student

The Marmite of Christmas

Do brussels sprouts really deserve their bad reputation?

Not at all.

Rachel Long

Year by year, the sprout is shunned by those who resolutely oppose its unique smell, taste, and texture. Yet for many, sprouts are an essential component of the Christmas dinner. They argue that they are better than pigs-in-blankets, parsnips, and stuffing.

In my view, this delightful vegetable is both misunderstood and undervalued, so how could I persuade an anti-sproutist to give it another chance?

For me, sprouts are not only tasty and comforting, but a symbol of my open attitude towards different food types. For those who dislike the veg, consider your exact motivations as to why. Do you nurse a childish defiance of all things green and healthy, or do you simply conform to the general aversion of the sprout? Of course, you may honestly hate the taste - but when was the last time you actually ate it?

Although generally associated with Christmas dinner, the sprout conceals within its leaves endless possibilities of culinary potential: it can be boiled, steamed, roasted, grilled, stir-fried, and even sautéed. What's more, it is packed with a wonderful quantity of vitamins and minerals. So open up your taste buds and give sprouts another go.

Definitely.

Amy Norton

Every Christmas, the brussels sprout divides families across the country. But why do they evoke such negative feelings at the happiest time of the year? Firstly, the smell: catching a whiff of a boiled up sprout, for some, can be enough to put you off your turkey. Then there's the taste, much the same as the smell but with an added bitter twist. The texture does little to improve the experience: a soggy inside wrapped in a leafy jacket.

Despite these off-putting qualities, each year they are proudly placed on the table by whichever relative has been dealt the daunting task of preparing the little green balls of festive unpleasantness. Inevitably you will be forced to consume at least one (to get in the festive spirit!) and will most likely be left with a sense of resentment, regret and a really bad taste in your mouth. This in itself is a reason to hate the glorified dwarf cabbage.

The brussels sprout is given a hard time but, let's be honest, rightfully so. Unfortunately for sprout haters, eating them has become a deeply ingrained British tradition, so we'll have to grit our teeth and hold our noses, all for the sake of Christmas.

Illustrating inspiration

Carol Rossetti speaks to Jasmin Hayward about the powerful messages that lie behind her series of illustrations, and her refreshing approach towards feminism

CNN. *The Huffington Post*. *Cosmopolitan*. These are just a few of the publications that have featured Carol Rossetti's *Women* series. With nearly 190,000 'likes' on her Facebook page alone, there is no denying the growing popularity for this emerging form of art activism, and for the quirky illustrator herself.

The concept behind the illustrations is simple yet effective. Acting as a sort of antidote to the negativity of the press, they praise women for their many differences, and emphasise their right to inclusion in society.

The illustrations tackle a range of different topics. From 'Amanda', a woman who has decided that she is proud of letting her body hair grow, to 'Ana', who was raped, to 'Isaura', who has undergone an abortion. The result is a series of beautifully hand drawn post-cards with very powerful messages.

Carol Rossetti is the woman behind it all. The illustrator is not part of a corporation or an activist group. *Women* is her own personal project, which she only in fact started in April of this year. She is Brazilian, from the city of Belo Horizonte, and as well as her career in illustration, she works full time as a graphic designer.

Despite her busy career she has found some time to talk to *Nouse* and satiate our curiosity about her very interesting and widely popular project, the beginnings of which were rather more humble than you might expect.

"I started this project because I'm an illustrator and a

graphic designer, but I used to work mainly with graphic design," recalls Rossetti.

"In order to get more illustration projects I had to show people what I could do. So I tried to make a picture everyday and post it on my Facebook page so I could have a portfolio."

The origin of her first piece was actually a reaction to the typical nasty comments we are all too accustomed to reading.

"I decided to draw a woman - Marina. She's a large girl who wears a striped dress and I drew her because I'd seen a friend of mine make this comment. She took a picture of a large woman wearing yoga pants with her back turned and posted it on Instagram with the caption, 'eugh. My eyes!' and I said 'come on, that is so cruel!'"

Rossetti realised that this was society's problem. "The friend of mine, she's not a bad person. She just didn't realise that she was being so cruel. So I made Marina, which was basically a reflection of same situation. I decided that I would put text with it and have it structured in such a way that it would be as if they were the kind words of a friend of hers."

The popularity of the idea was obvious from the very beginning: "Many people liked the picture, including that same critical friend," Rossetti tells us.

It was this response that made Rossetti realise that issues such as these were what she wanted to address in her illustrations. "I thought at that moment," she recalls, "people don't really think that they're talking about another person, who



has a name, who has a face, who has feelings. So I knew I could do something about it. So I made another illustration and then another one and then another one, and more people were 'liking' and sharing online. I didn't have intentions of starting a big project, but it kind of happened anyway."

Given the story behind the birth of the 'Marina' illustration, it begs the question as to whether there were any influences behind any of the other sketches.

According to Rossetti: "Most of the characters are fictional, but all of the stories are real. My inspiration is ordinary people that we see everyday. I started talking about things that my friends did, or my mother, or any of relatives. At first I started talking about little daily issues, but then I started to get braver and tackle much bigger issues."

Nonetheless, she is keen to emphasise that her work is inspired by ordinary people: "It is so inspirational to just look around you because there is always someone really interesting nearby."

Some of the topics included in the illustrations have been fairly controversial. 'Louise', for example, is depicted as being HIV-positive. Consequently, the series has been viewed and referred to on numerous occasions as having a political and feminist agenda.

Rossetti is proud to admit that her content is of an activist nature: "I think [*Women*] is a form of activism, as representation is a big issue and I touch upon this. The best way, in this case, to fight our current representation, is to try and represent ourselves in a wider way."

"For me, it is the only way I can be an activist. Really, I'm terrible at going to big protests on the street. I'm very lazy. I'm a couch girl."

'Couch girl' she may be, but given the thousands of shares and 'likes' currently occurring in a response to her work across the internet, this form of activism appears to be working.

Does she see art as a form of activism then? "Art, design and illustration all have a big potential to be a good form of activism because they can evoke a lot of emotions. However, that is not to say that all art is activism. It can be whatever moves you."

The concept has been overwhelmingly popular. The project has been covered everywhere from BuzzFeed to the *The Telegraph*. The pictures adorn the Tumblr pages of many teenagers, and the postcards that Rossetti has created are always selling out.

Rossetti believes that this ever-increasing amount of positive feedback is owed to two things. First, she tells us, she be-

"I fight for things I believe in. I believe in inclusion: I believe transgender people, and people with disabilities, and people from everywhere around the world should be considered as equals"



IMAGE: CAROL ROSSETTI



believes it is popular because, “the topic tends to touch women in a personal way.” Her work refers to the everyday realities that women across the world can relate to.

However, she believes her work differs from many other forms of art activism because she, “prefer[s] to always use a kind of speech that is soft, that is not aggressive, that is comforting and very friendly.”

She believes that even “people that genuinely don’t like the word feminism or people who have possibly never even heard of it, tend to be more open minded to see what I’m talking about, without really thinking it over.”

“I think I do my best not to sound angry, even though I am. That is just not my style and I feel that in this way, my work can touch more people.”

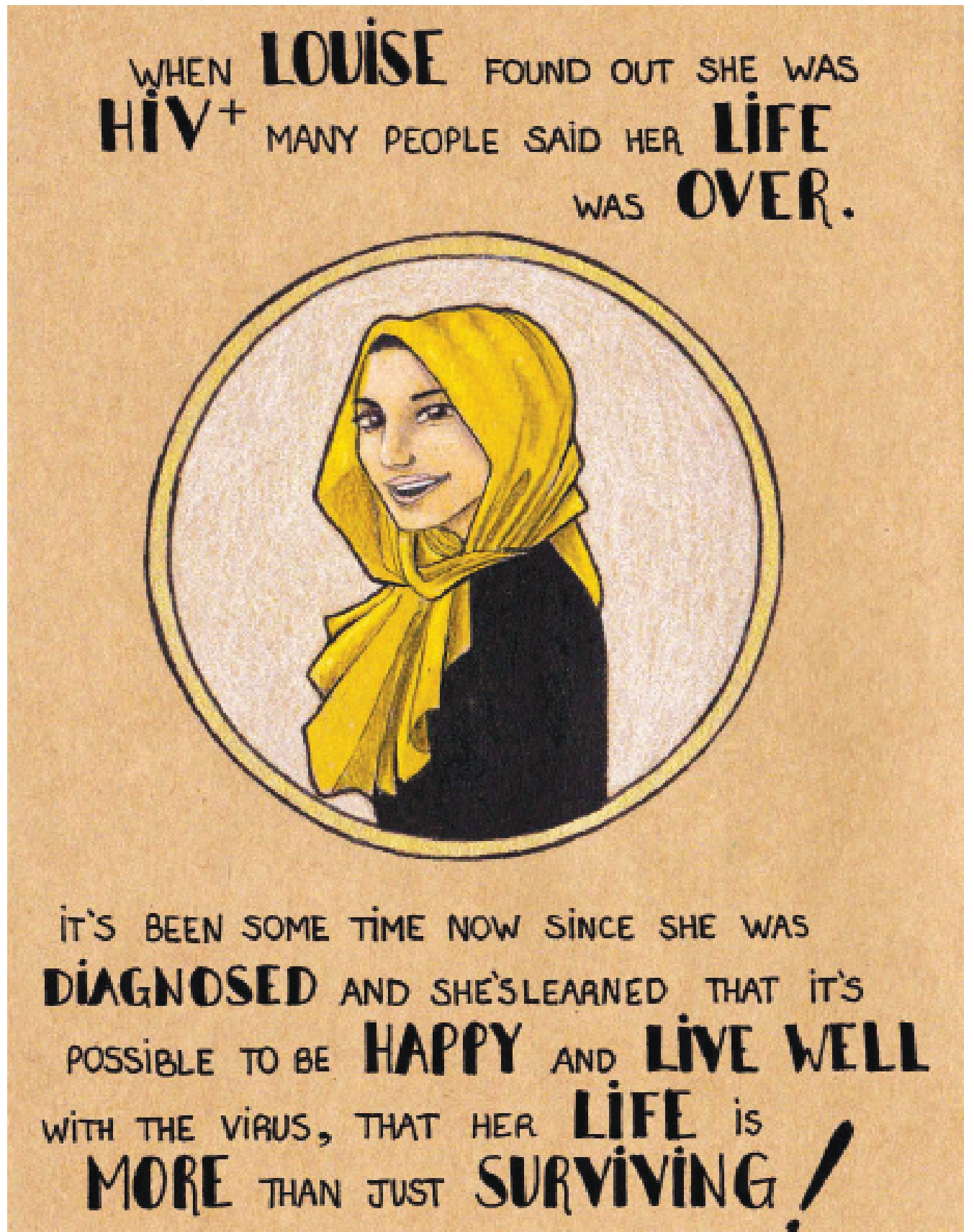
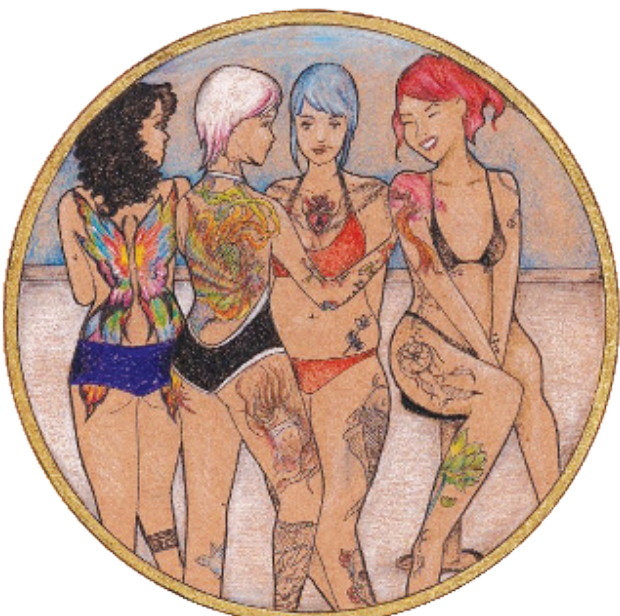
A recent *Time* magazine article regarding a suggested ban of the word ‘feminist’ has foregrounded the debate in the me-

“For me, it is the only way I can be an activist. Really, I’m terrible at going to big protests on the street. I’m very lazy”

dia. Nonetheless, Rossetti is still adamant in her identity as a feminist, though she is aware of the difficulties regarding the movement.

