



“The Hated Peter Hitchens”

Dan Hall talks to the controversial journalist, pessimist and York alumnus **M.4**

Election Special

Our Politics team unearth the battleground issues **P.16**



Nouse



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Tuesday 9 May 2017

Applications for hardship grants rise as bursary cut fears loom

- University hardship grant applications by students saw a notable increase of 22 per cent last year
- The figures come alongside fears that new reforms from regulators could see bursary funds slashed

Amelia Clarke
NEWS EDITOR

AN INVESTIGATION into numbers of hardship grant applications has shown that in the year 2015/16 there was a rise of 22 per cent on the previous year.

Hardship grants are funds made available to students who experience financial difficulties while at university. Applications are assessed by the Student Financial Support Unit and take up to four weeks to be processed.

The rise in applications in the year 2015/16 coincides with a decrease in the percentage of applications accepted, with 71 per cent of applications being successful in comparison with 86 per cent in the previous year. In the years before this, acceptance rates were 80 per cent in 2013/14, and 79 per cent in 2012/13.

YUSU President Millie Beach commented: "While it's certainly positive that the message about the hardship fund's availability is getting out, we are really concerned by the increased applications for hardship funding, and the number of grants given, as this is indicative of how much financial support is needed."

"We are working with and lobbying the University on a range of issues - including the increasing rental premiums, costs associated with living, cuts to bursaries and student wages meaning that students are paid significantly less than peers over 25 for doing the same job. There is also significant pressure on family members to make up any difference in student loans."

Nouse initially received an FOI response with different 2016/17 figures, but received a revision shortly before publication. A University spokesman commented: "The request was reopened after an administrative error was discovered in the original response. It is important that all information supplied is accurate and up-to-date".

It is not clear what has led to the rise in hardship grant applications, but the rise corresponds with cuts to NHS bursaries for nursing students that would have affected students in York's health science department, as well as broader cost increases in living costs and tuition fees. The cuts have coincided with a national fall in nursing applications of 23 per cent.

A University spokesperson

Continued on P.5



Turn to the back pages to read Nouse Sport's extended Roses coverage

Campus robbery and fire attempt

Finn Judge
DEPUTY EDITOR

A BAR IN Wentworth College was robbed of the money in its tills last Tuesday, after the fire alarm was set off within the building.

An unidentified individual, who is believed to have premeditated the incident, made off with the money and is currently being searched for by police.

Reports have emerged that combustible materials were brought by an individual into the public toilets near the Edge, Wentworth's cafe, as a means of setting off the fire alarm to distract members of the public before a robbery of the café's tills.

After the attempted arson did not succeed, the individual manually set off the fire alarm himself. This led to the desired outcome of students, staff and guests having to evacuate the entirety of the Wentworth Nucleus.

It is not provable whether the individual who set off the fire alarm is the same person who robbed the Edge's tills, and the amount stolen remains unspecified.

However, a University official has confirmed that the arson attempt, if successful, could have led to the entire building being burnt down.

Chris Teeling, the University's Health and Fire Safety Officer, reported after the incident that "above one of the toilets upstairs, above the ceiling tile, somebody

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Est. 1964

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

A lot has changed in my (almost) four years at the University of York. I've gained friends, society positions, *Nouse* office key cards, and at times lost all three. But with exams upon us it seems an appropriate moment to reflect that no one has had a more enduring influence on my time at university than Messrs. Morrell, Fairhurst and Burton.

Don't be fooled by the facade of camaraderie. A masterpiece of modernist architecture, a far cry from the pebble-dashed brutalism that dots the skyline from its eternally calm smoking area, the library projects enough round-the-clock light pollution to shame Tokyo city centre. 'Come in', it seems to say, 'I won't bite'. Oh library, I know you better than that.

But there's a more serious point to make here: spending every waking moment poring over the Key Texts section is simply not a healthy way to live our lives. True library-ing is a solitary existence: a self-imposed exile that leaves you alone with your waning discipline, and perhaps a piece of software to silence the temptations of social media. Even in dead-end office jobs you get meetings, briefings and gossip by the water cooler. In the library, talking is so synonymous with procrastinating that you're mostly forbidden from doing it altogether.

It's a further cruelty that students and schoolchildren alike are expected to be most library-bound during the Summer Term, when natural positivity and vitamin D pro-

duction should be at their highest. As the sun beats down outside we perch resentfully on whichever desk-cum-armchair we got up at 7AM to claim, growing steadily more hermit-like with every hour.

I admit I've spent a lot less time in the library than some, and a few lonely days in Burton are a small price to pay for the extra-curriculars and life experiences university has offered. But the mental health crisis at British universities is happening for a reason and, unless you really love your course, spending days on end with no exercise, sunlight or social contact seems a pretty good way of adding to it.

No other stage of life compares to the barren structurelessness of a doing humanities degree: you always *should* be working but rarely *have* to, creating the bizarre dichotomy of being constantly stressed while also having way too much time. Degrees are now such a necessary qualification that most people go to uni to get one rather than to study something they love, and with MAs increasingly helpful for the CV the library's shadow may lengthen yet further.

So every now and then, through this stressful time, ignore the niggling voice calling you back to the dusty corner of Morrell that has become your home. You're young. The library is not your natural habitat.

Luke Rix-Standing

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University funded by nuclear weapons companies

Dan Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF York is being directly funded by the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), a *Nouse* investigation can reveal. AWE is the United Kingdom's manufacturer and stockpiler of thermonuclear weapons, raising questions about the ethics of the University's investment practices.

A Freedom of Information request submitted by *Nouse* found that the York Plasma Institute – the University's plasma and fusion research centre – has been receiving funds from AWE since the institute's inception in 2012. The money received has been used to provide students with the training necessary to work on nuclear weapons, even though the work conducted at York does not specifically pertain to weapons research.

The FOI also revealed that other nuclear weapons research facilities from the United States – including General Atomics and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory – also fund the institute.

The science concerning the development of nuclear weapons stems predominantly from plasma physics and nuclear research. Since the advent of thermonuclear weapons with the hydrogen bomb, nuclear fusion has been extensively researched at classified military facilities all over the world. But nuclear fusion is also hoped to eventually

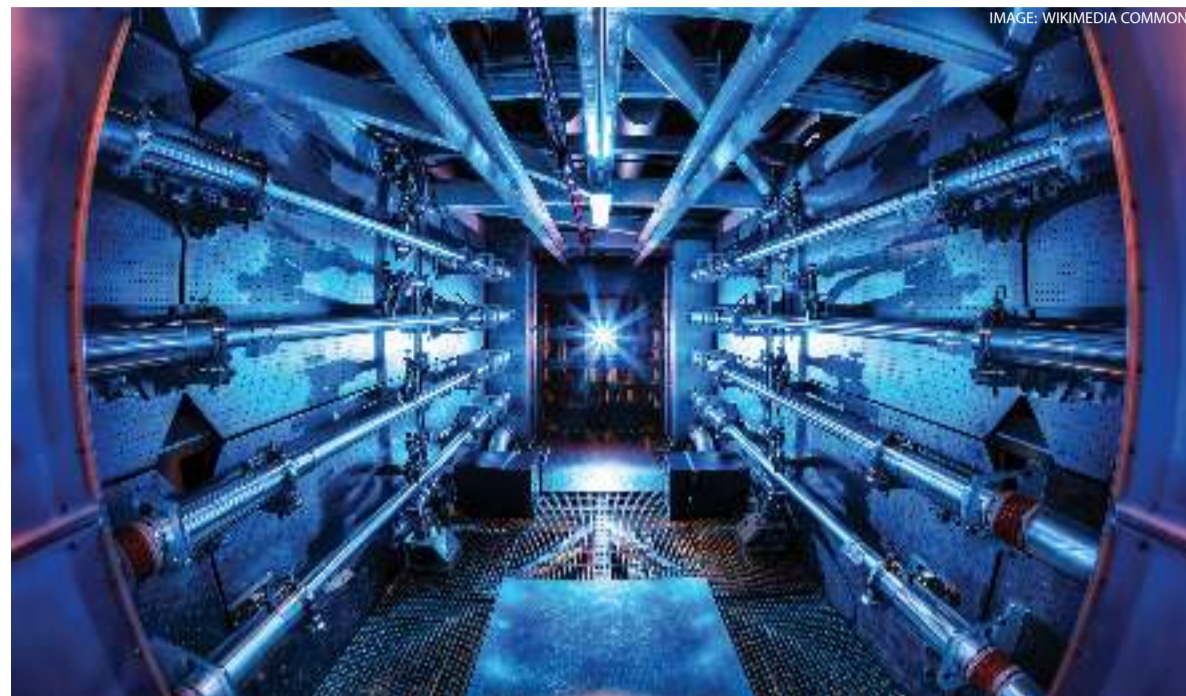


IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

provide a source of clean renewable energy, along with many other beneficial breakthroughs in fields ranging from medicine to astrophysics.

The trouble is that it is impossible to conduct many fusion research projects without access to (and collaboration with) expensive facilities that also work on nuclear weapons. This places physicists in a difficult position, in which funding comes from weapons manufacturers, even if their work has nothing at all to do with the development of thermonuclear warheads.

The issue is complicated further by the fact that several of the

York Plasma Institute's former students have gone on to work for AWE. In effect, the University has facilitated these scientists' training. All funds received by the University pass through the Due Diligence Policy, which states: "[the University undertakes that] all donations are made for purpose consistent with the University's ethical principles".

There are two main ways that researchers pursue nuclear fusion: "Magnetic Confinement Fusion" (MCF), in which electromagnets confine hot plasmas inside a device called a tokamak. This is the method that currently holds the most

promise for developing a sustainable energy source from fusion. The other method for achieving fusion is 'Inertial Confinement Fusion' (ICF), in which high-powered lasers are focused onto a tiny target, causing it to compress to the point that hydrogen isotopes begin to fuse. ICF has much more relevance to the development of weapons.

Prof Howard Wilson, the head of the York Plasma Institute, said: "The philosophy of the York Plasma Institute is to give its students and staff the knowledge and freedom to pursue all areas of plasma physics and fusion research, which has

important applications as diverse as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, astrophysics and fusion energy.

"None of the funding we receive is for weapons research. The funding we receive from AWE is all focused on basic science questions that underpin astrophysics, advanced manufacturing, planetary physics and fusion energy - nuclear weapons work is classified and we would not be allowed to do it. It is important to note, however, that the advanced physics knowledge gained from classified work into laser-plasmas at AWE and other national organisations enables the UK, US, France and others to advance their national security agendas without the need for atomic weapons testing - this is an important part of the UK non-proliferation strategy.

"In providing funding to YPI, AWE's motivation is to raise awareness of the importance and richness of laser-plasma research across a range of applications, enabling students to make an informed career choice. We need access to high power lasers to do this research, which benefits from the key Orion laser facility operated by AWE.

"We provide our postgraduate students with the knowledge to make an informed career choice - in the end it is for them to decide whether they support the work of AWE in minimising international nuclear proliferation. Their choice of career should be guided by their personal ethics, and they should not feel pressure from educational institutions to make a decision one way or another."

New registrar appointed by uni

Luke Rix-Standing
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has appointed Jo Horsburgh, current strategy director at the University of Warwick, as its new registrar and secretary.

A management graduate from the University of Cambridge, Jo worked in human resources and management consultancy, before joining Warwick in 2003. In her 14 years there she has filled the posts of director of human resources, deputy registrar and strategy director.

At York, the registrar and secretary has overall responsibility for the central support services, and the effectiveness of the University's governance structure. The registrar has very broad oversight that is to a certain extent what any given incumbent makes of it.

Registrars tend to have wide CVs and are typically externally appointed. David Duncan had previously worked for the University of Dundee, and is now secretary of Glasgow University.

The University employed head-hunting firm Odgers Berndtson to identify suitable candidates, before a three-person shortlist passed

through a rigorous interview process. The appointment panel included members of senate, and the current chair of council.

Quoted on the University of York website, Koen Lamberts said: "She brings a wealth of management experience from her time in industry and at the University of Warwick. Jo will be an integral member of the University's senior leadership team."

Jo herself stated: "I am delighted to be joining the University of York as registrar and secretary at such an exciting time in York's development as a global leader in higher education."



IMAGE: UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

NEWS IN BRIEF

First donor made Morrell Scholar

The first donor in the University's history to contribute to the Achieving Excellence Bursary scheme has passed away. The University has decided to honour him with the status of 'Morrell Scholar', named after twice Lord Mayor of York JB Morrell, who helped found the University of York.

River bus proposed for York

A scrutiny committee of city councillors is set to debate key proposals to overcoming York's traffic problems. Among them include a congestion charge, a workplace parking levy and a river-based park and ride system. The proposals were put forward by two transport specialists and the York Civic Trust.

Prez candidate to helm Vision

Ex-YUSU presidential candidate and James chair Max Flynn has become the new editor of *York Vision*, following a by-election. Flynn replaces the outgoing Taghreed Ayaz of one of *Vision's* two editors-in-chief, alongside incumbent Amara Barrett-Willis. *Vision* will be next printing in Week 5.

Archbishops intervene in GE

The Archbishops of York and Canterbury have co-signed a letter calling on parliamentary candidates not to "exploit the faith" of their opponents. The move comes after Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron, a Christian, was pressured to confirm that he does not believe gay sex is a sin.

'Pressuring' student sexual health services under fire

Amelia Clarke
NEWS EDITOR

UNITY HEALTH SEXUAL health and contraceptive services have been criticised by York students. *Nouse* has received complaints of poor quality of treatment at the York Unity Health surgeries, including reports of feeling pressured into certain contraceptive methods, not providing pregnancy tests, judgemental staff, and poorly managed sexual health appointments.

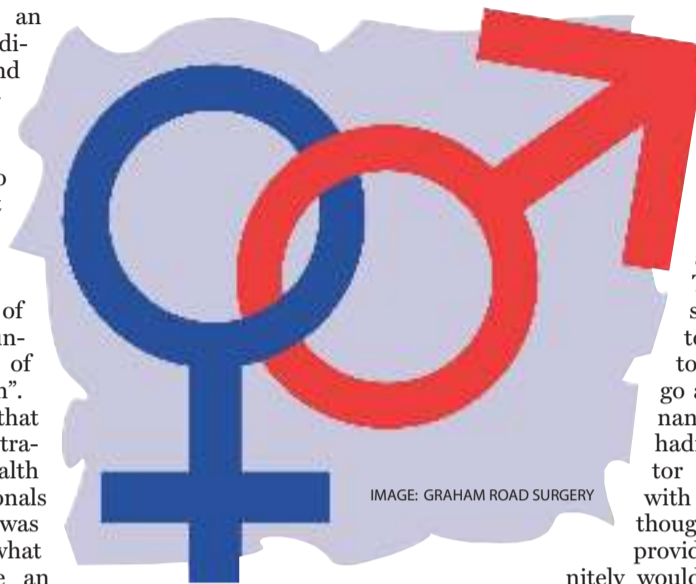
One student said: "I felt very pressured into sticking with my current form of contraception, despite the fact it was not working well for me. When I raised concerns about the side effects my contraception was having on me, I felt the attempts to convince me to not remove that factor, in order to gain control of my mood, were quite personal and not particularly supportive. I felt that every possible side effect of the contraceptive method I wished to switch to was emphasised in an attempt to keep me on my current

method, despite my evident worry."

The contraceptive pill was confirmed to be linked to depression in October this year by a University of Copenhagen study. The results found that there was an increased risk of first diagnosis of depression and first use of antidepressants among those using hormonal contraception. The study also found that the highest rates occurred among adolescents and noted "Healthcare professionals should be aware of this relatively hitherto unnoticed adverse effect of hormonal contraception".

A student noted that "I was prescribed a contraceptive pill by Unity Health healthcare professionals with no concerns. It was only once I suffered what was discovered to be an atypical migraine that resulted in an emergency appointment with a doctor, that I was told to immediately stop taking my prescribed contraceptive pill because, as some-

one with a history of migraines, I should never have been prescribed the type of contraceptive pill I had been taking in the first instance. I had at-



all of my standard follow up appointments to check on how my contraceptive methods were working out, and this had never been mentioned to me."

Another student reported being made to feel "demeaned" and "irresponsible and immature" after visiting a doctor at Unity Health about a sexual health matter. The student said that "it makes you less likely to seek help and advice in the future. It's ridiculous and quite shameful that a university health centre can't provide neutral and helpful support". They added, on the subject of another visit to Unity Health, "I was told in my first year to go and buy my own pregnancy test even though I hadn't gone to see a doctor about anything to do with sexual health, and even though they're supposed to provide them for free. I definitely wouldn't recommend Unity Health for any form of support."

Complaints of poor management of contraceptive appointments and unprofessional behaviour were also reported to *Nouse*:

"After 12 rescheduled, cancelled or otherwise useless appointments I finally had my implant removed with Unity Health - while the implant wasn't a problem, dealing with Unity Health made me never want to have one again."

The student added that upon visiting a Unity Health practitioner and "hinting to some underlying issues I was granted only a disapproving face and the suggestion that I go to the family planning clinic and 'think about what I've done'". The student reported receiving no response from Unity Health after writing a complaint.

YUSU Community and Well-Being Officer Dom Smithies stated: "It's quite concerning to hear these reports. I would encourage any students that have had negative experiences to come and discuss these; I am in regular contact with Unity Health and will follow this up. In terms of an alternative there is York Sexual Health who are based by Monkgate but also run clinics on campus and around York to ensure they're accessible to students".

Unity Health have been approached for comment.

Fire brigade called to campus after suspected arson attempt



IMAGE: JAY DYER

Police put The Edge bar in Wentworth on lockdown after the till robbery, comforting the bar staff on shift

>>> Continued from front

has set fire to something, which would have burnt the building".

Police were quick on the scene and consoled the bar's staff while keeping the scene on lockdown. Students were evacuated from Wentworth for approximately 45 minutes before being allowed back in shortly past 2PM.

The search continues for the identity of the individual(s) responsible for the attempted arson and robbery.

YUSU President Millie Beach issued the following statement:

"Student safety is really important to everyone at YUSU - our campus is a great space for students and is generally safe, much like our city.

"If any student feels that they have been negatively affected by this, they're welcome to contact our advice and support centre. YUSU will continue to work with the University to ensure that our campus is safe and welcoming for staff, students and the wider York community."

A University spokesperson stated the following:

"Wentworth College was evacuated earlier this month after the fire alarms were activated. No-one was injured and staff and students were allowed back into the building a short time later after the building was declared safe. We can also confirm a theft from a till was reported at Wentworth College the same afternoon. We would urge anyone who has any information to contact the authorities."

Drama barn rid of asbestos danger

Jan de Boer
NEWS REPORTER

DURING THE SPRING break, large amounts of asbestos were removed from the drama society's "DramaBarn" as the campus wide phenomenon continues. The work took place during the holidays as part of a coherent plan to renovate the balcony of the performance space.

The work was carried out by the estates department of the University faculty during the spring break at the request of the drama society in order to improve the venue. A routine asbestos survey was made, as is customary with renovation work on the old campus, and a positive trace of the poisonous substance was found. The asbestos was then removed by university staff and the renovation work continued and was completed in good time before the start of term.

The drama society is grateful for the work and is pleased with the rejuvenation, as it was done to a high

standard. It reflects well that the work has now improved the much-used performance space. Now visitors can enjoy performances from a new balcony space.

The dangerous mineral asbestos has a history on campus. Once lauded for its insulating properties, it was a primary building material for most of Heslington West. However, it is now known that the dust it produces causes deadly disease, and most prominently, the cancer mesothelioma which infects the lining of the lungs on victims.

The campus has had the ordeal of removing the dangerous substance from multiple buildings across the University campus over the years since the University's inception. This new case demonstrates how the ever-present substance is an issue for any desired renovation of the University's older buildings.

The University now has a designated asbestos team, with two coordinators and a manager.



IMAGE: LISBY

Bursary cuts feared to be approaching

>>> Continued from front

stated: “We are not aware of any bursary cuts for nursing students leading to an increased demand for hardship funds.

“We don’t want money problems to stop any student from successfully completing their studies but understand the financial pressures students face. If anyone experiences financial hardship during their studies we have different funds that may be able to help.”

Furthermore, the figures come amid fears that new guidelines from regulatory body OFFA (office for fair access) may see overall bursary funds cut in the coming year. In the same guidelines, with the total Widening Access budget projected to remain at similar levels, universities may have to allocate money to sponsor local schools and academic institutions. A University spokesperson said: “We won’t know the balance of spend between different areas of activity until OFFA approves our Access Agreement.”

The reforms are reminiscent of parts of the Teaching Excellence Framework introduced last year, which required universities to sponsor failing schools to attain the highest achievement ranking -

linked to whether or not universities could raise tuition fees.

A University spokesperson responded: “The University has recently submitted its Access Agree-

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The percentage that hardship grant applications rose by last year

ment proposals for 2018/19 to OFFA which include the work we propose to do with schools. We already work with schools in many ways to help them with the work they do and to support pupils as they progress through school. This includes the provision of information, advice and guidance with a view to raising motivation and aspiration and to prepare pupils for progression to higher education.

“As we respond to OFFA guidance and the outcome of the government consultation ‘Schools that work for everyone’ we will keep our engagement with schools under review to ensure that we maintain productive and mutually beneficial working relationships with the institutions which are preparing future York students.”

York students announced as parliamentary candidates

Imogen Bellamy
NEWS REPORTER

TWO UNIVERSITY OF York students, one current and one alumnus, have entered the race to become MPs in the upcoming general election. Both Ciaran Morrissey (a former Philosophy student who graduated in 2016) and Callum Delhoy (a second year Politics student) are representing the Liberal Democrats.

Morrissey is running for the Bishop Auckland seat, a Labour stronghold since 1935 that saw the Lib Dems come in fourth with 4.4 per cent of the vote in 2015, a fall from 2010’s 9,189 votes. Recently elected policy officer of Young Liberals for the party’s youth wing, the former chair of the University of York Liberal Democrats from 2015 to 2016 used his position of *Nouse* comment editor in the same year as a platform to express his outspoken socially liberal views with publications of articles such as ‘We Need To Talk About Milo’ sparking campus-wide debate about the nature of speech and platforms - Morrissey’s concern regarding the subject continued with his criticism of the



Second year Politics student Callum Delhoy ran for Daventry in 2015

NUS ‘no platform’ policy throughout his time at York.

Delhoy’s attempt to win in the constituency of Selby and Ainsty is the former UoY Liberal Democrat chair’s second try at achieving the position of MP: in the 2015 general election, he ran for the seat of Daventry and came in fourth to the Conservatives, Labour and UKIP, and was the youngest UK parliamentary candidate at the time. Also having chaired Amnesty International at the University in 2016,

Delhoy has political aspirations and is “delighted to have this opportunity to oppose our protectionist, illiberal Conservative government.” Despite his history and the continued support of incumbent Tory MP Nigel Adams, Delhoy is confident of his chances and states: “I know many of these people will be voting Liberal Democrat, some for the first time, and I’m confident of our ability to convince many more to do so and truly make a difference through our campaign.”

‘Did not attend’ rates for Open Door worry YUSU

Chloe Kent
NEWS REPORTER

THE OPEN DOOR Team (ODT) have experienced a spike in students failing to attend their appointments.

Did not attend (DNA) rates are currently at a spike of 33 per cent.

Dominic Smithies, community and wellbeing officer raised the alarm in a Facebook post, stating that “It’s hard to make a case for more financial provision for the ODT when one third of their [appointments] aren’t being [attended]”, reporting that one member of the ODT had “seven appointments booked in one day this week and only one person showed up.”

The ODT aim to provide a short-term counselling services for students at the University of York. The official document on student mental health and mental wellbeing policy states that they offer “brief interventions to enhance strategies, improve skills, address emotional blockages and challenge self-defeating beliefs.”

This can include access to self-help documents, up to six counselling or cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) sessions, referral to the Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds programme offered through the



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Waiting times for Open Door services remain an ongoing student concern

University sports centre, and group workshops.

The ODT also offers a ‘case management’ approach for students with more complex, long-term needs.

There have been complaints levelled towards the ODT in the past. In March 2016, *Nouse* reported that students were struggling to get in contact with the team, their emails going without response.

Students also reported difficulties in obtaining emergency appointments, feeling patronised by counsellors, and criticised the short-term nature of the service. Many felt that they needed longer term counselling than only six sessions, which the ODT are only able to provide in rare cases.

Recent years have seen an “epidemic” in reports of mental health difficulties among students at UK universities. The most recent survey on the matter from the National Union of Students (NUS), conducted in 2015, reported that 78 per cent of respondents said they had experienced mental health difficulties within the year prior.

A third of respondents also reported suicidal thoughts. Among those who did not identify as heterosexual the figure was higher, at 55 per cent.

According to *The Sunday Times*, the University of York has

the highest number of suicides reported among the student body of any UK university.

Last May, a report revealed that half of all ambulance call-outs to the University were related to incidents of attempted suicide or self-harm. In the year prior it was 32 per cent, and before that 14 per cent, showing a dramatic increase.

The University announced in September that £500,000 would be spent over the next three years on improving mental health provision. Promises were made to expand the ODT, bringing in two new members of staff, as well as protect funding for services such as Nightline.

Nightline is a confidential student-run listening service at the University of York and York St John. Student volunteers are available for contact in their office, over the phone, or via instant messenger between 8PM and 8AM. They are also contactable over email, and aim to respond within 48 hours.

Smithies encouraged those who cannot attend their appointments to contact the ODT and cancel. “Taking the five minutes to let Open Door know you’re not coming in means they offer others an earlier appointment. There is no shame or judgement” Smithies stated, “but it means that another student might be able to get support that they’re waiting on.”

ROSES 2017

Top 5 Campus Highlights



1. Opening ceremony: The curtain-raiser to Roses 2017 saw a magnificent basketball contest, followed by a memorable opening ceremony in Greg's Place. A Northern Youth-powered lights show, jugglers and fire breathers, and a looming Dominos deliveryman inflatable that reminded one uncomfortably of Christ the Redeemer.

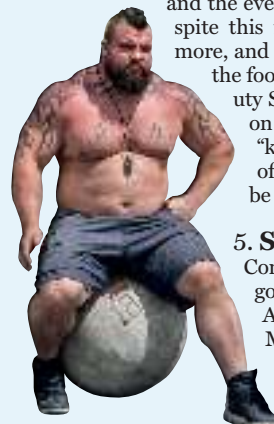
2. Confetti catastrophe: Campus club nights are notorious for their over-the-top antics, and during Saturday's Roger Kirk revelling 16kg of confetti was released into the atmosphere to whoops from the assembled crowd. But what do you get when you combine confetti, spilt drinks and a copious cocktail of post-sport sweat? A paste, which by all accounts covered the floor and took until past 5AM to satisfactorily clean. One excited raver recalled: "the confetti was great! Really added to the night. Got a bit sticky though."

3. Hedgehog help: Play was temporarily suspended in the vice chancellor's croquet when a pair of distressed hedgehogs were found cowering in a gutter by student president Millie Beach. Rather than call security our intrepid prez ventured into the mire, hands covered by a sweater, to save Henry and Edward (named after the Wars of the Roses monarchs) from certain starvation. Beach was keen to specify that no student should rescue hedgehogs without adequate hand covering. Wikipedia tells me they carry ringworm.



4. 22 Acres defaced: 22 Acres bore witness to some of Roses' finest moments - a storming 41-0 demolition job by York's rugby women's 1s, the flare-lighting cigar-toting celebrations of the victorious York Centurions, and the eventual hoisting of the Carter-James Trophy. Despite this feast of entertainment one prankster wanted more, and spray painted a large white phallus near one of the football fields late Saturday afternoon. *Nouse* Deputy Sports Editor Jacob Phillips was one of the first on the scene: "it was magnificent", he eulogised, "kept my mood up all day". A photo was snapped of the offending appendage, which we shall not be re-printing.

5. Shoutout from Eddie: At a London Sports Conference, York Sport chairman Keith Morris got good luck shoutouts from Dame Kelly Holmes, Alistair Brownlee, ex-England footballer Danny Mills, and the UK's strongest man Eddie Hall: "I'm willing me to be number one, you should too", remarked Eddie, "all the best!" Same to you Eddie!



Roses 2017: "a tournament over a year in the making"

Luke Rix-Standing
EDITOR

ROSES IS A VERY big event. In fact, by student union metrics, it's absolutely enormous. 139 fixtures mostly spread across three action-packed days, and as the home side York bore the brunt of the organisation. Planning began over summer, under the remit of a five-man YUSU events team including York sport president Isaac Beevor.

Finance was, shockingly enough, one of their main concerns. Roses is what Beevor calls "a break-even event", so the hunt for sponsorship began at the beginning of the year. "Ideally we wanted our lead sponsor secured by Christmas", Beevor explains, but it wasn't until February that main sponsor Interserve joined the project.

Pre-existing arrangements with University of York accommodation services, as well as YUFund appeals topped up the pot, as did opening ceremony ticketing and merchandise sales.

Marketing was next on the list. "People are so used to social media", says Beevor, "we wanted to put a real emphasis on physical advertising". Campus banners and posters are nothing new, but this year for the first time staff all over campus spent the opening weeks of term in Roses-themed getups. YUSU, Nisa, estates and library staff all repped the white rose.

Many fixtures were booked entire terms in advance. None of the clubs funded their own bookings, but they were responsible for finding qualified referees and submitting Roses applications. Pointed fixtures were on the programme



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

automatically but had to apply to remain pointed, while non-pointed fixtures had to re-submit an application to be included in the lineup.

A few eyebrows were raised by the absence of boxing - 2015's

139

The number of individual fixtures played in Roses 2017

curtain-raiser. "With Central Hall under construction and given other stewarding commitments", explains Beevor, "it just wasn't feasible".

LUSU Activities [and Sport] Officer Jack Waller attended to the needs of travelling Lancaster fans and players - buses, sleeping areas etc. - and 600 Lancastrians stayed in York on Saturday night alone. Both SABBs paid mutual tributes at Sunday's closing ceremony.

Leading up to the event, progress was surprisingly smooth - "I thought I should have been panicking about stuff" Beevor commented, "but there wasn't all that much to panic about" - and the weekend progressed with relative serenity. York's sports teams repaid their administrator's efforts with a comfortable final day victory.

Roses raises £3534 for mental health charity Mind

Oscar Bentley
NEWS REPORTER

ROSES 2017 HAS raised a staggering £3534.83 for partner charities York Mind and Lancashire Mind at the time of writing, considerably breaking the target amount of £2500.

The weekend's tournament, which is the biggest inter-university sports varsity in Europe, was chosen to give a platform to mental health issues and charities, with the cause's JustGiving page proclaiming that "Sporting rivalries aside, this is a joint campaign between York and Lancaster students to make sure that we are working as #OneTeam

to end the stigma that surrounds mental ill-health."

