



## John McDonnell

The shadow chancellor discusses students, socialism and the state of the nation **M.4**

## College Chairs

Meet the students that represent you **P.6**



# Nouse



Est. 1964

Shortlisted for Guardian Student Publication of the Year 2015



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Tuesday 22 November 2016



York reacts to the election of Donald Trump: campus political societies, sabbatical officers and university lecturers give us their verdict **P.7**

## Mandate for NUS reform

**Elliott Banks**  
NEWS EDITOR

THE RECENT YUSU elections have produced a clear majority among the newly elected delegates for 'one student, one vote' for electing the NUS President. The election saw the election of Alex Lusty, YUSU Activities officer, Catherine Yarrow, Lucas North and Dom Smithies, Community and Wellbeing officer. YUSU President Millie Beach will also be a delegate at the next NUS conference due to her role as the elected head of YUSU.

The current NUS election process for President works on a delegate based voting system in which the delegates sent to conference by their respective student unions vote on students behalf. At the YUSU NUS delegate election, three out of the four newly elected members, Alex Lusty, Catherine Yarrow and Lucas North, specifically mentioned their support for changing the voting system to OSOV; in which students directly elect the NUS executive rather than the delegates.

York has campaigned for OSOV at previous conferences. In the past five years, York delegates have tried to get the NUS conference to debate OSOV. At last year's conference, the York motion on OSOV was debated but ran out of time, meaning it did not pass.

Catherine Yarrow, elected as a delegate for the first time and a member of last year's disaffiliation campaign told *Nouse*: "having lost the disaffiliation campaign last term, I was delighted to be elected as NUS delegate, as well as to see other candidates who, like me, had made a manifesto pledge to fight for OSOV, get elected. It shows that

## York Tories accused of a culture of sexism by old committee member

• A female former committee member said to *Nouse* that: "there is a sense that women are just for decoration"

**Luke Rix-Standing**  
EDITOR

to *Nouse* about her experiences, saying that the society, under its new committee, has become a "boys club" in which girls feel patronised, and even unsafe.

Following their elections last Wednesday, reports have emerged of sexist behaviour and "targeted questioning". Speaking to *Nouse*, York Tories member Finn Judge told of how the elections were a

"hostile environment" in which female candidates were made to feel "on edge".

Former committee member and candidate at the elections, Sophie Whittingham, spoke of how, during a debate before the election, a now-committee member told her, "you don't get an opinion. Nobody knows who you are, you're just that guy's girlfriend."

Miss Whittingham stated that her questions at the election, which were submitted anonymously via text message, were targeted at her lack of social activity and questioned her ability to perform the job as a result. She continued that she could not attend Wednesday

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THE UNIVERSITY OF York Conservative Association has, this week, been accused of a culture of sexism within the society. A former committee member has spoken out



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Est. 1964

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

It may still only be November, but the Christmas adverts are already out, and with December one of the five *Nouse*-less months of the year, I'm getting my retrospective in early before anything else can go wrong.

2016 was the year that the wheels came off, ran over some sleeping dogs and hurtled headlong into the fan. First it was Brexit, then Labour imploded, and now Donald Trump has been made leader of the free world. After a year-round battering at the ballet box, we liberals are feeling a bit like a Christian scientist with appendicitis. We're trying, we really are, but it's just not getting any better.

It can all be a bit tough to get your head around. Trump voters like protectionism and don't like multiculturalism, while Brexiters also like protectionism and hate globalisation. But some Brexiters like globalisation and just hate Europeanism, which in turn means that they must hate protectionism. So if Trump voters hate globalisation but like nationalism and Brexiters like nationalism but hate Europeanism...oh sod it.

Throw in the *Mail*, the *Daily Express* and *Fox News*, and it can seem that what's really destroying the world is a cabal of tabloid headline writers and an ever-growing armada of unnecessarily large words.

As Oscar Wilde once said: "democracy is the bludgeoning of the people, for the people, by the people".

But perhaps we expect too much. 2016 has been a seismic shock for our generation,

but has also revealed how frankly spoiled we've been until now. Our grandparents emerged from the burning wreckage of the World Wars, while our parents grew up in the shadow of the Berlin Wall, the Vietnam War and the threat of a nuclear holocaust. For us millennials this is the first and only time that our political climate has looked actively dangerous. It's shocking, certainly, but hardly new.

How I long for the pre-2010 consensus of fashionable disillusionment: 'the parties are all the same!' we railed, 'give us a choice!', without realising that polarised democracy always leads to the tyranny of the majority, and that we might not be in it.

Roll on the triumphant return of Gordon Brown, clad in beige armour atop a lumbering steed, promising to #makepoliticsbor-ingagain. We never appreciated just what a privilege it was, that we could afford to ignore our leaders.

And so we beat on, boats against the current, limping towards the New Year with all the graceful optimism of a cat on its way to be neutered.

Here's a copy of *Nouse* to take away some of the pain, hopefully filled with the kind of upstanding journalism that did *not* send this year swirling round the U-bend. Thanks 2016, you won't be missed.

*Luke Rix-Standing*

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*Nouse* would like to apologise to Vanbrugh JCRC for our front page story in the previous edition which falsely asserted that the entire JCRC provided comment on college tutors' hours. It was in fact the opinion of one source on the JCRC.



# York Tories events under scrutiny amid claims of persistent sexism

**Luke Rix-Standing**  
EDITOR

>>> Continued from front

events as a result of working, adding: "I have to work so I can't make it to a fox hunting social. As if that determines my politics".

She went on to comment on the society's wider culture of sexism, saying that girls regularly feel unsafe: "there's a tacit agreement amongst girls to not go out [on York Tories socials] unless other girls are going".

"One girl rejected a male member of the society, who then screamed at her". Miss Whittingham said that the same girl then later stood for election, but was "really anxious" throughout the process.

"There is very much a sense that women are just for decoration" she continues: "women are talked over a lot," even though the women in the last committee, including the outgoing chair, "are very effective".

Miss Whittingham's comments follow previous allegations of sexism in the York Tories. In 2013, this newspaper reported on the cancellation of the fox hunting social over claims of sexism. The event format has since been changed but used to involve the "girls being encouraged to dress up as foxes and the men dress up as hunters".

One former York Tories member, who wished to remain anonymous, stated that they "understood why women members felt unsafe on occasion, given the number of inappropriate sexual jokes and comments which are directed at women at events." They went on to state that they had personally "witnessed occasions on which female members were made to feel uncomfortable,

talked down to and experienced unwanted sexual advances". They did wish to stress that "this was a small minority of individuals, and not every man within the association."

When approached for comment, York Tories Chairman-Elect Arthur Reynolds issued the following statement:

"having been elected less than a week ago I am yet to formally take up the role as Chairman of the York Tories, making it grossly unfair to suggest that institutional sexism has emerged under my leadership.

"Our current Chairman and Secretary are both female; women have always been an integral part of our society."

He continued: "During the election of our External Vice-Chairman at our recent AGM, questions were asked to all candidates, and one of these concerned attendance at events. One candidate felt this question was directed specifically at her. This was later discussed on Facebook, with an individual suggesting that she had been targeted and interrupted because of her gender - this was not the case. The role of External Vice-Chairman involves organising events, making previous attendance of events an important proviso for all candidates.

"However, we have been made aware of an allegation of sexist behaviour at one of the society's events. If the allegation proves true, as a society, we will utterly condemn it. This sort of behaviour cannot be acceptable within what has always been a fair and inclusive society."

He concluded: "to this end we urge members to come forward and express any concerns they might have. Our committee is currently investigating the aforementioned incident and appropriate action will be taken if we find that any wrongdoing has occurred."



# Students concerned at rent rises over past five years

**Anna Coughlan**  
NEWS EDITOR

CAMPUS RENTS HAVE seen a successive increase in the past five years with concerns raised by some over private involvement. One second year student told *Nouse*: "I'm incredibly concerned at the fact that the Uni seem to have sold off future rents in order to pay for new buildings". 20 new buildings have been built on Hes West since 2000, as well as the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion on Hes East. While Hes East has always been priced higher, given their better facilities, Hes West has always offered a cheaper and more affordable option. The accumulat-

ing rise of costs on campus, though, has begun to raise questions as to whether this will continue to be viable. The cheapest room available currently is in Halifax at £106 per week, however in contrast, James offers the most at £173 a week.

University Registrar, David Duncan, explained further: "we will

£173

**The current most expensive accommodation on campus is James en-suite and catered**

continue to assess affordability of student accommodation annually in the Rents Group, which includes student representatives. The Rents Group then advises the University Executive Board, which determines

rents for the subsequent year.

While some of the on-campus accommodation is run in partnership with external providers, the University essentially sets the rents for all college accommodation."

This was reiterated by YUSU President Millie Beach: "YUSU is aware that the financial pressure on students in 2016 is substantial - rising living costs, rent prices, and fees all add up and mean that the average undergrad leaves uni with over £50 000 worth of debt. To this end, we have worked productively with the University to make provisions to ensure that prices are kept as low as possible. While we understand the need to increase capacity, we encourage the University to ensure that an affordable range of accommodation is central to campus's continued expansion."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Scouting for Girls snowed in

The band members of Scouting for Girls were snowed in at the Tan Hill Inn, in Swaledale, North Yorkshire. The gig, held last Friday, was for Children in Need. However heavy snow ensured a 4AM lock in and both the band and audience squeezed into the 30 rooms and carpark of the establishment.

### Transgender Remembrance Day

20 November saw the marking of Transgender Remembrance Day. The yearly event is to mark the violence and prejudice faced by transgender communities globally and is designed to raise international awareness of the experiences of transgender persons, not just in Britain but across the globe.

### Barracks closing

The Imphal Barracks in Fulford is to close due to a government review into Ministry of Defence sites. James Blanchard, Liberal Democrat parliamentary spokesman for the City said, "the government's decision to close the barracks at Fulford and Strensall is a terrible blow for our city and armed forces."

### Christmas comes to York

This weekend sees the beginning of the Christmas events in York. The Scandinavian-style tipi has been set up for the season at the end of Parliament Street and a choir will join it in residence for the upcoming weekend. Following this, there will also be an ice trail starting 8 December.



# Campus Tories elect Mr Trump

**Elliott Banks**  
NEWS EDITOR

THE YORK TORIES have elected Donald J Trump, the current President-Elect of the US, to the position of Honorary President of the society. The election was held last Wednesday at the society's annual general meeting. Mr Trump was elected by a first-past-the-post vote of 7 to 5 in the final run-off, between the President-Elect and Mr Jeremy Corbyn, the current Labour leader.

Other nominations in the race for the Honorary President were Nigel Farage, the interim UKIP leader and David Davis - a prominent Brexit campaigner and the Secretary of State for exiting the European Union.



**Mr Trump was elected by 7 votes to 5, ahead of Mr Corbyn**

Matthew Dent, a member of the York Tories told *Nouse*: "The Honorary President elections are always my favourite part of the Tory AGM - even when I've been up for election myself. It is intentionally chaotic and mad."

"We had a serious discussion about making Baroness Thatcher Honorary President the year she died, and both Ed Miliband and Jeremy Corbyn have been regular candidates. Trump has defined political discussion this year, so pipped good bids from Nigel Farage and Corbyn. Don't worry, we've had madder, badder, politicians. It was Nick Clegg in 2010."

Arthur Reynolds, the Chairman-Elect of the York Tories told *Nouse*: "when the York Tories elect our Honorary President, we are not endorsing the individual's political values, it is far from a serious position; Nick Clegg is a former recipient, whilst Jeremy Corbyn finished in a close second this year. Besides, Donald Trump can hardly be considered as a fringe politician, more than sixty-million Americans voted to make him their President"

# Environmental protest to happen next week over Uni investments in fossil fuels

**Oscar Bentley**  
NEWS REPORTER

YUSU'S ENVIRONMENT and Ethics Network is to hold an event protesting the University's failure to live up to their ethical investment policy by investing in bonds which fund the fossil fuel industry. The Network, a new creation of incumbent Environment and Ethics part-time officers Norb Gordon and Ella Parker, is to hold the event on Friday 25 November.

The event, held on Greg's Place, which will feature a 'homeless' polar bear, hopes to hold the University to account for not adhering to their own ethical investment policy, specifically that: "the University will not knowingly invest in companies whose activities include practices which directly pose a risk of serious harm to individuals or groups, or whose activities are inconsistent with the mission and values of the University."

According to the National Union of Students (NUS), universities and colleges have over £180m invested in fossil fuel companies, and estimates that the actual figure may be closer to £600m, due to some institutions not wanting to disclose information regarding their fossil fuel investments. Environment and Ethics officer Norb Gordon said that, "by investing in fossil fuel companies, the University is failing to live up to their ethical investment



YUSU's Environment and Ethics network is to hold a protest on Greg's Place over investments in fossil fuels

policy, and in doing so, is perpetuating the harms caused by global climate change."

The network will have petitions for students to sign asking the University to rescind their investment in fossil fuel bonds, and will be distributing flyers with information regarding divestment from the fossil fuel industry in general.

The event is part of the NUS' wider 'Divest-Invest' campaign, which has caused 14 universities to make commitments to either full or partial divestment from fossil fuels.

YUSU activities officer, Alex

Lusty said, "the Divest-Invest campaign is an NUS led initiative being run by the Environment and Ethics Officers. It centres on encouraging the University to diversify its stock-holding portfolio, and in particular looks to highlight that holding bonds in fossil fuel companies is not only unethical but also inefficient. We hope to raise awareness of this issue and push the University to instead invest money in more ethical companies."

When asked for a comment regarding the protest University registrar David Duncan told *Nouse*:

"The University does not 'sponsor fossil fuels'. While we do prohibit any company or economic sector from offering to sponsor research work, research activities are subject to a process of ethical review which considers the ethics of accepting funding from particular companies."

"We are currently in discussion with YUSU's Environment reps about some of these issues. The student reps are full members of the Sustainability Working Group, which provides a forum for discussing strategy and policy on these areas."

# 3 of 4 newly-elected delegates pro-OSO



Last year's NUS national conference was held in Brighton for several days

**Elliott Banks**  
NEWS EDITOR

>>> Continued from front

despite the decision of York students that on balance we are better off in the NUS than out, they remain dissatisfied with the way the NUS currently operates.

"Giving every student a vote on the individuals that represent them on a national level is hardly a radical idea, and it does not reflect well on the NUS that it has been so resistant to this fundamental democratic principle in the past. I am grateful to the student body for voting for me, and will keep my promise to work with the other delegates to bring forward an OSOV motion to conference that deals with the pragmatic and liberation concerns of the past."

Lucas North told *Nouse*: "In March, I plan to use my experi-

ence, at three NUS conferences and on an NUS committee, to give this motion the best chance it has. I look forward to writing an OSOV motion which is not only practicable but which will complement existing democratic procedures.

"My vision of OSOV is a system where individual students have their voice heard without their unions having to do the impossible. A system which works for all students. I see national conference as an opportunity to bring reform to an institution I am proud to be a member of, and to have YUSU's name at the front of that reform"

Alex Lusty, Activities Officer and NUS delegate said: "YUSU has always been at the forefront of the fight for democratic reform - last year we submitted a policy to try and implement OMOV. OSOV is one of many options on the table. In the meantime, we would encourage students concerned about democracy within the NUS to take part in its democracy consultation, which closes on the 25 November."



## Student organises International Men's Day talk on campus

**Elliott Banks**  
NEWS EDITOR

AN EVENT WAS hosted on campus by students to mark International Men's Day. The event, hosted by Ben Froughi, began with a talk about issues such as the high rate of suicide among men. The talk, which was delivered by Mr Froughi, ended with a video of Milo Yiannopoulos giving a speech about men's issues at the University of Bristol.

In addition to this, one of the UK convenors of International Men's Day, Glen, gave a brief talk via Skype regarding the aims of International Men's Day, highlighting his background as a stay-at-home father.

Last year, the University planned to mark International Men's Day, however the event was ultimately not held. Subsequently, the University featured in several national newspapers, with Mr Yiannopoulos becoming heavily involved.

When asked about the event,

Ben Froughi told *Nouse* that: "the International Men's Day event will both celebrate men and look at male-specific issues. The mainstream media and culture generally never has a good thing to tell young men about their gender and male issues are given a back seat if not ignored altogether. Hopefully the talk will raise awareness of male issues whilst also sending people away feeling positive about their gender. In a small way, this kind of event might help improve relations between the sexes which have been so badly damaged in recent years."

Dom Smithies, YUSU community and well-being officer said "a low-key discussion event to mark International Men's Day has been planned and promoted around campus by an individual student, acting in a personal capacity. The Union continues to work with students to examine some of the issues highlighted by International Men's Day, including men's health. The Officers are supporting 'Movember' initiatives around campus and continuing to work for improvements to mental health services both on and off campus."



A poster promoting last Saturday's event on the door of Courtyard

## Comprehensive mental health study published

**Elliott Banks**  
NEWS EDITOR

A COMPREHENSIVE report into mental health services at the University of York has been published. The report, produced by Mind Your Head York, was compiled from a student service and found some alarming statistics.

Four out of five students who responded had some form of mental health difficulty, while a further 50 per cent stated that they had been diagnosed with a mental illness. Approximately 30 per cent of respondents stated that they have experienced thoughts of self-harm or suicide while studying.

For University bosses the report found that only a small proportion of respondents thought that they were fully supported by the University. The report indicated that students felt uncomfortable with speaking to supervisors and staff about their mental health.

This is now the second report in two years, highlighting mental health as being a continuing issue.

There has already been a £500 000 investment put into the services available. When asked about how the money was being used University Registrar David Duncan provided this update to *Nouse*: "we have appointed three additional practitioners, one of whom will work in close collaboration with the GP's practice on campus. In addition, we

have devoted additional resources to information and awareness raising, much of which is designed to prevent mental ill health rather than deal with its consequences."

He continued, "at the same time, with the support of Evans (our partner in the three colleges on the East Campus), we are building a new GP's practice and pharmacy at Field Lane. This will have more space than the old surgery and should improve access to doctors and mental health nurses. This project is in addition to the £500k of funding allocated by the University Executive Board."

This is in keeping with the recommendations of the report which strongly encouraged the University to tackle student mental health problems by initiating conversations with the NHS Vale of York CCG and other available support services.

More prominent was the increased importance given to staff and supervisors in aiding students. A review into their understanding and relevant training and protocols was suggested, as well as a direct appeal to

staff to reflect on their roles as ones of support, extending past their one of academic care and duty to looking into any accidental impressions that might be given to students.

Their responsibility therefore is to collaborate with students to actively raise awareness about the support groups and services available.

Including those not directly affiliated with the university.

Dom Smithies, YUSU community and well-being officer, stated: "YUSU is still absolutely committed to both holding the University to account in delivering the recommendations set out in the 2016 Mental Ill-Health Report, as well working with the University to push for more and better mental health clinical provision and services off campus. The closure of Bootham Park Hospital, combined with chronic underfunding of services for too long, has left a concerning gap for support provision that the University can't be expected to solely mitigate."



## Universities to be required to sponsor failing schools

**Ben Rowden**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE GOVERNMENT has recently announced that universities will have to help failing schools, if they are to be able to raise tuition fees above £6000.

The recent announcement, which was made by the Prime Minister, will force universities such as York to sponsor schools which are considered 'failing' by Ofsted.

It remains unclear how exactly universities will specifically interact with failing schools or whether it will be up to the universities themselves to develop strategies for the schools.

This most recent reform follows other changes which will fall under the new TEF framework.

This will see universities ranked by a new medal style system. The system will also, controversially, be benchmarked; raising concerns from some.

Speaking to *Nouse*, University Registrar David Duncan stated that, "The University will participate in the TEF, the details of which are still emerging.

"Our understanding is that the requirement to sponsor schools is linked to the ability to raise fees rather than to the TEF itself.

"We are still considering how York can best make a meaningful contribution in this area, but we already make a significant contribution through the training of teachers, excellent research focused on practical issues and the many hundreds of hours of volunteering undertaken in schools by York students."

John Robinson, PVC (teach-

ing, learning and students), also commented: "The University is developing its response to the Green Paper consultation on 'Schools that work for everyone'.

"The proposal there links school sponsorship with the ability to charge university fees above £6000.

"We are already making a significant contribution to widening participation and increasing attainment in schools, but we have concerns about the narrow way in which the Green Paper talks about universities' contribution.

"In particular we doubt that being the official sponsor of one or a few schools will be as effective as the support work we currently do with over 100 schools.

"Other universities and sector-wide bodies have similar views and, like us, will be contributing to the consultation."

## MEET THE COLLEGE CHAIRS



**ALCUIN: Demi Morrison-Bassios**

*Second year, Psychology student*

- Doing up our JCR, making it a more useful and accessible space for students all year round
- Making our events bigger and better, as well as continuing successful events from last year (eg. Galentine's day)

"As President, I would like to overhaul the image of Alcuin, helping to push the college forward, not only in events but in a RAG and welfare capacity as well. I have the utmost faith in my fantastic new committee in achieving these goals, and can't wait for the next year."



**JAMES: James Durcan**

*Second year, History student*

- Support the well-being of the college by strengthening our community feel
- Provide a wide range of events for all James members, by organising beach and theme park trips, Bake Off Competitions, a great Refreshers and Freshers Week and loads more
- Cement James' status as the best college for sport, through more taster sessions, an inter-block sports day and an awards evening

"Belonging to such a social, sporty, diverse and friendly college is what has made my university experience so far. I hope with the support of a great JCRC, we can continue to strengthen the pride we all share in being a part of York's best college."



**LANGWITH: Harjeet Ahluwalia**

*Second year, Economics student*

- Upgrading the Langwith website
- Introducing Langwith sports awards
- Increasing our contribution to charity/volunteering both financially and in terms of participation

"I want freshers to really get themselves stuck into college life, whether that be participation in sports/volunteering or even running for positions in the upcoming by-elections. Overall I want to run a transparent, fun loving committee where any Langwithian could come up to me, say hello and have a chat."



**DERWENT: Rachel Moore**

*Second year, History student*

- Increasing funding for college sport and making the process for applying for and reviewing funding more transparent
- To make the most of spaces around Derwent and revamp the JCR
- Bringing back the Derwent trip to Scarborough
- Maintaining current Club D and Big D ticket prices

"Derwent ents scene is growing and growing, but as chair I want to achieve a Derwent that meets the needs of all students on and off campus. In order to represent all students the committee will work to improve welfare provision, RAG opportunities and accessibility."



**HALIFAX: Roman Rojik**

*First year, Economics student*

- To increase inclusion within Halifax as a college. we may have around 730 undergraduates and 180 postgraduates but its important to not forget the remaining members who no longer live in on-campus accommodation
- To increase participation in college events and college sport
- Leaving the next committee in at least as strong a position as we are now

"We on the HCSA during our term must make sure that our generous size doesn't hinder the prospects of increasing inclusion and involvement, by harnessing our diversity."



**VANBRUGH: Sam Moore**

*Second year, History student*

- Maintaining free sport
- Improving our social media output
- Continuing to create a cultural shift for events

"Whilst leaving a healthy budget for future committees to invest, I intend to bring Vanbrugh events back to the forefront. On top of this, I really want to give larger recognition to what happens in Vanbrugh, especially in light of our upcoming 50th anniversary."



**GOODRICKE: Chris Littlewood**

*Second year, Psychology student*

- Setting up a separate sub-committee to organise GoodFest, including JCRC members and other Goodricke students
- Putting on some bigger events, like nights out to other UK cities
- Creating Chair 'office hours' when I will be available in the Goodricke JCR for any student to come and talk to me

"I'm aiming to increase the visibility of what the JCRC does and open more opportunities for Goodricke students to get involved within the College community. I am also looking forward to working alongside the other execs to facilitate the ideas and goals of all the committee members."



**CONSTANTINE: Charlotte Frost**

*Second year, Law student*

- To get a Constantine college app
- Have students choose various themes for freshers week before planning
- Make Constantine more community-based by ensuring more forum parties and 'Block v Block' competitions, along with making sure Constantine is involved with other campus activities

"My aims are to ensure that Constantine College is involved with inter-college sport, activities and events as much as possible! If anything, before I leave the role, I want Constantine to be a college focused on community and for everyone to feel like the committee is an opportunity not to be missed!"



# Campus reacts...

*Elliott Banks* takes a look at campus reaction to the election of Donald Trump as the US President



**Labour**

MICHAELA THURBY of UYLC told *Nouse*, “the election and subsequent appointments made by Donald Trump have been terrifying. However much people want to write thinkpieces about ‘the left behind’ or ‘economic insecurity’. These are no excuses for supporting a populist in bed with white supremacists.

“Minorities in America have been hit just as hard by globalisation as the white working class, yet

they have not turned to people like Trump.

“However, a worrying aspect has been the mainstream media response. Headlines do not feature his fraud, sexual assault cases or frank admittance to being under-qualified, nor do they feature the genuine concerns of his transition team, and the frankly disgusting views many of them have helped peddle. Calling Steve Bannon ‘controversial’ instead of ‘racist’ is a

dangerous step on the road to the normalisation of extremists.

“Yes, the global left needs to have a long hard look in the mirror, and be more engaged in the communities it wants to represent. But it is the duty of everyone in the left, centre, and right to resist dangers to democracy such as Le Pen, Modi, and Trump – and to strongly address the root cause of the circumstances that allows them to rise to power.”



**Green Party**

THE UNIVERSITY OF York Liberal Democrats committee issued a statement, which drew heavily on the defence of liberal values following the election of Mr Trump. The statement also expressed surprise at the election of Mr Trump to the US presidency.

The statement released said: “for many within our society, particularly those within American

citizenships, Trump’s election was a cause of unexpected horror in what we all thought would be Hillary’s grand coronation. How wrong we were. Never before in our lives have the liberal values which we embody not just in our political activism, but in the lives we live, been under such threat.

“We Liberal Democrats stand firmly against the cruel populism

that caused Trump’s election. We will not be enslaved by poverty, ignorance, and conformity.

“We will stand up for openness, tolerance, and unity at all levels in society. We stand by Tim Farron’s condemnation of Trump, and offer our condolences, as great-experiencers-of-electoral-meltdown to US Democrats in the University of York.”

ROBIN BRABHAM, the Chairman of the University of York Green Party discussed the issue of demonisation and division during Trump’s 18 month election campaign, highlighting potential issues which minority communities could face across the US. He then went on to discuss solidarity within minority groups such as LGBTQ people and people of colour, stating that the Green Party stands in solidarity with those feeling at risk due to Donald Trump’s election.

He told *Nouse* that: “it is highly alarming to see the election of a man who has made demonisation his central policy. We stand in solidarity with the groups in America - women, people of colour and LGBTQ people, to name but a few - whom Trump has marginalised and continues to marginalise, wishing them safety during what may prove to be a tumultuous and troubling four years.”

of Russia. He has also expressed rather repulsive attitudes, particularly towards women.

“Some of the media attacks on him are unfair, he’s hardly the devil incarnate that the mainstream media has painted him to be. That said, he’s hardly a saint. The only way we will know for sure what his presidency will be like is when he actually assumes office in 2017.”

handsomely losing the national popular vote by about 2 million people to be declared the winner. It also invites a deeper discussion of the role of critical journalism within a democracy.

“The effectiveness of the self-contradictions, dangerous innuendo and lies propagated by the Trump campaign suggests the status of the actual documented truth is at an ebb. In this sense, this election is also a call to action for scholars.”

only opportunity you have to make change!