“I think I am a feminist but I think it is also important to understand that it is not one thing that we can define very easily. There are many ways to be a feminist. There are people fighting within feminism. I think it is important to say that I consider myself a feminist, but my work is just one way of being a feminist.”

“I fight for things I believe in. I believe in inclusion: I believe transgender people, and people with disabilities, and people from everywhere around the world should be consid-



ered as equals. I think mostly about inter-sectional feminism that is not the only area I consider important.

“There are many feminists who wouldn’t agree with some of the things that I do. They have a different approach and that is fine to me. I just need to be very careful never to suggest that the way I do things is how feminism should be, because that is really not the point I’m trying to get across.”

Though Rossetti may be tackling some enormous issues, the tools she uses to create such powerful images are nothing out of the ordinary. “I use ordinary coloured pencils. The original ones I used were leftovers from when I was a kid. Then, as the project grew, I managed to buy some better materials. I also use a black ink pen.”

Her choice in design technique was also a similarly simple process: “It was all very continuous. I had some craft paper left over, I made a circle, I made a girl - ‘Marina’ - and then I decided, ‘this composition looks fine.’ It doesn’t have a big context behind it, even though I’m sure there are many pieces that could be said to have influenced it. I just liked what my first one turned out like and decided to stick with it.”

Though no artist or piece of work in particular influenced the *Women* project aesthetically, Rossetti feels there are many influences who inspire her personally: “I find Disney movies very inspiring. I love Disney’s style. I’ve loved it since I was a kid, but I understand that many of them have problematic

issues.”

“Also, I adore comic book artists and graphic novelists such as Will Eisner and Craig Thompson. I will always talk about Amanda Palmer, and I love Neil Gaiman. He may not draw, but his stories have made a huge difference in my life. My husband and I are crazy about graphic novels and comics. Our bookshelves are filled with them.”

Understandably, she isn’t so quick to pick a favourite of her own illustrations: “It is like a mother picking her favourite child. I have a few with which I feel I did a better job with the colour, and so they are aesthetically more interesting. For example, I like ‘Susan’ very much, the girl with the hijab, and also ‘Olivia’ and ‘Linda’, the two girls who are a couple.”

Her success is undeniable. She has already managed to inspire thousands of girls around the world with her kind and charming approach.

However, it all begs an important question: What is next for Carol Rossetti?: “I have many ideas, even ideas for a new project that I’m trying to develop. However, right now, I have really run out of time. Most of this project is by myself. Right now, I just don’t have any time to move it to a new level, but it will happen.”

Though we may have to wait a while for her new material, it seems that there is still a lot more to come from Rossetti and, for now, all we can do is eagerly watch this space. **M**

My shit week so far

Thomas Fennelly

Well, where do I even start? Let's start with last edition's omni-shambles (or is it omni-shambi?) that involved a debacle with the local council. I say debacle, I'd be calling it a 'pickle' if I was putting it politely. As I am not, I'm just going to opt for 'cluster-fuck'.

In a rare piece of good news, I have been cleared of all criminal charges. In a far too frequent piece of ever-reoccurring bad news, they informed me that everyone in my house was council tax exempt... apart from me.

Not only has Microsoft Word's spell-check just informed me that I have, in fact, been spelling 'exempt' wrong in every piece of correspondence that I've had with them, the University also chose to omit me from the student list they provide for the council. The reason for this became clear just the next day when Financial Services informed me that I owed them a lot of unpaid fees. It turns out that I had never completed my application for student finance for this year. I'd probably have more luck with Ocean Finance.

In a grovelling attempt to rectify the situation, I went running to Financial Services with a lacklustre apology and nothing that you could call an excuse. They sent me to the Student Financial Support Services next door who could deal with Student Finance England for me, except I wasn't going to get an appointment for two weeks as they proved to be as useful as a coeliac in a bakery.

From accounts I've heard from peers that have tried to use them before, the staff seem to have an uncanny ability to point out the obvious and look at you discerningly.

It would have been quicker for me to walk to Student Finance England's office in Darlington and carry the money back in a wheel-barrow with a square tyre. Or maybe I could ride on the rather perturbing plastic

"It would have been quicker for me to walk to Student Finance England's office in Darlington and carry the money back in a wheel-barrow with a square tyre"

donkey that they ominously sit in the corner of the room, watching your every move; or maybe that's more of a physical metaphor to the people who actually work there.

Their level of efficiency is only matched by the Health Centre, where you can't book to see a doctor for over two weeks. By that time, you'll either be better or dead. I'd

rather try my chances with an enema picked at random by a fresher from the Hull York Medical School than attempt to seek medical attention on campus.

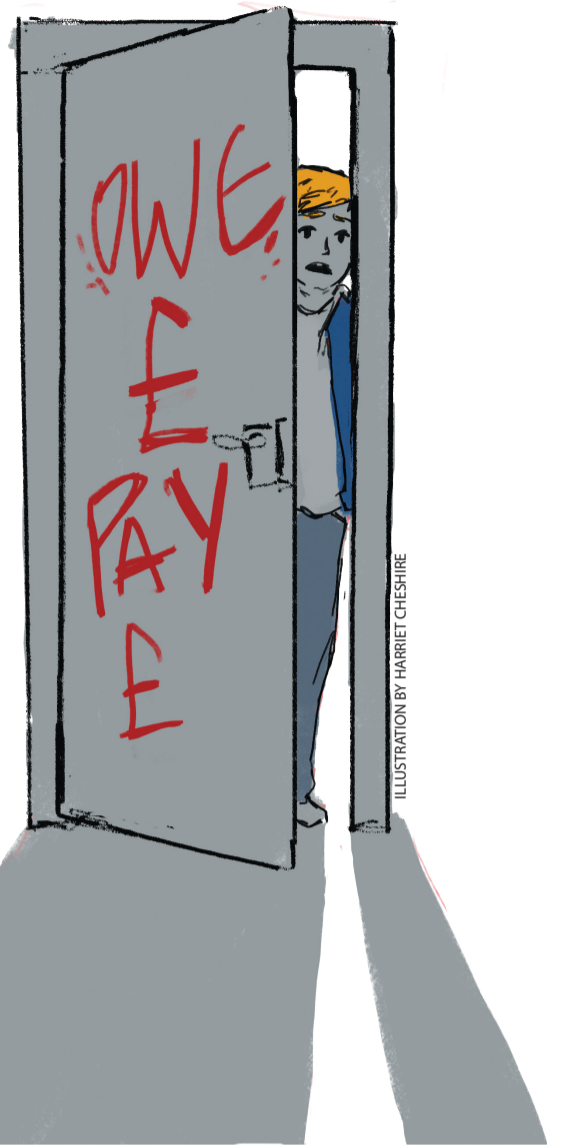
Waiting times are at a level where you almost have to predict when you think you're going to be ill via your horoscopes and then book an appointment accordingly. I'm on the cusp between Scorpio and Sagittarius (yes, it's my birthday, bring me gifts, don't just remind me of it on Facebook), so I can't even read my bloody horoscope anyway.

I may as well book in with my doctor for monthly visits and, when there's nothing actually wrong with me, I can just use him as a shrink and tell him all the shit things that happen to me and consequently end up in this column. He'll probably end up having an aneurism, and then have to wait another month just to see someone about it.

In short, I'm about as popular with the authorities as Rolf Harris' application to appear on this year's Children in Need. "Two little boys..." yes, just stop there, Rolf.

The rest of my time has been spent desperately applying for 40,000 graduate jobs whilst shepherding obnoxious freshers out of the library via the second floor window.

But in a brighter piece of news, a lady next to me in the library just snorted exceptionally loudly. Suddenly everything is ok again.



Listings



FILM.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1. 25 November, 9pm: City Screen

Non-Stop. 25 November, 7.30pm: P/X/001

Gone Girl. 2 December, 7.30pm: P/X/001

Blade Runner: The Final Cut. 14 December, 8.30pm: City Screen

Royal Opera House Live: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. 16 December, 7.15pm: City Screen



MUSIC.

University of York Concert Band. 22 November, 7.30pm: Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall

Jesse Malin, Hollis Brown, Don DiLegio. 27 November, 7.30pm: City Screen Basement

Basement Open Mic Night. 29 November, 7.30pm: The Basement

Man Made. 4 December, 7.30pm: Fibbers

Sweet Baboo & The Pictish Trail. 10 December, 8pm: The Basement



STAGE.

Vienna Festival Ballet's The Nutcracker. 25 November, 7.30pm: Grand Opera House York

Mr Puntilla and his Man Matti. 27-29 November, 6.30pm: Studio, York Theatre Royal

A Christmas Carol. 28-30 November, 7.30pm: Drama Barn

Christmas Comedy Night. 30 November, 7pm: Central Hall

Into the Woods. 3-6 December, 7.30pm: Grand Opera House York



ARTS.

The First Date Painting: On Kawara at Altamira. 27 November, 5.30pm: The Bowland Auditorium

Sue Slack: Land of Colour exhibition. Until 7 December: The Cafe Gillygate York

Winter's Mark. Until 18 January: The White Room Gallery

Chris Ceaser Photography. The Gallery, Micklegate, York

1914: When the World Changed Forever. York Castle Museum



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Politics



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STUDENT HACK



IMAGE: JVOVES

Diego Antonio Gómez, current ambassador to the UK from the United Mexican States, spoke at the University on 14 November on issues in Mexico. The Berrick Saul Auditorium, where he spoke, was flanked by peaceful student protesters against the nation's treatment of the missing students.



IMAGE: JAMES ALEXANDER

The head of the York City Council, James Alexander (Labour), quit his post last week. His resignation comes hours after a planned vote of no-confidence in him by the opposition. He will be joining Ed Miliband in May 2015 as a policy advisor.



IMAGE: YORK LABOUR

Hugh Bayley MP hosted a representative parliamentary meeting at the University on 14 November. He tried to compel a small audience on the importance of NATO membership and defence spending.

Student protests: What are we fighting for?

Felix Forbes
POLITICAL REPORTER

Student protests. Two words guaranteed to elicit a groan from the rest of the country.

It turns out that if you stick a lot of people in an area, begin teaching them advanced and interesting ideas, and let them ferment those ideas with youthful optimism, a lot of the time the resulting mixture is a shouty, stridently opinionated one. Occasionally, it's even explosive.

Student protests seem, by and large, to be aimed at improving the world, and tend to combine enthusiasm and ideology. The 1832 uprising in Paris (that we all know from *Les Mis*) is a glorious example of student protest stereotypes taken further than we're used to. It combines hopeless optimism, a desire to change the world, and total failure.

With the tuition fees protests of a few years back, and the 19 November march in London, you might be forgiven for thinking that student protest had become something rather self-interested. After all, crusading for the noble cause of paying less money for a world-beating education doesn't sound like the most altruistic of causes.

That lazy characterisation



IMAGE: THE SPYGLASS

Student protests are not self-interested, they support several issues

aside, it's worth noting that protest tends to be aimed more at social good than just what's being taken out of our pockets.

The current protests in Hong Kong are the most admirable example of student protest - avowedly non-violent, aimed at increasing the democratic franchise in the territory. They are so law-abiding, that rubbish on the streets following any protests is often picked up by student volunteers themselves.

Students at the University of London helped striking cleaners in their fight for better working conditions, while in Britain it was students that led the fight to disinvest in South Africa as protest at apartheid, years before the rest of the country caught on.

Even the tuition fees protests (and the more recent march) were aimed not just at narrow self-interest, but also at government cuts that were seen as grotesquely unfair and

disadvantaging those in need. It was students in Iran who helped spearhead the democratising protests of the 2009 Green Revolution, which was eventually only suppressed by force. While in 1979, radical Iranian students held American diplomats hostage, and the world aghast, for 444 days.

Student protest nowadays seems to focus on the gathering of signatures for petitions, online or otherwise, carefully publicised gatherings and in certain cases, as with many popular protest movements, the occupation of key administrative buildings. This is a trend seen everywhere from Liverpool in 1970, to Senate House in London in 2010 and governmental offices in Hong Kong now.

A careful stranglehold on key admin functions mixed with a public presence and an avowed cause tend to be the keys to protest nowadays, in keeping with modern traditions of general protest.

Links with current non-student causes, as with the Occupy movement, only serve to reinforce student protests. It seems that where students can make the greatest difference is where they act alongside the greater populace to achieve a common aim.