York Mind, which is also Halifax College's partner charity, describes itself as a "leading local provider of services supporting individuals recovering from mental ill-health", and works to help those suffering with mental health issues towards recovery, social inclusion, and integration through actions such as volunteering, employment, and learning.

Lancashire Mind declares its mission statement as helping to "shape a generation that won't treat people differently based on their mental health" with a vision of mental wellbeing for all.

York Mind and Lancashire Mind were present at Friday's opening ceremony and throughout the

weekend, with donations buckets prompting spectators and athletes to give to the cause.

The opening ceremony itself was also used as a platform to raise awareness to the issue and the work the charities do with mental health wellbeing, with York sport president Isaac Beevor speaking about the positive link that sport can have with mental health.

Player profiles hosted on the Ros-



IMAGE: ASHLEY SMITH

es Facebook event in the lead up to the weekend also showcased student athletes and their journeys with mental health and sport, including York sport president-elect Laura Carruthers, who spoke about the support she received from the lacrosse club and how channelling her energy into lacrosse has helped to combat her anxiety.

Given the mental health crisis in UK universities and high profile national debate on the subject, Roses was arguably an apt platform to help

promote mental health wellbeing, with the University pledging to invest £500 000 in mental health services at the beginning of this academic year.

While being independent organisations, each of the respective charities are affiliated to the larger UK wide Mind charity, founded in 1946, which offers advice to those experiencing mental health problems and works to raise public awareness and understanding of mental health issues.

It is a common misconception that the local Mind bodies all make up one charity, as York Mind and Lancashire Mind don't receive any direct financial support from the central charity. This is why the funds raised from the Roses were split equally between the two.

New society list revealed: WWE in, Dining out

Finn Judge
DEPUTY EDITOR

A LIST OF NEW societies for the 2017/18 academic year has been published by YUSU in the most recent societies committee minutes.

With the deadline for society ratification having passed a fortnight ago, YUSU has accepted ten of the 16 applications submitted - four of the remaining six being rejected, and two requiring further consultation.

The list of new societies include the York Anti-Trafficking Society; York Coffee Society; WWE Society; York Uni Nigerian Society (YUNS); Vietnamese Society; ARA-Soc (Aviation, Railway, and Automotive Society);



IMAGE: DEATH BATTLE WIKI

Tamil Society; The Norman Rea Gallery; Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM); Christian Conversation; and the University of York

Body Positivity Society (BoPo Soc). YUSU's Activities Officer, Alex Lusty, has commented that he is "tremendously pleased to welcome in what look to be some excellent new additions to our society roster."

Among the list of society proposals rejected is the University of York Dining Society. Despite its similarities to the Food Society, Cocktail Society, Real Ale Society and Wine Appreciation Society, the Societies Committee "were unable to agree that there was a strong enough element of development", and that "it remained to be viewed as a social experience."

Two societies were rejected on the basis of their proposed functions overlapping those of other societies. Home Brew, for example, was rejected on the basis that "Real Ale Society already do Home Brew and this would be a duplication of Society Activity."

Another gospel group was proposed in the form of The Revival: Gospel Society, but was denied rati-

fication as there is "already a Revelation Rock Gospel society in existence."

The proposals for Burlesque Society were reported to "need further consultation", and may still have a chance of becoming ratified.

During the same Societies Committee meeting, YUSU President Millie Beach "came to discuss a new campaign [called] 'Your Campus Needs You' and consulted Societies Committee on their opinions of study and social spaces on campus."

The University of York



IMAGE: JOSEPH SILKE

currently has over 200 YUSU-ratified societies, represented by the societies committee by a delegate from each of the following categories: Academic and Careers; Arts and Cultural; Campaigning and Political; Faith and Relationship; Games and Activities; Media; Music and Performance; and Special Interest.

Societies on campus range from vocational activities including Nouse, Comedy Society and Music Production Society, to more light-hearted affairs such as The Louis Theroux Society, Taylor Swift Society (Swift-Soc) and York Vision.

Mixed bag for YUSU in freshers' survey

Dan Hall
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YUSU HAS PUBLISHED the findings of its recent survey into freshers' first impressions of the University of York. The results showed that first year undergraduates were attracted to York predominantly because of its academic reputation and how quickly they felt that they were part of a college.

However, only 40 per cent of freshers felt that they were part of a Students' Union. Evidently YUSU weren't too perturbed by this, with a total of 80 per cent of students saying that they were satisfied with the Students' Union.

More middling results were found for the welcome bag, with a disappointing 61 per cent rating the YUSU welcome bag as 'excellent or good'. It is unclear how opinion was distributed among more sceptical response options. With regard to freshers' week, 52 per cent of first years described themselves as satisfied or very satisfied with their freshers' week experiences. Those with less rosy perceptions cited a lack of daytime and non-drinking events, and late event cancellations.

Derwent college came out on top in terms of freshers' satisfaction. But it is clear that freshers of all colleges come to York with very positive perceptions of what awaits them: a whopping 97 per cent said that the most important reason they came to York is to make 'a better life for myself in the future'. Equally, 97 per

cent of respondents said that 'learning more' about their 'chosen subject' was important in their decision to come to York.

Social life was also found to be a key decision in leading undergraduates to York, with 81 per cent saying that it was either 'very' or 'somewhat' important in their decision making.

Accommodation and STYCUing both received similarly positive feedback, with 79 and 78 per cent



The percentage of freshers who feel part of the Students' Union

approval ratings respectively. Freshers' fair, viking raid and comedy night were the most well-received events, with 96, 92 and 92 per cent of respondents declaring themselves satisfied. The survey was compiled by YUSU sending an email out to all freshers on 12 October. It is unclear how many responded to the survey.

In response to the survey results, Nouse asked its own freshers about their experiences with the SU. "I actually feel positive about YUSU," one commented. "It's all about sport for me. I've been able to join three new sports societies just by looking at their website."

Another of our freshers took a different view: "I still have no idea what YUSU does or how they affect me. The only meaningful contact I've had with YUSU is via the committee of a small society. I've found that, unless you already have a big presence, it's difficult to open a dialogue."

York student's business sets sights on health tech giants

Finn Judge
DEPUTY EDITOR

A THIRD YEAR PPE student has received over £130 000 of investment in his bid to launch hydration tracking innovation 'thirsti Puck' - and has already pre-sold 2000 units to a UK-wide distributor.

Phil Daneshyar, who set up his business named 'thirsti' during his first year of university, has designed his product to help people drink more water. Using patented pressure sensing technology, the thirsti Puck goes inside your water bottle, connects to the thirsti app and tracks how much you drink throughout the day.

The Puck "aims to take on wearables giants such as Fitbit and Apple", and works out when you are likely to become dehydrated before reminding you to drink by glowing in your bottle, or by sending a notification to your phone. It will launch on 15 May with outdoorGB.com and retail for £39.95.

"I used to feel sluggish and tired all the time and in my second term at York, I realised that I never drank water, or at least I did so very rarely," Daneshyar commented. "Over 90 per cent of people in the UK do not drink the recommended amount of water that they should, meaning most of us spend our days chronically dehydrated."

When asked what it has been like managing his degree and business simultaneously, Danesh-

yar summed it up as "intense": "I think anyone who has ever run a business alongside his or her studies will testify to how time-consuming and stressful it can be. However, the challenge has been fun and has brought about new opportunities, which I would never have found had I not started thirsti, so it is worth it."

"You have nothing to lose [with starting a business] while you're at university and there are so many opportunities here, from funding to mentorship. If you have an idea, pursue it, it could lead to

really great things for you in the future."

Alongside a range of courses and workshops, the University runs an annual 'York Business Challenge' for entrepreneurs to win funding for their business ideas - from which Daneshyar secured the first prize of £2000 last year for thirsti.

The University also offers a 'summer accelerator' course for young entrepreneurs, which offers workspace and a living allowance for successful applicants. The deadline for applying is 14 May.



IMAGE: THIRSTI

Daneshyar won £2000 worth of start-up capital from the University

NUS CONFERENCE

With the NUS National Conference barely a week old, three of York's NUS delegates recount their experiences of conference, what they liked, and what they didn't

Dom Smithies
YORK NUS DELEGATE

THIS WAS MY FIRST time attending the NUS National Conference. In my time at York I've had the absolute joy and privilege of attending two NUS LGBT+ conferences - an event filled with students taking action to make their Unions a more inclusive space.

The National Conference is the forum where SUs across the country can create a mandate for the NUS to work on issues that are too big to tackle at a local level, to lead on national campaigns that SUs can then plug into, and where SUs talk about the issues that impact their students directly or indirectly. This year, we agreed that we want to campaign for a free, liberated and accessible education, to urgently push voter registration and to prioritise mental health.

Students have particular issues and can be acutely affected by these issues and the NUS should prioritise those. Failing financial support is a student issue. Cuts to mental health services across the country and cuts to our NHS are student issues.

But students are also citizens with the same problems as everyone else and are affected by the same issues as so many others. To argue that the NUS shouldn't work

on issues because they're not 'relevant to students' is baffling. Climate change is relevant to students. Who gets into government is relevant to students. Campaigning against the tampon tax is relevant to students. Students are affected by it, so they're a student issue.

There were lots of people at the conference trying to sideline big issues. They argued that we need to focus on what matters to 'the average student' which is a tactless and harmful rhetoric that I find really problematic.

From listening to people talk about 'the average student', they seem to mean a white, heterosexual, cisgender, middle class student unaffected by sexual violence, hate crime or mental ill-health only caring about having 10p cheaper pints. This 'average student' is privileged. It's the purpose of Student Unions to improve the student experience of *all* students. If there's more work to be done to improve the experience of marginalised students, then they rightly deserve more attention and resources. And I am proud to stand by my record on prioritising my efforts on exactly that.

The NUS is not like your SU - it's not there to prioritise 'the fun stuff' like sports, societies and cheap drinks. It's a union. It's there to lobby on issues that affect students. It's the most appropriate forum to push for liberation and support marginalised students - to be bold, radical and to push for a progressive and inclusive agenda.

Catherine Yarrow
YORK NUS DELEGATE

THIS TIME LAST year, representing the No2NUS campaign, I stood on a platform to speak out against the NUS. I implored students to cast their vote to disaffiliate. I believed a vote to disaffiliate was a vote against an undemocratic, discredited and anti-semitic organisation. After losing the referendum vote, I was elected as a delegate on a reformist slate, aiming to bring positive changes in these areas to the NUS.

On the surface it seems that I could conclude this mission was accomplished. While the obligatory York motion on 'one student one vote' was not heard some democratic reform was passed. The NUS avoided voting for anything particularly absurd (with the exception of nationalising the big six energy companies) and elected a president actually interested in the needs of students rather than protests about Palestine. Not only was a motion on tackling anti-semitism passed, but a Jewish woman was elected to VP Welfare. Someway

through the conference I was asked if I still wanted to disaffiliate. The answer: more so than I did before.

The truth is that the anti-semitism, the lack of credibility, and the resistance to democracy were simply symptoms of the real problem. The problem was, and still is, a culture that is toxic to its very core.

Over the course of the week, I was trapped in a room from 9AM to 9PM in which I witnessed endless factional fighting, heard racist, ableist and every form of phobic abuse being hurled. I was made to feel too afraid to say what I truly thought. Some things I would never want to repeat in print. But one thing was clear: from the perspective of every faction if you disagreed with them then you were fundamentally evil.

Never was this more pronounced than their treatment of the NUS presidential candidate, former disaffiliation campaigner and Conservative member, Tom Harwood. Delegates refused to sit near him,

speak to him, or even listen to what he had to say. He was heckled for making nervous mistakes, booed for simply stating fact, and one delegate even used their time to give a speech, not on the motion at hand, but on what they thought of Tom Harwood. They personally attacked him and attempted to play a recording of him down the microphone. The behaviour of these delegates amounted to little more than bullying and, unlike the rest of them, Harwood didn't have a faction to hide behind.

I caught up with Harwood on the last night of the conference to ask him how he was. He told me that he had stopped voting on the motions because he felt too intimidated to put his hand up to vote. Whatever you think of Harwood, this is not acceptable. This is poisonous. The NUS cannot represent a student body it treats as evil, and it certainly cannot liberate a student body that it is bullying into conformity.



IMAGE: NUS



Alex Lusty
YORK NUS DELEGATE

FOR ANY OF YOU who know my political views, you would expect that I would be delighted coming back from the NUS conference. And to be fair, there was a lot that I was pleased about. There was a moderate landslide (five out of six sabb positions went to relatively centrist candidates), I helped to push an extensive pro-democracy motion through the conference (which though doesn't go far enough, is at least something) and a strong motion to combat anti-semitism was passed, with the backing of the Union of Jewish Students (no addendum really required there).

It should also be added that the new president, Shakira Martin, is superb. Her background is in itself, inspirational. Having overcome a deprived childhood and an abusive relationship, she herself is an example of the transformative power of education. To limit discussion to where she comes from though is to do her a disservice; she was on fire throughout conference. In one standout moment at a hustings event, Tom Harwood, the outsider Tory candidate, claimed that it was likely that Jeremy Corbyn's Labour would lose the next election. While this isn't controversial to most, the room erupted in boos from the

hard left, rejecting his cold, political logic. Shakira though stood up, and instead of taking a stance on Harwood's views, decried those booing as utter hypocrites, claiming that for people who claimed to stand up for inclusivity, they expressed little tolerance for political diversity.

It was stunning. Why then, do I not feel adulation post-conference? Why then, do I feel the post-conference blues? Certainly, this is an emotion that I share with others. Not though with those of a similar centrist colouring as I - in fact, the hard left seem if anything, more distraught.

Their booing and ruckus throughout conference demonstrated their hysteria after candidate fell, and in the end, the factionalisation of the room was plain to see. This wasn't merely political disagreement - this was violent othering. Those who were not on your side were the enemy and had to be decried. Forget the Labour Party; forget even parli -

ment; the NUS conference floor was about as harmonious as the two sides of Korea.

As it became clear that the moderates had won the conference (and won heavily at that), things got nasty. Intimidation was common place and several people experienced panic attacks on the conference floor. Both sides here were guilty of misconduct, and the Democratic Procedures Committee, a group of volunteers charged with running the democracy of conference, had to threaten to withdraw NUS labour on multiple occasions as people started to insult and criticise apolitical staff.

How can I feel positive about the student movement among this toxic atmosphere? How can I feel positive about the student movement among intimidation and threatening behaviour? How can I feel positive about the student movement when political diversity is treated as the enemy? I really wish Shakira the best of luck - she'll need it.

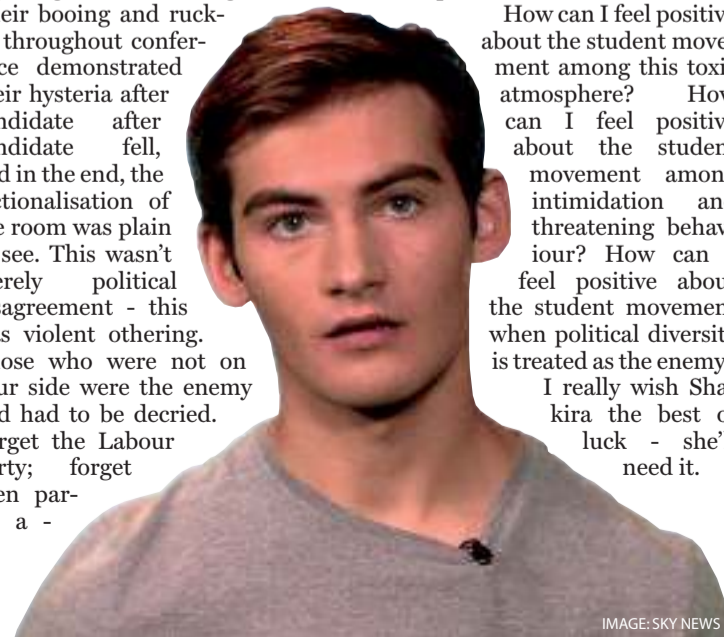


IMAGE: SKY NEWS



IMAGE: NUS



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Some talk, some bombs: 100 days of Trump

With 100 days of his presidency gone, Donald Trump has learned to stop worrying and love the Washington swamp



IMAGE: GAGE SKIDMORE

Sam Flint



And so, the first one hundred days have passed. The world hasn't ended, (although it's a little bit closer to it) the economy has trundled along, and the wall still remains a twinkle in Donald's eye. That's not to say it's been uneventful. 78 executive orders, a failed attempt at replacing Obamacare, not to mention the failed immigrant ban, along with a missile strike on a Syrian airbase and an ongoing feud of world altering importance with a defiant Kim Jong Un.

As presidents go, in-between the golf and the chocolate cake, he's been busy. But what can we take from his actions, if we can take anything? Is President Trump stronger or weaker than when he first took office? Will he follow through on even his most controversial promises? The answers to the questions above, like Trump's own motives, are typically unclear.

President Trump has roughly 90 per cent of his first term still ahead of him, and if we can take anything from his actions, it's that we can't. On domestic policy, Trump has roughly followed the plan he laid out in his campaign. He's attempted the immigrant ban, reshuffled the EPA and expanded mining jobs, abandoned the TPP trade deal, and of course attempted to repeal

Obamacare.

This was all predictable enough. But if we turn to focus on his foreign policy, supposedly non-interventionist Trump has performed a total 360 degree turn. Despite accusations of Russian puppeteering, he's bolstered NATO, attacked the Syrian regime, and abandoned the policy of "strategic patience" with North Korea. Even China, whom he repeatedly attacked as a harbinger of America's fall from grace on the campaign trail, has now found a somewhat open White House.

The President, by his own standards, has gone as deep into the swamp as he could possibly go

Is this the Donald's world famous deal-making transposed to world politics?

This swift turn around in Trump's foreign policies might also be leaking into the domestic sphere. With Steven Mnuchin, an ex-Goldman Sachs executive as the new Treasury Secretary, don't expect to see any radical changes in the White House's treatment of the economy.

The President, by his own

standards, went as deep into the swamp as he could possibly go.

Trump's changing attitudes are perhaps a result of the huge problems he now faces. He admits that being President was a lot harder than he expected, and that's with Republican control of both the house and the senate. As he's failed to place any funds for the infamous wall in his budget, repeal Obamacare, or pass the immigrant ban in this crucial period, not only has he caused some concern among his voters, but he's condemned his policies to failure. Come 2018's elections, if we see a Democrat comeback, which was the case following Bush's election in 2004, it is extremely difficult to see any of Trump's policies gaining any traction at all. And he knows it.

The truth is, the biggest event to occur in the first one hundred days also gained the least recognition: the relatively quiet fall of Trump advisor Steve Bannon. The former Breitbart editor was one of the most radical components in the Trump White House, but now with the ascension of Jared Kushner, Trump's son in law, be prepared for a more centrist approach. It's already happening. The NAFTA trade deal, which the President called "one of the worst deals ever" is now being "renegotiated" instead of simply scrapped.

Trump looked deep into the swamp, tried his luck without it, and found himself hated with few achievements. Now he's ready to make a deal.

The PM's regressive PR strategy silences debate

When the Prime Minister refuses to engage in any televised debates with opposition leaders, she denies any challenge

Finn Judge



Leaders' debates: to broadcast or not to broadcast? If so, in which format? How many leaders should be given platforms? This is the electoral hot potato of the decade - something former PR guru David Cameron manipulated in the 2015 election. Partaking in only one leaders' debate, staying quiet and allowing the opposition to bicker among themselves, before empty-chairing the next debate to create a de facto "opposition leaders' debate". A surprise majority was, in hindsight, the natural outcome of such a coherent campaign.

The control Number 10 has on this agenda is a beastly political weapon, which renders it telling that our beloved PM Theresa, low on the profile and short on the

Brexit details, is unwilling to deploy it. No filleting Jeremy Corbyn live on TV, despite what much of the right-wing commentariat were rubbing their hands in glee and anticipation to see. No going after the Lib Dems that threatens to rob her of a landslide either. All in all, a sober and information-free affair.

This is by no means a break from Theresa May's go-to PR strategy. A far cry from the social media-fuelled extraversion of David Cameron, the Prime Minister shies away from the camera and Facebook feed, advocating instead that Brexit talks be held in total secrecy before the final deal is announced. As such, we're kept on the edge of our seats until every last policy detail is ironed out, which hopefully will take long enough for the Tories to bag another majority. It's all a giant con, most likely, but we have little else to go by in the meantime (bar details of embarrassing meals with Juncker, courtesy of the European Commission's leak offensive).

Even if we were to take May's word for it - that Britain's negotiating cards are best played close to her chest - a TV debate would involve

A far cry from the social media fuelled strategy of Cameron

her stubbornly holding them live on air, much to the frustration of genuine questions from opposition leaders. More likely, though, is the simple notion that this Tory government has no clear plan for Brexit. We know what we're keeping off the table, but anything else is fair game - including the rights of British expats and settled EU nationals. Such chaos could only lead to a debate of pure speculation as to what happens next. All leaders would look equally

clueless - despite one of them being Prime Minister.

All that the Tories can hope for now is that, accommodated by their forced silence, the loud shambles of Corbyn's Labour campaigns against itself. Blair's arrival back onto the political scene has already flared up some well publicised infighting. The invisible Labour leadership contest remains a point of focus, with Yvette Cooper's harsh PMQs putdown of May's reasons for a snap election pointing her out as a likely candidate. As for Brexit altogether, it seems Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition is equally, loyally clueless. I'm sure Tim Farron can't believe his luck. So therein lies the

statecraft of TV debate-dodging: far more calculated an affair than mere cowardice. If May pulls off such aversion, this is nothing less than a blessing for both her and Corbyn. Heaven forbid they expose each other's pie-in-the-sky politics and give way to any centre ground - let alone give it a platform.



IMAGE: ED MILIBAND

IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA



Roses' fundraising failed to start proper dialogue

While fundraising was impressive, the mental health focus was patronising

Maria Kalinowska



The spirit of Roses throughout the York campus was electrifying. Even those for whom sport is not normally a massive part of their university life couldn't help but be swept into the frenzy. The university spirit was at its finest, for once uniting the two campuses. Alongside the festival atmosphere of celebration, the words 'Mind' flashed on the odd poster, banner and TV screen - a charity that provides support for mental health, something that affects everyone in one way or another.

With the Northern Youth claiming their attempt to raise awareness for mental health through the light show in the opening ceremony, it would imply that the promotion of the charity Mind was overt. However, the effort cannot be described as more than token. The Northern Youth are a creative network of young people celebrating talent in the north of England who say that mental health issues are close to their heart. So, it appeared to be apt for them to collaborate with YUSU and York Sport Union for the opening ceremony which wanted to incorporate the mental health side.

Yet, this message was not conveyed. According to the Northern Youth itself the finale of the ceremony was inspired by the 'It Gets Better' campaign; a campaign which spreads "inspiring individual stories" to show that there is "light at the end of the tunnel." The imagery of the light show is clear, granted a bit patronising; the message however was not. To say that

Supporting Mind should be about more than raising money ”

the soundtrack and spoken word poetry was "empowering" is far-fetched. If anything, it alienated people as the atmosphere dropped significantly since the basketball game. Despite all the formal information provided about the ceremony, there was no direct link or reference to mental health to be seen.

In order to engage the public with the charity cause, it makes sense to provide as much information as possible in a way that the public can relate to. The fundraising for Mind was incredibly impressive, that cannot be denied. The total, at the time of writing, is £3282.73, exceeding their target

of £2500. Nonetheless, Roses presented a strong platform that could have done so much more for the cause. The charity Mind appeared to be just thrown about during the weekend as an "oh look, we're supporting mental health" statement.

In the closing ceremony, the current University of York chancellor and chairman of NHS England, Malcolm Grant, attempted to link Roses back to mental health in a vague speech mentioning sport's importance to mental health and the NHS's improved mental health provision in recent years, not giving any details. A topic as serious as mental health should not just be thrown in lightly, when convenient. When an event like Roses makes the commitment to promote mental health, these token gestures and vague links are almost belittling.

Suggestions for improvement could be pop up clinics, where you would be able to have a quick word about the services available at York or where to look for help. Another alternative would be to provide websites or contacts on posters, leaflets, and TV screens, showing where someone could seek information or help more discreetly.

At the end of the day, what did Roses achieve apart from raise money to help people with mental health problems? Although the money raised is a great achievement, dialogue about mental health at university should be the priority.

NUS: York should end its pursuit of electoral reform

One Student, One Vote is the wrong solution

Dom Smithies SU



I've had the joy of campaigning in not just one, but two NUS affiliation referendums. On both occasions, democracy reform was high on the list of concerns. But last year we were able to say that a review was coming. And, at this conference, delegates voted through the democracy review - a huge success, long overdue.

But York, we need to talk about your obsession with One Student One Vote (OSOV). An obsession that got Alex Lusty trying to filibuster the NUS democracy review motion - something resulting from a widespread and year-long consultation - because OSOV wasn't on it.

After being a part of the NUS campaigns twice, and listening to the grievances of the student body, I was extremely fortunate to be a sabbatical officer during the democracy review. I promoted the survey to our students and took as many opportunities as I could to attend NUS events and ensure York students' concerns were heard. But while most people have been pro-reform, I can't say the same for OSOV. And

you all deserve to know why.

First, two-thirds of the NUS' membership is further education SUs. Comparatively, we have a large, engaged membership, a block grant, a lot of staff and the resources and infrastructure that smaller, specialist unions just don't have. We can facilitate OSOV and engage our members on it in a way other SUs can't. Democratic change should only occur to make it more accessible and, at present, it's felt that implementing OSOV does the exact opposite for most of the NUS' membership.

Second, the concern of accessibility of campaigning at a national level. Candidates running for the NUS are either students or working full-time. To campaign at SUs across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland would be expensive, tiring and probably not that effective. To expect most young people to be able to campaign to seven million students across the country is ridiculous. It would disadvantage carers, students with access needs and those from smaller and specialist Unions - voices we should be raising not shutting out.

Third, the decrease in scrutiny with direct democracy instead of a delegative democracy. To get attention and support on a national level would require a wide network to improve one's reach to catchy populism.

The first is something incumbents would gain an advantage in, being already known on a national level. It would have those who're unknown focus on where most students are: London. And the latter would mean publicity comes before policy and politics; students are infamous for not reading manifestos to scrutinise candidates - a funny campaign video often garners attention.

OSOV would enshrine the incumbent advantage, reduce scrutiny and make everything London-centric.

Students being disenfranchised with the NUS is an issue, but OSOV isn't

the solution! YUSU needs to shout about everything the NUS is and does for the SU and for students. It's our fault if we fail to do that, not the NUS'.



IMAGE: ADAM SCOTTI

EDITOR'S OPINION

Register to vote

Jan de Boer



Hooray! For hopefully the last time in five years, the powers at Westminster will give us a chance to vote on who our overlords will be. For many, myself included, this will be the first time a new generation of electorate will get to vote. Instead of witnessing the proverbial guffs from a minimum safe distance, it is now our responsibility to vote and that means registering.

It may seem like an arduous journey of a month until the vote. What Americans see as a democratic appetiser to us is the limit of political rhetoric we can take. Sometimes it seems fit to sit in your Switzerland shaped bunker and wait for the political bombshells to stop falling, but political apathy in this situation is not the answer, no matter what your opinion may be. If you find an opposition party that you agree with then vote so that they have a greater chance of boot-

ing the establishment out. In the same way that complacency when voting for the current heads of government you agree with is handing your political opponent a golden opportunity to make you the outsider.

Now is the perfect opportunity to discover where you stand. University gives the opportunity to meet a communist and a Brexiteer over the same pint at the bar. Democracy means a voice for all and it's your job to find the voice that you agree with. I'm not here to argue for any party. It isn't important to a democracy what your opinion is, it matters that it is your opinion and not forced upon you. Your own volition is key if you are to dive into the swamp of British politics. Equipped with a pair of hyperbolic inflatables to hand. If it just so happens to align with a political party then vote for them. As the next generation of electorate, it should be our responsibility to promote a thriving Parliament that reflects our interests. Democracy is not perfect, but if it means not having to hail God-Emperor May or salute Supreme Leader Corbyn, I will take it any day.

EDITOR'S OPINION

Stop romanticising university

Oscar Bentley



As sixth formers who were finally seriously thinking for the first time in our lives about actually going to university, it was sold to us as the Holy Grail. Go to university they said, and there, you will find yourself, discover what you are meant to do, and exit the other side as a fully formed adult human being.

It's not just our mentors and peers who told us this, but so did the media. Take any of the bout of university or college films that told us university is a party mad haven that will propel any willing student into the future of their imagination. Believe the myth that general society tells young people, and you'll come to university believing that it's your life's calling.

That, however, is not what I have found. I'm not saying that university is bad or that I'm not glad to be here. But the university life I am experiencing is not the one I fantasised about, and now I'm struggling to decide whether university itself is the problem, or whether I just feel disappointed because it's different to how it was sold to me and how I'd imagined it.

I experienced no epiphany of meaning upon stepping foot through the door. Maybe it's York? I dreamt of university as a place of history, an institution of stoic culture, but while York is a historic city, the 54 year old plate glass University certainly isn't. Maybe it's Halifax? Popular culture sells us the picture of interconnected halls and dorms, but the houses in Halifax, supposedly meant to foster a village community-like feel, do anything but. Maybe it's Hes East? My course is there, and while university is supposedly a bustling hive of busyness, Hes East is a barren wasteland. Maybe it's my course? Film and Television Production isn't exactly the most typical university course. Maybe it's my housemates? After becoming really close in freshers', some of our relationships have drifted apart.

But my problem is that I'm not sure any of these things are intrinsically bad. They're just not what I anticipated; they're not the picture popular culture sold to me. At home when I'm asked whether I like university, I reply yes, but always feel as if I'm lying somehow. And that's the problem: I don't massively like or dislike university. I enjoy it, but it's also just my life now. And that's why we should stop romanticising university to the young.

Stop setting them up for disappointment.



IMAGE: LANGLL/106 IMAGES

Consent runs deeper than its mainstream narratives

Popular tea video covers up the complexities of dealing with consent

Maria Kalinowska



Consent. Something everyone knows about now, what with the cute tea video, right? It is in fact this attitude of 'everyone knows what consent is now' that causes damage. There has become a rhetoric of 'good guys vs bad guys' which simplifies consent in a way that is incredibly harmful.

It has come to my attention that when women (although this does not exclude men) decide to share their experiences, they often don't feel they have the right to say they have been raped or sexually assaulted, because it happened at the hands of a nice, open-minded person. It wasn't violent, you didn't protest and he's just such a lovely guy who has said he's a feminist, so it can't be what it felt like? Surely it was just an awkward one night stand? What is worse, when these men are then confronted, even in a way that just slightly implies what they have done, their instant reaction is: 'I am not *that* guy. How dare you put me with *those* guys?'