“Write something, fundraise for a cause, sit down and listen to someone who needs you to, boycott, call out ignorance & hatred in whatever form it takes.

“Everyone needs to collectively come together to celebrate diversity, practise inclusivity and to be more kind, compassionate and respectful of one another - now more than ever.”

THOMAS TURTON, the Chairman of the University of York UKIP association offered his take on the election. Turton said, “I have mixed feelings when it comes to the election of Donald Trump. I am pleased in the sense that he supports a Brexit Britain and is not seeking to put us at the “back of the queue” as Barack Obama (and Hillary Clinton) had threatened

to. I am also pleased that Trump appears to be far less inclined to fight a new Cold War with Russia, and the chances of a new world war (however unlikely that is) appear to be reduced.

“With all that said, I do have some concerns; Trump may well weaken NATO, which could lead to unacceptable incursions into Eastern European territory on the part

SHAUL MITELPUNKT is a professor who specialises in US history here at the University. He said, “Trump’s victory presents a series of challenges. In the immediate term the elections unleashed a surge in hate-crimes and hate-incidents against immigrants and minorities (reported to the Southern Poverty Law Center), committed by those emboldened by the triumph of Trump’s rhetoric.

“In the coming months and years those who appreciate diver-

sity and civil liberties in the US would be fighting against the implementation of campaign promises Trump made which included imposing a Muslim travel ban to the U.S., deporting an unprecedented number of undocumented immigrants, and breaking the legal defence of women’s right to abortion - among many others.

“In the longer term the elections invite the revision of a political system (the electoral college) that allows the candidate who is

DOM SMITHIES, YUSU community and well-being officer, when asked for his thoughts on the election of Donald Trump to the US presidency told *Nouse*, “I’ve spoken to more than enough people who are scared and who feel like this election marks the end of the world.

“I’ve also seen and spoken to a lot of people following the election, who have shrugged the result with the attitude of ‘he probably won’t

be as bad as he seems’. I’ve always responded by saying that one can only judge a candidate by their policies, who they associate with and how they act on the campaign trail.

“What we do know is that there’s genuine concern about racism and xenophobia, homophobia, the mockery of the disabled, opposition to women’s reproductive rights, misogyny and sexism.

“Don’t just hope for the best and don’t believe that voting is the



**Shaul Mitelpunkt**  
Professor of US history



**Dom Smithies**  
Community & Wellbeing Officer



**Martin Smith**  
Head of Politics

MARTIN SMITH, Anniversary Professor and Head of Politics told *Nouse*, “the election is a warning shot to political parties across the world that they cannot continue to ignore the impact of economic inequality. More importantly, they need to try ways of redefining politics and engaging with citizens that can restore their trust in the democratic political institutions and processes. The traditional parties need to show that they can do things for the ‘left behind’ and provide an alternative to anti-democratic, populist leaders”

## STAR and Amnesty International take lead on student response to burgeoning refugee crisis

**Camilla Zurru**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

ON 5 AND 6 NOVEMBER, Amnesty International UK organised its annual Student Conference at the Human Rights Centre, in Shoreditch, London.

There were two main campaigns presented. 'Against Hate', concerned the rise of hate crimes in the UK. They identified five categories in which the crimes were most prevalent: gender, sex, race, religion and disabilities.

The second campaign being 'I welcome', which aims to take action on the global refugee crisis. Sophie Candler, chair of the University of York Amnesty International (UYAI) commented on the conference as being "a major source for our inspiration and drive to have an impact in our community."

"We were informed in greater detail about these two campaigns, meeting with like-minded people from all over the UK who shared our sentiments and were desperate to see positive change."

The priority campaign for Amnesty is "I Welcome". Presented in the first plenary during the conference by Steve Symonds and Tom Davies, Amnesty's Refugee and Migrant Rights Programme Director and Campaign manager.

It will run from 2016 to 2018, and was launched with the 'Refugees Welcome Here' march last September. The response to the refugee crisis will be a defining feature of our generation. From 2013 to 2014, the total refugee population grew by three million.

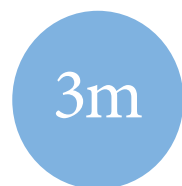
By the end of 2015, 2.5 million people had gone to Turkey and 1.6 million to Pakistan, making them the two major hosts of refugees.

Their combined total exceeds that of the entirety of the EU. The



Both STAR and Amnesty International attend conferences on the Refugee Crisis in an effort to involve York students

list of top ten hosting countries, enumerates countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Chad and Uganda. Strikingly, there is not one European country.



The number which the global refugee population grew in 2013/14

The UK resettled less than 2000 refugees while receiving 38 000 asylum claims and it granted visas to less than 5000 family members.

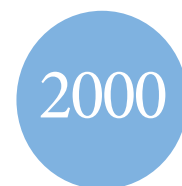
Amnesty also found that the UK favours the use of detention as a primary solution. There is no

time limit on how long a person can be detained under immigration powers. Therefore, the 'I welcome' campaign will act on different strands.

There are also hopes for an international response in light of strengthened global responsibility. The solution proposed is to increase the number of resettlement places; open more safe and legal routes for refugees; develop a mechanism to share responsibility; guarantee full, flexible and predictable funding for refugee protection and meaningful financial support to countries hosting large numbers of refugees.

In York, on this campaign, UYAI will work closely with Student Action for Refugees (STAR) as Candler said, "STAR and Am-

nesty have similar objectives - to ensure the continual support and aid for those affected by the overwhelming global 'refugee crisis' that is leaving thousands displaced,



The number of refugee applications the UK have accepted

discouraged and abandoned."

STAR is still relatively new at York, a national charity of 26 000 students across the country they recently attended a conference in London which brought together students, refugees, human rights practitioners and refugee agen-

cies for a thought provoking day of talks and discussions. They plan to launch their letter writing campaign on 22 November.

The 'Against Hate' campaign was launched on the Friday after the EU referendum vote. By the end of June 2016, reported incidents of hate crimes were up 57 per cent - 3000 a week. In the successive months, the incidents stabilised with an average of 41 per cent rise with regard to those before the referendum.

Laura Trevelyan, Campaign Manager for this campaign and 'Save the Human Rights', admitted the connection between this data and three main factors in the UK's political scenario: the London mayoral election, the EU referendum and the tenor of debate around the refugee crisis. Although, she underlined, those cannot be the only variables to consider.

Amnesty commissioned the Hate Crimes Unit at Leicester University to carry out original research into the state's response to hate crimes. The objectives for the first stage of this campaign are to induce political leaders to show leadership on this issue by publicly condemning hate crimes, racism and xenophobia, and to avoid the use of racist or xenophobic speech in public discourse.

Candler remarked: "The 'Against Hate' campaign also inspired us to think universally, broadening out our focus beyond the UK and to other areas of the world, such as hate crimes in the refugee crisis, in Brexit, and most recently in the US following the Presidential Election.

She continued, "fear and alarm is paramount; we will work with societies such as STAR, RAG volunteering, the Centre of Applied Human Rights and many more to ensure that our student body is heard and that we will welcome all, and stand against hate."

## Nouse of the World: India post-Brexit target for business

**Anna Coughlan**  
NEWS EDITOR

IN THE POST-BREXIT world Britain is desperately seeking to secure new trade deals with global giants such as India.

However, these just so happen to be the very countries which have seen an increase in restrictions on the ability of their students to study in the UK.

In 2012, Theresa May as Home Secretary removed the post-

education visa available which enabled overseas students to work for up to two years after graduation.

Since then, there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of Indian students attending universities in the UK.

Under the previous government, the number of students dropped from 68 238 to a measly 11 864 today.

This of course was followed by Britain leaving the EU - throwing into question issues of student visas and their cost.

However, this presentation of the UK and its decreased interest

in Indian intellectual talent is directly at odds with Britain's need to find trade partners outside of the EU.

At the recent 'India-UK Tech Summit', Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his outright dismay at both of these issues, and even suggested them as being a cause for his hesitancy in partnering with the UK.

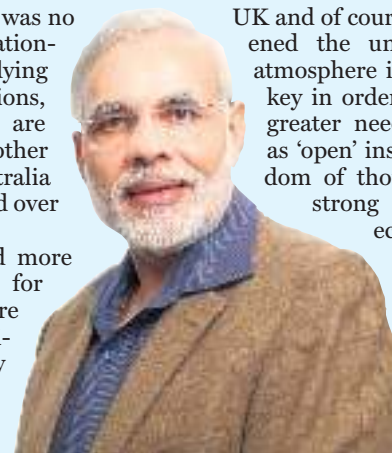
This highlights how important India sees international student mobility for the exorbitance of its businesses and economy.

Although May repeated the rhetoric of her predecessor Camer-

on, in that there was no cap upon international students studying at UK institutions, Indian students are now choosing other places like Australia and New Zealand over the UK.

Instead, and more disconcertingly for Britain, they are taking their business and money elsewhere.

The events of 2016, in the



UK and of course the US heightened the uneasy educational atmosphere in places like Turkey in order to extol an even greater need for universities as 'open' institutions for freedom of thought and speech, strong and prosperous economies.

As a post-Brexit target for business, India's hostility shows the growing esteem for higher education within the UK.





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## Student Charter? Treat us like we're adults

The values espoused by York's new Student Charter are non-specific truisms and do not need to be taught to students

IMAGE: LOIS CLARKE



**Oscar Jefferson**



Over the past couple of weeks, course reps have been circulating a draft of the 'Student Charter' seeking feedback from the student body. The Charter sets out what the University expects of the academic community as a whole, as well as what staff can expect of students and vice versa. The values espoused in this document seem incredibly reasonable. Few would argue against creating a "welcoming environment for staff and students of all backgrounds" or that the University shouldn't "provide a coherent, well designed programme of study". Therein, however, lies the first issue with the Charter.

No one would dispute these values. The "collaboration" they describe has sought to take on so many views that all that is left are non-specific truisms. Why is this a problem? Firstly, it renders the document pointless. If these views already appeal to the vast majority of students already, why do we need a document? Many of the bullet points (a symptom of the text's basic nature) are so generic as to be meaningless. Furthermore, even if we assume that some students opposed the values put forward, there are no specific criteria to measure this by. Phrases like "highest stand-

ards", "excellent" and "fully commit" litter the document. While commendable, they are indemonstrable. Who is to say whether an individual has squandered their academic career or otherwise? If these demands cannot be evidenced clearly, what possible impact can they have and how can those who subscribe to it be held accountable? The only cases which it could unarguably be shown to have been flouted would have to be so flagrant that their perpetrator would unlikely be swayed by the guidelines either way.

On the other hand, these bullet

Many of the charter's points are so generic as to be meaningless

points, however nebulous, do represent a set of quasi-instructions. Thus, there is an element of contradiction in the Charter. The opportunity to "develop their values, motivations and aspirations" is a right that this Charter affords to every student. The setting out of rights is the normal function of a Charter and I have no qualms with it per se. The document, however, goes further than this. Despite urging its students to "develop as an auton-

omous thinker", it suggests that these very thinkers are incapable of arriving at these values themselves. Instead of allowing people to "develop their values" the University has provided a set they made earlier. The very existence of this document implies that the University thinks that people need to be told, for example, to "show respect for themselves and others."

Loathe as I am to mention it, there's a comparison with the Brexit-Trump phenomenon. The charter contains similarly vague values of "respect" and "opportunity" that Remain/Democrat politicians peddled throughout this year. These public figures found that telling people what was right fell flat. To be prescribed an ideology is incredibly galling, however reasonable it may be, particularly if its high-minded language fails to address your personal concerns. It could even repel people from ideas they might otherwise have been convinced of, had less patronising methods been deployed. "Values, motivations and aspirations" cannot be dished out from on high, they have to be forged by one's own experiences.

Whilst I don't object to the Charter's values, the manner in which they've been peddled manages to be both generic and prescriptive; poorly defined and definitive. The University needs to trust its students to reach their own conclusions. These can be challenged and influenced, but not written from scratch by someone else.

## Calling all liberals: it's time to change our ways

If we don't stop insulting our opponents and sweeping ideas we dislike under the rug, liberalism will remain the politics of the elite

**Ben Rowden**



This year has proven to be quite the spectacle, and one which has provided liberals in the west with crushing defeat and seeming rejection. Yet, having campaigned for a Remain vote, and lost, and then believing in a Clinton presidency, and losing again, I can't help but feel that people haven't rejected our values, rather we have rejected and ignored vast swathes of people.

As liberals, we hold the values of tolerance and democracy at heart. We speak of our desire to give opportunity to all and fight for a world in which all feel free and

able to fulfil their potential. Yet, our image has become one of intolerance for others' views and snobbery against many. This moral superiority that many in our cause have adopted is evident all around us. Our universities, where the phrase 'they must have been stupid to vote Trump/Brexit' can be found as easily as a Costa coffee cup, are a good example. Yes, liberalism has become everything it once fought against. An ideology that is increasingly seen as a preserve of the elite.

Think about it. Our attitude has become one of 'if they aren't with us, they are against us'. From 'basket of deplorables' to 'fruitcakes, loonies and closet racists', we have repeatedly assumed an attitude of moral authority which has encouraged us to cast a wide number of people as having unbelievable views. This is not me saying that we should not call out racism, that we should ig-

nore a sexist comment here and a homophobic comment there. We have a duty to call people out and question them.

Yet, that is not the same as telling people to shut up. It is not the same as lampooning insults at our opponents. It is not the same as protesting against the democratic process when it doesn't go our way. I don't want to shut up homophobic, racist, sexist or nasty views. I want to understand them and change them. That's progress.

Progress isn't sweeping people under the carpet and ignoring their existence. That has been our fundamental flaw. We've spoken to those who agree with us, campaigned on the belief that if we get enough of

'certain areas' and 'certain groups' to back us we can win. At best we have been naive, at worst we have actively written certain demographics off. We have treated politics as a celebrity game, where we can rally around an individual and not a set of principles.

We seem to have forgotten that democracy, especially liberal democracy, starts with com-



IMAGE: LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

communities and individuals. It starts with people talking to one another; it is founded in opinion and debate. If we want to win again we can't just claim to embrace diversity in our communities and cultures, and continue to pride ourselves on our tolerance of others. We need to also embrace the diversity of opinion in our societies and campaign for every individual and every mind, regardless of their starting point. We need to live by our values again.





## Save Iraqi culture from ruin

The international community must act to save Iraq's ancient cultural sites

Jonny Moynihan



In the latest news from Iraq, the Iraqi military have retaken Nimrud, a historical and archaeological goldmine. This is more significant given that Nimrud was where ISIS began attacking archaeological buildings with Sunni descent, leading to further attacks against Sunni culture. Nimrud is incredibly important to Sunni-Iraqi culture as it was part of the Assyrian empire, which crossed the Middle East including Turkey and Egypt.

As part of the ISIS culture of defacing and destroying any culture but their own, they decided to obliterate Nimrud with hammers and modern bulldozers, annihilating Sunni culture along with their past. It was a gesture which suggested that ISIS were the future, while Sunnis were the past and needed to be forgotten about. ISIS are using it as protection; Western liberal forces are less likely to attack them as they would be scared of damaging the local population's culture and losing 'hearts and minds' as they always say in those situations.

This policy of destruction of culture was filmed and seen around the world, sending shockwaves around scholars and UNESCO, who branded it 'a war crime'. However, one fails to get an idea if ISIS

either cared or even noticed that it had been denounced by UNESCO, the cultural body of the UN.

However, it could be said that the so-called Islamic State are by no means the first to use cultural destruction as a tactic in a vicious war. They are following on from the Nazis and Hitler. In 1942, in response to the British bombing of Lübeck, Hitler initiated a policy of attacking and blitzing British cultural sites.

This is similar to ISIS as it was a way of lowering the morale of the local population as their culture and history was being demolished right in front of their eyes. Britain has been involved in eliminating certain cultures and religious

Without international action, the destruction will just rumble on

buildings, as it was a policy of intimidation and fear during the Reformation to raise fire to rival churches.

According to Stephen Stenning's writing in the British Council, destroying cultural heritage is more than just material damage and highlights why these barbaric regimes use it as tactic of war. "It is because they speak of the destruction of an entire city, a nation, a civilisation, and a way of life. The destruction represents not just the destruction of those immediately

living alongside these monuments, but of entire generations." Stenning is right, but it is also the intimidation and fear that if they can destroy your past so easily, then they can destroy you.

Nevertheless, what can actually be done to stop it? There needs to be more international cooperation, with America and Britain leading the way. There needs to be more international initiatives, and although there is an online campaign to save archaeological sites such as Palmyra, how much can an online campaign actually achieve in order to save a site in a war zone, apart from making Westerners feel like they helped save a part of Syria by one click.

ISIS hasn't signed up to The Hague Convention, and so it has no reason to stop destroying ancient sites. In order to actually stop the destruction of the Sunni culture in Syria and Iraq under the ISIS, we need a stronger international policy to fight this rising insurgency. With so many interests involved in the civil war, it is going to be difficult to protect the culture and national interests. In order to protect cultures around the world, especially in Syria, there needs to be international cooperation at the highest level and a stronger UNESCO body in order to protect the UNESCO world heritage sites, many of which are in or near war zones.

Without resolving the Syrian conflict and gaining international cooperation between divisive states, the destruction will just rumble on and on, until the culture has been destroyed.

## Louis Smith and the freedom to behave yourself

Freedom of speech is a precious quality, let's not cheapen it

Luke Rix-Standing



It's been a funny old year for Louis Smith. Once the poster child of British Gymnastics (and a Strictly Come Dancing winner to boot), Smith was beaten to theommel gold for a second successive Olympics, this time by his teammate, having cost his team a bronze in the all-around final the previous day. After a tearful medal ceremony Smith's emotions got the better of him, and his first of multiple public apologies came when he directed several angry tweets against the judges.

A month later, and the perennially indiscreet Smith was sorrying his way across the internet once more, this time for filming himself while shouting "allahu akbar", while an evidentially intoxicated accomplice pretended to pray to Mecca. Oh dear.

Despite prostrating himself in front of the Twittersphere and visiting two mosques, British Gymnastics were unerring, handing him a two month suspension. Smith successfully collected the full set, with earnings, reputation and ranking all taking a beating.

So while you're effing and blinding over the political pissetakes of the last few months, or weeping gently while clutching to your bosom your limited edition LP of David Bowie's Hunky Dory, reflect on this. 2016, for some people, has become even worse.

But while Smith's gymnastic outbursts smack of sour grapes (you lost to the favourite mate, no one else was surprised), the severe punishments handed down by British Gymnastics strike a more sombre note. Louis Smith has effectively been prosecuted for blasphemy.

Public figures are often tried in the court of public opinion, but here the outrage was institutional only. "British Gymnastics does not condone the mocking of any faith or religion" thundered the official statement, before anyone had had a chance to raise an eyebrow, hammering its imaginary gavel and waving an imaginary warrant. They take their guidelines from UK Sport whose code of conduct includes

the potential to defund athletes if they are "derogatory about a person's... beliefs", a catch-all term that could denote pretty much anything its enforcer so desired. Thank god someone wants to stand up for the little guy.

Except that they obviously don't, do they. First of all - on the blasphemy point - there's the obvious double standard. A recent Fam-

Louis Smith has effectively been prosecuted for blasphemy

ily Guy episode posited that Jesus only pretended to be a virgin in order to sleep with people's wives, while South Park once presented him packing AK47s and mowing down legions of Iraqi. Don't even get me started on Father Ted. You cannot ban Louis Smith, unless you also revoke Seth MacFarlane's gym membership.

But there is a broader point too. The treatment of Louis Smith is genuinely worrying - it's criminalisation of light mockery - but because free speech has become such an overused go-to in liberal circles, it's begun to sound like a hollow protest. There is even meme, 'freeze peach' (usually a picture of a frozen peach), which correctly identifies that the phrase has lost its meaning.

We must not let something so precious as free speech become a punchline for political peacocking. That's something we should all be worried about.

Louis Smith - from Twitter feed to man-bun - is clearly a bit of a tool, but he's committed no crime beyond getting drunk and moderately taking the piss. His punishment by British Gymnastics smacks of attitudes that are, or at least should be, centuries out of date.





## Given a rock and a hard place, vote Clinton

No matter how humiliating, those opposed to Trump ought to have cast aside their principles and voted for Hillary

Chloe Kent



Jared Kintz maintained that “voting for the lesser of two evils is still voting for evil”, that in lacking a political candidate who speaks to us, we may as well pen “Lucifer” onto our ballots. And yes, ticking the box next to the name of a person whose views do not ring true with yours leaves a certain pit of dread in one’s stomach. One which, here in the UK, many Labour voters have recently felt themselves increasingly aware of, what with the emergence of Jeremy Corbyn as party leader.

This can be navigated in the multi-party system of Westminster. Sure, it seems that the Tories and Labour have been on a rotating circuit between house and opposition for quite a while now, but ours is a system where third-parties genuinely have a voice. 91 of the seats in Parliament are currently held by parties which do not paint themselves red or blue, the majority lying with the SNP.

The fact remains that if you are disillusioned by the politics of the two primary parties within the UK

electoral system, a number of different options lie open to you. But now we turn to the US, where a wrecking-ball swings between Democrat and Republican, without anything lying in-between. Certainly, there are a handful of symbolic third parties – Libertarian, Green,

Constitution - but none of them have anywhere near enough of a following to feel like anything more than an ideological gesture.

It is safe to say that, even among Democrats, Hillary Clinton could have been more popular. A mixture of dubious financial gains, notable self-interest, and a squeaky clean email inbox all conspired together to push her potential left-wing voters not just into suspicion, but total apathy. Many felt that they could not vote for Clinton with a clear conscience, seeing her as

too scandal-plagued and out of touch to warrant their approval. Core Democrat demographics, black and Hispanic voters, did not turn out for Clinton like it was predicted they would. This is all understandable. If, here in the UK, you have felt

too bemused by the great debate over whether or not Jeremy Corbyn sat down on a train once to consent to his potential leadership, you have a number of other viable options available. But in the US, you do not.

In a number of swing states,

**This election was far too important to risk casting a third party vote ”**

the percentage of votes for the Libertarian party were larger than the discrepancy between Clinton and Trump votes. And it is far from certain that, stripped of the choice, these third-party voters would have given Clinton their favour. They may instead have joined the 97 million eligible voters who chose not to bother.

However, this election was far too important to risk casting a third-party vote, or not turning out at all. This was not the right election to push the boundaries of one’s democratic rights. It was not the usual choice between left and right. The disparity between the candidates was immense: a man who

has mocked the disabled, called for women who have abortions to be punished, with no prior political experience; or a woman who was far from perfect, but at least basically qualified for the job.

It was a choice between overt misogyny and racism, and somebody who happened to have had some cringeworthy appearances on Ellen. Donald Trump is the most dangerous right-wing world leader we’ve seen in years. Anyone would have been a better choice than him. Voters may not have loved Hillary. I’m just amazed they didn’t fear Trump more.

In a situation like this, one has to cast their principles aside and vote for the lesser of two evils. Both options may feel terrible. It may feel humiliating to be forced to choose between a candidate who will do nothing for you at all, and one who may deign to offer you a pile of scraps.

But scraps are better than starving, and we now have a President-Elect who scapegoats Mexican and Muslim people the same way the Nazis scapegoated Eastern Europeans and the Jews.

I thought that I was being really witty when, pre-election, I referred to Donald Trump as “Hitler 2: Reich Harder”. But it doesn’t feel funny anymore.



IMAGE: GAGE SKIDMORE

## Don’t call Trump voters deplorable, debate them

Trump’s campaign succeeded by tapping into a wide range of grievances which we must engage with and discuss fully

Luke Birtwistle



Unless you have been living under a rock for the past week, you may have noticed that reality TV star Donald Trump beat Hillary Clinton, in a shock result, to become the President of the US. Following this result, many people have been blaming Trump’s supporters, exclaiming how racist and misogynistic they must have to be to have voted for this sociopath. Now although I have found myself doing this, having had time to reflect, it is imperative that we must not blame the voters.

Yes, it will be the case that quite a few Trump supporters are racist or misogynistic, but this cannot be the case for all Trump supporters. Even the most cynical among you can’t surely believe that the 61.2m people who voted for Trump are all racist or misogynistic. What about Trump’s Mexican, Muslim, and female supporters? Do you really believe that

these people hate people of their own race, religion or gender? Of course they don’t. Instead, many people in the US are fed up of the perceived failures of conventional politicians.

People are fed up of Presidents being bankrolled by Wall Street. While Donald Trump funded his Presidential campaign himself, more than \$4.2m from Wall Street went into Clinton’s campaign, and a further \$18.7m went into the super political action committee backing her. These statistics would seem to suggest that had Clinton been elected, her policies would have favoured Wall Street significantly more than Trump’s will. While Clinton might not have attempted to take power away from the banks, a key piece of rhetoric in Trump’s campaign was to do just that. Clearly many Bernie Sanders supporters will have been concerned by this, either voted from Trump or not at all.

Furthermore, as with Brexit, the election results reflect that working people feel let down by neo-liberal policies. Since the economic crash, despite Obama’s best efforts to prevent it, wages have stagnated,

the public sector has been cut, and many people are finding themselves unemployed or in low paid jobs. And while Clinton represented continuity, Trump gave people hope that this would be stopped under his Presidency.

Instead of labelling Trump supporters as stupid, racist, or sexist, people need to debate with them, listen to their point of view and put their own point of view across. People like me, on the left, have been guilty of this for years. Instead of listening to people who may disagree with them, they just hurl insults at them. How is this going to change their mind? After being called a racist or an idiot, will people think: ‘you know what, I am a racist. Thank you for changing my point of view’? Of course they won’t. But if we respect alternative views, maybe they will listen to us.

You, like me, may not agree with Trump. You probably despise that orange-faced oaf. But, please do not insult the people who voted for him. Debate with them respectfully, and listen to their alternative views. Only then, will we have hope of changing their views.



IMAGE: GAGE SKIDMORE





IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA

# Mental health campaigns must go beyond hashtags

Students must face the challenge of an unprecedented mental health crisis

Mille Clarke



students unable to receive counselling from University services. Unprecedented demand has led to University services clamouring for more funding. Longer waiting times for appointments are leaving students without support whilst the services attempt to deal with the increase that is making them comparatively understaffed. The University of York exemplified the desperate need for mental health funding when a report released last year

## If mental health campaigns rely only on rhetoric, they fail

revealed that 50 per cent of ambulance call-outs to the University were due to self-harm and suicide related incidents. In August, the University followed up with a pledge of £500 000 to be invested in mental health care at the University.

The importance of mental health awareness cannot be overstated. However, when mental health awareness campaigns rely solely on rhetoric they fail. What do we achieve by vague assertions that we really must talk about mental health? While it is a step forward to encourage conversation, to draw enlighten-

ing comparisons between public discomfort with mental health problems and visible physical health problems, and to attempt to combat stigma - mental health awareness cannot stop there.

As a mental health crisis is the current problem facing students, students must do more to address it, especially at a time when government decisions are gradually chipping away at what it means to be a student, slowly turning education merely into a business transaction. A student experience that cultivates more than just transferable skills, and rather engages with the problems that orbit it, is a more worthwhile student experience.

While hashtags and catchphrases might constitute an atmosphere of inclusion and support, the feeling dissipates all too soon. A true commitment to mental health awareness is not repetitive mantras relegated to the social media accounts of our peers on dedicated awareness days. Mental health awareness is noting the specifics, learning how to support a friend in the best way during difficult times. In vague encouragements to bring mental health into the normal realm of society's discussion, there is the beginning of mental health awareness. In students' capacity to engage with issues occurring both on and off campus lies the possibility of social change regarding mental health awareness.

