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Disabled student 'in disbelief' at abusive message left on car

● **PhD student and seminar tutor was 'shocked' when her son discovered a note calling her 'fat and ugly'**

Grace Marsh
EDITOR

A DISABLED PHD student and seminar tutor at the University of York was the victim of abuse last week after she returned to her parked car to find a note that read: "Being fat and ugly doesn't count as being disabled (Park Elsewhere)."

Sarah Metcalfe, 35, has 'invis-

ible illness' fibromyalgia, a musculoskeletal pain and fatigue disorder, and parked her car in a disabled parking space at the Clifton Moor Tesco on Thursday 30 April to be closer to the supermarket entrance and make it easier to carry heavy shopping bags back to her car.

She was "shocked" and "in disbelief" when she returned to her car at 6pm and her son, aged 13, found

the handwritten note on the front window of her car.

Metcalfe developed fibromyalgia after a fall resulted in neck and head injuries. She has experienced the symptoms, which include increased sensitivity to pain, chronic fatigue syndrome, muscle stiffness and problems with mental processes on a daily basis, for five years. However, she was not immediately

diagnosed with the long-term condition.

In a Facebook post addressed to the person that wrote to the note, Metcalfe detailed the pain she was going through. She wrote: "Despite the fact that I work hard (I never take sick time), don't claim disability benefits (not that it's wrong for people that do) and I juggle work and family life I was really just hav-

ing a BAD and very painful day."

Metcalfe said she wants to raise awareness of her experience to highlight the fact that although people with 'invisible illnesses' may not look like they have disabilities, they still struggle with many aspects of daily life.

She told *Nouse*: "I didn't really

Continued on Page 3

Editorial

Nouse

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A note from the Editor

Greetings to you from wherever you may be reading the latest edition of *Nouse*.

Exams are nearing and don't we know it. Our definition of fun has gone out of the window and all we can do to console ourselves is through over-consumption of pre-packed goods from Nisa.

This week's front page concerns an issue that

receives a lot of media attention at university - invisible illnesses. Mental and pain-related illnesses, sleep disorders, depression. The list is endless and the number of people affected is undoubtedly high and ever-increasing.

Yet, as the front page shows, some of us, whether purposefully or not, remain ignorant of such things. It's promising to

see a growing number of initiatives set up by students at York to not only raise awareness, but more importantly act to ensure that our students don't suffer alone, especially during exam time.

Also nearing is the election that we've all been waiting for, or conversely, can't wait to see the back of. For something a little more lighthearted, flick to

Gaming for a review for Democracy 3, in which you can run the country as one of the political leaders. Exciting stuff.

Towards the back, Sports Editor Tom Harle was in football heaven when he interviewed England legend Roy Hodgson during York's domination of Roses. Roses are white and all that...

Until week 9,

Grace



Hodgson interview P22
Sport



Instagram man M14
Features



The Election 2015 P16
Business



Heckling in sports P10
Comment

News in brief



@Work programme sees rise in applications

A new report on the University of York's @Work programme has revealed that last year saw an increase in the number of applications. In total, 208 students applied to take part in the scheme compared to 155 the previous year. The @Work scheme ran across four departments, Education, English and Related Literature, History of Art and Politics. The projects completed included 16 school workshops, research proposals and public events, with 26 projects sourced by the Community and Volunteering Unit.

New café uses food destined for landfill

York's first 'Pay As You Feel' café opened this week in Tang Hall Community Centre. Yourcafe, which is run entirely by volunteers, offers meals made from food donated by local businesses that would otherwise go to waste. The café was inspired by the Real Junk Food Project and will remain open for a trial period of six weeks. Rita Faria, a Yourcafe volunteer, told The Press: "Our objective is to reduce food waste and help social isolation while providing a tasty meal in the heart of the community."

Good prospects for York graduates

The Careers Annual Report has found that 72.9 per cent of full-time first degree graduates who left the University in 2013 were in graduate level employment or further study within six months of graduation. The report also found that the number of students who accessed the Employability Tutorial fell by approximately 10 per cent. However, the number of people who accessed their Employability Plans rose by 26 per cent. The Careers service intends to alter the structure of the York Award in the future.

Former Halifax head to shave afro for charity

Loussin-Torah Pilikian, former President of Halifax College, is close to hitting her fundraising target for York Mind, a local mental health charity. If she raises £500 by 18 May, she will shave her head. Pilikian wrote on her Just Giving page: "If everyone on my [Facebook] profile donated £1 I'd raise £1000 for York Mind. If all human beings had access to counselling, self-reflection and understanding it would be a much better place." She has already raised 94 per cent of her target, with only £29 left to be raised.

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Want to write for us?

Get in touch: editor@nouse.co.uk

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



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Chris Hart

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The Prime Minister's
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Abortion comments spark anger and complaints after URY debate

Tess Pullen
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YUSU HAVE launched an investigation after several complaints were made about a live radio debate between representatives from the newly ratified Life Matters society and FemSoc during URY show *That's What She Said*.

Life Matters was represented by Laura Doherty and David Scullion, the society's Chair and Secretary. Izzy Lomas and Gina Cardwell, Chair and Social Secretary of FemSoc, also took part in the debate.

The debate, which took place on 20 April, focused on whether abortion should be legal. However, complaints were made after Scullion was asked about his views on rape survivors who had abortions and he replied: "I still feel it is murder." He also said that women should be punished for having abortions.

Doherty concluded the interview by sharing a pro-life organisation's phone number which was presented by them as a helpline for people who may have been affected by the issues raised during the debate. Neither the host of the show nor FemSoc were made aware of Doherty's intention to read this number out before she did so.

Lomas told *Nouse* that she was "happy" Life Matters agreed to a debate but said she felt Life Matters "seriously violated the rules of the debate by promoting a pro-life hel-



IMAGE: JUSTYN HARDCASTLE

The debate between Life Matters and FemSoc was part of URY's 'alternative Woman's Hour' *That's What She Said* pline at the end of the show."

She said: "Free speech is important, but not when it's detrimental to student welfare. I don't believe Life Matters should be ratified. The views they expressed in the interview against contraception as well as abortion were extreme and the spreading of misinformation about contraception could seriously impact on the health of students."

Lomas also called their comments "inappropriate", "misogynistic" and "offensive", adding that their views on rape and abortion

"need to be challenged". She went on to say: "I completely support anyone who made a complaint about Life Matters and I hope YUSU takes any complaints seriously and investigates them fully."

Concerns were also raised over the participants treating the issue of abortion as a women's issue. It was argued that such a view subscribed to a form of gender binarism that could marginalise trans* people.

While the issue was raised during the interview and while both parties apologised, Life Matters

continued to use the term "pregnant women" throughout the debate.

Evie Paffard, LGBTQ Officer, told *Nouse* that she was "disappointed" by this and added: "Avoiding cissexist language isn't easy, but I applaud the two FemSoc speakers for making the effort to correct themselves."

Scullion said: "I'd like to say how good it is that people are so engaged with this topic. Jess [Wynn], the presenter of *That's What She Said*, said that the programme with Life Matters got far more interest

than usual. At university, we are exposed to lots of new ideas and we get the chance to evaluate and decide between them for ourselves.

"I think it's great that FemSoc and Women's Committee are willing to embrace this and invite us onto their show. It is understandable that the debate provoked a strong reaction; there were two irreconcilable ideas about the definition of human life that were presented. However, I would hope that, instead of shutting off debate, the fact that people have such strong views would encourage further understanding of the topic on both sides."

Speaking of the debate, Wynn said: "It was certainly a very thought provoking debate that has raised some very important issues. I am pleased that the debate has sparked conversation on this issue and that it has allowed people to make an informed decision about any further action that they might want to take."

Chris Wall, Student Activities Officer, told *Nouse*: "It is an incredibly difficult and sensitive conversation to be having. At this stage it is too early to say what will come from this but we are committed to our equal opportunities policy and want to encourage anyone who is affected by the issue to seek independent advice."

Students seeking further support are advised to contact the Women's Counselling Centre.

No CCTV means supermarket is unable to help catch writer of note

IMAGE: SARAH METCALFE



Metcalfe hopes the person who wrote the note will see her Facebook post

>>> **Continued from front**
want to create attention to myself with getting this note because it's quite embarrassing and it was quite hurtful, but I felt compelled to challenge perceptions of people in this way. That person who judged me on my appearance doesn't know me as a person, doesn't know what kind of day I've had or what's going on in my life."

Metcalfe stressed that her intentions were not to start a hate campaign against the writer of the note, saying: "I just felt like I needed to educate this person. If they did own up to what they did, I would happily sit down and talk to them and explain about what challenges I face on a day-to-day basis."

The Sociology student acknowledges that the writer of the note may not have understood that she is disabled because she is not currently in possession of a Disabled Blue Badge, which ensures easier access for people with mobility difficulties to park closer to public places and areas.

Although she has applied for

one, she is unsure whether she will be permitted one due to the nature of her illness. However, Metcalfe is legally able to park in a disabled space without a Blue Badge because the scheme only applies to on-street car parks.

She said the disabled car park at the Clifton Moor Tesco "didn't have double yellow lines, or anything that made them look like they were official, and that it could be enforceable", adding: "It doesn't say that a blue badge is needed, so I just used my own judgment."

Metcalfe also pointed out that there were around 40 empty spaces in the disabled parking space and said that because of this, she didn't believe that she would be offending anyone.

She went on to say: "That's the last thing I'd want to do, and it's about the personal judgment and compassion of others rather than stereotyping people and being politically correct."

Metcalfe added: "I would never park in an allocated blue badge car park in town, so if I was feel-

ing like I was in agony - well, I'm in agony all of the time, but if I felt I couldn't cope with it that day - I just wouldn't go out, I wouldn't venture out into town."

Staff at the Clifton Moor Tesco were "horrified" to hear what had happened but said that there was no CCTV at the privately owned car park, and so they would have no indication of who had posted the note on her car.

Peter Quinn, Director of Student Support Services, said: "I am sorry to hear about this incident and hope the student involved is making use of their friends and support network ... Although these types of incidents are likely to be rare, they could leave the recipient feeling distressed and disempowered."

Metcalfe hopes that by sharing the note on Facebook the person will see it and "will think twice about saying those nasty things". Her status has currently been shared almost 3,000 times.

One in ten students at York have a disability, the majority of which are likely to be non-visible.

News

Fourteen complaints received about campus accommodation

Ciarán Morrissey
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A FREEDOM OF Information request has revealed that fourteen formal complaints have been received by Accommodation Services since the start of the academic year.

The most common type of complaint was about a lack of heating or hot water.

Other complaints included Wi-Fi coverage, leaks, noise disturbances and power outages.

The highest number of complaints were made about the accommodation in Derwent, while there were none received about Langwith and Wentworth.

Half of the individual complainants were offered compensation by Accommodation Services.

Three sets of complainants appealed the decision reached by Accommodation Services regarding their complaints.

Of these appeals, one was rejected and two had their compensation offers increased.

Last year saw 19 complaints being made, with four being made about both Derwent and Halifax ac-

commodation.

Most complaints in 2013/2014 concerned general maintenance, although there was one complaint about a pest infestation. Ten complaints resulted in offers of compensation.

A third-year James College student said that during his time in "the infamous N-block", "occasionally, when it rained, water would soak through my friend's carpet".

The student added: "Twenty of us were expected to share a kitchen. We were in catered accommodation, but it was chaotic at lunch times and on week-ends. It's just not feasible to share a kitchen with that number of people."

There were appeals from three groups of students last year, one of which succeeded in securing a larger sum.

A University of York spokesperson told *Nouse*: "We try to handle any issues that arise informally with residents. However, where the student does not feel this is satisfactory then they have the right to initiate the complaints procedure under their terms of residence."

The spokesperson added: "In



IMAGE: PETROC TAYLOR

Two complaints have been made about accommodation in Halifax College since the start of the academic year assessing complaints, the Accommodation Office considers a number of factors including the severity, length of impacts/disruption, communication and mitigation efforts. "If a student does not agree with Accommodation Office's findings they have the right to ask for the complaint to be reviewed."

Plans for Bollywood film on campus

Amy Norton
NEWS REPORTER

A FILM COMPANY is in talks with the University about using the campus as the backdrop to a new Bollywood production.

The company contacted the University last week to make enquiries about filming over a period of four weeks in June. The film is said to follow the romance of two students who move to England to study at university.

David Duncan, Registrar and Secretary, told *Nouse*: "Discussions are at an early stage but if this comes off, it will provide a further opportunity for students from TFTV to become involved in making a major film and will also provide employment for students as extras."

The news follows confirmation that the production company behind 'The Correspondence' will be shooting scenes featuring former Bond girl Olga Kurylenko on campus in May.

Duncan said: "The excellent facilities in the TFTV department and the high quality of our graduates are a very important part of the York media arts story."

Other recent television and film productions based in York include *Slapper and Me*, starring Luke Newberry as a dog-racing trainer, set to be released later this year.

First batch of Big D pre-sale tickets sells out in ten minutes

IMAGE: DERWENT COLLEGE



Derwent has promised to provide a "euphoric oasis of music and dancing"

Lewis Hill
DEPUTY EDITOR

DERWENT COLLEGE has sold all of its first release pre-sale tickets for Big D, its annual post-exam club night, in ten minutes.

The description on the Big D

as 'The Void' for the night.

Big D, which was originally scheduled to take place on Sunday 31 May, will now happen on Monday 1 June, due to "unforeseen circumstances". However, the change is sad to make the lineup "***EVEN MADDER!*" according to the Facebook page. All tickets for the first, second and third releases are sold out, while details for the sale of online tickets have yet to be announced.

Despite the initial success of ticket pre-sales, there have been complaints regarding the process behind the sale of the tickets.

One person registered their complaint on the Big D Facebook event page, commenting on the lack of information given about the dwindling number of first release tickets, valued at £18.

They said: "Good job telling people in the queue there's only 10 tickets left then... When do they go online?"

Rosalie Dowding, Chair of Derwent College, told *Nouse*: "We were thrilled by such a massive turnout for the first sale. As these went so quickly, we decided to launch the second

release then too, to minimise disappointment of all those that had crammed into D Bar.