This is the key: they never think of themselves as *those* guys, i.e. *bad* guys. In his book about masculinity, Grayson Perry points out just that; 'if a Default Man commits a crime' say sexual harassment, 'it is because he is a wrong

'un [and] if they do something bad, it is also down to the individual.' So, they're perfectly happy to shame obviously *bad* guys who have committed horrible actions, because those are the people that consent talks are directed at.

They do recognise that these *bad* guys exist, but they, the *good* guys, are so far removed from them that they aren't in any danger of meeting. This belief is incredibly harmful. It causes victims to not come forward, thinking they will not be believed, and what's more it

The rhetoric of 'good guys vs bad guys' simplifies consent

makes victims doubt what actually happened to them. Surely, that's not what happened, it can't have been because he's one of the *good* guys, I must be wrong. It's this contradictory feeling of knowing what happened but not feeling the right to call it sexual assault.

In a culture where intoxication is an everyday and socially accepted state, for students in particular, it should be noted that a lot of the perpetrators do not set out to commit this crime. They're poorly educated in the ways of consent and cannot see the fine line. It is also why a lot

of rapists will not admit that they are rapists, not purely because they don't want to (I mean who would?), but also they genuinely believe that it's not what happened.

Whether you agree with consent talks, whether you think consent education should be started way before university, the reality must be faced. There is a deep misunderstanding of consent within the current generation of young adults that only alienates victims.

It's all very well to have a 'progressive' view of consent when it doesn't affect you, but as soon as it involves your amazing, popular and lovely guy friend as someone who lacks understanding, the support for the victims weakens. It's not necessarily that people will openly argue against the truth, it's the fact that people will look past it, unable to locate that behaviour in their dear friend. The excuse is not that they forgive them or don't think it happened; they just block it out. Well, I'm glad they can look past the rape, while the victim left with the trauma has to live with the realities and consequences.

So this is a call to stop thinking of rapists as those bad guys. This is a call for understanding. A person does not have to be aggressive, violent or antisocial to be a rapist. It is not to say that trust in everyone should be waived. It is a call to listen to the victims and not excuse the rape just because someone is nice and you don't want your image of them to be spoilt.

A left that's divided against itself cannot stand

The left are villainising fellow left-wing figures for single misgivings and allowing their other progressive works to be cast aside

Chloe Kent



made up for the experience of gender dysphoria, in terms of quality of life. She was merely stating that trans women would not have the same life experience as cis women, and that coming with said difference would be an experience of a degree of male privilege prior to transition, when being read as and thus treated as male by society at large.

Adichie's clarifications about the admittedly heavy-handed deliv-

We are allowing small, semantic disagreements to divide us

ery of her original statement failed to abate critics. Many would only accept a full retraction of her comments and an obedient side-step back into the hive mind.

Because that's what modern leftist discourse has become: a hive mind. It doesn't matter what your contributions have been up until you say something deemed problematic. As soon as the words have slipped from your lips, no amount of inspirational TED talks or literary accreditations will save you.

I'm not seeking to open a conversation on Adichie's comments. I

don't think they're the most outrageous thing anyone's ever said – she didn't take the opportunity to go full Germaine Greer and say trans women aren't women at all. I actually think she raises a reasonable point in saying trans and cis women will experience womanhood in different ways, but that these differences devalue neither. Still, I sympathise wholeheartedly with how a transgender woman could be affronted by these comments. To struggle with gender dysphoria, and be told the experience has, in a way, afforded you certain privileges, I imagine comes as a slap in the face.

What I really wish to focus on is the reaction to them. Because the takedown in the Twittersphere was one of the most brutal I have witnessed in a long while. Adichie was labelled a TERF (trans-exclusionary radical feminist). Some left post-it notes on *Americanah*, perhaps one of the most important artworks concerning black womanhood in recent years, hashtagged #trans-womenarewomen. This serves to completely derail the text. It implies Adichie's comments made her novel and all it stands for entirely invalid.

I find this completely distasteful. Adichie has made some of the most powerful contributions to 21st century feminist and post-colonial debate I can think of. The idea that, because she has made a singular dis-

agreeable statement, she is invalid as a political contributor is as destructive as it is unreasonable. Time and time again, public figures who stick a toe out of line are thrown under the bus, discredited, their admirers left heartbroken that their idol's worldview isn't a mirror image of their own. It's hugely reactionary, and turns what could have been an opportunity to open

It's become an unfortunate but recurrent tendency within the left, to turn ideological disagreements into assassination of character. This doesn't mean people shouldn't be calling out those they feel are in the wrong – in no way do I implore you to shut down debate.

But the belief that one perceived wrong undoes all rights is immature. People are multifaceted, and Adichie's remark doesn't undo everything she's achieved until now, nor should it be allowed to mar her future successes.

We are allowing small, semantic disagreements to divide us. There is no room to learn. There is no humour, instead a feeling that one must tread on eggshells for fear of being ideologically attacked. Meanwhile, the right point and laugh as we dismantle ourselves for them.

a n important conversation into a witch hunt.



IMAGE: MIKEL AGIRREGABIRIA

Don't call my younger sister's M.E. laziness

Assumptions about physical health are a huge issue, solved by greater understanding of the ordeal that sufferers go through



IMAGE: ELLIE KNIGHT

Ellie Knight



She's spoilt, 'she picks and chooses when she's too tired', 'why doesn't she go to bed earlier or take a nap?'

These are all comments I am embarrassed to say I've made concerning my little sister who is struggling with M.E. It is only recently that I am starting to fully comprehend what the illness entails. The more I understand, the more I cringe at the thoughts I used to have.

Myalgic encephalomyelitis (M.E.) is characterised by a range of neurological symptoms and signs, muscle pain with intense physical or mental exhaustion, relapses, and specific cognitive disabilities. The hardest part of coping with M.E. is the chronic fatigue it causes. We all know what it's like to be tired; you've just finished an all-nighter or been out in town on a bender, but this is *not* the same thing. People

with chronic fatigue are not simply tired, but physically exhausted and mentally drained all the time. If this wasn't bad enough, they often face the patronising comments from ignorant well wishers about how they just need an earlier bed time. Worse than this are the condescending comments by those who doubt the severity of the illness because 'she went out last week', 'I saw pictures of her on a run so she can't be that bad'. A way M.E. affects people is that the impact of what they've done typically takes a day or two to kick in. This is known as post-exertional malaise or 'pay back'. So yes, someone studied hard or has been to a party, what you don't see is them struggling to even get out of bed. This rings back to one of the undeniable issues with social media; you only see the good aspects of people's lives, not the bad and nor the consequences.

You have to make tough decisions about what to put your energy into. Is going for drinks really worth a day bed bound? If I try to exercise I may not be well enough for that family meal. Constant compromise leads to stress, anxiety and the never ending fear that you are missing out.

Around 200 000 people in the UK and over one million in the USA have M.E. – more than HIV or multiple sclerosis. Most are unable to work full time and up to a quarter of M.E. patients are housebound or bedbound. Currently there is no proven cure. M.E. is not life threatening. But it will alter your life entirely, chipping away at all the things which used to matter to you most.

Just because you see on Instagram someone who lives an exciting and busy life, does not mean it's their reality. If someone with chronic fatigue chooses to go to a gig, they have chosen to sacrifice the next few hours, days or weeks to for this.

Don't make the ignorant assumptions I did. I have the upmost respect for anyone living with any chronic illness, it is a challenge I cannot comprehend and I am frequently baffled by the optimism, determination and ambition shown by friends who have to cope with this sort of illness on a day-to-day basis.

My little sister is the strongest, bravest and brightest person I have ever had the privilege to meet and I admire her more than anyone in the world.



marie @xmarieeeeeee
said it before n i'll say it again sparkling water is actual tory juice, disgusting
19 Apr 2017

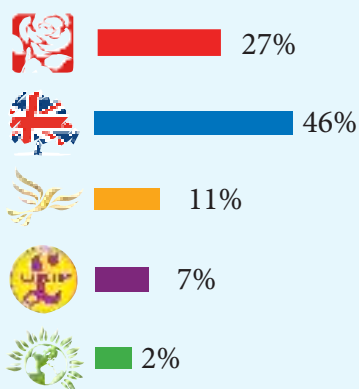
Henry Zeffman @hzeffman
Prince Phillip going to extraordinary lengths to get out of having to meet the Trumps
4 May 2017

Oscar Bentley @theoscarbentley
I'm spending my afternoon at a public lecture entitled 'the Corruption of Capitalism' because I'm a middle class liberal cuck.
3 May 2017

Josh Salisbury @josh_salisbury
The Tab is shite lmao
3 May 2017

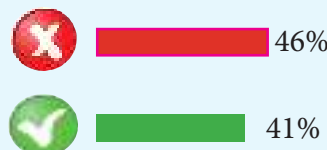
BY THE NUMBERS

Westminster voting intention 2017



Source: Britain Elects

Support for a second Scottish independence referendum



CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should the electorate tactically vote to prevent a party from a majority victory?

YES.

James Humpish



People pick their second preferred option all the time to avoid a worse-off situation. They do it because there's sometimes more than one factor at play. It can be the same with elections. At every election, there comes an apex of support for tactical voting as a means to block another party or parties' success.

It's a rational tactic and it can't really be considered to be contrary to the principles of democracy. Democracy is about choice after all, and the opportunity to influence who runs the country. Maybe tactical voting is in a negative spirit rather than a positive one, but it still serves its purpose.

Choosing to 'just vote for the party you actually want to get in' is facile. Because there are so many incidents where that attitude yields such a low probability of affecting the outcome that it effectively saps the motivation to vote for many voters.

Scrap the idea of opting for the candidate you most prefer anyway. Instead think about what you can gain from each outcome and discount that gain by the probability of success. There are going to be some Labour supporters better off voting for the Liberal Democrats to keep out the Conservatives.

There are going to be some UKIP voters that would be safer with the Conservatives to avoid a Liberal Democrat gain. It's an effect of a system which fails to translate millions of votes to a representative number of seats.

With the parties having diverged from the centre since 2010

and 2015, there's more at stake. So why effectively waste a vote? Even more, as students we are directly offered the opportunity to tactically vote with the government allowing us to choose to vote at home or at our university constituency.

I personally have the choice to vote in my home constituency, Telford, which is an ultra-marginal seat that went Conservative for the first time in 2015, or York Central, which was dominated by Labour in the last two elections.

It's a different sort of tactical voting, but it's still a situation where you have to ask where a single vote is going to be more influential.

And that leads to the crux of the issue, really. Getting the most value out of a vote might come across as a bit seedy. It's almost as if you're trying to make your vote more meaningful than somebody else's. Yet if everyone's trying to make the most of their vote that issue is somewhat diminished, especially considering that it can only get someone so far.

Look back more than ten years ago and you wouldn't have the choice of parties there is now. It's a good thing in many ways. The flipside is that it undermines 'broad church' parties. Voting simply for who you like the most ignores how atomised politics has become. In a two party system, a tactical vote just simply couldn't exist.

Perhaps tactical voting means that the poll tallies won't represent what the electorate truly feel if people vote tactically. Maybe it's wrong to act contrary to the ballot paper asking 'Which one of these candidates would you like to win?' These are problems with the electoral system. Tactical voting makes sense given the system. It's a symptom, not a problem.

NO.

Dom Smithies



Idealism and pragmatism have always been an irksome dichotomy. With the snap election right around the corner I am yet again forced to decide between voting for my ideals or voting for what's most likely to produce 'the best outcome'. Tactical voting has always existed. The 'first past the post' system was designed for two party's, while we have multiple parties. Tactical voting encourages people to vote for a party close-ish to their ideals, to beat a party that is the antithesis of those ideals.

What then happens is that a party's ideals constantly shift to try and catch more votes. The problem with this, however, is that it allows a party to ignore the views of a lot of the electorate - people that find themselves accurately represented by the 'fringe parties' - because it can depend on tactical voting to ensure success. The parties nearer the centre thus always succeed.

The 'vote tactically' strategy guilt trips people into going against their beliefs and encourages them to give up their power to vote for a representative that doesn't in fact represent them. Shaming me for how I vote goes against everything politics and democracy stands for.

When one third of the electorate says they will vote tactically (according to the *Independent's* polling) it raises bigger questions about the system we use to elect the government that is meant to represent us. People feel compelled to be tactical now more than ever. Our current Tory government received only 24 per cent of the eligible vote and 37 per cent of the actual vote, ac-

cruing over 50 per cent of the seats. I admit I'm impressed with the organisation of tactical voting. There are handy documents explaining how to vote to ensure that we have a progressive government elected at such a critical time. But I still have my concerns...

First, while Brexit is definitely a hot topic at the moment, it is not the sole concern of the government over the next few years. I am not going to hinge my vote on whether a party is offering a hard Brexit, a soft Brexit or no Brexit at all. I care about education, healthcare, the environment, housing and refugees, all of which are either in crisis or passing bills. You shouldn't vote based on a single issue.

Second, voting is not just for a party or the next Prime Minister, you're electing your government representative. How's their voting record? What are their priorities for the local area and community? Would they listen to you and your opinions? Voting tactically totally disregards who it is that's actually standing in your constituency. You owe your MP more than that.

Third, strategic politics for the greater, progressive good should come from top down. Parties have stood aside to support each other in particular seats and I'm all for that. Progressive alliances should be formed by leaders, not the electorate. But if you give people choice, you cannot be annoyed at them for taking it. You should make the choice that best represents you and your interests.

I understand the arguments for voting tactically, but I will vote tactically on only one term: when there is a coalition seeking to bring about electoral reform - so I never again have to face choosing between my ideals and operating in a system that refuses to accommodate them.

#minstergram

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



@wanderingclem Woke up to the sweet sound of the fire alarm.



@laurawatt38 #sunset



@nicolozarotti Despite the loss [for Lancaster], York, it's been a pleasure #roses2017

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

MUSE.

DUAL DYNAMIC

EXAMINING ONE OF CINEMA'S MOST
SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS:
SCORCESE AND DE NIRO

6

ARTS

M6 Jack Flower examines the architectural merits of Hes East and West

M7 Arts Deputy Eliza Hunton writes a love letter to minimalist theatre sets

FEATURES

M4 Dan Hall speaks with outspoken journalist and author and former York student Peter Hitchens

M17 The changing landscape of online journalism is leading to generation misinformation, writes Finn Judge

M19 Harriet Clifford talks to York alumnus Tom Pickersgill about revolutionary music social media app, Zubble



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MUSIC

M12 The music team guide us through the very best small festivals the UK has to offer

M13 Henry Brown reviews the latest release from perhaps the most important rapper in the world today, Kendrick Lamar

14

FILM & TV

M14 Emily Taylor explores the growing gap between critical merit and box office success

M15 Andrew Young analyses Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro's enduringly successful on-screen partnership

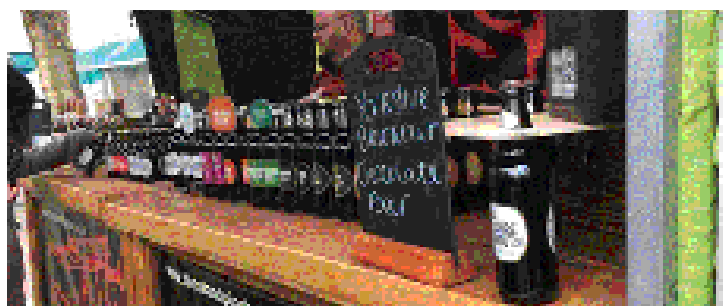


GAMING

M16 Sam Flint chats with Andy Gibson from York-based game designers, Team Pesky

FOOD & DRINK

M18 Trina Khoo leads us through York's chocolatey past, and provides the perfect brownie recipe for any budding baker



8

FASHION

M9 Dale Lyster is getting ready for the Summer with a rundown of the season's best menswear

M10 The Shoot explores the 90s obsession with primary colours





“Don’t think - do.”

ACTOR, WRITER AND MUSICIAN ALEXANDER KING ON MOTIVATION, TALENT, AND CONSTANT CREATIVITY

How have you managed to achieve so much over the years? Does it ever get too much?

I think just sheer hard work and never giving up. When I was younger I was a big believer in the concept of ‘talent’ but as time went on I realised that the ‘talented’ people I admired were just people who got stuff done, so I resolved to become one of them. When you stop talking about wanting to do something, and start actually doing it, that’s when the output ramps up and you start to get a body of work.

I also make a lot of sacrifices in order to be constantly creative – I don’t have much of a social life to be honest! And I don’t do a lot of recreational activities that might be common for others. I multitask: I listen to audiobooks when I’m driving, I plan my calendar meticulously, I keep lists, and I never let an idea slip past, even if I don’t know at that moment what to do with it. Something will pop into my head, like ‘infected meat turns populace psychic’ and I’ll jot it down and come back to it later, choosing the medium that I feel best suits it.

It can become too much sometimes. I have a long history of depression and anxiety, and have in the past ricocheted from depression from doing too little, to anxiety caused from the stress of having too much on. Nowadays I try to balance it and not have more than two active projects on the go at any one time.

What is it like being a creative artist living in York?

York is so beautiful. I was born and raised here and didn’t realise how lucky I was until I lived elsewhere while attending Art college. Everywhere I go in the country, I’m usually so happy to come back to York. It’s got a vibrant live music and art scene and there are so many cool creative people to work with.

Has there been a project that you have worked on which you have enjoyed the most?

I enjoy them all, in different ways. Some of

them I don’t enjoy until they’re finished, and some of them I enjoy until they’re finished. I enjoyed writing the music for a musical based on Faust, which went to the Edinburgh Fringe a few years ago. I also enjoyed working on *The Trove of Curiosities*, an evening of spooky Christmas stories, as I got to write a play, act in one and direct another!

Generally working with other people makes things more enjoyable, for example anything I do with Hedgepig Theatre, Wildgoose Theatre or Off The Rock is always tremendous fun.

Has there been an event or project for you which has been especially challenging and how did you manage to go through with it?

I was recently cast as Mickey in *Cornermen*, a play by Oli Forsyth set in the world of boxing. The rehearsal period was quite short, and large portions of the script consisted of myself and two other cornermen shouting instructions to an unseen boxer in the ring. The dialogue was so intricate and fast-paced, yet had to flow, it was a real challenge and every night stepping out on stage was somewhat nerve-wracking as a result. But we pulled it off, and got great reviews from the audience and the writer himself, who came down to watch a performance!

What made you get into Wing Chun Kung Fu and why this specific type of Kung Fu?

I’m a big fan of Bruce Lee, and when I was first reading about him I learned that Wing Chun was his first martial art. A few weeks later I was walking past Guppy’s Enterprise Club on Nunnery Lane and saw a poster in the window. I went into my first class and here we are, 19 years later and I’m a black sash (belt), a ‘Sifu’ (teacher) and still learning!

It’s a fantastic martial art for self-defence and self-confidence, and it definitely changed the type of person that I am. It’s hard to explain but the central concepts of Wing Chun can be applied to life and problem solving as easily as they can to punching someone in the face. I have a YouTube chan-

nel under the name MrYattix where I talk at great length about all aspects of Wing Chun, and I take on new private students a few times a year.

What advice would you give to students pursuing the same or similar disciplines to you?

Consider your objective. If your goal is to become a famous writer, that’s hard. If your goal is to become a writer, that’s easy – just write something. I started acting just over a year ago. Before that it was something that other people did that I greatly admired. I didn’t start acting wanting to be Ryan Reynolds, I just enjoyed the experience, and by the time I’d come off stage after my first ever acting gig, I was an actor. Now I just keep doing it and keep working hard and hopefully I get better.

Don’t think – do. I wonder how many amazing novels are still in people’s heads because they think they can’t write. The only way to get good at writing, or acting, or martial arts, or music, is to do it. Learn the basics, then let experience take you as far as it can. Finally, if you write something, sleep on it. You’ll always find something obvious that needs changing in the morning.

What are your biggest plans for the future?

I’d like to do more film acting. I’d like to get paid for it too! I think it’s hard to judge how good you are at something while you’re doing it for free.

I’m in the process of writing my third novel, and I’m always tinkering with the idea of writing a solo album, but I won’t start it until I think I have something to say, or an idea that will set it apart from what everyone else is doing. Beyond that, I’d just like to be happy – but who wouldn’t?

King’s debut novel, It Looks Like You’re Writing A Letter, is available now from Neurable Press

Interview by Hina Rana

EDITOR'S NOTE



MUSE EDITOR LUCY FURNEAUX IS NOT GIVING UP

“I’ve given up politics,” announces Peter Hitchens in our extended interview on M4. Well, I find myself thinking, *wouldn’t that be nice*. Wouldn’t it be nice to be in the kind of position where the outcome of whatever political turmoil is hiding around the next corner would affect you on such a minor level that you feel that you can calmly choose to ‘give up’ on it all? The truth is, even if we do have that kind of privilege (and very few of us do), ‘giving up politics’ simply can’t be an option.

I know, I know. It’s exhausting. In under three years we’ve put up with the Scottish Independence referendum, a general election, the EU referendum, party leadership campaigns galore, the US election, the French election, and now, before the Twitterstorm has even had a chance to think about starting to settle, we’re back in General Election mode all over again. By this point, we’re just wondering when it’s all going to end, so we can go back to how things were before all of this mess. But in reality, it never really ends; in the words of Theresa “Strong and Stable” May, there’s no turning back.

Don’t get me wrong: you can hide yourself in the library or while away your days with Netflix (or reading the latest edition of *Nouse*, of course). Or you can do your part. Your vote might not seem like much, but just think of Paul Snell, a BNP candidate who ran for a seat on Amber Valley Borough Council in 2008 and lost out by just one vote. Your ballot matters – and so does the box you tick.

This is no time to say ‘This does not affect me or I don’t have time for this’. Whatever happens next month will have an impact on all of us. It might sound ridiculous, but with the NHS threatened, foodbank use at an all-time high, and never-ending slashes to education and welfare spending, the decision on 8 June will, for some, be a matter of life or death. And these aren’t problems that just happen to other people: rising living costs and cutting of grants and maintenance loans mean thousands of students are at real risk.

So, I know you’re busy. I know you’re fed up of checking social media only to discover what awful thing has happened in the world today. I know you don’t want to deal with the world’s problems. But I also know you’re probably looking to procrastinate whatever essay or exam revision you’re supposed to be working on right now. Last week, *The Guardian* published that 93 per cent of students eligible to vote have now registered; if you’re one of that emaining seven per cent, take two minutes to register to vote. Do a bit of research; talk to the people around you, and work out what you think.

Vote on 8 June. And the next day, whatever happens overnight, don’t give up politics.

IMAGE CREDITS

Cover: YouTube

Opposite, from top: Wikipedia Commons, NRK P3 Flickr, Pink Cow Photography, Trina Khoo, thefoxling Flickr

WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO?

DAN HALL TALKS TO PETER HITCHENS ABOUT THE TRUTH, POLITICS, AND BEING IGNORED

Do you consider yourself an open minded person? Then, says Peter Hitchens, you'll have to prove it. Because Hitchens' views blend into the pantheon of public opinion like a bagpiper blends into a library. He deliberately sets up conventional thinking as his adversary, calling instead for original and independent thought, making the pursuit and dissemination of unfashionable truths as his personal brass ring. Or at least, that's his version of things. To the vast majority of his interlocutors in the public square of ideas, everything that Hitchens stands for should be met with execrations and disgust. Indeed, he gave himself the moniker "The Hated Peter Hitchens" on Twitter in reaction to his own understanding of his public perception. When he studied at York in the early 1970s, he was a hard-line Trotskyist to the point of being, as he told me, "a homicidal utopian".

But his views have undergone a Damascus conversion since then. Just about the only thing remaining from his undergraduate days is the fire and brimstone demeanour with which he defends his own opinions. Hitchens is a now a columnist for the *Mail on Sunday*, writing his column with a brand of intractable conservatism to a dedicated audience amassed over years of taking his opponents to task.

He has authored books on a range of topics as disparate as the UK's war on drugs, cultural decay, and the rage against God. The unifying strand through all of his works and public debates is a trademark fidelity to witty and reasoned dialogue with those who shout him down.

The most curious thing about Hitchens, though, is that he bothers at all. He openly acknowledges that he's been completely ignored by almost everyone of influence, and those who

do engage reply with furious contempt.

His antediluvian beliefs, once commonplace, have been blasted by the ascendancy of cultural progressivism into the marijuana-

“**Get out while you can - this is a country at the very end of its life**”

befogged mists of time: bring back the death penalty; illegalise abortion; introduce much stricter drug law; God is the only absolute truth. He promulgates policies which have been gathering dust for decades and puts them in the spotlight across modern political media. But he knows his project is doomed: he now calls himself the "unappointed obituarist of Great Britain". His advice to young people is "emigrate before it's too late." Britain is finished. Plod to the grave, the Queen. So the question which I started with was the one I've wondered about for years - why does he bother?

"I'm a very privileged person," Hitchens begins. "I have a national newspaper column which quite a lot of people read, particularly supporters of the Conservative Party." He believes that had the Conservatives "spectacularly" lost the 2010 general election, "that would have been the end of it. That would have compelled millions of people to recognise the truth that they no longer had a friend in Westminster and it might have led to the formation of a new

political movement of a conservative, patriotic kind." But that's not what happened. Instead, "people voted Tory in large enough numbers to save the Tory party. At that point I realised that reason was powerless against tribal instinct and that there was nothing I could do."

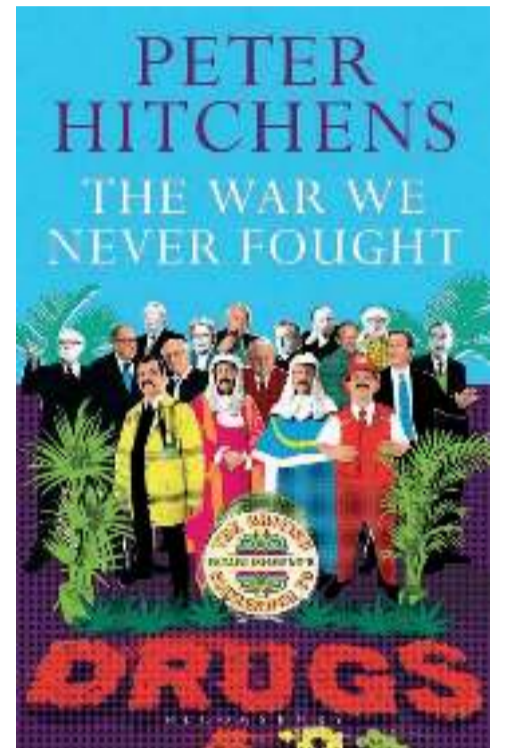
Hitchens draws a sharp distinction between the Conservative Party and what he deems to be real patriotic conservatism. And he despairs at the party's inexorable rise in recent years, which is not what you might expect to hear from someone who endorses right-wing political views. It seems, though, that Hitchens has been ahead of the game in feeling that we are entering a period of Tory dominance. Today, the nation anticipates a landslide victory for Theresa May's Conservative Party on 8 June, with bookies offering odds at 1/25 for a Tory majority. So does he really think the situation is so dire that his only option is to "give up politics altogether"?

"Oh completely," Hitchens says emphatically, "I have no political engagement. I don't vote, I try not to take sides in party political questions, I jeer equally at all political parties. I have simply decided that the pursuit of the truth for its own sake is an activity worthy of a civilised human being and that's what I do. And part of the truth is of course about the past. Part of it is about the nature of the change in this country which is still in many cases not acknowledged by people, when it merely involves putting two and two together."

He cites his 2012 book, *The War We Never Fought*, in which he argues that the UK has undergone a de facto decriminalisation of illicit psychoactive substances, and that this relaxing of policy has been the cause of all manner of societal ills. "I published this book, and I'm not an unknown person, and it was published by a reputable publisher (Bloomsbury) and it's on a serious and important subject and, for the most part, it did not even get reviewed. And the only reviews that it did get in major publications were abusive tirades by people who hadn't read the book properly. It's known in the publishing trade as *The Book They Never Bought*."

Whatever you think of Hitchens' views, he insists on rigorous reason and thought-out argument. And yet, in addition to extensively researched books, he also spends a lot of time arguing with people on Twitter. Recently, Hitchens' journalistic antithesis, Owen Jones, decried Twitter as an unviable vehicle for meaningful debate. Isn't Jones right?

"Yes, but he has plenty of other vehicles. The other day, for example, he was invited by the *New York Times* to write an article about railway privatisation in Britain. Well, congratulations to him, but it would seem to me to be more interesting for the *New York Times* to have asked me because I'm a conservative and I'm against



railway privatisation and in favour of the nationalisation. But they asked Owen. Owen's books get huge amounts of publicity, I think he broadcasts more than I do, he doesn't need Twitter. For me Twitter is an important substitute for the broadcasting I don't much do."

He may not broadcast as much as he'd like, but you can find hours of footage on YouTube of him on mainstream BBC programming like *The Daily Politics* and *Question Time*, with each video accruing thousands of views. I suspect that people are drawn to these clips because his unapologetically abrasive delivery is undeniably arresting. He considers opponents "enemies", and takes pleasure in rubbing them. His infamous clash with *Friends* actor Matthew Perry on *Newsnight* about drugs policy, in which Hitchens denounced the "fantasy of addiction", upset Perry to the point that the two had to be escorted out via separate exits after the show. As entertaining as his putdowns are, doesn't stooping to this level go against the principle of civilised debate he claims to uphold?

"I presume intelligence until stupidity is proved beyond reasonable doubt. Once it is, then I feel I'm licensed to do a bit of ad hominem. Because ad hominem is fun for me and (if I do it right) it's fun for the readers, and it might conceivably strike a part of my opponent's mind which reason and fact have failed to reach," he theorises. However, he emphasises that "I will always give people the chance to prove that they're serious. If they're Jew-phobes or bigoted in any other ways then I'll just block them. But blocking is something which I use against people who are plainly unhinged."

So when serious thinking breaks down, he feels permitted to resort to name-calling. But it's the truth that he's fundamentally interested in, and this commitment spreads to all levels of discourse. One thing I don't believe I've ever seen is his acceptance of a general political narrative - he was loath even to use the word 'Brexit' in conjunction with the



IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA COMMONS



referendum because of its woolly buzzword fatuousness. Recently, he's been speaking and writing a lot about Syria, and the dangers of the kind of narrative thinking that seems to crop up where familiar reductive tropes of good vs evil (like those which sullied the debate leading up to the invasion of Iraq) are used to spuriously justify military action.