## EDITOR'S OPINION

### Enemies of the people

Rory Kelly



The Oxford English Dictionary's 'Word of the Year' was announced last week: "post-truth". This hyphenated adjective has taken centre stage in our national discourse and has become everybody's go to explanation for how populist movements, seemingly based on deception, are not even expected to tell the truth anymore. This idea obviously gives little credit to the British public and regards these movements with minimum good faith. It's the sort of idea that is vague enough to allow anyone to slot it into pre-existing ideas. For me the terrible and sanctimonious reporting on the High Court ruling exemplifies how comfortable both sides of the political divide have become being dishonest. This is especially true because the case brought before the High Court is uniquely simple.

To trigger Article 50, the government needs to repeal the 1972 European Communities Act which enshrines laws passed by European Parliament as law within the UK. Without repealing this act, the UK could not leave the EU. Teresa May's government wanted to repeal the act using executive power, also known as the royal prerogative. This power encompasses a variety

of things, including the abilities to sign treaties, propose budgets, and declare war. However, it is central to the British parliamentary system that this power does not include the ability to repeal an act of Parliament. Dating back to a ruling in 1610, it has been central to our parliamentary system that only Parliament itself can repeal an act of Parliament. This is as close to open and shut as any case of constitutional law can be.

Part of the problem here is that Brexit obscures all things that lie in its path. So drummed into our heads has it been that the vote is the most important in our generation, that it's hard to imagine anything that could loom larger than it. But the principle at work in this decision is one of them. Were the appeal which May's government hope to launch in the Supreme Court to overturn the High Court's decision, it would be the most significant in British history. With this power the cabinet could revoke Acts of Parliament without having to consult the people's representatives. The checks and balances that define the British system of government would dissolve.

The European Referendum Act of 2015 clearly does not give the cabinet the power to repeal the 1972 act, and could have contained a provision to do so. The fact that it didn't reveals the sinister reality that the referendum does not allow for the possibility of the UK leaving the European Union.

## EDITOR'S OPINION

### A modern kind of patriotism

Jan de Boer



Britain is an enigma in how it both reveres and condemns acts of patriotism. I have been in numerous situations where fellow Brits had complained about the state of the nation, but as soon as a French or Dutchman calls us out, we rally behind the red, white and blue as if pomp and circumstance was taught in first year. The idea that we should be proud of our countries of residence, even if we had no practical say on the matter may seem fickle.

However national pride is essential to fuel desire for a country to move forward. Works patronised to this regard include the Millennium Bridge and events such as the Olympics. These were genuine milestones and are a cause for pride as we felt intrinsically part of

a greater society. The unity created is uncommon in how it unites all under one flag. It has inspired the motivations to go to war in the past. However in the age of M.A.D this incentive can be used for greater things. From a new railway to a new Olympic champion, all things considered, the nation we live in is characterised by achievement. It's not an inner nationalist within you that makes you smile whenever Mo Farah crosses the finish line.

It is all well and good to commend the achievements of our nation, as long as that pride is metered by the acknowledgement of other nations. As much as the Brits hate to admit, our interactions with other nations (particularly the French) have shaped our destiny to make us the nation we are today.

Those who believe that patriotism is the route of evil, respect that some people still stand to attention when they hear God Save the Queen. So sing the national anthem with pride, but don't sit down for the Marseillaise.





**Stephen Harper**  
@StephenHarper

Thousands of Americans who married foreigners for a "green card" are desperately trying to find out if it will work the other way now

9 Nov 2016

**NICK COHEN**  
@NickCohen

TV full of people saying Trump must "heal" and "reach out." What in his record makes them think he will do that?

9 Nov 2016

**David Rubin**  
@RubinReport

What we're witnessing more than the rise of Trump is the absolute destruction of the mainstream media

9 Nov 2016

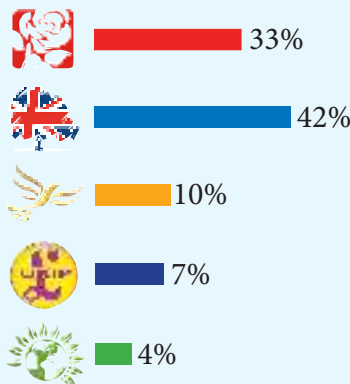
**Britain Elects**  
@britainelects

Gosh.

8 Nov 2016

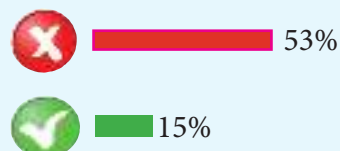
BY THE NUMBERS

Westminster voting intention 2016



Source: Britain Elects

Will Trump be a good or bad President?



Source: Britain Elects

CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should the United States abandon the Electoral College?

YES.

Oscar Bentley



Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by over a million more votes than Donald Trump according to the latest count, yet Trump won the election. This is due to the US' Electoral College system, where the candidate who wins the most votes in each state is awarded the entire Electoral College votes for that state, which varies from state to state based on its representation in congress.

The problem with the Electoral College in the modern day is that the founding fathers specifically designed it to prevent a figure like Trump assuming power. Alexander Hamilton (currently enjoying a surge in popular culture due to the hit musical), stated that "the office of President will never fall to the lot of any man who is not in an eminent degree endowed with the requisite qualifications."

Put simply, it was put there to prevent the people (who cannot be trusted with true democracy, according to Hamilton) electing a populist figure who is unqualified to take the mantle of President. The Electoral College has done exactly what it was designed not to do. Hillary Clinton's popular vote win is unprecedented. She's won the popular vote by more ballots than any other candidate in history who did not become President. The fact that she won more votes than Trump and has not claimed the presidency is an affront to de-

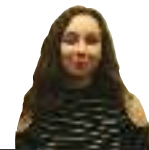
mocracy. This election has proved the archaic nature of the Electoral College. It is not like other countries don't directly elect their leaders; Russia, France, and Brazil all do and, in system such as theirs, Hillary Clinton would currently be President-Elect.

The Electoral College has not only proved to be greatly unfair for candidates, but it also turns whole communities away from politics. Residents of safe Democrat or Republican states know that their vote won't make a difference to the overall result, disenfranchising them. It is only residents of key battleground swing states who decide the election. That's not democracy. Democracy is not when the fate of 320 million people is decided by a few million voters in swing states. It's the same as the first-past-the-post system used to elect MPs in the UK, another system which means that only small parts of the population decide the overall result. Policies are aimed at these particular voters, not for the good of the country as a whole.

To top it all off, Trump himself isn't even a fan of the system that put him in power. In 2012, he called it a "disaster for a democracy", before changing his tune post-election and labelling it "genius", saying that if the President was elected directly he would have changed his campaigning strategy and still won. This is fair; it's a scenario in which we won't know whether he still would have succeeded, but at least it would have a finality that is hard to argue against, compared to the limbo we are in now. In my own terms at least, Trump lost the election. He got fewer votes than Clinton: that

NO.

Izzy Moore



Victory at any cost? Is that the type of politics that the world is forced into pursuing? Challenging the Electoral College system on its democratic merits is admirable. Challenging the system in light of an unpopular election result is less than ideal. The need to address the sense of grief at Trump's victory is understandable, but trying to avoid his presidency through this 'back-door' method will only lead to a greater and more painful divide in the American people. This campaign is not about voter reform, it is a last dying effort of the Democrats to win, to prevent the apparent apocalypse. But would any Democrat challenge the system in light of Hillary winning? Undoubtedly not.

What needs to be recognised is that Trump won. He convinced the swing states. People reached such a fever pitch of desperation and disillusionment that they were willing to believe Clinton was a symbol of the establishment, while ignoring Trump's place within that establishment. The alt-right arose from the deep corners of the web into every Facebook comment section.

The use of hate speech and intolerance became a secondary concern to a chance of returning to a golden imaginary past - one where the last eight years of the Obama Administration never happened. This is the real issue, not 'the system' but those functioning within that system. Calling for electoral

reform is a superficial attempt to solve this problem. It is an uncomfortable truth that intolerance didn't matter to a large portion of the American people, but it cannot be ignored by claiming that Clinton won the popular vote by blindly denying Trump's victory, and by putting off the real challenge of combating this intolerance.

You won't calm the fevered cries of 'Trump!' by proving everything his supporters believe about the system to be right.

You can't change the minds of 61.2 million voters by doing a presidential swap. Trying for electoral reform now is within the wrong circumstances, and it won't be enough to slow down the momentum of his presidency - it'll only be a distraction.

This is not about supporting or accepting Trump. This is about retaining political integrity, dragging politics out of the sensationalist lying dirt it's been left in. Debate and discussion are the tools of democracy, not what appears like a political coup d'état.

As Michelle Obama said, "when they go low, we go high". The anger at this election needs to be used to improve the Democrat party, not to descend to Trump's level. The moral high ground simply cannot be lost. Lose that, and you lose the ability to criticise Trump's policies and character.

It is not naive to hold yourself to a higher standard than your opponent. When the Democrat party slips into an identity crisis, it cannot sacrifice the core value of democracy for the short term or further contribute to division. In light of this election, they need to concentrate on knocking walls down. Not building them up.

#minstergram

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



@erickrodeo The great wall of York Minster



@lindsey\_77 #bettys candle #teatime #visityork



@benrowden Soon these essays will be over



# MUSE.

## SLAVES

ON TAKING  
CONTROL





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**M15** Film & TV Editor Chloe Kent discusses Hollywood's depiction of mental illness

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## GAMING

**M16** The team looks to the future with articles exploring augmented and virtual reality gaming





*“I love being part of a group who all have the same desire to succeed”*

## CHEF EMILY ROUX ON GOOD STRESS, FINE DINING, AND THE ROUX LEGACY

### How does it feel to be part of the Roux dynasty and working alongside your father?

It's a blessing and a hindrance. A blessing because I love food, and so do all my family! It's literally the only thing we talk about. A hindrance in the sense that people have a preconceived idea of how talented you should be. I was lucky enough to train and work in France where my surname is extremely common, so I worked my way up the ladder without anyone knowing my background. I really enjoy working alongside my father. Although we don't always see eye to eye when it comes to plating food, we definitely agree on what tastes good or not.

### What would be your ideal three course meal?

My ideal three course meal would probably be very unconventional. I love food from all over the world so I would probably start off my meal with sushi or nigiri accompanied with freshly grated wasabi and pickled ginger. Roasted eel nigiri is my favourite!

As a main course I would love a traditional carbonara. Made with guanciale (cured pork cheek), free range eggs, Pecorino Romano and lots of freshly ground pepper. No cream or butter needed, just simple ingredients at their best.

Although I don't have a sweet tooth, I can never say no to a mille-feuille. The

crunchy caramelised pastry combined with vanilla infused cream is a match made in heaven.

### What made you want to go into fine cuisine?

The whole experience delivered by fine dining has always fascinated me. It isn't just about the ingredients on your plate; the chair you are sitting on, the cutlery you're eating with, and the service provided are just as important as the food. All this can only be achieved with excellent teamwork. I love being part of a group who all have the same desire to succeed.

### What is your most used ingredient?

The ingredient I use the most is pepper. Freshly ground white pepper goes in everything I prepare – sometimes even in desserts.

### How do you deal best with stress and pressure?

I really enjoy the good stress of a service. During those few hours the atmosphere in the kitchen is incredible. Everyone is quiet and concentrated; the only thing you can hear are the pans touching the stove. Managing your time really helps to avoid any added stress, so organisation is key.

Whenever I have some spare time I

enjoy running and playing squash, you can reflect on your week's work and release any tension.

### What is your favourite memory from your time learning in Europe?

I spent six years learning and working in France. Every restaurant and chef has taught me something different. A funny memory would be from my time spent in Monaco, in Alain Ducasse's pastry section at the Hotel de Paris. The marble worktops were quite high (or I'm quite short) and every time they asked me to temper chocolate I got covered in it. I think my colleagues just enjoyed watching me struggle with litres of liquid chocolate!

### What advice would you have for budding chefs?

Keep your head down and work hard. It's not an easy career but if you're passionate and driven you'll definitely succeed.

### What is your greatest hope for the future?

My partner and I would love to open a restaurant together. I think all chefs have the same ambition: creating their own food for the world to enjoy.

Interview by Becca Challis

## EDITOR'S



### MUSE EDITOR LUCY FURNEAUX WANTS YOU TO FIND YOUR VOICE

I swear time works differently in the *Nouse* office. Hours pass in a flurry of mouse-clicks and keyboard-taps, and then all of a sudden it's 11PM on Wednesday night, InDesign has crashed again and the only thing that can keep those of us left going is a seemingly endless stream of Disney songs – but we keep going, because we don't have much of a choice.

Walking home from the office at 1AM that Wednesday, it occurred to me that that's pretty much how the whole year has felt, though perhaps the last fortnight all the more so. The world may change around us but day-to-day life continues, reliable and relentless, and we're pulled along with it. What else can we do but carry on?

Yet that hasn't really been the tone of the last few weeks and months. People haven't just ignored or accepted the truth, crossing their fingers and thinking *maybe it's not so bad after all*. Instead, they've stood up and demanded to be heard; they've vowed to persevere in the face of adversity to work towards what they believe is right.

Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell (Features, M4) is certainly one example of such tenacity, but you don't need to be a politician to make a difference. Slaves (Music, M12) discuss how “people are looking for bands with something to say”, while Fashion explore the development of David Bowie's style (M9), itself just as iconic and consistently ground-breaking as his music.

On the other hand, if you do need a bit of escapism from the last couple of weeks, check out Gaming's opinions on both augmented and virtual reality games (M16) or Film & TV's discussion of the effects of on-screen deaths (M14). And if retail therapy is the only thing that can help you right now, head straight to the Shoot for the latest space-based trends (M10).

As I walked home that night, the witching-hour silence was broken by the tuneful clarity of birdsong piercing the dark. It was so out of place that I stopped still in my tracks and listened. Why those birds felt the need to sing out at 1AM I'll never know, but it made a cold and gloomy November night that bit brighter.

Whatever you're struggling with at the moment – whether it's homesickness, end-of-term deadlines, institutional inequality or something else entirely – now is not the time to hide away. It's a grim time of year and things are set to get worse, but each of us has a voice we can use to make a difference somewhere if we stand up and persevere. Now more than ever is the time to find it: the way I see it, we don't have much of a choice.

### IMAGE CREDITS

Cover: Renegade Media  
Opposite, from top: Jonathan Goldberg, Renegade Media, Tessa Lazelle, Sasha Gill  
Q&A: Issy Croker



# LABOURING FOR THE FUTURE

JOHN MCDONNELL TALKS TO LUCY FURNEAUX ABOUT THE NUS, THE NEW RISE OF SOCIALISM AND TACKLING STUDENT DEBT

With its huge chandeliers, high ceilings and grand staircase, the lobby lounge of The Principal isn't a place I'd expect to find John McDonnell. It's been a busy 18 months for the Shadow Chancellor; since the 2015 General Election he has chaired both of Jeremy Corbyn's Labour leadership campaigns, taken on the second-highest role in the party and campaigned for Britain to remain in the European Union, all alongside representing the people of West London's Hayes and Harlington as their Member of Parliament. Nowadays, he's also touring the country speaking at a series of public talks and Q&As to discuss Labour's 'New Economics'; he greeted me warmly an hour before he joined the panel at the York event.

McDonnell describes himself as "an accidental politician". He went straight into work as soon as he left school but then decided to study A-Levels at night classes before studying Politics, Government and Recent History at Brunel University. Although everyone else on his course "wanted to be a politician or trade union activist", McDonnell's ambition was to "transform the Co-Op".

Instead, he took a position at the National Union of Mine Workers, and then the Trades Union Congress. In 1981 he stood in for a friend who pulled out of running for the Greater London Council and in his words, "that was it". After the abolition of the GLC he moved to Camden London Borough Council and then became Chief Executive of the Association of London Authorities, representing all London boroughs, before becoming an MP in 1997.

He joked that his fellow Brunel classmates are probably all now managers at the Co-Op, but what about his own student experience? He went to university in the mid-1970s, a period renowned for its student activism on a huge range of issues including anti-racism and the Vietnam War. Ultimately, he was more involved with community-based politics while studying, in part due to his accommodation arrangement: he lived as a house-parent in a children's home.

Living "in the heart of a large council estate with lots of deprivation issues" meant that McDonnell got involved with a number of local campaigns. He helped to set up a Law Centre and groups which supported residents to exercise their rights as tenants, and was also involved in environmental campaigns. These experiences, he said, "shaped my own politics."

All the same though, he was involved in student politics "when necessary, if demonstrations or occupation was needed", and he also went to vote in student elections.

Student occupations and protests might be less common today than in the 1970s, but they are by no means non-existent. Last academic year, students at University College London held a five-month 'Rent Strike' to protest the in-

stitution's unaffordable rent prices. In July, the demonstrators declared victory as they reached an agreement with UCL whereby the University agreed to expand funding for its accommodation bursary scheme for poorer students, reduce rent for some rooms and

“ The press are really difficult as they're owned by people whose power and wealth we're challenging

freeze rent for the following academic year, but in reality the activism was only just beginning. Their 'Cut the Rent' campaign has now spread across London and further around the country, its necessity even more pressing following the government's decision to abolish the maintenance grant.

McDonnell is more than aware of the issues at hand. When I asked what he feels is the biggest issue facing today's students, I barely finished the question before he answered, "Debt, debt, debt." Like all students in the 70s, he attended university on a grant: "you could live off your grant, and you could buy a few pints as well".

Now the situation is very different; during Jeremy Corbyn's first run for leadership, the campaign hosted public meetings and discussions all around the country, and not only did young people make up "at least half of the audiences", but "there was always a young person who got up and said, 'this is the level of debt I'm facing, these are my worries, and this is why it's restricting my ambitions as well'".

For McDonnell this was "startling". Speaking with so many students meant he realised "just how crippling it is for people", and not only in terms of paying back the loans later on: "I met a group of lecturers from one university and they actually said that it's affecting people's grades as well, because you're working full-time during term-time." I commented on the drastic rise in student mental illness in recent years, and McDonnell agreed: "I don't think it's just about increased levels of diagnosis, I really think it's pressure."

It's clear that student voices and student issues matter to McDonnell, and not because he's looking for our votes. "I keep saying it



IMAGE: JONATHON GOLDBERG

time and time again: education is a gift from one generation to another," he told me. "It has to be. And if you don't impart that gift, basically what happens is a general undermining of the quality of the education of a generation." A generation which has and will continue to suffer the impact of austerity coupled with ever-rising living costs alongside tens of thousands of pounds of debt as a result of our university education. So what's the solution?

"The solution is to scrap tuition fees. We've got to, they've got to go." I wasn't convinced this is even possible, but McDonnell

“ The concept of solidarity is that in numbers you're strong, individually you get picked on

assured me that the Labour Party is already examining with the help of experts how it can be funded, and on what timescale. His explanations were clear, concise, convincing, and based on tax. "A fair taxation system enables you then to invest in the economy, grow the economy, and as you grow the economy you can then afford the things that we need. It's not rocket science! And we did it, you know - we used to do it."

It's not just debt that students are unhappy about though. Just last year, the level of animosity at York against the National Union

of Students was so high that YUSU called an early vote on whether we should remain affiliated with the Union, or follow in the steps of students at university in Newcastle and Lincoln and leave. Despite the vitriol, York students chose to remain in the NUS (when I told McDonnell this he smirked and said, "I'm glad someone voted to remain somewhere..."). Being part of a union - whether as a student or through work - is "critical".

What McDonnell said next he would repeat during his talk later in the evening, but that's because the concept is the foundation of his politics. At the start of the Industrial Revolution "people discovered a secret," he told me. "And it was discovered by the people in the small workshops and in the fields, and they put it on their banners: 'Unity is strength'. 'Injury to one is injury to all'. In Latin America it was 'Workers united will never be defeated' - the secret was solidarity."

My own politics is underpinned by these notions, too, stemming in part from my upbringing but also my own reading and participation. In today's climate, left-wing concepts like this can be looked down upon or even, as Corbyn has been accused of, seen as 'turning back the clock'. But McDonnell made it clear that these convictions are not only still relevant but are even more important today than they have been for many years. "The concept of solidarity is that in numbers you're strong, individually you get picked on." And as for the NUS? "You reform it from within; you don't walk away from it. Otherwise you undermine that solidarity; you undermine your own strength."

Of course, it's not just students who are giving themselves a voice on issues that matter; members of the University and College Union, which represents academic professionals and postgraduates, took industrial action in May this year. It was largely reported







IMAGE: ALSIDARE HIGSON

by the press as a pay dispute, but McDonnell explained: “it isn’t just about pay; it’s the undermining of the profession as well, by the pressure of work”. He spoke about the ex-

If you’d asked me eighteen months ago ‘is there gonna be a socialist Labour leader in my lifetime?’ I would have said ‘No chance’



ploitation of PhD candidates who are often brought into the classroom to teach in understaffed departments, including here at York.

These issues are important to us as students: they affect the quality of our teaching and our university experience. That isn’t necessarily because PhD students aren’t good teachers, but because the amount of work all university tutors are required to do on top of their own research is phenomenally high; our lecturers are incredibly overworked, and at a time when universities are bringing in more money than they ever have done before. So how can we as students support our tutors? It’s about understanding the reasons behind the action, according to McDonnell: “on that base, you can become an advocate for that as well as supporting them. And if it comes to picket lines, join it.”

One of the biggest issues for politicians is engaging young people. We see it every election: turnout numbers among 18 to 25-year-olds are always lower than every other bracket, so what’s to be done to engage young people in political action? The UK Youth Parliament has campaigned for Votes at 16 for a number of years now and 16- and 17-year-olds were given the vote in the UK for the first time

in the Scottish independence referendum, but not in the more recent EU vote. Is McDonnell a supporter of lowering the voting age?

Absolutely: “I support Votes at 16. Look at what happened in Scotland – it demonstrated a mass engagement of young people.” Although it was a single-issue vote, McDonnell pointed out that it “evolved into mass membership of the SNP... and into a much more engaged community overall.” More to the point, he believes that those young people who used their vote in the independence referendum “will continue in their engagement.” Votes at 16, he argues, “makes politics real.”

That doesn’t address low turnout numbers among young voters. McDonnell talks “turning it outwards”, which the Labour party has been aiming ever since Corbyn’s first leadership campaign. “The rallies and meetings that we do all around the country are packed out still... people are pouring out all the time – but it isn’t just about people coming along and talking and lecturing, it’s about enabling a discussion and a debate to take place.”

It has had a real impact, too. He mentions that “various spinoffs have taken place”, in particular the ‘People’s Philosophy, Politics and Economics’ group in Tower Hamlets. “They’re doing a whole season of lectures and seminars around that which is brilliant.” Later this month the People’s PPE are hosting a panel discussion with Channel 4’s Jon Snow alongside *Guardian* columnist Rachel Sabi and Peter Osborne, Editor of the *Daily Mail*, plus other guests. Many of these events are free to the public and all aim to raise the level of debate and community engagement through speakers who don’t always agree on the issues being discussed.

Resources have been pumped into social media, too. “The national media have not been

the kindest to us over the last 18 months,” McDonnell muses. “In terms of the press, it’s really difficult because they’re owned by people whose power and wealth we’re challenging.” Activity on social media, therefore, is critical, and even more so to reach out to younger people. The eventual aim is to “reinvent word of mouth as a means of political communication,” he said, “and I think it’s happening.”

When we met it was the day of the US election and we spoke in a pre-President-Elect Trump world, but the enormity of the potential result hung over our conversation. I wonder if the recent extraordinary changes in the political landscape, with the rise in divisive right-wing nationalism on the one hand, and the likes of Bernie Sanders, Corbyn and McDonnell himself on the other, has actually created a more positive climate for progressive movements. It’s as though McDonnell can’t really believe it himself. “It’s an exciting political period,” he answered, “an extraordinarily exciting period for us.”

He thought back to the last General Election, after which he was clearly crushed. “I didn’t want Ed Miliband to go,” he stressed, “I liked Ed Miliband; he was an honest, principled person. And he went very precipitously and I wanted him to stick around until things were stable.” But Miliband left, and along came Corbyn. “If you’d have asked me 18 months ago ‘was there gonna be a socialist leader of the Labour Party in my lifetime?’ I would

have said ‘No, no chance.’ Now we’ve got one it’s carpe diem, seize the moment.”

That’s what’s happening right now, all over the world and on all sorts of levels. “I think get involved in what influences your own life, so if you’re a student you get involved with student politics, what’s happening on your campus and nationally,” McDonnell advises, but he also suggests to “see what’s happening in the community around you... when there’s issues you need to address, get involved with those.” And it shouldn’t stop there: “on international issues you realise you’ve got a responsibility.”

McDonnell speaks with great conviction; his words and ideas feel genuine and honest. He thinks that “everybody should do politics, as well as their own mainstream work”, and more and more people are starting to vote with their feet. “Sanders’ campaign has influenced the Clinton campaign,” he reminded me. The difference here is that the shift hasn’t come about via the growth of alternative individual parties like Pademos in Spain and Syriza in Greece. Instead, it’s come from within the Labour Party, which now, more than ever, has

a tight hold on its roots: “the good thing about the Labour Party is still its roots to the trade union movement and the working class, so we’ve got a unique experience that we can develop on.” This is what gives it so much power: later in his talk, he pointed out that, with over 600 000 members, Labour has a member on almost every street in Britain.

A busy 18 months, then? “White knuckle ride at times!” M





# PROJECT SPACE

LARA MEDLAM TALKS TO REBECCA AND RUSSEL CARR, OWNERS OF YORK-BASED CAFE-CUM-GALLERY KIOSK

Walking along Fossgate, you might not initially notice Kiosk. It's tucked in among the various shop fronts, with no glaring signage or flashy lights. The mullioned windows are often misted up, so even if you do peek in, a certain enigmatic quality remains. But it's worth venturing in because, despite the fact that it may initially appear to be just another coffee shop, is anything but.

Kiosk was set up by Rebecca and Russel Carr, a York couple with a young son. I went to talk to Rebecca to find out more about Kiosk and why it offers more than you might expect. Its full name is Kiosk: Project Space. It's a rather mysterious epithet, but Kiosk is open to all events, and actively wants to host compelling events that may not have an obvious place to call home.

While it may not be a particularly large space, Kiosk began as a shop-cum-gallery space for Rebecca to show her work. She studied tailoring at the London College of Fashion and creates beautiful, garments using natural textiles and traditional techniques.

However, after the floods last December, it didn't seem wise to store all the textiles in such a potentially sodden spot. The back room used to be Rebecca's workshop, and after a bit of thought, the obvious decision was to branch out, invest in a snazzy espresso machine, and,

with a bit of determination and ingenuity, transform that back room into a kitchen.

The decision to branch out into food made sense on a further level, as despite having always been keen on food, Russel hadn't worked in that environment before. "It was a way for him to engage creatively with the business, pursue his own interests and do something he loved too," smiled Rebecca. Now Kiosk run regular supper clubs, and their cafe menu thoughtfully mirrors the seasons.

This sense that everyone has a creative capacity - it's just a case of getting the right moment, situation and people to ignite it - is the strong backbone in Kiosk's ethos. After all, the enterprise isn't limited to their Fossgate premises. Kiosk is also an assortment of artists and makers, a local collective effectively, with collaborators working in fields encompassing architecture, performance art, jewellery, clothing and food.