Finance report deems it "unsustainable"

Rosie Frost
POLITICAL REPORTER

A report by the Higher Education Commission has stated that current system of higher education student finance that came into place in 2012, is effectively unsustainable. It has predicted that under the new system with fees capped at £9,000 as opposed to £3225. Previously, students will amass an average of £44,035 of debt and only 27% will be able to fully pay this back, before it is wiped, 30 years after repayments begin.

Leaving, for now, the question of the fairness and morality of charging such high fees for an undergraduate degree, this report shows that system is a failing one.

With such a low number of students able to pay off their debt, the government is having to initially subsidise fees. Later they wipe the debt, taking on the financial burden of higher education, without being able to take any of the credit, leaving them with "the worst of both worlds", as the report describes it.

A financial forecast in March 2014 suggested that the current system will actually cost more than the one it replaced; with this new report it is not hard to see why.

All of this begs the question why the fees were introduced in the first

place? It would be imagined that somewhere within the government, one brilliant brain might have seen this coming. The report is critical of the attempt by the government to try and introduce a market system to a sector that does not work on the market.

In my view, the decision to 'marketise' higher education was a cynical, ideological one, inappropriate for the education sector. However whatever your view point, this report shows that damage the system is now doing.

Burdening students with a debt nearing £50,000, the "unforeseen problems...in the economy and society" could be extremely dangerous and damaging.

Concerns have been raised about what this might do to inter-generational inequality. In addition, the effect it might have on an average, 30-something middle earner, such as a teacher or health worker who needed a degree for their job, trying to get a mortgage has raised particular problems.

This is despite the promises made by the then universities minister, David Willets, that the debt would have no impact on mortgage applications. I'm unsure how he could have hoped to guarantee this.

In Germany, public pressure



IMAGE: LENDING MEMO

The report proves that the student finance increase was incorrect

has resulted in the removal of tuition fees. On 19 November, thousands of students marched through London to protest about the fees, but coverage on the news was almost non-existent, and wasn't helped by the lack of support from the NUS.

Why are we taking this system

lying down? It is bad for students, and for our futures. The report details the many public and private, social and economic, benefits of higher education, and the ways that these fees could potentially damage it. Finally, as the report shows, the policy is also bad for the government, the treasury and the taxpayer.

Miliband and the future of Labour

Matt Anthony
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Do you ever wish the other guy had won? A question posed to Ed Miliband at the CBI conference earlier this month. Failing to look up in response, Miliband answered 'Definitely not'. Yet, given the turbulent past few months that the Labour leader has had to endure, he could be forgiven for briefly entertaining such a thought.

Meanwhile, reports from earlier this month would suggest that others within the Labour party have definitely considered this prospect, with an alleged plot by back bench Labour MPs to oust Ed Miliband from party leadership. In reaction to the recent dive in certain polls, (a recent YouGov poll indicating that a rather decisive 49% believe that Labour could win the next election if Miliband was to stand down) it has been claimed that three back bench Labour MPs consulted the Parliamentary Labour Party Chairman over the need for their leader's resignation. However, Miliband has swiftly denied such rumours, stating them to be have been 'nonsense' as well as many Shadow cabinet members, including Ed Balls, rallying to his defence.

Yet despite whether such rumours are confirmed to be true or not, what resonates is the larger issue of Ed Miliband's portrayal of Labour's direction in the lead up to the election. Perhaps one of the most significant examples can be seen from the negative reception which he received for his highly an-

ticipated speech during the Labour Party conference back in September. Originally, it was speculated that the Conservatives, having just suffered two UKIP defections, would have difficulty in rousing support for an increasingly divided party at their conference. But with standing ovations for the likes of William Hague and Boris Johnson, who confidently brushed the 'kippers' aside, the question of party unity was certainly not on the agenda. Meanwhile, in the face of addressing the Labour party following the success of Scottish Labour's 'No' campaign, Miliband was widely criticised in failing to rouse members as well as not addressing such key issues, chiefly, economic policy.

It's not just the traditional dual against the Conservatives which Ed Miliband and Labour now have to deal with. It's clear that the Tories are not the only party that face the wrath of UKIP, with Nigel Farage's charge towards Westminster speculated to be affecting Labour seats as well. Moreover, further north, in spite of having fought a winning campaign during the Scottish referendum, Labour now have to contend with record SNP membership, with their newly elected leader, Nicola Sturgeon, confident that the question of Scottish independence has not quite been put to bed.

With the Shadow Cabinet as well as the likes of former PM Tony Blair giving their full backing, it has been speculated that the challenge which the Labour leader now faces is the conveying of the Labour's message. As a party, a ComRes poll



Ed Miliband is feeling the pressure after a string of "gaffs" has left his party questioning his leadership

has indicated that Labour remains in the lead at 34%, four points ahead of the Conservatives. However, it also found that only one in five could see Ed Miliband as prime minister.

While embarrassing photos of Miliband awkwardly giving money to the homeless or enjoying a bacon sandwich may not do him any favours, the leader has been slammed for his failure to engage with the electorate. Former Labour deputy PM John Prescott has claimed that he is too 'timid' as well as there being wider speculation over his overly negative campaigning strategy.

With less than six months to go,

the clear question that Labour face is not whether Ed Miliband should lead, but how he should lead. Justifiably, the four broadcasters, the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Sky have stated that this decision was based on "changes in the political landscape" since 2010.

Yet despite the controversy, it is clear that although still relatively new to British political campaigning, the TV debate is here to stay. The 2010 debates attracted around 22 million viewers and greatly aided Cameron, while this year's Scottish referendum debates were pinnacle focal points.

They have been seen to give

greater encouragement to younger voters, contributing to the intention of a further debate being broadcast in conjunction with YouTube, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Guardian*.

Of course, they have not always reflected election outcomes, perhaps due to emphasis on personal-ity over policy.

The sweep of 'Cleggmania' in 2010 was not reflected by the surprise loss of five Lib Dem seats.

Should the parties agree to this format, the results of these fixtures, including UKIP's appearance, will be seen next year, when the debates are proposed to take place on April 2nd, 16th and 30th.

Sturgeon's rise: What's next for the SNP?

Oliver Alderton
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Following Alexander Salmond's resignation after defeat in the Scottish referendum, Nicola Sturgeon was announced as the new leader of the Scottish National Party on November 14 after a relatively long history with the party; Sturgeon has been a member since 1986, aged just 16.

From the beginning she was an advocate for nuclear disarmament and this is still reflected in her current politics as she looks to campaign for the removal of the Trident submarine from Faslane, which has met firm resistance from the current UK government.

Comparisons have been made to Margaret Thatcher, though she has claimed that where Thatcher divided a nation, she intends to unite Scotland and move across the divisive issues in order to gain independence for Scotland. This is a goal which she is adamant is achievable in her lifetime.

If she is able to achieve unity amongst the Scottish people as she promises, then there is little in the way of a victory for independence in a future referendum.

It should be noted that Sturgeon has paid tribute to Salmond, her former mentor in politics, and



Nicola Sturgeon is confident she can lead Scotland into an independent future after Salmond's failure

his efforts in pushing for Scottish independence.

However, Sturgeon clearly has her own goals in mind. Firstly, she has clearly stated that the SNP will refuse to make any future deals with the current Conservative government regarding the future of Scotland.

The same was said for the La-

bour party, though a deal may happen should Labour agree to remove Trident from Faslane.

Furthermore, during an SNP speech in Perth, Sturgeon outlined her aims, which focused around economic and social progress.

In particular, she highlighted the empowering of communities, raising attainment in schools, do-

mestic abuse and gender inequality as the main issues to be tackled.

For Sturgeon it is not simply a matter of following in the footsteps of Salmond; since the referendum, the membership of the SNP has trebled and so she is leading a far larger and stronger political party.

Furthermore, not one person from the 80,000 strong party chal-

lenged Sturgeon's ascension to leader of the SNP, which is credit to the cohesion of the party.

One issue that the surge in membership has caused is that the SNP now has membership figures higher than both the Liberal Democrats and UKIP combined and Sturgeon has suggested it is an injustice that the party has not yet been invited to televised debates alongside the Conservatives, Labour, UKIP and the Liberal Democrats.

Since Sturgeon's appointment as head of the SNP, all signs point to a revival of the campaign for Scottish independence. Speaking at the conference in Perth she argued that a victory in a referendum, would result in a 'fairer and more prosperous Scotland'.

It appears Sturgeon has not quite accepted the loss in the referendum and states "we will not let Westminster drag us back to business as usual" though her short term goal is to make sure Westminster adheres to the promises it made throughout the lead up to the referendum.

To push for another vote immediately after defeat suggests sour grapes. However, it will remain to be seen, with a somewhat revitalised SNP, whether her promise that "Scotland will become an independent country" becomes a reality in the near future.

Politics

Catalonian independence referendum

Christopher Scott
POLITICAL REPORTER

The decision of the Scottish people to remain part of the UK in September sparked relief across Britain. However, the decision by the British government to grant the Scottish people the opportunity to decide their future may have fuelled demands for similar referendums in other European countries.

Nowhere is this feeling stronger than in Catalonia, the most prosperous region of Spain. Although the region has been a part of Spain since the 18th century, it has kept many of its distinct characteristics, separate from the rest of Spain. These differences have helped to drive its independence movement, for which support has grown substantially since the start of the Eurozone crisis.

The downturn in Catalonia has been less severe than in the rest of Spain, with real GDP only falling by 0.8 per cent, compared to 1.2 per cent for Spain itself. GDP per capita also remains higher at €26,666, relative to an average €22,279 for the whole of Spain. All of this means that despite only having 16 per cent of Spain's overall population, Catalonians contribute 25 per cent of the income from taxation received from the federal government. As such, they feel they pay disproportionately for Spain's economic problems, such as its high levels of government debt.

In response to the growing public support for independence, on the 9 November, the Catalanian government held a non-binding



Catalonia's plea for an independence referendum confirms that "where there is a will there is a way"

referendum on whether Catalonia should be an independent country. Although turnout was only roughly 40 per cent of those eligible to vote, 80.8 per cent of those who participated wanted Catalonia to become an independent state. The vote has increased pressure on the Spanish government to give Catalonia a formal independence referendum. However, even though Mariano Rajoy, the Spanish Prime Minister, has said he is willing to negotiate with the Catalan people in order to improve ties between Catalonia and the state, he has refused to hold a referendum.

This is fuelled by fears that if Catalonia was granted independence, other regions might also de-

mand their own referendums. Previously the region has been at the centre of an armed conflict with the Spanish and French governments. While armed militias agreed to a ceasefire in 2011, there are growing fears that the conflict could reignite if the Basque Country was not also granted independence.

If Catalonia did gain independence, it could help spark further turmoil in the Eurozone. If creditors were to doubt Spain's ability to repay its debts, government bond yields would once again spike. Such a scenario would likely require Spain to seek financial support such as a bailout. The possibility of this has contributed towards other Eurozone leaders, most notably Angela

Merkel, publicly backing the Spanish government's refusal to grant any referendum to Catalonia.

However, it does remain unclear whether Catalonia would remain as prosperous in the event of independence. Much like Scotland, it is not guaranteed membership of the European Union in the event of independence, which would require the agreement of all member states.

Additionally, it could face further barriers to trade with the rest of Spain, which would remain its biggest export market. Given this uncertainty, it is perhaps preferable for the region to reach a compromise with the Madrid government, which could accommodate its demands for greater autonomy.

Are we heading towards a second cold war?

Will Alderton
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

With the beginning of clearing the debris of the MH17, implementation of the investigation along with the conclusion of the G20 summit in Brisbane, Australia. As a result, the situation in Ukraine has resurfaced in the international arena.

With David Cameron criticising Putin's involvement in the Ukrainian situation and subsequently offering a quasi-ultimatum saying that Russia is at a 'cross roads' in the situation, these kind remarks are not raw rhetoric or empty threats but also come with a warning.

Upon examining the situation, we can see that the Ukraine Crisis is about more than the separatists wanting to become part of Russia. Instead this is more about Russia and Putin reasserting themselves in the world. Russia has been building up its presence in the ruins of post-Soviet Russia.

However, while Russia is making a resurgence in the world politically, it comes with a warning from Mikael Gorbachev that there could be a second Cold War due to Russia being at logger heads on many stand points of foreign policy. For example, their stance on Iran's development of nuclear weapons and to what many see as an unsavoury

alliance with Syria, who use chemical weapons on it on citizenry.