I ask him about the recent comment made by White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer which compared Vladimir Putin to Hitler. "Well," Hitchens begins, "the Prince of Wales has done *that*, and so has Hillary Clinton. It's all part of what I call the 'Churchill Syndrome', where every crisis is the preliminaries to the Second World War. Every conference is Munich. The person who's speaking invariably thinks he's Winston Churchill and his opponent is invariably Hitler, and anyone who wants to oppose this is invariably characterised as the appeaser, Neville Chamberlain. This model of history which is lacking – apart from anything else – in accuracy, is imposed on every single crisis. It doesn't work."

What's the key, then, to seeing through bogus rhetoric? "You seem to need a certain type of character to be sceptical. I don't know what it is, maybe it's age. I was brought up in an era when education was much more rigorous than it is now. Maybe I was fortunate

ment says! Why are they in journalism if they think that? It doesn't matter if you're left-wing or right-wing, you can't go around thinking governments are truthful; it's in their nature not to be truthful."

Indeed, you might characterise a certain part of what Hitchens believes as being Orwellian, in that he inherently mistrusts gov-

I have to assume that I could be wrong all the time

ernments and their language. He often claims his opinions are rejected as "thought crimes", after the 1984 dystopian concept of being persecuted simply for what you think. Once we make certain things unsayable, they become unthinkable. Would Hitchens characterise this as the "post-truth" politics that lurches towards a fever pitch of hysteria?

"If you don't believe in absolutes, which in my view means that if you don't fundamentally have a religious belief, then you will probably end up believing that there is no such thing as truth. In which case, you can do what you like. This relativism about truth, which flows from moral relativism, seems to me to be the ultimate cause of people's carelessness with it, and their willingness to bend it and shape it to themselves." He cites the abortion debate as an example: "The renaming of 'abortions' as 'terminations', the renaming of 'babies' as 'foetuses' is a very significant part of this. What you're obviously doing is killing a human baby in the womb. But this has to be covered over by Latinate words so that it doesn't sound like that. And then all kinds of stuff about 'rights' gets dredged up, which suggests that the mother first of all is the person who fundamentally wants to get rid of the baby – which tends not to be true in many abortions, she's under pressure from somebody else – and also that the baby itself is not yet human and therefore has no rights. But this is all part of our amazing ability to

fool ourselves. The most powerful deceiver you will ever meet in your life is yourself."

Now I don't believe that anyone who reads this is going to become a pro-lifer based on it, but what's strange is that Hitchens doesn't think that he'll change your mind either. So what's the point? Why engage with hostile audiences if they're going to ignore everything you say? "I engage with them in that I'll tell them that what they're doing is stupid; that's just telling the truth, and also is often quite fun. But I don't think it's going to make any difference. It's never going to make any difference. Get out while you can – this is a country at the very end of its life."

But where should people be going? "It's none of my business!" he laughs. "Who says you're going to have any choice? The later you leave it, the less choice you'll get. I don't care where you go. Go wherever suits you. I'm not a travel agency. The point is not to go somewhere else because you like somewhere else, the point is to get out of here because it is going to become an intolerable, bankrupt, chaotic mess, in which it will not be safe to bring up children."

I've heard him say things like this before. But then he says something that I've never heard him say anywhere: "I have to assume I could be wrong all the time. It's part of being a thoughtful, living person. Unless you have reason to know that you are absolutely right about something (which is rare) then you have to assume you could be wrong, that the other person might be right."

This is the closest I've ever seen Hitchens to admission of personal doubt. I suspect that

it's as strong a doubt as he's ever going to give.

He will continue with his vocation, full of sound and fury, knowing it is soon to be heard no more. Isn't this fate frustrating? "I used to get frustrated, but I found that there is no purpose in getting frustrated. The only thing to do in the end is to laugh."

"I have done my duty, I believe. I have drawn attention to injustice and wrong, incompetence and folly, as loudly and as diligently as I can. I have written several very carefully argued and well-researched books, I've written a huge number of articles, and I've made a lot of public appearances. The collective response of my country has been to stick two fingers up at me. I could get upset, but what would be the point? If that's what they want, then I shall laugh at them. I shall soon be dead, and they'll discover after I'm dead how right I was. I won't make myself miserable over it – what good would it do?" M

I presume intelligence until stupidity has been proved beyond reasonable doubt

enough to be trained in *how* to think, rather than *what* to think. That is the crucial difference. I just question things." For Hitchens, that's the crux. "I'm surrounded by people who profess to be journalists who believe everything they're told. They go into government briefings and they believe what the govern-



S-TREE-T ART

LEA MARRAZZO EXAMINES THE ROMAN STREET ART RENAISSANCE, LED BY ECO-ARTIST ANDREA GANDINI

For the past few years, the walls and buildings of Rome have become the canvas of choice for young artists. And in doing so, they have created a public space of expression for those who are most unlikely to be heard in such a chaotic city. Through these forms of art, which can be visual, written or both, young artists have found a way to communicate their personality or to protest against the general malaise which reigns in Italy. A country where the unemployment rate increases daily and where art and culture funds are often cut.

Unfortunately, these young artists are all too often mistaken for vandals and the chance to find appropriate spaces to communicate is low. Despite these commonplace difficulties, the Roman street art scene is developing at a vibrant rate and attracting more interest through artist collaborations and social media channels.

Indeed, independent art groups and locals have started to organise street art tours, especially in the suburban and less developed areas of the city. These areas are often avoided by tourists and natives because of their bad reputation as desolate spaces where criminality and poverty dominate. However, this bleak

reality is starting to change for the best. An artistic and cultural re-evaluation of these peripheral districts is growing, grounded in the hope of catching tourists' attention and creating positive connections between the city centre and the surrounding area. This new general interest in the street art has opened the way for young artists, such as the recently discovered street sculptor Andrea Gandini.

If you ever happen to be in Rome on a crowded sidewalk, just look down to one of the many abandoned tree trunks on the border of the street and you will find the artworks of the rapidly emerging Andrea Gandini.

A student at the Statale Rippeta art school, Gandini, began by modelling clay and then moved onto wood carvings. Initially, he

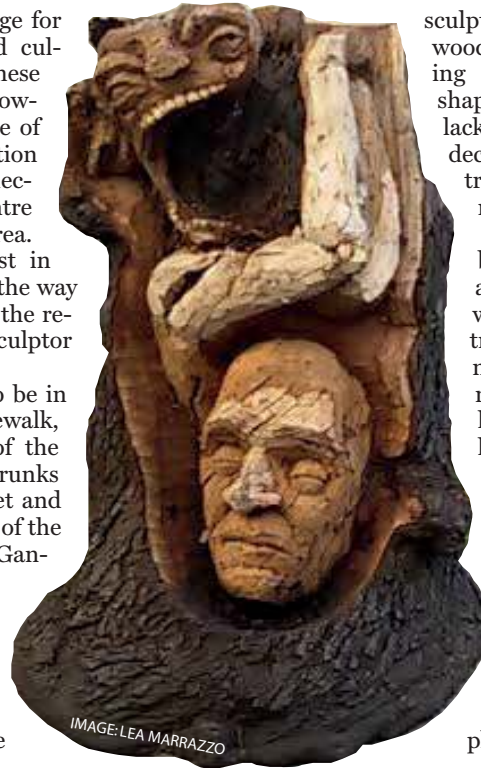


IMAGE: LEA MARRAZZO

sculpted various pieces of wood in his garage, creating strange figures and shapes, but one day he lacked material, then he decided to engrave the trunk outside his garage.

Necessity has been transformed into a virtue by Gandini, who immediately attracted the attention of media and locals. Journalists have described him as the artist who has helped to inject creative vitality back into Rome, one of the most beautiful and neglected cities in the world. Others described him as the precursor of a new kind of street art, which is not only aesthetically pleasing, but is also

ecologically friendly. In his recycled trunks, there is an attempt to recover the relationship between nature and our increasingly polluted cities.

Once he's polished the surface of the trunk, Gandini looks carefully at its natural nuances and listens to the wood's soul. With this connection in mind, he engraves faces, each one different because they reflect the trunk's personality and they often express the suffering of their abandonment and death after having been deprived of their branches, flowers and leaves.

In the last few years, Gandini has found substantial success and has now sculpted around 48 trunks in various areas of Rome and more widely around the whole of Italy. He has won a number of commissions from the council of Rome and he is now working on a monumental project in Villa Grazioli, a 16th century villa located in the Roman countryside.

So, if you ever happen to be enjoying a trip to Rome and find an abandoned trunk which has not yet been brought to life by Gandini, try writing a message to him and he will be more than happy to revive the spirit of Rome's trees.



IMAGE: DS PUGH



IMAGE: JOHN ROBINSON

HES EASTERN PROMISES

JACK FLOWER CONSIDERS THE ARCHITECTURAL MERITS OF HES EAST AND WEST - HOW WILL THEY BE VIEWED IN 50 YEARS?

The University of York was founded in 1963, over 53 years ago. The decadent Heslington Hall and King's Manor were the home of students to begin with, but relatively soon the campus as we know it today began to come into fruition.

Concrete, concrete and more concrete seemed to be the design plan, and by 1972 most of 'Hes West' had been completed, and construction halted until 1990, with the building of James College. Although buildings like Central Hall have had famous musicians such as Pink Floyd and Paul McCartney play there, the popularity of these musicians and Hes West's buildings are far from comparable. This less than favourable reputation of Hes West has led me to ask the question: 'what about Hes East, how will Hes East be viewed in 50 years' time?'

Now, although that is a very difficult question to answer, I will attempt an educated guess. The key is, in my opinion, to do with blending in. Whilst Hes West is a concrete sprawl befitting Milton Keynes rather than historic York, Hes East takes an ambitious but less abrasive approach to modern architecture. The contrast on Hes West between the grey, unnatural concrete and the surrounding lakes, countryside and Heslington village is like trying to put Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un in a room together: it just isn't going to work. The condensed campus also gives a sense of being cluttered, a man-made invasion into otherwise beautiful Yorkshire countryside.

Hes East, by contrast, is at the cutting edge of architecture, much like Hes West was 50 years ago, so of course it is impossible to say for sure whether the architecture will be admired in 50 years' time. However, its use of natural, rustic materials such as wood and copper, along with its attempt to not rise too high by staying below three stories, and the fact that it just doesn't feel as condensed and clustered as Hes West, give me a strong impression that Hes East will be viewed as an architectural success in 50 years' time. The floor-to-ceiling glass in buildings like the Ron Cooke Hub, give a light, airy feel so that the separation between man and nature doesn't seem quite as severe and disjointed as it does at Hes West. The buildings in Hes East seem much more in proportion - Hes West often appears to not adhere to symmetry in quite as clear a fashion. Architecture which has stood the test of time: Roman, Georgian Neoclassical, Gothic, all follow symmetry religiously.

Symmetry and balance is, in my opinion, a simple recipe to architectural success, a recipe which Hes East has followed fantastically, and continues to follow with the continuing construction of 'The Piazza', set to be finished in 2018.

Heslington East will continue to expand over the years as the University expands. As long as the Hes East campus architects follow the same contemporary yet thoughtful design, then the campus will hopefully become an architectural beacon, not just for 50 years, but many more years to come.

MINIMALISM IS MORE

IN THE WAKE OF YORK THEATRE ROYAL'S PRODUCTION OF *THE MACHINE STOPS*, ELIZA HUNTON UNPICKS THE VIRTUES OF SIMPLE SETS



ALL IMAGES: BEN BENTLY

The great crisis of set design is that an audience usually only notices it if they dislike it. For centuries, theatre has been opulent; big settings and even larger audiences. You can't think of the West End without productions featuring hundreds of performers and rotating stages coming to mind. With professional shows costing in the millions (Broadway's *Spider Man* (2011) cost \$17m, the most expensive production to date), it's easy to see how important costume and set design are in theatre. However, is it all necessary to draw in the crowds?

Aspects of minimalism have always featured in theatre productions, often due to financial necessity, but the practice became popular professionally in the 1960s. The idea of a production relying on concept rather than an elaborate set peaked with Michael Bennett's 1975 production of *A Chorus Line*, where the plights of Broadway dancers played out in monologues on a bare stage, apart from a single white line along the floor. This new style of formalist theatre often featured smaller productions, a surrealist story and a strong emphasis on visual imagery. Formalist theatre was all the rage, with critic Bonnie Maranca coining the term "theatre of images" to describe the rise of these slow productions, devoid of linear narrative. However, minimalism doesn't always mean madness. While minimalist design often seamlessly complements abstract productions which rely on monologues and bizarre imagery, this doesn't mean that minimalism can't work for linear, realist stories or even fantastical dramas. Especially when professional companies spend an average £200,000 a year on sets alone...

Pilot Theatre and York Theatre Royal's

production of *The Machine Stops*, which premiered in May 2016, returned to York this February as part of a tour to recapture E.M. Forster's chilling eponymous short story. Despite being set in a futuristic dystopia where characters contend with miles of tunnels, aeroplanes, explosions and grassy hills, York Theatre Royal placed the production in a black box theatre, with the audience sat on a level with the performers. A single chair surrounded by a cage-like contraption was our only image of the fantastical world that the play created - and it worked.

The world has become reliant on the omnipresent Machine, where all everyone's needs are met without even having to leave their chair. The majority have lost their ability to live on the surface of the earth, instead living alone inside underground rooms connected throughout the world by tunnels. People communicate through a futuristic version of Skype, and share their lone longing for ideas. The two main characters, Vashti and her son Kuno, live on opposite sides of the world, with very opposite ideas. While Vashti is content with her life, Kuno is fuelled by a desire to see the outside world and this desire leads to the discovery of humans on the surface and the gradual collapse of the Machine itself.

A dystopian story about humanity's reliance on technology, *The Machine Stops* (directed by Julie Forster) has a wide, fantastical setting within an incredibly small set. Actors Maria Grey and Adam Slynn swung across the bars, anthropomorphising the Machine by speaking in sync and hovering over Vashti's (Ricky Butt) head throughout the play. This gave the audience a real sense of the obnoxious presence of the Machine in the charac-

ters' everyday lives, impossible to ignore as Slynn and Grey never left the stage. By representing the Machine using actors, the fact the Machine was created by man is emphasised, along with its fallibility; a certain mortality is evident in an otherwise omnipotent force.

Lighting was incredibly important in this production, representing everything from the sunlight on Kuno's face to the Machine's violent destruction. The single spotlight gave the stage an unnatural feeling, representing the unnatural life the characters lived underground. A black box theatre can certainly make an audience far more aware of stagecraft when the action is happening mere feet away. Deliberate choices such as spotlights and a minimalist stage emphasise the idea that what we observe is something crafted, not stumbled upon. We aren't flies on the wall in *The Machine Stops*, but spectators invited in by the director. While some could argue this isn't the most immersive kind of theatre, the effect is palpable. When there's only one thing to look at, where else do you look? Sure, elaborate West End sets are exciting, but productions like *The Machine Stops* are what place the most emphasis on the actor - and, of course, the action.

What *The Machine Stops* truly displayed is that setting and set design are not purely synonymous. Many a theatregoer is perhaps too quick to judge plays which disregard more traditional sets and characters. Similar to John Dexter's 1973 production of *Equus* at the National Theatre, *The Machine Stops* continues the more intriguing tradition of setting realistic stories in an unrealistic set. *Equus* uses actors to represent the horses, both literal and within the crazed imagination of Alan Strang.

Like *The Machine Stops*, the actors' roles and the setting shift as the characters fluctuate between reality and imagination; the horses are simultaneously real and conjured, much like the actors are both human and horse. Rhys Jameson's set in *The Machine Stops* adds a new dimension, where the actors not only represent part of the set but also heavily interact with it. While most stagings of *Equus* present an almost entirely bare stage where the actors don't leave between scenes but instead wait in the background, *The Machine Stops*' cagelike structure is both the machine itself, the room and the hill Kuno describes himself climbing on the surface. In both of these plays, setting is fluid and simple; ingenious stage design is crucial to representing this.

Simple sets should not be viewed as merely a financial necessity or an unfortunate circumstance for actors to work around, but rather as a new opportunity. By giving the actors and the audience a chance to stretch their imagination, minimalist sets can become more immersive than a classic West End musical. Elaborate sets simply remove the fourth wall to allow a peek into another's life, while a more overtly constructed scene invites us directly to observe not only a story, but also a piece of art. *The Machine Stops* is proof that directors and writers should not see the black box theatre as a restriction. It shows that even a dystopian fantasy can be possible with just four actors and a few metal poles. Theatre companies often declare themselves in great need of funding, and with shows costing an average of £300,000, it's not hard to see why. However, perhaps what theatres really need is not necessarily more funding but simply a spark of imagination. **M**

THE UPCYCLING OF SUSTAINABLE FASHION

JENNY CAO LAMENTS BOTH THE HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS WITHIN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY

Last week marked the four year anniversary of the Rana Plaza disaster in which 1100 employees of a Bangladesh garment factory were left dead after the factory collapsed. From thereon, there was an ethical call for fashion brands to rethink the way their clothes are manufactured and supplied, as well as highlighting the issues to consumers of where their clothes come from. In the disaster's wake, it became clear that high street brands had been exploiting workers in third world countries in order to maximise profits by paying workers low wages as well as dismissing regulations on working conditions. Yet in an age where almost any product and service you can think of is available, the pressure is on for businesses to meet high and fast changing demands from consumers. The mission to obtain whatever products they desire often leads both businesses and consumers to take products for granted and as a result all parties end up ignorant about the consequences of meeting these demands.

Unfortunately, these workers are not paid more for working harder and faster. It is only recently that the Clean Clothes Campaign wrote an open letter to the European Commission "to require that companies disclose, on a regular basis, the names, addresses and contact details of all production units and processing facilities in their supply chain" in order to make current workers' conditions and rights more transparent so we can work on improving them. One impact on this 'fast' fashion movement is, unsurprisingly, the use of social media. Recently,



IMAGE: GREENSEFFA

Zara sold out their 'Red Gingham Skirt with frills' due to gaining sudden attention in several Instagram posts, and Zara was quick to restock this item in response to the manic demand. Instagram's increasing popularity as a source of instant image content has seen it replace the role of traditional print magazines, and it allows consumers to instantly view a plethora of styles that underline freedom of expression. Before, it would take a celebrity wearing an item for it to sell like hotcakes, but now 'normal people' can post pictures to show how 'easy' and 'accessible' it is to look iconic, leaving consumers to flock to the feet of their chosen brands.

Yet consider this: it is reported by the Global Slavery Index that there is an estimate of 36 million people living in modern slavery today, many of whom are trapped working in the supply chains of western brands.

Due to this 'fast fashion' movement, we are in thrall to the idea of obtaining more items faster for less money - which often leads to poorer quality when it comes to the production of these items. Increasingly, consumers have embraced this throwaway culture; people are no longer satisfied with the clothes they have purchased and feel no pangs of guilt when throwing

away unwanted clothes due to the accessibility of obtaining newer and more 'in trend' items.

Despite the cyclical nature of clothing trends, brands are smart and profit-oriented. To ensure that people keep buying, brands bring back and re-sell a certain trend from two years ago but with added quirks in order to make these items appear 'newly designed'. Using powerful advertising methods, consumers are quick to buy an item they believe they don't already stylistically own, even if the trend is eerily similar to another piece that's only two years old. In the UK, roughly two million tonnes of clothing and textiles are thrown away every year and only 16 per cent of that waste is ever reused, making that roughly £140m of waste.

With the rise of people adopting the vegan lifestyle in the last few years due to the environmental and social implications of a meat based diet, isn't it also time we think about the impact of our fashion buying behaviour on our fellow human beings? It is undeniably difficult to shop sustainably when there isn't a big enough market for 'eco-friendly, sustainable clothing'. Our options are limited. Although brands like ASOS, H&M, Mango and Zara do have 'Sustainable clothing' lines, it is often not well advertised and often prices can be way higher than non-sustainable items. While ASOS plans to reduce the carbon, water and waste footprint of their own-label clothing by 15 per cent by 2020 as a signatory to the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan, this information is only displayed on the corporate webpage under the title of 'Corporate Responsibility'.



This is far from well advertised and thus not clearly understood by buyers. However, successes in sustainable fashion have been achieved, though in initial stages, such as Adidas creating running trainers from recycled ocean plastic waste.

Sustainability can be achieved in ways that you might not expect. While many brands are recycling vintage trends for their own lines i.e. cord, floral, lace styles, the popularity for vintage buying is increasing, and many often look for affordable consumption of these trends through vintage weigh and pay kilo sales, charity shops and online marketplaces.

The recycling nature of buying unwanted clothes for their own aesthetic gain means it can be easier to shop ethically than you think. In addition to this, minimalism is not often practised in our generation but this can also be a way to minimise your impact.

Project 333 is a minimalist fashion challenge that "invited you to dress with 33 items or less for 3 months" and reports have shown that many who have participated in this project found themselves valuing their items a lot more while not compromising their sense of aesthetic expression, as many around them failed to realise that they had even engaged in this project.

In an age of ignorant self-indulgence, we often leave it to others to pick up the pieces of our consumerism. But just as there is a growing awareness about where our food comes from, it's time to start thinking about our clothes too and making the decision to create small changes in our lifestyles and call out businesses who don't act ethically, and create a fashion industry as sustainable as possible.

NO. 31 RUE CAMBON

WILL ROBINSON DISCUSSES THE HISTORY OF THE EVER-ICONIC CHANEL SUIT

The Chanel suit exuberates style, femininity and expense. It is for these reasons that it comes to no surprise that so many high-street shops in recent months have begun to copy the couture design. Gabrielle Chanel, aged 71 invented the timeless tweed suit in 1954. It was a revolution of its time, allowing for ease of movement and simplicity.

The suit, based on the French male military jacket was one-dimensional and clean cut. A stark difference to the fashion of the time which consisted of corsets, excess material and flamboyance. Initially ridiculed for her design, Mademoiselle was soon the most sought after designer both in France and all over the world. The suit was manufactured from the most exquisite tweeds, which she was introduced to by her once lover, the Duke of Westminster. 60 years on the Chanel suit is still in



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA

production. Chanel Haute Couture jackets can be more than £10 000, yet as Gabrielle famously stated: "the best things in life are free, the second-best things are expensive."

Craftsmanship can exceed 130 hours to turn the 18 separate pieces of material, which have been configured from no less than 30 measurements taken from an individual, into a jacket. Each section of the jacket is hand stitched so that the essence and soul of Haute Couture remains. This is the allure of Chanel. Alterations are made to the jacket to guarantee the perfect fit. The design and cut is then checked by Madame Jacqueline, the head seamstress at Chanel. Final touches are made to the jacket; two, three inch lengths of cloth named 'cigarettes' are inserted into the shoulders and a thin chain to the bottom of the inside, to ensure the perfect fall of the fabric. The jacket and skirt combination, enabled the metamorphosis of its time and the necessity

of modernity. As result, the Chanel suit has remained an iconic item of clothing to this day. Each section has purpose and necessity, Mademoiselle said "never a button hole, without a button." It is, I believe, because of these simple rules and attention to detail, why the Chanel suit has stood the test of time.

Flamboyancy removed, Gabrielle was ahead of her time and with the help of Karl Lagerfeld's inspiration and new takes on the suit, the Chanel dynasty remains to this very day.

The female suit is an item that has once again risen to the heights of popularity in recent times, with the likes of Hillary Clinton and Lady Gaga being at the forefront of this trend. Both of whom adopt this style

for Americana purposes; the former using the piece for political reasons, and the latter within popular culture. With Spring/Summer on the horizon, it seems the case that many say farewell to the traditional dress and take inspiration from Gabrielle Chanel.

The style has been adopted universally in modern times, not only with ranges of new fabrics, but pieces made for all demographics and economics. It seems wise to look to Karl Lagerfeld famously stating in a recent interview "the essentials of a woman's wardrobe is a white shirt, a pair of jeans and a Chanel Jacket."

Therefore, be brave this summer party season. Go against convention, be fashionable and don't be afraid to wear the suit. After all, Mademoiselle will be proud of you with his ideology of beings coined as: "what is on the outside as well as the inside." Certainly apt in recent times.



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA

S/S17 MENSWEAR

DALE LYSTER TAKES A LOOK THROUGH UP AND COMING TRENDS OF SPRING/SUMMER 2017



Silk scarves. Nostalgic souvenir scarves are reborn, *Balenciaga*.

Embroidered floral shirts. The summer staple receives a tailored update, *Topman*.

Cotton macs. Practicality levels with suavity, the seasonably relevant piece updates itself in soft hues, *Peter Werth*.

Hexagonal lenses. 70's suave continues to prosper, though keeping its subtle vibe with a sharper finishing to typical, rounded sunglasses, *Ray Ban*.

Linen trousers. The wide leg trend of last summer gets an updated Japanese approach. Opt for a darker hue, with a lighter shirt, or a stone with a white shirt, *Mr Porter*.



Tommy Clarke X M&S swimwear. Rising arial photographer Tommy Clarke has recently collaborated with M&S for a different use than his typical, arial shots, *M&S*.

'Kool' sunnies. Kenzo opt for timeless trends in their recent 'Kool' collection, *Kenzo*.

Canary jackets. Noose and Monkey manage to allow bold yet simplistic designs to coexist in the most popular jacket, proving soft hues are certainly in, *Noose and Monkey*.

70s Hawaiian shirts. Yet another summer staple takes an upgrade. The Hawaiian shirt strays from the comical look with a 70s minimalist take, *All Saints*.

Embroidered slippers. Gucci opt for high extravagance in their embroidered slipper collection, with suede and embroidery proving to be a bold and winning combination, *Gucci*.

Pink baseball caps. With A/W dominated by hats and subtle uses of pink (see Oliver Spencer), this has come into the forefront of S/S with pink hats rising in popularity. J Crew utilises these trends to allow for a staple piece that will be as essential to S/S as sun cream is in a beach bag, *J Crew*.



Striped shirts. Stripes and blocks make their prominence apparent in S/S17. The trend of both stripes and blocks reiterates S/S's desire for simplicity. Throw the number on the left under a khaki jacket for a casual number. Alternatively, the knitted version, right, offers a more dressed up Wimbledon approach for a summer's day, *Topman*.

Meme-worthy watches. Don't let it be said that Gucci isn't relatable. The iconic designer Alessandro Michele has teamed up with prominent meme creators to make financially unrelatable watches relatable to the young, humble consumer, *Gucci*.

Fur-lined leather slippers. Office wear combines with relaxed yet sophisticated fur, strapped with Gucci's staple belt for a low-key number, *Gucci*.



IMAGE CREDITS; LEFT: BALENCIAGA, TOPMAN, RAY BAN, M&S, NOOSE AND MONKEY, TOPMAN, J CREW, GUCCI. RIGHT: PETER WERTH, MR PORTER, KENZO, ALL SAINTS, GUCCI, TOPMAN, GUCCI.

PRIMA PRIMARY OLD SCHOOL PRIMARY OLD SCHOOL PRIMARY OLD SCHOOL

PRIMA PRIMARY OLD SCHOOL PRIMARY OLD SCHOOL PRIMARY OLD SCHOOL

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PRIMA PRIMARY OLD SCHOOL PRIMARY OLD SCHOOL PRIMARY OLD SCHOOL



IMAGES: JENNY GAO
MODEL: ISABELLA SHALLOP



QUALITY NOT QUANTITY

ANDY TALLON SHARES HIS RUNDOWN OF THE SUMMER'S MUST-SEE SMALL FESTIVALS

LOVEBOX

Victoria Park, London, 14-15 July - Lovebox began as a residency in Ladbroke Grove, London, before flourishing into a festival that attracted 20 000 people in its second year. Lovebox is always a bright, colourful and extravagant affair, and a number of the acts on its line-up have then gone on to enjoy huge success - including Stormzy and Rag'n'Bone Man. This year's line-up spans a range of genres, with Frank Ocean, Jess Glynne, Anne-Marie, Jamie XX, Sampha and Rag'n'Bone Man all scheduled to appear. If this wasn't enticing enough, Lovebox also offers a variety of more unusual events - including Disco Ball Golf and even Hip Hop Karaoke. The latter event is an annual fixture that has supposedly helped "thousands of people live out their rap fantasies", and we'll leave you to consider whether or not that's necessarily a good thing.



Upcote Farm, Cotswold Hills, 6-8 July - 2000trees prides itself on being "one of the friendliest festivals you'll ever go to", and this (along with its intimate atmosphere), means that it could be a good first festival for anyone who's never attended one before. The line-up is made up largely of alternative rock acts, including Slaves, Frank Carter and the Rattlesnakes, Nothing But Thieves, Deaf Havana, Lower Than Atlantis and even the cheekily-titled The Front Bottoms, among numerous others. 2000trees Festival is also especially well-suited for those seeking to discover new bands and musicians, because they recently announced that 12 bands have been added to the line-up who have never performed at the festival before. Even veterans of the festival are able to discover something new at 2000trees.



Truck Festival, Oxfordshire, 21-24 July - Sadly, Truck Festival is now sold out, but this year's line-up shows that it's not to be missed in 2018. The line-up is similar to 2000trees, with a number of alternative rock acts like Franz Ferdinand, Nothing But Thieves and Twin Atlantic. It also has several country and folk acts including Catherine McGrath; an Irish country singer recently dubbed 'the next Taylor Swift' by Apple Music. There's even an all-day dance party of house and techno - just one aspect of what promises to be a high-energy, exuberant festival. Each year sees a new theme, with last year's 80s theme apparently leading to widespread donning of latex and fluorescent clothing by festival-goers. So anyone who's particularly enthusiastic about Halloween would probably also enjoy the Truck Festival.



Lake District, 27-30 July - Like Truck Festival, Kendal Calling is unfortunately already sold out, but it's definitely one to look out for in 2018. Like Lovebox, Kendal Calling boasts 'alumni' who have gone on to enjoy great success - notably Rag'n'Bone Man, who first performed at Kendal Calling in 2014. The weekend offers a festival House Party, a cinema and a Garden of Eden section where you can de-stress and emotionally stabilise yourself after the onslaught of Slaves' set. Although a band called Reverend and the Makers are also scheduled to appear, so perhaps you can also have your soul cleansed; there's something for everyone!

Y NOT? FESTIVAL

Derbyshire, 27-30 July - Based on its name, Y Not Festival may seem to be built on a sense of ambivalence, but there's plenty to get excited about with their line-up. There's something for all across the weekend with the likes of Clean Bandit and Example for the mainstream fans, Frank Turner and Jake Bugg for your singer-songwriter fix, and Frank Carter and the Rattlesnakes for those after something heavier. You can use your visit to support York locals King No-One, who have nabbed themselves a spot on the main stage. With such an extensive line up this is the perfect first time festival for somebody with eclectic tastes.