"It seems that people were under the impression that the tickets had completely gone, and left before hearing that the second release was being launched."

According to Dowding, over a third of the tickets have now been sold.

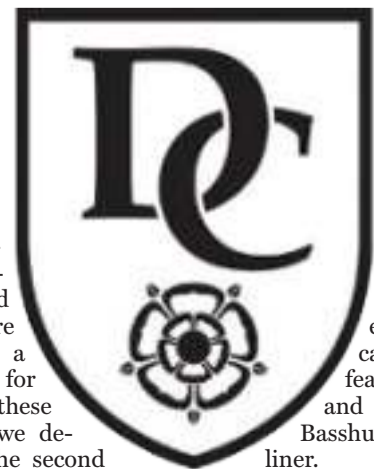
She added that there would be an opportunity for people to win YUSU Black Cards. YUSU Black Cards entitle the holder free entry into all YUSU official club nights.

The cards will be valid for all of next year, which Dowding labelled as an "absolute dream."

A second year Economics student, told *Nouse*: "The way the ticket sales were advertised wasn't

great to be honest. It's a shame because I was really looking forward to the event. I had a really enjoyable night at last year's event, hopefully I can grab a ticket when online sales go live."

Last year's event, which was called Project D, featured Swedish DJ and record producer Basshunter as its headliner.



New campaign set to tackle sexual assault

Amy Wong
NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS AT the University of York have launched a campaign in partnership with FemSoc and Women's Network to address sexual harassment and assaults on nights out.

As part of the campaign, called 'Your Night, Your Right', a series of videos will be filmed. These will include scenes depicting the type of assault that happens on nights out occurring during the daytime instead.

It is hoped this will create a "very powerful visual impression" and "expose [the] singular abnormality" and seriousness of assault.

People will also be given the opportunity to have their experiences of sexual assault posted on a blog.

Sally Sadik, the student spearheading the campaign, told *Nouse*: "We've already been sent so many accounts of assault."

She added: "Honestly, I think people reading them will be shocked to see the extent [of it], and hopefully it can provide a place for survivors to share their experiences."

"Essentially, we want people to realise that it is their night, and by spreading awareness of how we can't accept that it's just 'normal' and 'accepted' we can change things!"

The campaign was expected to go live on social media on Monday.

IMAGE: WOMEN'S NETWORK



Sexual harassment was discussed during 'York Needs Feminism'



Other campaigns have also focused on women's safety at night

York shortlisted for best university in the North

Shahir Mihad
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY of York has been shortlisted for 'University of the Year' as part of a new set of awards designed to celebrate the achievements of northern universities.

The universities of Lancaster and Newcastle have also been shortlisted for the Educate North award.

The award will be judged based on which university best demonstrates outstanding performance in business finance, teaching, research, student experience, innovation and economic impact.

Twenty awards will be given out in total, including 'Business School of the Year' and 'Research Project of the Year'.

Professor Phil Harris, executive director of the Business Research Institute at the University of Chester has said 'University of the Year' had been a "very difficult category to judge".

He added: "People are now starting to talk seriously about the northern powerhouse" and said that many universities in the north were beginning to challenge the higher education 'golden triangle' of Oxford, Cambridge and London.

In association with The Tel-

graph, the Educate North Awards seek to celebrate, recognise and share best practice and excellence in the education sector in the north.

It will be judged by a panel of leading academics and individuals.

The winner of the title will be announced at a dinner in Manchester on 3 June, playing host to over 30 universities and further education institutes from across the north.

There will also be a one-day conference prior to the award ceremony.

The conference will host 16 speakers, including Jeremy Lindley, Director of Finance at the University of York.

He is set to give a speech on "how a major northern and global institution manages and intends to manage its significant financial responsibilities".

A University of York spokesperson told *Nouse*: "It is pleasing to be nominated as University of the Year in the Educate North awards."

The spokesperson added: "It reflects our consistent strength regionally, nationally and internationally."

The University, which joined the Russell Group in 2012, was awarded Times Higher Education University of the Year in 2010.

York archaeologist narrowly avoids Nepal earthquake by just two hours

Victoria Chater-Lea
NEWS REPORTER

PHD LECTURER Dr Hayley Saul narrowly missed the Nepal earthquake of April 25 after leaving the village of Langtang just two hours before it was hit.

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal on Saturday 25 April, causing devastation across the Himalayan nation. Large parts of the capital, Kathmandu, were flattened.

The death toll has risen to over 6,600, with more than 14,000 injured. The Nepalese authorities have ruled out finding any more survivors.

Dr Saul, who completed her archaeology degree at the the University of York, left Langtang, a small village 130km north of Kathmandu, just two hours before the earthquake demolished the entire community. The 32-year-old was in Langtang researching Tibetan Himalayan heritage by speaking with local villagers, and had previously visited the area.

Her mission was to raise funds for renovations for the monastery. Dr Saul was travelling with her friend Emma Waterton away from Langtang, on a path towards Lama

Hotel when the first tremor hit. It lasted for a minute.

Several more tremors hit as they tried to make their way down the path with their tour guides. The landscape became unstable after the main tremor and minute aftershocks triggered landslides from the cliffs above the path.

Emma Price, Dr Saul's sister, said: "The path they were trekking on had gone and they had to trek for another five or six hours to get to the next village."

The pair zigzagged across the landscape to dodge landslides that fell less than 30 metres away. At Lama Hotel, Dr Saul and Waterton handed out their spare warm clothes to locals whose buildings were damaged beyond repair.

Dr Saul left a voicemail on her sister's mobile urging her to contact the Foreign Office or the British Embassy to send out helicopters to rescue the stranded.

The pair then headed towards Sharpa Gaon. At 4.15pm the day after the quake, the friends, tour guides and a Slovakian woman were rescued by helicopter.

On arrival into Kathmandu, the group were informed that the entire village of Langtang had been



IMAGE: UK DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Rescue efforts are underway by international organisations to help the thousands injured in Nepal


wiped out by an avalanche, with no survivors. Price said: "The guide [Dr Saul] was with found out that his whole family had gone. It's some kind of apocalyptic nightmare."

Dr Saul and Waterton have created a Just Giving page dedicated

to their tour guides Dawa, Changju and Temba. They hope to raise \$50,000 to help ease the loss of their village and contribute towards any survival efforts and have already raised 19 per cent of their total, which amounts to £3,120.15. Thirty

people have donated so far.

The sisters additionally work with the charity 'Community Action Nepal' and are asking for donations for a relief program via their Just Giving webpage: www.justgiving.com/Langtang-Survivors.



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York ranked 17th in Complete University Guide league table

Amy Bishop
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY of York has dropped down to 17th from 14th place in the new Complete University Guide League Table for 2016.

Universities that moved above York include Bristol University and the Universities of East Anglia and Southampton.

For individual subjects, York came in the top ten for History, History of Art, Politics, Archaeology, Chemistry, English, Education, Biology and French.

History was ranked eighth, as was Chemistry. English was ranked seventh, History of Art came sixth, Politics came tenth place and Archaeology came fifth. Biology maintained its position in fourth place, Education came ninth, and French moved up thirty places from thirty-fourth position to fourth.

Other subjects in the top twenty included Music, Economics, Psychology, Medicine, Linguistics, Nursing, Computer Science, Sociology, Law, German and Philosophy.

Some subjects moved a considerable amount compared to last year. Medicine stepped up from 29th to 16th. However, Music dropped from 11th to 18th and Sociology moved down from 7th to 15th.

Sam Maguire, YUSU President,

told *Nouse*: “A real mixed bag, some amazing results for individual departments but we all need to work hard to ensure York starts to tackle the worrying decline of the last five years.”

For the ninth year running, York was rated the best university in the Yorkshire and Humber region, coming above the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford and Hull.

The University of Cambridge was rated top overall, with Oxford coming just behind in second place, followed by London School of Economics and Imperial College London. Durham University came fifth.

However, for student satisfaction it was Coventry University that took the top position, with Buckingham University coming second. As part of the survey, the People & Planet Green League rated Plymouth as the greenest university in the UK.

George Offer, Academic Officer, said: “It’s a shame we’ve slipped to 17th, but with the new University Strategy just coming in I’m confident we’ll be back in the top 10 in just a couple of years.”

However, he also said: “York is a fantastic University as can be seen from the QS rankings.”

In the latest QS World University Rankings, York had seven subjects in the top 100, including



IMAGE: JOHN ROBINSON

Several subjects were ranked top ten in the UK in the Complete University Guide league table, including Biology

Economics, Environment, History, Language and Linguistic Science, Psychology and Sociology.

A spokesperson from the University of York said: “There will always be year to year fluctuations in university performance and league table position depending both on local factors and events elsewhere

in the sector.

“Nevertheless, York remains a strong University – subjects across the disciplines are ranked in the top ten in the Complete University Guide while seven of our academic departments place in the top 100 in the QS Subject Rankings.

“We are committed to excel-

lence in teaching and research and the delivery of research-led teaching.

“Our new University Strategy seeks to invest in improving the academic student experience and providing additional opportunities for students to both develop their skills and enhance their employability.”



IMAGE: ADAM BOWIE

Tour de Yorkshire

Thousands of people lined the streets of York on Saturday to cheer on cyclists taking part in the second stage of the Tour de Yorkshire.

The 174km route began in Selby and was won by Dutch rider

Moreno Hofland. The women’s race was won by Louise Mahe.

Several Olympians and Paralympians, including Sir Bradley Wiggins, Dame Sarah Storey and Joanna Roswell, also took part in the inaugural cycling race.

Universities see £50m increase in donations

Tess Pullen
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

AN ANNUAL review of British university fundraising has revealed that universities have received more money than ever from alumni, charities and other supporters.

The Ross-CASE Survey of Charitable Giving to Universities is described on their website as a survey which is annually commissioned by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) in Europe and is carried out by Nat-Cen Social Research on behalf of CASE.

Over 120 universities from England, Scotland and Wales raised a combined total of £807m in 2013-14. This figure was £50m higher than the 2011-12 record of £753m.

Oxbridge universities contributed to £323m worth of funds, which made up 41 per cent of the total. The Russell Group of 21 universities excluding Oxbridge raised over £300m.

The report also showed that while the number of contactable alumni rose from 7.5m to 8.6m, only 183,000 alumni donated to univer-

sities, meaning that the mean percentage of alumni making a donation was 2 per cent.

In addition, more effort was given to hiring staff to work purely on resources and fundraising activities.

The total fundraising costs increased 12 per cent in comparison to previous years, £59m of which went on staff costs.

The money came from a range of sources including trusts, other charities, alumni and foundations, while donations from organisations accounted for 56 per cent of the total.

Companies and businesses only made up 20 per cent of income received from organisations.

Six universities were categorised as having fragile funding programmes, whereas sixty-nine were considered to have emerging fundraising programmes.

Both Oxford and Cambridge were considered to have elite fundraising programmes with an average of 52,000 donors each.

Approximately 8.6 million alumni were contacted in total, with just over 247,000 donating.

Comment



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Will E4's election strategy be beneficial?



Holly Woolnough

E4 attempts to encourage youth voters through channel shutdown

In the run up to the General Election, Channel 4 have announced that for the duration of the 7th of May, the day on which the country goes to the polls, E4 will be shut down in an attempt to encourage the younger electorate to vote.

Initially this seems to be a particularly solipsistic suggestion, based on the belief that all of Britain's young people religiously tune in to the channel, and will be left destitute and lost as to what to do when they find themselves bereft of it.

However, E4 is the most popular digital channel among 18-34 year olds, and could therefore have a considerable impact on the voting intentions of potentially apathetic young people.

The likelihood is that anyone who is not planning to vote, on seeing that the channel is not broadcasting, will simply change to another. Furthermore, with the date for registering to vote already gone, the turn off can only encourage those who have already bothered to register, and will leave those who are unable to vote mildly disgruntled at the lack of *The Big Bang Theory* gracing their screens. Perhaps the channel should have shut down on the

20th of April, the deadline for registering to vote.

However, in an age of infamously apathetic young people, any initiative that encourages them to head down to their nearest polling station seems positive.

In the 2010 election, only 51.8 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds turned out to vote. Almost half of the UK's young electorate did not have their say in who would govern the country for the next five years. In comparison, 74.7 per cent of the 65+ age group used their vote.

Political parties pay close attention to turn out figures, and if it is clear that young people are less likely to vote, it makes sense that the parties' manifestos will cater more readily towards the needs and desires of the older generation. This creates a vicious cycle, in which younger voters are less likely to participate if they don't see their own demographic being represented in the policies of the major parties.

Additionally, Russell Brand did not help in encouraging younger voters to have their say. In October 2013, Brand expressed his distaste for the current establishment and called on the public not to vote in order to demonstrate these feelings.

As young people are increasingly encouraged to stay at home, whether it is through feelings of apathy or a desire for a so called 'revolution', it is essential that we find new ways to mobilise young voters.

The shutdown of E4 may be an innovative new way of motivating 18-34 year olds to participate in the election. With just under half of the UK's youngest voters not using their vote, it is crucial that more of an effort is made to educate and inform those who feel that voting is pointless. It is a brave move for Channel 4, but a smart one.

Russell Brand manages to convey his message so widely by using his YouTube channel to reach the largest number of people, particularly the young voters for whom YouTube is a new media source. Similarly, Channel 4 has recognised the best way to communicate with younger people, and will hopefully help to mobilise them on Election Day.

However, it doesn't really matter if there's no gigantic upswing in youth voting due to a lack of Brooklyn Nine Nine. If turning off E4 for a day causes just one young person to vote who previously wouldn't have, then it will have succeeded.



IMAGE: MICHAEL JONES

Food bank usage should not be on the rise



Amy Norton

Poverty in the UK continues despite economic recovery

IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA



The UK economy is inching further towards stability, with increased consumer spending showing that Britain isn't feeling the pinch quite so much as before. And yet paradoxically, new figures reveal that record numbers of people are turning to food banks, despite the supposed rise in living standards.

It is a national disgrace, and one which has been under the limelight in the build-up to the upcoming election.