York provides a good starting point from which to "constructively disrupt established modes of creative practice", as their mission statement puts it. Kiosk spins on a York axis, completely at one with the city yet also hoping to offer something more. As such, it has become a pleasing and well-earned epicentre of the York art scene. Kiosk has managed to garner a dedicated following and distinct niche. Similarly, Rebecca wistfully mentioned

a future vision: "It's a shame the art college doesn't exist any more. In an ideal world this would be a much larger space, and I'd run courses. People could come and learn and make art."

The coffee and food is served in hand-made pottery, and this serves as a microcosm for their approach. Art needn't be something rarefied and disconnected from day to day life. You can use it, consider the thought and work that went into making it both aesthetic and practical. With a rotating range of thoughtfully curated ceramics, paintings, and textiles around you, Kiosk is a tranquil, intriguing space to while away an afternoon.

Quite apart from the fact that they have some of the best coffee going in York, it's heartening to know that there's a way to help sustain local arts that don't rely on government or local authority funding. It's an organisation which brings people together, and collaborations are a natural means for artists to access a layer of inspiration that could have otherwise lain dormant. Often it can be tricky knowing where to start: who else is interested, is it worth working with them? Kiosk offers that initial spark - a natural, simple means to join like-minded individuals together, where creativity and ideas brew and blossom in turn. If a little goes a long way, well, imagine what Kiosk would do in a bigger spot.



IMAGE: REBECCA CARR

# PRESSING MATTERS

HANNAH SACKVILLE-BRYANT CONTEMPLATES THE RENAISSANCE OF TRADITIONAL LETTERPRESS PRINTING

In an increasingly digitalised world there is rising rebellion in the forms of polaroid cameras, vinyl records and now a renaissance of letterpress printing in the artisanal form of posters.

When people talk about going 'back to basics', the majority will be harking to the roaring '20s or the swinging '60s since these decades are reflective of a defined style and character that the 2010s seem to lack. But here's an era: the 1440s, which brought the invention of Gutenberg's printing press. Letterpress printing is a technique of relief print-

ing which is quite simplistic: the design is laid down into the printing press bed, inked directly with a paint roller and paper is rolled firmly against the bed to transfer ink to create the design. The bed is composed of individually wooden carved letter blocks, which can be moved around to fit the design, hence the name 'moveable type'.

However, with any revert to previous practices, old flaws glare through. To get the dimensions right with moveable type is very fickle as they have to be laid backwards so that the writing is readable on the poster. Some-

times the wooden blocks for different fonts are on multiple levels so the designer has to physically get out a saw and start levelling them up. Each layer of colour is individually and gradually rolled on, creating multiple colour layers. These can be restrictive and careful consideration is imperative in which colours will shine through. Simplicity also allows for simplistic modifications: if the colour density would look better increased, the poster is just ran through the ink once more. The outcome of this unembellished method is that no one poster is the same, essentially leaving the consumer with a one-of-a-kind piece of artwork.

Letterpress printing has gained a lot of traction in the past year in America and is slowly making its way across the pond due to its rustic, historical feel. The epicentre of this resurgence of handmade prints is in Nashville, Tennessee at the Hatch Show Print company.

When talking about letterpress it is arguably impossible not to mention Hatch Show Print for the influences they have had since as far back as 1879, and more recently for the revitalisation of posters as an art form in their own right. Once familiar with their work, it is hard not to see them everywhere, especially in the music realm as country music artists and festivals constantly ask for commissions.

The letterpress renaissance is spreading to the UK with a few printing companies slowly graduating away from a card making business model to becoming a platform for producing art. An example of this is pretty close to home: the Print Project in West Yorkshire have spun tradition on its head. They use a 500-year-old printing press to make modern, striking designs, picking from an invigorating well of graphic influences. Even though

Gutenberg would probably be very confused as to why these companies only use computers for admin, this back-to-basics style of creating art truly is a tonic for the digital age.

In recent years posters themselves have begun to rise to a new status in the art world; rather than being viewed as something teenagers put on their bedroom walls to display angst, they are beginning to be seen as art forms in their own right. A major breakthrough of this is shown with the recent addition of the piece "Untitled" by Felix Gonzalez-Torres being added to the Tate Modern core exhibitions. Gonzalez-Torres' work is manifested in a physical stack of posters on the floor of the Tate Modern gallery, allowing visitors to take one from the pile. The very fact that the Tate Modern has allowed for this to be on core exhibition shows a new appreciation for posters as art.

This movement is not only reflective of the emergence of a less pretentious art realm - one which accepts art of all natures - but also of one which aims to make art more accessible. Having a piece of artwork, or even a detail of one, on a poster can now be forgiven. It removes the sense of snobbery often so present in the art world, as the art itself has something to prove by the pure fact that its medium is not the traditional oil and canvas. This makes posters a tangible art form in themselves, not just for glossy reprints of a headshot photo of Audrey Hepburn.

If you're looking for something to spruce up your fifty-shades-of-concrete student accommodation, put down the laminated *Pulp Fiction* poster, be ahead of the times with the letterpress movement. Own a piece of individual artwork in the form of a humble poster.



IMAGE: FRANK KEHREN



# QUILTING

TESSA LAYZELLE TALKS TO LARA MEDLAM ABOUT HER 'MODERN QUILTS': WHAT THEY ARE, HOW SHE MAKES THEM, AND WHY THEY MATTER

For Tessa Layzelle, making something with a practical application is just as important as making it beautiful. Her quilts feel like the product of an artistic life lived; the layers of thought, skill and influences coalescing to form, well, something like a quilt! With a strong mid-century aesthetic, combined with techniques cherry-picked from different cultures and traditions, it was interesting to talk to her and unpick all the pieces that have come together to form a unique yet familiar approach.

As Layzelle puts it, quilting provides “a pursuit with the ability to combine so many of my interests... painting, illustration (or story telling) and textiles in a practical, usable object that was possible to make at home. Quilts tick a lot of boxes for me!” Approached from a fine art background, but fused with the enticing roughness of traditional crafts, Layzelle’s quilts thrum with a wealth of influences and techniques. Her fundamental ethos centres on “singing old songs for a new world”, and her modern quilts are testament to this century-straddling sentiment.

Layzelle’s quilts do sing. Her palette is greatly informed by an early to mid-20th century aesthetic, from Lygia Pape’s strong and scratchy woodcuts to Breon O’Casey’s graphic yet soft paintings. Although one often finds a murkiness in much British art of this period, partly elicited by the aftershock of two world wars and the country’s adaption to a post-industrial landscape, Layzelle has eschewed the dour qualities and taken the contemporary abstraction and graphic approach, along with a thoughtful understanding of colour, both muted and bright. Her quilts meld vibrant charcoals, blues, and milky whites, tempered with a citric pop of yellow, rich orange or an emerald gleam. As the lines of stitching race across the fabric, oscillating among strong patches of colour and shape, her quilts wrap up wide-reaching influences in a considered piece of practical, aesthetic design.

It’s all the more impressive given the fact that Layzelle only started making quilts a few years ago. She grew up in York, in the lap of crafts, with every member of the family turning their hand to some form of craft - textiles have always been in her life. She did a diploma in Fine Art at York College and then studied in Brighton, where she got up to “lots of abstract painting”.

However, quilting was never the great plan. As a primarily American craft tradition, quilting grew as the frontier stretched further west, and imported fabric became ever-more expensive so the need to use up every scrap going was paramount. Layzelle’s impetus was sparked after a friend showed her the hand made quilts of Folk Fibres in Texas. “I knew nothing of the American tradition, but the ‘use of non-patterned fabric for timeless quality’ ignited my imagination, I guess it was an epiphanic moment: in my head, quilts would be the answer!”

Indeed, while it’s thrilling to explore the bounds of creativity, Layzelle observes that “making quilts comes with an appealing set of rules and restrictions”. You’ve always got three layers, which are stitched together, and then you need to encase all the edges. Since the top is patchwork, your design is reduced to straight lines, triangles and curves.

Yet the appeal of Layzelle’s work lies in the fact that it doesn’t feel as if these guide-



lines have stymied her work; rather she sees the boundaries as a spring board, pushing against them to see what surprises they can elicit. Yet since the larger quilts can take up to 30 hours, you need to plan accordingly. Her preliminary design process demands an overarching approach; she sketches out shapes and considers how they’ll mingle and overlap: consistently moving things about and seeing how they work. Yet, she mentions that “in the process of sewing the pieces together, the design shrinks and warps and sometimes unexpected interesting things happen! I always start with the materials I have (it’s the survivalist in me).”

This ‘survivalism’ principle resonates powerfully through Layzelle’s work and clarifies her need to provide it with a practical application. After having her first child, quilts seemed to provide not only the perfect foil for her various influences, but also fulfilled the need to create something functional. Rather than allowing situation to limit her, Layzelle has seized it to create something that is very much her own.

Layzelle similarly picks and chooses when it comes to technique. Take decorative Japanese Sashiko stitching, which consists of white, even stitches on a dark base. The stitches flood the fabric, tessellating outwards. This technique is evident in Layzelle’s first collection, ‘I Never Had No Climbing Structures’ and one can see the way she’s developed it in ‘More News From Neptune’, which looks like a cosmic balancing act. Here the little white stitches are less linear and structural, instead standing out on the dark background like the lines of trickling constellations. She used “the natural creases found in the linen as a guideline” to create this sprawling pattern - an indication that making a quilt is about the way in which you respond to and work with the materials. The orbiting planets are circles of colour, and a comforting sense of cosmic wonder pervades.

Layzelle lived for a while in St Ives, a town which became something of an artistic heartland in the 20th century, with many having been drawn in by the celestial quality of light and close proximity to the sea. It’s natural that Layzelle’s own fascination with mid-century art and design would have anchored itself here. Her collection ‘And Waves Us Loose’ is inspired by John Piper, who also lived in St Ives and created moody, offbeat collages. It’s unusual to see quilts that so distinctly depict a landscape.

The textural depth of Layzelle’s sea is realised through appliqué triangles, flowing brush strokes and delicate stitching. The sea and waves have figured strongly in recent collections, as Layzelle notes: “some of the first quilts I made were based on Louise Bourgeois’s insomnia drawings, scratchy repeated lines that swelled in points, looking like waves. The lines translated in stitch made great graphic sea portraits.”

Layzelle fizzes with an enthusiasm; a tuned in, artistic eye that penetrates beyond the initial impression of a piece of art and finds the detail. This is indicated by her current project which is a series of small colour study quilts based on 1940s portraits by Willem De Kooning. This artistic scope, alongside all the textures, the spark in the jumble of colours and lines, makes her quilts something special. **M**



# TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

YANA WALKER EXPLORES THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE FUTURISTIC POSSIBILITIES OF FASHION

**F**ashion is constantly changing and evolving as it always seeks to bring something new to the catwalk, just as technology is constantly developing to bring something new to our world. It is no surprise that fashion



IMAGE: YANA WALKER

and technology are being combined to create beautiful art pieces. Innovation is constantly required by designers if they want their work to be recognised, and it is technology that is currently turning heads. This combination has been nothing but a success as 2016 is relishing this new trend as highlighted by the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Manus X Machina exhibition and Louis Vuitton's digital Spring/Summer 2016 catwalk.

Louis Vuitton embarked on something very different to its usual identity this year as chief designer Nicolas Ghesquière was inspired by the digital world, specifically the video game industry. The backdrop music was taken from the video game *Minecraft*, which combined well with the shimmery metallics and more neutral colours. However, the most surprising element of this particular collection is the accompanying ad campaign which featured Lightning, a *Final Fantasy* character. This choice of character is not solely interesting because the model is fictional and composed of CGI, but also due to the reason that Lightning embodies the feminist ethos of a powerful woman. This show was a success because Louis Vuitton is impressing the fashion industry by keeping up with modern affairs, reaching the new generation of tech savvy millennials.

The Metropolitan Gala incorporated this trend in this year's Manus X Machina exhibi-



IMAGE: NOBUYUKI HAYASHI

tion. Andrew Bolton aspired to focus on how technology is advancing the fashion industry, which all started with the sewing machine centuries ago. The exhibition doesn't solely focus on modern day technology, as the clothes displayed stretch back to over the past century to highlight this innovation.

One interesting piece of technology presented in this exhibition is the use of 3D printing in apparel. 3D printing is brand new to the world and its full potential has not yet been exhausted, so it is fascinating to see the ways in which fashion is utilising this device so early on. One designer who has made fash-

ion headlines is Iris van Herpen, who is the first designer to send 3D printing down the couture runway. Herpen's style involves using bold modern designs which look like sculptures in a modern art gallery. The simplicity of the neutral colours work tremendously well as the focus is left entirely on the abstract designs. It is no wonder that Bolton featured these futuristic pieces in the Manus X Machina exhibition.

Another up-and-coming designer who is making use of technology is the revolutionary Zac Posen. Posen designed the gown which was by far the most talked about at the Metropolitan Ball this year: Clare Danes' stunning fairytale inspired dress which spectacularly lit up. Posen cleverly implanted LED fibre optic lights into his design to unveil the breathtaking sparkling illumination. Nonetheless, what really makes this beautiful dress stand out is the way the traditional flowing gown style is combined with a modern twist. Posen's dress proves that technology has unlimited potential in fashion at the moment.

There are exciting times ahead in the fashion industry due to this technological revolution. The pieces so far have been nothing but a success. The scope of modern technology within fashion is still very limited, but its presence is increasing dramatically. We can only look forward to more breath-taking pieces in the future.

# THE FASHION-CONSCIOUS SKIER

WILL ROBINSON TALKS US THROUGH HOW TO LOOK STYLISH ON THE SLOPES THIS CHRISTMAS

**T**he perfect Christmas is often described as being a white one, and for many people around the world, these dreamy conditions become a reality. Forget jet-setting to Bali or the Caribbean for the warmer weather in order to escape the British cold months. What's that I hear? Zermatt? Chamonix? Klosters?

For the eager skiers out there, a Christmas spent on the slopes is the perfect way to celebrate this festive season. Picture it now: a day spent weaving your way through the most idyllic landscapes, followed by an afternoon sipping hot chocolate or popping open a bottle of champagne, and then an evening spent in front of a log burner, eating the heartiest of foods.

However, for the fashion-conscious, or simply for those who want to stand out on the slopes, your ski attire is just as essential as your après wardrobe. But what should you buy? It's often hard to combine both practicality and fashion.

High quality ski jackets and salopettes are an investment. Fendi's luxury range of ski



IMAGE: CARAVANUM

wear will ensure you stand out on the slopes, while Lagerfeld's 2016 collection boasts simplicity with a twist. The 'Monster Eyes Down Jacket' for men, black in colour and edged with a yellow zip and fur trimmed hood, is

the perfect choice. Stylish in every aspect, this jacket will never go out of fashion.

To coincide with the designers' jacket, the 'Monster Bobble Hat', made of cashmere and a fur pom-pom, is the perfect finishing touch to any après ski outfit.

Furthermore, the women's collection is highly eye catching. The Italian brand uses a theme of purple and yellow throughout their range, creating a juxtaposition of both regality through the use of colours and a quirky edge through the use of patterns.

Canada Goose and Moncler are both classic brands for any ski collection and more of a reality purchase. They are a safe bet to make sure practicality is met with high-end fashion whilst on the slopes.

However, the former has sparked controversy in recent years due to their use of coyote fur, resulting in thousands signing petitions to boycott the brand and abolish the use of real fur in manufacturing.

It may be helpful to know that many pieces of their new collection do not feature the use of fur. The 'Macmillan Parka' is a perfect example of how Canada Goose can create classic designs built to last, but appeal to all tastes by offering it in a variety of colours. Whatever your stance is on the use of animal fur, be sure not to dismiss this iconic brand.

If you are struggling to find your perfect ski collection, look no further than Moncler's Grenoble Fashion Week 2016. The show displays the *crème de la crème* of the brand's collection.

Remember, your ski wardrobe is an investment. You can sleep easy this year, knowing this Christmas season will be one to remember as you ski in style, with people looking at you for all the right reasons, and not for falling half way down a black run. Merry Christmas - I never said it would be a cheap one!



IMAGE: PATRICK GREEN

STYLE



Be the epitome of style this season with Oakley's 'Flight Deck XM PRIZM' ski goggles, available in a variety of colours.

Oakley | £175.00



Forget boring ski jackets and look to Spyder this season; their new collection is a dream! Check out their 'Men's Rocket Down Jacket' - effortlessly stylish.

Spyder | £460.49



Yves Salomon presents a fashionable fur knitted headwear this season. A perfect accessory to your ski attire! Don't miss out on this chunky navy blue knitted hat.

Harrods | £49.95



The worry of many skiers is what they are wearing on their legs. Bogner have exactly what you need! Fitted and fashionable, the 'Nala Ski Trousers' are perfect.

Harrods | £499.00

GUIDE



# THE FASHIONS OF BOWIE

IN HONOUR OF OUR SPACED SHOOT, DALE LYSTER TAKES A LOOK THROUGH DAVID BOWIE'S ICONIC STYLE



1967

DAVID BOWIE

In his debut and self-titled album, Bowie presented himself as a mod. Bowie's style in the 60s was clean and immaculate; three-button suits, white shirts and wide ties were go-to pieces for him. Simple yet effective.



1971

HUNKY DORY

Through the *Hunky Dory* era of Bowie's artistry he was usually spotted sporting bell-bottoms, floppy hats and shoes by Terry De Haviland. This cyclic look of Bowie's is followed to this day.



1973

ALADDIN SANE

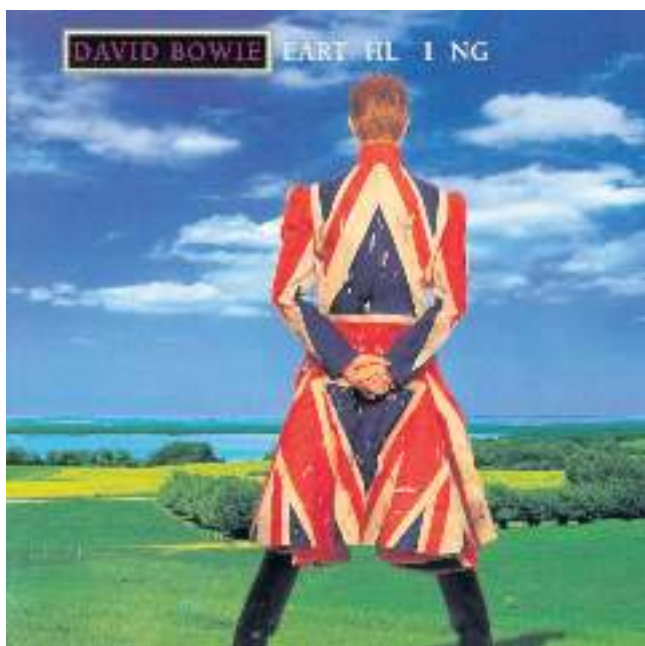
*Aladdin Sane* marked the birth of Ziggy Stardust. His haircut, inspired by Japanese fashion, was achieved with German hair dye and peroxide, and sported with iconic lightning-bolt make-up - a visual remembered universally.



1975

YOUNG AMERICANS

Exploring his love for soul, Bowie paired a quiff alongside a shirt and wide-fitting trousers during the *Young Americans* era. This eventually led to the birth of the Thin White Duke, a staple for menswear since, and a look that has provided us with some of the most famous and prevailing images of Bowie in existence.



1997

EARTHLING

As a relatively small name at the time, David Bowie equipped a fellow icon to his name in collaborating with the late, great Alexander McQueen. Although hesitant to work with famous faces, McQueen couldn't say no to Bowie. McQueen created the iconic Union Jack coat, which is now a concrete piece within the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



2016

BLACKSTAR

In his parting gift to the world, Bowie opted for minimalism, a go-to trend of his. He would often keep his looks on the right side of boring. He was known to go for a silhouette that would prevent his minimalist approach becoming boring - dullness simply wasn't in his fashion vocabulary.



S  
P  
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*Head of Shoot: Jenny Cao*

*Photographer: Marko Marsenic*





*Clothing: Urban Outfitters, Monki, Zara*

*Model: Emma Goff-Leggett*

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# TAKING CONTROL

JACK DAVIES TALKS TO PUNK BAND SLAVES ABOUT THE DRIVING FORCES BEHIND THEIR POWERFULLY FRENETIC MUSIC



music. And if it was evident in their debut album, their follow-up, *Take Control*, released earlier this year, seems even moodier again. This is perhaps something of a surprise - it comes at a time of great success for the band, and was recorded in sunny California, of all places. But the band are keen to point out that they've still got plenty to be angry about, and plenty of points to make with their music.

"No matter what's happening in terms of success, we've still got our own anxieties," noted Holman. "It's like people assume that as soon as you achieve any remote modicum of success, you haven't got something to still be pissed off about. But I know I've still got my demons."

Building on this, Vincent added that "sometimes, having good stuff happen to you makes you notice the dark shit even more."



IMAGE:FACEBOOK

Indeed, *Take Control* seeps venom, revolting against the normality of everyday life. On closing track 'Same Again', Holman wails "Same again/Week in, week out/I'll get the next one/I'll get the next one", protesting against the mind-numbing dullness of the 9-to-5.

"It's all about the normality of the everyday routine," said Vincent. "The loss of smaller businesses and the rise of massive supermarkets, people smoking... fucking vape cigarettes, being glued to their mobiles."

Holman continued: "the meaning of the name 'Slaves' to us is about being slaves to smoking, to your 9-to-5s, to anything in this shitty society." Even the band's website URL reflects this message: youareallslaves.com.

Yet, while it may be slightly darker, their second album still exudes all of the vitality of their first. The songs run at a pace of a million miles an hour, some (namely the scuzzy 'Fuck the Hi-Hat') lasting only a matter of seconds. This, perhaps, is in no small part down to their new producer, hip-hop pioneer Michael 'Mike D' Diamond of legendary US outfit Beastie Boys. I was keen to find out how such a seemingly peculiar collaboration came about.

"He was working with Jake Bugg who's also on our label, he got a copy of our debut and apparently really liked it," explained Vincent, still seemingly in disbelief at the development. "Soon, we're hearing rumours saying 'Mike D wants to work with you' and it's like 'oh, do one'. Then one day I'm sitting in my flat and I got a phone call from America, and he basically said 'I wanna make you even better. I liked your first album, but I think it could be even better', and it basically all spiralled from there."

The band, however, while being "immensely honoured", in the words of Holman, never found themselves too in awe of the situation to make light of it - Holman sings "He used to be a Beastie Boy/But now he works for me" in a tongue-in-cheek strike at his new producer on 'People That You Meet'.

Furthermore, the band were determined to 'take control', so to speak, in regards to their second album.

"With the success of the first, it would have been so easy to just switch off and let the label sort out recording, release dates, tours and all of that," points out Vincent. "They hadn't heard anything, no demos whatsoever. We just went off to the studio in California, recorded it and gave it in. That's what it's about; taking control."

Talk soon turned to their unexpected nomination for the 2015 Mercury Music Prize for *Are You Satisfied?*. At the time, they didn't realise the magnitude such an accolade carried, and it was only when Vincent was "watching it this year when it dawned... how big it was."

Holman, though, is keen to emphasise that awards and accolades are not what the band is about, and that they are too grounded to let this affect them negatively: "You can see how people lose their way with a bit of a success, build their careers on winning awards.



That's not going to happen to us."

"It's weird as well, because if we didn't have that success, we'd still be making music anyway," added Vincent. "But we do, and with it comes this massive scrutiny, people reviewing us as if they know what our aims are, what we're trying to do, using it as some guideline to determine any further success. We don't really give a shit what you [the reviewers] think anyway, don't come to our gigs, don't buy our records."

Conversation with Slaves, much like their music, flows at a break-neck pace. It encompasses their influences (Vincent lists Crass, Gang of Four, The Clash and Iggy and the Stooges as particular inspirations, with Holman adding more modern artists: Jamie T stands as a "massive influence" to the band), their origins (Holman: "we're proudly Kent

Boys. We aren't pretending to be anything else), and a longing for the more halcyon days of their parents' era (Vincent: "they had it so much better in terms of music, sense of community").

In their live performances, their adrenaline and energy is what makes them stand out as one of the most exciting acts in the live music scene today, with Vincent playing

“The label hadn't heard anything, we just recorded it and gave it in. That's what it's about; taking control”

a cool and more subdued Ying to Holman's bawling, emphatic and often shirtless Yang. And what makes their overtly engaging live music even more impressive is the fact that there are only two of them making a racket loud enough to transform a room full of gig-goers into a cacophonously frenzied, bouncing, gurgling mess.

The band recently embarked on their 'Back in the Van' tour, prior to their main tour for *Take Control*, where they played numerous tiny venues across the country.

Holman described it as "quite a grounding experience", noting that "it was cool to play in towns that bands don't really pass through, and give them a bit of a shock." This shock factor Holman talks about, this ability to send a crowd into hysteria, is something the band clearly strive for; the atmosphere at their gigs is incredibly vibrant.

"As soon as we get on stage," explained Holman, "we just look at each other, the adrenaline kicks in, and it's like 'fucking hell, this is electric'. When I look at Laurie and our eyes meet, everything kicks off."

"Weirdly, with two of us, I think there's more to bounce off," added Vincent, considering the effect of their stripped-down two person ensemble. "It's more raw, that energy that we have."

At the end of our meeting, I was keen to know what Slaves want for the future, whether they're even slightly tempted to want number one albums, festival headline slots, more awards, accolades and the like. Holman was resolute in his response.

"They're not the goal, it's nice to be recognised, but they're just ego things. For us, we're living the dream, we're living off of our creativity, off of what we want to do. Let's see how far we can take it." M



IMAGE:RENEGADE MEDIA

“Nowadays, people are always gonna find something to be pissed off about.”

So said Isaac Holman, frontman and drummer in Tunbridge Wells punk duo Slaves backstage before their show at the O2 Academy of Leeds. This was his response to my question about the controversy surrounding the obvious connotations of the band's name, but ironically reflects their approach to music - they seem perpetually and unashamedly pissed off.

The two-piece, comprised of Holman and guitarist and bassist Laurie Vincent, formed in Kent in 2012 and have found themselves key proponents of a revival of punk music. They have released two Top 10 UK albums, played numerous prodigious festivals including Glastonbury, T in the Park and Reading & Leeds, and even received a Mercury Prize nomination in 2015 for their debut, *Are You Satisfied?*. But how has punk, a genre that seemed consigned to the past other than for the lightweight, pop-punk stylings of the likes of Green Day, been able to see a resurgence in a music industry awash with manufactured pop and safe stadium rock?

"We're in a dark, deep place at the moment," said Holman. "People are looking for

“We're in a dark, deep place at the moment. People are looking for bands who have something to say”

bands who have something to say.”

"There's a big divide between the higher powers and normal people, and it's getting bigger," continued Vincent. "It's like how George Orwell describes the proles in *1984*, as if normal people are oblivious. These normal people who voted for Trump are people who are angry. They got their say, but now they're wondering if they used it properly."

This darkness, this anger with the status quo of things, is almost tangible in Slaves'



# EVERYTHING WE'VE COME TO EXPECT?

HENRY BROWN ON THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF THE LAST SHADOW PUPPETS



Earlier this year, the coolest duo in music announced their long anticipated return after eight years. Their second album, *Everything You've Come to Expect*, released in April, hit number one in the UK, and was followed by a tour that encompassed much of Europe and the US. Their return to the stage has also seen them perform at festivals such as Glastonbury and Coachella.