Portmeirion, North Wales, 7-10 September - This one is a bit more of a trek from York, and it would also be a challenge to spell Portmeirion if you needed to get the sat-nav out at any point. But it would undoubtedly be the most glamorous and comfortable of any of these festivals, because they offer luxury boutique camping - which could just mean you get a tap next to your tent, to be fair. The line-up, however, is undoubtedly strong - featuring legendary rock band The Flaming Lips, soulful siren Laura Mvula, and for the 157th time in this list of small festivals, there will also be an appearance by Rag'n'Bone Man. Tickets are quickly selling out, so best get involved quick!



THE PERFECT PIANO PLAYLIST

REVISION GETTING YOU DOWN? ELEANOR LANGFORD HAS THE SONGS TO GET YOU THROUGH

Music and studying, for some it is a match made in heaven while for others the fit couldn't be worse. The problem is, perhaps, that people are listening to the wrong music. A recent study revealed that the same part of the brain that processes speech – including lyrics – is involved in reading text. What you need, therefore, is the perfect instrumental piano playlist to drown out the background noise and keep your mind firmly on work.

Le Matin Yann Tiersen

A title befitting the feel of this song, Tiersen's 'Le Matin' (French for, 'The Morning') is a soothing ode to awakenings and beginnings. It is the perfect transition song to gently ease you from procrastination to productivity and kick start your study session.

Nocturne No. 2 in E Flat Frédéric Chopin

If Chopin could compose this, perhaps one of his most famous pieces, when he was just twenty years old then you can tackle that essay. A soothing piece that moves steadily from reflective to passionate, this nocturne is bound to settle your revision anxieties and focus you on the task at hand.

Comptine d'un Autre été: l'Après-Midi Yann Tiersen

The pace quickens in this beautifully modest piece, placed on this playlist to stimulate your mind and perhaps refine your thoughts. It is one of many delightful tracks on the *Amélie from Montmartre* soundtrack, a one-stop album if ever you need an injection of Parisian charm.

May Be Yiruma

This almost lyrical composition sings of optimism and anticipation, fuelling you with the motivation you need to revise. Breathe this song in, and keep the faith that you can finish your revision on time. There is hope yet.

Secret Love Giovanni Allevi

Keeping with the uplifting theme of Yiruma's piece, Allevi's 'Secret Love' is here to impart the passion and drive you need after your tenth draining day of studying in

a row. Resist the urge to jump from your seat in joy as you listen, and channel that delight into perfecting your work.

The Raindrop Prelude Frédéric Chopin

There is nothing more soothing than listening to the sound of rain. Chopin gives us one better. This beautiful romantic piece is an ode to rain, from a dribble to a thunderstorm, that will offer the perfect background to all your study experiences.

Pinô Otto Totland

Bitter-sweet and touching, this modern piece is gorgeous in its diffidence and simplicity. It is perfect for a moment of murky nostalgia. The year is ending, just a few more weeks to go and a huge chunk of your university experience will be over. With this in mind, exams may not seem so bad after all. Take a moment to reflect and ground yourself.

Clair de Lune Claude Debussy

A timeless piece, one that everyone is familiar with, and a must on any revision playlist. Clear away your stress and worries and sit back moment, breathe in the tranquil beauty of this classic. All hard work deserves a break, and what better sound is there to take a break to?

I giorni Ludovico Einaudi

Anything composed by Ludovico Einaudi is perfect study music. Those notes may just seem a little beautiful with 'I giorni' singing in your ears. Softly uplifting, this piece will help melt you away from the real world and envelop you in your own little world. Take a wander through his extensive discography if you find you can't get enough.

Gymnopédie No. 1 Erik Satie

Held-back, measured and thoughtful, 'Gymnopédie No. 1' is the perfect comedown piece after a hard study session. After those harsh hours of concentration, what you need is something to slow the pace and give you a break. Charming yet morose, Satie's piece will help ease you back into the real world.

DAMN, KENDRICK'S BACK

HENRY BROWN TAKES A LONG LOOK AT THE BIGGEST HIP-HOP ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Since the release of his first two major label releases: *good kid, m.A.A.d city* (2012) and *To Pimp a Butterfly* (2015), Kendrick Lamar had paved the way to cementing his reputation as the greatest rapper alive. However, with his latest release, *DAMN.*, Kendrick has entered the 'greatest of all time' discussion. With a major sonic shift between the first two albums, from more traditional hip-hop beats to the incorporation of jazz and funk, the route that Kendrick would take with *DAMN.* remained a mystery.

The first taste of this album came in the form of the first single, 'HUMBLE.', produced by Mike Will Made It. It became immediately clear that Kendrick was reverting back to a more mainstream sound, evidently successfully, seeing as the song stands as the MC's first and only number one single.

The song encourages his fellow rappers to show humility, as well as discouraging the use of Photoshop, urging women to "Show me somethin' natural like afro on Richard Pryor / Show me somethin' natural like ass with some stretch marks" – lyrics that were initially criticised by segments of the feminist community, although it seems difficult to many to find any

issue with his plea for people to not adhere to western ideas of beauty.

The album begins with 'BLOOD.', on which Kendrick appears to be conversing with the devil, resulting in his fictional death. Then the hard-hitting 'DNA.' kicks in, where Kendrick explores his black heritage and culture through an unrivalled flow (the quality of his flow is also evident on tracks such as 'FEEL.' and 'ELEMENT.'), as well as the theme of religion that is so prevalent throughout the course of the album, referencing the "Immaculate Conception" and Yeshua (Jesus).

Moments later, Kendrick continues this religious theme on 'YAH.' (referring to Yahweh), paraphrasing the book of Deuteronomy, and rapping: "I'm a Israelite, don't call me Black no mo'", identifying with the Hebrew Israelites, who were believed to be God's chosen people. The book of Deuteronomy is actually quoted on the track 'FEAR.', on a voicemail left by Carl Duckworth, Kendrick's cousin.

The guest features on *DAMN.* work better than expected, despite how out of place a band such as U2 might seem on a hip-hop album. It is refreshing to hear Rihanna rap alongside

Kendrick on 'LOYALTY.', as opposed to delivering the standard verse-chorus-verse song structure. In fact, Kendrick's unique approach to song writing is what separates him from the rest of the mainstream rappers today. This is also demonstrated masterfully on the track 'XXX.'. The classic hip-hop beat, transitions into monstrous police sirens, only to change again to a final slow paced verse after a chorus from Bono, who sings that America is a "sound of drum and bass". This track is definitely the most politically charged on the album, making reference to Donald Trump and the American flag being "wrapped and dragged with explosives".

The final track, 'DUCK-WORTH.', highlights Kendrick's formidable storytelling ability. We learn of how Anthony Tiffith (the head of Kendrick's record label – Top Dawg Entertainment) attempted to rob the KFC where Kendrick's father, 'Ducky', was work-

ing. However, Ducky's life was spared as a result of his generosity, having offered Anthony free food. Little did these men know that years later, the son of this employee would go on to sign to the robber's label. Kendrick concludes the story by reminiscing: "Whoever thought the greatest rapper would be from coincidence? / Because if Anthony killed Ducky / Top Dawg could be servin' life / While I grew up without a father and die in a gunfight". The track is then interrupted by gunshots, and then the entire album rewinds to the beginning, highlighting the cyclical nature of the record, and the issues that it grapples with.

Due to song titles such as 'PRIDE.' and 'LUST.', the album seems an agglomeration of disjointed themes, without one explicit concept tying the album together, as on his previous albums. However, after more listens, it becomes evident that the songs are linked extremely effectively. In fact, where *good kid* gave us an insight into Kendrick's personal life, and *Butterfly* explored broader socio-political ideas, Kendrick perfects the intertwining of these on *DAMN.*, resulting in some of the most dense lyrics of his career so far.



★★★★★



PHOTO: TOP DAWG ENTERTAINMENT

TOP 5 POLARISING FILMS OF THIS CENTURY

ONLY GOD FORGIVES

Booted at Cannes and dubbed as a crime against cinema, it's still a meticulously planned feast for the eyes.



SUNSHINE

Still attracting criticism for its barmy third act but the film wrestles with some brilliantly complex themes.



A FIELD IN ENGLAND

It's understandable why some found it too hot to handle; but it's daringly original and vividly memorable.



PROMETHEUS

Without the previous *Alien* films, the film would have been seen as a passably fun sci-fi epic.



NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

Despite being flawed and for some unsatisfying, Ford's film should be celebrated for its risks.



AVATAR: A GROSS MISTAKE

EMILY TAYLOR LOOKS AT THE GROWING GAP BETWEEN CRITICAL ACCLAIM AND BOX-OFFICE SUCCESS



IMAGE: 20TH CENTURY FOX

Beauty and the Beast is now the 13th highest grossing film of all time, and it's still showing in cinemas across the country. Disney's ingenious move – “you know those beloved Disney classics... shall we just do them again?” – seems to be working in terms of box office revenue. But critics and audiences alike are leaving with the lukewarm taste of disappointment in their mouths, the general consensus being that *Beauty and the Beast* makes a solid effort, but fails to improve on the animated classic.

Discussions of a sequel have already emerged before the film has left theatres. I truly hope Disney go down the *Fast and Furious* track with sequel names. I may get excited with ‘2 Beauty 2 Beast’ and ‘Beauty and Beaster’. Stupid yet brilliant naming choices aside, I can imagine very little that may entice movie goers to go see the happily-ever-after stretched into another two-hour feature. I seriously doubt that this movie will remain in the minds of the general audience or film critics for much longer. Looking at the highest-grossing films of all time, most of them seem to be pretty forgettable – *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*. *Iron Man 3*. *Minions*.

Avatar continues to hold the number one spot, a fact that still surprises me every time I hear it. Marvel, *Lord of the Rings*, and Disney couldn't take this top space. I can't remember the name of a single character from *Avatar*. There were blue people, Sigourney Weaver, and a heavy-handed message about colonialism. It also brought the gimmick of 3D into cinemas, which was heralded by some as ‘the third revolution’ of cinema at *Avatar*'s release. In hindsight, 3D gave people headaches rather than vastly improving the cinematic experience. 3D has been steadily on the decline for a while now, and James Cameron probably remains better remembered for *Aliens* and the Terminator franchise than *Avatar*.

Cameron also holds second place in the list of highest grossing films for *Titanic*. Another original, non-franchise film (I am, of course, ignoring *Titanic II* – a direct to TV film which actually exists). It has the recipe for success; the true-life setting and tragic outcome appealing it to the Oscar crowd; young Leonardo DeCaprio; the mass market appeal of epic romance. But there are hundreds of films with this formula that haven't made this transition. *Titanic* was a critical darling, still being tied for the most Oscars won by a single film, and most nominations. In retrospect, it is an enjoyable film, but it's also saccharine and melodramatic, with morally dubious fictionalisation of

true life stories. Unlike *Avatar*, it is a film that has transitioned into pop culture and has remained in the memory of the public for longer. But its legacy is more one of parody with its extravagance, Celine Dion soundtrack, and the endless debate of whether they could both fit on that door.

So, how to fix this disconnect between box office and appeal and a cinematic legacy: Cameron has a plan. Quoting a tweet about being unable to remember a single line of dialogue from *Avatar*, Cameron wrote: “the film, despite making a lot of money, didn't make a huge impression on people...The idea being that if we had five *Avatar* movies spanning, you know, two decades or whatever, and people were just being constantly bombarded with *Avatar* from every direction something would have to stick”. So, will Cameron's plan of entering the public consciousness with all the subtlety and nuance of a sledgehammer work? There's no way to predict whether these films will be an utter flop, moderate successes, or storm the box office like their predecessor.

Many films now considered classics weren't particularly well received at their opening and have only risen to prominence later. *Citizen Kane* famously wasn't particularly well received at its opening. Stanley Kubrick, often viewed as one of the greatest cinematic minds of the twenty first century, only won one Oscar (Best Effects) for *2001: A Space Odyssey*. There's a definite discrepancy between cinematic legacy and box office rankings – Cameron's *Aliens*, *The Terminator* and *Terminator 2* make an appearance on the IMDb Top 250. *Avatar* and *Titanic*, raking in mammoth amounts in comparison, do not.

Unfortunately, uniform franchises, sequels and remakes are going to be filling most of the screen at the local multiplex for the foreseeable future. That's where the money is. However, it's a good sign that the two highest grossing films of all time are exempt from this. *Avatar* and *Titanic* are also the only two in the top ten highest grossing movies not to be made in this decade, so while people bemoan the death of the cinema due to the availability of streaming services, there's some life in the Odeons and Vues of the world yet. However, attendance is still down, so this extra revenue can be attributed largely to increased ticket prices. The way to make money is to make films that are simply passable – they do little wrong, but they make no effort to challenge audiences; inoffensive, passive, they can kill two hours on your day off. Studios want money, and truly great films don't seem to make much. *Grown Ups 2* was a box office hit. People are dumb. What a revelation.



IMAGE: WALT DISNEY STUDIOS

GOD'S LONELY MEN

ANDREW YOUNG EXAMINES THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ROBERT DE NIRO AND MARTIN SCORSESE, AND THE UNDERLYING ELOQUENCE OF THEIR GANGSTERS

Perhaps the greatest creative bond ever achieved is between an actor and their director, and none more so than bona fide American legends Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese. Born within a year of each other in New York City, the pair were seminal figures in the New Hollywood movement that changed the course of American cinema. They forged a friendship that spawned eight films, critical acclaim, and numerous awards. So, what is it that makes their films together so special?

They vary in tone, genre, aesthetic, and subject matter, but somehow they come back to the same human core. These films are not, at their core, about gangsters, jazz, boxing, or vigilante justice; they are about belonging, connection, loneliness, jealousy, masculinity, power, greed, and love. They are about people, about humanity – our strength and mistakes, our hopes and dreams, our victories and defeats.

It all started with *Mean Streets*. Scorsese's breakthrough film, and his first with De Niro, was based on his own youth growing up on the streets of New York. The Italian-American experience and the gangsters of America are

It may be Travis Bickle who calls himself "God's lonely man", but Scorsese's films are full of them

essential to his films. De Niro takes a smaller role than usual as Johnny Boy, hot-headed and hell-bent on destruction. Trying to keep him in check, and his own head off the chopping block, is the charismatic Harvey Keitel. He plays small-time gangster Charlie, pulled in all directions by his conflicting loyalties. It is he who carries the thematic weight of the film. Within the criminal dealings, Scorsese is probing ideas of connection and loneliness in his characters. Charlie's love interests happen to be a black dancer and Johnny Boy's epileptic cousin; relationships which are forbidden by the gangsters in charge. Charlie is therefore left lacking in love and connection, isolated and left to conquer his demons alone because of the world he lives in.

Mean Streets is, despite being a formative work, a film that contains many of the characteristics we think of as quintessential Scorsese: Catholicism, loyalty, money, power, and explosive violence, all neatly scored to a contemporary rock soundtrack. These elements are never stronger than in the 90s double-bill of *Goodfellas* and *Casino*. The most purely entertaining films of the bunch, they feature near-endless camera movement to help absorb the audience. We are drawn into a breathless, glamorous world of gangsters, sharp suits, and Italian food, before being brought crashing down by the dark, corrupted heart of the films – violence and betrayal

underpins the gangster lifestyle.

De Niro is present in both films as a ruthless money-man, counterbalanced by Joe Pesci's psychotic killers. They are characters driven by money, claiming to have strict moral codes in their New York and Las Vegas criminal empires but ultimately money-motivated, eliminating anyone who threatens their cop-proof operations. While De Niro sneers like nobody else can sneer and Pesci spontaneously beats people to a pulp for speaking out of turn, the big bosses aren't interested in or bothered by their violence or immorality. They only care for the money they ultimately produce. It is a mindset encapsulated by one of many great lines from *Goodfellas*: "Business bad? Fuck you, pay me. Oh, you had a fire? Fuck you, pay me. Place got hit by lightning, huh? Fuck you, pay me."

The efficient, ruthless capitalism of Scorsese's gangsters (often based of real-life criminals), is only hindered by the women in their lives and their love for them. Unlike a lot of films of similar subject, *Goodfellas* commits itself to showing a female perspective of the Mafia. The film is told using two separate voice-overs: Ray Liotta as Henry Hill, our eyes and ears in the criminal underworld, and the terrific Lorraine Bracco as his wife Karen. There is no mistaking that just about every world Scorsese and De Niro focus on is dominated and often inherently misogynistic. By giving Karen a voice we are allowed to appreciate this much more, as we see the human effect of the repeated lies and infidelities that are taken for granted in the Mafia lifestyle; at the Copacabana club in *Goodfellas*, they have one night for the wives and one night for the mistresses.

Casino goes a step further by giving us a less submissive female lead, with the electrifying Sharon Stone as Ginger McKenna, a woman who matches the boys for immorality, disloyalty and greed. Because she is a woman, this makes her a liability, a problem, rather than her fitting right in. An increasingly worse mother and a drug-addled mess, what Ginger needs is to escape her lifestyle of excess and obsession. Tragically, she can't tear herself away from the money. Ginger and Karen are drawn into a world of materialism and murder by rich men flaunting their power. This is best exemplified by one of the greatest shots in the history of cinema; in *Goodfellas*, as the camera tracks Henry and Karen off the street and through the Copacabana, the world unfolding elegantly at their behest. Scorsese is a director who never lets us forget just how damn stylish he can be.

Love and relationships play a key role in these rise-and-fall epics but the sad, lonely heart of Scorsese at his deepest is best found in the triptych of *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, and *The King of Comedy*. As Travis Bickle, Jake LaMotta, and Rupert Pupkin respectively, De Niro gives some of the most superb performances you will ever see, presenting

three wounded men with hopes and dreams stunted by their inability to communicate and forge relationships. It has been acknowledged by many a critic that *Raging Bull* is not really a boxing picture, but a film about masculinity and jealousy. Jake LaMotta is ultimately crippled by his obsessive, overprotective urges and violent lifestyle. Never allowing himself to settle into happiness, he is a man trained to fight, constantly looking for the opportunity to swing the next punch. Like *Goodfellas* and *Casino*, *Raging Bull* is full of sudden violence, normalising its existence within the turbulent worlds the characters inhabit.

While LaMotta's overbearing desire for masculine dominance leads to his lack of connection, it is Travis Bickle who is perhaps the greatest screen loner of them all. Obsessed by the "scum" on the streets of New York, he is a Vietnam vet with a fracturing psyche. As he drives his cab and his hatred of the world with which he cannot communicate grows, the racism, misogyny, and gun fetishism of American society is brought to the fore more than anywhere else in Scorsese's films. The tragedy of *Taxi Driver* is made all the better by the fact it seems inevitable.

The *Taxi Driver* tagline reads: "On every street in every city, there's a nobody who dreams of being a somebody." It is a line so achingly true of Travis that, despite his flaws, the prevailing emotion of what is probably Scorsese's greatest film is a kind of disturbed sadness, rather than anger. *The King of Comedy* can be seen as a less violent, apparently lighter companion piece to *Taxi Driver*. Rupert Pupkin is strikingly similar to Travis – a lonely, obsessive antihero who struggles to communicate effectively. Rupert dreams of being a stand-up comedian and

uses his fanatic adoration of Jerry Langford (Jerry Lewis) to achieve his dream, by any means possible. Where *Taxi Driver's* lonely man revealed contemporary issues of race and violence, *The King of Comedy* is a movie about fame, with Jerry's story almost as sad

as Rupert's. The endings of both *Taxi Driver* and *The King of Comedy* are morally fascinating twists that plunge the viewer deeper into their twisted worlds. Can people like Travis and Rupert ever stop being lonely?

The lack of connection can even be found in Scorsese's two Hollywood pictures, the musical drama *New York, New York* and the 90s *Cape Fear* remake, both with De Niro front and centre again. The clash between human relationships and professional ambition in the former and the conflict of a family with a single violent man in the latter both further highlight Scorsese and De Niro's shared interest in happiness and isolation being thwarted by life and by ourselves.

At 74, Martin Scorsese is still making critically-lauded and crowd-pleasing films, while De Niro's place as one of the screen greats can never really be lost, such is the power of the characters he portrays. Yet by watching these films you could learn something very important about the modern world. You will feel sympathy for this rogue's gallery, and you will see the sadness in the lives of even the cruellest of people. It may be Travis

Bickle who calls himself "God's lonely man", but Scorsese's films are full of them. M

The Scorsese/De Niro season was showing at CityScreen Picturehouse as part of their weekly Vintage Sundays slot. They offer annual student memberships for £20.



IMAGE: WARNER BROS

NO EXCUSES: Q&A WITH TEAM PESKY

SAM FLINT CHATS TO TEAM PESKY'S ANDY GIBSON ABOUT INSPIRATIONS, VR AND ADVICE TO ASPIRING DEVELOPERS

Last month I had the pleasure of sitting down with tinkerer and all-round gent Andy Gibson from York-based Team Pesky, creator of the iOS game *Little Acorns* and the Windows title *The Kraken Sleepeth*. We discussed his own history and inspirations, the way he works, what he's working on at the minute and, ultimately, his advice to aspiring game developers and coders. Here's what he had to say.

How did you get into the gaming industry?

I started out as a graphic designer, but I've had a passion for games since I was a kid, so eventually I got in contact with *Revolution Games* in York and just didn't stop really. Nagging, cajoling, sending them work, and thankfully they gave me a job as a junior artist and I learnt my craft that way. I started with 2D then moved onto character modelling and just got my hands dirty, it was a really great way to learn.

When you started out as a developer, what inspirations and influences led you to make games?

Obviously, films and older RPG games had an effect. As a kid, I'd often play board games with my family, and I guess the combination of getting into those and RPGs in my teens was what really inspired me. When I was about 14-15 PCs and consoles like the *Atari 400* and *800* were really on the horizon so it was then I had the opportunity to start monkeying about with things and see how things worked.

What were the major challenges in delivering a game like *The Kraken Sleepeth*?

It was my first title on my own, apart from the voice acting and the music. I did all the coding, the art and design myself, as well as handling the business and development side of it, and that was a huge challenge. Bigger than expected. But because there was funding attached to it, there was a deadline which really helped in getting everything done on time and getting the game released.

As a solo project I aim to do something as simple as possible as high quality as possible, and I think I underestimated the difficulty of getting the thing well optimised on the platform and released, but that's partly why I wanted to try a project like that and to learn from the experience.

Have you got any ideas about your next title?

Part of the way I develop prototypes means I'm working on something new every week and trying to track the core mechanics. I have a handful of projects I'm working on at the minute and I'm constantly working on the mechanics to try and get those golden nuggets of gameplay that will hopefully lead onto future projects. The main project I'm doing at the moment is something with *Sony*, that's a PS4 game that doesn't fit into many genres [laughs] - hopefully that'll release this summer, that'll be a PS4 exclusive.

How did you end up working with *Sony* on a project?

A couple of years ago they were in Leeds as part of a *Game Republic* event, and they were

saying how approachable they were and that people should talk to them, so I showed them a small prototype that I had and they liked it. From there I went on to pitch formally for funding and thankfully that worked out.

Are there any insider details you can give us about the project you're now working on?

Well, I'll probably start dropping some information out about it before summer, but there's nothing I can really say at the minute; keep following Team Pesky's Twitter feed. When I'm happy with what I'm presenting, the mechanics aren't quite there yet, but once those are nailed down I'll start sharing some stuff, it's a little way off yet.

What do you think about the state of the gaming industry at the minute? Are there any positive or negative trends?

The little corner of the gaming world I live in is drifting further and further away from what people call the gaming industry.

Obviously, I sell into a market place the same as everyone else, and I went through the mill with triple A and big studios, running teams and budgets, a lot of games and projects determined by consensus or committee. But I took a conscious step away from that, not as a criticism, just because I wanted to do other things, take risks, carry on learning and be myself as well.

There's always going to be positive and negative trends. The interesting thing is the speed of change. I think it's interesting now to see how games are so fragmented between mobile, console, PC, niche titles, eSports and even VR and AR, it's not homogenous and it's very fragmented. It's interesting to look at the diversity in the gaming industry.

I'm always interested to look at the left field stuff. Triple A games, you know what you're going to get; they're gonna be great and that's fine. It's the little rough diamonds that you come across, that's just my kinda taste. I

get more inspiration from those games than huge triple A ones these days.

Is VR something that interests you?

Sony were kind enough to give me a VR kit to have a play around with, I've not done a huge amount with it but you can see some amazing possibilities with it.

A lot of money has been thrown into VR, thinking it's the next big thing, but I think the on-rail stuff is too passive, I can't interact with the world. For me it's all about how I can interact with the world in ways that are interesting to me. Although I haven't spent a lot of time looking at a lot of cutting edge VR stuff, I'm yet to see that killer app.

Do you have any advice for aspiring game developers?

The best thing you can do if you want to make games is watch people play your games, even if they aren't finished. Watch people interact with it, work on small experiments and get the influence from other people. Are they interacting with the game as you'd imagined? Do that and do that lots, and you're going to learn about the mechanics of fun. Don't fixate too much on a game you really love that you want to try and imitate, just try and deconstruct your favourite games, get those core mechanics and try and replicate them.

Additionally, if you free yourself from making money from something you're probably going to learn a lot, a lot more quickly. Also, things like Unity take so much of the heavy lifting out of making games. If you spend all your time making a game engine, well you aren't making a game, you're making an engine. There's loads of frameworks around, even if you aren't technical.

If you really want to make games, download a free version of Unity, pop in a few placeholders and see how these things fit together. There's no excuses these days. You don't have to buy an engine, you don't have to have huge powerful computer or sign deals with

publishers, you can make small funky experimental games and put them on Kongregate or host them yourself.

What's it like being a game developer in York?

There's loads going on in York. For local developers, there is a meetup every month. Bring stuff down, even if it's not finished. I'd love to do it more, there are some very smart people who can give you some great positive feedback. It's scary as a developer to put your games in someone else's hands but getting that constructive criticism is so important.

If there's one thing to take from this, it's that there are no excuses. There are free tools, and millions of players, games and types of gamers. So get onto something small and get hooked on making games.



GENERATION MISINFORMATION

FINN JUDGE EXPLORES THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF ONLINE JOURNALISM AND ITS UNLIKELY REINFORCEMENTS OF IDEOLOGICAL DIVIDES



It used to be that everybody kind of had the same information, and we had different opinions about it, but there was a common baseline of facts. And that the internet in some ways has accelerated the sense of people having entirely separate conversations... Or maybe you're just looking at cat videos, which is fine."

Such were the words of former President Barack Obama during his first public interview since retirement. Masterfully timed, too: as the stones thrown at his legacy leave ever larger cracks, the Democrats and the liberal commentariat recoil from their communication failure. Trump, on the other hand, retains a base galvanised in a virtual vacuum - off limits for his opponents to take on directly. Fact checks rendered 'alternative'; alternative facts rendered 'fake' news.

Put simply, Trump was ahead of the game on this one. Online journalism has transformed the way we receive, interpret and act upon our news. Information is free, somewhat, but are we truly better informed as a result? It all depends on who you ask - which,



in itself, is symptomatic of the change. Since the shock electoral upset of November 2016, much fuss has been made of social media feeds becoming ideological "echo chambers" and articles, however viral, being full of ideas

It's as if Facebook is pinning your political compass on geometric axes - while working to keep it there

yet short on accuracy. Every story appears to have multiple, irreconcilable narratives to it, lending weight to the notion of a 'post-truth' society where the facts become indistinguishable from the noise.

Facebook falls into a weird category here. In many ways, it perpetrates echo chambers by way of algorithm: it would appear to make sense for related material to that which you 'like' to appear on your news feed.

When applied to news, however, this becomes more problematic.

We're all aware of pre-existing media biases, but who would've thought that liking some "cat videos" from the *Daily Mail* could turn you into a right-wing euro-sceptic? Not an entirely bizarre concept, it

seems. Perhaps Obama was wrong to assume these felines' innocence.

It wouldn't be the first time the social media site came under fire for an apparent 'complicity' to such evils. Shortly after the 2016 presidential election, Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg came under pressure to address his company's plans to tackle fake news. In a statement issued in the form of a status, he promised to make it easier for users to report misinformation and pledged to work with journalists in developing further plans. On the whole, though, the statement was defensive, describing the issue as "complex, both technically and philosophically" and restating Facebook's reliance on its community to tackle such problems. In many ways, this classic PR response was designed to shift the blame.

However, this did little to deter British politicians from launching a parliamentary inquiry into the "growing phenomenon on fake news" in January this year, setting its sights on the social media behemoth. Chairman of the Sport, Media and Culture Committee, Damian Collins, slammed Facebook for not responding quickly enough to the fake news offensive, citing it as "a global priority" that threatened "the integrity of democracy".

Referring to the 2016 Presidential Election, Collins told *The Guardian* that "the top twenty fake news stories in the last three months of the [Presidential] Election were shared more than the top twenty most shared stories that were true." While the extent to which the Russian government deliberately filled American news feeds with fake news remains unsubstantiated, the notion that our information feeds can fall under the control of these subversive interests - whether they're governments, corporations or powerful individuals - remains a very real threat.

So therein lies the double bind: fake news propelled by inescapable, digital echo chambers. With little time or incentive to fact-check one's 'feed' (such is the nature of instant gratification), is there a viable alternative?

Print journalism, for one, is very much dying, with quality publications hiding behind paywalls in this 'brave' new world of online journalism. That's not to say, though, that print isn't its own echo chamber, as satirised by an immortal quote from *Yes, Prime Minister*: "The *Daily Mirror* is read by the people

who think they run the country. *The Guardian* is read by people who think they ought to run the country. *The Times* is read by the people who actually do run the country. The *Daily Mail* is read by the wives of the people who run the country. *The Financial Times* is read by people who own the country... [and] *Sun* readers don't care who runs the country - as long as she's got big tits."

In short, people have always gravitated towards media outlets that reinforce their own worldview. The difference, however, is that print offered that clear-cut choice. With digital news, being the amalgamation of sources that it is, it's far easier to fall into such echo chambers by mistake. Disagree with Tory privatisation of the NHS? Why not give that Another Angry Voice post a like. Then, before you know it, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament fill your feed by tenuous asso-

As a social media generation, it falls on us to ensure that this doesn't become a generational problem

ciation. It's almost as if Facebook is pinning your political compass on geometric axes - while very much working to keep it there.

Until algorithms such as those on Facebook and Twitter are completely rooted out of our new, digital discourse, it falls on us to inform ourselves as best - and as impartially - as possible. As a social media generation, it falls on us to ensure that this doesn't become a generational problem. We're equipped with the know-how of media and technology to overcome this - far more than our susceptible predecessors. With that comes a certain responsibility. Enjoy the memes and cat videos, but if your feed then takes a lurch to Pepe and the alt-right, a gentle 'unfollow' can't hurt. M

IMAGE: TECH CRUNCH

THE SWEET CITY

TRINA KHOO EXPLORES YORK'S CHOCOLATEY PAST, FROM MARY TUKE TO TERRY'S CHOCOLATE APPLES...