Further Russian foreign policy developments included suspect submarine presence in the Baltic and illegal flying of military airplanes over Northern European countries.

This all comes at a time when foreign policy focus has been targeted at China and the Middle East (with the exception of Bosnia) for the last 20 years and the dwindling significance of NATO, which is seen as a relic of the Cold War. However, with the resurgence of Russia's international presence, and the opposition to them, the importance of NATO has risen. However, the West have united in opposition to Russia's actions through the imposition of trade sanctions and travel bans for high profile Russian government officials and aides to Putin. This only increases mistrust and increases tensions.

With Russia now acting as the opposition to the West, and the West uniting in their former alliances of the Cold War, it is difficult not to compare the trend to the situation of the Cold War. Trade sanctions, the formation of alliances, localised war in Ukraine, suspect military activity, (for example the MH17 crash), submarine activity in the Baltic and a flotilla of Russian warship sailing towards Northern



Putin's foreign policy is a cause for concern for many nations

Australia all adding to worsening relations.

With the UN and G20 powerless to resolve the heightening tensions, this has left individual countries along with NATO and the EU to try and deal with the situation themselves. This has led to polarisation through the isolation of Russia and the unity of the West against

Russia's action.

If the international community cannot resolve the tensions and find a solution, we could in effect start to experience a Cold War like relationship with Russia. Be it a mini Cold War or a second Cold War, unless the situation is resolved quickly, the possibility of a second Cold War is not farfetched.



@WilliamJon

Jon Williams Foreign editor @ABC, former foreign editor @BBCNews

Biden's motorcade arrived on outskirts of what had become very large and somewhat unruly gathering, many chanting 'shame' #Ukraine

21 Nov.



@NickKristof

Nicholas Kristof NYTimes columnist, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner

Obama is sounding so pro-immigrant that it's hard to understand why he has been busily deporting 400,000 of them annually

21 Nov.



@ChStraesser

Christoph Strasser Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid + MPP

Statelessness means rightlessness. Time to end it! I support the #IBELONG campaign of UNHCR @Refugees

11 Nov.



@SteveWHawkins

Executive Director @AmnestyInternational USA

State of emergency in #Ferguson must not be used to violate human rights including the right to peaceful protest

17 Nov.



@PHammondMP

Foreign Secretary at Foreign & Commonwealth Office MP for Runnymede & Weybridge

In Vienna today for #Iran-talks. Complex issues and the stakes are high- but so is the potential prize

21 Nov.

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OF YORK



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Business



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Zentry: the century's must have app

James Pascoe talks to, **Ali Zogheib, Richard Osho, Saam Zonoozi** and **Callum Poynter**, the creators of must-have app Zentry

IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD OTHER IMAGE: ZENTRY

It was hard to know what to expect as I sat and waited for my four interviewees to arrive in a modest Derwent seminar room. The word "Zentry" has been something cropping up sporadically in conversations on campus and online since the start of term, and a distinctive "Z" logo was starting to appear watermarked in nightclub photos. I had once purchased tickets to an event in York via their website. But I lacked a clear vision of what Zentry really was. I suppose I thought it was a promotional tool for clubs, and little more. However, I am pleased to say, that my assumptions were wide of the mark.

Zentry is made up of four students, all at York. In front of me sit Callum Poynter and Ali Zogheib, both seemingly the technology brains behind the app and web design. Joining them is Saam Zonoozi, an established presence on the York nightlife scene, and Richard Osho, CEO of Zentry, and the man with the initial idea. Immediately, I ask them to define exactly what Zentry is right now, and what it hopes to be in the future. After some thought, Richard answers: "At the moment, if we had to sum it up concisely, it's a clubbing companion to make your night smoother from start to finish. Zentry at the moment is dealing with event discovery."

"It's an events management tool that helps you organise and choose what events you go to," Saam adds.

Richard explains: "When I started out, I wanted to take all the negatives of nightlife and try to negate them. There were so many things that were stressful about nightlife, and we thought, 'how can we get things to move smoothly, and get to the actual experience more quickly?'"

Given the huge number of disposable apps churned out into the smartphone market each week, the four guys at Zentry would have been forgiven for worrying that their project might flop. As it turns out, Zentry has been very successful, with over 500 downloads since it went live in September – which, Richard is quick to remind me, is considerably more than the 27 downloads that Snapchat received when it was first released. A recent victory in a Facebook entrepreneurship competition promises to take the app to new heights. A widespread awareness of Zentry has spread around campus, be it through Zentry's own selective nightclub photography, or through handling sales of tickets to events such as Nightvision – from which Zentry is starting to generate profit. Student feedback has been positive. Their ambition becomes clear, though, when Richard says there is room for improvement. "Without a real marketing budget, we just put it out there in the blue. We've been received relatively well. I think the quality of the app needs to be higher, but I think the idea has been enough to wet people's appetites."

The 'idea' that Richard is referring to was hatched last summer, when Richard submitted an idea to the York Plan ENVY competition for young entrepreneurs. "When I was



outlining my idea, I was thinking how stupid I was; that it was never even possible to do half this stuff." Richard explains how Ali chanced upon his Zentry plans when he left them on the table, and Ali convinced him to go through with it.

They didn't win the ENVY prize, but that did not stop them from following through with their ideas for Zentry. Since then, Richard has learnt a lot. "Don't limit yourself. Find the people with the strengths you are missing, and don't let failure hold you back," he advises me. From there, he and Ali recruited Callum and Saam, and the four of them spent a huge part of their summer break working on the app. "Each member of the team has a very clearly defined role," Callum says.

The passion of all four co-founders is abundantly clear – they are all clearly invested in the process emotionally, but not financially.

The four of them spent most of their summer designing and coding the app.

When I asked them about costings and the initial investment needed to fund the app, Richard answers: "This is the beauty. I'm very proud to say that the initial investment is virtually zero. All you need is a developer's license, which Callum already had. The software comes with a Mac. I could have paid the other three if I wanted to, or made it an external project, but these guys took it as their own. They're part of the company."

Ali agrees, telling me: "The fact that we are all university students on different courses makes it ideal. We all have different sets of tools to help the project, without having to pay for external help."

Recently, Zentry has received a place on the highly coveted FB Start scheme, run by none other than social media giants Facebook. The group were selected from thousands of

other applicants onto the programme designed specifically with bright young startups like Zentry in mind. Facebook gives the team support, software and "creative coupons" to then invest in the app, and the scheme also entitles them to free sponsorship and advertising on Facebook, as well as free credit card transactions of up to \$50,000. Things are certainly looking bright for arguably the most exciting entrepreneurial product to emerge from York in a long time. The story of Richard and Ali's disappointment in the ENVY competition last summer makes their recent success even sweeter.

"When we first started", Ali continues, "We originally wanted to spend no money at

"Don't limit yourself. Find the people with the strengths you are missing, and don't let failure hold you back"

all. That's why we use Facebook, which hosts the events, the pictures, the information. We host nothing. All we're doing is downloading the data using the users' mobile network, or WiFi, and displaying it on the screen.

However, their stance on investment soon changed when they realised the scale of what they could achieve, as Callum tells me: "We realised we could make a better product if we did store some information within the app." This leads on to what the quartet are brimming with anticipation for: the forthcoming release of Zentry 2.0, an app update set for the new year – what the team call their "real" launch. "The update will be in three parts", Callum says. "An app, a website, and an Application Program Interface (API) – which is going to link up the website and app from the

same source." A big difference will be the presence of advertising on the app – for which Facebook has given them software to ensure adverts do not encroach on the app's accessibility or user-friendliness.

As for expansion? The group were certainly inspired by their visit to Facebook's London headquarters earlier this year – "Like Disneyland", Richard laughs. Callum firmly believes that, for the moment, York is their "sandbox," where, having no competitors in this field, there is space to experiment. Whilst Zentry is naturally very York-centric in its current infancy, the app already offers information from a number of British cities. Richard admits that despite the presence of other cities' nightlife information on the app's home screen, "At the moment, the app is basically just for York. But what it shows is that it's scalable for us. In London there are several events apps, like YPlan, but they are more geared towards events management. We want to move in the direction of event discovery and event experience and beyond the realm of just students too."

Ali, along with Saam, (who is also a co-founder at On & On events in York), tell me of their plans to expand beyond clubbing. "We are trying to expand to other events outside nightlife – festivals, for example. We have a planned selection of exclusive tickets to events such as YO1 Festival next summer. Having said that, we're going to be launching at quite a few other universities soon, so watch this space."

With several new features designed to take the app into new social media territory already in the pipeline for next year, there is certainly a feeling that the best is yet to come from these four.

The group say they can see themselves doing this job full-time after graduating. Zentry's homepage bears the slogan 'Tonight is in your hands'. After what I've seen and heard this evening, the night, and beyond, seems instead to be very much in theirs.

A crisis in Economic's teaching?

IMAGE: NOMADIC LASS

Chris Scott
BUSINESS REPORTER

In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crash, many different groups of people were blamed for failing to prevent it.

Governments were accused of relaxing regulation controls too much and therefore making the financial system more susceptible to crises in the first place. Banks were blamed for being over-leveraged, meaning they had sufficient reserves to cope in the event of a bank run.

Individuals were guilty of having unaffordable loans which they would never be able to pay back. However, the study of economics is also due heavy criticism, failing to have predicted that a financial crisis was imminent.

The way Economics is taught in universities has been subject to particularly intense scrutiny, with accusations that the discipline fails to take into account real world events. Students are frustrated with the disproportionate focus on neo-classical Economics, which forms the basis of the Economics curriculum taught in the majority of universities.

In particular, it's major flaw is the emphasis it places on creating mathematical models without providing a thorough explanation of how they are applied in a real life context. Similarly, the models used in explaining economic phenomena are often simplified and fail to capture some of the intricacies that are observed in the real economic market.

This has paved the way for a movement demanding an overhaul of university teaching of the subject, providing students with greater exposure to the real-world matter of the subject. In particular students want courses to teach more economic history and unorthodox economic theories, rather than placing a narrow emphasis on neo-classical Economics.

The Post Crash Economics Society at the University of Manchester attempted to address this issue earlier in the year when it proposed a new Economics module to the university called 'Bubbles, Panics and Crashes: an introduction to Alternative Theories of Crisis'.

This was based on a similar economics



Economics has usually adopted a neoclassical approach in Great Britain's education system

module taught at the University of York which provides students with exposure to a broader range of Economic theories, such as the Austrian School of Economics. However, whilst Manchester rejected its proposals, it has created new Economics modules in an attempt to address student concerns.

Nonetheless, the clamour for change has been echoed by leading academics, including those with firsthand experience in the financial sector.

Former member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, Andy Haldan, has said that, "Employers of economists, like the Bank of England, stand to benefit from... evolution in the economics curriculum... it requires eclecticism in the choice of methodology, a knowledge of political economy, an appreciation of institutions and an understanding of money and banking."

George Soros, an investor who made \$1 bn during the 1992 Black Money UK Cur-

rency Crisis, has also bankrolled a think-tank called the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET), which advocates change in the way that Economics is taught.

In a sign that the movement's ideas are gaining influence, a number of universities, including several in New York, Paris, London and Bangalore, are trialling a new Economics curriculum, designed to address these concerns. However, arguably there should be more done to extend this teaching to other institutions.

In order to avoid a repeat of the financial crisis of 2008, it is important that Economics students, many of whom will go into sectors such as banking and finance, have a rigorous understanding of a broad range of economic theories and ideas.

Greater awareness of these will hopefully make a future financial crash of the type experienced in 2008 less likely, and help prevent future mistakes being made.

Choosing off-campus accommodation

Adam Bennett

The only letting agency with an office on campus and usually the first to re-lease property details for the coming year. Adam Bennett is a popular choice for organised students who want to get their housing sorted early on. However, this convenience may come at a cost, with higher end prices and students currently living in Adam Bennett managed accommodation reporting slow responses to maintenance requests due to lack of communication with contractors.



IG Property

IG Property caters to both the student and private residential property markets. Opinions on the company from past tenants are mixed. Prices tend to be reasonably cheap, perhaps because around 30% of their properties are located in Tang Hall. While some praise the customer service, others are more critical, with one third year student who rented with IG last year reporting that the property was in a poor condition when they moved in, and problems were slow to be fixed or were left unresolved during their tenancy.