The Trussell Trust, a charity which runs a network of over 420 food banks in the UK, distributed parcels containing three days' worth of food over a million times in the financial year of 2014-2015.

An average of 49 per cent of users only visited once, while others were in need of their services on a more frequent basis; each visit is counted separately, with every member of a family included.

The Trust estimates that half of their users equates to half a million people, with 15 per cent needing help more than three times a year.

Despite political promises for action, these figures continue to rise – specifically, 19 per cent from 2013-14. As some politicians debated

whether food banks were really necessary at all, nearly 397,000 children needed their support last year. That's a lot of kids starting their day at school on an empty stomach.

The reasons pushing people to food banks are primarily financial, such as problems with benefit payments coming through, due to an inefficient system. The second biggest driver is low household income, which has increased to 22 per cent of all referrals.

In other words, insecure work, low pay, and the cost of living are so bad for thousands of people in this country that food is unaffordable. It's not something you'd expect in a nation with the 14th highest Human Development Index in the world.

And the Trussell Trust is just one network of food banks. At most, data such as this provides only a rough outline of precise numbers of users. Also, the figures don't take into account people who would rather go hungry than admit that they can't afford to eat. To many, it is a source of great embarrassment that they cannot provide for those who depend on them, a secret shame no parent should have to bear.

Yet some argue that food banks aren't essential: York councillor Chris Steward used the general rise in living standards to argue in 2013 that: "There is certainly no need for food banks; no-one in the UK is starving and I think food banks insult the one billion in the world that go to bed hungry every day, and ignore the fact that a child dies of hunger every three seconds."

He added that: "The fact that some give food to food banks, merely enables people who can't budget (an issue where schools should do much more and I have said the council should) or don't want to, to have more money to spend on alcohol, cigarettes etc."

Clearly, views such as these are a reason for the perpetuation of UK poverty: drawing the blinds over the issue in a determined avowal that it simply can't exist in this country.

Judging by these figures, not only is poverty in urgent need of addressing, it is not being addressed effectively enough. And that in no way belittles the existence of poverty on a wider scale in other parts of the world. Making immediate correlations between low income and irresponsibility, too, offers no solution.

Comment

Miliband should focus on building social housing



Jacob Miller

VIEWS FROM THE OUSE



Rent controls and longer tenancies are well-intentioned, but we need more supply

Ed Miliband has proposed the implementation of rent controls and longer tenancies if he is elected. At the moment, many last up to six months, with the norm being a year.

Labour has proposed extending tenancies to three years, with a six month probation during which the landlord can evict tenants for certain discrepancies, such as anti-social behaviour and failure to

“Labour has proposed extending tenancies to three years, with a six-month probation during which the landlord can evict tenants for certain discrepancies”

meet rental payments.

Reforms which create greater stability for people's housing situations should be welcomed. Shelter claimed in March 2014 that in 2013 alone, more than 200,000 people faced eviction because they asked a landlord to fix a problem in their home.

Miliband also proposes to place a ceiling on rent increases. There have been many attacks from

the Conservatives in relation to this policy, such as Boris Johnson's description of it as “Mugabe style expropriations”, giving the impression that Miliband aims to create some form of Stalinist state.

Of course, this is hyperbole, the proposals are modest, even compared to previous rent controls seen in this country in the 1960s and '70s.

However, there are problems with Miliband's policy, because it does not address the root causes of the current housing crisis - a lack of supply.

This lack is not due to the excess of demand that Nigel Farage often speaks of; in which our shores are swamped by immigrants, who surge into our housing stock. The simple truth is that supply has failed to keep pace with the demand of the citizens of this country.

We are experiencing the lowest levels of house building in peace time since the 1920s. According to the Institute for Public Policy Research, if house building continues at current levels, by 2025, England will build 750,000 fewer homes than are needed. Miliband has committed Labour to building 200,000 homes a year by 2020, but the focus should be on what type of housing is being constructed.

Since Margaret Thatcher's “Right to Buy” policy in the 1980

which encouraged council house tenants to buy their own homes, there has been a chronic shortage of social housing. By the mid-1980s just 20,000 new council houses were being built, compared to 200,000 a year being constructed by local authorities in the early 1950s.

Shockingly, these figures dropped still further during the years of Tony Blair and Gordon

“There are currently five million people stuck on social housing waiting lists. This figure betrays a narrative of those with lower incomes unable to access housing”

Brown's New Labour.

There are currently 5 million people stuck on social housing waiting lists; a figure which betrays a narrative of those with lower incomes, unable to access social housing, turning to the often more expensive private sector. Indeed, rents have increased 13 per cent since 2010.

The housing benefit bill is predicted to be £25 billion by 2017.

One reason for the spiralling cost of housing benefit is that people who cannot afford private rents are forced into them by a lack of social housing. The state is left to subsidise their meagre income through housing benefit simply so they can

“If the state fails to build these homes, we are storing serious problems later on”

afford to keep a roof over their heads.

Thus, a programme of building social housing, far from costing the state, would, in the long term, save money by reducing the housing benefit bill. Not only this, but it would provide local authorities with a stream of income in the form of rents and create employment.

Labour's policy is well-intentioned but it deflects from the real issue at the heart of the housing crisis - a lack of social housing. The free market has been given virtually free reign over our housing market for the past 30 years. The housing crisis we now face is a failure of that market, and this failure invites government intervention in order to reverse the damage.

If the state fails to build these homes, we are storing serious problems for our future.

IMAGE: MSU CAMPUS ARCHEOLOGY



There are some things I can't really call myself. Funny. Immune to bullets. Secretly a duck. Any sort of nickname that starts with “the Wolf”. But I CAN call myself an impulsive spender, or at least the sort of person who owns a human skull made out of resin because they saw it on the internet and thought it looked cool.

You see, assuming that your maintenance loan of £1000 a term actually survives accommodation bills, the student mind has a remarkable proclivity towards spending it. Sure, you could stick to blowing it all on alcohol, books and books hollowed out and replaced with alcohol, but why not dream a little bigger?

Take the guy I met who bought an iPhone 6 on his first week - the only downside was that he then had to immediately ask for money for food. Then there was the guy I heard of from Halifax who spent his maintenance loan on a two-handed claymore sword. He owned the thing for one glorious night, and got a shipment of fresh fruit in so he could play real-life Fruit Ninja behind his accommodation.

But, sadly, he left it out in the kitchen, and one terrified cleaner later the sword was impounded by security. His parents had to drive over to pick it up (and you thought it was bad when they had to pick your phone up from school).

There was also the guy who got incredibly drunk and bought an octopus over the internet - by the way, yes, you can do that, via certain aquatic pet websites. He then promptly forgot his purchase until his new invertebrate friend showed up in a plastic bag a week later.

Flick around the internet and there are even better stories. According to The Mirror, 22 out of 1000 students bought cars with their loan at the start of this year, while a couple bought snakes or even pugs. Then there are the people who spent it on krill oil, kangaroo steaks, genuine monk robes and - my favourite - a life-sized statue of Nicolas Cage. (Open up the chest and there's a replica of the Declaration of Independence! Keep it away from bees.)

So spend away! The only downside of all this is that, naturally, you'll probably end up destitute, glumly living in a tent by the lake with Nicolas Cage and a pug, trying to work out the exchange rate between yakarma and the British pound. At least you'll have guaranteed good housemates next year, right?

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Est. 1964

EDITORS' OPINIONS



YourCafe aims to cut waste and feed those in need

Niall
Whitehead

Some people say that Britain has a problem with wasting food, given that we throw away 15 million tonnes of it every year. But at the same time, the Trussell Trust (the UK's largest network of food banks) has handed out over 900,000 boxes of emergency food in the last 12 months to families in dire need of it. Now, a new temporary cafe in York has decided to attempt to solve this problem once and for all.

YourCafe intends to "intercept" good food being sent to the landfill – much of which is disposed of for failing to meet supermarkets' aesthetic standards – and then turn it into healthy meals such as soups, cakes and salads. They plan to run a trial period of six weeks to gauge public interest, opening on the 29th April at Tang Hall Community Centre, before possibly opening a permanent cafe if it's successful.

Their aims are to address "food waste, food poverty and social isolation". It's an excellent way to get food to people who need it, while making sure that food that can be eaten, ultimately, is. Plus, it's "Pay As You Feel" – you can offer as much money as you think the food is worth, or as much as you have, which means everyone has an opportunity to benefit.

Overall, YourCafe seems like an interesting venture. Provided the food's fresh and well-prepared, it could help our community massively, and provide good, healthy meals to those who particularly need them.

Suspicion of disabled people must be halted

Jacob
Miller



On 30th April, University of York PhD student Sarah Metcalfe discovered a note left on her car, telling her that "Being fat and ugly doesn't count as disabled (park elsewhere)" after parking in a disabled space at Clifton Moor's Tesco. In a Facebook post, Metcalfe explained that she had "a long term condition that causes pain and fatigue all over my body".

In 2012, six of the biggest disability charities warned of an increase in resentment and abuse towards disabled people as a result of the government's rhetoric.

Tom Madders, head of campaigns at the National Autism Society spoke of how some disabled people said that the climate was so hostile that they would not use designated parking spaces if they "don't look disabled". For example, there has been a focus on benefit fraud and "contribution" in the government's rhetoric surrounding social security, and a stereotype of laziness in programmes such as Benefits Street.

These negative portrayals encourage a culture of suspicion around disabled people, leading many to attempt to deduce if someone needs disabled facilities simply by observation. Thus, those whose illnesses do not overtly manifest themselves are demonised for using disabled services.

People who have disabilities have daily struggles. We should alleviate those struggles by offering support rather than suspicion.



Controversy at the Life Matters debate

Amy
Gibbons

On April 20 URY hosted a debate between representatives of the Feminist and newly ratified Life Matters societies, concerning the ethics of abortion. The broadcast sparked controversy after the Life Matters society made inflammatory comments regarding rape and abortion and promoted a pro-life helpline at the end of the interview, having given no prior notice of intending to do so either to the host or their opponents in the debate.

Free speech is a wonderful thing. Without it, we would be stuck for purpose. However, professional debates should be conducted as so; it is important that issues such as abortion are dealt with in a sensitive and mature manner. To suggest that abortion is on par with rape, as the secretary of Life Matters did, is clearly contentious, and frankly unnecessary.

If you want to be taken seriously, and respected as a society of free speech, don't play to your inflammatory stereotype. In addition, violating the rules of the debate by promoting a pro-life helpline is absolutely unacceptable, and indeed undermines the concept of free speech as part of a balanced debate.

So, to all controversial societies out there, take note of the true significance of free speech, and play by the rules. Then you'll have my respect.



IMAGE MUPPETWIKI

Heckling is not always innocent



Leah Huws

We should treat the opposition with respect

Roses 2015 – a weekend of great sport and plenty of rain, concluded with a satisfying victory for York. On the face of it. Since then, events have been overshadowed by reports of heckling at the University Challenge event and sexist catcalling at the women's water polo event.

Most students by now have seen the photo of the Lancaster water polo player circling social media, in a bid to track down Player Number Two who reportedly shouted "I'd do you number seven", "slut" and other derogatory comments towards the women's teams playing water polo on Sunday.

Let's be careful not to pass this off as Lancaster's problem – it's a problem everywhere. Because in the same breath, a fellow York student I spoke with, who condemned the heckling, stated that the Lancaster player did not deserve to be singled out, or punished. Why?

1) Apparently, this was "only lad banter": once one is part of a group of 'lads', they are immediately excused of all responsibility. 2) Being publicly named might really upset Lancaster men's Player Number Two.

By this point in the conversation, I probably looked like a goldfish out of water (which is not an intellectual look). A debate that was about the unacceptability of misogyny had been turned on its head:

it was now all about the effects on Player Number Two.

The women's water polo teams were in that pool after months of hard work, expecting to be judged on their athletic ability. Instead, they were distracted by a crowd of strangers loudly judging them on their appearance.

Am I supposed to feel sorry for singling Player Number Two out for misogyny when he himself singled out a female polo player trying

“ Heckling can escalate into something menacing ”

to focus on her sport in such a derogatory way? This 'lad' banter can lead to sexism, which has no place in society, let alone university sport, where people are supposed to have a degree of intelligence.

Certainly, crowd mentality makes people do strange things (I myself was caught in the wrong crowd at the football and felt obliged to meekly cheer for Lancaster in fear of my life). However, this should never be used as an excuse to personally intimidate another sportsperson. There's news that Lancaster University are investigating the incident, with rumours of a possible suspension from sport for the individual in question.

Good. Sorry Player Number Two, but an example has to be made out of you in order to stamp out the 'lad' banter that leads to sexism, and to real life people being intimidated and hurt. If you're not happy for the whole world to hear how you shout-ed 'slut' at a woman, why do it at all?

So what degree of heckling is acceptable? The booing that occurred at the University Challenge event towards the Lancaster team may be considered innocent, but then a group decided to start jeering at a competitor because they came from Huddersfield, in a personal attack.

My gran's favourite phrase is 'If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all': cheer for your team, or shut up.

Heckling can escalate into something menacing, very quickly. We need to remember that Roses is a strong partnership between two universities, which needs to be supported through mutual respect for each other's sporting abilities.

It's time that sport grew up; a lot of work and effort goes into training for sport, too much to resort to juvenile heckling, let alone sexism, racism, homophobia or any other parasite.

Sports people, respect each other, and society will appreciate you for far more than just your admirable dedication towards sports.

Don't be an e-diot



Liam Dooley

We must be aware of the dangers of e-cigarettes

Gone are the days of packing in smoking by wearing a patch on your arm, chewing on some ridiculously overpriced chewing gum or just simply going cold turkey. Nowadays everyone is trading in their pack of smokes for an e-cigarette – the newest piece of quitting smoking paraphernalia.

It is estimated that around 2 billion people in Britain are users of e-cigarettes, with around 700,000 of them using them instead of traditional cigarettes and the rest being made up of people who use a combination of the two.

There's something about these devices that has really taken a hold of society nowadays and a £2 billion industry seems to have just appeared out of thin air (or smoke, if you will).

But, contrary to the popular belief that e-cigarettes are some kind of 'miracle cure' for the problems of smoking, things aren't quite as simple as they first appear.