There is a notable difference in style between their two albums. On their debut, *The*

*Age of the Understatement* (2008), Alex Turner and Miles Kane experimented with an orchestral feel, taking influence from renowned composer, Ennio Morricone. However, their sophomore effort is drastically different. Notably, Turner's vocals shift from the youthful delivery that we were used to from his early Arctic Monkeys days, to the deeper, more mature style of *AM*.

However, the more drastic change in *The Last Shadow Puppets* comes in the form of

their live performances. As opposed to the British appearance of their early days, wearing suits and haircuts reminiscent of '60s Mods, Turner and Kane opted for a more extravagant and almost 'sleazy' style, with a clear Californian feel. This year, the stage has seen them emerge in tailored suits in a range of vibrant colours paired with reveré collared and buttoned down shirts, whilst also sporting smoking jackets, kimonos, and the occasional necktie.

In terms of stage presence, Alex Turner's performances are as flamboyant as his outfits. As opposed to his time with the Arctic Monkeys, it seems as though Turner is in his element when he isn't pinned down to one spot by a guitar. He freely roams around the stage in a similar manner to Morrissey in his Smiths days. In fact, by ditching the guitar, Turner has certainly become a more traditional frontman and, as a result, seems more confident than ever. As for Miles Kane, his energy is also infectious, and his guitar playing ability continues to impress.

Their latest tour has seen them cover many songs, most notably David Bowie's 'Moonage Daydream'. The duo's performance of this song perfectly demonstrates all these new qualities, such as Turner's flamboyance and strong vocal performance, in addition to Kane's extraordinary instrumentation. Seeing and hearing Miles Kane play the solo for this song live is truly mesmerising; it was a stand-out moment when I saw them play at the Alexandra Palace back in July.

Recently, it has seemed as though the

band's second coming had come to an end, until they announced a new six-song EP entitled *The Dream Synopsis EP*, which will include two alternate recordings from *Everything You've Come To Expect* as well as four covers, to be released on 2 December. This has left fans unsure of whether the supergroup are finished for now or if they have anymore surprises.

However, I expect that Kane will continue to pursue his solo career next year, while Turner regroups with the Arctic Monkeys. The drastic change in Turner's stage presence certainly sparks a lot of curiosity among fans regarding the style of any new Arctic Monkeys material, mainly due to what appears to be his newly found preference of performing without a guitar as a more eccentric, yet brilliant, frontman.



## CHANGING THE SCENE

ELLIE LANGFORD SPEAKS TO DROP. DIRECTOR JAMES CAVEN

From house parties to sell-out club nights, Drop. has quickly become one of the biggest names in York's underground scene. "Drop. started as an outlet for our DJs to play the music they wanted to play and to provide a sound that no one else was catering for," explains director James Caven.

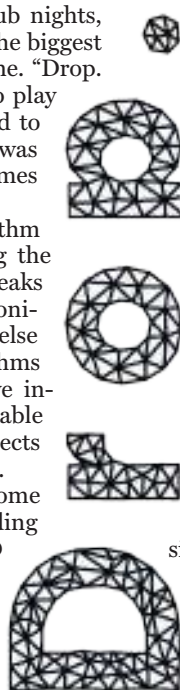
Their nights are all about rhythm and grime, a scene that is hitting the mainstream hard right now. "It speaks to our generation", says Caven. "Sonically grime is a sound like nothing else with fast, hard-hitting drum rhythms that awaken something instinctive inside you. Add to that mix real, relatable bars - and you can see why it connects with our generation in such a way".

Drop. have already brought some incredible artists to York, including scene idols Section Boyz and D Double. "One show that particularly stands out is our Ms Dynamite show. It felt like we really stepped our levels up that night... everything just clicked". They al-

ready have so much going for them, and yet Drop. is just getting started.

This term Drop. is bringing UK Funky to York - a sound that heavily influence Drake's *Views* album - featuring Roska, Crazy Cousinz and many more. "With another star-studded line-up and with even more experience under our belts - this looks set to be one of our best events to date", promises Caven. The night hits Fibbers on 28 November, and it will clearly be an end of term party to remember for everyone in attendance.

So, what does 2017 hold for this ever-motivated collective? There have been some hints of big names including Zed Bias, Sneakbo and Trigga, as well as plans for an exciting expansion. "Without giving too much away: our current project is looking at providing a collective platform for creatives in London". All we can say is, watch this space; big things are happening at Drop.



## DIE ANTWOORD

### MOUNT NINJI AND DA NICE TIME KID

LYDIA SHU



Having seen four albums saturated with violent satirical hyperbole, some have grown to tire of their zef rave-rap, while others find their *Mount Ninji and Da Nice Time Kid* ultimately frustrating as it never achieves the seismic shift the band promised.

Yet the new album embodies an interesting growth in both theme and sound. While still ridden with braggadocio in tracks 'Stoopid Rich' and 'Peanutbutter + Jelly', there are fewer rave tracks on the album, but more emotive material, Yolandi adopting a more personal and vulnerable approach.

'Darkling' sings of how "mommy didn't want me". 'Alien' tells of the bullying and isolation Yolandi faced at school, featuring a creepy music-box. It is melancholic, nostalgic, and drips of vengeance and resentment.

In 'Street Light', while Ninja croons about the murder he commits, there is an



obvious layer of social commentary on the dysfunctionality of the South African system ("in Africa everything broken") and the desperation with which each person "just live to fight another day".

Needless to say, Die Antwoord still managed to keep their tongue-in-cheek humour, most notably in 'Wings on My Penis' that features six-year-old Lil Tommy Terror who has an obsession with drawing penises everywhere. While surprising and a bit of a departure from their usual, *Mount Ninji* is definitely worth a listen.

## SHIT MUSICIANS SAY.

Mick Jagger on Donald Trump's election as US President

"Just was watching the news... maybe they'll ask me to sing 'You Can't Always Get What You Want' at the inauguration, ha!"



# MASS EXTINCTION

LUKE RIX-STANDING TAKES A LOOK AT THE SUBTLY SOCIOPATHIC LANGUAGE OF ON-SCREEN DEATH

**M**ovies kill a lot of people. Whether it's John Hurt in *Alien*, Janet Leigh in *Psycho*, or the entire cast of *Final Destination 4*, if you're going to get into film you'd better get a serious taste for the macabre. Sometimes they die completely by accident, sometimes they're brutally ax-murdered while listening to Huey Lewis, and sometimes they don't even realise that they're dead. It happens all the time: just ask Sean Bean.

Perhaps it's fortunate then, that there's a sadistic voyeur tucked away inside each of us that enjoys the spectacle of watching our fellow man meet his maker. It creates excitement and jeopardy; we're relieved that it's happening to someone else, plus it appeases that 'sex and death' obsession that you doubtless explored during GCSE English. The catch is that within the framework of popcorn filmmaking – that is, big-budget entertainment not intended to shock or challenge – too much untimely slaughter rather dampens the mood. Few mid-August moviegoers swing by their

“ Few moviegoers swing by their local Odeon to stare down the barrel of their own mortality

local Odeon to stare down the barrel of their own mortality. This is the line that blockbusters must toe; a sense of genuine danger, but nothing that interferes with our free and easy enjoyment of the film.

What this means is that on-screen death must be handled carefully. *Independence Day* wouldn't have enraptured nearly so many 12-year-olds if the famous White House scene had come complete with roasted children, blood-curdling death throes, and mutilated family pets. Every time a mainstream movie kills off one of its characters it writes a moral contract with its audience – the death is made excusable, and in return we stay away from thoughts like 'he had a family' and continue to be entertained. It's a crucial duty for any blockbuster director, to keep us morally onside.

They achieve this in a number of ways, and as the *Citizen Kane* of summer blockbusters, *Jurassic Park* showcases a few of them. First there are the villains: characters that everyone wants to see suffer, these guys allow the twisted minds of lonely screenwriters to live out their deepest, darkest fantasies. In *Jurassic Park* our hapless



bogeyman Dennis Nedry gets the full treatment: a faceful of dino goo, a tumble in the mud and a wide shot of a shaking car. Secondly, there's the 'poetic' or 'redemptive' demise. Muldoon is case in point: familiar with raptor hunting patterns and never seen without a shotgun, it's a surprise to no one when the rugged dino trainer is outwitted and savaged by his own animals. Thirdly, we have 'symbols of the struggle', such as the unfortunate computer programmer Arnold. Put simply, his death is there to ensure that the good guys don't win too easily.

The point is that good characters can have deaths that are meaningful, but in a family-friendly schlockfest they cannot be enjoyable. For us to get our cadaverous kicks the director must find other ways of morally excusing the carnage. Let's take the character of Gennaro, whose death couldn't have been more inevitable if he were draped in goat meat and t-rex pheromone. Firstly (whisper it quietly), he's a lawyer. From the moment you find this out Gennaro is in danger – lawyers rank behind only politicians and serial killers in the list of least empathetic Hollywood occupations. Secondly, he's obsessed with money. The boos are getting louder now: sporting a suit as grey as his personality, this consummate exercise in corporate facelessness discusses park finances with the enthusiasm of a hungover sloth. Finally, by leaving the children in the car and fleeing in terror, he displays that most deadly of Hollywood sins – cowardice. Three strikes, and Gennaro has earned himself a one-way ticket to chomptown. Good riddance you money-grubbing, child-hating lawyer bastard.

The point is that Gennaro has been specifically tailored to be a death the audience can righteously enjoy. Obviously he doesn't deserve his demise – his only crimes are to do his job and be afraid of a 50-foot tyrannosaur – but Spielberg and co. successfully

trick us into believing that he does. We get to enjoy the predatory magnificence of a giant dino, without the uncomfortable distraction of morally incongruous violence. Confident in our collaboration, the film even throws in some comedy; quite literally devoured on the toilet, it's as humorous as it is pathetic. This is what happens to cowards kids, they get turned into dino poop.

This process is perhaps at its most obvious

“ We're invited to revel in every scream and flail; to light-heartedly enjoy a scene of visceral brutality

when it goes wrong: in more recent prehistoric picture *Jurassic World*, Zara, a minor character, gets a death to make Eli Roth wince. Snatched up by a pteradon, twice nearly drowned, flung around in the air, and

then eventually chomped by a Mosasaurus, the almost-minute long sequence delights in showcasing every inch of Zara's torment. The direction is classic for the voyeurism of blockbuster excitement – quick cuts with close-ups, POV shots and multiple angles – while the upbeat, *Scooby Doo* score nudges us towards a wide-eyed grin. We're invited to revel in every scream and flail; to light-heartedly enjoy a scene of visceral brutality. A quick Google reveals whole articles and online forums dedicated to the 'unusual cruelty' of Zara's end, with many debating just what she'd done to warrant such an horrendous fate. Personally, I left the cinema feeling slightly ill, and if the internet is anything to go by, I wasn't alone.

This method of 'sin exaggeration' isn't the only sleight of hand in the directorial arsenal – there's also visiting the sins of the commander upon the commanded. In 2009's *Avatar*, soldier-gone-native Jake Sully fights a war of independence to save the peace-loving Na'vi from the unerringly nasty Colonel Miles Quaritch. While triumphalist music plays, we're invited to cheer as these giant blue naturalists slaughter their human counterparts; we watch smugly from the comfort of our moral high ground as our plucky protagonist mercilessly mows down his former comrades. South African thriller *District 9* is next on the butchering-former-friends bandwagon, as person-turned-bug-monster Martin Van der Beek eviscerates an entire squad of his peers for moral shortcomings that only their captain displayed. In both cases, if the human commander were just a little bit less of a dick, then the piles of human dead would take on a rather different moral complexion.

Blockbusters have never particularly frightened me – CGI dinos and giant alien plasma rays have rarely elicited more than a raised eyebrow and a stifled yawn. What scares me a little more is how easy it is for Spielberg, Cameron and cronies to manipulate my moral compass to fit with their 'artistic' demands. The language of cinematic tone is subtle and complex, but most of all it relies on the relentlessly cruel and judgemental subconscious of its audience. So next time you trot down to your local multiplex, consider whether that young, oversexed, slightly right-wing litterbug who just used the phrase 'what could possibly go wrong', really deserved to be impaled by that giant ice cream cone, or whether it's just convenient for the director to make you think that he did. **M**





# CLINICAL ERRORS

CHLOE KENT DISCUSSES HOLLYWOOD'S POOR TREATMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH



The name of M. Night Shyamalan has become widely scorned, following the nosedive of his career which began around the same time as *The Village*. That said, when I saw that he had yet another piece scheduled for release I wondered if maybe he'd redeemed himself. No such luck, I fear.

*Split*, slated to be released in early 2017, tells the story of three girls kidnapped by Kevin (James McAvoy), a man with dissociative identity disorder. He has 23 different personalities, some good, some bad. In advance screenings to critics, it's done pretty well, currently holding a score of 78 per cent on Rotten Tomatoes, a far cry from the 6 per cent of *The Last Airbender*. So it's not the quality of filmmaking that I'm apprehensive about here. It's how, just like in Shyamalan's 2015 effort *The*

*Visit*, it ties into a trope unflinchingly common throughout film history - that of the malicious mentally ill.

Cinema has been bad news for this subsection of society for a while now: whether they're masquerading as your estranged grandparents who lie slain in the basement, shooting up your school, or stabbing you to death while you're trying to take a shower in their motel, the message is pretty clear. 'Mentally ill' equals a violent, dangerous, collective of individuals who ought to be shunned and feared. Never mind that one in four people in the UK alone will experience some sort of mental health problem each year, without going on to commit some act of ruthless barbarity, or that the majority of violent crimes and homicides are committed by people who do

not have any mental health issues. This is a much easier way to string together a plotline. Don't bother giving the bad guy a genuine, well-thought out motive for doing what they do. No need to make things interesting. Just make them crazy and hey presto, an explanation for it all. Good to get that squared away.

To see this on-screen is not only insulting, it's lazy storytelling. It's not that the writing of every character in cinema who is both mentally ill and a bad person, or at least does bad things, is an error in judgement. I am not maintaining that all portrayals of mental health on-screen should be poetic *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* affairs, or that a scary movie with a schizophrenic villain or a drama where anxiety makes a character lash out shouldn't be commissioned, lest it hurt some-

one's feelings. Sure, give the antagonist a personality disorder, but don't make it the only explanation for why they do what they do. In *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, the titular Kevin (Ezra Miller) is clearly not the most stable of individuals, but it's the poor relationship he has with his mother which is the centrepiece of the film, the catalyst for the events to come, rather than mental illness alone. That's how it should be done.

When mental health issues are presented as the sole cause of the 90-odd minutes of plot one has just digested, it feels cheap. It feels like the filmmakers do not respect their audience. Vulnerable people are used as scapegoats for bad writing. Hollywood could do with realigning its perception of the issue, because right now, it's not good enough.

## THE HANDMAIDEN

CHLOE KENT

★★★★★

The latest offering from Chan-Wook Park may well be his masterpiece. Slick, sexy, and stunningly beautiful, it's the classic Park cocktail of lust and grotesquery - it'll leave your toes curling for one reason or another, at any rate.

Inspired by Sarah Waters' novel *Fingersmith*, the film feels much more like a tribute

to the original work than an authentic recreation, deviating from the original plotline entirely by the end of its second act. It's also been relocated over 5000 miles to the east, to the Japanese occupied Korea of the 1930s, rather than Victorian London.

Kim Tae-Ri plays Sook-Hee, an orphaned pickpocket who is hired as handmaiden to a Japanese heiress named Hideko (Kim Min-Hee). But there's more to this arrangement than meets the eye - Sook-Hee is embroiled in a plot to have Hideko declared insane, so that she and a con artist, dubbing himself Count Fujiwara (Ha Jung-Woo) may steal her inheritance while she is institutionalised. In an arc which feels quite inevitable, Sook-Hee finds herself falling for the other woman.

It's difficult to discuss the film without reference to the myriad lesbian sex scenes, which have been on the tips of many a critic's tongue. They've been labelled as gratuitous - Park's male gaze projected onto a relationship between two women.

But the male characters in the film seem snivelling and pitiful, impotent patriarchal voyeurs, and the passions of Sook-Hee and Hideko feel like a means by which they may transcend the male-dominated world they find themselves in, as well as begin to explore one another. They're not scenes you'd want to watch with your mother, but they don't feel as though they're put in there to be pornographic - a far cry from the male masturbatory fantasies of *Blue is the Warmest Colour*.

The direction is masterful, the performances enthralling, the narrative a delectable course of twists. It's charming, alluring, and at times very consciously funny. Come for the skeletons in the closet, stay for the octopi in the basement.



## IT'S ONLY THE END OF THE WORLD

ANDREW YOUNG

★★★★★

Xavier Dolan has not been given the easiest of rides with his new film. It has been talked about as a pretty much insufferable experience, with a 44 per cent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes, and is hardly likely to become a crowd-pleasing box-office smash. I respectfully disagree with the world's consensus.

Gaspard Ulliel plays Louis, a playwright who returns home having not seen his family in over a decade, a decade which has seen his younger sister Suzanne (Léa Seydoux) grow from child to adult, his brother Antoine (Vincent Cassel) marry a woman Louis has never met (Marion Cotillard), and resentment levels towards him bubble significantly throughout the family. The tension is upped by the fact Louis is returning to tell his family that he is dying from an AIDS-related illness.

The next 90 minutes are heavy with the enormous emotional crisis Louis is confronting. This continual building of tension and layer upon layer of personal strife is unpalatable for some but works extremely effectively in highlighting the turmoil at this family's centre.

It is understandable why some people find Dolan's film irritating. There is virtually no escape from the noise, whether that be the bickering of the family or the thumping pop music Dolan uses to accompany his flash-

backs. It is also true that the repeated use of close-ups makes for uncomfortable, claustrophobic viewing.

It may well not be perfect: the artiness may sometimes reach for profundity and produce something rather more empty; there may be too many lingering shots of Ulliel physically and emotionally exhausted; the bird symbolism at the end might not add much.

But this is a film which is alive, it pulls us in and doesn't let go. It is a film to be loved, hated and debated, a film that should be seen by any fan of cinema if only to be able to have your own opinion on it.





# ARG-GRAVATING

JAMES LEES ASKS: HAS BLIZZARD BEEN TEASING TOO MUCH WITH THE LATEST **OVERWATCH** HERO?

If you've somehow managed to avoid the news, *Overwatch* has a new hero - 'Sombra'. However, unlike most reveals of things like this, Blizzard did things a little differently and decided to reveal the Mexican hacker through an ARG (Augmented Reality Game).

In keeping with her hacker theme, Blizzard hid clues and codes in various ingenious ways for code-breaking fans to find and learn more about her. Or at least that was supposed to be the idea. What in fact happened was one of the slowest, most frustrating and ultimately pointless ARGs in recent history.

Sombra has been around since the beta of *Overwatch*, a few voice lines in the hidden data files refer to her and there is even a famous newspaper clipping on one of the maps with a headline reading "¿Quién es 'Sombra'?" (Who is 'Sombra?').

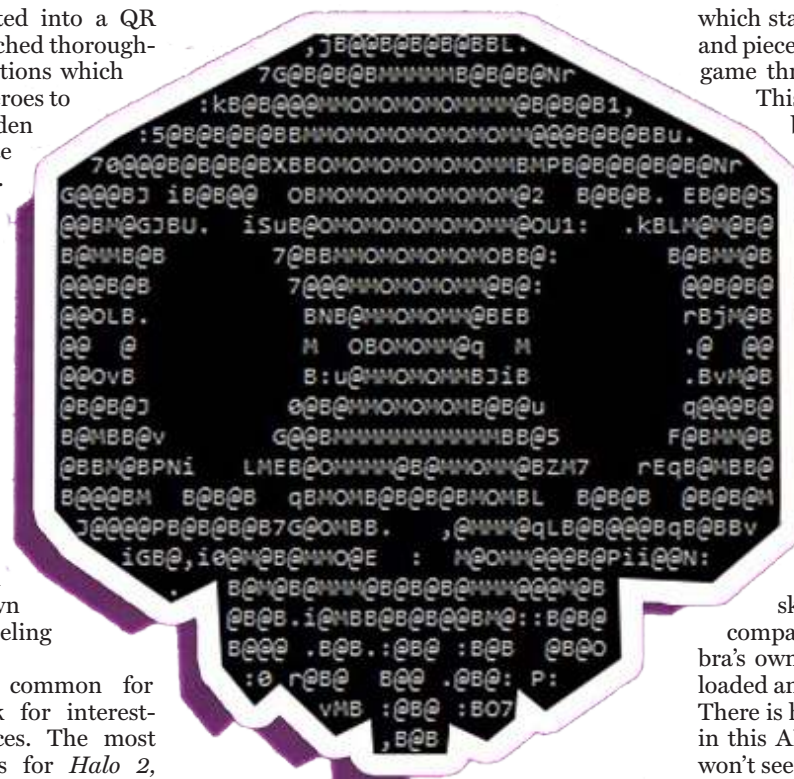
The first part of the ARG, however, came in the form of a frame in the reveal video for another *Overwatch* hero, 'Ana'. A series of hexadecimal numbers could be found which when run through a couple of different ciphers read "She who has the information, has the power..." and "Sombra".

What followed was a long trail of very hard and obscure clues such as a dump of

lines which could be converted into a QR code, a video which when searched thoroughly would give a series of directions which could be linked with certain heroes to give a password, checking hidden achievements on the website and 'data moshing' image files. By all accounts, it was not an easy thing to solve and, in fact, had some periods of months where countdowns had to be waited for.

So what was the reward for all of this? Well, nothing. All of the hard work and waiting rewarded people with exactly nothing. No early release, leak or additional information (though there was a spray that came out on the PC edition). Everything about Sombra was learned through the reveal trailer that was shown off at Blizzcon leaving many feeling that the ARG was pointless.

ARGs are increasingly common for video games as people look for interesting ways to engage audiences. The most famous incident of this was for *Halo 2*,



which started with the website *ilovebees.com* and pieced together the story leading up to the game through phone calls across the globe. This culminated in giving those who had been following the ARG an early play of the game in movie theatres.

There are several other high profile ARGs still ongoing, such as one for *Oxenfree* but these all tend to reveal more about the world and give 'rewards' which the Sombra ARG simply didn't offer. As much as people enjoy the challenge of solving lots of increasingly difficult and esoteric problems that stretch people to the limit, they want something for it, and it doesn't even need to be much.

There is perhaps still something yet to come. The ARG has so far ended on the website *vol-skayaindustries.com*, an important company in the *Overwatch* lore and Sombra's own story, which reads "Server is overloaded and is under maintenance" in Russian. There is hope that there is yet life and reward in this ARG yet but that maybe this time, it won't seem so frustratingly pointless.

# VIRTUAL REALITY: A VISION OF THE FUTURE?

SAM FLINT EXPLORES WHETHER VIRTUAL REALITY REALLY IS THE FUTURE OF GAMING

Since gaming's inception, it's been ripe with a seemingly endless amount of popular fads. For the younger generation of gamers in particular, these fleeting trends are most clearly displayed in the Wii's early motion controls. The Wii arrived on 16 November 2006, meaning that by the time of publication it will be a decade old.

The Wii began then a race to develop motion control systems across all the main console platforms, but what it also signified was

“ But with all the promises VR made, has there really been much of a change in gaming?

the beginning of a what was assumed would be a revolution in how we will actually play video games. For Nintendo the future was in motion controls, and for a while Microsoft and Sony went along, with the Kinect and the PlayStation Move releasing some years later. As it were though, this would not be the last attempt at changing way we play games.

In 2012, a company called Oculus began a Kickstarter for the revolutionary technology that is virtual reality, or VR, and the gaming community flocked to donate, giving it \$2.5m, and generating a massive amount of

media coverage.

With the spike in interest that Oculus generated, the major companies Sony and Microsoft of course jumped on the band wagon, along with HTC who came out with their Vive headset. Now virtual reality gaming is a present reality.

But with all the promises VR made, the hype and the future we all assumed it had, has there really been much of a change in gaming? Two of the three VR headsets currently known to the public have been released, with the exception being Sony's Morpheus which is set to be cheaper and have lower specs than its competitors, but there really hasn't been much fanfare.

Like many, when I sit down to game, I still break out a controller or boot up my PC. I'm fully in the knowledge that VR exists, and I am completely content without it. At the time of writing, I'm fairly confident that this can be said for the vast majority of gamers. Why, then, has VR not made the impact it so promised?

In reality, VR gaming faces a multitude of problems. Remember, this isn't the first time it's been attempted, back in the 1980s and 1990s many companies tried and failed to make VR a hit, and unfortunately they ran into the same problems that to an extent plague VR to this day.

Firstly, it's massively expensive. Obviously as time progresses the technology gets cheaper, but it still requires funds to develop, and the current price stands at around £600 to £700 dependant on the headset you buy - completely out of the price range of anyone who is not a hardcore VR fan.

Secondly, VR requires powerful hardware. There's a reason Sony's Morpheus head-

set is scaled down compared to the others, the reason being the PS4 would not be able to handle rendering the two screens inside the headset, which make it doubly intensive to run. This in turn puts up the price and then whoever can afford it has to have a sufficiently powerful PC to run it, which again costs vast amounts of money.

Finally, as with most gaming hardware, even with the promise of VR, it is still a fad. Although it has so far avoided being labelled one, it doesn't take close scrutiny to realise. At first, like the Wii, the idea is novel and worth investing in, but after a couple of weeks? Months? Will you still want to put in the ef-

fort of clearing a room, putting on some goggles and moving your head around when all you really want to do is relax and play a game?

This is the inherent problem with VR. With all its media hype and dazzling technology we failed to see it for what it truly was: a fad. A brief fling with the futuristic idea of plugging ourselves into the machine. Of course VR will still exist in the future, with many applications aside from gaming, and I'm sure some experiences will be the better for it. But will everybody be sat at home, plugged in?

No. They'll still be flicking birds on their phones.



IMAGE: MAURIZIO PESCE



# CAPITOL PUNISHMENT

FRIDA FLIFLET REFLECTS ON HER VISIT TO WASHINGTON DC BEFORE THE SHOCK ELECTION RESULT

Following all of the straight-forwardly crazy articles popping up everywhere regarding Donald Trump and his supporters, I was vaguely expecting (or hoping for) a city in turmoil. However, that was not the case. Washington just kept buzzing on as usual; but everyday life is of little interest to newspapers. Congress was in recess because of the election. There were no protests or rallies. In other words, it was a calmer and milder city that met me, silently crushing my expectations.

If I had checked the facts before I'd left, I'd have known that DC is probably the most liberal place in the US; uninteresting for the candidates as the Democrats were wholly

If he wins, I'm gonna freak out. I'm gonna fucking lose my mind

”

confident of their lead (Hillary Clinton won the state by 93 per cent in the end). Yet, at a closer look, there were plenty of signs indicating a country facing quite a special election. It just wasn't shoved in my face in the way that I had expected.

If media coverage of this election had been overwhelming in Europe, it was nothing compared to the US. No matter the TV channel, no matter the time of day, people were constantly discussing, looking at polls, shaming the candidates. Hillary signs were, if not abundant, common in several neighbourhoods. In front of the Capitol, there was a large Trump poster crammed in a bin, and there were a lot of posters reading 'Make America Sane Again' hanging around. I counted exactly four people with Trump t-shirts, daring to stand their ground in this liberal Mecca.