I G P R O P E R T Y

AP York

Perhaps the most divisive of all student letting agencies, AP York offers a wide range of houses at competitively prices. However, though their houses may be cheaper, they certainly aren't more cheerful than their competitors. Many current and former tenants of AP have reported that their houses have not met expectations and faults have not been dealt with quickly. Despite this, AP York do have some properties which are the best value for money in the York market.

Sinclair Properties

Sinclair's are unique in the York market. Their houses tend to be of a very high standard and competitively priced. Moreover, they manage and service all their properties themselves. Thus faults and issues tend to be sorted out quickly and without much hassle. However, Sinclair's selection process is different. Sinclair allow the landlords to choose the tenants (there is no first come first serve basis). Each group of tenants are rated based on a variety of factors and so there is no guarantee of getting the house you want.



Independent Landlords

Houses owned by Independent landlords tend to be of a high standard and many advertise bills included. However, it generally takes longer for faults to be fixed and problems to be resolved. The easiest way to find these properties is by trawling through Google or by attending the University's housing fair on 21 January.

Kim Almond & Sam Russell

Is a student living wage justifiable?

James Humpish
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

There is a discrepancy between the living wage and minimum wage. Minimum wage currently stands at £6.50 for citizens over 21 in the UK, whilst the living wage is estimated at £7.85. YUSU have pledged to

implement a living wage for its own staff, with its student staff being offered a student living wage of £6.85.

While the initial reaction to this from of students might be one of collective joy, the reality of the situation may not be as good as it seems. YUSU is non-profit, the revenue it generates which exceed COSTS

gets redirected back into YUSU to provide students with further goods and services. As such, it does not stand to make fortunes in its initial profits and has little leeway to experiment.

One of the key arguments put forward for the student living wage is to try and make standards consistent with the non-student living wage.

However, students being exempt from a series of fixed and variable costs which affect most workers; council tax and income tax being the most salient, an benefits including sizeable loans, the bulk of income from part-time work for student-staff is disposable.

Hence, it's not so much whether minimum wage should be increased that one should consider but rather whether or not there should be an equation that relate student and non-student pay.

A primary influence could be that the average student is restricted in time to work and may only stand to make at most a £100 a week or so. However, given that YUSU risks increasing costs to provide additional income for students at the risk of losing benefits for students, who might benefit from student living wage remains to be seen.



Any wage increase could have a resounding effect for YUSU and pay for students



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Science

Coffee beans and dozy dreams: the Nappuccino

Filip Preoteasa
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

It's half-five in the afternoon. I promised myself to fight through another two hours of study (and get this article written on top of that), but my eyes are drooping. I'm just staring right through my textbook, as if I can see a thousand yards past it. I'm scrambling letters in my brain and kidding myself, "Yup, I'm being productive". I grab my mug, take in the lovely comforting scent of my coffee, hum and smile with delight. Then I drink it and go to bed, which makes me fall victim to the type of power nap: the Nappuccino.

A study done by the Sleep Research Laboratory of Loughborough University recommends taking caffeine right before a nap. It was found that having a coffee and napping afterwards for 15 minutes improved the alertness and hazard-aversion of drivers in a group of 12 individuals.

The study took the participants, ensured that they had only 5 hours of sleep, placed them in a driving simulator, and measured the amount of driving incidents induced by fatigue. Participants had to drive for half an hour, followed by a short break. During the

break they either had a cup of coffee, a decaf placebo, or a coffee and a 15 minute nap. They were then made to drive again for another two hours. The post-coffee nappers showed consistently far fewer driving incidents than those who just drank coffee (though the effectiveness of napping and of just having coffee start to converge towards the end of the trial.)

The science behind nappuccinos checks out because coffee takes twenty to thirty minutes to take effect and it's arguably wasteful to spend that time, when you're tired and unproductive, just loitering about and waiting for it to kick in.

Caffeine molecules couple with adenosine receptors (adenosine being the hormone that promotes sleepy behaviour) to stop adenosine from taking effect, allowing you to be more alert. A nap will boost your energy levels, provided the nap doesn't turn into R.E.M. (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep, leaving you groggy.

A short nap (for instance, the average time of actual sleep during the study was 12.4 minutes) has been shown to boost attention levels and cognitive function.

So there you go, couple the two together and optimize your day. Don't take my word for it: try it!



Outside his local coffee shop, this guy seems to be enjoying his Nappuccino

Not In The News

Emily Hoyland
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

Last week's York Science Week saw the first ever York-based-space-poultry make its debut foray into space. AstroDuck is a project to send environment-probing and GoPro imaging technology into the upper atmosphere to collect scientific data for analysis. Accompanying this equipment is the 'Astro Duck' rubber-duck, who is the project mascot.

The Christmas holidays are looming and with all the food and wintery alcoholic beverages to be consumed, contemplating 'Dry January' is a bit of an ask.

Studies conducted at the University of Sussex have shown that there are long-term health benefits to be gleaned from this cold-turkey (if you'll pardon the pun) month. 6 months later, 72% of people who completed the scheme had a significantly lowered incidence of harmful binge drinking sessions, whilst 4% had chosen to continue staying sober.

The Philae probe initially bounced 1km off the surface of its target on comet 67P, but eventually came to rest, safe and fairly sound, some 300m or so from the original landing site. Excitement quickly turned to forced optimism as it was found that Philae's resting place does not have access to enough sunlight to power up the solar panels. The robot now is in an indefinite 'sleep mode', waiting for a potential ray of sun.

Dutch scientists at Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research have published findings in *Microbiome* that a 10-second kiss can transfer 80 million bacteria. It was initially thought that leaving your tongues out of it would reduce bacteria-swapping, but it was found that the transfer occurred predominantly through saliva, and tongue-tongue bacterial transfer was very low. Take home message: where has that mouth been?

Another outbreak of Bird Flu at a Yorkshire farm has been confirmed. The H1N5 virus, the strain that caused the 2004 pandemic, has been ruled out, and this form of the virus will only pass onto humans if there is very close contact to the birds.

US and China pledge to cut emissions



USA and China have made joint climate pledges, but are they drastic enough to keep global average temperatures below 2°C over the 1900 baseline?

Georgina Hill
SCIENCE REPORTER

China and the US released joint climate pledges more than a year before the UN summit on climate change in Paris in December 2015. The US has pledged to cut its emissions to 26-28% lower than 2005 levels by 2025, whilst China has pledged its greenhouse gas emissions will peak by 'around 2030' and to increase its proportion of energy produced

from non-fossil fuel sources to 20% by 2030.

These two powerhouses coming together shows hope for a more successful conference than that of Copenhagen in 2009.

The 2009 Copenhagen accord failed to bring international agreement as most negotiations were separate from the main conference. The leaders of developed countries conducted these talks, and those from developing countries were grossly underrepresented. A rift

between China and the US was also clear as China refused US demands to include its national emissions targets in the international accord.

Since then many have seen the two countries as opposing camps in climate negotiations. It also failed to close loopholes under the Kyoto protocol of 1992, such as emissions from aircraft and shipping and sale of spare emission permits.

The new Chinese-US pledges show promise for a more productive conference, but are they am-

bitious enough? China previously suggested its emissions may peak by 2025 and the US have indicated it might reduce emissions to 42% below 2005 levels by 2030. To keep temperatures below the target of 2°C over the pre-industrial average will require a global treaty and emissions to peak in 2020.

In Paris, Christiana Figueres, the Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate change, has the role of persuading 194 countries to sign a deal that will work

towards stopping global warming.

Figueres is optimistic that carbon neutrality can be achieved by the second half of the century and even become a 'no brainer' in the design of new buildings.

She hopes companies, including those in the fossil fuel industry, invest profits into renewable energy. As we get closer to the 2°C temperature rise 'tipping point' she thinks individuals will begin to change their understanding and fight for change.

Tutankhamun: who was the mummy of the mummy?

Marie Guglielminetti
SCIENCE REPORTER

The Giza plateau and the Great Sphinx - I guess you have already heard about them - lie in the Valley of the Kings, in Egypt; the valley that the tomb of the 19-year old pharaoh Tutankhamun was discovered in 1922. Tutankhamun was an Egyptian pharaoh of the 18th dynasty, which takes place between 1332 and 1323 BC.

However, at the time of the discovery, many mysteries surrounded the mummy. Although the beauty of the chamber's treasures were breathtaking, it could not bring about any scientific answer about Tutankhamun's life. Who were his parents? What did he look like?

Science has had a huge impact on the understanding of the enigmatic pharaoh.

Through science, archeologists and historians have thrown some light on the famous king. In almost one hundred years, DNA tests, scanners, and state-of-the-art equipment have allowed them to improve their knowledge. These tools may be used to find answers that otherwise could not be found.

From 2007 to 2009, genetic studies have been conducted by the King Tutankhamun Family Project Mummies on eleven royal mummies including Tutankhamun. The aim was to determine family relationships. Scientists were finally



How do you use an ancient Egyptian doorbell? Toot, and come in...

able to have a view of the genealogy of the pharaoh's family over five generations.

Another study performed in 2010 by a group of researchers disproved the theory according to which Nefertiti, the beautiful wife of Akhenaten, was Tutankhamun's mother. Tutankhamun's father and mother would be Akhenaten and Akhenaten's sister.

Some scientists have also even been able to have an idea of the physical condition of Tutankhamun.

Using state-of-the-art technology and scanners, they found out that the Pharaoh was probably suffering from Kohler's disease, a disease affecting mostly young boys and leading to bone decay.

This year, a 3-D reconstruction of the pharaoh's body was created using more than 2000 images of the mummy. Results of this virtual autopsy were beneficial. Far from his golden mask and supposed strength, the pharaoh had wide hips and a club foot.

It would explain the presence of more than a hundred walking sticks in his tomb.

Thus, the idea of the king's death by chariot is compromised - more likely, he would not even have been able to stand on his own two feet. It is possible that his death was due to the Kohler's disease and to genetic problems caused by consanguinity.



Exclamation Snark
@BadPhysics

Now Philae down to sleep
We pray a sunbeam soon to sweep
And if the hibernation break
We have more science yet to make

14 Nov 2014

Harry Whittaker
@HarryWhittaker

Right let's go do this Science thing. God help us
#BOOMSCIENCE

15 Nov 2014

Brad Plumer
@bradplumer

Even if US and China fulfill their new climate pledges, world still on pace for ~3.8°C of warming. Only a first step

12 Nov 2014

Christopher Mims
@mims

China just promised to build by 2030 an amount of clean energy equal to the entire electrical grid of the US.

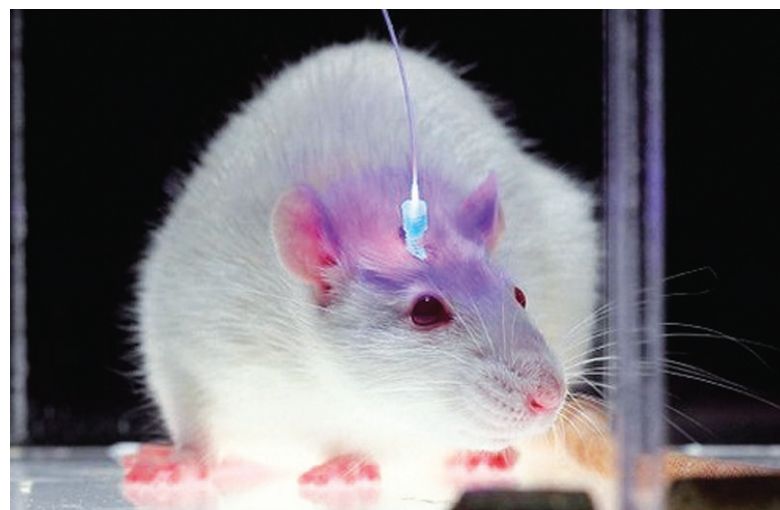
12 Nov 2014

Chris Hancock
@cjhancock

Latest: Cheers as ESA team gets new high score on "Comet Lander". Chief Scientist putting his initials in now.

12 Nov 2014

Human minds control mouse genes



Think before you squeak - or you might get a light implanted in your head

Caitlin Killen
SCIENCE REPORTER

Swiss scientists have created what is being hailed as the world's first "mind-genetic interface." It means that one day humans may be able to control changes in the body with their mind. This was done by controlling gene expression in mice, the process that results in a functional protein being produced from DNA.