In no way do I want to suggest that e-cigarettes are not an improvement on the problems caused by smoking tobacco, but rather to explore the ways in which e-cigarettes may still be posing a threat to your health.

The most damaging health effects from smoking cigarettes comes from the inhaling of tar and other chemicals that are found in the cigarette smoke. E-cigarettes just provide the user with a dose of nicotine,

completely removing these other threats. But nicotine is not without its own problems.

First and foremost, it is highly addictive. Users of e-cigarettes must be careful to select the correct nicotine strength and to ensure that they don't overuse their device, otherwise it can be very easy to consume more nicotine than you previously did with cigarettes and to become even more addicted to it.

Aside from the health problems caused by nicotine, there have been many other concerns as to what chemicals are present in the act of vaping with an e-cigarette.

According to analysis by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the tobacco solution used in e-cigarettes contains harmful chemicals such as diethylene glycol, a component of antifreeze that's toxic to humans and is banned in food and drugs.

Cancer causing chemicals such as nitrosamines have also been found in the liquid, alongside other toxic chemicals that the user might inhale.

The long term effects of e-cigarettes are a long way off rearing their ugly heads, so not much can be known for certain about how these chemicals will affect the users, but it doesn't sound too promising.

The biggest problem overall with e-cigarettes is the lack of regulation. They are primarily a product whose sole purpose is to get its user

addicted to a substance. There is no patent or meaningful regulations, so they can be advertised in any way that a company chooses, producing adverts that are eerily similar to those that came out back when positive cigarette advertising was still

“Although they are safer than tobacco, e-cigarettes themselves do still pose a threat to health”

legal.

Plus, ever since it was made illegal to smoke cigarettes in enclosed public spaces in 2007, disgruntled smokers have been forced to smoke outside. Since this law doesn't extend to the use of e-cigarettes indoors, it has become not an uncommon sight to see someone using theirs inside.

There is a fear that without proper regulation, the act of smoking (in its widest sense) will begin to become re-popularised. It has already been noted that 1/20 teenagers who have used an e-cigarette have never smoked traditional cigarettes before.

This may not seem like a large statistic at first, but it is important to understand that although they are safer than smoking tobacco, e-cigarettes themselves still do pose a threat to your health.



IMAGE: JOHN WILLIAMS

We should be doing more for Nepal



Katy Marshall

As a wealthier nation we have a responsibility to support those in need

On April 25th, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, and has left, as current figures stand, 6,100 dead and over 8,000 wounded. 130,000 homes have been destroyed and 2.8 million people displaced. These tolls are still rising as the dead continue to be uncovered, figures trickle in from rural villages, and the aftermath has led to food shortages, disease and exposure to the heavy rain which is currently hindering rescue efforts.

The British government declared, a few days after the event, the help that it is prepared to offer. We are sending five million pounds in funds, and eight people. Eight people, to help the eight million that the UN has said to have been affected.

Of course, Britain is in the throes of one of its longest financial crises, but like it or not, we are a wealthy country. We consistently rank in the top 30 by GDP, while Nepal is the 16th poorest country in the world.

As the Guardian observed, five million pounds is less than 12 pence

per person. This is a paltry sum in

“Immigration is a primary concern for the electorate this May, and the rhetoric surrounding foreigners runs high, at times vitriolic.”

the face of our overall wealth.

We already know that Britain is willing to contribute when it comes to foreign aid, a fact we should be proud of. When the magnitude seven earthquake struck Haiti in 2010, we sent 71 people to help the very next day, and pledged twenty million pounds in assistance. While the two disasters should not be compared in severity, the government's response today is markedly tight-fisted.

The news has very recently made clear, for those of us with the liberty to not understand, how des-

perate life is for those fleeing a troubled country. Hundreds of Libyans, at turns called migrants or refugees, died in a capsizing boat not three weeks ago.

Immigration is a primary concern for the electorate this May, and the rhetoric surrounding foreigners runs high, at times vitriolic. Public sentiment has turned against giving 'handouts' to other countries, conflating this with benefits in our own country, and unfairly isolating the poverty of some nations from our own actions in the global market. Internationally, we are a stable and wealthy nation; it is our responsibility to help.

If we're so scared of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, the

“As a stable and wealthy nation, it is our responsibility to help”

answer isn't to make our own country inaccessible to them, by capping numbers and funds for assistance.

The most sensible, and most altruistic route, is to help their home nations become more liveable.

Closing the borders underestimates the determination of those who would otherwise have come safely, driving them to dangerous measures. Even Nigel Farage called on the government to take in our fair share of Syrian refugees.

Of course, Britain's economy is struggling compared to how it has fared in the past, but on a global scale, our problems are not serious. Five million pounds is a tiny sum, and sending merely eight people seems like a token, rather than a genuine effort to help. Some may be concerned about an influx of refugees, but those suffering in Nepal are mostly too poor even to flee. Economic concerns are viable, but this is not an economic crisis: it is a humanitarian one, and our priority should always be human life.

Regardless of our own fluctuations, we are in a position to help, and massively. It is disappointing, to say the least, that the government refuses to do more.



IMAGE: UK DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Comment

Topical Tweets

Uni of York Labour @UYLC Our vice chair is on a zero hour contract. It definitely doesn't suit him. #ysttdebate

York Tories @YorkTories An excellent talk by Nigel Adams (@H_NAdams). Many thanks, and welcome back any time. #YTSpeakers

Uni of York Lib Dems @UoYlibdems #LibDems continuing in government is backed by both the Economist and the Financial Times, we're the only party of competence and fairness.

UoY Green Party @UoYGreenParty 70,000 members UK wide #greensurge #VoteGreen2015 BRING ON MAY 7!!

Yakking About

If you go to the library and don't write a yak, did you even go? 27

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Hope this royal baby realises how lucky she is that she'll never have to spend a weekend in JBM writing a dissertation 54

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Was the Coalition government a success?



Niall Whitehead

YES.

Alright, it seems there's a devil here that needs an advocate. Truthfully, I'd usually be more inclined to position myself on the "boo, hiss" half of this argument, but sometimes it's just fun to argue the other side. So let's try!

The coalition's most unambiguous success was probably creating and, more importantly, maintaining a stable government in a period of economic concern and instability. Considering that before the ConDem alliance Britain hadn't had a coalition government since the 1940s, and that said government was made of two parties who might well be described as somewhat at odds, the new government carried on relatively harmoniously rather than simply breaking apart a few months in, as many spectators predicted.

There were clashes of policy, of course, and of these the AV referendum was probably the most blatant. But much of the internal warfare since seems to have been Conservative versus Conservative, particularly on the divisive issue of Europe. In any case, the coalition demonstrated that a government of two parties could carry through a full programme of government, making decisions and then actually carrying out reform. As a result, the ideology of British politics has definitely been altered. Voters need not fear an indecisive result as much as they once did, since we now know a coalition government can function strongly and effectively.

When our gaze shifts to individual policies, things get trickier, but there are still things to celebrate.

Parliament officially allowing same-sex marriage, which came into effect on March 2014, is an act the vast majority of us can get behind. An article in the Politics section last week observed that an increase in funding has helped cancer survival rates rise from among the worst in Europe to around the best. The King's Fund, meanwhile, notes that although some NHS reforms have been damaging, the Care Act "has created a legal framework for introducing a fairer system of funding of long-term care".

And on paper, the economy is improving. The Office for National Statistics claims we got 2.6 per cent growth back in 2014, while the deficit has halved as a proportion of Britain's GDP from 10.2 per cent to 5 per cent (some, however, are skeptical regarding the long-term sustainability of this growth). Bringing around 25 million people out of the income tax bracket (by raising it to £10,600) has also reportedly saved the typical taxpayer £705 a year, according to the Huffington Post.

Unemployment is down by 6 per cent, according to the Office of National Statistics, and 1.75 million people have now gained jobs during the coalition's time in power. Though this statistic, too, invites dissent - some argue that these jobs are often zero-hours contracts or badly paid - the Office argues that 83 per cent are legitimate, full-time jobs.

So there we go. The coalition had some successes, and the fact it managed to remain a single, stable government for four years was probably the chiefest of them all.



Andrew Knowles

NO.

Perhaps what the Coalition will be most remembered for is its austerity measures. By comparing the finances of the country to household economics, they quickly convinced a large proportion of people that massively cutting government spending - and thus reducing GDP - is a sensible idea in a recession (when interest rates are already as low as they can go).

The result for the UK economy has been disastrous. The Office for Budget Responsibility has calculated that in the fiscal year of 2010/11, austerity reduced growth by 1 per cent and by another 1 per cent in 2011/12, with the OBR predicting that further cuts will reduce GDP further. The Oxford economist Simon Wren-Lewis argues that by now the cost of 2010 austerity, cumulatively, could exceed 5 per cent of GDP.

There has been an unprecedented lack of growth in living standards while productivity growth has stalled. The small amount of economic growth that we have seen has been largely based on consumption, fuelled by credit and an inflated property-market. The jobs that have been created have been largely part-time and low-paid.

The Coalition government has made huge cuts to social welfare spending and has made it much more difficult for those dependent on welfare to actually receive payments or help. The social effects have been dire.

In 2014-15, over a million people were given three days worth of emergency food by Trussell Trust foodbanks, compared with 61,468 in 2010-11. Benefit delays, low in-

come and benefit changes are the three most common referral causes for this emergency food aid.

The financial industry, which caused the financial crisis of 2007-8 and the subsequent recession, still enjoys a huge amount of economic and political power.

Instead of trying to break up the largest of the financial institutions and implement serious regulation, Osborne chose to continue the previous Labour Government's policy of quantitative easing.

The effect of the £375 billion (yes, billion) injection into the financial industry has mainly been to prop up the stock market and has also had the effect of boosting the richest 10 per cent of the population's wealth by an average of £128,000-322,000 (according to the Bank of England). As David Cameron once said: 'We're all in this together!'

This is not to mention the disastrous military intervention in Libya (it turns out that you can't magically improve authoritarian states by bombing their basic infrastructure while arming extremist Islamist militants; who'd have thought!)

And, of course, the privatisation of the NHS (because everyone knows how much more efficient the US healthcare system is). And let's not mention the failure of the Coalition to implement serious climate change policy (it's not like climate scientists are warning of catastrophe!)

In conclusion: unless you're fortunate enough to be belong to the economic elite of this country you should not consider the Coalition government's time at all successful.

#minstergram

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



katieeeeadams when did hes west get so pretty? #York #UniOfYork #HesWest #UFO or #CentralHall!



uoy_grounds_and_gardens Greylag goslings exploring #heswest #universityofyork #lake #wildlife #environment #habitat #uoy #uniofyork #gardener #birds #geese #spring



uoystudent For every lake, duck and goose at York there's a piece of #Brutalism architecture. Here's a campus view with more straight lines and concrete than any other. #UoY #UniOfYork #UniversityofYork

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Nouse is fundraising with YuStart to help make future editions even better!

We are looking to raise funds so we can replace our old, slow computers, and also invest in some new dictophones and a camera to encourage more writers and photographers to join our team

We would really appreciate donations of any amount and thank you in advance

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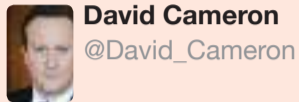


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30 Apr 2015



Reducing inequality, tackling climate change and promoting human rights - these will be the core values of my government's foreign policy.

24 Apr 2015



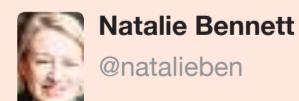
Stronger eggconomy, fairer society, opportunity (and eggs) for everyone #GE2015

6 Apr 2015



I love Europe, but Europe isn't the EU. #AskNigel-Farage #AskTheLeader #bbcqt

1 May 2015



Green Party has the highest total of women candidates standing ...214. Congrats @GreenPartyWomen

28 Apr 2015



IMAGE: KATE MITCHELL

Is former First Lady Hillary Clinton about to make history in the US by taking its top job, or is there too much controversy in her past?

Hello Madame President?

Alex Davenport
POLITICAL REPORTER

"I'm running for President. Everyday Americans need a champion, and I want to be that champion."

This single tweet of confirmation looked like an attempt to remain humble and grounded following the months, even years of speculation about Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential ambitions. In place of any pomp and circumstance, Clinton's almost casual-sounding announcement bore the hallmarks of someone taking absolutely nothing for granted.

And yet, it is hard to imagine a time more apt for Clinton, one of the most prominent politicians of our era, to take her chance at the top job.

Of course, Clinton's famous description of the presidency as the "highest, hardest glass ceiling" gives us an indication of the heavy emphasis her campaign will place on gender. In particular, given the recent birth of her daughter Chelsea's first child, Clinton appears to be casting herself as the nation's grandmother. An approach already being tested with the hashtag:

#GrandmasKnowBest.

In addition, her campaign is likely to contain commitments to greater gender equality.

This step could certainly prove significant given that the vast majority of her potential opponents are male. Nonetheless, gender will simply be one of a number of contentious issues throughout the arduous election process.

Clinton has already committed to challenging an economic system "stacked in favour of those at the top". Instead, she is set to champion the cause of "everyday Americans". She equally voiced her intention to tackle the rising tension between African-Americans and the police, by proposing officers wear a camera on their person.

Her challengers, particularly those competing for the Democratic Party nomination, are also likely to hold her to account on what they view as a questionable record on foreign policy and human rights.

Particular regard is given to her staunch support for the 2003 military involvement in Iraq.

In spite of these objections, given her sizeable support base it is widely expected that Clinton will win her party's nomination. In con-

trast to her bitterly-fought primaries in 2008, lost to Barack Obama, there appear to be few potential Democratic candidates who could realistically challenge her for the nomination.

Her 'Ready for Hilary' campaign network is well-organised and its fundraising ability will undoubtedly outstrip any of the other Democratic presidential hopefuls' campaigns.

It would take something remarkable for any other Democrat to even genuinely compete with, let alone defeat Clinton. The candidate's primary campaign could all but turn into a procession towards the presidential election itself.

Assuming she wins the nomination, with Clinton going head-to-head with a Republican candidate, the presidential election would likely be a much closer affair.