On Halloween, a man dressed as Bernie Sanders pressed a Jill Stein flyer in my hands and begged me to vote for her. Later that day, I could not help overhearing a man on the subway talking on the phone about Trump:

"If he wins, I'm gonna freak out. I'm gonna fucking lose my mind."

Election aside, I explored the touristy Washington as well – and liked it a lot. The capital of the US is a very white and surprisingly clean city. For a European who had never been to this country before, the vastness of the avenues and its endless boulevards were fascinating. The majestic, borderline pompous buildings are heavily inspired by classical architecture, reflecting the nation's founding ideals. One of DC's early nicknames was, quite fittingly, 'The American Rome'. The Capitol, the Supreme Court and every memorial and monument are all open to the public. If you fancy, you can actually attend Supreme Court hearings – however there are limited spaces, so it is necessary to rise early and get in line.

Despite being one of the few US cities with well-developed public transport, Washington is great for walking as well. I tend to prefer going by foot in big cities: it gets you closer to the people. Conveniently, the majority of main attractions are placed close to each other, making them extra accessible to pedestrians. All the biggest and best museums are placed on each side of the Mall, the famous 'town green' leading up to the Capitol. The Air and Space Museum, National Gallery of Art, African-American History and Culture Museum – take your pick. As parts of the Smithsonian Institution, they are all free and worthy of a visit of some hours, if not days.

You can really revisit history in DC: Martin Luther King Jr's 'I Have a Dream' speech took place on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, for instance. You can visit Ford's theatre where Lincoln was assassinated, or drop by the Watergate buildings, the setting of President Nixon's infamous scandal.

The city also prides itself on its culinary scene – Ethiopian food has become especially popular. Street vendors are abundant, but quite pricey, and of course the portions are enormous. After a 'regular' burger and milkshake lunch at The Good Eatery, I didn't eat again for 22 hours.

The people I met were overwhelmingly friendly and open, your stereotypical Americans. Still, one topic seemed to cause a drastic but general mood change: the election. Most turned pessimistic in the blink of an eye. De-



IMAGE: FRIDA FLIFLET

spite, or maybe due to every paper, TV channel and website's bombardment of the latest news and polls, people seemed to be tired of the whole circus show. Jade, a Hillary supporter from Tennessee, was an exception: "I'm so excited," she told me. "She'll beat his ass to the ground. I hope he never rises again."

Not surprisingly, the majority of people I talked to were voting for Hillary because they detested Trump, not out of devoted support. There seemed to be a general distrust; a clear lack of faith in politicians and institutions, even here, in Washington itself – or the swamp that must be drained, as Trump would have put it. For many Americans, it's as simple as that: if you don't trust the system, you vote for the outsider. When I asked a taxi driver if he was ready for Tuesday, he candidly answered, "yes, to get it over with." He, like so many others, saw Hillary simply as the lesser of two evils. Still, he firmly believed she would win. "Trump's gonna scream a lot. He's gonna be like a wounded dog." Did he think there would be riots?

"No. Not in this country."

On my way back to the airport, I had a feeling of calm before the storm. The hot sun was setting over enormous, flaming red woods, leaving me feeling pretty unenthusiastic about the English November I'd soon be facing. At least, my Uber driver Ali was eager to discuss the election. He was from Afghani-

stan and currently trying to grant his family US visas. "Of course I voted for Hillary," he told me excitedly, "I hate Trump!" He, along with the rest of the world, took it for granted that she would be the champion. "Are you afraid of what may happen if Trump actually wins?" I asked.

"He won't."

"But what if?"

"Listen to me, he won't win. I know it. That's never gonna happen." M



IMAGE: GAGE SKIDMORE

IMAGE: FRIDA FLIFLET





# 2016: YEAR OF THE VEGAN

TRINA KHOO SPEAKS TO VEGAN FOOD BLOGGER, SASHA GILL, ABOUT ADOPTING AND MAINTAINING A VEGAN LIFESTYLE



ALL IMAGES: SASHA GILL



Smoothie bowls. Avocado brownies. Cheesecake with no cheese. Such food combinations probably would have confused people one or two decades ago. But now, these feature on beautifully curated Instagram feeds and Tumblr accounts, managed more often than not by young people globally. Could 2016 be the year of the vegan?

An article in *The Telegraph* earlier this year reported that the number of vegans in Britain has risen by more than 360 per cent over the past decade, with close to half of all vegans being aged 15 to 34. Sasha Gill is one of them.

Sasha is a 21-year-old medical student. Over the years, her Instagram account @thesashadiaries has amassed approximately 29 000 followers, with her pictures featured on websites such as BuzzFeed and



Vogue Germany.

The choice to switch to veganism is, it's fair to say, a considerable one. For Sasha, it stemmed from an initial decision approximately three years ago to switch to vegetarianism, but she soon decided that she "disagreed with the ethics of milk and eggs just as much as she did for meat".

Some of the challenges of adjusting to veganism might be unexpected. Sasha described that the real struggle wasn't so much having to give up the likes of dairy products but more so the 'convenience' such products present. It's far easier, of course, to be able to just take something off a shelf and not have to scrutinise the ingredients list. As an example, Sasha noted finding it initially tricky having to give up her favourite scone loaf due to it containing a miniscule amount of whey protein.

This was compounded by the initial social repercussions of adopting a vegan lifestyle – eating out, either at a restaurant or a friend's house, could be deemed more of a challenge.

However, this isn't to say that these things should remain hindrances. Sasha maintains that, particularly more recently, many restaurants can accommodate veganism and are happy for a dish to be "easily modified to be vegan".

Furthermore, making friends aware of your dietary requirements prior to dinner parties and maybe even bringing along a few vegan dishes yourself is something that enables people to observe veganism while not feeling as if they are distancing themselves from the rest of the party.

Adopting a vegan lifestyle doesn't just have to be

for ethical reasons, as was the case for Sasha. The lifestyle appeals for many due to reasons such as health and environmental factors, or even just those who believe it is a cheaper way to live. However, veganism undoubtedly provokes some negative connotations that do arguably present potential issues.

Something of note mentioned by Sasha that ties into all of this is the way that the vegan community has recently been criticised by the media for encouraging orthorexic tendencies – an unhealthy obsession with healthy eating – among vegans, in particular via social media.

An example of this is a recent investigation by BBC Three; *Clean Eating's Dirty Secrets* slated the vegan community for pushing this lifestyle on social media and causing orthorexic tendencies among their followers. Lots of Sasha's young followers, she informed me, also message her for advice on how to lose weight following the switch to veganism – many of these having suffered from eating disorders.

Her message to them is incredibly simple and sincere. She believes that they should choose to focus, and address, their relationship with food before considering the transition to a vegan lifestyle. For all the benefits such a lifestyle can provide a person with, it should not be approached in an irresponsible manner. After all, as she sums up: "veganism can wait a while but an eating disorder cannot".

The success of her Instagram page owes itself in part to the many enticing photos of vegan food that feature there. Much of these are Sasha's own creations. She says that incorporating the vegan element into her baking, for example, has allowed her to "try all sorts of different foods". What's more, she believes her diet is "more varied than it has ever been".

In her view, "the fact that you can't just throw cheese or bacon into everything to make it taste better makes vegan cooking a whole lot more interesting".

It was the feedback she got on her food-related Instagram posts that actually encouraged her to pursue the development of the page and her blog, *Oh Holy Basil* and turn it into the community it has become. And people have been incredibly supportive.

Rather than coming across as the 'meat

is murder' almost cult-like group vegans are sometimes thought of as being, Sasha was instead welcomed by a group of people "who really care about the welfare of animals and our planet". It is this support from both the community and her followers that allows her to continue to update her page with the same resolute fervour she possessed when starting her vegan adventure.

Sasha's enthusiasm for cooking and baking vegan treats relies upon several different ingredients, but there are five staple ones, which, in her words, she "cannot live without". These are made up of oats, red lentils, cardamom, dark chocolate and tahini.

Oats, she professes, are an incredibly versatile ingredient – yes, they are imperative in

“ The fact that you can't just throw cheese or bacon into everything to make it taste better makes vegan cooking interesting

traditional things such as porridge and granola but it is the experimentation she undertakes in testing out different recipes that revealed to her their surprising utility in something like burgers.

The variety in vegan food is made evident by her page, especially due to the numerous examples and recipes she posts, and her embracing of veganism has given her a loyal following. Though it is true that for some veganism can be viewed with scepticism, it remains clear that for many it exists as a newfound way of living. With the likes of Sasha garnering such impressive support, the vegan revolution is well and truly underway. M



# CHRISTMAS MADVERTISING

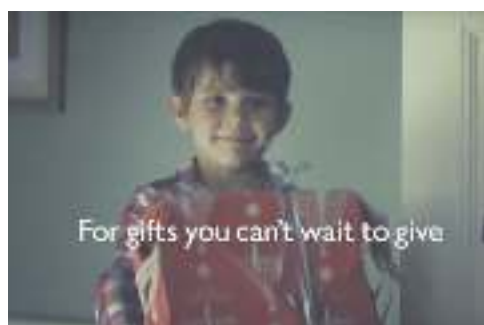
OSCAR BENTLEY DISCUSSES THE FESTIVE TREND OF FEATURE ADVERTS AND THIS NEW FORM OF 'CINEMA'



*Sweet Child o' Mine* (2009)  
John Lewis



*A Tribute to Givers* (2010)  
John Lewis



*The Long Wait* (2011)  
John Lewis



*The Journey* (2012)  
John Lewis



*The Bear and the Hare* (2013)  
John Lewis

Cinema is redefining its boundaries. Whereas in the past cinema was clearly identifiable as the big, silver screen, it is now becoming increasingly difficult to define what cinema actually is. Rather than a clear, physical divide between different media platforms as seen in the past (the movie theatre as opposed to the box telly), present day cinema has arguably become a medium that transcends the movie theatre to reach elsewhere. If a film premieres on Netflix, is it still cinema? Television is increasingly hailed as becoming more cinematic; we are in a 'golden age' of TV after all. Rather than the flat and static studio television of the past, the aesthetically dense imagery, complex plots and, above all, rich cinematography, are all key characteristics of defining media as 'cinematic'. Programmes such as *Game of Thrones*, *Hannibal*, and *Daredevil* come to mind.

One developing form of cinema is that of the increasingly popular film-like Christmas adverts, pioneered by John Lewis. The goal of these may be strictly commercial, arguably not dissimilar to that of the film industry, but that doesn't take away from the sheer beauty and charm of them. These aren't just adverts; they are short films, equal to any other two minute short available online. While the visuals are often stunning, the narratives of these adverts are what make or break them. Dr Alison Peirse, a lecturer in the department of Theatre, Film and Television at York, described John Lewis adverts in particular as following a Greek archetype of storytelling - crucially, that they try to induce emotion in the spectator and ultimately make them cry.

John Lewis' Christmas 2011 offering *The Long Wait* features a young boy impatiently waiting for Christmas, presumably eager for his presents, when the boy unexpectedly races past the stack of neatly wrapped presents to take his so-bad-it's-cute present to his parents. It tugs at the heart strings in an innovative and humorous way that Christmas adverts hadn't in the past; 2010's *A Tribute to Givers* consisted of a series of vignettes portraying preparations for Christmas and 2009's *Sweet Child o' Mine* the opening of gifts.

Christmas adverts have evolved to sell the audience an image of the perfect Christmas, rather than any individual product in particular; they paint a picture of what society deems a 'correct' Christmas to be. Take *The Long Wait*, or perhaps John Lewis' 2014 offering *Monty the Penguin* or even this year's Sainsbury's advert *The Greatest Gift*. They all feature a nuclear family preparing for Christmas and receiving or giving gifts, with a warm colour palette and lighting giving a homely feel. The brand communicates the idea that in order to achieve this 'ideal' Christmas the audience must purchase all their gifts and furnishings from John Lewis, or that the flawless Christmas dinner is only available from Sainsbury's.

So great is the grasp they now hold on popular culture that Christmas adverts have become an institution of a British Christmas. Has the countdown to Christmas truly begun until the John Lewis Christmas advert has been aired? Rather than simply being advertisements, they have taken on the status of becoming newsworthy in themselves, with outlets ranging from *The Telegraph* to the BBC covering their release and ranking them against one another, so as to declare which brand has won the battle for the best

Christmas advert each year. Audiences come to appreciate the adverts as they are - little snippets of cinema. Again, rather than simply trying to create an advert, the brands (and advertising agencies) are largely just trying to make a good short film that will be well-received by the public, because the better the reception an advert gets, the more the brand benefits from association and therefore sales.

John Lewis has also proven that these adverts can be further monetised. Since 2013, John Lewis have produced merchandise from soft toy penguins to man-on-the-moon pyjamas and this year is no exception. This does have to be somewhat expected due to the nature of our capitalist Christmas, designed to get the public to empty their pockets. In the spirit of Christmas however, the brands are sharing out the good will to all men and women, with some funds from each of this year's John Lewis and Sainsbury's campaigns go-

These adverts have become an institution of the British Christmas

ing to The Wildlife Trust and Great Ormond Street Hospital respectively.

Some have pointed out the hypocrisy of Christmas ad campaigns: the campaign Stop Funding Hate has released a video stating that the 'beautiful stories' of 'peace, love, and understanding', of 'looking out for others' (*Mog's Christmas Calamity*, Sainsbury's 2015), 'even if they are distant strangers' (*Man on the Moon*, John Lewis 2015), 'even if we've been told they're our enemy' (*Christmas is for Sharing*, Sainsbury's 2014), are invalidated by the brands' advertising in tabloids which publish 'hate' about migrants. This goes against the very message of goodwill to all that Christmas adverts peddle. These adverts have also proven controversial in the past. *Monty the Penguin* also has an air of misogyny to it: the male penguin is gifted a female penguin as a present. Parodies have even been made. This year, *The Guardian* compared the tale of *Buster the Boxer*, a dog who steals the thunder from a little girl who has been practising to bounce on her long awaited trampoline, to that of Donald Trump stealing the presidency from Hillary Clinton's grasp.

Some adverts want to invoke emotion in the audience, often (particularly in John Lewis' case) through the use of a melancholy song, such as in *Man on the Moon*, *Christmas is for Sharing* and John Lewis' 2012 advert *The Journey*. Some depict an arduous journey, often for love: *The Journey*, *Monty the Penguin* and Aldi's 2016 *Kevin the Carrot* come to mind. Some adverts however, are happy and joyful with *Buster the Boxer*, *The Greatest Gift*, and this year's M&S romp of an adventurous Mrs Claus being examples. Emotional adverts may tug at the heartstrings, but maybe in the end fun is for the best: according to *The Standard*, viewers have declared this year's M&S ad to be an offering "a hundred times better than *John Lewis*". M



*Monty the Penguin* (2014)  
John Lewis



*Man on the Moon* (2015)  
John Lewis



*Buster the Boxer* (2016)  
John Lewis

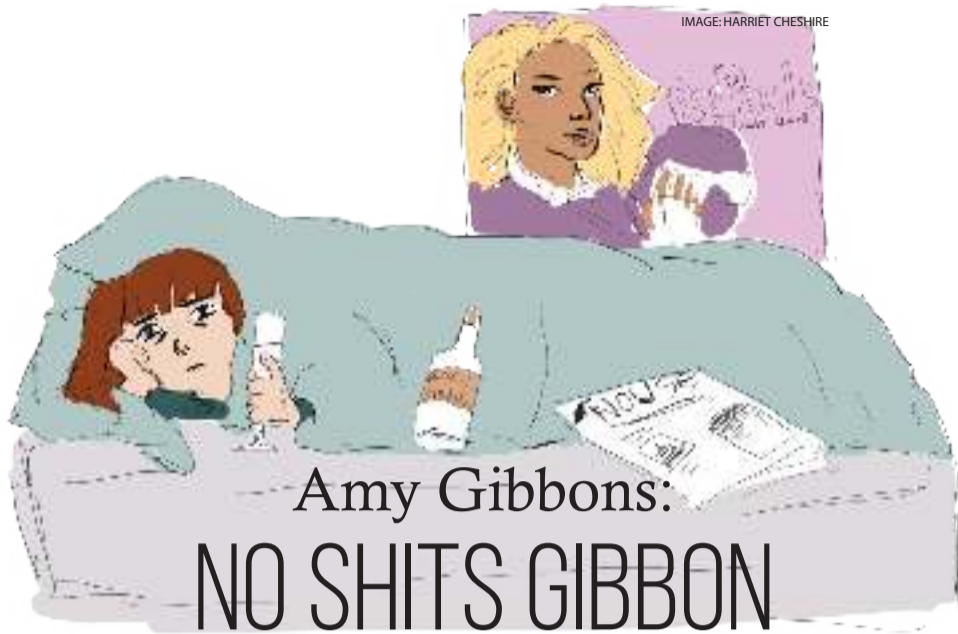


*Mrs Claus* (2016)  
Marks & Spencer



*Kevin the Carrot* (2016)  
Aldi





Amy Gibbons:  
**NO SHITS GIBBON**

On leaving D-Bar at 5AM on the fateful night of Tuesday 8 November, staggering through the sleet - perhaps from tipsiness, perhaps from sheer exhaustion, probably both - *Nouse* Editor Luke Rix-Standing turned to me and sighed: "Well, if nothing else, at least our columns will be a dross this time round."

Honestly, he couldn't have been more wrong. I'm pretty sure that everything to say about the President-Elect has been covered - whether that be in full by the BBC, in 140 characters by the Independent's new social media goblins, or in ethically-dubious backstage snaps by the Daily Mail; we've heard pretty much every opinion, and a hell of a lot of rhetoric. But there's still no avoiding the subject - much like impending essay deadlines, dreaded Secret Santa draws, and a concoction of nasty viruses unique to mid-November, we have to face The Donald, and face The Donald we will.

I think that what has been most striking about this week is the essential normality of it. While the majority of us sit staring blankly into space, anticipating Armageddon, Trump goes about his business in exactly the manner we expected him to. Broken promises? Sure. Big hollow displays of wealth and dominance? Absolutely. Oh, is that Nigel Farage? Of course! Trump broke every rule before he got into power, so it's hard for him to shock us now, and it's likely we'll experience a comedown before we're met with any truly significant upsets.

And what that's meant is that we, as predominantly young Europeans, (...ex-Europeans?) are left in a kind of limbo. There's a kind of blanket over the world - one of those very thin blankets, like a shitty blind which

doesn't entirely do its job. Everything is muffled yet discernible; gloomy but visible. We're in shock, and the world is spinning.

When I was on holiday in Chicago this summer, my friends and I decided to spend a day Downtown. We headed to a Starbucks to grab something to eat before catching the monorail home, where an older lady (we later coined her 'Doreen'), looking slightly deranged, pounced on us and asked our opinions on the current political situation.

Two hours and several amused glances from the wait staff later, we gave up what had become a full-blown debate about Making America Great Again. Doreen would start on a subject, spout some passionate rhetoric, lose her place, thump her fist on the table, and choose another angle. She'd loudly claim that she wanted to stick it to big business, and when we politely reminded her of Donald Trump's entrepreneurial legacy, she'd blindly repeat the same phrase over again: "He's learning, you see; he's learning." She was convinced that homeless people were con artists, immigrants were thieves, and ethnic minorities were not to be trusted. She was an open advocate of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'. But more shocking than any of this was her resistance to logic, and to truth. I've never seen such a perfect illustration of the post-information age. Facts bounced off this woman - it was as if she was wrapped in a silver blanket, conducting emotion and reflecting reason. And that, more than anything she said, was truly frightening.

It's hard to argue with feeling; it's like trying to catch water in a net. As I've decided I give no shits anymore, I think I'll leave it there. But I hope to God someone has a game plan.

# Jack Richard Sonnets

## Late

*The Autumn leaves can make a lovely noise  
When, lecturebound, I tread on concrete stones  
And goose-muck, tho' with certain joy and poise  
I swaddle, taken in by Nature's tones.  
For verily, the Earth is one with all:  
Her rhythms all we too are made a part,  
In Winter-time we laugh at raven's drawl  
While Summer's heat ne'er fails to warm the heart...  
(A watchward glance) "Good God, what time has passed!"  
My sentiment has left me late to learn  
The others sit in rows with eyes downcast,  
Do with their glaring looks my lateness spurn.  
Thus bear in mind, all those who like to wander:  
A lonesome front-row seat is yours to ponder.*

## The Next Day

*Morning dawns: a bright November day  
For Monday has arrived, and with it fall  
The leaves, yes, but too those gone away  
The poppies and the pins that held them all.  
We go about our business, study, sleep  
As fading reds sink lower in the bins  
Not seen outside like leaves or pressed to keep  
But cast aside, as second-death begins.  
They shall not grow old, as we who are left all know,  
Let symbols only not define our grief:  
All nations bleed for motives high and low  
Our actions hence, informed, may bring relief.  
Do what you can, and always keep thoughts near  
The dead do not all fall but once a year.*

### NIAMH MURCHAN HAS VENTURED TO HES EAST...





# Nouse



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# By-Elections

## Join the 2016/17 team

Come down to D/L/036 at 20:00 on 25 November with a one-minute speech, and join the best media society on campus!

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# Nukes, trees and more Green MPs

**Connor Drake**  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE CO-LEADER of the Green Party of England and Wales, Jonathan Bartley, visited campus on 3 November for a talk on UK politics and nuclear weapons jointly organised by the University Green Party and the University Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. It was filmed by YSTV and will be available online in the coming months.

The Green Party holds its internal elections biannually, with all leadership and national executive positions available. The 2016 leadership election was interesting, as it involved the party's main personality Caroline Lucas (MP for Brighton Pavilion) standing on a joint ticket with Bartley, a local activist in Lambeth, who was little-known at the national level. They won the election with 86 per cent of the vote, which can be attributed to Lucas' huge popularity with the party's membership.

Speaking about their leadership, Jonathan said: "I feel very privileged, like I'm doing the best job in the world. I respect Caroline hugely, and we work very well together, as we are able to do so much more, both in terms of campaigning and supporting local parties. We are finding our strengths and really playing on these strengths, so Caroline may be debating disability issues in the Commons, and I'll be outside Parliament with disabled activists, so we really complement each other in our work. We've had a generally positive reaction to what we are doing, and how we do it, which is encouraging, as people were quite apprehensive to our leadership."

I asked Bartley to describe the Green Party's position in the current political landscape, post-Brexit and with Labour's lack of opposition in Parliament. "The Greens are providing very principled opposition where Labour are not, both in terms of environmental issues such as airport expansion and nuclear

power, but also about transitioning the economy, making it fairer and more sustainable.

"British politics is at a crossroads and the direction we go will be crucial, for example deciding whether we meet climate change targets. Greens also want to work with others to provide opposition where there is common ground, and we want to set the agenda on issues such as fracking, shown by when Caroline stood up and said that this country can't have another fossil fuel development."

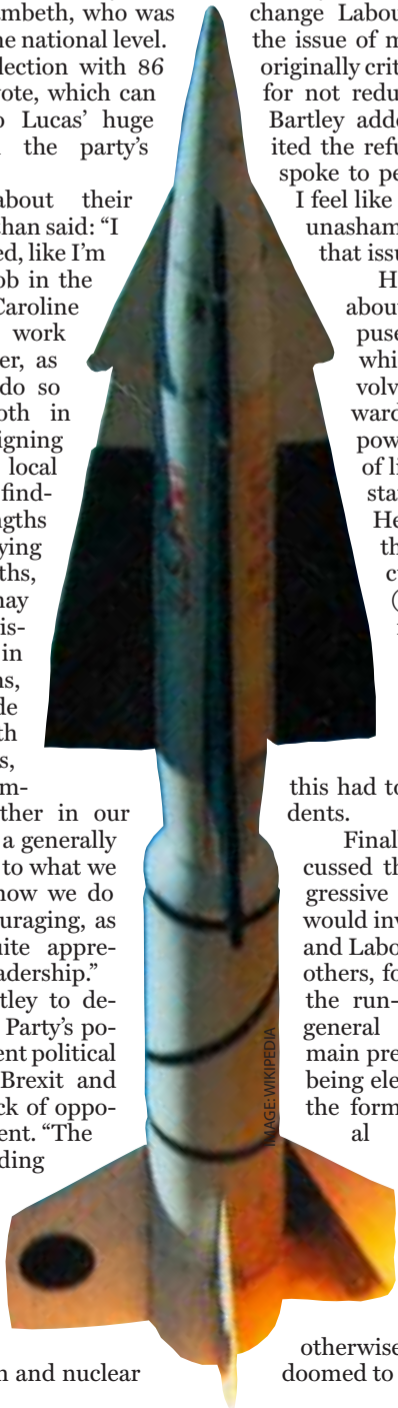
The Greens have opposed the government's position on the issues of migration and the refugee crisis. Bartley commented: "When the mask slipped at Conservative Party Conference, an ugly face was uncovered through the rhetoric used surrounding migrants and refugees."

The Greens also worked with Plaid Cymru and the SNP to change Labour's response to the issue of migration, which originally criticised the Tories for not reducing it enough. Bartley added, "I have visited the refugee camps and spoke to people there, and I feel like the Greens have unashamedly taken on that issue."

He also spoke about making campuses greener, which would involve a move towards sustainable power and payment of living wage to all staff on campus. He also posited the idea of circular economies (reduce, reuse, recycle), and said that this could be part of universities becoming zero-carbon, but that this had to start with students.

Finally, Bartley discussed the topic of progressive alliances, which would involve the Greens and Labour Party, among others, forming a pact in the run-up to the next general election, the main premise of the deal being electoral reform in the form of proportional representation.

Electoral pacts, he stressed, needed to be cross-party and to start at a grassroots level, otherwise they would be doomed to failure.



Donald Trump holding a rally for his supporters in Phoenix, Arizona, days before his stunning election victory

## The many faces of Donald

**Ed Smith**  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DONALD TRUMP'S staggering election victory on 8 November shocked the world. Commentators from every country have questioned whether the President-Elect will make good on the many radical policy proposals which coloured his controversial campaign. Of particular concern is his promise to "rip up" the Paris Climate Change Agreement; to build a great wall along the southern border with Mexico and to temporarily ban Muslims from entering the US.

Nonetheless, it is clear that numerous high profile policies may not come to fruition. The Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Claudia Ruiz Massieu, stated in the aftermath of Trump's victory that a wall was "not part of [Mexico's] vision" and that Mexico will not, therefore, pay for the wall. In addition, the policy of halting Muslim immigration into the US disappeared from Trump's programme within hours of being elected; he has seemingly done a U-turn and abandoned one of his flagship election pledges. In light of this change in direction on such key policies, commentators are beginning to question whether Trump will indeed "rip up the Paris Peace Agreement".

As the US produces more carbon dioxide in metric tonnes than the EU, its part in the international agreement to reduce CO2 levels is in dire need of safeguarding. Europe's

climate chief, Miguel Arias Canete, described the agreement as "the last chance" to save the planet. This begs the question: will other primary polluters such as Russia drop out of the Paris Agreement, or will they affirm their commitment to the policy? Currently, only speculation can answer this question.

Nevertheless, there are greater questions on whether the arch-rival dynamic of Russia and the US is likely to change. Senior officials have largely treated Trump's victory with

**The Kremlin could soon not have an enemy to unify its public against** ”

caution, especially Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who urged the Russian people to wait for the new President to act before indulging his rhetoric. Yet, the maverick billionaire does seem to show a greater desire to forge an alliance and make peace with the Kremlin to end the conflict in Syria and defeat ISIS, especially as Russian and American relations are as hot as they have been since Stalin and Truman.