Think of York and you'll think of beautiful historic streets, Vikings, and the Minster: a rich plethora of historical sites certainly befitting the place that York is. There is, however, another side to the attraction of York that is integral to the foundations of the city but which may not spring to mind for many when thinking of the city. Chocolate.

The recent York Chocolate Festival, held the weekend of 14-17 April 2017, saw a fine gathering of chocolate lovers, artisan chocolatiers, and even a chocolate exhibit at the Castle Museum, alongside the 'York's Chocolate Story' attraction in the city centre. But York's ties to chocolate go back further than its annual Chocolate Festival.

During the late 19th century in Victorian England, the railway revolution saw cities

Many families' livelihoods depended on the confectionery industry

like Liverpool, Birmingham and Bristol become industrial cities. York, however, became a 'sweet' city known for chocolate, and it was the success of York's chocolate industry that brought it economic stability.

Interestingly, earliest histories of chocolate in York can be traced back to a woman by the name of Mary Tuke, in 1725. Tuke and her family were Quakers – a religious group who favoured the cocoa industry because it offered workers an alternative to strong drink. However, the Company of Merchant Adventurers, whose rules deemed that a license was required by them in order to trade, meant that Mary Tuke was ineligible as she was neither the widow nor the daughter of a member of the company. Some hundred years later, it was another Quaker, Henry Rowntree, who bought the Tukes' cocoa and chocolate business, turning it into what we now know as the

Rowntree brand.

Down by Bishopthorpe Road some 250 years ago, Terry's Chocolate also came into being. The firm began in 1767, founded by William Bayldon and Robert Berry, before acquiring the Terry's name when Joseph Terry became partner in 1823. Aided by the railway revolution and York's many links on the rail network, Terry's products were soon being sold in 75 towns across northern England. Terry's became a family-run business, and Joseph was succeeded by Frank Terry, along with his son Noel, after Joseph died in 1898. Then, they created products such as Spartan, All Gold and Terry's Chocolate Orange (though in fact the orange was not the first fruit to be experimented with; prior to the orange, there was Terry's Chocolate Apple).

It was after the establishment of Terry's that the Rowntree brand came into being. Henry Isaac Rowntree had bought the Tukes' cocoa company in 1862, and with his brother Joseph Rowntree the business flourished.

A lot of good came out of the chocolate-making: Joseph Rowntree had decided to use his wealth to tackle poverty through philanthropic works to improve working and living conditions for his factory workers, ensuring that they worked in humane conditions. During that period, many families' livelihoods in York depended on the confectionery industry. At its peak, 14 000 people worked for confectionery companies in the city, a stark contrast from the 2000 we have here today.

As a result, York became known as the 'chocolate city', creator of many of the most well-loved chocolates and sweets the world

It was the success of York's chocolate industry that brought the city economic stability

knows today. The Rowntrees had created the Kit Kat, Smarties and Aero while Terry's came up with the Chocolate Orange and All Gold collection. Other big names included the Cravens, who created their French Almonds and Mary Ann Toffees. Many of these chocolates are no longer manufactured here in York but it is evident where their origins began.

York is still crazy about chocolate. Artisan shops in its small streets such as York Cocoa House hold chocolate-making workshops, while major tourist attractions like York's Chocolate Story (which opened in 2012) offer an entertaining and informative guided tour through the history of York's chocolate past.

It even includes chocolate-tasting in the tour! York Chocolate Story also has its own café, selling a wide variety of chocolate bars, ice cream, spreads, merchandise and even bottles of chocolate liqueur.

The wide array of chocolatey-based goods, attractions and events on offer in our city certainly pay a fitting tribute to York's chocolate-based heritage.



THE BEGINNER'S BROWNIE

TRINA KHOO GUIDES YOU THROUGH MAKING THE PERFECT CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

There's a saying in the baking world that suggests that there are two types of people: those who like brownies with a cake-based texture, and those who prefer 'melt-in-your-mouth' ones with a more fudge-based texture. This recipe attempts to combine the best of both worlds by providing a fool-proof and beginner-friendly introduction to chocolate brownies. The end result is a brownie that offers a cake-like crust on the outside while retaining a soft centre.

Ingredients:
(Makes 20-24)
1 cup butter/ margarine at room temperature
2 cups brown sugar
1/4 cup white sugar
4 eggs
1 1/2 cup all purpose flour
1 cup cocoa powder
Optional: chocolate chips

Method:
1. Preheat the oven to 175 degrees.
2. In a bowl, cream together the butter and sugar. Then, add in the eggs; there's no need to beat the eggs first, as that creates an overly cake-based texture.
3. Pour in the dry ingredients and mix them until well combined.
4. Pour the mixture into a tin-foil lined 9x13inch brownie pan
5. Bake for 28-35 minutes. Turn off the heat and let the brownies cool in the oven for around 28-30 minutes.

IMAGE:TRINA KHOO



ALL IMAGES:TRINA KHOO

TUNE INTO TALENT

YORK GRADUATE TOM PICKERSGILL SPEAKS TO HARRIET CLIFFORD ABOUT DEVELOPING SOCIAL MUSIC APP, ZUBBLE



IMAGE: MARC HAMILTON

Being the bright young sparks that we are, it seems likely that a lot of us have had what we thought was a ‘ground-breaking’ idea for a new product, game, app, kitchen appliance, and pretty much anything else, at some point during our time at university. Nine times out of ten, perhaps after discovering from a disheartening Google search that our ‘invention’ was in fact invented in 1962, nothing is likely to come of the lightbulb moment. But for some students, university is the breeding ground for genuinely exciting and potentially very successful innovations.

Meet Tom Pickersgill, University of York graduate from Leeds and co-founder of the recently launched “social music app”, Zubble. Having downloaded the app (you may have done the same outside the library in exchange for a donut... I’m still waiting for mine) and

It unites music listeners and artists onto one platform to create a level playing field for talent

had a play around, I chat to Tom about how he, along with friends Rob and Jack, has managed to transform an idea that he had as a student into a reality, less than two years after having finished studying for his Law degree.

He tells me that he came up with the idea while riding his bike and listening to a song that he really wanted to share with his friends. “I thought to tweet the YouTube link, but it was difficult to find and would be hidden on a

noisy and never-ending timeline.” I think anyone can relate to this (your last tweet was just too funny to have only got one ‘like’), as well as Tom’s desire to instantly let people know what music he was listening to. As part of his initial research, he tells me that he found over 130 million #music and four million #nowplaying tags on Instagram: “Millions of people were taking a photo of their phone playing a song for their friends to see. But you can’t listen to a screenshot!”

Tom, Jack, and Rob did some further market research, speaking with “some amazing unsigned artists who described the difficulty of achieving exposure for their music”, which got them thinking about how they could combine sharing, discovery, and exposure all in one app. “So we decided to develop Zubble, a social music app to instantly share and discover music with friends. It unites music listeners and artists, both signed and unsigned, onto one platform to create a level playing field for talent.” Playing devil’s advocate, I pounce here, questioning Tom on how his and his friends’ idea differs from the likes of SoundCloud and Spotify, with their similar ‘social’ features. Clearly expectant of such a rookie question, he deftly explains the benefits of Zubble compared with other such apps, highlighting to me the extensive research that must be done in order to target a specific gap in the market.

The boys know exactly what they want to achieve with Zubble, which is self-evident when Tom tells me, “We’re tackling the problem of music discovery.” But it couldn’t have been easy trying to move forward with the app, considering that they were still students when the idea was initially conceived. Tom explains that they received a lot of advice and support from the people they met in the Yorkshire business community, rather than the University itself. “We worked hard to grow our network and meet as many people as possible to gain as much advice and experience around us as we could.”

While graduation may come as a welcome break for some and an unwelcome reality-check for others, finishing university allowed Tom and his friends to launch themselves fully into their business. I imagine this was fairly intense, and Tom tells me that “it was a really steep learning curve developing Zubble after university. Rob and I have no technical background but knew exactly what we wanted to create. Jack added the skills to be able to develop in-house.” Having someone

Be ambitious, put yourself out there and meet as many people as possible in the network

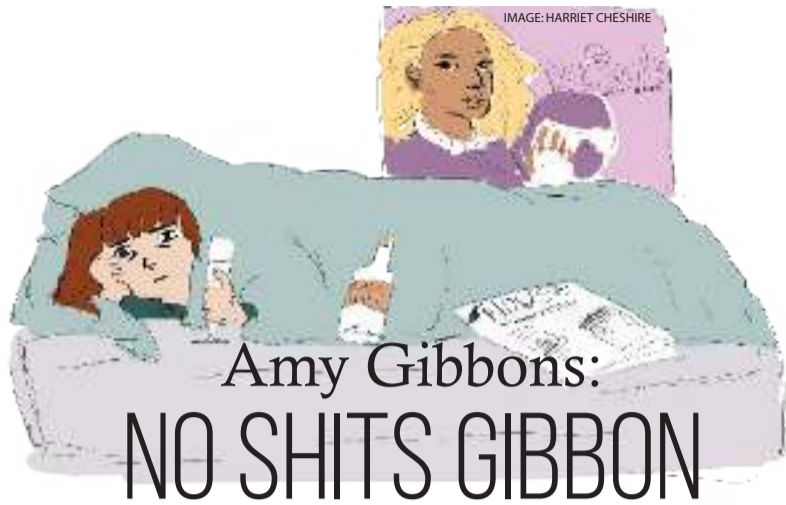
with that kind of knowledge within the team must have saved them a significant amount of time and money, two of the most valuable resources for start-ups (and students). Now that the app has launched and is available for free download, it might be easy to forget the difficulties that undoubtedly come hand in hand with such a project. Reflecting on the last few years, Tom tells me honestly, “It hasn’t been easy and there have been many ups and downs, but it’s been a really exciting and rewarding process getting to where we are now.”

Unsurprisingly, considering I am about to write this article, Tom is keen to know what I think of Zubble. Luckily for him, I rather like it. The app is really easy to use and you can sign up through Facebook, which is always a bonus (I don’t have to come up with another variation on the theme of my cat for

a password). I also think it’s a strong concept, as I know that my friends are always talking about the new music they’re listening to, and I for one would like to up my new-music game. As well as discovering new artists, I can definitely see myself sharing songs that reflect my mood, or that sum up a particular night out. While you can find music shared by people you don’t follow through the ‘Explore’ function, it’s clear that Zubble, along with most apps, will be greatly enhanced for both its users and new artists if lots of people are using it, which is why Tom, Jack, and Rob are currently working hard on the promotional side of things.

Not wanting to state the obvious, but doing it anyway, Tom is not a lawyer. I can’t resist asking him the classic question of whether he thinks his degree has been useful since graduating York. As an English student, I am praying he can affirm my life choices for me. “I do think my degree was useful. In Law we followed a ‘problem-based learning’ structure. We were all in groups of twelve which were our own ‘law firms’ and had a crafted legal problem presented to us each week. This kind of independent study mixed with group work helped me to develop skills that have been necessary to launch Zubble!” So, next time you’re stressing about ‘pointless’ group work, just remember that you’re pretty much sorted (minus the brilliant idea for a new app, obviously).

Feeling inspired yet? Already wishing you’d been the one to come up with the idea for Zubble? Fear not: Tom leaves me with some advice for any students out there with big ideas. “Be ambitious, put yourself out there and meet as many people as possible in the network you want to become involved in. Always get feedback, believe in yourself, don’t be afraid of contacting ‘big’ names, and translate your passion into your product.” Budding entrepreneur or not, with the dreaded E-word on the horizon, I think we could all do with a bit of Tom’s inspiration in our lives. **M**



Amy Gibbons:
NO SHITS GIBBON

On the first morning of 2016 I dusted myself off from a particularly messy NYE, placed the shot-or-so dwindling in that fateful Smirnoff bottle opposite my bed (where it remains untouched), and vowed to partake in Dry January. David Cameron was still in power, and David Bowie was still alive.

Fast forward almost 16 months to the day, and I'm sober again; Donald Trump is leader of the free world; and Britain is on course to leave the European Union. We're pretty much guaranteed a Tory government for at least the next five years, and I've honestly never seen Dimbleby so tense. That scorpion on his back must be ready to pounce.

While the world is in turmoil, my life has been standing pretty still. Antibiotics have meant I'm off the sauce for nine days (by the time I submit this column I'll have just 24 hours to go - party at mine btw, 9PM BYOB), and I think I've finished (given up on) my dissertation.

I'm booking my Summer Ball ticket today, and I just confirmed some work experience at the end of May. I also have a qualifying course sorted for summer. To the outside world, I must seem pretty together. How very, very dull.

In reality, as is always the case, I have some shits to give. So listen up.

In my final term at York I haven't been short of inspiration. The sun's emerging almost once a fortnight; Courtyard's opening hours are back to normal; and the baby geese are in that really adorable stage, right between fluffy lump and half-formed hissing canon. But what better place to start than Roses, seeing as we have just beaten the Lancastrians yet again, and proudly yield the trophy until next year.

Roses is a fantastic celebration of University sport and inclusivity in competition.

At the opening ceremony we were treated to an exhilarating York comeback; impressive performances from the York Hornets and Dance Society; and various attempts at baskets by members of the crowd after free club tickets, including the likes of outgoing Sports Pres Isaac Beevor (but like, he doesn't even go here!).

One Twitter user wrote: "Great to see so many societies involved in this ceremony. All included at #roses2017", and the tangible enthusiasm of the crowd only served to emphasise the cohesive feeling. I for one took a while to get myself together afterwards, but that might have been because I was sitting on the floor. I also managed to accidentally tweet once with the hashtag #Roses instead of #Roses2017, and was retweeted by two florists.

My typical blunders aside, it's important to note that the Sports Centre will soon give way to a saturated silent section in Morrell; and that means exam season.

Ah yes, an onslaught of Nisa falafels and library takeaways; no wonder I saw Domino's on campus yesterday. For real though, nobody likes this part. The comedown from a celebration like Roses - especially when it's at home - is rather like that feeling you get deciding to leave the club queue alone at midnight, buzzing off Dusk's 241 weekday cocktails, knowing you have a 9am group presentation the next morning (actual events that have happened to me).

So, how can we motivate ourselves now? Well I'd recommend my usual home remedy of overeating, retail therapy, procrastination, and denial, but you'd probably call me sarcastic. So how's this for an idea: we all call a general election.

We're not doing brilliantly, so we'd appreciate a distraction; and an increased vote of confidence can only do us good, right? Pass me the ballot.

Jack
Richard Sonnets

War

*When kings of old clashed o'er th'fated crown,
The right to rule, and glory, was the prize.
New centuries of time have trickled down:
Our houses fight a different enterprise.
You may say that to name this challenge after
Those Wars that claimed too many in their ire
Would drown the dead 'neath our youth-sporting laughter,
Make trivial those real deaths by fire.
But I say No!, is sport not so wide-ranging
To cover all our need for tribal force?
Do we not honour those who died couraging
By fighting on a different field of course?
Well done - our White Rose still is un-Lancaster'd
And next year too we'll beat that Red Rose bastar'd*

The End is (Almost) Nigh

*Dear Reader, I apologise to you
Who by this time has suffer'd more than once
My moanings and my jubulations too
That do the end of higher ed. announce.
You see, when one draws near the precipice
Of Graduation and of Summer's heat,
They yearn, too soon, for concrete edifice
And fear the fate that they must duly meet.
I promise I will try to bear in mind
That subjects such as these can get exclusive:
Some must work until term's end they find,
Are young enough to find the End elusive.
But let this couplet hold the dread sensation
Of having two weeks left for dissertation.*

NIAMH MURCHAN IS LEARNING HOW TO ADULT...





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2017 ELECTION SPECIAL

With Theresa May's snap election edging closer, the team look at the issues that could define the upcoming vote

Brexit: the new dividing line

Joseph Silke
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

THE SHADOW OF the exit negotiations from the European Union looms over this fateful election. The Prime Minister has sought to frame the upcoming ballot very simply; it is a vote to determine who will lead the negotiations with the other 27 member states: Theresa May or Jeremy Corbyn.

An increased majority, Mrs May says, will strengthen her negotiating hand throughout the withdrawal process as the government can rely on the smooth passing of business through the House of Commons.

This can either be interpreted as a sensible move to ensure "strong and stable leadership" or an underhanded plot to silence opposition at Westminster and give Mrs May a free hand to act as she pleases.

The onus is on the leader of the Opposition to prove that he is capable of the difficult task ahead as the only viable alternative occupant of

Number 10.

Shadow Brexit Secretary Sir Keir Starmer's speech at Chatham House set Labour's priorities as protecting worker rights and retaining the benefits of the Single Market and Customs Union.

Trapped between "Hampstead and Hull", the traditional alliance of working class communities and city intellectuals which have held the Labour Party together is collapsing, as many of the former voted 'leave' and many of the latter 'remain'.

Labour risks haemorrhaging 'leave' voters to the Conservatives and 'remain' voters to the Liberal Democrats or even losing more voters to the SNP in Scotland, making it very difficult for Labour to come close to a majority alone.

Tim Farron, leader of the Liberal Democrats, presents a clear line. The party's anti-Brexit message has successfully courted 'remain' voters since the referendum last June. Mr Farron is positioning himself to be the "true voice of opposition". He claims that the Labour has failed to hold the government to account and advocates for a referendum on the final death with Brussels.

The 2015 general election saw a seismic shift in Scotland as the SNP swept to victory in 54 out of 59 seats. The people of Scotland voted overwhelmingly for the United Kingdom to remain a member of the EU.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon claims that the UK's exit from the organisation entails Scotland dragged out against its will. The SNP hopes that the EU exit will be a catalyst for Scottish separation.

Unthinkable even a few years ago the Scottish Conservatives are losing their toxicity in Scotland under the leadership of former 'remain' advocate Ruth Davidson.

It is hoped that the return of new Scottish Tory MPs will stave off another separation referendum despite the recent request for a re-run from the Scottish Parliament.

Following uncomfortable leaks to the German press indicative of strife between the EU and the government, it is clear that the coming negotiations will be tough.

Europe will dominate the Parliament. The electorate must decide who can provide the best leadership to secure the best deal for Britain.



IMAGE: EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The economy vs the many?

Niamh Carroll
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

THE ECONOMY dominates the run-up to general elections. Despite the current prominence of Brexit, the economy remains a pressing concern for many voters. While smaller parties will offer differing economic visions, it is only the Conservatives and Labour

who can realistically say that they are in with a chance of running the British economy after 8 June.

One of the top economic issues in this election is wages. The Conservatives launched a national living wage for over-25s last year which replaced the minimum wage. Labour have pledged to go further and have said that they will increase the minimum wage to £10 an hour by 2020.

The housing crisis is another pressing concern. There is a consensus that there is a need for

more affordable housing in Britain.

The Conservatives have stated that the government is on path to providing enough affordable housing, citing that the number of housing starts is up by three-quarters since 2010. Labour dispute this, and have pledged to build a million new homes by 2020.

The safety of the economy after Brexit is something which the Conservatives claim only they are able to guarantee. They have warned of a "£45bn black-hole" in Labour's spending plans but opposition parties have accused the government of wanting to turn Britain into a "tax haven" post-Brexit by lowering corporation tax.

The economy will continue to be a key battleground throughout the election. The Conservatives portray themselves as the only trustworthy party to handle the economy.

Labour will use their election campaign to argue that the British economy needs a fundamental shake-up and that it currently serves "the few, not the many". Whichever vision the public buys into may be decisive for the outcome of the election.

IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



A new global stage

Joseph Silke
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

UPON TAKING office, Theresa May signalled a break from the foreign policy agenda which has defined the west since the fall of the Berlin Wall. No longer, she said, should the United Kingdom and other western powers attempt to "make the world in their own image."

What Britain's new mission in the world will be remains unclear and the competing occupants for Number 10 have very different visions for our place in the world.

The government is passionately committed to the special relationship. Mrs May's state visit invitation to the new President attracted criticism. On the agenda will be a free trade deal which the government hopes will usher in a new era of British free trade but critics argue that Mr Trump's rhetoric should disqualify him from the privilege.

The Syrian Civil War rages on with no end in sight. The missile strike on the Shayrat Airbase was the first unilateral attack by the United States on the Assad government. Mr

Trump also dropped the "mother of all bombs" in Afghanistan. This suggests that the Trump administration will not be as isolationist as expected.

The government defended the attack and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has signalled that Britain could support the US military in the future. Jeremy Corbyn has repeatedly stressed that he believes any unilateral action without the UN is egregious and illegal.

The leader of the Opposition's historic sympathies for the IRA, staunch opposition to the nuclear deterrent his unclear views regarding armed police and the Security Service serve to make gaining credibility on defence and security and uphill battle for the Labour Party.

Mr Corbyn has stressed the importance of abiding by international obligations such as nuclear non-proliferation and as a pacifist he has advocated for a greater emphasis on diplomacy over military action. He is also a well-known sceptic of NATO whereas Mrs May has committed to the NATO target of 2 per cent of GDP on defence.

The prospective prime ministers have starkly different worldviews and whoever holds the keys to Downing Street will determine the United Kingdom's role in world affairs.

The NHS: crisis or crying game?

Will Leafe
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

WHEN ONE considers the idea of the 'political football', the National Health Service is perhaps the first issue which springs to mind. The strain of many years of kicking it back and forth between the red and blue teams may finally be about to tell.

After five years of training and rigorous exams, Holly, a newly qualified Junior Doctor, is deeply anxious of what is to come. "The NHS in its current state does not have a long term future, it is simply unsustainable. Throwing money at it will not solve the deep-rooted problems that are causing the service to be stretched beyond its limits."

A reaction against the contract dispute between the Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt and the Junior Doctors have seen many threaten to take their UK-trained skills abroad, a trend which would deeply wound already perilously low numbers.

"Having promised to immediately stop hospital closures should they form the next Government on June 9th, Labour have made the issue the focal point of their campaign, hoping to rekindle voters' trust in their ability to protect the NHS from what could otherwise see its downfall."

The Liberal Democrats have been quick to declare that the NHS is in crisis, citing the "critical funding and capacity challenges" the service faces, which threaten the possibility that it can "carry on delivering for future generations". However, the party's main focus, along with Caroline Lucas and Jonathan Bartley's Greens, on securing a second referendum on the Brexit deal, may distract from their policies on the health service.

"We believe in a health service free at the point of use" is the answer returned when asking any of UKIP's senior figures whether they're in favour of privatisation. One of the party's 'five pledges' ahead of the 2017 Election, however, declares that they will put the "NHS before foreign aid", with plans to fund 20 000 nurses and 10 000 GPs. The party has also pledged to scrap hospital parking fees, a policy many would welcome.

Regardless of those who were elected to represent their constituencies on 8 June, and irrespective of which party will be invited to form a government, it is the patients, doctors, nurses and surgeons where this debate must be focalised. The words we must all bear in mind are those of our incoming Junior Doctors, who are anxious and scared about the state of the Health Service they will inherit. Holly concludes: "I'm not sure everyone appreciates how close we are to losing it."



Union: a divided kingdom?

Niamh Carroll
DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

THE UNION SEEMED to be of little relevance during the 2015 general election given the rejection of Scottish Independence the previous year and supposed triumph of the Union. This all changed following the vote to leave the EU, which the majority of the electorate in both Scotland and Northern Ireland opposed.

Nationalist parties in Scotland and NI have all seized upon the result as an opportunity to appeal to Remainers who perhaps wouldn't have supported them in the past, to prioritise membership of the European Union over the Union with the rest of Britain.

In Scotland, the Union is set to be the defining issue of the general election, following Nicola Sturgeon's declaration of her intention to hold another Scottish Independence Referendum. The SNP will see the upcoming election as an opportunity to reaffirm their mandate having won 54 out of 59 seats in 2015, and will portray any

electoral success as an endorsement of Scottish Independence. They face increased competition for Westminster seats from the Scottish Conservatives, led by Ruth Davidson. The Conservatives have successfully positioned themselves as the pro-Union party in Scotland, with Davidson backing Theresa May's rejection of Sturgeon's request for a second referendum, claiming it would be against the wishes of most Scots. Labour, having already lost 40 seats in Scotland in 2015, will struggle to be heard in

The Union is always a contentious issue in NI elections, but unlike past elections the prospect of a United Ireland seems actually feasible. In the March assembly elections, Unionists lost their overall majority for the first time. Sinn Féin now only hold one less seat than the biggest Unionist party, the DUP. Sinn Féin have argued that like Scotland, the North of Ireland is entitled to a vote on whether they remain part of a post-Brexit United Kingdom.

While Nationalist Sinn Féin have talked of a "border poll" for many years and been paid little outside attention, there is now sign that a United Ireland seems like a realisable concept for many. The EU have confirmed that in the eventuality of the unification of Ireland that Northern Ireland would automatically become a member, after the question was posed by the Irish government. Nationalists will hope that this prospect of continued EU membership persuades more voters to back a United Ireland on a practical basis.

English voters can do little but look on with uncertainty and perhaps a little concern about debates in other parts of the United Kingdom over its very existence.

English voters can do little but look on with uncertainty

this debate. Especially given that Jeremy Corbyn was initially reported as being "absolutely fine" with a second Scottish referendum before he clarified that his party were in fact opposed to it. This ambiguity may mean Labour find it difficult to appeal to voters with strong views on either side of the Union debate.



LEFT WING RIGHT WING

Thoughts from the Politics Editor

IT'S HARROWING to witness a revolution happening in real time. The last time a massive uprising occurred in 2011, the Middle East collapsed into fire and chaos. The same is happening in Venezuela, as the authoritarian Chavista government works to undermine the existing

constitution and centralise power. To call Venezuela 'in trouble' would be a galling understatement.

Protests, many violent, have been occurring on a near daily basis for weeks due to the regime's corruption and thuggery. The National Guard fires tear gas at civilians, and

are propped up by gangs that enforce extrajudicial submission. The economy has imploded, preceded by the two year old collapse in oil prices. Inflation in 2016 was at 800 per cent, so a 60 per cent wage increase announced in March looks positively meagre.

The shift to centre-right government across Latin America has isolated the socialist regime. In March, the Secretary General of the Organisation of American States, a 34 member regional organisation charged with the promotion of de-

mocracy and human rights, recommended Venezuela be suspended until Maduro holds free elections. Four-fifths of the 'pueblo' that Maduro's government ostensibly represents want him out of office. Yet, the Bolivarian regime shows no signs of budging.

Previous examples are instructive. One factor above all else makes or breaks revolutions: support from the armed forces. The ideological spine of the revolution is military-led. Army officials run 11 of the 32 ministries, with Chávez himself a

commander. Venezuela has 2000 generals. For context, the United States employs 900. Until they act the regime will endure. It is too early to say the military is tone-deaf to the issues Venezuela faces, especially in the lower ranks.

Factions do exist: the 'originals' that fought with Chávez in 1992, and the 'opportunists', who have profited handsomely from drug trafficking. Yet, until the interests of the army stop being met, and they stop following orders, woe to Venezuela's people.

Zero to hero - the argument for zero hours

James Humpish
BUSINESS EDITOR

JEREMY CORBYN HAS pledged that if Labour were elected to government next month then they would scrap zero hour contracts altogether. There is plenty wrong with zero hour contracts but they are far from a homogenous entity and many of them do work for a lot of people.

Designed as a flexible solution to improving employment, they are easily exploited by organisations with heavy-handed bargaining power. Employees exhibit uncertainty over whether they will get any hours in the future at all, employers can have unreasonable expectations about when workers can make themselves available, and it can breed environments of hours depending on favouritism. They also have the capacity under zero hour contracts to ban

employees from working anywhere else – something which becomes a real crunch to employees who can't predict their future income. It adds pressure to workers financially because of lack of income, but also mentally because of a refusal to do work once can translate into a prolonged period of losing work



IMAGE: THE STREET

because the employer opts to use someone that made themselves available on that occasion. It can also be stressful if a worker is allocated a shift but then has this shift rescinded at the last moment. Once again, it is uncertainty that causes the issue and creates problems for the workers.

There's even quite a clear correlation between some of the big-name users of zero hour contracts and low-cost products. Eighty per cent of Wetherspoons, ninety per cent of McDonalds and Sports Direct as well as large proportions of Burger King, Subway and Domino's Pizza employees are on zero hour contracts.

Many of the problems aren't necessary however. The hazards outlined above do not represent the experiences of all zero hour contracts.

Some zero hour contracts provide flexibility to people with other commitments, most notably students. Students can often find

work as a way of being able to keep them going through university, but they may want to avoid having to commit themselves to neither a lower or maximum level of work. The flexibility of casual work has strong demand, the issue is in the balance of power.

There is precedent for this prior to the election. Last month saw McDonald's offer all employees the chance to move off a zero hours contract if they wanted to. A variety of fixed hour contracts could then be opted for with 4, 8, 16 and 30 hour shifts all made available to zero hour employees.

They made this offer on a trial-basis to 23 of their outlets and found that around 20 per cent chose to move to fixed hours. Though it is one trial, it is indicative that there is a case for zero hours but there are gains to make from making them an option alongside contractual agreements. If McDonald's made the same offer to all of its tens of thousands of zero contract UK employees, approximately 15-20 thousand could find themselves in a better working situation.

There is scope to go even further if an arrangement where a fixed hour contract was offered to someone on zero hours, but with the

capacity to hear additional working opportunities the same way the zero hours worker would too.

If one of the biggest issues is the ability for employers to discriminate, then it's also possible to use online software to make the allocation method more transparent. There are a number of opportunities to reform the allocation of hours in employment situations without having to reduce the gains from flexibility enjoyed by both businesses and by workers.

Preventing zero hour contracts from banning taking on other kinds of work. Stop them from being able to retract offers of work at the last minute, maybe.

But simply scrapping zero hour contracts is a play at gambling with about 3 per cent of the UK workforce. There are many businesses that would not be able to sustain their levels of employment if they couldn't make use of zero hours. Consequently, there would be many who would find themselves in more rigid working arrangements and many who might find they lose work entirely. Banning zero hour contracts is not the solution to poor working conditions. The solution is finding a way to make them work for everybody.

Losing uni grants condemns students for life

Jack Harmsworth
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

"STRONG AND STABLE economy" repeated Theresa May over five times during a brief speech on a whistle stop tour of Wales last week. When such statements are made by politicians, it is always worth asking oneself, well, who's this economy for?

The economic policy of the recent Conservative government has been one of the most fiscally contractionary in post-war history. Taxes and government spending are at record lows. Many in government portray this as an economic success story. Yet, like all stories there are winners and losers. And under this fiscal tightening, one of the biggest losers of all has been students, especially those from low-income backgrounds.