At this early stage Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio have been touted as frontrunners for the Republican nomination.

Overcoming either would indeed pose Clinton's candidacy a significant challenge. Nonetheless, the capabilities of her efficient campaign team, along with her generally strong personality approval ratings,

suggest that in all likelihood, she would go into any two-way presidential race as the favourite to win.

Remarkable though a Clinton victory would be, marking an inaugural female presidency that many would say was long overdue, it is difficult to imagine it being met with the same optimism and euphoria evident as when Obama triumphed over John McCain in 2008.

This is largely down to Clinton's long-term prominence in US politics. She may be experienced (nobody else can boast of being a First Lady, Senator and Secretary of State), but she is a known quantity where Obama was a breath of fresh air.

While this will not help her during the campaign, it may well work in her advantage should she win. The great expectations that carried Obama into power turned out to be his greatest curse - in truth he was never going to achieve all that was hoped of him.

In contrast, a win for Clinton may be greeted with sufficiently reserved reactions that she can quietly go about her business and perhaps defy expectations. First things first, she will have to smash through 'the highest glass ceiling' there is.

English votes in England?

Oliver Alderton
POLITICAL REPORTER

With it being suggested that there will be pressure put on the winner of the next General Election to devolve power once again, we must ask if this is necessary for British politics.

In 1998, powers of the British parliament were devolved so that regional parliaments were set up in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to have control over their individual legislation instead of it being dictated by a London-based parliament.

However, purely English issues are still being deliberated by the entire British parliament. This means that English legislation is still open to be discussed by all MPs of the Union. The current situation seems a little one-sided considering that English MPs cannot deliberate on Scottish legislation.

It is paramount that we bear in mind, that prior to the referendum regarding Scottish independence, David Cameron promised more political power to Scotland.

This gave the impression of giving Scotland more autonomy, without opening the way for a fully-fledged breakaway from British politics. However, Cameron has recently been advocating a move to give more power to English MPs in legislative decision-making that affects the English public.

Some proposals have been put forward by William Hague which would essentially give only English



IMAGE: JZAB

With national parliaments already in Scotland and Wales is it time that England also had a Parliament?

MPs the ability to veto legislation relating to the English. Furthermore, English MPs would be the only MPs allowed to make proposals on matters such as the education of the English peoples.

This stance has reaped severe criticism as it leaves a grey area blanketing what we consider to be 'English' legislation, and perhaps distances English politics from the rest of the Union. These criticisms alone may prove to be a central point of contention in pushing forward this proposal.

A possible alternative is to introduce a solely English parliament. In Scotland, this has already been introduced, while assemblies have

been established in both Wales and Northern Ireland which have the power to introduce legislation for those individual nations.

Nevertheless, ideas for an English parliament are lacking support. Only fringe political groups are pushing for the establishment of one. The English Democrats, the main advocates for this only received 0.3 per cent of the vote in the last General Election in 2010.

Questions revolving around this apparently systematic need to devolve power, are salient ones considering that members of the UN mostly share the same language, religion and to a large degree, the same culture.

So, is there any need to have devolved power in the first place? As it is the case that power has already been devolved, it seems like a natural progression to let English MPs control English legislation.

The likelihood of further devolution depends greatly on the outcome of the General Election, and, in fact, The Conservatives are the only party to be advocating this degree of political change.

Therefore, the only circumstance in which this seems like a realistic possibility would be if the Conservatives were to win an outright majority in the upcoming election, which has been tipped to be the closest one in many years.

LEFT WING RIGHT WING



This week *Nouse* Politics' columnist has her feathers all in a twist about the future of our government.

The sky is falling! The sky is falling! No, no I haven't swapped places with Chicken Little.. haven't you heard there is an election going on? Oh you have... Well it's still going on.

Or it might not be depending on when you pick up this copy of *Nouse*. Maybe you know what happened! TELL ME!!! TELL ME!!! Who won was it the #Milifandom or the #Cameronettes? I'm concerning myself now; when did the world become political fan-girls? Probably about the time Zayn left 1D and we all needed someone new to crush on. *Cries*

But seriously, we are at the end of a long slog that's been going on for around a year or so, despite whatever the politicians say.

By Friday we'll have some idea of what is going on, or perhaps we won't; that's the most worrying part of the election! Will we have a minority government? A majority government? An SNP-Labour coalition that will inevitably cause the end of the known universe? Who knows!

We are in one of the strangest political situations for years; there is no party streaking ahead in the polls and we can't predict where the power will lie in a few days' time. There's a strong likelihood that we may have another election in the very near future because the government formed will not be strong enough to stand up to pressure from a vote of no confidence.

Maybe there will be a grand coalition, the likes of which has not been seen since World War Two with the ladies of British Politics; Bennett, Sturgeon and Wood at the forefront.

So dear reader would you like my prediction? No? Well you're getting it anyway. I predict a coalition of Labour and SNP with perhaps a few other parties in the mix.

Will I be proven right? Who knows! Tune in next time. Well, if the sky hasn't fallen in by then.



@nouseopinion

Join the debate on Twitter with the hashtag LWRW.

To Natalie Bennett with love

Felix Forbes
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

In a recent York Student Think Tank poll, 30 per cent of respondents said that they would vote Green; more than for any other party (Labour came second, at 28 per cent). A message of saving the planet, providing for everyone and leaving a happier, cleaner world behind apparently resonates with people; what a shock.

Since the Greens are on the left of the spectrum, they're also picking up disaffected Lib Dem and Labour voters. Targeting the middle-class vote has also gained them support.

Here's the thing though: the Green Party of the UK is barely a political party. And that's why we like it.

Hear me out. Green Party leader Natalie Bennett has decided to stand for Parliament in the seat of Holborn and St Pancras. She has given interviews talking of expecting to be elected. The seat was last carried by Labour with roughly 25,000 votes, 10,000 more than the next candidate. The last Green Party candidate gained 1000 votes. The Labour candidate is Sir Keir Starmer, former Director of Public Prosecutions. The man's named after Labour founder Keir Hardie.

Bennett is either faintly mad, or doesn't expect to win. Or she just wants to make an impression.

Students have throughout history hurled themselves into (often futile) utopian causes, buoyed by the notion that someone might notice their attempts, and be at least a touch inspired. We've all seen Les Mis. The admirable bravery of such moments is generally marred by one of two things - either a total lack of attention is given to their joyous failure, or the results are a

little more... discomfoting (see the Iranian hostage crisis, or the Underpants bomber).

There's a certain degree of kinship to be felt with an organisation that has nobly banged its head against endless walls since the 1980s, and is at last having its day. It makes us feel better to imagine that someone is really trying to save the world that we all kill, inch by inch and day by day, using electricity and plastic and petrol when we want to. It feels good to support a party that

doesn't have to have a fight on every issue, that just wants a clean planet and a better world.

Here's the problematic other reason though; we like them because they're still so small. They don't have to be responsible. If the Green Party were to actually run our country, they'd be terrible. A promise of 500,000 new homes seems to have absolutely no logical financing behind it. Cancellation of road-building programmes would come hand in hand with mammoth tax increases.

We'd lose coal-fired power stations by 2023 and certain "dangerous" nuclear ones by 2025, replaced by solar panels anywhere they'd fit. Railway renationalisation would occur and HS2 would be scrapped. The manifesto has been said by a co-author to contain a certain amount of "estimation and judgement". It has not been externally audited. In other words, it's not a manifesto, it's a wish list.

We've all been there. It's late, we're tired, so we fudge the details or make sweeping statements. Why do we love the Greens so? Not just because they're like us, but because they are us.

And maybe, like us, they ought to start taking their work a little more seriously.



IMAGE: EDINBURGHGREENS

Many of The Green Party's votes are expected to come from students

Business



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Election 2015: No Business like Party Business

IMAGES: (BOTTOM LEFT): NUMBER 10, (TOP): HERNAN PINERA, (BOTTOM RIGHT) PLASHING VOLE

James Humpish
BUSINESS DEPUTY EDITOR

While party promises come ten-a-penny, the outcome of this Thursday's General Election promises nothing but a hung parliament.

Issues that parties are riding on include immigration, the environment, nationalism, social policy and the economy. Thriving business is at the heart of higher growth rates and a larger economy, and the Conservatives continue to stress that the strength of British business is instrumental in funding public services and benefitting workers.

Labour and Ed Miliband have repeatedly questioned this emphasis on business, but the parties have all placed pledges on firms to try and boost their credibility when it comes to voter decisions over the next few days. Though party dealignment is reaching new heights, the distinctions in policy are largely ideologically consistent – the right are still after the larger pie, while the left are after more equal slices.

It seems clear that businesses are going to be served best by a right-leaning government, with the Conservatives offering continuous commitment to small businesses. Even UKIP have been described by advisement firm BusinessZone as having a surprisingly comprehensive and convincing series of pledges as to how to improve prospects and market practice.

The same week that Labour won support from actor Martin Freeman, the Conservatives carried favour of a hundred top business leaders in a well-publicised open letter. Since then, a figure approaching 2000 businesses now openly declare support for the Tory campaign. Policy-wise, Cameron can point to Growth Vouchers and Start Up Loans initiatives to demonstrate his commitment to investment in the business economy both now and



As the election gets closer, the party's economic policies have become increasingly well defined, with the focus on businesses and employment contracts in the future.

Wanting to treble Start Up Loans, launch a Help to Grow scheme to complement their Help to Buy, and beginning a large-scale review of business rates, the Conservatives are pushing their business strategy pretty hard in their efforts to retain power.

Businesses have reacted positively, and the icing on the cake may be the incentives for local councils to maximise the business rate revenues. Pilot projects resulting in Greater Manchester and Cheshire East are already securing growth in business rates that they've generated thus far.

Elsewhere, Labour has had to rectify their anti-business image in the early months of 2015. Miliband and Ed Balls have proposed cutting and freezing business rates without review in the hope of restoring confidence in the business sector whilst the Green Party have pledged to localise small businesses and lowering VAT in the tourism and restaurant sector to 5 per cent.

Staying with the right, UKIP's policies are themselves quite interesting, with comprehensive pledges for single-property business rate reliefs, tackling of late payments and access to trade credit. Nigel Farage's party is also proposing early apprenticeship opportunities, a contrast to Labour's promise for guaranteed apprenticeships only upon leaving education. Some

of UKIP's ideas are decidedly more small-scale, such as allowing shoppers half an hour of free parking in town centres.

While one focus of the business debate has been reducing start-up costs for those without large economies to scale, the welfare of workers has carved a divisive line for the parties.

Labour and the Greens have pledged to ban 'exploitative' zero-hour contracts and raise minimum wage to £8 an hour – with the Conservatives strongly in favour of zero-hour contracts, although they have not entirely ruled out raising the minimum wage which, in hindsight, could have proven a real vote-winner for them.

There has been much talk of raising minimum wage and little of the fact that Miliband has pledged an £8 minimum for 2019. Though coinciding with the recovery, the rate of increase in the minimum wage has been consistently growing since 2010,

and shows no sign of curbing.

Increasing from 2 per cent to 3 per cent means that as minimum wages rise from £6.50 to £6.70 this year, it's not implausible that, were the Conservatives to remain in government, a minimum wage of almost £8 may transpire naturally.

It is of course possible that driving up wages would cause inflation and embroil those who don't actually experience any increase in real wages in more difficulty. If growth in the minimum wage continues to rise at 3 per cent, the outcome will be at least £7.53 for each worker by 2019.

The Liberal Democrats have remained rather vague on the issue, but have pledged for wages to outpace inflation, though Nick Clegg et al have not elaborated how exactly they would carry out that pledge.

The Left's emphatic opposition to zero-hour contracts is diametrically opposed to Cameron's laxness on them.

UKIP also join the foray saying that the contracts should be cracked down upon and options given to those desiring more work – simultaneously blaming them on an over-supply of labour.

Though many benefit from zero-hours contracts, many do not, and in this case it may be that UKIP's policy of banning exclusivity clauses and minimum notice periods for work serves as a compromise between Labour and the Conservatives.

For business' sake, restrictions on zero-hour contracts again could dam-

age the free markets, but in terms of empowering workers, there appears to be a consensus that this isn't the worst idea. Perhaps allowing employers to have the final say over zero-hours contracts would work best for this.

Overall, for all the pre-election talk of undecided voters and not being able to clearly distinguish the parties from one another, an analysis of business and employment proposals reveals that there is much to differentiate the parties on policy lines.

Whether they will deliver on these promises is difficult to judge. It is up to the voter to decide on Thursday.



Off-campus housing market set to grow

Kim Almond
BUSINESS REPORTER

For years, large cities such as Leeds and Manchester have had many private student accommodation developments. With these markets now saturated, developers are starting to look towards smaller university cities as potential areas for expansion.

York is a prime example of this. Located on Lawrence Street, the Boulevard is currently the only operational college-style private accommodation site in York. Having previously been run by Derwent Students, the management company, as opposed to the University's Derwent College, the Boulevard is now managed by Fresh Student Living, and has seen its popularity grow this year.

The Boulevard will face new competition in the private accommodation market, with the opening of Student Castle on Walmgate, and Foss Studios, also on Lawrence Street and operated by Fresh Student Living. Vita Student also has plans to redevelop St Joseph's Convent on Lawrence Street into a 660-bed student housing development by September 2016, and McLaren Property were recently granted permission for a 326-bed complex on Hallfield Road in Layerthorpe, also opening in time for the 2016/17 academic year.

Offering brand new, high quality accommodation, these developments will prove attractive to students who are keen to maintain a

high standard of living while at university. They also often come with perks, such as Student Castle's free onsite gym.

However, such facilities come at a cost. The cheapest ensuite study room with a shared kitchen in the Boulevard costs £130 per week (51 week let) or £138pw (44 week let) and £139pw (44 or 51 week let) at Student Castle. Studio flats range from £163 to £185 per week. Bills are all included, which makes budgeting easier.

While these prices are in fact broadly comparable to rates for on-campus accommodation of an equivalent standard (£135pw for a Premium Ensuite and £139pw for a Deluxe Ensuite), it is significantly more expensive than off-campus private housing, and so could still be difficult to afford for the vast major-

ity of students.