Trump's desire to mend relations between the old Cold War rivals could perhaps show his indifference towards Putin's alleged war crimes in the Middle East. Russia is accused of murdering thousands of

civilians in Syria since it began its intervention in the country to support President Bashar al-Assad in September 2015.

The thought of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin 'getting cosy' is worrying to many of the US' allies, including the UK and France, as they fear the direction NATO will follow and whether this new relationship could undermine the Russian political system. The Kremlin could soon no longer have an enemy to unify its public against, which has served as a useful distraction from sluggish economic growth in recent years. Russian foreign policy revolves greatly around notions of the big American 'bogeyman', hence the relief of tensions with the west could cause a significant shift in Russian domestic politics.

Donald Trump's election victory presents numerous questions, creating an atmosphere of unpredictability which permeates a multitude of social, economic and political areas. Whether Trump will continue with the manifesto that he proclaimed during the campaign trail, or if his approach will become more moderate, is a question that will only be answered with time. The stakes are high: the decisions taken during the coming years will have a lasting impact on our planet and will continue to mould the state of global affairs. One thing is for sure: as the first President of the US voted in with no prior military or political experience, the President-Elect is going to have a gruelling few months learning about how to be a successful President from a man 15 years his minor.



# Groundhog Day for European populism?

**Akul Pakhania**  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SINCE THE global financial crisis, politics in the western world has been turning to radical alternatives as the answer to people's woes. Brexit, the rise of Trump, the Front National in France, Alternative for Germany and many other rising far-right groups are all demonstrative of widespread dissatisfaction. We are seeing a complete rejection of mainstream politics.

The austerity agenda which the UK has adopted since 2010 had a limited impact on delivering economic growth but has hit the poorest members of society hardest. According to a report from the

Institute of Fiscal Studies, 2010 saw the biggest cuts to state spending since World War II.

In other words, since 2008, many have felt that there has been a lack of accountability for the powerful while millions have become more vulnerable. The rising cost of living, the housing crisis, cuts to public services, the rise of zero hour contracts, and over a million people resorting to food banks last year all reflect economic stress in Britain.

With this in mind, last June's Brexit result isn't

such a big shock after all. Juxtapose these economic pressures with the refugee crisis that faces Europe. This creates the conditions for demagogues to emerge and whip up xenophobic, nationalist and anti-establishment sentiment.

The economic recovery we are often told about is not being felt by many in France either. President Hollande has been criticised for his handling of the economy, becoming France's least popular President on record. This may partly be due to the fact that France boasts one of the highest levels

of unemployment in the EU, at over 10 per cent. The increase in terrorist attacks, along with its secular tradition has created an atmosphere of hostility to Islam. Le Pen has been able to take advantage of this with her divisive rhetoric, fuelling Islamophobia and conjuring nationalism to gain support. In the current political context, a victory for her in next spring's elections does not seem nearly as unlikely as they did pre-Trump.

Finally, the news of Donald Trump beating Hillary Clinton in the Presidential Election sent shock waves around the world. The establishment politician was defeated by an outsider businessman in the most liberal democracy in the world. Trump's victory will be something that academics will ponder over for years to come, however we

should ask the question: was it really that much of a surprise?

There is obvious discontent among those who feel that globalisation isn't benefiting them. Many people have suffered from unemployment, lower wages and a housing crisis; they feel forgotten. The left, and politicians from all areas of the spectrum for that matter, need to come together and put plans in place to address the issues that this 'left behind' generation are currently facing.

Labelling them as racist, uneducated, or stupid is not the answer. The argument must be won in a way that convinces the opposition rather than antagonising them. A failure to do so will lead to more populists taking advantage of this discontent, and then we may well see history begin to repeat itself.



IMAGE: REMI NOYON

# Playing with fire: Trump and the Paris Agreement

**Oscar Bentley**  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump has a widely documented history of climate change denial. For example, in 2012, Trump tweeted: "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make US manufacturing non-competitive." Whereas President Obama has made many advances in the fields of environmentalism and building a green economy, these look set to stagnate and even regress under his successor, and as Obama made many of his climate change commitments through executive order, it will be in Trump's power to reverse them. America now has "a President-Elect who actually does not believe climate change is real", to quote one-time Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders. Another denier of climate change, Myron Ebell, has been chosen to lead the Environmental Protection Agency transition. All in all, whthings aren't looking very good for planet Earth under a Trump administration (not that they were looking too

good anyway).

Issues to do with the environment and climate change always get brushed off; not a single question relating to the environment was asked by the moderators of the presidential debates between Trump and Clinton. One could argue that this is because voters simply do not

## Withdrawing is dangerous for the future of the planet

care about climate change, especially in the key battleground swing states, and although 65 per cent of Americans now do believe that climate change is man-made, it's a figure scarily too low.

While campaigning, Trump pledged to pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement, an international climate change accord agreed in December 2015 and signed by 195 nations, stating that global warming should be kept below 1.5°C. Under it, the US has pledged to reduce

its greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2025. Not only is withdrawing dangerous for the future of the planet, but it's also reckless on a global political stage. Trump may not always care how he is viewed, but in pulling out of an agreement that has global consensus and was spearheaded by the US, he risks permanently damaging the US' foreign relations. Even China has rejected Trump's plans, with the Chinese special representative for climate change stating that "a wise political leader should take policy stances that conform with global trends".

Even assuming (and hoping) that this was all just campaign rhetoric, Trump still looks set to defund environment programmes. If the \$2.5bn fund pledged by the US under the Paris deal to aid poorer countries were to be withdrawn, it could seriously harm the global cause. The agreement would take three to four years to be officially withdrawn from, by which time Trump's first term would be nearing completion; he could choose to simply ignore emissions targets, and without the leadership of the US, other countries could flout their own emission commitments. Domi-

no after domino.

As a "great businessman" (though there's some debate about that), Trump's problem is that he simply doesn't care about the environment, and prioritises the economy over it. He prefers the short term returns that resurgence in coal would bring over long term investment in renewables. But how can the economy, at basics simply a concept created by humans to divide resources, ever be as or more important than something as real and tangible as stopping Earth from heading towards an environmental apocalypse?

Just stop and think about that, Mr Trump, when you start issuing those grand executive orders.



IMAGE: HARRIET CHESHIRE



## LEFT WING RIGHT WING

Thoughts from the Politics Editor

WELCOME TO the future, ladies and gentlemen. After a year and a half, yours truly was looking forward to getting back to tackling issues that we face collectively. Let's say Syria, climate change, the refugee crisis - now turned humanitarian quagmire. Maybe, just maybe,

our dear publication could even go back to publishing actual news. Sadly, that hope was well and truly dashed on the morning of 9 November. No, instead this is just the beginning. Let's give him a chance, say all the pundits and the media, in their desperate bargaining as they

try and reconcile their own failures to take the Donald seriously, while giving him billions in free publicity. Well, America gave him a chance. He swiftly proceeded to hire a white nationalist as his chief advisor. Steve Bannon is the former CEO of Breitbart News, an outlet that trafficks in open misogyny, xenophobia, and anti-semitism, and is frankly one of the most repugnant individuals to come have come into the global spotlight - well, since Nigel Farage's bug-eyed face first graced the European taxpayers' pockets by

getting paid to insult his peers and not show up to work. In the words of Seth Meyers: "Bye chance! Thanks for stopping by". The alt-right, as it has come to be known, is empowered, thrust into the mainstream and hijacking Pepe the Frog - a meme, if you've been living under a rock - as its standard-bearer.

I'm no pundit, but it's not hard to imagine that Trump's elevation to the presidency could cause a cascading domino effect, empowering the fringe right-wing worldwide. After all, America, one of the great bas-

tions of liberal stability, has voted in an authoritarian populist for the first time since the end of the Second World War. He has indicated that he's willing to completely realign America on the world stage. Next up: European elections. The Netherlands, France, and Germany, to name a few, have elections coming up in 2017, and are each dealing with their individual brand of populist strongmen and women. This isn't a question of 'if', but rather of 'when'. I'm going to go dry my salty liberal tears. Best of luck, world.



## Autumn Statement: breeze or all bluster?

**James Humpish**  
BUSINESS EDITOR

THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer may have one of the most uncomfortable positions in politics, straddling both the Prime Minister and the Bank of England. Uncomfortable, indeed.

Through well-documented twists of fate, Wednesday 23 November will see Philip Hammond's first Autumn Statement, an outline

Hammond is not fussed about appearing to be a heroic showman

of the government's forecasts and plans for the economy. The new Chancellor will formally outline his fiscal strategy as the government maintains the assumption that Article 50 will be triggered in early 2017. While the decision to leave the EU and the news that a new government would be forming as a consequence are well acknowledged, this is the first occasion in five months where the new May government will make clear what their tax and spend plans and their vision for the economy actually are.

It might be a cliché by this point, but the British economic environment is steeped in uncertainty, and it will be managing that uncer-

tainty that will be the underlying theme of the statement.

With the pound having dropped significantly in value since June, one could be forgiven for imagining the government will be taking a series of short-term measures to stimulate the currency. However, Hammond has insisted he is not at risk of going on a "fiscal splurge". Though increased spending would boost demand and stimulate growth, it comes at the cost of increasing the deficit if it isn't counterbalanced by tax, tax which is unlikely to increase consumption. Instead, he wishes to pursue "careful, considered and targeted" investments that would result in payoffs further down the line. The Autumn Statement will be one with the future in mind.

Hammond is a sensible man. He's not fussed about appearing to be a heroic showman like his predecessor George Osborne often aspired to be. As speculation over a premature general election increases, Theresa May must demonstrate to the electorate that she is making good on preventing the erosion of living standards. May wants to spend, Hammond wants to save. This point of friction seems to mean that there will be one group in particular that will be favoured by the Autumn Statement.

People who are just about managing (or 'jam' voters) will be the key short-term beneficiaries. They are the group that May seems to want to support the most and that she is invested in convincing to support her. As a result, Hammond may bow to pressure to support the 'jams'. While the premises might be quite cynical, the benefits for many of those who have been hurt by the recession and austerity may have cause for hope. Such benefits they may expect to receive include a continued freeze



in fuel duty, childcare subsidies and the continuation of extending the personal allowance.

A strong prediction, then, is that the statement will be two-pronged. It will be geared toward supporting the 'jams' and supporting investment in infrastructure. Planes, trains, massive power projects and housing will play a core part in Hammond's speech. One of the more radical pitches regarding affording this investment has been the introduction of infrastructure bonds. Such an idea would come about with the hope that the infrastructure projects could be financially sustainable. However, the bonds will be met with resistance if

they are perceived to risk crowding out private investment. It's something that Hammond has before expressed an interest in, so whether or not they come into fruition, there are signals that Hammond's heart lies in infrastructure, and he is conscious as to how exactly that can be affordable.

While the government was quick to ditch their 2015 manifesto to pledge that the deficit would be eliminated in the event of Brexit, Hammond does not seem the type to act as though he has been given a free pass to borrow. In keeping with the manifesto, it is likely that in terms of taxation he will strive to ultimately raise the tax-free person-

al allowance to £12 500 and raise the 40p income tax threshold to £50 000. This will ease the pressure from a great deal of people, though it is unclear to what extent it might reduce the tax base.

Recent figures show that the UK unemployment is at its lowest since 2005, yet inflation is set to outstrip wage rises and the supply of affordable housing is at its lowest since 1992. The country needs long term investment, but the 'jams' will need support in the meantime.

Hammond may hope to be able to model himself in a time of sluggish growth and volatile uncertainty as the figurehead for 'fiscal responsibility'

## Trump hired due to showman act prevailing

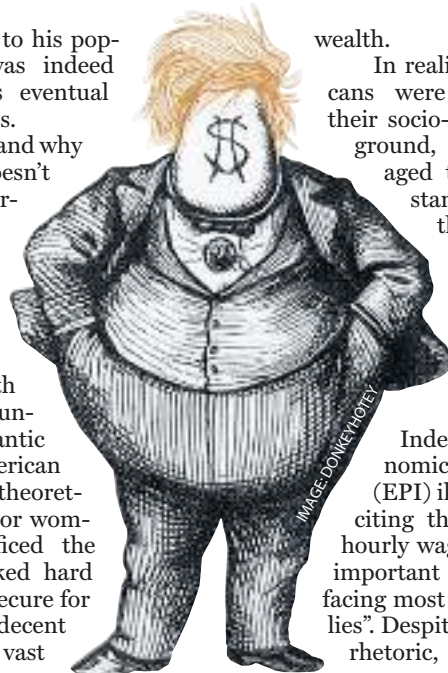
**Jack Harmsworth**  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

DONALD TRUMP'S shock electoral victory, affirmed in the early hours on Wednesday 9 November, should be of no surprise to us at all. His success is based on one irrepressible source of popularity that many commentators during the campaign simply failed to acknowledge. This is the fact that Trump is a businessman in a country where the owners of wealth are kings.

During the election campaign, a frequent response to the follow-up question of why people were voting for Trump was that he was seen as a successful businessman, and it was about time that a businessman ran the country. This attribute contrib-

uted massively to his popularity, and was indeed crucial for his eventual electoral success.

To understand why this is, one doesn't have to look further than the American economic system. Twentieth century American economic growth was idealised under the romantic title of the 'American Dream', where theoretically any man or woman who sacrificed the time and worked hard enough could secure for themselves a decent lifestyle, if not vast



wealth.

In reality, most Americans were hampered by their socio-economic background, but still managed to secure living standards better than their parents.

It was not to last. Wages steadily began to stagnate around 30 years ago.

Indeed, the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) illustrated this by citing the stagnation of hourly wages as "the most important economic issue facing most American families". Despite all the hopeful rhetoric, the American

dream was dying.

The response to this stagnation? Trump came along: a man so brazen about his huge fortunes that he had his own name emblazoned upon the side of his private jet.

This was perhaps revoltingly vain to more restrained Europeans, but to millions of hard-up Americans, this was the dream, the lifestyle they wanted.

In a country where how much you earn determines your success, and how successful you are begins to determine your worth, it is of little surprise that Trump managed to secure victory. He is, whether we like it or not, one of the most successful people in his field.

Trump was the very embodiment of the American Dream; with huge towers erected under his name, he seemed to reflect perfectly the adoration of wealth seen across

American culture, from film to music to literature.

Except in reality Trump did not make it against all the odds. Instead, he was heavily reliant on the backing of his wealthy father. He has also managed to go bankrupt an impressive six times and although he claims to be worth \$10bn the figure estimated by Forbes are closer to the region of \$3bn.

Of course in the election all this detail did not matter; he gave the impression of wealth and success and that is all he needed to do.

So if we want to know the real reason for Trump's shocking victory, we need look no further than his extremely obvious wealth. A fortune that in the American system is idealised by huge swathes of the electorate. Trump, a businessman in a country where the owners of wealth are kings. Now one is President.



# Time to bid farewell to neoliberalism?

**Boris Arnold**  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

“NEOLIBERALISM? There is no alternative”, argued the leaders of the western world when they started to open up markets, deregulating and privatising the economy in the 1980s. Since then, the establishment has been stubbornly pursuing what the 2008 crisis has proven to be, a self-destructive economic theory, based on the fairy tale belief that society will endlessly flourish and prosper when markets are left to operate on their own.

The reality is different: while the global output of goods and services might have quadrupled between 1970 and 2008, the gains of globalisation in the western world have not trickled down the social classes. Real term median wages have stagnated, while poverty and inequality levels have risen. The middle class is collapsing, while the

top one per cent is doing extremely well. With youth unemployment at a record high and social mobility extremely low, the kids born today are the first generation in modern history who will be likely to face a worse quality of life than their parents. The neoliberal system replaced collectivism and altruism with individualism, creating a society based mainly on ostentatious consumption, skyrocketing the levels of depression.

When the great recession began in 2008 these facts became common knowledge and demand for change began. The anti-austerity movements denounced the extent to which governments, decreasing services and public investments, left their citizens to pay for the burden of a crisis that made the people accountable for it richer, and the finance sector larger than ever before. For too long have those calls only found a deaf ear in the establishment.

The decision to exit the European Union, the rise of populism in Europe and the election of Donald Trump illustrate two related issues: the burst of the neoliberal bubble with millions of people ready to support anyone who proposes an alternative to mainstream free

market politics; and, more worryingly, the poor answer given by the left and social democrats, to the rise of an angry majority falling into populism.

Donald Trump aims to stop globalisation, crediting it with the massive loss of manufacturing jobs. He proposes to do so by adopting nationalist economic policies including the setting up of trade barriers and the reshaping of trade agreements, “putting America’s interest first.” This could trigger a trade war between countries, turning themselves inwards both politically and economically and thereby freezing international cooperation. Global issues such as climate change, the most urgent and worrying problem of our century, are only resolvable with constructive global dialogues. The issue demonstrates that populism is a dangerous path to follow.

With presidential elections coming up in France, Austria and Germany, the challenge policy-makers face today is twofold. Firstly, like Keynes and

Roosevelt did in the 1930s, propose an alternative to the obsolete neoliberal system. Secondly, replace unelectable candidates rooted in the establishment by those able to credibly stand against men such as Donald Trump. For the latter, many suggest that leftist candidates with a strong foundation of popular support such as Bernie Sanders are best suited.

Regarding the first, democratic parties will need to paddle back the centralisation undertaken at the end of the 90s; represent again the rural areas and small towns citizens’ interests that globalisation has too often left behind. They also need to replace Keynesian economics with a coherent new theory focusing on equality and the environment.

Whether leftist alternatives will be able to effectively offset the rise of populism will depend on the time that it takes to address the two

challenges that were highlighted above.

What is certain is that neoliberalism is dying - let’s see by whom it will be buried.



IMAGE: ROBERT HUFFSTUFFER

## Business unusual



IMAGE: ANTONIA E DA SILVA

ASHLEY MADISON IS a website which builds its revenue through duplicity, which as a business model may seem acceptable due to its users being somewhat duplicitous themselves. The site is for married people looking to cheat on their partners. “Life is short. Have an affair.” ran as its slogan from its inception in 2001 until July 2016 when it became “Find Your Moment.”

Membership is free. Simply register some details and you’re good to go. Except that once a member, as with many dating websites, pay-to-use features mean that the prices quickly materialise with force. Rather than paying a regular subscription, users purchase credits which can be exchanged for features such as the ability to interact with other members through instant messaging or video calls.

For some features, only one of the parties needs to pay. With many, many more males registered with the site than women, this creates a supply and demand situation that means men are almost always the ones to pay. Efficient, if somewhat exploitative. The moral status of Ashley Madison has often been considered dubious. It raises the question: if people are going to cheat, why not create a platform to catalyse it?

Exploitation continues to be a running theme at this point. While credits are the main source of income, Ashley Madison generates a steady source of revenue by charging members \$19 to permanently delete their accounts.

It doesn’t take long to provide reasons as to why someone might wish to rid themselves of the site. Some may have signed up and regretted considering infidelity. Some may have realised that they don’t want their data available. Some may even have accounts set for them against their will - whether as a prank or something more sinister.

It works less as a product for seducers and more as a product which seduces users seeking alternative company before financially entangling them, possibly to a never-ending degree. Data disclosures in 2015 revealed that the data of accounts “permanently deleted” were all retrievable.

It’s a risky platform to partake in. Yet it has over 46 million users and generated \$115m in 2014. A symptom of a social problem? Probably. Exploiting a gap in the market? Definitely.

# LEGO blocks adverts on Daily Mail

**Jack Harmsworth**  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE TABLOIDS HAVE long been seen as a powerful source of hate-filled propaganda by more liberal observers in the UK. In the past year alone, tabloids have doubled their vitriol over events such as the migrant crisis, IS terror and Brexit. However, the power of such newspapers to preach hatred may soon be about to decline due to the growing social media campaign group ‘Stop Funding Hate’. This group is targeting the tabloids’ reliance on advertising funds to put an end to their unacceptable journalism.

The campaign group argue that the tabloid press have created a divisive narrative. That it is the weak who are to blame for your economic woes. That it is the Filipino nurse, Polish fruit picker or Arab neighbour who is to blame and not the multinational companies avoiding billions in taxes, nor unscrupulous landlords or a government destroying workers’ rights through acts such as the Trade Un-

ion Bill. Supposedly this perfectly suits a press that is embedded with the government and run by a select few billionaires with an agenda to deflect investigative journalism from the powerful. This has left a ‘free press’ in the UK with only one national newspaper that could be legitimately described as ‘left wing’, (*The Guardian*) compared to five right-wing national newspapers.

The tabloids’ vitriol reached a crescendo recently when the *Daily Mail* branded three High Court judges as “Enemies of the People”. Many argued that this front page echoed Nazi propaganda. As a result of this and general divisive journalism, the group ‘Stop Funding Hate’ has been formed to tackle tabloids by targeting their funding. The campaign group scored its biggest victory last week, when LEGO took the executive decision to stop advertising in the *Daily Mail*.

The Danish company’s revenue exceeds an impressive \$5.4bn, making it easily the largest toy company in the world. This is sure to deal a significant blow to a newspaper which has a history of run-

ning advertising campaigns with the newspaper including free giveaways of LEGO merchandise.

The campaign group have managed to achieve this victory through a concerted social media campaign that has involved the mass sharing of an emotive video. The short film



IMAGE: PIXABAY

pleads with companies to extol the virtues included in their Christmas adverts in relation to the press they advertise with. Some celebrities such as Gary Lineker

have also endorsed the movement. Lineker himself witnessed the power of the tabloid press first-hand after being hounded for suggesting that the covering of the migrant crisis had been without compassion but instead with themes of racism.

He has used his unique position as brand representative for Walkers crisps to promote ending their advertising in tabloids such as *the Sun*.

The ‘Stop Funding Hate’ campaign is providing a serious challenge to the dominance of the tabloid press due to one single fact; they need advertising money. If enough like-minded liberal people desire the demise of hateful journalism, then the objective could credibly become a reality. This is all the more important in these politically turbulent times, where the press has such significant powers in agenda setting and influencing public opinion.

Ultimately, it will take more than liberals active on social media to end the reign of tabloid power. The readership itself will need to stop buying into their narratives. This last objective may prove to be a much harder task.



# 'Canned hunting': the lions bred for slaughter

**Eleanor Mason**  
SCIENCE EDITOR

CONSIDERED THE inherent kings of the jungle, lions are wild animals, and opportunists. It is not often thought that lions could be bred for slaughter, but the harsh reality is that it's an active industry in South Africa. Around 800 to 1000 captive-bred lions are murdered annually through canned hunting. But what does this industry involve and why is it still an unresolved issue?

You may be aware that trophy hunting exists: the active killing of game to take home as a 'prize' or a measure of your bravery. To some, a lion's head mounted above a fireplace is the definition of strength, giving the industry much of its appeal. Another issue is 'canned hunting': the process of killing game, bred specifically for that purpose, in an enclosed and controlled area which increases the chance of a kill. Although a prevalent issue in South Africa, it's lamentably often swept under the carpet.

Lions are common targets of

canned hunting. Lions can grow up with deformities and birth defects due to forced pressure upon lionesses to produce an unusual number of litters throughout her lifetime. Hunters, usually from North America or Europe, pay thousands of pounds (usually £5000-25000),

to visit these sites in order to obtain a kill, basing their chosen lion on its online profile. As this is a cheaper and more reliable method of killing game successfully than in the wild, there is high demand from wealthy foreign trophy hunters.

It is devastating to see such a powerful mammal in such a

vulnerable state, as though all their innate power has been wiped away from them. Once again, we have decided that one animal is more or less important than another, and it seems that lions have not quite made the cut. Over 80 per cent of lions have vanished from their habitats: burgeoning human populations have often been blamed as the main contributor to this decline.

Many people visit centres offering cub petting, often posed as wildlife sanctuaries. Again, it is unknowing volunteers who contribute to this business, when really these animals will never be reintroduced into the wild. Instead they are either sold to breeders and killed for the lion bone trade, or set aside for canned hunting when they're adults. These cubs are usually taken away from their mothers just a couple of hours after birth.

Sometimes the opportunity to walk lions on leads is offered. Juvenile lions can be used, usually drugged, before they are sold on. This is a lucrative revenue system, and high profits can be made through the exploitation of these animals.

Some rangers who work in national parks throughout African countries, such as South Africa, claim they would prefer the trade to continue as it prevents hunters entering natural

parks and reserves and shooting lions there. The word legally should be strained here. There is currently very little ethic of animal welfare in South Africa. As 'canned hunting' lacks a legal definition, loopholes in the recording systems of the activity of such farms can be exploited.

Over 80 per cent of lions have vanished from their habitats ”

Some also argue that the profits claimed from the trophy hunting industry are then reinvested into the maintenance of game reserves and breeding programmes, more so than those hunting in the wild.

However, future ecosystems have a glimmer of hope.

Since the release of the canned hunting documentary Blood Lions in 2015, countries such as Australia and France have banned imports of lion trophies. The Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA) came out strongly against predator hunting and lion breeding.

This credible, global campaign, and increasing levels of education about canned hunting appear to be enabling positive developments within the industry. Because, as Ian Michler, a specialist wilderness guide, said, "Not a single lion bred under the current captive conditions has any conservation value".



IMAGE: PINTEREST

# The preventable horrors of animal testing

**Rachel Abraham**  
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

A RABBIT WARREN is made up of a series of intricate interconnected burrows. In relation, much could be said about trying to navigate the maze of controversial problems surrounding animal cruelty and welfare.

Every year, 115 million animals are used for cosmetic and domestic products, drugs, toxicology and research trials. Animals are subjected to abhorrent, cruel tests, such as the Draize test in which the irritation or corrosiveness of a substance is measured by dripping substances into animal's eyes, causing pain and permanent damage. Skin sensitisation tests are applied directly to animals' skins, often resulting in cracked skin, ulcers, burns and discomfort or pain. Some undergo oral toxicity tests, where a tube is passed

down their throat and a substance injected. The animals suffer from diarrhoea, internal bleeding and immobility, which all ultimately lead to a painful death. We are a nation of pet lovers, emotionally invested when it comes to our own animals, yet they're no different to those subjected to these inhumane tests. Horrifyingly, even products that fail these tests may still end up on the market.

Rising pressure from consumers, governing bodies and organisations have led to hundreds of companies registering as cruelty free. Alternative, non-invasive, economical and more accurate experiments are carried out on EpiDerm, a cultivated model of human skin grown in labs, which can accommodate a wide variety of toxicity, dermal corrosion, drug metabolism and DNA repair tests. Other methods include computerised trials or tests on human volunteers.

With new products on the market every year and increased

awareness in buying cruelty free products on the rise, a result is the dizzying variety of certified labels to reassure and appeal to the ethically selective consumer. Cruelty Free International requires companies to successfully complete a stringent checklist before they can be awarded the leaping bunny, PETA's symbol, accompanied by text stating whether it is cruelty free or vegan friendly. PETA have also developed an app allowing consumers to scan the bar code of any product and tell you its cruelty status. It's available in all app stores, free.

Animal testing for the use of cosmetics is banned within the UK and Europe, but is a legal requirement in China. With this in mind, are

companies who sell products in China really cruelty free? L'Oréal admit that some of their Chinese suppliers still test on animals. Other culpable



companies include Nivea, Head & Shoulders, Bobbi Brown, Covergirl, Estee Lauder, Avon, Vaseline and MAC.