The team carried out the experiment by creating a link between synthetic biology and the mind. They inserted a gene that is expressed in the presence of infrared light into human kidney cells. When the cells are exposed to the

light the gene is activated, causing a cascade of signals that activate the target gene.

This technique is known in synthetic biology as a 'genetic switch'. These engineered cells were then put into an implant with a wireless infrared LED that was inserted under the skin of a mouse.

Several human volunteers then wore EEG caps that recorded their brainwaves, and were taught several brainwave patterns that would activate the LED that was implanted in the mouse. This was achieved by teaching them meditation techniques to create a relaxed pattern of brain waves. They also played a computer game to produce brainwaves with a concentrating pattern.

When the volunteers created the desired brainwaves, the LED in the mouse switched on activating the signalling cascade, and so turning on the target gene. The target gene then caused the production of a protein that was then detected in the mouse's blood stream.

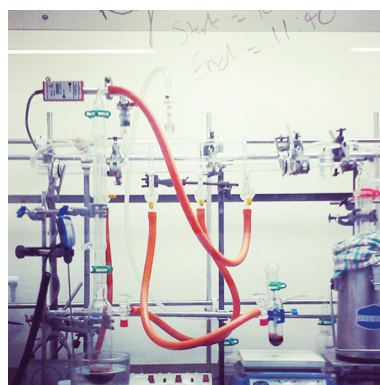
While it sounds more like science fiction than real life, the group from Switzerland successfully used human thoughts to cause a gene to be expressed in mice.

Achieving the same feat in humans is still years off, but it is hoped that developing these techniques further could help people with locked-in syndrome to self-administer drugs, or epilepsy sufferers to control seizures.

Science
On
campus



SMWainwright
Looks a little like rain!
#yorkscienceweek



thebishopofyork
Making catalysts #casual



meretestene
Most memorable Brain & Behaviour lecture. I'M HOLDING A HUMAN BRAIN. Say what?
#brainfun #shrinkaction #UniversityofYork

Sport

>> Pages 29-31

Match reports from the final round of College Football fixtures



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Corruption in football

Jamie Summers
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

Where to start for this week's musings? Well; I should probably start by saying that my managerial career is getting off to a shaky start. I'm currently just about avoiding steering a College first team to relegation in Revolution Division Two – but fear not, if anything goes wrong then Jim'll fix it. Oh, hang on...

Anyway, a wiser man than me once said that supporting a football club is a journey of highs and lows. Probably.

That wise man was spot on. Over the past decade I've seen the highs of winning at Wembley and the lows of being miserably shat out of the Football League like last night's takeaway. Upon that particular journey, I've ended up supporting a team that currently plies its trade in the Conference North.

The problems in the game at lower levels are well-documented. When you look into it slightly deeper though, it isn't just the back-end of football that's in a mess; the whole thing is what can only be described as a 'catastrophuck'. Last week it emerged that FIFA's corruption report into the 2018 and 2022 World Cups was a total shambles, with even the lead investigator effectively calling it worthless diatribe. A corruption report that is fundamentally corrupt – you couldn't make it up.

FIFA supremo Sepp Blatter, who is currently about as popular as a root canal in the footballing world, has always maintained that there's no corruption in FIFA, and that we should all carry on as normal and listen to what he's got to say.

I would make a joke about not trusting Blatter as far as I could chuck him – but given that he's about 4 ft 7 in with high heels, that's probably quite a distance. Needless to say, Blatter's FIFA didn't condemn their own actions, but still found time to slag the English off!

When all is said and done, the 2022 World Cup will happen in Qatar, despite the fact that it's a country where alcohol is largely illegal. It doesn't matter though; it's not as if football supporters have a reputation for drinking at international tournaments or anything. Oh, and then there's the part where it's too hot to physically play football.

It's ironic really, but then football is full of ironies; I think my current favourite one is that betting is now illegal for all football employees working in the Football League. This is an organisation which is sponsored by Sky Bet. If it wasn't so tragic, it'd be funny. There's none of this nonsense in the sixth tier; no out-of-touch FIFA officials hanging around the place, and there certainly isn't any sunshine!

Fuck it. The Conference North isn't so bad after all.

FROM THE SIDELINE

NOUSE SPORT COMMENT

IMAGE: JAMES HOSTFORD



Lewis Hill
DEPUTY EDITOR

As November hits us, avid football fans prepare for the descent of the latest edition of one of the greatest games of all time, Football Manager. It is a game that helps single men remain single and men in relationships lose their girlfriends forever, unless their girlfriend also loves the thrill of taking Burton Albion to the Premiership in four consecutive seasons.

It is a game that every dedicated football fan must try out at least once. It creates tension, drama and the occasional tantrum, much like the real thing.

However, after years of playing the game, many of us avid Football Manager fans (myself included) often end up forgetting the barrier between real football and virtual football.

The problem with forgetting this barrier is that often, Football Manager "nerdisms" escape into real life conversations about football. A recent example from my own catalogue of Football Manager "nerdisms" was when Hull City signed Abel Hernandez last summer.

I turned to my Dad and said, "That lad banged in twenty a season for me at Everton." My Dad's bamboozlement at this statement was plainly evident in the confused and almost disappointed look he gave me. It was a foolish thing to say to a non-Football Manager player.

Perhaps the most obvious signal to tell you who has played too much Football Manager is when you hear the words, "I knew he would come good, I signed him on Football Manager a few years ago and he was quality for me."

Cesar Azpilicueta is one example of this type of player; I signed him from Osasuna on Football Manager 2008 and he quickly became a world-beater on the game. The equivalent in College

Football is when we reporters spot who the talented freshers are and watch them tear apart the Revolution Premier Division throughout the season.

Football Manager brings out the best and worst in us all. It brings out the inner tactical beast as well as a man's envy. I dominated English football on my most recent saved game with Fleetwood Town, taking them from League Two to the Europa League in just eight seasons.

A few years ago, my brother (as much as I hate to say it), outshone me with his mighty Liverpool side that he built from scratch. He also

"I dominated English football on my most recent save with Fleetwood Town."

achieved the pinnacle of the game, managing to get a bloody stadium named after him. Anfield was demolished and The Hill Stadium rose up from the rubble.

It was a travesty to say the least, he still holds it over me to this day. I've gone close a few times but as yet I have not had a stadium in the game named after me. So much for Fleetwood Stadium or New Stamford Bridge. Thanks, but no thanks.

The big problem I find is trying to apply your Football Manager expertise into real football games. This is something I constantly battle with when I play for the mighty Vanbrugh thirds every Sunday on 22 Acres.

I'm always internally debating whether I should suggest to my captain and good friend,

Rob 'Westy' West to replace one of our Box-To-Box Midfielders with a more attacking Trequartista, or whether we should use two strikers but have one as a Deep Lying Forward and another as a Poacher, or whether we should use Inside Forwards or Wingers. The possibilities are endless, the dilemmas are eternal.

When I captained the mighty Vanbrugh thirds a few weeks ago in Rob 'Westy' West's absence, I toyed about with the idea of playing with Complete Wing Backs instead of Full Backs.

In the end, I went with my gut and put in the two Complete Wing Backs but created an Anchor Man in defensive midfield just to hold it all together and provide added defensive cover.

It worked a treat. We beat Alcuin 3-0 despite the fact that one of their defenders nearly tore one of our lad's leg off with a horrendous tackle from the Dark Ages.

Even when I can't play for the mighty Vanbrugh Thirds, I often find myself watching them on the touchline with a big coat on, crossed arms, vigorously chewing some gum and occasionally barking orders from the side line – yes, I am 'that guy'.

In reality, despite whatever 'genius' tactical plan I've conjured up in Football Manager, the sad truth is that it will never make a difference to a College Football third team on a Sunday morning.

That is perhaps the bane of avid Football Manager fans. No matter how good we are in our comfortable, virtual world of football, we will never have the same impact in real world football.

So for me, it's back to 2024, to the Fleetwood Stadium, (not the Hill Stadium, thanks to my bloody chairman), to continue building my legacy as the greatest manager in virtual football that the Cod Army has ever seen.

Tales From The 22

Rob Middleton
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

It goes without saying that in my first term working (if that's what you want to call it) in the *Nouse Sport* team, I have watched more campus sport than is healthy in eight weeks.

During this time, I've had the pleasure of watching a range of sports, from badminton to hockey; a range that is sure to expand as I satisfy my curiosity for uncommon sports and feed the masochistic desire to freeze on the side-lines shared by most student sports reporters.

York in general have had a solid start in this year's BUCS tables, sitting pretty in 37th. This might be two places lower than they finished last year, but with last year's promotions, they've done really well to maintain their performance levels.

Some notable performances include men's tennis seconds, who lie joint top of their league unbeaten. Women's hockey firsts had a long winning streak at the start of the season. UYWAFAC, whose first team recently went top of their league (and remain unbeaten) and their seconds have just picked up their first ever win. Women's lacrosse have also had a solid start in an incredibly competitive league, save for a humbling defeat at home to Durham.

“What was evident in both fixtures was the team spirit that both sides showed throughout.”

Naturally, it is difficult for me to comment on every single team playing on a Wednesday, but of the ones I have seen, the women's teams have impressed me the most.

I have watched the women's badminton firsts despatch strong opponents in Northumbria and witnessed the women's hockey firsts battle through a tough match, holding their nerve in a cup tie. What was evident in both fixtures was the team spirit that both sides showed throughout.

It's not all rosy though – if you'll pardon the pun – in the female leagues. UYWRUFC are second from bottom, but given that they are playing in the 1A league, and have only have one season to acquit themselves with the change in level, it's easy to understand why.

Of course, this is only my first term reporting. I'll be looking forward to watching my first lacrosse game – though I should probably learn the rules first – and covering a little bit of everything at College Varsity in Durham next term and at Roses in the summer term.

Most of all, I will be seeing whether the men can keep up with their female counterparts. There will always be a little bit of a gender battle (even if no-one will admit it), which will be interesting to follow over the year.

Good Week, Bad Week

The new *Nouse Sport* Team look back on an action-packed week of both university and college sport

Good Week

Men's Volleyball



The Men's volleyball Firsts have had a stellar week to cap off a great run of results – including a win against local rivals York St John's. Their comfortable 3-0 win against Teesside took them into second in the Northern 2B League and saw them leapfrog the very same 'smog-gies' in the process. All this before their important match in the BUCS Student Cup Finals, into which they will be led by skipper Luke 'cheekbones' Richardson. If they can carry their recent form into that event, it will be fascinating to see who can stop them.

Women's Football

If Carlsberg did weeks of BUCS action, they probably wouldn't be far off the one York women's football firsts just had. The girls grabbed a satisfying double over Northumbria, beating them 1-0 in the Conference Cup and then 2-1 in the league to rise three points clear at the top of the table, all the more satisfying after a thrilling 4-4 draw between the two sides last term. The second triumph featured a stunning effort from 40 yards courtesy of striker Anty Cole that almost made our reporter drop his pen. What's more, the second team won for the first time ever against Sheffield. Well done girls!

Campus facial hair

You may have noticed, looking at some people's faces, that Movember is well and truly underway. Anyone with a vague chance of putting in a respectable effort has done so, whereas those who aren't as follically endowed are still trying to convince everyone that they do have a hint of hair in the same way a five year-old may ask his parents to look at a shit painting. Indeed, deputy sports editor Rob Middleton could scarcely hide his glee at the bushy effort sported by James College's Michael Austin. It truly is a thing of beauty.



The weather

As the term draws to a close, the new team here at *Nouse Sport* are feeling the effects of the change in season as much as anyone else. The 3G has once again become an icy wasteland which is making it difficult to play football because no one can see the ball due to the dense amount of fog. For us reporters, having just warmed up from covering one fixture, we are soon thrust back in to the apocalyptic weather conditions. For those brave enough, or stupid enough, covering two fixtures in a row and increasing their exposure to the elements could result in contracting pneumonia. Maybe.