In 2016, maintenance grants for the poorest students were replaced with maintenance loans. Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities and Sciences at the time, stated that such a policy was necessary as the grants to students were simply no longer affordable. Yet if there is one policy that accurately represents the economic divide and rule of the current government, it is this one.

What this policy effectively amounts to is a working class graduation tax.

The maximum maintenance loan that students from low income backgrounds can access for the academic year 2017/18 will be £11 002. With a student tuition fee of £9 250 on the horizon this leaves a per annum debt of £20 252. Students therefore expect a loan of 60 or 80 thousand pounds, which is then subject to interest once leaving university.

In contrast, wealthier students who have their living expenses and fees paid off by their parents, will leave with either half the debt or none at all.

This results in the indebtedness not just of students then, but a direct tax on the opportunity seeking working class. To make matters even worse, the interest paid on this debt has recently risen to a market defying 6.1 per cent per year. This is largely due to leaving the EU which has increased inflation, thereby agonisingly making young people pay for a political decision that they probably didn't even vote for. To put this in context, 6.1 per cent of £60 000 is £3 600 per year added on to the debt. So the interest

alone charged on the debt of a student from the poorest background is larger than the entire annual tuition fee of a previous student just five years ago.

The problems that stem from this economic inequality

of debt are plain to see.

It effectively means that graduates from the poorest backgrounds will never afford the mortgage on a home, holidays and many other opportunities their wealthier colleagues will have. On top of this, analysis by the British Educational Research Journal, through qualitative data in Canada, has shown that students from lower incomes struggle to afford or find the connections to complete an impressive internship.

plete an impressive internship.

This means they are less likely to gain a high paid job, so they are stuck in the worst case repayment scenario of an average income of around £30 000, which would not even be enough to pay off the interest. All of this leads to a situation where most students, especially those from low income backgrounds, will never pay off the entire debt. Yet this is no reason for students to become complacent, with the £21 000 mark at which graduates must start repaying their debt frozen to inflation and the thirty-year expiry mark likely to be removed, the debt is likely to be a bigger burden than most students would hope for.

As £21 000 devalues over time, the tax burden repayment placed on graduates will become tighter over time. With the government adding interest to loans, it simply adds insult to injury.

Here is just one policy breakdown that represents the economic divide and rule strategy of the current Conservative government.

It is worth noting that while ministers were preaching about not being able to afford maintenance grants for the poorest students, they were also busy endorsing lowering inheritance tax on homes over £650 000 and cutting capital gains and corporation tax.

Next time Theresa May tells us she's building a strong and stable economy, remember it is worth asking, who exactly for?



IMAGE: DONKEYHOTIE

Branching out: what can we learn from trees?

Eleanor Mason
SCIENCE EDITOR

TREES ARE THE lungs of the Earth, nature's memory stick, even at a molecular level. Every layer of fresh weight trees accumulate contain a bit of the air, converted into carbon. Trees literally wear the air we breathe, and produce it too. They

46-58 thousand square miles of forest are lost every year, say WWF

inspire us, remain intact throughout the harshest of situations, and remind us all that life goes on.

We turn over a new leaf, our ideas blossom and we branch out. Trees provide metaphors that allow us to reach our best potential, and rightly so - they have been the base of many eureka moments. Where was Sir Isaac Newton when he developed the thought of gravitational theory? Where was Buddha when he discovered enlightenment? Remember Grandmother Willow from Pocahontas and her wisdom.

In some cases, trees are a huge comfort, especially for Anne Frank during the Second World War. The chestnut tree outside her house allowed her to mark the seasons, and experience what it was like to be outside. The tree was felled in 2010.

Demonstrated by the National Geographic, trees represent integrity, strength and loyalty. After the conflagration of 9/11 reduced the 110 story World Trade Centre towers to mere metal carcasses on the ground, within the midst of the rubble and smoke, remained a pear tree, only scarred on one side.

The tree became the emblem not only of mourning but resilience.

Each year many of us bring Christmas trees into our homes and can produce our own food right from our gardens, not to mention the paper we use every day. These are all by choice, but really, we couldn't live without trees.

Oxygen is produced as a by-product of photosynthesis, the mechanism for nutrient and sugar production from sunlight, water and carbon dioxide.

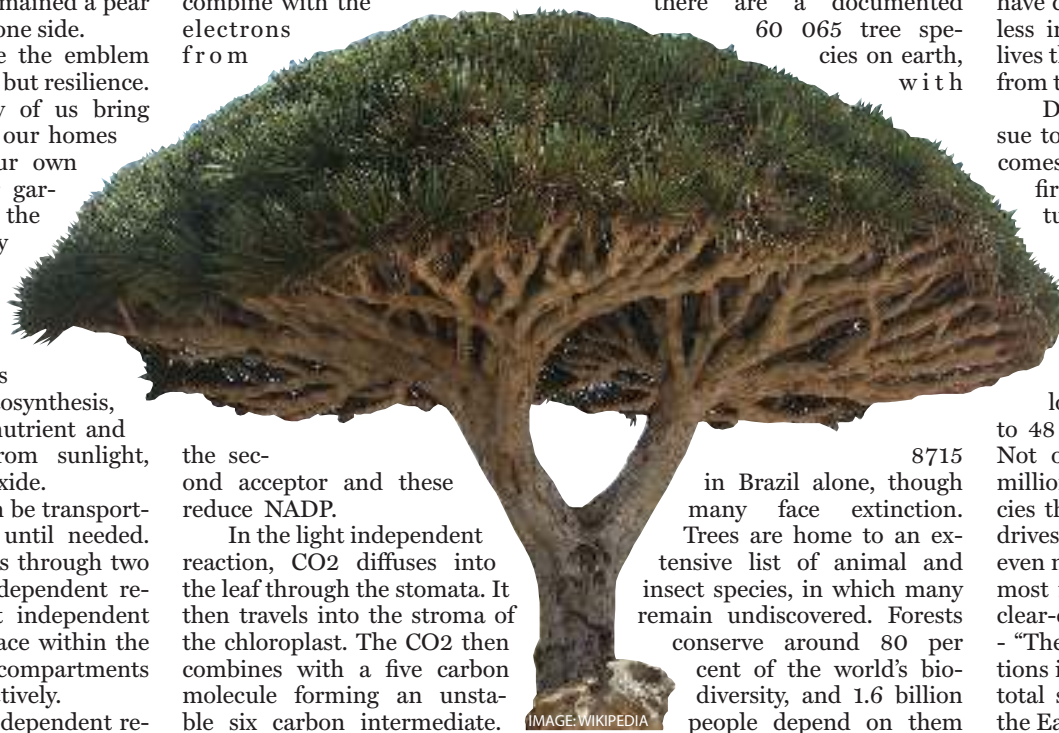
The products can be transported around the tree until needed. Photosynthesis occurs through two reactions: the light dependent reaction and the light independent reaction that take place within the granum and stroma compartments of chloroplasts respectively.

During the light dependent re-

action, light energy is trapped in the integral membrane protein, PSII, and boosts electrons to a higher energy level. The electrons are passed from an acceptor to PSI which is at a lower energy level, producing ATP. The electrons which have been removed from the chlorophyll are replaced by pulling in other electrons from a water molecule. The loss of electrons from the water molecule causes it to dissociate into protons and oxygen gas. The protons from the water molecule combine with the electrons from

The six carbon intermediate breaks down into two separate three carbon molecules. Pairs of triose phosphate molecules can combine to produce an intermediate hexose sugar, which can then be polymerised to form lipids, amino acids, sugars and starch. A portion of the triose phosphate reacts to restart the process. You don't need to be a tree surgeon or environmental ecologist to appreciate them.

According to the Botanic Gardens Conservation International, there are a documented 60 065 tree species on earth, with



the second acceptor and these reduce NADP.

In the light independent reaction, CO₂ diffuses into the leaf through the stomata. It then travels into the stroma of the chloroplast. The CO₂ then combines with a five carbon molecule forming an unstable six carbon intermediate.

IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

8715 in Brazil alone, though many face extinction. Trees are home to an extensive list of animal and insect species, in which many remain undiscovered. Forests conserve around 80 per cent of the world's biodiversity, and 1.6 billion people depend on them

for their livelihood.

Tropical forests contribute massively to climate patterns, acting as carbon sinks and soaking up carbon dioxide, and with constant warm temperatures and tremendous amounts of rainfall, housing the most complex web of animals, plants, bacteria and fungi. The market forces of globalisation are invading the Amazon, hastening the death of the forest and frustrating its most loyal stewards. In the past three decades, hundreds of people have died in land wars, with countless in fear and uncertainty, their lives threatened by those who profit from the Amazon's timber and land.

Deforestation is more of an issue today than it has ever been. It comes in many forms, including fires, clear-cutting for agriculture, ranching and development, unsustainable logging for timber, and degradation due to climate change.

According to WWF, some 46-58 thousand square miles of forest are lost each year - the equivalent to 48 football fields every minute. Not only does deforestation hurt millions of plant and animal species through loss of habitat, it also drives climate change and leads to even more temperature swings. The most feasible solution to eliminate clear-cutting is to replant new trees - "The number of new tree plantations is growing each year, but their total still equals a tiny fraction of the Earth's forested land."

Epigenetics: a 21st century scientific revolution

Daniel Zahemsky
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

IT IS LIKELY that everybody has heard of genetics, the study of the genes that determine our inherited traits, but perhaps not everybody is familiar with epigenetics.

Rather than concerning genes, epigenetics studies what is happening beyond them, with 'epi' literally translating to 'on top of' in Greek. This means that although every one of our cells contain the exact same genetic material, not all of it is expressed in all cells. This is why nerve cells are long and have a branched structure and muscle

are switched on or off, leading to different gene expression patterns between cells and organs.

However, these patterns are not fixed, but alterable in response to changes in circumstances. There are many interesting cases in wild animals, where this alteration in fact acts in favour of the given animal leading to adaptation to the environment.

It is widely known, for example, that in many reptiles and amphibians sex is determined by external temperature. In turtles, this is due to a certain hormone that is able to convert the male sex hormone testosterone into the female sex hormone oestrogen. It also happens to be temperature sensitive; that is, at high temperature it gets activated

work, and leaves testosterone which leads to testes formation.

Although this might seem strange to us, it is not as strange as the case of a Caribbean fish species, the blue-headed wrasse. This animal determines its sex depending on whether it encounters a male individual of its own species. If it does, then it becomes female and joins the 'harem' of that male, otherwise it becomes male. When the male of this group eventually dies, the largest female grows testes and replaces him.

We shouldn't forget, however, that these transformations are not voluntary from the fish, but due to a range of biochemical interaction ending in the change of gene expression. The last example is taken from another group of animals: insects.

The desert locust lives in Africa and can cause billions of dollars of damage in agriculture, spanning many countries

tion of genetic origin.

Cancers often develop when a cell gains advantage in growth and reproduces itself very rapidly, leading to the formation of a tumor. Some researchers suggest that this advantage can arise not only from a gene mutation,

but also from a healthy set of genes being turned on and off in an unhealthy pattern. Perhaps this turning on and off is mediated by environmental factors, for example molecules that we take in through eating which directly affect gene expression.

Although all the genetic material (the genome) of the human body has been decoded, what happens to these genes in the process of epigenetic change is still something to uncover.

Epigenetic research is therefore one of the major focuses of science in the 21st century, having the potential to fight the big killers of our society, as well as contributing to conservation and producing more productive agricultural systems.

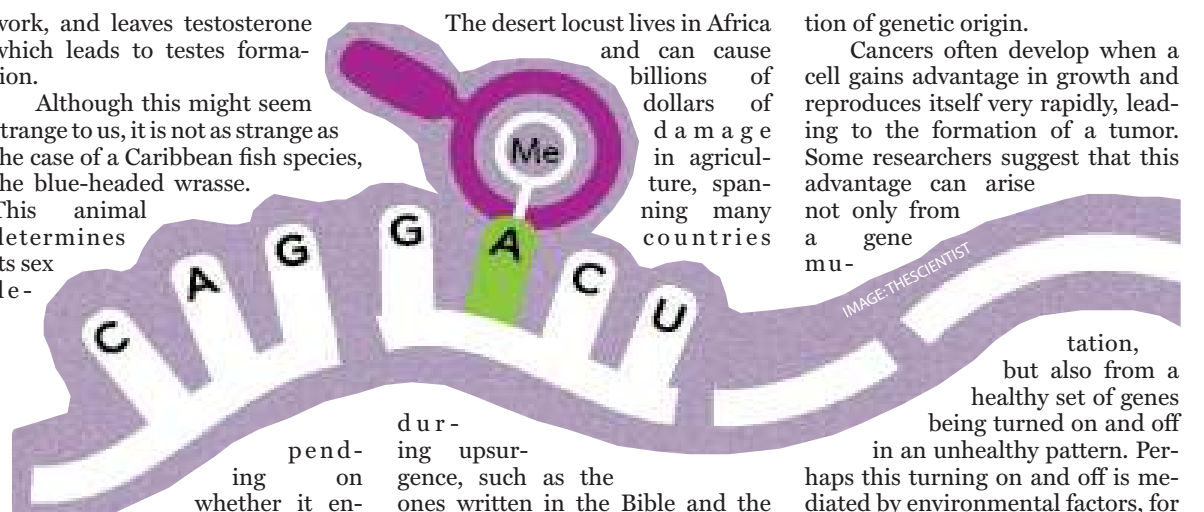
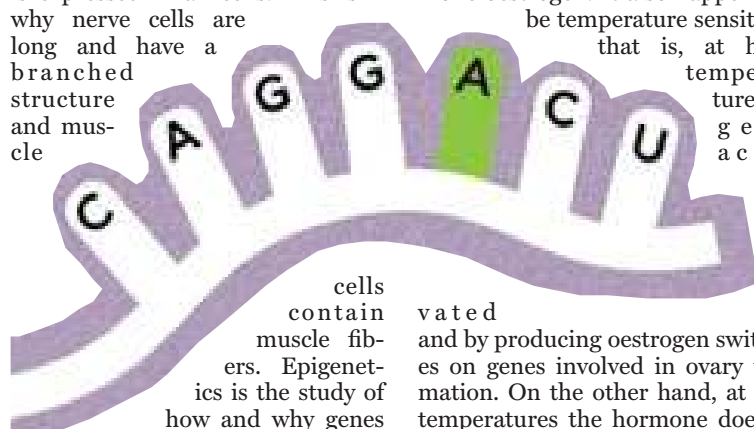


IMAGE: THE SCIENTIST

cells contain muscle fibers. Epigenetics is the study of how and why genes are switched on or off, leading to different gene expression patterns between cells and organs.

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Does social media dictate how and why people travel?

YES.

Dan Hall
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

ALL THE WORLD'S a news feed. At least, that's how it seems to so many wide-eyed travellers who will tell you that what they really want from life, is to 'have as many new experiences as possible'. We are lucky to live in a world that is unprecedentedly accessible to travellers all over the globe. But on this hemisphere, at least, I think what your average young traveller etherized by wanderlust is really after is the ability to show other people what an interesting and cultured and bohemian person they are, relegating the experience of being somewhere different to a secondary concern. So while air fares have cheapened, so has the value of travelling abroad at all. Here is a selfie of me at Macchu Picchu, and what you really should be paying attention to is the fact that it's me here, the ancient Incan city being just another serviceable backdrop for my vanity, as exchangeable in its Instagrammable value as the Berlin Wall.

It doesn't matter about being in the aura of the place itself, but that its cultural cache could seek out an unusually high yield of likes on social media.

The idea that travelling now is more about vanity than curiosity is not a new phenomenon. In the 17TH Century, Pascal wrote: "We would not take a sea voyage if we could not talk to others about it, or for the sole pleasure of seeing without hope of

ever communicating it." We've always wanted to bore others about our travels. What's new is that this vain impulse has a new anxiety attached to it - we have to see all of it before we die.

Experiences aren't an end in themselves anymore. Now the cultural emphasis is much more on collecting and displaying them, and he who has the biggest collection wins. Or, at least, he who has the most 'liked' collection wins. Like so many other things for our generation, we know what we want much better than we know why we want it.

I might be tempted to say that the ultimate symbol of this attitude is the selfie-stick: the now ubiquitous narcissist's sceptre on sale at any ruined tourist destination the world over. But I think even more emblematic of the idea of collecting 'experiences' merely for the sake accruing social capital is actually the scratch map.

If you're not familiar with the concept, a scratch map is a map of the world where each country is covered in a foil film that you scratch off (like a scratch card) when you've been there.

According to its product description on amazon.com (which modern travellers are more interested in than the Amazon rainforest), the scratch map is 'the perfect way to show off where you've been travelling while livening up your wall'. This catches the exhibitionism at the heart of voluntouristic 'gap yah' type travelling, and it also orders the vast complexity of Earth into a target to be reached, a mere menu of amusements, a long listicle of life.



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

Maria Kalinowska
TRAVEL EDITOR

IN A WORLD where social media slots itself into people's every waking moment, it is no wonder that it has become part of the travel experience.

Social media is filled with people who have gone on 'gap yahs', not having to worry about money, and it may seem like they're just ticking off global attractions. Nevertheless, this is not the overall attitude of modern travel. Featuring in one's own travel photos is not narcissism, not a 'look at me in this place'. It acts on the 'I can't believe I'm here, let me take a picture so I can remember this moment' feeling.

Travelling is an intense experience, with life passing at 100 miles an hour. Taking and posting photos on social media is a way to separate each individual, exciting moment.

Sharing photos does not undermine the experience of the moment that photo was taken. Photos are, after all, visual memories. What is negative about sharing them and inspiring others to travel through photography? The accusation that travel photography is superficial undermines people's experiences. Why is it socially acceptable to share photos of other experiences, such as a new job, but not travelling, when for some that is the most important part of their life?

Meeting new people, taking pictures together and connecting on social media means you can keep in

NO.

touch with them in a unique way. As much as we want to, we cannot always stay in contact with the people that we meet on our travels, thanks to busy lifestyles and time zones. Social media keeps us informed about their lives and it makes it easier to meet your travelling friends again. There have been times when I've been travelling and noticed through social media that one of the people I met on a previous trip was nearby and I was able to organise an impromptu meet-up.

Some might say that social media dictates the destination of the moment, and it may look that way, when similar photographs crop up again and again. How many times has Machu Picchu appeared on your newsfeed? This is because Machu Picchu is truly amazing. It makes sense that people travel there and take pictures. Who wouldn't want to capture that memory?

There are certainly people out there who seek aesthetic photos in amazing places solely for vanity's sake, but there are also those for whom travelling is a lifestyle. When those sorts of people look at their scratch map, they see the experiences and memories attached to each place they have been. Social media similarly allows them the luxury of looking back, revelling in nostalgia and reliving the most exciting parts of their travels.

From the earliest days, people documented the places they visited, as a memory for themselves but also so that they could recount their experiences to others; to enlighten and inspire people. So maybe we're just the Marco Polos of Instagram?

VIVA trips: unearthing England's treasures

Barbora Viorok
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

WHAT COULD ENRICH our soul more than the discovery of new places? Meeting new people who become friends enriches our life's journeys. Especially when we are young, it's important to take all the opportunities that are offered. A lot of young people take the advantage of the opportunity to study abroad. When being in a new country for a time that is limited, it's important to learn everything about it. The best tool to accomplish this is travelling.

VIVA has been giving this opportunity to students for several years. VIVA Entertainment is divided into events and trips. Alongside the trips, students can meet new friends at international parties where they can pick up a flag stick-

er from a country they are coming from. VIVA Trips organise day trips to all the popular UK destinations.

This term, there was a weekend trip to Edinburgh in the form of a mini-festival, representing the combination of the travelling and partying that young people love. Edinburgh is a magical place which puts a spell on every visitor, so the weekend trip, in a hostel in the heart of the city, is very popular with students. This way they meet other students from different countries. I personally believe that nowadays it is very important to travel and

meet people from different cultural backgrounds; making friendships with people from all around the world helps defeat racism and discrimination.

The day trips are spent either in the beautiful towns and cities of the UK, or in the country-

side. My favourite trip was to the beautiful Lake District, dedicated to all those who love hiking and walking. The trip is divided into two parts - we started by hiking the famous Cat Bells. The reward is a beautiful view of Keswick, the Derwentwater Lake and the surrounding mountains. We experienced all kind of weather during this trip - everything bad has a silver lining, so once, after cold rain we were rewarded with colourful rainbow at the top of the Cat Bells.

The experience was mesmerizing. We experienced snow and wind, but the most pleasant and precious part was the sunshine that brightened up the whole area. After hiking the Cat Bells for around two hours, we spent the rest of the day around Derwentwater and in Keswick town centre. In these colder months, everyone was excited to refresh at the Wild Strawberry Café which serves delicious hot chocolate of all kinds of flavours! Who can resist peanut butter hot chocolate following a long hike? And the décor in the café is just lovely and very British. It was a great experience for all international students.

Regarding the city tours, my fa-



avourite is York. We always start our tour by Clifford's Tower. While talking about the historical background, we pass the Shambles and reach the famous York Minster.

Students can spend their free time inside after the walk is finished. Visiting York without the York Minster would be like visiting Paris but not entering the Eiffel Tower. We also couldn't miss out the Museum Gardens - a treat for those who love

squirrels. We finish by walking the City Walls - undoubtedly one of the most important features of the town. I recommend students to visit the Railway Museum where they can see old trains and royal family suits. York was an important railway hub, so it's worth visiting the museum.

Travelling makes me feel refreshed and reborn. It's the best way to relax.



IMAGE: ANDY FARRINGTON

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STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

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Sportonomics

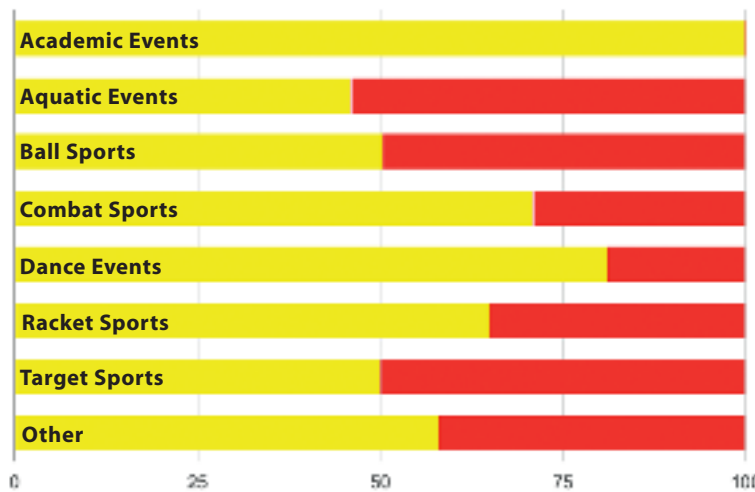
James Voyle looks at the numbers behind York's triumph

SO YORK HAS won yet another home Roses. The final scoreboard may have read 206.5-159.5, but a little digging around into the numbers reveals some interesting trivia behind the headlines.

York came up trumps in nearly every category of sports at this year's Roses, with the exception of aqua sports. In - or on - the water, Lancaster took home 27 points, or 54 per cent of those on offer. Every single event that we classed as "academic" (mooting and debating, for example), York won.

The host university also appears to have a penchant for dance and combat sports, and to a lesser extent, racket sports.

The share of both victories and points won between York's men's and women's teams was pretty even. The men's teams won 52 per cent of their events, the women's



Percentage of available points won in each category of Roses event

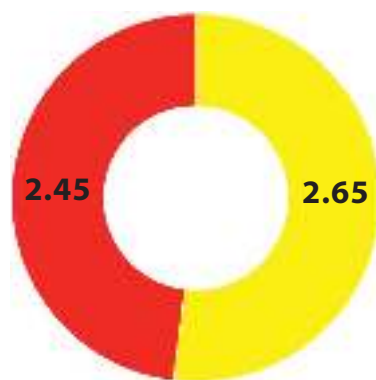
were the better side. Performances on the Saturday and Sunday were not quite strong enough for York to bag the trophy early, but a comprehensive showing on the Sunday, where York won 64 per cent of the available points, was enough to

bus trips across the Pennines.

Lastly, much has been made of the fact that this year's Roses was markedly closer than expected. Lancaster defeated York by a healthy 74 points last year, while the last time York hosted they won by 86. Indeed, the 47 point difference this time around is smaller than we've seen in recent years.

However, this year's win margin was still somewhat off those of 2002 and 2008, when York pipped their rivals to the title by just one and two points. Unsurprisingly, those most slender of victories were achieved by York when competing as the visiting university, highlighting just how difficult a challenge it is to bag a Roses title on the road.

This year, Lancaster were in with a shot of victory heading into the final day, only for the black and gold to run away with the crown come the afternoon. It's not yet clear whether Lancaster's impressive showing at the 2017 tournament was a one-off, or an indicator of what's to come from a resurgent red rose.



Average number of points each victory was worth to each side

fend off the chance of a late Lancaster surge.

A deeper look at exactly when points were scored reveals that Lancaster were the stronger side in morning fixtures. York's athletes may have had the advantage of longer lie ins, but they lost in over half of the events that kicked off before midday. York more than made up for this during the afternoon games, winning 59 per cent. Perhaps Lancaster's athletes became victims of a mid-afternoon dip in energy due to those early morning

84
UYWRUFC scored 84 more points than their opponents over their two games

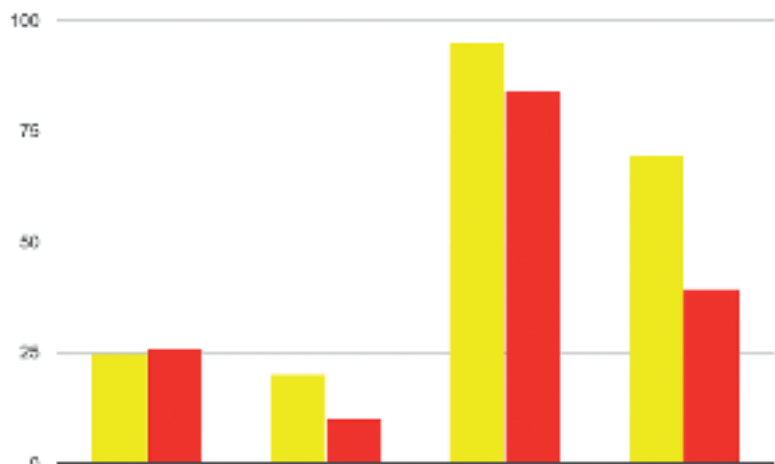
exactly 50 per cent. Those sides which seem to have made the biggest impact on the tournament's final outcome were the mixed and open squads, who won 56 per cent of their fixtures. Moreover, those mixed/open fixtures that York triumphed in tended to be worth more points than those that Lancaster won in. The host university's 29 victories in such events provided York with 80 points.

Roses formally began last Friday with the first bowl at the men's 2s cricket, but by that point Lancaster were already narrowly leading the Varsity 26-25. Prior to

10
Points won by Lancaster's archery team, all those available

the weekend's festivities, a series of 'pre' events took place, including rowing, canoe polo and ultimate frisbee, from which Lancaster emerged on top. Just.

However, for the remaining three days of the competition, York



Points scored on each day of the event: pre, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Roll of honour

- 2017 York
- 2016 Lancaster
- 2015 York
- 2014 Lancaster
- 2013 York
- 2012 Lancaster
- 2011 York
- 2010 Lancaster
- 2009 York
- 2008 York
- 2007 York
- 2006 Lancaster
- 2005 York
- 2004 Lancaster
- 2003 York
- 2002 York
- 2001 York
- 2000 Lancaster

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Jacob Phillips
DEPUTY SPORTS



WE HAVE BEEN pretty busy at the start of this term at *Nouse Sport*. We have spent so much time discussing and covering Roses that I now only see the colours red and white. Therefore, unsurprisingly, this special seven page sports edition reflects our Roses obsession.

Roses brought many new experiences to York students, whether spectating for the first time, queuing for up to two hours at Revs or competing in Europe's largest varsity.

For me, I was lucky enough to do the latter competing in the Roses cross country (I have now officially told the entire world) but also I was introduced to the world of Twitter in order to help with our live coverage of Roses.

I quickly became obsessed, sending out a 170 tweets about the various events taking place, from the basketball opening ceremony to the drunk celebrations of cross country running.

My Twitter obsession reached new heights when I was

retweeted by the likes of 'Uni of York', 'YUSU', and even 'New England Anchors Basketball'.

Thankfully I was forced to retire from the *Nouse* Twitter feed on the Sunday before I became drunk enough to run wild and ruin the reputation of York's oldest student paper. But hey ho, it was fun feeling being very mildly famous for a small period of time.

This edition will hopefully bring you everything you need to know about Roses 2017. Our stats page records everything from which teams were successful, to how indoor sports teams compare to outdoor sports teams.

On our comments page (23) Robyn researches into the accusations of bias at the Roses dance events while I rant away about how there should be more focus on athletics at future Roses events (yes, I run and I am promoting my own athletics agenda).

The rest of the edition focuses on the Roses events themselves, covering the weekend's highlights on page 25.

Sadly as a result of Roses being such a huge event we have not got a *Nouse* Tries section this edition. However, I did have the awful experience of going skydiving over the Easter break so look out for my painful recollection of that experience next edition.

TEAMMATES

Nouse talks to the University of York's skydiving club

Name: James McNulty
Role: Club Treasurer
Course: Natural Sciences
Year: 1st

Biggests lightweight: David Hooper, lightweight at the bar and in the sky

Best motivator: Elizabeth Hourahine

Best helmet hair: Nothing beats Wesley King's beautiful afro

Most nervous: Luke Tetley, he always farts loads before we jump

Worst dress sense: Apart from being a lightweight, David Hooper always seems to be naked

Most like Buzz Lightyear: that's a tie between Victor Monier and Matt Taylor's helmet

Best jumping style: Honestly, we're all pretty shit

Best aim: Charlie Thacker landed in a hedge once

Most intelligent: I'm tempted to say myself but we do all choose to jump out of planes



Roses is our Olympics, so where is the athletics?

York has the athletes and the facilities, so why do we not have a dedicated athletics event at Europe's biggest varsity?

Jacob Phillips
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

WHICH EVENTS DO you stay up to watch at the Rio Olympics? I bet most people you ask that question to would reply that they stayed up to watch Mo Farah and Usain Bolt's performances on the track.

If you did not then you missed out on some of the most memorable events in athletics history. So why was such an entertaining sport not included at Roses 2017?

Although York's athletics club were able to compete in Roses in their cross country event, it seemed like YUSU missed out on an opportunity to show off their new athletics facilities and the benefits that the University's athletics team has witnessed from training at it. However YUSU choose to only use the track for some of the football events taking place on the Saturday.