Moreover, a key point of comparison between private student halls and on campus accommodation is sociability. While living in a studio flat is a guarantee of privacy and avoiding conflict with housemates, learning to live with others and mixing with people from different backgrounds is a crucial part of the 'university experience'.

Even in shared flats, this could still be the case at York in particular due to the college system, as freshers who do not live in their college during their first year may miss out on events and activities run by the college.

The issue here is one of location. Living on campus is not only convenient for lectures, but also involvement in societies and sports. The Boulevard is a ten minute walk

from campus and Student Castle is twenty minutes, meaning it may be necessary to commute to and from campus multiple times a day, costing time and potentially money. Conversely, this does mean that they are located nearer to the city centre, and therefore more convenient for shopping and nights out.

The increase in private student accommodation companies in York provides students with more choice, which could incentivise the university to keep prices lower for students. The lack of college spirit in these off-campus sites may make attracting first year students away from on-campus accommodation more difficult. However, for second-year, third-year, and postgraduate students looking for a quieter study environment, the appeals of private accommodation are not hard to see.



Private student accommodation is cheaper but can be inconvenient as journey times to campus are longer

What is a degree worth?

Samuel Russell

Going to university

Possessing a university degree will, on average, increase earnings by 22% for men and 33% for women when compared to people with A-levels alone. A degree will also make unemployment less likely, resulting in a more reliable income stream.

Classification

Working harder and obtaining a better degree class will raise your average income. Estimates suggest that obtaining a 1st class honours will raise your income by 33% when compared with individuals gaining only A-levels. This is compared to an increase of 28% for a 2.1 and 21% for a 2.2.



Insitution

Graduates from Russell group universities earn a premium when compared to other institutions. Males graduating from a Russell group university earn 16% more and women earn 9% more than those graduating from post 1992 universities.

Masters/PhDs

Obtaining a masters or a PhD will further increase your average income. The report estimates that a masters level qualification will increase incomes by 11% compared to a bachelors degree. A PhD will raise your income by 24% compared to the average incomes earning by people with bachelors degrees.



Benefits to income

Getting a minimum of a 2.1 will boost income by about £6,000 per year for women and £8,400 for men. A first will net a £7,000 rise for women and £10,000 for men per year. Obtaining a masters degree in addition to a 1st class honours will boost earnings by about £10,000 (£14,000) a year for women (men).

The data above is from a 2013 government report titled: 'The impact of university degrees on the lifecycle of earnings.'

No ending in sight for this Snapchat story

James Pascoe
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

To the vast majority of Western youths, Snapchat needs no introduction. The last three years have witnessed its emergence as a social media titan that has changed the way people approach communicating, networking and documenting their daily lives. Its effect on popular culture, for both ordinary youths and celebrities, grows in significance with each new feature.

The business side of the Snapchat story is just as thrilling, however. Today, 18 months after analysts were left shocked by Snapchat CEO Evan Spiegel's decision to turn down a \$3 billion takeover bid from Facebook, the student-run tech company is valued at \$20 billion by some estimates - with some predicting this valuation to grow further still.

Those who criticised the then-22-year-old Spiegel's naivety for spurning Mark Zuckerberg's considerable cash offer are now eating their words. Bucking the trend for countless other social media ventures, Snapchat has proven to be far more than the flash in the pan it first threatened to be. The venture capital keeps on pouring in,

as Spiegel and co. continue to develop innovative new features to the once ephemeral photo-sharing app. Snapchat's illustrious catalogue of financial backers shows just how highly the big-name players regard the company.

Investors include e-commerce giants Alibaba, who invested a staggering \$200 million into the firm, and Yahoo, who weighed in with a mere \$20 million. Total third-party investments to date number close to \$1 billion.

The investment has led to impressive results, with the recent proliferation of localised geo-filters, enabling users to view compiled photos and videos from specific locations all around the world, proving hugely popular.

The addition of the Discover feature has seen the app move into the news-sharing market for the first time. Official partners include Sky News, Daily Mail, MTV and Vice to name but a few.

The advent of more diversified special features, coupled with the fool-proof original formula of impermanent photo messaging, means that active users number close to 200 million. Following in the footsteps of Google, Facebook,

YouTube and Twitter, Snapchat has been banned in China - nowadays a sort of badge of honour among tech giants.

Spiegel and co-founder Bobby Murphy have already been named among Time magazine's 100 most influential people. This week, they signed an agreement for a new 47-000 square foot office complex

in Venice Beach, Los Angeles, reportedly fighting off interest in the coveted property from taxi-hailing app giants Uber. It seems clear that Spiegel, once derided as a doe-eyed Stanford dropout, means serious business.

This long and eventful Snapchat story shows no signs of counting down to zero just yet.



The popular app has exploded in popularity since its inception in 2011

Science

Science Snippets

Biohackers create night vision eye drops

Put down the carrots. This week saw the successful unveiling of night-vision eye drops. 'Science for the Masses', a collaboration of scientists who self-label as 'biohackers', dripped a solution of chlorin e6, insulin and saline into the eyes of a willing test subject. The participant's eyes momentarily turned black, and then experienced several hours of 'night-vision'.

Source of Antarctica's bleeding glacier found



The Blood Falls in Antarctica, named for the rusty-red colouring of oxidised iron in the water, are giving scientists insights into the possibility that the land below the ice contains microbial life. These microbes may be contributing to life in the Southern Ocean. It's thought that the iron-containing rock, which the organisms break up and release to the water, elevate marine productivity.

Telepathic tattoo future of typing?

Researchers at the University of Illinois have released a digital tattoo that reads your mind. The tiny, flexible chip of gold electrodes sticks to the skin behind your ears, applying the same biophysical Van der Waals forces which allow a gecko to walk on walls. This chip detects brain activity, and allowed volunteers to input words onto a screen using only their mind. More practical applications include detection of neurological defects such as epilepsy in new-borns.

Nasa celebrates 25th anniversary with photo of constellation



The Hubble telescope has celebrated the 25th anniversary of its launch by releasing an astounding image of 3,000 stars interspersed with clouds of cosmic dust and gas. The telescope was first launched on 24 April 1990 on board the Space Shuttle Discovery. The cluster, named Westerlust 2, is part of the Carina constellation, and is some 20,000 light years from Earth.

Red, amber, green chemistry



A group of researchers at the University of York have developed a toolkit which measures the greenness of chemical reactions using a traffic light system

Georgina Hill
SCIENCE REPORTER

We use materials that are classified as toxic every day, from printing ink to batteries containing lithium. If you're a science student, when conducting experiments, do you think about how much hazardous waste you're producing? As standard procedure, we segregate our chemical waste bins and do not pour solvents down the drain, but where do they end up?

Contamination of land and water is a global problem. Toxic waste removal is expensive; large industrial sites often have to build special treatment facilities on site, and infrastructure for treating domestic sewage is a necessary investment for any city. The economic burden

leads to improper and unsatisfactory disposal, which is particularly worrying at an industrial level.

Guidelines on the University of York's website for laboratory waste disposal simply suggest dilution; however some chemicals are harmless even in low concentrations.

Better suggestions would include further chemical reactions to alter the biological activity of the chemical or storing it in isolation in the case of more dangerous chemicals with longer lives. As each chemical poses a different risk they must be separated and treated differently.

Green chemistry is designing products and processes that minimise use and generation of hazardous substances. However, measuring the efficiency of a chemical process is complicated, and suitable

and accurate calculations are hard to define. For new technologies to be introduced, the improvement over the original methods must be quantified.

A group of York-based researchers have developed a simple 'metrics toolkit' to measure and evaluate how green a reaction is. They managed to create a consistent, universal measurement tool for chemical reactions, based on a range of criteria and applicable both in the laboratory and in industrial settings. In cooperation with other academics, pharmaceutical companies and private enterprises, they would use the simple excel spreadsheet to assess the sustainability of a reaction.

The spreadsheet has new calculations for a reaction's optimum efficiency, impact of raw materials

– where they come from and if they are renewable and amount of waste produced – as well as the hazard to workers and effect on the environment.

A traffic light system (red for undesirable, amber for acceptable and green for preferred) allows researchers and students to compare their reactions to existing methods. As the toolkit looks at different aspects of the procedure separately identifying where improvements could be made is easier.

The movement towards more green chemistry methods will have a huge environmental and health impact. By facilitating the invention of efficient and environmentally friendly reactions, the researchers have taken a step towards protecting a wide range of ecosystems from further disruption.

B-e-O-utiful: the science of scent perception

Marie Guglielminetti
SCIENCE REPORTER

Spring is that time of the year synonymous with renewal and rebirth. It can also be the moment in which we rediscover one of our senses - smell - as we leave behind winter, which is cold and devoid of fragrances.

Perfumes and odours are everywhere, whether they are nice or unpleasant: the nice smell of a rose, the delicate perfume of a person you love, as well as repellent smells. But how subjective is the way we appreciate an odour? Is everyone attracted to specific and well-defined set of perfumes, or is our perception of smell something ultra-personal?

It turns out that perfumes might not only provide us a range of basic sensations; they might also be used for more sophisticated goals, like finding a good partner. MHC molecules are proteins found in the human body. Their major role is to present peptides coming from antigens to immune cells, but



'Self' peptides could explain why we like the smell of ourselves

they appear to have a role in our sense of smell too.

A study was conducted in 1995 to test women's preference for body odours of men. It showed that the perfume of a man with a different MHC is perceived as more pleasant compared to a man having a similar

MHC to the woman.

In 2013, another study evaluated the ability for humans to recognize the modification of their own body odour. Researchers created MHC peptide ligands, and then gave them to the participants. Results indicated that they found

a modification of their odour by a "self-peptide" more pleasant, as opposed to a modification with a different peptide. This indicates that we would prefer our own scent on ourselves. It might also explain why different persons with common MHC peptides appreciate similar perfumes on their skins but dislike them on other individuals.

That same year, a study performed in Auckland demonstrated that, when testing volunteers for their sensitivity to compounds commonly found in food, there was a link between genetic make-up of the individuals and the perception of four of the odours including the smell of apples and of violets. Can this link be found for other perfumes? This question has not been answered yet.

There are several factors influencing our olfactory capacity. Science seems to be promising to elucidate some mysteries about this sense. In the meantime, take a deep breath, and try to catch the sweet and light perfume of spring.

Money saving micro-organisms

Liz Alexianu
SCIENCE REPORTER

As an undergraduate science student, there are several key aspects to becoming a successful researcher. While attending lectures and laboratory sessions is the foundation of a strong career, extracurricular lab work is instrumental to understanding what a future in research is truly like. Some students apply to help out professors and lecturers in their department or elsewhere. Others have found a new way into research.

Each spring, a handful of biologists, chemists, physicists and computer scientists gather to start a new project as part of the iGEM competition. iGEM is the 'International Genetically Engineered Machine' competition, which challenges students around the world to find innovative biological solutions to any issue they can think of. University of York students in past years have chosen to develop bacterial fuel cells or bacterial janitors, which clean up harmful toxins released by mining.

This year the team has chosen a problem closer to home. By the end of summer, the group aims to have designed, developed and created a self-sustaining living organism that will remove phosphate and a wide array of metals out of Yorkshire's wastewater.

Phosphate pollution of rivers in the UK is partially caused by wastewater. At the same time, phosphate fertiliser deposits for agricultural use are running low. Hence, developing a cheap way



IMAGE: 2013 YORK IGEN TEAM

The University of York team at the 2013 iGEM event won a gold award for their investigations into electric bacteria

of removing and recycling phosphate from wastewater and sludge is economically viable and environmentally friendly.

The metal pollutants on the other hand are not only toxic, but can also be very valuable. A study conducted in the USA showed that for a city of 1 million people, the value of metals in wastewater adds up to 13 million US dollars annually.

Yorkshire has a population of more than 5 million. If we can develop an organism to remove and collect these metals out of wastewater, we will produce a

self-sustaining pollutant remover, provide a cheaper alternative to current wastewater treatment systems, and potentially have a way of extracting valuable metals out of waste sludge.

The organism of choice will be a bacterium, as they are easy and cost-effective to grow and can survive extensive genetic manipulation. As in past years, we will use "BioBricks" - sequences of DNA with known functions that can be assembled together to synthetically alter the function of a cell, to get our bacteria to collect and process the phosphate and metals.

While the research and lab work for the project is very challenging and will take all summer, there are other aspects to the competition. Firstly, the team is self-funded, and must apply for every research, travel and student grant under the sun.

Secondly, part of the competition involves outreach to the public. Keep your eyes peeled for events on campus or in town where we will be showcasing our work and discussing the ethics of synthetic biology, including at YorNight European Researchers' Night.



David Roberts
@drvox

Some day, the fact that we exploded mountains to get to coal - and debated whether it's harmful! - will baffle historians.

28 Apr 2015



Rachana Bhatawdekar
@neiltyson

"See yonder, lo, the Galaxyë
Which men clepeth the Milky
Wey, For hit is whyt."
—Geoffrey Chaucer

13 Apr 2015



Exclamation Snark
@BadPhysics

Have you tried /not/ being a chronologically-limited corporeally-entombed pseudoautonomous entity in a chaotic confusing uncaring universe?

25 Apr 2015



Mike Brown
@PlutoKiller

I have a theory that using ice from the dark trailing side of Europa would result in the best gin & tonic ever. I'd like to test that idea.

23 Apr 2015



Sean Carroll
@seanmccarroll

#ThrowbackThursday: 13.8 billion years ago, our universe was in a hot, dense, rapidly expanding state known as the "Big Bang."

23 Apr 2015

£1m to study mind wandering mechanism

Vanessa Lloyd
SCIENCE REPORTER

What would you do with one million pounds? Last term, the University of York's Dr Jonathan Smallwood was awarded a whopping £1.3m by the European Research Council.

Smallwood is interested in understanding unfocused thought. A type of therapy called 'Mindfulness therapy' is becoming increasingly popular: the NHS recommends it as a way of reducing stress and improving mood. Recent studies suggest that mindfulness-based cognitive behavioural therapy can be as effective as antidepressant drugs for reducing depressive symptoms.