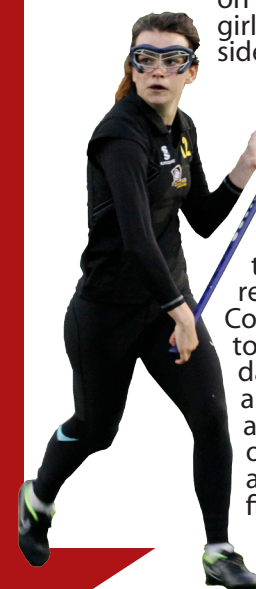


College Football refereeing

Once again this term, the standard and punctuality of the 'men in the middle' has been mixed to say the least. On the hour mark of a Revolution Division Two game, the referee's housemate was seen cycling on to the field to deliver a long-awaited whistle. College Sport bigwigs are considering reforms to the allocation of refereeing duties in this summer's College Cup, although the difficulty of the job at hand is not lost on us. One notable exception came in the shape of Oli Bull who, after literally relieving himself on the 3G before kick-off, calmly and correctly disallowed Ralph Gill's potentially title winning header in the last minute. A braver man than us!

Women's Lacrosse

After a barnstorming start to the season which began with three wins on the bounce, the Lacrosse girls side-ways, in every sense of the word, after losses to North-East nemeses Durham and Newcastle. On the back of a tough lesson by a ruthless Durham side, their Geordie neighbours repeated their roughhouse tactics of the reverse fixture, with talisman Connie Shaw bearing the brunt to reap a 12-6 win last Wednesday. Never fear though: theirs is an intensely competitive league and the triumphant triumvirate of Shaw, captain Chloe Searle and Libby Storrick will soon be firing them to victories again.



Bad Week

Too Hot to Handball

Matt Kirkum talks to Handball presidents **Chrysanthi Stefanou** and **Matt Littlechild** about their plans to take one of York's newest sports clubs forward



The story of the rise of handball at York is certainly an intriguing one. Despite the club forming merely a year ago, it has already enjoyed great success - culminating in victory during last year's Roses, which garnered a new found love for a relatively unknown sport. Perhaps this is a harsh assumption, yet the lack of a handball club on Club President. Chrysanthi's arrival at York was an issue she immediately sought to address.

"I have played handball since a young age. When I came to York I saw there weren't any teams so I decided to set one up with the help of some friends. Apparently they had tried to set one up before but there wasn't the demand. We did all the paper work and we were soon ready for the Freshers Fair."

Chrysanthi's first task was to tackle the significant lack of demand that had prevented its earlier formation attempt. Luckily, she was able to call upon her friends and soon fellow President Matt was introduced to the sport.

"I was Chrysanthi's house mate in first year, she wanted her friends to support her and a lot of us went along and I loved it. I was aware of handball but I had never seen it played. I loved it and never looked back."

What ensued was a remarkable year for the Handball Club. Their first friendly fixture involved local opponents Leeds whereby both the men's and mixed teams won their respective matches. York therefore drew a significant degree of confidence from such results, as they entered their first competitive fixture against Lancaster during the Roses tournament last year. Again, both York's men's and women's teams were victorious which led to the clubs nomination as Most Improved Sports Club at

the University. The result of such success further helped to raise the sport's profile, gaining even greater support. Matt conveys a sense that such popularity has continued to grow and this year proves to be even more fruitful.

"The first couple of weeks were really positive. There are definitely a lot of committed people and what is really positive is that there are a lot more girls. For example last year, we didn't have enough for a ladies team and we were forced into fielding a male goalkeeper. This year it is going to be great to field a proper team."

Many people are unfamiliar with the sport and as such may dismiss handball on the grounds that it doesn't hold the same glamour of more established alternatives. Having only experienced handball for a year, I am interested to see what Matt's initial impressions were regarding the sport.

"It is very fast paced and physical so there is a lot of contact," he replies. "It is similar to basketball in a sense but a lot more structured in terms of attacking and defending. My initial reaction was that I was surprised by the physicality of the game, it is not unusual to be wiped out on the floor. When we first started we had some experienced players so the speed was definitely noticeable."

Chrysanthi adds, "Anyone can play as

there are six different positions, all of which require different types of people." Handball has been persistently omitted from BUCS domestic competition calendar, regardless of the inclusion of other alternative sports. I ask Chrysanthi why this was the case.

"Last year they were trying to get handball into BUCS but apparently there is not enough interest. Instead, we are competing in a one-day tournament. All the handball teams are on a Facebook group for friendly one-day tournaments. Also, due to the Roses ruling that new sports must be trialed a year before,

this time we are competing for points so there is a lot of pressure on us to perform. Roses 2014 was really important for us, lots of people turned up to support our teams and people signed up as a direct result of our performance."

I ask Matt what the club's main objectives were for the season ahead. He says, "We would really like to win Roses again but also, we would like to ensure the future of the club. Chrysanthi is graduating, as are most of the team, so we are trying to focus our attention on there being a club next year and ensuring there are enough people to play."

Speaking to Chrysanthi and Matt, I feel they hold a sense of pride in their achievements, which is certainly warranted. Hav-

ing formed the club from scratch, the onus is now on others to ensure the club continues to develop and maintain its high standards for years to come. Both Presidents have formed strong foundations from which the club can thrive, with the sport's accessibility and limited playing costs further acting to entice beginners.

"We need first years and second years to take over the team," says Chrysanthi. "The beginners from last year made huge progress and are now experienced. We spent all our money last year to get the balls, as we needed ten for men and ten for women due to the different sizes. The only real equipment is the balls and therefore it is not expensive, so anyone can just come and join."

While the sport itself is naturally the central concentration, Matt is quick to highlight that the club offers a welcoming social element which enables the creation of lasting friendships.

"Another positive thing about the club is how friendly it is. Everyone is in the same boat and there is a really good atmosphere at training and on the socials. Everybody helps out so there is a community spirit and because everyone is new it creates a better atmosphere for learning."

Handball at York seems to be heading in the right direction, with this year expected to surpass last year's achievements. The steady influx of new participants will ensure that the club continues to flourish, with all the thrills and spills within a sociable environment. With York Handball poised to take victory on home soil in next year's Roses tournament, it is an exciting time for handball.

"I was surprised by the physicality of the game, it is not unusual to be wiped out."

Langwith Win Hes East Derby



Goodricke Firsts 0



Langwith Firsts 6

Matt Kirkum
SPORTS EDITOR

Goodricke:	Langwith:
Woolley, Duffin, Disen, Anderson, Thomas, Lithur, Carmichael, Sides, Bruce, Lewis, Hurst	Le Cornu, Abubaker, Henn, Pickersgil, Grindell, Hudson, Pegg, Campbell, Parsonson, Morton, Woodhall
Subs: Boyle, Courtney, Lukacs	Subs: Sarrafan, Okusanya

Man of the match: Louis Pegg

IN WHAT was a fiery encounter between the two Heslington East rivals, Langwith came through victorious to ensure their status in next term's Revolution Premier Division.

The game began at a ferocious pace, with both teams enjoying possession early on. It was Goodricke, however, who started brightest while Langwith were content to drop back and absorb the early pressure. A rare foray forward by Langwith's Sam Woodhall prompted a shock first goal, as he barged past his man and prodded home.

With Goodricke's early work undone, there was a significant sense of despondency which Langwith sought to exploit. Wingers Matt Morton and Louis Pegg were exceedingly effective on the flanks and both combined well as Pegg's driven cross was met by Morton, only to head wide of the post.

Set pieces were quickly becoming Goodricke's best source of attack and, with tough tackles aplenty, there were numerous opportunities which arose. On one such occasion, Billy Bruce's free kick grazed the crossbar much to goalkeeper Steve Le Cornu's relief.

The turning point of the game occurred midway through the half, as Goodricke were reduced to ten men. Goodricke captain Aaron Sullivan, sidelined for this match



ALL IMAGES: JAMES HOSTFORD

Langwith beat ten man Goodricke 6-0 in the fog to avoid relegation in this term's Revolution Premier Division

through injury, looked on helplessly as Matt Carmichael was sent his marching orders following a second bookable offence. Goodricke survived a late onslaught before the half time whistle sounded with Langwith in the ascendancy.

The second half continued in a similar vein and soon Langwith had doubled their lead. Pegg's cross was mis-hit by Okusanya, but a poor Goodricke clearance fell straight to Marcus Campbell who made no mistake.

Another goal swiftly followed in magnificent style. Jack Parsonson's stunning long range drive soared into the roof of the net, with Goodricke goalkeeper Alex Woolley rooted to the spot.

Goodricke worked tirelessly to make up for their numerical disadvantage with Simon Hurst's continuous harrowing of defenders ensuring it wasn't entirely plain sailing for Langwith. However, Langwith's dominance was undeniable and another goal piled further misery on an already dispirited Goodricke side.

This time it was Hudson who waltzed through some lacklustre defending before guiding the ball past goalkeeper Alex Woolley. A fifth goal soon followed as Woodhall then notched his second of the game following a rebound.

Woodhall completed his hat-trick as he latched onto a through pass and coolly slotted the ball into

the corner of the net. This turned out to be the last kick of the game as the final whistle sounded, signalling the end of what was an entertaining affair that left Goodricke rueing their earlier dismissal.

Langwith vice-captain Jack Parsonson spoke to *Nouse* after the game saying, "At the end of the day we put in a great shift and the sending off helped us. Goodricke were a strong team but I think we deserved the win."

Goodricke captain Aaron Sullivan said, "We deservedly went down to ten men due to a moment of stupidity, but our work rate was superb especially Simon Hurst. A lot of players worked hard but it just wasn't good enough in the end."

Vanbrugh quell fightback



Wentworth Firsts 1



Vanbrugh Firsts 4

Rob Middleton
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

Wentworth:	Vanbrugh:
Taylor, Keane, Du Toit, Collins, Clemo, Cukurova, Muhlack, Nedley, Nikolic, O'Finiday, Hodgson	Lennox, Siddle, Picknel, Dunkley, Tabas, Vyvyan, Carruthers, Lund, Watkins, Potts, Miller
Subs: Kennedy, Ekembe	Subs: Long, Glanvil

Man of the match: Joe Watkins

A RALLYING Wentworth side were pegged back by a quick double from Vanbrugh, who won through despite a below-par performance.

The first ten minutes set the tone. Neither team were able to play flowing football which was encapsulated perfectly when the first goal came from a set piece.

Joe Watkins swung a corner straight onto the head of captain Joe Lund who nodded home for 1-0.

Lund nearly added a second with a dipping shot which rattled the bar, but the second soon followed when Andriy Tabas scored a sublime effort.

When Wentworth headed a free kick clear, the ball fell to Tabas 30 yards out, who rifled an unstoppable shot into the top corner. Vanbrugh were unable to capitalise on their first half dominance further - both Lund and Watkins missed routine chances at the near post.

Wentworth made Vanbrugh pay for their poor profligacy. Nedley swung a good free-kick in from the left, which found the head of Mutlu Cukurova who glanced a header past a stranded Calum Lennox between the Vanbrugh sticks.

Despite chances to equalise, Wentworth's undoing began when a long ball dropped in front of defender Ben Keane and bounced onto his hand, the referee pointed to the spot. Watkins converted to restore Vanbrugh's two goal lead.

Vanbrugh finally showed a glimpse of the quality that sees them finish third in this season's Revolution Premier Division in scoring their fourth. Lund pulled a good ball back to Oli Vyvyan who was able to beat his man and slot into the far corner.

Wentworth skipper Erasmus Du Toit saw the benefits of relegation, commenting, "It'll do us good to play one league lower than this and get our shape and a good core of players."

Vanbrugh captain Joe Lund was critical of his side's performance, telling *Nouse*, "We weren't playing very well, especially in the second half. It was a very scrappy game and we played fairly poorly."



Social Snapshot



@uync_
We are ecstatic to announce that Kits & Tinsel raised a massive £1038.16 for MNDa!! We are so proud. Thank to everyone for coming and all the donations! #charity #event #netball #raffle #mnda #raising #proud



@YorkSportPres
Cassandra Brown
19 Nov
Massive win for mens badminton 1's- an 8-0 win against Sheffield 2's! Amazing stuff! #YorkIsBlackAndGold #Top40



@elliewhitt
Ellie Whittaker
19 Nov
So bloody proud of @UYW AFC! 1s are 3 points clear at the top of the league 2s got their first ever win #6Points

Derwent storm to title success



Alcuin Firsts

1



Derwent Firsts

4

Previn Desai

DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

Alcuin:	Derwent:
Richardson, Ken- nick, Pickar, Perera, Quintana, Carver, McConnell, Garn, Fernando, Carver, McLarty	Cooper, Weighall, Bell, Shelbourn, Askham, Easter, Ingham, Gwinnett, Ferrao, Nicholson, Trant
Subs: Harget, Barrie	Subs: Ntephe

Man of the match: Joe Easter

Derwent came back from an early goal to clinch the Revolution Premier Division title. The stage was set for Derwent firsts, who only needed a draw against Alcuin to establish themselves as league champions.