Of course when a facility such as an athletics track is shared with other sports teams, such as the local city of York athletics club, it can be difficult to book the facility out for long periods of time.



IMAGE: YORK SPORT UNION

However, a Roses athletics match did not have to take place on the main Roses weekend. Other sports such as rowing and equestrian were allowed to change the days of their events to fit around other competitions and booking issues.

York athletes were instead forced to choose between attending the prestigious BUCS Athletics Championships or competing in the Roses cross country. By having a separate athletics event take place at a different date, more York ath-

letes would have been able to compete and there would have been an opportunity for York athletes who compete in shorter events such as sprints or in field events to become involved in Roses.

If Roses is supposed to be York's

Olympics, and the largest varsity in Europe, why would it miss out on including so many Olympic events? Track and field events would not necessarily have counted for points, but an evening of athletics would have attracted many spectators. Imagine a one-on-one Roses 100m: it would be adored by the crowd and could be a hilarious and thrilling event.

Furthermore, when Roses was first formed in 1965, one of the main attractions was a relay race. It is a shame that a similar event has not been able to continue into more recent editions of Roses.

With events such as Pokémon and University Challenge being provided with competitions, even if they did not impact the overall scoring of Roses, I do not understand how YUSU were able to reject the idea proposed to have track events on our new running track but rather book the facilities out immediately for the football when in reality both could have been used over the weekend.

With cross country as athletics' only representative at Roses 2017, having to walk past an empty track over the weekend was simply heart breaking.

Lancastrians upset with scoring at dance events

Clean sweeps at the cheerleading and dance for the host University have been met with accusations of judging bias

Robyn Aitchison
SPORTS EDITOR

AS WITH MOST sporting events, this one did not come without its controversies. York won pretty much all of the dancing events at Roses. This category includes contemporary dance, ballroom dancing, pole exercise and cheerleading.

The way such sports are judged is that the home team puts together a panel of judges and they award each winning dance with points, and the team with the most points wins the overall points for Roses. York won all five dance fixtures, as well as cheerleading and pole exercise. The only team to lose to Lancaster was during the ballroom dancing fixtures.

York won 81 per cent of all the points available at this year's Roses. As a result of this, some Lancastrian students have come forward, questioning whether there were some bias in how the judging was put together.

Despite these accusations, York's way of putting together the judging panels seems to be pretty fool proof for not allowing the home team to be at an advantage. There is a tournament exec committee, who

meet frequently throughout the year and decide on changes to the constitution, points for each fixture, as well as rules which are ratified at the committee meetings.

While it is the home team's responsibility to appoint the referees and judges for each fixture, the dance teams I spoke to about this seem to have done so in a fair and impartial manner.

The dance and pole exercise teams did so by searching for people in their respective professions who live in the area, purely for convenience, if none were found they looked elsewhere in the country.

Still, there is no clear bias that appears here. For the cheerleading squad, they hired head judges from one of the largest cheer and dance companies in the UK, implying they too were impartial to either team performing.

This still does not satiate the Lancaster teams, wonder-

ing how they managed to fall so far since last performing against York. A member of the Lancaster team stated that they "definitely expected to do better" and "didn't agree with how the judges scored the dances".

As well as this, a member of the Lancaster cheerleading team was confused about how they lost because the York team "dropped so many stunts compared to [the Lancaster team]". While the same member of the Lancaster team admits that she couldn't see any clear errors made by the York team, she and other members of the team agree that "3/5 dances of [theirs] were better".

As well as this, they have competed against York twice this year and have beaten them in ballet both times. They have previously "been much much closer in all the other categories" compared to the results of Roses.

While Roses may have been an anomaly for the Lancaster dance team, the confusion surrounding the judging system is one that probably still needs to be looked into.

Even students at York began to become suspicious



IMAGE: BEN WRIGHT

of the York wins, one student said "it is a bit ridiculous that these fixtures are put together under the fact that anyone can win. When we can see from this weekend, it simply wasn't true."

Another student was shocked by the collapse of the York Hornets, leading to an hour-long stop, still proceeding to win the competition, stating: "You don't get to retake penalties in football if you sky them."

Throwing around accusations about judging panels being rigged is not in the spirit of Roses, and also has little to no evidence grounded in

reality for this sports competition.

However, what has come out of this conversation is that the judging systems used for dance competitions appear to need rejuvenating; most of the errors made in the judging probably don't come down to fixing of the panel, but instead the actual methods used to judge the dancing. It isn't a sport like football or netball, where each goal equals a point for the team that scores.

The evaluation of this is necessary to make dance sports a more equal community for everyone performing.



IMAGE: WILL PALMER

York stick it to Lancaster yet again

James Voyle
SPORTS EDITOR

UYHC ROUNDED OFF another successful Roses tournament by taking 11 of the 18 points on offer to both the indoor and outdoor teams.

Impressively, York's ladies' teams went unbeaten for the entire weekend, winning eight points to Lancaster's one. Notably, however, the visitors improved upon their performance in last year's tourna-

ment (where they failed to win a single outdoor game), typified by their imposing 4-1 victory in the men's 1s match-up. Incoming club president Tom Cadman said that this year "was a lot more contested than in previous years, which meant the atmosphere was even more electric".

Hockey began with the indoor fixtures on Saturday afternoon, which featured a memorable performance from first year Harriet Jeanes, scoring two exceptional goals as the women's 1s romped to a 5-2 victory. However, most of the drama was kept for Sunday's out-

door fixtures. After a professional 4-1 win for York's women's 3s, the home side secured a 2-1 victory in the men's 3s with a last minute penalty corner, scored by Rob Walters.

York men's 2s captain Matt Hyde bagged the score of the weekend with an incredible strike into the top left corner via the crossbar. The goal, scored in a 4-0 victory, won Hyde a cool £100 through a bet with hockey club alumni.

Hyde said, "I'm still waiting on my commission from this money, maybe I'll get half, others believe I should get it all, but who knows? I'll

happily take a couple of blue VKs and a tinnie if it's offered".

York's women's 2s were trailing by a single goal for much of their fixture, only for Emma Ferguson to convert a last minute equaliser from a short corner, sending the supporters on the touchline into delirium.

Lancaster's only victory on the JLD came in the last game of the day, where they won 4-1 in the men's 1s. Yet by that time York's supporters were already well into the party spirit and were reflecting on a job well done, while, unsurprisingly, decidedly inebriated.

Disappointing results for UYSWC

Rebecca Hall
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE SWIMMING AND water polo club came into Roses with high hopes of securing points after an excellent season all round but Lancaster proved too strong as they swam to their first 'redwash' in over five years.

First up on the Saturday afternoon were the swimming events, opening with the 4x50M medley relay. The women's team of Jodie Alder, Ellie Griffin, Ellie Lavender and Becky Britten put in a great performance to win the first event.

The men's A team of Peter Schlichter, Sam Timpany, Victor

Amara and Brandon Teo also finished first. This seemed to ignite the red rose team however as they chalked up victories in the 100M individual medley, freestyle and butterfly. Alder and Schlichter stepped up in the 100M backstroke, both winning their events. Griffin then won her 100M breaststroke race before Timpany edged out Chris Unsworth to grab first and second place in

theirs. Amara won the 50M butterfly before another victory for both Alder and Schlichter in the 50M backstroke. A loss in the 4x50M freestyle for men and women meant Lancaster received all eight points. Captain Fiona Whiting said the team should be proud of taking the fight all the way. "We dominated the backstroke and the breaststroke which was amazing. It's always sad to lose but we will definitely come back stronger next year!"

The men's water polo powered through with excellent saves from keeper Young Gawthorpe and great outfield play by Timpany and Jack Jones.

Eventually Lancaster found their

way through and wrapped up their win. York women's game started well, but York were unable to hang on to their lead and Lancaster went home with eight points.

Captain Falcini was impressed with the performance of her team despite adversity. "Sarah Peacop and Beth Richards both played an absolute blinder in their last Roses and even without a full strength squad we still managed to make it a really tight game". UYSWC President Michael Clifford stated: "Unhappy as I might be that we lost, I was impressed by performances of the teams in both sports. The atmosphere at the pool was excellent. In previous years, some of these events have been acrimonious but friendly competition is what Roses is all about".

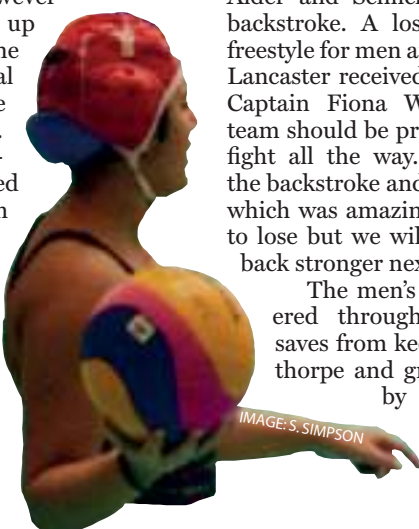


IMAGE: S. SIMPSON

Disqualification for York teams

In the Roses college football, one of York's team's was disqualified for replacing the Vanbrugh College team with one of the University teams. The Alcuin netball team was also disqualified after competing in the college netball league B game. Due to a miscommunication between the York and Lancaster teams, York believed they would be using the two best college teams from the league A team, rather than the best teams from the league A and B teams respectively. An innocent mistake, but one that unfortunately led to disqualification.

Roses award for Jason Chan

For his performance in the basketball showdown on Friday night, Jason Chan was named player of the tournament for Roses 2017. Unfortunately he didn't make it to the closing ceremony, and said that "Although [he] personally got elected to be the player of the tournament, it was all about team effort and how much hard work and hours [they] committed." He would also like to say "Thanks for all the support" and was glad to have such a "memorable experience for [his] last game".

York named national rowing centre

The University of York has been recognised as one of 10 British Rowing Centres in the UK for the development of its World Class Start Olympic Pathway Programme. World Class Start is a training programme that has a role of identifying and training up potential Olympic athletes. Prospective athletes do not need previous experience in rowing. Land-based training is at the University's York Sport Centre and Boat Club and water-based training takes place from both the University and City of York boat houses on the River Ouse.

Hockey ultra marathon raises over £1500

UYHC ran 228 miles in 12 hours, beating their target in 10 hours and travelling 300 miles. Combining their JustGiving total, with gift aid, as well as money raised at a BBQ, they managed to raise over an incredible £1500 for York Mind, also beating their target of £500.

Volleyball hits out

Luke Rix-Standing
EDITOR

YORK MEN'S 1S fell agonisingly short of Roses victory in front of a packed house in the York sport centre's main arena.

Led by Alexander Bowen (nicknamed 'The Cat'), the white rose triumphed in the second and third sets but, with the tie level at 2-2, threw away a large lead to lose the deciding set.

York started slowly, falling 6-1 down in the first set and were never able to recover the deficit, and found themselves changing ends a set behind. The second set went to the wire. York raced to 7-2 and 11-5 leads, but were repeatedly pegged by some excellent Lancastrian defence to leave it poised at 24-24. Both sides passed up set points before Lancaster blinked first, losing a knife-edge set 28-26.

The spectators roared and groaned with every save and spike, but often relied on guesswork to determine the correct score. The scorecard was, understandably, directed at the players and away from the stands, so the crowd buzzed with theories and predictions until the scorer sporadically held up the numbers, eliciting cheers and jeers from fans.

A far cry from the drama that preceded it, York steamrollered the third set

with a glittering display of powerful hitting. Growing in confidence, passing and spiking with increased authority, racing to 6-2 and 14-7 leads. Despite body line defending from Lancaster – one player literally kicked the ball back over the net – York pulled away and took the set at a stroll, 25-10.

Inspired by the touch-line urgings of sport president Isaac Beever, the home side looked set for a predicted victory. However, York were soon under renewed pressure from a re-invigorated Lancaster side. With the excitable crowd belting out KC and the Sunshine Band classics, York lost four straight points, and Lancaster clinched the set 25-22.

Final sets in volleyball are played to 15, and a series of exquisite plays saw York into what should have been a comfortable 11-6 lead. But with Lancaster staring down the barrel a series of errors in the face of steadfast defence saw Lancaster drag themselves back to 11-11. The momentum had shifted for the final time, and the red rose saw out the set and the match 15-12.



Mixed bag for netball teams

Robyn Aitchison
SPORTS EDITOR

NETBALL AT ROSES was a force to be reckoned with. The college sides were up first on the Saturday. York won both the league A and B matches, as well as the college select.

The college league B game was represented by Alcuin college for York. The game started strongly for York as they stormed three points ahead within the first ten minutes of the game. Ultimately, the game finished 51-20 to York, an amazing 30-point lead in the end.

York won the B game but the points were retrospectively appointed to Lancaster following the disqualification of York's college league B team. Due to a miscommunication between the Lancaster and York organisers, an unfortunate accident occurred in which York had chosen the top two col-

lege winners from league A, rather than choosing the winners of both league A and league B respectively.

The college netball A game was Langwith college vs Lancaster's Lonsdale, which was marginally closer than the B game, with

the first quarter ending with a score of 10-6 to York. York won the game with 49 points to Lancaster's 22, all in all, a pretty strong lead. The college games were summed up with college select, which was a very close game, with York just taking the lead 42-34, gaining even more points for the York team. Some stand-out players in this match were Esther Worrall, for her incredible shooting throughout the game, and Eli Cavill for her communication and passing at centre.

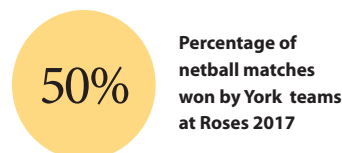
The university netball games, were not quite as successful as the college netball games, with a loss at the netball 1s and 3s game for York, but wins in the 2s.

With Lancaster taking the lead originally 2-0 at the beginning of the 3s game, eventually York just took the lead at the end of the last quarter.

The rest of the game continued pretty much in this pattern of one team scoring and then the other team. Unfortunately, this game then finished with a close score of 17-22 to Lancaster.

In the 2s game, York maintained a 20-point lead for most of the game, with a final score 60-41 to York. The final netball game of the weekend was the netball 1s game which regrettably resulted in a Lancaster win.

York lost out near the end of the game when Lancaster managed to get 15 points ahead, eventually winning the game 36-57 to



Lancaster.

York's netball teams did well in representing us at this year's Roses, with a pretty equal distribution of points between them, even despite disqualifications affecting overall point results for the netball games. Lancaster's efforts should not be underplayed as they played valiantly against a strong York team.

Lancaster claim last minute win after red card



Adam Philpott
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE BATTLE OF the Roses was fought on the immaculate athletics track pitch for the football on Saturday. While York women 1s secured a commanding 2-0 victory; York men's 1s suffered a frustrating 1-0

loss to 10-man Lancaster team.

UYWAFc wasted no time in showing their quality; just two minutes in and the ball was poked home after Lancaster's goalkeeper could only parry the first attempt back into the mixer. Indeed, there may have been thoughts of a repeat of last year's 7-0 routing.

In the second-half, UYWAFc performed a carbon-copy of their bright first half start; scoring early

after the restart. This time the ball was cleverly played over the bewildered Lancastrian defence, before being met by a clinical finish into the net.

Lancaster's first real attempt on goal came in the second-half, however, it was raised for being offside.

Since both York and Lancaster showed defensive stability, it came down to who could better link the midfield with attack; undoubtedly, it was UYWAFc. In the end, the two goals were enough for York to earn a deserved four points.

Next up, it was the men's turn, but there was little to get excited about in this drab game. UYAFc looked short of ideas going forward and this soon led to frustration as the first half progressed without any real goal scoring chances. Defensive stability defined the first-half, and therein lies credit to both sides' pre-match preparations. They cancelled each other out to the extent that everyone was becoming restless at the damp squib of a match unfolding in front of them.

This match needed something to liven it up and it certainly got it just before half time. Lancaster's striker, Onraet-Wells, sporting what seemed to be a broken wrist, was

deservedly shown a red card for a reckless tackle on Ebai Nsoatabe. Lancaster, clearly unimpressed with the decision, argued with the referee long into half-time.

York could be forgiven for going into the second half with optimism, but it was almost like they expected to win with their one man advantage. Kudos to Lancaster – they showed real grit and determination to (ironically) play better despite their numerical disadvantage.

A rejuvenated 10-man Lancaster team soon found themselves 1-0 up as York allowed Armstrong a free header, which he buried into the bottom left-corner past Max Donnell-Ford. They had been knocking on the door since half-time, with Lancastrian winger Airey enjoying a considerable amount of success on the left.

The final 10 minutes were characterised by constant Lancastrian

pressure and York failing to get out of their own half. Lancaster saw three chances go begging, as Donnell-Ford pulled off a double-save to keep UYAFc in the tie.

UYAFc captain Josh Bew - who scored two goals in Roses 2014 – was restricted to just one shot in his last university game by a solid Lancastrian defence. Bew described his side's performance as "one of the worst" in a post-match interview with Tom Harle. His side simply "didn't show up" and that it was, above all, "very frustrating".

In a game where the number of chances could be counted on one hand, York's complacent reaction to the red card and disappointing performance left them on the wrong end of a 1-0 score line. But let's not downplay the efforts of Lancaster who reacted positively despite their red card.



White rose defeats resurgent Lancaster

Robyn Aitchison
SPORTS EDITOR

THIS YEAR'S ROSES was one of the closest in recent memory. York finished the weekend with 206.5 points, while Lancaster trailed behind with 159.5, although neither side knew who would triumph until the Sunday afternoon.

Prior to the weekend, Lancaster were in the lead with a fine margin, of 26-25, following a series of successes in the 'pre' events, highlighted by a 12-point haul in the canoeing. Elsewhere, York dominated the equestrian, but fell behind in ultimate frisbee.

By the time that the Roses weekend started proper, the two universities were almost on an equal footing, and the stage was set for an exciting few days. It was unclear who would come out the winner by the end, although York were ready to play to the ever favourable advantage of playing on home soil.

The Friday of Roses ended with a score of 45 - 36 in York's favour. Throughout the day, Heslington West was slowly invaded by a tide of Lancastrian students, back after two years. While they wandered confused, navigating around the

various bird species on campus, York took the lead in a number of the events, including futsal and American football.

An astonishing atmosphere at the Arena served the basketball showdown of Friday night, where York pulled off an improbable comeback to win 50-47. Because of this, spectators and athletes of York alike went into Saturday in buoyant and optimistic mood.

Shock results included volleyball and swimming, where Lancaster achieved unlikely victories. York's men's 1s volleyball team fell to Lancaster in a harrowing defeat as the fixture came down to the fifth set, where they forfeited a generous lead to lose 15-12.

Nonetheless, Saturday witnessed success in a range of sports for York, including pole, lacrosse and eSports. Although Lancaster were always hot on our heels, with victories in a number of swim events and a clean sweep in the men's rugby. At the end of the day, York led 140-119.

York took the lead in a number of the events, including futsal and American football. Lancaster were presented with a recoverable 21 points deficit at the start of the morning, and opened proceedings positively with victories in badminton and netball. Wins in the dance competitions, as well as successes in squash, meant that York were now in pole position to claim the Varsity. A win in badminton was enough to push the home host university over the line and secure a victory for Roses 2017. York won the majority of the remaining fixtures of the day to create an exaggerated scoreline. The final contest of the weekend saw York triumph 25-12 in the rugby men's 1s in front of a mammoth crowd. The weekend rounded off with the closing ceremony, at which sport president Isaac Beevor was given the honour of hosting aloft the James-Carter Trophy to celebrate York's victory.



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

Badminton secure Roses



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

Luke Rix-Standing
EDITOR

YORK TOOK THREE out of four of Sunday's badminton ties to secure ten of an available 12 points, including the two that pushed York's overall score to the 183.5 total required to win Roses 2017. Both universities fielded two men's teams and two women's teams, which went head-to-head in an immaculate-looking sports arena on the final Sunday of competition.

Each tie pitted three pairs from each University against each other in a round robin format: first to five won. The women's 1s and men's 2s

fixtures were up first, playing their matches concurrently across four courts. Supposedly, the women's 1s pairs had been evenly chosen, but if so they'd done a pretty bad job: first-on-court Sinclair and Whiting smashed through all three of their fixtures without dropping a set to put York on course for victory. Compatriots Lineham/Whiting and Eastwood/Wilson shared the points in their rubbers to give York a 6-3 victory.

If the women's 1s match was comfortable for York, the men's 2s contest was emphatic for Lancaster. The red rose had already swept the first five matches to take an unassailable lead before York pairing Hepworth and Stedman won the sixth rubber to put the home side

on the scoreboard. York took the last two to close out a dominant 8-1 win. Spare a thought for York pairing Quigley and Williamson; they battled to a decider in all three of their matches, but emerged winless.

After lunch the men's 1s and women's 2s had their turn. Both ties were tight, cagey affairs, which went down to the final couple of games. The men's 1s rubbers contained surely the best matchplay of the afternoon - no pairing for either team emerged undefeated. Ingham - already a hero from his storming performance in the futsal - and Wijesekera eventually sealed the tie for York in the penultimate tie, 5-3 with one to play.

One match managed to get through a full three points without noticing that there was no scorer - the unfortunate referee-elect had to jog the length of the court to good-natured jeers from the stands to reach his post.

But all eyes were on the women's 2s; when York pairing Morley and Beare won their last fixture to put the tie beyond Lancaster, they secured the crucial two points that pushed the white rose over the winning line. Morley and Beare were unaware of this, and *Nouse* had the pleasure of revealing to them they had, in fact, just won Roses. The two were overjoyed: "Oh my god we had absolutely no idea! That's amazing, fantastic, we really wanted to win as it's our last year!"



York get final win

James Voyle
SPORTS EDITOR

THE FIRSTS DELIVERED a much needed win for UYRUFC following two close losses earlier in the weekend.

In the last event of the entire Roses competition, an estimated 2500 spectators watched on as York defeated Lancaster 25-12.

York took a narrow 10-5 lead into the half time break, having withstood a long period of pressure from the belligerent Lancaster forwards. Yet two tries in the second half gave the home side the win, and the University of York the last points of the Roses tournament.

York's tries came courtesy of Alex Davey, Robbie Stewart and Charlie Dransfield - who was also awarded man of the match. Along with the help of the boot of Matthew Barton, which held fast in windy co-

to claim Varsity victory



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA



IMAGE: WILL PALMER



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA



IMAGE: DAN POWELL

over worthy rugby tourists

nditions, the team in black and gold were able to overcome a dogged Lancaster display, despite having lost two men to yellow cards. Victory in the men's 1s prevented UYRUFC from being white-washed by an enthusiastic touring party. Lancaster had emerged on top in two closely fought affairs on the Saturday, firstly 23-17 in the 3s fixture, and then 31-30 in the 2s match up. A Lancaster comeback saw them go ahead by six in the 2s fix-

ture, until a late try brought York back to within a point of regaining their lead. The conversion was missed, however, and the tourists held on for the narrowest of victories. York's women completed an impressive whitewash of their Lancastrian counterparts, going so far as to not concede a single score across their two fixtures. The 2s, having this year completed their first season competing in BUCS, defeated Lancaster 36-0

on the Saturday afternoon. York 1s added 48 more to their tally of 649 points scored in competitive fixtures this season with an outstanding win in front of a healthy 22 Acres crowd. In the sole league fixture of the weekend, a physical Lancaster team stormed away in the second half to win 36-10. The Lynxes led just by the as the whistle blew for half time, but a flurry of second half scores delivered Lancaster a deserved victory.

Basketball thriller opens tournament

Jacob Phillips
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

YORK'S NEW SPORTS centre became the arena for Roses' most anticipated event, and it certainly did not disappoint as York's men's basketball 1s took on their Lancaster counterparts in what proved to be the closest match to take place across the weekend.

With live streaming from the university TV channels, students watched the match from Greg's Place, Courtyard and the comfort of their own homes. The event was certainly the most popular of the weekend, despite students having to pay to be at the live event.

With an eager audience in place, the atmosphere was ecstatic resulting in an energetic start to the match. York snatched an early lead scoring early to make the scoreline 5-3 within the first few minutes. However, despite the initial momentum that the crowd provided for York it was Lancaster who posted an early lead at the first timeout with scores standing at 5-10 to the red rose.

Lancaster continued to place pressure on the York side with attacks happening again and again. A three-pointer towards the end of the first quarter placed serious pressure on the York team and insult was added to injury when York missed again and again. The first quarter, therefore, belonged to Lancaster and scores were set at 9-15 to the red rose.

Despite strong plays from Wei and Chan and the crowd getting well behind the home team Lancaster were still able to hold off their offences. Lancaster were then able to capitalise on the tiring York team and posted a 13 point gap at half time with scores standing at 17-30 at that point.

The half time show certainly added to the atmosphere of the match. Both Dance Soc and the York Hornets entertained the crowds while the basketball players refuelled. Furthermore with free clubbing tickets being provided, mem-

bers of the crowd being brought out to attempt three-pointers and both YSTV and LA!:TV interviewing the audience the Roses atmosphere really began to come to life.

Despite picking up the game with a 13 point gap, with Lancaster really starting to put the pressure on, York still refused to give up though and were able to keep the beginning of the second half quiet.

York then bagged three points to sway the momentum. Despite Lancaster leading 32-44 going into the last quarter they certainly looked the more tired of the two teams.

The last quarter looked like it would be a repeat of the previous ten minutes of play and Lancaster were able to maintain their lead with just seven minutes left of play. With such little time on the board

20 Points scored by York in the last quarter

it began to look like desperate for York. However, things seemed to suddenly come back into York's grasp with an incredible three-pointer from Chan followed by four quick points with shots from the line.

The crowd was suddenly right back behind the York team and chants of "York-shire" echoed through the sports hall. With two minutes to go York had done what seemed to look mathematically impossible and the score line now read 45-47.

With a huge push from York the scores were suddenly level and after Lancaster missed two baskets from the line, things were looking well and truly in York's favour. Finally, the match-winning blow came with just 30 seconds left to play and with the Sports Hall descending into anarchy, York had got off to a perfect start.

York had scored 20 points to Lancaster's mere five in the last ten minutes of the match to produce the biggest comeback of the Roses weekend and set up a spectacular weekend of sport.



IMAGE: MARIA KALINOWSKA

Stats Page

Find out all the Roses 2017 facts on P.22



Controversy

Nouse investigate alleged bias in the dance P.23



Hockey

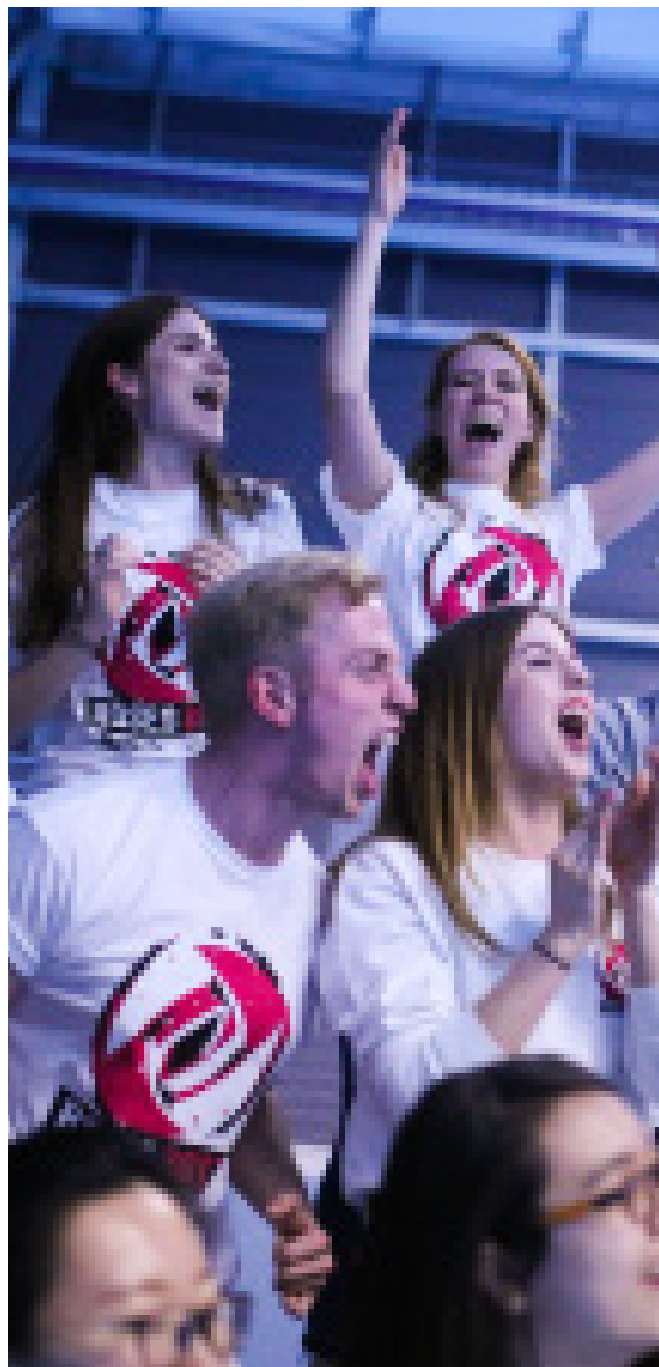
York's women go another Roses undefeated P.24



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York overwhelm Lancaster in tense contest

Jacob Phillips
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

THE WHITE ROSE was able to maintain its longstanding record of home wins last weekend when York secured the Roses 2017 title with a woman's badminton victory on Sunday afternoon. The final score stood at 206.5-159.5. However, despite the victory the tournament proved

far closer than expected. Last time York hosted Roses it was a more comfortable victory with the men's cross country being the event which pushed York over the line.

That year's overall scores stood at 227.5-141.5. A score difference of 86, far greater than this year's 47. York have not lost a home Roses since 1985 and have achieved two away wins at Lancaster, last winning away from home in 2008, where they won by just two points. This year's result leaves the compe-

dition's standings at 27-25 to York.

Despite winning by a clear margin, there were some surprises. York were able to produce a huge win in dance competitions, winning practically everything available: from jazz, tap and contemporary, to street and ballet. In contrast disappointing results at the swimming meant York lost both the men's and women's events.

Credit has also been shone on some of the more unusual events, which took place at Roses. York

took home two victories in the snow sports events as well as having a very successful Thursday at the equestrian. Even the University of York library staff were victorious over their Lancaster counterparts in their academic quiz.

However, older students were disappointed with Roses compared to when York last hosted the event. One third year student expressed his disappointment at the opening ceremony in comparison to the fight night which was its 2015 equivalent.

"The basketball just did not have the same hype as the boxing did. Although it was a great game it just lacked intensity. Just look at the reactions from the Joshua fight, I wish York had tried to emulate that. They didn't even have a boxing event this time round."

Overall, credit must be allocated to both teams for such a close competition. Despite not all of Lancaster's athletes making the journey they were still able to entertain crowds with a close competition.