But Smallwood warns that this wave of mindfulness therapies might be premature, with insufficient knowledge about the way the mind works. The therapy involves focusing only on the present moment and positive thoughts. But to do this is to take the view that the mind wandering always has a negative outcome. Most people are actually in a state of mind wandering for about half



IMAGE: SDUHAMSU

York professor Dr Jonathan Smallwood's research will investigate the increasingly popular 'mindfulness therapy' of the day.

Using thought in this way is likely to be important for planning future behaviours based on past outcomes, and removing unfocused thoughts has the potential to do more harm than good.

There is therefore a need to model the neural mechanisms underlying spontaneous thinking and this is what Smallwood's next piece of research will address. Previously, neural imaging techniques have been avoided, be-

cause mind-wandering is elusive and tricky to trigger. Smallwood will overcome this by observing brain activity during a wide range of tasks and asking participants if they started day-dreaming at any point during testing. Overlapping

patterns of brain activity during different tasks which all result in mind wandering could then highlight which regions create unregulated thought processes.

This research has hugely important implications for health and education. Studies have found that unregulated, spontaneous thoughts can lead to significant reductions in reading comprehension. If underlying mind wandering mechanisms are understood, then interventions could be designed to help struggling students filter out interfering thoughts.

Crucially, Smallwood's research will investigate whether the neural networks engaged in positive mind-wandering can be dissociated from negative ruminating. If so, it may be possible to create therapies which inhibit negative consequences of mind-wandering without destroying any of its advantageous qualities. If the same network gives rise to both outcomes, then we may be wise to take a step back from mindfulness therapies, unless we're willing to sacrifice a small essence of our very existence.

Sport

Tales From
The 22Rob Middleton
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

Since I joined *Nouse* at the start of this year, it didn't seem like a week went by without someone talking about Roses.

As a first year, the tournament largely passed me by as it was held in Lancaster. Effectively, this year was my first experience of Roses.

In short, I absolutely loved it. Aside from being a welcome break from the monotony of exam revision, Roses brought together the entire University in a way that I have not seen before.

Those who I assumed would be amongst the most ambivalent about sports became those who were almost foaming at the mouth when the officials dared to award Lancaster anything. I found myself becoming one of those people as well.

Naturally, given the range of sports that were on show at Roses, there were fixtures I was apprehensive about covering.

One on that list for me was fencing. My uncertainty was borne more from not knowing anything about the sport rather than any negative pre-disposition.

However, once I had got the general idea of the scoring system, I was hooked.

Quite possibly, I enjoyed fencing more than anything else I

“Roses brought together the entire University in a way that I have not seen before”

watched at Roses. It will be a sport I shall have no hesitation in watching in the future.

Therein lies another joy of Roses. If others have had the same experiences as myself, it will have undoubtedly turned people on to sports they had possibly never heard of, or had any inclination to follow.

In the case of some, it will have inspired them to try their hand at a new sport.

Given the emphasis being placed on participation in sport at the moment, this can only be positive.

Roses also provided answers to some of the questions that I've been desperate to ask over the course of this year.

Amidst the tales of borderline mental breakdowns and enforced insomnia from old team members, it has also perplexed me as to why they still get excited for Roses. Five old members helped out on the weekend, to whom we are very grateful.

It seems glaringly obvious to me now. For all the moaning and cursing done by the *Nouse* Sport team over the course of the weekend, the rewards were enormous.

Without a doubt, I'll be back next year. If they'll have me.

Good Week, Bad Week

The *Nouse* Sport Team takes a look at who fared best over the past week

Good Week

Anty Cole



As York's Player of the Tournament, Anty Cole was at the forefront of York's demolition of the Red Rose at this year's Roses. The UYWAFc striker scored 10 goals in 2 games, eight of them in one game during her side's 10-6 thumping of Lancaster in the Futsal. She was also York's only goal scorer in the UYWAFc firsts' 2-2 draw in their fixture.

Omar Chadli

Nouse Sport's College Cup Fantasy Football kicked off this week, bringing delight and dismay to many depending on how their carefully selected teams performed in this match week. Despite only being in 7 Fantasy Football teams, Omar Chadli racked up 23 points thanks to four goals, one assist and a man on the match performance. It's enough to make Ralph Gill's effort of 17 look worthless. University of York Boat Club

University of York Boat Club

Fewer teams contributed more to York's crushing defeat of Lancaster more than UYBC. Their points haul of 24 was over 10 per cent of the White Rose's points total. An impressive stat in itself, this is even more impressive when you consider that multiple fixtures over 30 sports take place over the weekend. An especially good week considering both the points they won and the misery they inflicted on Lancaster.



Athletics Track

It should have been a good week for those involved with the laying of the new track outside the Sports Centre. They're getting new equipment, a new 500-seat stand and their track has finally been laid. However, the announcement that the track had been finished only led to people questioning why it had been finished six months after the advertised date. The obvious explanation is that the poor weather meant that the track could not be laid, but we live in York and poor weather is a given...



Lancaster University

The inevitable inclusion in this week's feature. Poor Lancaster gleefully made the 96 miles journey from Lancaster to York, in the hope of ending decades of failure in York. All of this, only to be despatched at the hands of the White Rose, sent to lick their wounds and reflect on a record margin of defeat. Perhaps embodied by the York Women's Lacrosse firsts' 18-2 thrashing of their Lancaster counterparts, the Carter-James Trophy was only heading to one place this year.

Sportsmanship

Despite a comfortable overall win, the University tennis team weren't best pleased with Lancaster's bad sportsmanship in the mixed tennis fixture. Due to an injury, Nils Morosz went off when York led 5-4 in the first set. As far as York were concerned, Lancaster had agreed to continue the match after the other fixtures had finished. However, when the moment came, the Lancaster side denied any agreement being made and claiming the points.



Bad Week

College Sport roundup

IMAGES: JAMES HOSTFORD

Matt Kirkum
Rob Middleton

FOLLOWING LAST week's Roses tournament, it is now the turn of the colleges to do battle across numerous sports this term.

The College Cup football tournament began last week with the first round of group stage matches taking place on the JLD.

Group A saw league leaders Wentworth firsts comfortably dispatch Goodricke seconds 4-1.

Wentworth's John Packer was the standout performer having after he scored two goals and provided the assist for another.

Elsewhere in Group A, Vanbrugh firsts, who remain the favourites to top the group, eased to a 3-1 victory over James thirds. Goals from Joe Lund, Brad Dunkley and Liam Sides were enough to seal the points.

The other match in the group saw Derwent thirds and Alcuin thirds record a stalemate with the game finishing 1-1 after a closely fought contest. Alcuin's Henry Lonsdale's superb free-kick cancelled out Josh Nicholl's earlier header.

Derwent seconds are the early leaders in Group B following their convincing 3-1 victory over Langwith seconds. Euan Bell earned himself man of the match for his performance which included a goal and an assist.

In what has been a tremendous week for Derwent College, the fourth team earned an invaluable 1-0 win over Vanbrugh thirds. A sublime Soren Reischert goal was all that separated both teams.

Meanwhile, Halifax firsts could only manage a 1-1 draw against a resilient Goodricke firsts side. The College Cup holders were reliant on Garo Heath to rescue the points as he equalised after Goodricke had taken the lead through Conor Boyle.

Group C is quite possibly the most open of all four in this year's



Halifax firsts, the holders of the College Cup, began the defence of their title with a 1-1 draw with Goodricke

Cup.

Vanbrugh seconds – who narrowly missed out on promotion last term – defeated James Seconds. A hat-trick from Adam Lewis and a goal from Josh Softley sealed a 4-0 victory for Vanbrugh.

Derwent fifths began the campaign with a rugged 0-0 draw against Halifax fourths.

The two top seeds, Alcuin firsts and Langwith firsts, shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw. Jack Parsonson scored for Langwith, only for Andy Fernando to equalise late on with a penalty.

The final group is the one that has everyone excited, containing both James and Derwent first teams who have been fighting it out in the Revolution Premier Division all

year. The two sides meet tomorrow.

In the opening round, Derwent took the initiative, beating Constantine firsts 4-0, before James replied in kind with a professional 3-0 win against Alcuin thirds.

Wentworth seconds, likely to be the whipping boys of their group, have already taken their place at the bottom of the Group D thanks to a 7-0 thumping at the hands of Halifax seconds, with Omar Chadli scoring four times.

Both the netball and the hockey College Cup competitions got under way last week.

In netball, James firsts soared to the top of Pool A after beating Halifax firsts 22-5.

Meanwhile, University firsts are the early league leaders in Pool

B having defeated Langwith firsts 19-5.

The hockey has seen Halifax seconds earn a comfortable 7-0 victory over Vanbrugh seconds meaning they now lead Pool A. Alcuin seconds top Pool B having beaten Halifax Firsts 5-0.

In the overall college sport standings Derwent and James are neck and neck. They are separated by just six points with a total of 1060 and 1054 points respectively.

Vanbrugh are placed third with 748 points followed by Halifax in fourth on 692. Alcuin and Langwith are holding 5th and 6th place followed by Goodricke and Wentworth. The newest college, Constantine, bring up the rear on 225 points.

Disabled sport scheme

>>Continued from back

-ing. We have got the support from the University of York's Disabled Students' Officer, Zohra Khan, to help get as many people involved as possible and we hope to expand next year."

The announcement of the project comes after the inaugural Roses disability fixture, sitting volleyball, last weekend. The prospect of para-table tennis becoming the second disability sport to feature in a Roses tournament could soon become a reality.

Hoffman continued saying, "We want to get a team together. Maybe in a year or two we will be able to have a team to compete in Roses.

"As a club we would like to thank YuFund for their great support which has helped us set the project in motion."

The project epitomises the increasing awareness and promotion of disabled sports within the University.

The University of York's Disabled Students' Officer, Zohra Khan, said, "After the success of introducing sitting volleyball at Roses this year, it's really exciting to see the table tennis club introduce para-table tennis as it means disabled sports is finally becoming acknowledged and recognised at York University.

"I'm really keen on promoting this event as it's a fantastic idea and this will hopefully be the start of a continuous moment of introducing accessible sports.

"It'd be great to see more disabled students at our University getting into sports as provisions are now being made."

Training will occur twice a week in the Main Hall: Mondays 11:00 - 13:00, Thursdays 13:00 - 15:00.

Sports shorts

Huntington Equipment

The University of York Athletics Club (UYAC) are set to benefit from the relocation of the City of York Athletics Club with the purchase of new equipment for the club. The equipment will include hammers, javelins, shot-puts and much more. A six-lane 400m track will be painted onto the college pitches on the 22 acres. This move ensures that both clubs have somewhere to train in the interim. Both clubs have been disrupted by building projects of late, with the Huntington Stadium being demolished and the 500-seat spectators stand yet to be finished at the new track outside the Sports Centre.

BUCS Cricket

After an excellent Roses in which both the men's first and second XIs beat Lancaster convincingly, University of York Cricket Club (UYCC) continue their BUCS campaigns tomorrow. The firsts play Northumbria Seconds on 22 Acres, after a victory in their opening game of the summer against local rivals York St John. The seconds and thirds, both in Northern 4B, face each other in the league.

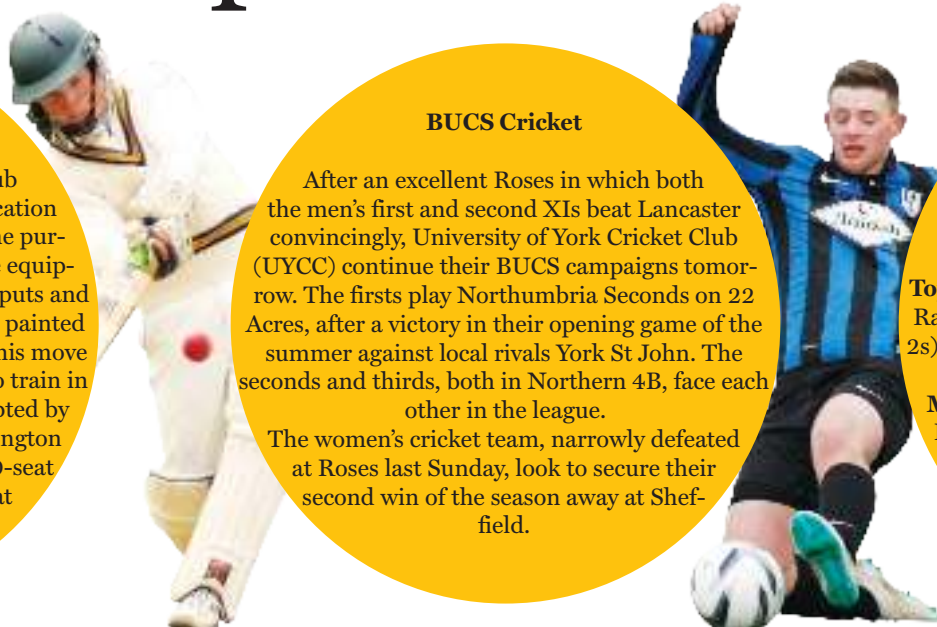
The women's cricket team, narrowly defeated at Roses last Sunday, look to secure their second win of the season away at Sheffield.

Fantasy Football

Our College Cup fantasy football competition has begun, with 291 teams already registered.

Top Players: Omar Chadli (Halifax 2s)- 23 points, Ralph Gill (James 1s)- 17, Adam Lewis (Vanbrugh 2s)- 13, John Packer (Wentworth 1s)- 13, Euan Bell (Derwent 2s)- 12

Most Selected: Fred Weld (Derwent 4s)- 35%, Ralph Gill (James)- 33%, Josh Bew (Derwent 1s)- 32%, Garo Heath (Halifax 1's)- 32%, Isaac Beevor (Derwent 3s)- 24%



Hodgson and Dyke: The

These are the two men tasked with turning the tanker of the national game. Ahead of the opening issues to the University of York Chancellor and FA

With campus at fever-pitch ahead of the Roses opening ceremony, University of York Chancellor and FA Chairman Greg Dyke bounds up the steps of Heslington Hall and engages a University official in animated conversation. Behind him, Roy Hodgson enters, gazing at the façade of the imposing 16th century Victorian manor house that extends in front of him.