Derwent, unbeaten this season, came in as clear favourites. The game was delayed due to the absence of the referee, but once it got underway, Alcuin gave Derwent cause for concern as they took the lead within three minutes of kick-off. The ball was crossed in from a free kick and fell to the feet of Cameron McLarty, who fired home at the edge of the box.

Despite Alcuin's energetic start, Joe Easter led by example in the Derwent midfield, pushing forward as well as tracking back and committing himself defensively. Easter equalised with a deflected shot on the edge of box - a much needed psychological boost that brought Derwent back into the game. Easter pushed forward once more, almost netting his second of the game after a curled shot from 20 yards ricocheted off the bar.

Alcuin came closest just before half-time, when Sean Perera's point-blank shot was saved instinctively by Derwent's Charlie Cooper.

Derwent began the second half fired up, scoring two within 10 minutes of the restart. Captain Ryan Gwinnett made the most out of Ferrao's well timed run, giving him the space to chase the ball and slot low past the keeper. Only a few minutes later, Derwent took the score to 3-1 with a clever one-two from Weighall to Ferrao. Weighall, after a poor performance in the first half, seemed rejuvenated after the break as his headed flick enabled Ferrao to loft an accurate ball back to Weighall, who converted.

However, Alcuin replied instantly. Garn made his way through on goal, finding himself one-on-one with the Derwent goalkeeper but the chance went begging.

With ten minutes remaining, Derwent secured their fourth goal of the game. Weighall passed to Ferrao who, on the right-side of the box, crossed to the far post where Trant finished calmly.

The game ended in what turned out to be a relatively comfortable win for Derwent firsts and



IMAGES: ADAM RUMMER

Derwent firsts sealed the Revolution Premier Division title with a solid win against Alcuin on Sunday afternoon



Rob Nicholson, resigned to the turf, looks on at the rest of the game as Derwent dominated Alcuin on the 3G

they were duly crowned this term's league champions.

This impressive display highlighted Derwent's strong character, and their ability to get themselves back into the game. However, it was also a great effort from an Alcuin side who finished in the top four, even after such a loss.

Alcuin captain, Peter Ken-

nick spoke to Nouse claiming: "We didn't start the lead as we wanted to with a draw and a loss, but then we started to pick up points and we are no longer just a physical team, as you've seen today, we can pass and play well".

After the game, Ryan Gwinnett, Derwent captain praised all five Derwent sides. He told *Nouse*: "It

was the third weekend they had all won their games".

When asked about the pressure on his side following their performance this term, Gwinnett remarked, "that was always the aim, and having the new system where we can use university players has helped us a lot, we look to win next term's title too."

>>Continued from back

It was a tale of unbridled woe for Wentworth College, whose first and second teams both fell through the relegation trap door in embarrassing fashion.

Despite failing to field a team in their first two games, the first's eleven looked like they had escaped the drop after a 3-1 win over Goodricke, a 15-0 defeat to Halifax left them with a goal difference of -30 and subsequently condemned them to relegation. The seconds finished bottom of Division One, losing all seven of their games and going down with a goal difference of -46.

The surprise packages of the Premier Division this term, Vanbrugh and Alcuin, finished in third and fourth place respectively. Alcuin, under Peter Kennick, claimed the scalps of James and Halifax, whose campaign has been inconsistent to say the least, although Garo Heath ends the term as the top scorer in the league. Langwith's season has been one long hard luck story, while Goodricke have kept the heads above water thanks in no small part to the goalkeeping heroics of Alex Woolley.

Lower down the ladder, Revolution Division Two ended with James thirds as champions. Only Halifax thirds could prevent James from maintaining a one hundred per cent record. Vanbrugh finished second, but lost heavily to both Derwent and James.

The battle against relegation to the bottom tier, on the other hand, went right to the wire. Having relegated Goodricke in the penultimate round of fixtures, Constantine firsts, in their debut season, beat Alcuin 5-1 in a pulsating triumph to avoid relegation and send the Owls down.

Although they were in relegation peril until the final day, the Romans have in fact enjoyed a promising inaugural campaign in Division Two, running both Derwent and James close and grasping a gutsy draw against Halifax. They are targeting promotion next term, according to manager Jamie Summers: "We've got a tight-knit group of talented footballers that have really started to gel as a team. After a shaky start, finishing comfortably in mid-table is a massive achievement for us. I'm 100% confident that we are capable of achieving promotion to Division One next term."

Revolution Division Three was won by Halifax fourths and they will be joined by Derwent fourths, who narrowly pipped Derwent fifths to the second automatic promotion place. Bringing up the rear were Constantine seconds, whose baptism of fire in college football reached its nadir in a 20-1 defeat to Vanbrugh fourths.

The general consensus is that the introduction of relegation and promotion to the college football structure has been a great success. Dave Washington, College Sport Officer, told *Nouse*: "We've been delighted by how the new promotion-relegation system has added a new dimension and extra excitement to the Revolution Football Divisions.

"It's fantastic that we can now offer regular, free football to 34 teams on a weekly basis, and all four divisions have come to thrilling conclusions this term."

News In Brief

YUSU offer committees support

Cass Brown ran a series of "Supporting Sports Committees" classes to clarify York Sport's policy on acceptable behaviour. Mandatory for club presidents and social secretaries, the presentations addressed 'drawing the line' in such controversial areas as initiations, fancy dress and socials.

Five go to BUCS Academy

Grace Clark, Mel Turner, Caitlin Graham, Ellie Whittaker and Isobel Welby represented York at the BUCS Deloitte Leadership Academy in Hertfordshire last week. 100 students from institutions across the country took part. The two-day scheme featured a keynote speech in leadership in sport from Olympic gold medallist Heather Stanning.

College Sport Awards

The College Sport Awards take place on Friday 28 November at Revs. Teams eligible for qualification to College Varsity will be confirmed, as well as termly awards for Best Team, Sportsman, Sportswoman, Fresher and Most Improved Team. Entrance cost £5, including a strip of raffle tickets.

Kit contract under vote

The main issue on the agenda at York Sport's General Meeting on 2 December will be a vote on whether to cancel the existing Kukri kit contract after widespread dissatisfaction with their services. The six-month cancellation notice period runs out in December.

Futsal defeated

York Futsal lost their important game in the FA National League Division One 3-2 to Stockport at the York Sports Centre. After an inconsistent run of results, the team probably deserved at least a draw from Sunday's game but acknowledge they need to improve defensively to get results at such a high level.



James trounce Halifax

IMAGE: FIONA HILL



James Firsts rallied round in the second half of their game against Halifax, securing a 5-2 victory with goals from Davies, Singleton, Edwards and Carr

	James Firsts	5
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	Halifax Firsts	2
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Tom Harle
SPORTS EDITOR

James:	Halifax:
Balzan, Sangha, Elliott, McCormick, Axford, Davies, Jobling, Gill, Edwards, Singleton, Jopson	Connor, Brookes, Bull, Marsh, Birtles, Durbeck, Collins, Bowden, Dunning, Waring, Heath
Subs: Tuite, Carr	Subs: Goldthorpe, Gillespie, Chadli

Man of the match: Gwyn Davies

JAMES COLLEGE have come up short in this term's title race, but refused to let this mask their inimitable class in a comprehensive final day defeat of Halifax. In spite of the fact that this result was rendered immaterial to the destination of the

league title, due to Derwent's earlier victory, they fully exploited Halifax's second half disintegration in ruthless fashion.

Fax enjoyed the best of the opening exchanges, with George Waring wriggling into the box to test Andy Balzan, and Charlie Dunning drifting in from the right to unfurl a couple of fizzing drives. After 20 minutes, Gwyn Davies pirouetted in the left channel and lifted a lob over Jamie Connor from 20 yards to make it 1-0.

James looked to build on their precarious lead, forcing a double save from Connor through Matt Singleton and then Ralph Gill's well struck efforts. They cracked the code just after the half hour mark, when Singleton bounded onto Gill's measured through ball and chipped into the far corner to make it 2-0.

Although Halifax packed a punch in the first half, the withdrawal of UYAFC president, Guy Bowden, through injury, hit them hard, and alongside the absence of Conor McCoy, left them at a real

disadvantage in the middle of the park.

They came out all guns blazing after the break, though, drawing level thanks to a brace from skipper Garo Heath. His first came after Balzan could only palm substitute Omar Chadli's mis-hit effort into the brisk autumn air, with Heath in pole position to turn home the loose ball from six yards out. The equaliser was far more clean-cut move, originating from left-back Matt Birtle's charming through ball and concluding in Heath's toe-poked effort beyond Balzan from just outside the box.

James were criminally handed the advantage again after an uncharacteristic handling error from Halifax goalkeeper Connor gifted them a 3-2 lead. Davie's corner, which was admittedly beautifully weighted, was inexplicably fumbled into his own net by the keeper. who was under no duress from opposing players.

Seemingly desperate to earn the three points under their own

steam, this term's eventual runners-up added a fourth when James Edwards' dangerously driven centred ball in from the right byline was turned in by replacement Rob Carr. They made it five when Ralph Gill put it on a plate for Edwards, who deservedly planted an effort into the bottom corner from around the penalty spot. In truth, they could have had more as Edwards had an effort deflected narrowly over and Tom Jobling's header shaved the crossbar.

Mandeep Sangha was heartened by his team's approach, "I was very eager for us to treat this as a competitive game, and it was a highly professional performance in the circumstances. We are particularly delighted with the progress of Gwyn Davies, who has come on leaps and bounds this term."

Garo Heath continued to rue his team's inconsistency: "I'm not going to pretend this hasn't been a difficult term. There's potential in our side, but it could have been so much better."

Classified Football Results

Revolution Premier League:

Langwith 1sts 5-0 Goodricke 1sts
Alcuin 1sts 1-4 Derwent 1sts
James 1sts 5-2 Halifax 1sts
Wentworth 1sts 1-4 Vanbrugh 1sts

Revolution Division One:

Alcuin 2nds 0-7 Derwent 2nds
Goodricke 2nds 2-3 Langwith 2nds
James 2nds 3-2 Halifax 2nds
Wentworth 2nds 0-5 Vanbrugh 2nds

Revolution Division Two:

Alcuin 3rds 1-5 Constantine 1sts
Derwent 3rds 5-1 Goodricke 3rds
Halifax 3rds 0-2 Vanbrugh 3rds
James 3rds 7-3 Langwith 3rds



Good week, bad week

The new *Nouse Sport* team take a light-hearted look at last week's sporting action

Autumn Term Week Nine
Tuesday 25 November 2014



Nouse Sport



www.nouse.co.uk/sport



College Football
action
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Derwent do the double

Tom Harle
SPORTS EDITOR

DERWENT COLLEGE emphatically reaffirmed their status as the foremost football college on campus as their first and second teams wrapped up a sensational double. Both teams ended the term as champions of the Revolution Pre-

mier Division and Revolution Division One respectively.

The advent of promotion and relegation this year has rewarded Derwent, and their unchallenged dominance of the top divisions now means that the two sides will face off in the top tier after Christmas.

Their first team, led by Ryan Gwinnett, secured the title follow-

ing a convincing 4-1 defeat of Alcuin in the final round of fixtures. They remained unbeaten throughout the season. Derwent secured a crucial point against closest challengers James in their penultimate game, thanks to a disallowed goal at the death, to effectively ensure the top spot.

Although the champions strug-

gled uncharacteristically against Langwith and Alcuin, and failed to keep a clean sheet all term, their collective spirit and organisation saw them through. The creative contributions of Henry Ferrao and midfield maestro Joe Easter have been notable facets of their progress as a side, and their enterprising style makes them an attractive side

to watch. After James came out on top in both terms last year, Derwent have responded in style.

Derwent seconds blew away the other colleges in Division One under Matthew Elvin, winning all seven of their games.

Continued on page 30

Too Hot to Handball

The Handball club presidents talk to Matt Kirkum about the progress being made at the club
p.28



Football Manager plight

Lewis Hill examines how being good on Football Manager doesn't always translate into real football matches **p. 26**



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