Hodgson, 67 and full of a cold, greets members of the media by name while Dyke leaps into his first television interview: "Playing first fiddle all the time, it's sometimes nice to play second" Roy chuckles. I engage Roy, now standing next to me gripping a glass of water tightly, in conversation without hesitation. He is instantaneously found as an unassuming and approachable figure. "It should be a fun evening" Roy affirms, "Greg makes everything fun."

"I think football in this country is in a pretty healthy state overall" booms Greg Dyke, adopting from the outset a casual posture to match his affable style. "I'm disappointed that we're not getting more young English players through and I'm trying to do something about that, but it's hard going."

He pauses, "I do think there is a danger that the top level of English football becomes owned by foreigners, managed by foreigners and played by foreigners; and therefore, not much to do with England. I think there is a sea-change happening."

Dyke, appointed chairman of the Football Association in 2013, is posed an open question and naturally gravitates towards addressing the problems with elite product of our national game. Despite his £230 million grassroots pledge, the raw fact that for every one of our qualified coaches in England there are 17 in Germany, does not immediately occur to Greg when discussing the health of English football.

"If you go to Germany, there's a deal." Dyke insists, "Every-

one knows there's a deal, but no-one wants to say it. Fifty per cent of your players have to be German. We don't have that deal in this country."

Statistics compiled by the CIES Football Observatory state that 16.4 per cent, not half, of Bundesliga players are German. It's a job to sift through Dyke's rhetoric and hone in on the detail.

If Dyke can push through his reforms regardless, the number of home-grown players required in each Premier League club's 25-man squad will be raised from 8 to 12. Although top flight teams offered their backing when his commission was formed in 2013, to "turn the tanker of English football", Southampton among others have already registered their disquiet at such proposals.

His idea for a B-team league, magically copied and pasted between League Two and the Conference, has been derided and the Football League declared they had "no appetite" for such a move. Last year, Dyke conceded that it was probably a non-starter.

I ask Greg whether he would consider doing anything differently. Given another chance, would he announce these plans again?

He is defiant before I can finish asking the question.

"I don't think so. We announce what we're doing and then we consult the bodies involved. I think that's about the only way you're going to see change. I think you've got to set a tone for change, and there's no doubt that we've set a tone. Everyone: the media, fans and the Premier League, are concerned that there aren't enough English players playing in the league."

A recent report by Kick It Out detailed the extent of abuse to which Premier League footballers are subjected. Its results, described as "truly shocking" by the campaign director, revealed that players are subjected to one abusive tweet every

“No-one wants to say it, but there's a deal in Germany. Fifty percent of your players have to be German”



2.6 minutes. Greg appeared concerned at this sad reality, but equally unclear as to how such a wide-ranging problem could be tackled.

"It's very difficult to protect players from abuse. You've always got some fans who will abuse the other side's fans. There's not a lot you can do about it unless it's illegal, then you can take some action."

"That's not just about football, that's about abuse generally in society and we still haven't worked out what to do about that. Social media is still relatively new, probably not for your generation, but it is for us. There are all sorts of things that happen on social media that we don't like, and people are abused. But it's not only football."

During his time at the University, Greg was a regular visitor to York City's Bootham Crescent, a charmingly ramshackle outpost, set among the well-to-do terraced housing and the bed-and-breakfasts of Bootham. The club have introduced

“I see a guy taking his three kids to Arsenal and ask 'how does he afford that?' That's really quite expensive”

student-priced entrance this season for the first time, a move towards affordability, in a climate of ticket price inflation, that Dyke seems to support.

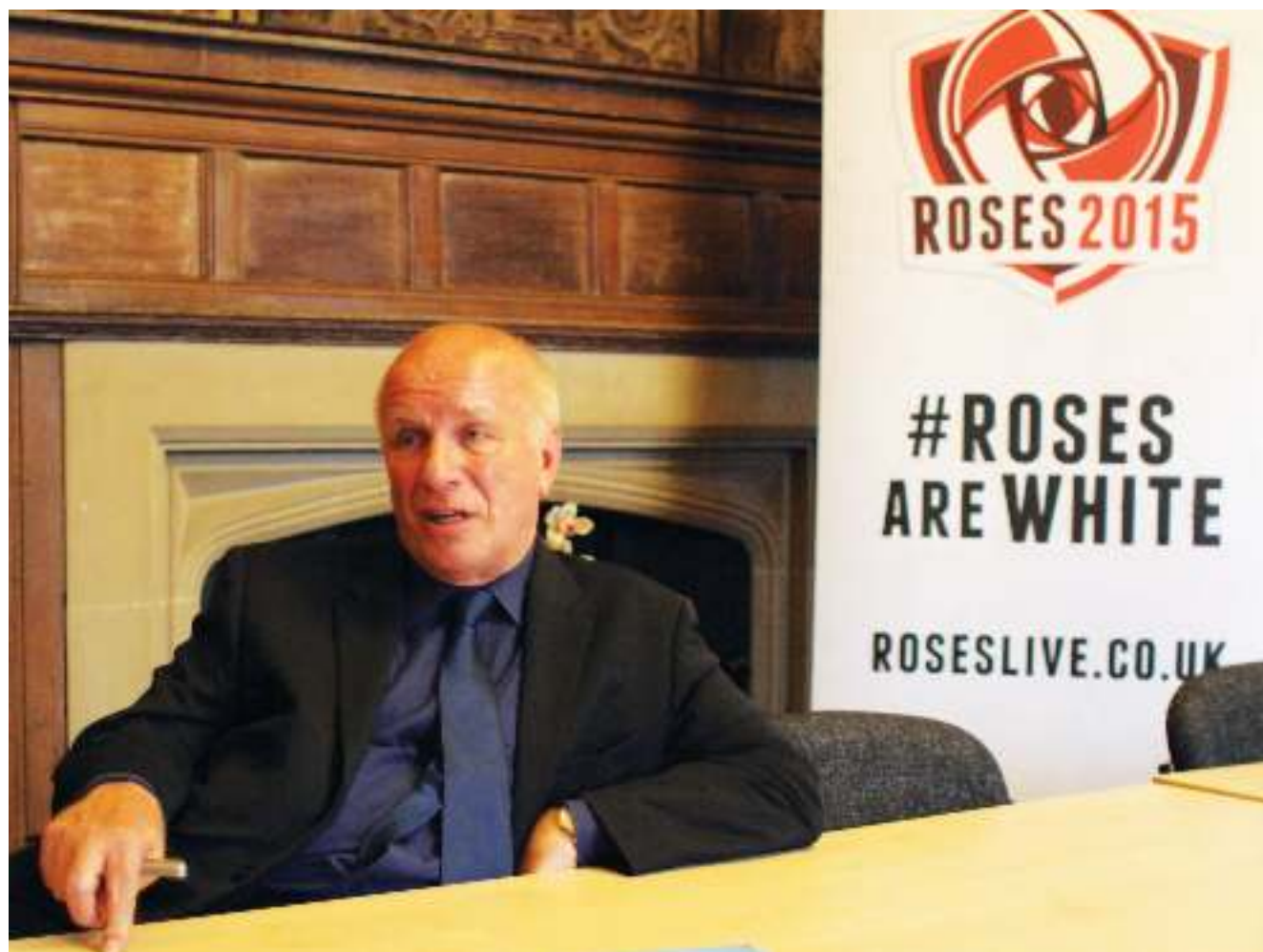
"If you want the next generation of fans, then you've got to let them in and get them hooked at prices they can afford." Greg reflects ruefully, "I often see a guy taking his three kids to Arsenal and ask 'how does he afford that?', because that's really quite expensive."

"Still, the gates don't fall. People still want to come to watch football in this country. If you look at the rest of Europe, the gates are falling. I'm always amazed that when England play San Marino, hardly the most competitive team, 70-80 thousand people still turn up. It's remarkable."

Dyke raps his knuckles on the table: "The only consistent force are the fans. At your average football club, the ownership changes, the managers change, the chief executives change, the players change, but the fans are always there."

As a man steeped in the game, having held the position of manager at 13 different club sides and six national teams, Roy Hodgson can attest to the constant churn and perennial uncertainty that pervades football.

His itinerant managerial career, taking him across the



brains of English football

ceremony of the 51st edition of the Roses tournament, Tom Harle puts English football's big Chairman **Greg Dyke** and England manager **Roy Hodgson**

ALL IMAGES: JAMES HOSTFORD

continent, has meant that, for Hodgson, picking up languages has proved both a pleasure and a professional necessity: "I was good at languages at school and I've always been more towards the arts side as opposed to science. I was very poor at Maths, but I liked Swedish, French, History and those sorts of subjects. At my school we only got the chance to learn one language, if you don't count Latin. Even Latin has provided a very useful base for me in life.

He continues: "The other languages have come through a certain necessity. You could spend a long time in Sweden without speaking English, but when you're there it is more courteous to learn the language and it does improve the quality of your life when you're there.

"However, in Italy speaking in Italian is an absolute necessity. You couldn't work without speaking Italian, unless you worked through an interpreter. The German just came along the way, but it's the weakest of my languages."

Roy has found the pursuit of literature a useful means of relieving the industry's pressures.

“Footballers should stay away from things like alcohol, smoking and laughing gas”

"Throughout my managerial career, reading is something that's helped me to relax and to put aside the pressures of the job." He cites John Updike, Sebastian Faulks and Saul Bellow as literary figures who have made a significant impression on him.

"Also, I think you get a lot of insight if you read the right sort of books. You can learn about life and human nature. I think I've been fortunate in that respect- to have picked up works of authors that have gone on to be very influential on my way of thinking about the world."

Perhaps Bellow's bildungsroman, 'The Adventures of Augie March' chimes in Hodgson's thinking with the struggles of young footballers under the media's forbidding glare. Augie, from the poverty of inner-city Chicago, gets himself entangled with a string of different women and largely rejects educa-



tion. However, he retains fundamentally human qualities of foresight and a clear mind in his quest for self-realisation and maturity.

Hodgson is sympathetic to the pressures exerted and the temptations available to young men: "Occasionally, young men do things that aren't 100 per cent correct for them to do professionally. Being a professional footballer means that you should be staying away from things like alcohol, smoking and inhaling laughing gas.

"I'm not concerned that young players aren't getting the right advice- quite the opposite. Clubs are working their socks off to get players a good education in terms of how they live their lives.

Roy sighs somewhat: "I wouldn't personally suggest that because of the odd incident where someone is caught doing it, that there is an epidemic or that all young players are like this. I often think it's unfortunate for young players who are caught and vilified. I mean, the (laughing gas) incident with Jack Grealish was over a year ago. I think it's quite unfortunate that it comes out a year later, just after he's had a good game in a cup semi-final."

Aston Villa's Grealish is one of a number of young players who have taken naturally to the Premier League stage of late. Hodgson, as you would expect, has been watching their performances closely.

"There are a lot of players in this category, with good futures ahead of them. There are so many, it would be wrong of me to point out any individuals." I vainly nominate Derby County's Will Hughes, a youngster who I have watched blossom over the last three seasons. With some polite acknowledg-

ment, Hodgson moves swiftly on.

"Someone who could be quite an important player for us, who is a little bit older, is Jordan Henderson.

"At 24 years of age, he's now got 20-odd caps behind him and has had plenty of games for the Under 21's as well. He's now going to take on the captaincy of Liverpool Football Club after Steven Gerrard. I think a guy like him is going to be very, very important.

"Eventually, we will lose our senior players: the likes of Michael Carrick, Wayne Rooney, Gary Cahill, Phil Jagielka and Leighton Baines. When we lose these guys, someone with

“Someone of the experience of Henderson to help guide the ship will be very important”

the experience of Henderson to help guide the ship would be vital, alongside all of these young players with bright futures."

Roy Hodgson is a football man. A man of unique insight, of such nuanced experience, that comes across in each of his thoughtful, detailed responses. Much more softly-spoken and considered in judgment than Dyke, Hodgson's eye for a player

has been honed for approaching 40 years in football management. In light of this, we should be minded to take a ringing endorsement of Henderson seriously.

Amid all the uncertainty of his topsy-turvy football world, Dyke is sure of one thing ahead of Roses, which he officially opened alongside Hodgson following Fight Night in Central Hall. Greg predicts: "It's a long time since York lost at home. It's difficult to win away from home, although I was there when York won away at Lancaster. I expect it (historical battle) to go to 26-24 this year". Greg Dyke, and indeed Roy Hodgson, will hope that such foresight repeats itself, as this unlikely double act try to turn the tanker of English football.



Looking to the future

Tom Harle talks about the future of English football with Roy Hodgson and Greg Dyke



Nouse Sport



Summer Term Week 4
Tuesday 5 May 2015
www.nouse.co.uk/sport



Para-table tennis aims for Roses

Matt Kirkum
SPORTS EDITOR

FOLLOWING THE success of sitting volleyball at Roses, the University of York Table Tennis Club have embarked on an initiative to encourage disabled people to engage with the sport.

With the support of YuFund,

the club have managed to acquire suitable equipment and are aiming to run training sessions specifically for disabled people.

Experienced members within the club will run the sessions, which will be two hours long and occur twice a week.

The first of these disability-specific training sessions will begin on

Thursday 7 May.

The club's objective is for the project to continue into the next academic year, with the long-term aim of getting the sport into Roses 2016.

To achieve this, the club have created the new position of Disability Officer to coordinate the project. The position is held by Isaac Beevor who, speaking to *Nouse*, said, "We

are really excited about the project and can't wait to get it underway.

"It's been like a baby for about three months so it's great that it is now about to happen.

"We are hoping for a great turnout on Thursday of around six to eight people.

"Any impact we could have on increasing participation of disabled

students in sport is a good one and that's what we are hoping to do."

Meanwhile, Club President, Agoston Hoffman said, "We have been working on this for such a long time and we have finally got all the equipment we needed to get it go-

Continued on page 21

Tales from the 22

Rob Middleton provides a light hearted account of York's victorious Roses weekend.
p20



Good week, bad week

Nouse Sport rounds up the best and worst of this week's sporting news
p20



05.05.15

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