But there's good news! Sainsbury's and Tesco's own products are all both cruelty free and affordable, including body, hair, oral and household goods. Sainsbury's also clearly labels any products containing palm oil. Cosmetics by Sleek, Barry M, Natural Collection and The Balm don't sell in China and are perfect cruelty free purchases - proof that you don't need to sacrifice money for morals. These are the ultimate combination of good ethos and quality of product, with excellent value for money.



# Vaccinations: better late than never

**Imogen Green**  
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

ALMOST TWO years ago there was a measles outbreak at Disneyland, which started when an unvaccinated Californian woman contracted the disease before travelling through airports and the theme park.

Although more than 26 people got sick, many anti-vaccination activists mocked the spread of "Mickey Mouse measles"; the virus is possibly the most contagious human virus in existence. Some were loudly claiming that they remembered measles from their childhood as a mild, if annoying, infection; something harmless that all children should go through, that skipping vaccines wouldn't harm.

In fact measles kills 367 per day across the world at present, according to the WHO. The total number of deaths last year were recorded at 134 200, down from an astonishing 2.6 million back in 1980. In 2000, the death rate in the US was 3 per 1000 cases (about 0.3 per cent) with another

0.2 per cent suffering permanent brain damage from the disease. For immunocompromised patients, such as those with AIDS or on chemotherapy, death rates are as high as 30 per cent.

Measles is currently one of the leading causes of child death that could be prevented using vaccines. A Vietnamese epidemic in 2014 led to over 8000 cases with 114 reported fatalities. In Europe, most cases occur in unvaccinated people, who then can expose those who are either too young to have been vaccinated (under a year old) or immunocompromised (they likely have been vaccinated but their system can no longer combat any disease exposure). In the 2013-14 period, there were 10 000 measles cases in Europe, 90 per cent occurring in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, and the UK.

If you have been vaccinated against measles, given as two doses during childhood, you will likely remain immune to the virus for your whole life. However the influenza virus changes rapidly and

this is why you will see a new flu jab offered every year. The WHO recommends that everyone gets the flu vaccine annually unless you are allergic or otherwise unable.

Influenza is caused by a family of RNA viruses that are classed into three genera, influenza A, B and C. The influenza A genus contains the virus serotypes H1N1 (swineflu) and H5N1 (birdflu) among others, differentiated by the antibodies on the virus surface. All three genera infect humans and cause disease, although influenza C is less common than the other types

and normally only causes symptoms in children.

Influenza infection in adults can be mild to severe depending on the strain and the immune response of the individual. Fever,

aches, cough, and fatigue lasting a week are the universal symptoms and you can remain infectious several days after they clear up. While the NHS only offers the free flu vaccine to those most at risk, most pharmacies now have the jab at a low wholesale price, and anyone can be vaccinated for £5.

It is never too late to catch up with childhood vaccinations. If you find that you've missed a measles, meningitis or other vaccine, your GP will be happy to help keep you safe and up to date.



# The Donald says au revoir to Paris

**Lucy Dinsdale**  
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

IF MOTHER Nature were given a vote in the recent Presidential Election, she might have tipped the scale a bit. Presumably she'd be worthy of a hearty portion of the electoral vote. Unfortunately for her, in a short few months, behind a big desk where world-changing decisions are made will sit a man who believes that climate change is a fairy tale. Trump has plans to dismantle Obama's "money wasting" efforts of tackling the very not-fictional problem of climate change.

However, he'll have to hurdle a hostile congress to get his legislation through.

Obama developed the "Clean Power Plan" policy to cut carbon pollution and expand the clean energy economy.

Obama took a leading role in the Paris Agreement – a long term plan to reduce global emissions with the intention of keeping the global temperature rise within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels.

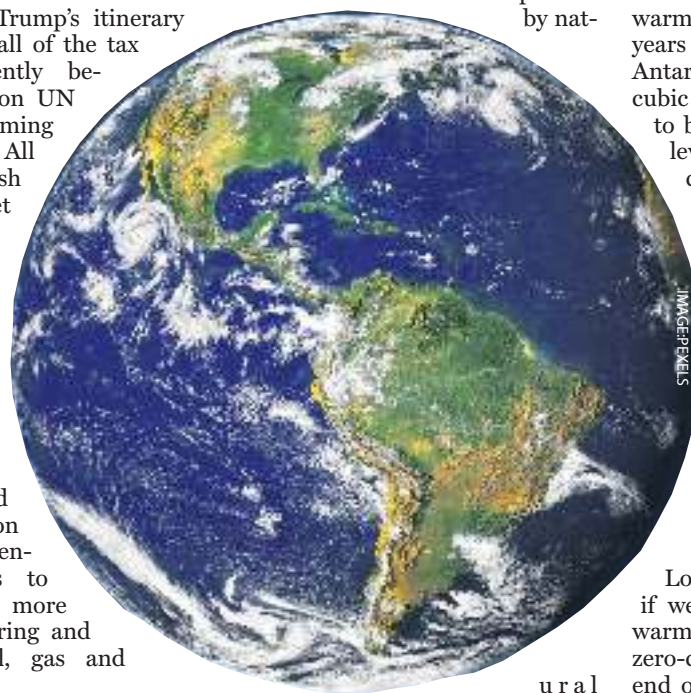
Trump prioritises the US over the future of our planet - his 100-day action plan states, "we're going to rescind all the job-destroying Obama executive actions including the Climate Action Plan." What's

worse is Trump's plan to pull the US out of the Paris Agreement: this could have a domino effect on other reluctant governments, like Poland and India, slowing down global environmental efforts.

Also on Trump's itinerary is to reclaim all of the tax dollars currently being "wasted" on UN global warming programs. All this extra cash in his pocket will be perfect for his "fossil fuel revolution". Taking a positive all-energy approach, he will use federal land on which Obama has fortified the expansion of renewable energy projects to create even more jobs by exploring and producing oil, gas and coal.

So, what is climate change? The Earth's energy is a balance between the reflection and absorption of incoming solar energy. Shifts in the balance are normal due to solar energy variations, changes in the reflectivity of the Earth's atmosphere and surface,

and the fluctuations of the greenhouse effect. All of these affect the retention of heat in the atmosphere. The significant warming since the mid-20th century can't be explained by nat-



Records have shown that the global surface temperature has risen since 1880, with the warmest years occurring in the past 12 years. Oceans have also absorbed the extra heat and are 0.304°F warmer than in 1969. In the three years between 2002 and 2005, Antarctica lost an estimated 152 cubic kilometres of ice, thought to be contributing to rising sea levels. These changes, left unchecked, could be dire for our planet.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimate that if emissions remain as they are for only five more years, there will be a 1.5°C increase of global warming. Scientists consider this to be the tipping point which could see the environment take an irreversible plunge.

Top climate economist Lord Stern recently stated that if we are to stay under 2°C of warming, we must transition to a zero-carbon economy before the end of the century. Failure to do so would create a climate that human civilisation has never experienced and weather patterns that would ensure mass extinctions.

To put it bluntly, it's a catastrophic outlook. Now is not the time to put the brakes on addressing climate change.

## SCIENCE SNIPPETS

### Super supermoon

On the night of 13 November, the biggest supermoon in 70 years could be seen. A supermoon occurs when a full moon coincides with the moon being particularly close to the Earth – called its perigee. Due to the brightness and size of this particular supermoon in comparison to those seen in the last century, it was particularly special. The next supermoon will be in December, but the next one to be as spectacular as this won't be seen until November 2034.



### Cat authors?

In the 1970s, a cat took credit for writing a published physics paper on the indepth exploration of atomic behaviour at different temperatures. A mistake was made on correct pronoun use throughout the paper, which was written by a single man. This incorrect use of second personal pronouns, which could not be altered, resulted in the author claiming a cat to be his co-author.



### Monkey brain implants

Scientists have found a way to bypass the spinal cord in paralysed monkeys. Chips were inserted into their brains, which read the instructions from the brain to move and transmit the signal to a computer. This caused an implant in the spine to stimulate the nerves, causing movement. The technology used here could potentially be a huge leap towards helping paralysed people regain control over their movement.



# Berlin: a city which keeps on fighting back

**Ben Rowden**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

“WER WILL DASS die Welt so bleibt, der will nicht das sie bleibt.”

Those were the words of the German poet Erich Fried which can be roughly translated as: he who wants the world to remain as it is, doesn't want it to remain at all.

For me, this quote, today painted over a section of the East Side Gallery, represents the soul of a city which is at the political centre of Europe and which has arguably experienced more change over the past 100 years than any other in Europe.

There are a number of directions that I could take this piece: I could talk about the history of a city which has experienced war, fascism, communism and division. I could discuss Berlin's outstanding nightlife. I could even ramble about Berlin's struggle to reconcile the east and the west. In many ways I will do a little bit of all of those things, because it's clear that out of division this is now a city which embraces its diversity; culturally, architecturally, ethnically and socially.

But what I really want to focus on is the new and truly exciting way in which Berlin and Berliners, now some of the most outward thinking people in the world, are and have been embracing their diversity

so much that they are opening up spaces and redeveloping old areas in ways which are at worst hipster, and at best ingenious.

This urban revival can be found predominately in the east of the city, where soviet style tower blocks have been transformed into gigantic canvasses; murals spill out over balconies and walls express contemporary beliefs and values. Indeed, a huge medium by which the anti-gentrification protests were expressed in Berlin was through graf-

**Soviet style tower blocks have been transformed into gigantic canvasses** ”

fiti and wall art on the very building people were fighting for. It worked; the laws came into force last year.

Perhaps nowhere is a better example of this ultra-hip urban renewal than the district of Neukölln, close to Kreuzberg, in the south east of the city. Once an area of poverty and social-economic strife, if not least as a result of its close proximity to the old airport of Tempelhof, the suburb is now at the heart of Berlin's artistic movement.

What's more, it's happening

fast. On a weekly basis, new cafes are serving locals, bars and restaurants are transforming the social scene, and areas of open recreation are appearing out of nowhere.

It's happening so fast that it has even been noted that Google Maps are of no use to you here; you'd be directed to a cafe to only find an indie bookstore in its place. Put simply, local communities are at the heart of their areas renewal, and if you want to get in on it, you're going to have to explore for yourself. Truly, it's an opportunity to live out your inner wanderlust and fulfil the millennial dream of experiencing the area like a local.

In 500 or so words I can only ramble so much about this brilliant area, and with only one photo you can only see a glimpse of what I'm rambling about. But please, take it from me, if you're heading to Berlin anytime soon - which for the record, you can do fairly cheaply - venture out past the Bundestag building and Alexanderplatz (as wonderful as they are) and throw yourself into an area of Berlin that is redefining itself day by day.

Berlin is a city that has shown the world that you can bounce back from anything. It's a city which has reinvented and rebuilt itself; Berliners have, in a spectacular fashion, managed to retain that spirit of '89 and have shown the world that beauty can emerge from despair.

Oh, and remember that airport I mentioned? It's a park now.



IMAGE: STEFFI REICHERT

# Kangaroos, corals and captivating culture

**Eden Gallant**  
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIA IS home to some of the most outstanding natural features in the world at Uluru and Cairns, as well as the lively cities of Melbourne and Sydney.

Uluru is located in Australia's heart, the Red Centre. This deserted landscape and deep red sand could almost resemble Mars, but planted in the centre of this desolate environment is Uluru, the Earth's largest rock. It is no wonder that this monolith forms one of most sacred sites for some Aboriginal peoples. The Aboriginal Culture Centre has fascinating artwork, tools, dreamtime stories and insights into the chequered history of these peoples. There are over 200 different tribes in Australia; some have lasted 40,000 years, the oldest continuous cultures

in the world. It is important to remember the appalling discrimination shown by European settlers; before the 1967 referendum, the locals were seen merely as part of the fauna. Although attitudes towards Aborigines have improved, there are still huge inequalities in regards to education, healthcare and job opportunities.

The city of Cairns, located in tropical Queensland, is extraordinarily beautiful - the only place in the world where two UNESCO sites

meet (boasting the Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef). The dense rainforest contains more species of trees in one hectare than there are in the whole of Europe. The Daintree River Cruise is a highlight, as it is home to crocodiles, snakes and kingfishers in their natural habitat. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest structure made by living organisms. It is easy to lose yourself in the labyrinthine undersea world with its spectacular abundance of coral reefs and array of sea life. However, a caveat to visiting is that as a consequence of coral bleaching (a result of climate change), it is now less colourful than is popularly be-

lieved. Restaurants in Cairns live up to the Australian stereotype with barbeques all year round, perfect for sampling some of the national delicacies, including kangaroo, camel, crocodile and emu.

Melbourne is the capital of culture with a plethora of museums, including The Australian Centre for the Moving Image, which is a wonderfully interactive explanation of the world of film, TV and digital culture. Australians are sport fanatics and Melbourne has the colossal 100 000 seater MCG, which hosts cricket as well as the quirky sport of Aussie rules.

Sydney's harbour is a picture postcard with its iconic sights the Harbour Bridge and Opera House. Bondi Beach is well worth a visit, as it personifies Australia's sun, sand and surf

culture and you may also catch a glimpse of a whale. The Maritime Museum is impressive; it housed the current holder of the water speed record, the 'Spirit of Australia', and the HMS Endeavour which was the boat in which Captain Cook discovered the island.

Before packing your bags, here are some key travel tips. Firstly, avoid travelling in Australia's summer (December - February), as the flights are much more expensive and the weather is scorching. Secondly, book flights well in advance to capitalise on the cheaper fares, which are approximately £650 return from the UK in Australia's winter (June-August). Thirdly, you will need at least three weeks, as there is a plenty to see and the country is huge. Finally, in terms of accommodation, Australia is very well set up for backpackers with lots of friendly youth hostels at less than £10 per night in most cities.

On first thoughts, Australia may seem a far-flung and expensive destination, however through careful planning, being selective and some saving up, a dream holiday destination could become a reality!

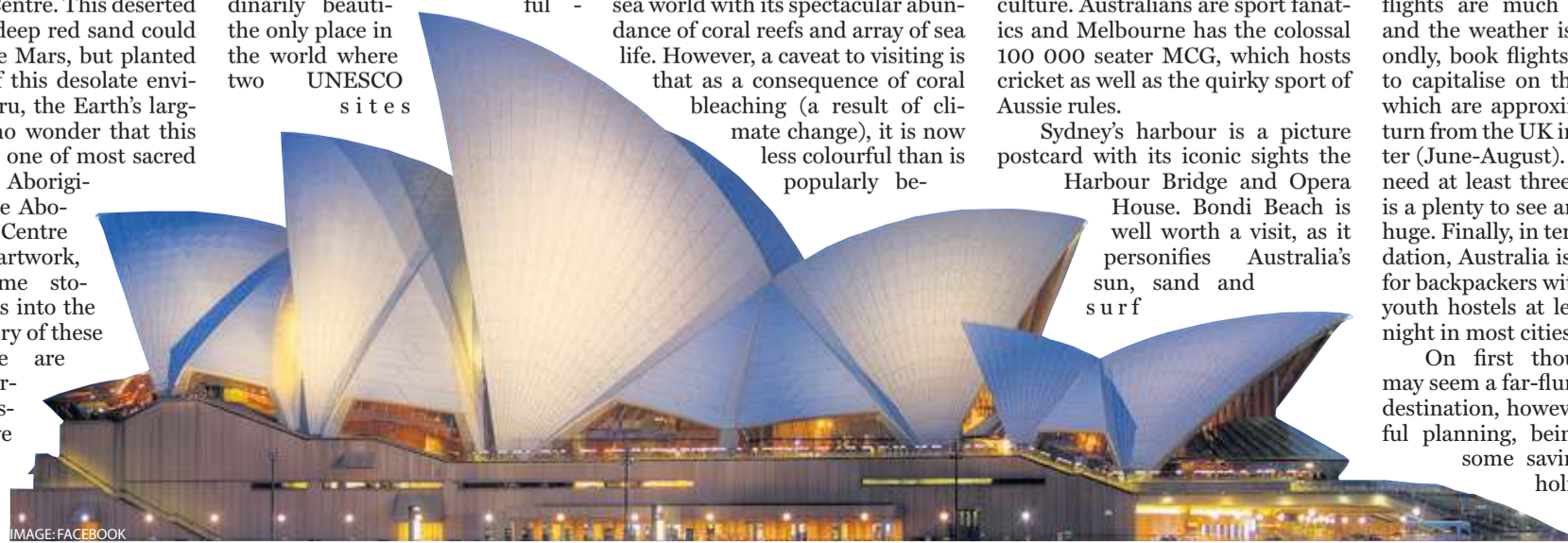


IMAGE: FACEBOOK



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## NOUSE TRIES... VX

Robyn Aitchison heads down to the York Sports Centre to try VX



**Robyn Aitchison**  
SPORTS EDITOR

AS SOON AS I arrived to the squash courts on which VX train, the President of the club, Jack Brown, began introducing me to the rules of the game. I felt that I had the upper hand, having googled before arriving to the training. I was given a quick couple of minutes' explanation above the squash courts as I could see the other members of the team begin warming up below. It was quickly becoming clear that the game wasn't as simple as both Jack and Google had made out.

Following this speedy explanation I was quickly ushered onto the court by Jack and his fellow team member Melissa. I was given some practical help with how to hold the stick, pick up balls and throw. This was quickly proven to be more difficult than it seemed as my previous experience in lacrosse, which I assumed would help me in this game, hindered me spectacularly. I ended up lobbing the ball across the squash court, almost knocking out a light fixture in the process. Jack explained to me that this was a common feature in people who have played lacrosse and try to make the change to VX. He may have been lying to make me feel better, but I appreciated it nonetheless.

The rules of VX amount to needing to hit the ball against your opponent as many times as possible

in a four-minute match, and you're allowed to hit anywhere below the shoulders in order to score a point. Despite being a non-contact sport, I still felt attacked every time I felt the soft tennis ball banging against my leg. When my opponents had me captured in a corner, throwing ball after ball against me, I just about managed to escape unscathed.

My inability to pick up the ball did not help me in this situation, as I could hear Jack shouting from above, "hold your stick vertically!", an obvious fact that I probably should have been able to remember. But the adrenaline of beginning a new sport and having to play it against the some of the most experienced members of the club meant that facts often got thrown out the window, as I favoured the, 'throw the ball somewhere in the court and hope it hits someone' technique.

The most points I was able to get in one single match was 12, while my opponents were scoring anything from 17 to 33.

It was a two-hour-long session and by the one hour mark,

I was already beginning to flag, not being able to keep up with my competitive and much more experienced opponents.

Taking a five minute break, I asked Jack a few more questions

about the club. He explained that he formed the club two years ago and, at first, he simply dragged along members of his flat to make up the team. The club flourished from there.

He also explained that they have recently begun taking part in competitions once or twice a year in the Cannon Rose in Scotland, playing against Falkirk and Scunthorpe. It is a friendly competition ran over a single day. Due to the club being the youngest of the three they got 'thrashed' in the competition, held at the beginning of November, losing to the other clubs with 3 points compared to Scunthorpe's 43 points and Falkirk's 31. Nonetheless, they hope to return next time with ardour, and hopefully they will be able to gain the title for York in future competitions.

The friendly aspect of the club was evident throughout the entire session as my opponents would allow me to hit them with the ball when they could have quite easily moved away. Hilarity ensued at the end of my match against one of the members, Matt, when our referee gave us 10 seconds until the end of the game and Matt was completely unaware of where my flying ball had gone, looking blankly ahead as I received the final point. I didn't manage to win any games, but throughout the session the whole team would give me advice and teach me new moves.

My experience playing VX was a new one, and one I hope to continue next term, it was an exciting and new sport that I'm glad to have had the opportunity to play.

*If you would like to know more or if you're interested in playing VX, contact vx@yusu.org.*

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

**Robyn Aitchison**  
SPORTS EDITOR



A LOT OF THINGS happened in the world of sport between the last edition of *Nouse* and this one. As I am writing this comment, we have found out that Andy Murray is number one for the rest of the year after beating Novak Djokovic, something we wished we could have covered in this edition, had we discovered this fact sooner.

However, the controversy surrounding FIFA and the poppy scandal provided for an interesting perspective in sports comment, and is something we hope will interest many of the sports readers.

This doesn't even include all of the exciting campus news and match reports, including the women's basketball team's first win of the season and the women's swimming team breaking eight club records, and the women's volleyball team having another consecutive win. Sorry to the men that we accidentally rejected in this edition, we defi-

nately didn't forget about all your achievements, but all the men's match reports we were going to include fell through! Following #ThisBucsGirlCanWeek, it's never a bad thing to be highlighting the achievements of the women's sports at York.

I had the opportunity to do *Nouse Tries* for this edition, partaking in VX which was a very exciting experience for me, as I had the chance to take part in a sport which I thought I knew something about, when in reality, I knew very little.

As you will read, it was not a sport which came naturally to me, much like Jake Tattersdill attempting Canoe Polo last edition. At least I didn't end up almost drowning as a result of my inabilities. I still had a great time nonetheless, even if I did get hit a few times. If you're unaware of the rules of VX, I hope that interests you enough to begin reading the article.

We hope this new feature has been exciting to you, and please look forward to our future editions in which I am hoping to pressure my male co-editors into partaking in ballet. I will be sure to take lots of pictures.

On that note, we all look forward to returning to *Nouse* in the New Year, renewed and rejuvenated, as we discover up-and-coming, exciting sports stories to write and read.

## TEAMMATES

*Nouse* chats with Athletics

**Names:** Sam Wilson and Sarah Grover

**Role:** Long distance and cross country captains.

**Course:** Biochemistry

**Year:** 3rd

**Hardest Trainer:** Conor Bindler - he's far too keen

**Fastest Finisher:** Ali Pizzey - his lack of training is deceptive

**Best Tactician:** Not sure if anyone qualifies

**Most Intelligent:** Liz Watton - reads so many running books

**Biggest Snake:** Alisha Camm, she left us for Ben Lairig...

**Biggest Lightweight:** Two-Pint Toby

**Best Motivator:** Apparently Sarah Grover

**Club Comedian:** George Phillips and Liam Medley are our comedy duo.





# FIFA are wrong to ban the poppy, here's why

The home countries' national football teams should be allowed to show their respects on their playing kit

**Patrick Hook-Willers**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

FIFA. THE GOVERNING body of world football. The organisation that has run the game of football with integrity and honour for the past 112 years; that gave rise to the game becoming the most popular on Earth; and the one that sold the sport's flagship event to the highest bidder, exposing itself to be rife with corruption and greed.

The latest debacle to surround this noble organisation involves FIFA declaring that the national sides of the home nations were not allowed to wear the symbol of the poppy on their playing jerseys for their matches on Armistice Day. FIFA denied requests from the FA, FAW and SFA to be granted permission to wear the symbol on black armbands, something which is not uncommon. They stated that the poppy is "a politicised symbol" that has no place in the game, and could cause offence given its connotations to some groups.

The England side has worn the poppy before, and teams in the Premier League have worn the symbol

on their shirts for many years, although not without incident. Just last season, West Bromwich Albion and Ireland winger James McClean caused a stir after refusing to adorn the poppy on his shirt, a stance he has maintained through his entire career, stretching back to his days at Wigan Athletic. In a letter to the chairman of Wigan, Mike Whelan, he stated, "for me, to wear the poppy would be a gesture of disrespect for the innocent lives lost in the Troubles", referring specifically to Bloody Sunday in 1972, where British soldiers shot dead 26 protesters in Derry.

McClean's disdain for the poppy symbol makes FIFA's stance somewhat understandable, as the poppy acts as a symbol of remembrance for Brits lost in all conflicts, not just the two World Wars, as is the common belief. The British military has been involved in some appalling acts across the globe, and the concern from FIFA could stem from them not wanting to be seen as condoning football being used as a political weapon.

At the start of the month, FIFA opened disciplinary proceedings against the governing body of football in the Republic of Ireland, the FAI, for having embroidered on the

shirts of the national side a symbol to mark the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising. What is remarkable is that the match in which these shirts were worn (a friendly against Switzerland) was on 25 March, nearly eight months ago. How such a 'political statement' meandered past the watchful eyes of FIFA's PC police is baffling, considering how hard they've come down on the home nations this time around.

What sparked FIFA into calling out the FAI was actually a cruel twist of irony. As the FA and SFA began to build their case against FIFA, they sought to highlight the fact that the Irish team were allowed to display such a contentious political statement on their kit, while their own national teams were not given permission to show their poppies of remembrance.

Although the poppy is clearly not advocating any sort of violence, it could be viewed from their perspective as setting a dangerous precedent for the politicising of the game, something which could be very damaging given the ever-increasing reach of the game.

However, from a common sense viewpoint, I think it is silly of FIFA to try and prevent the teams from



wearing the symbol. There was a rare opportunity last week for the two nations of Scotland and England to come together at Wem-

bley Stadium and give their thanks to those who have died in war, defending their countrymen's democratic rights.

If those that had been killed in the wars of previous centuries had not made the sacrifice, the game between the old rivals may not be taking place at all. For FIFA to try and deny the players and fans of the game the chance to remember those who have been lost I believe is an overstepping of the mark.

The FA and SFA have said that they will defy FIFA's stance no matter what

the consequences. I applaud this stance, and I am sure the people whom the poppy is designed to remember would do so as well.

The poppy is a symbol of peace, remembrance and reflection, not a symbol of war and politics. For two rival nations to stand together with such a symbol on their shirts could not be further from being a political statement. It is a statement of peace and of thanks, one I will savour when 11 November comes round again.

## The Rocket arrives in York

Snooker superstar cued up for Barbican tournament appearance

**James Voyle**  
SPORTS EDITOR

"IT'S NOT AN endorphin sport. It's about controlling your emotions. A thought goes in and you go, 'Shh!' Then another. Then another. When you get back on the table, the only reason you pot is because you left your emotions in your seat."

These are the words of the greatest snooker player of all time, Ronnie O'Sullivan. Later this month, the five times world champion arrives in York to compete in the UK championships. Yet behind the wall of trophies is a man with a fragile and twisted mind.

Ronnie turned professional at the age of 16 after a childhood spent among the neon lights of Soho, running errands in his father's sex shops. In his first season he won 74 of his 76 matches, but this was overshadowed by Ronnie Sr.'s imprisonment for murder, his mother's for tax evasion, and his own wrongful arrest for abduction. Over the years he has tackled drug addiction, alcoholism and clinical depression. The same year that he



mocked Alain Robidoux by defeating him while playing left-handed, he was found guilty of assaulting a media official at the Crucible.

It's been no plain sailing for the snooker superstar. Perhaps his million-miles-an-hour mind is not suited to a sport that demands such mental calmness, such peace with oneself, although his record suggests otherwise. In 2012 he took a break from it all and became a pig farmer, before returning to the fold four months later to win the world championship with practi-

cally no preparation. That is classic O'Sullivan. The man is an enigma.

If you can, visit the Barbican Centre in the next few weeks and catch a glimpse of this complicated genius. He may not have the fiery temperament of the Rocket of old, but he still packs a punch. And what is Ronnie's advice for budding billiard players? "Stay away from this game. Because somewhere down the line, you're going to wake up one day and think, 'Fuck me'. It ain't very healthy for your development as a person."

## England march on

Eddie Jones' men keep their 100% record

**Joe Santamaria**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THERE IS NO doubt that England were under pressure before the game against South Africa. Injuries, an ongoing dispute over player welfare and the fact that England hadn't won this fixture in ten years meant that the spotlight was firmly on them at Twickenham.

They had to weather the storm in the opening minutes as the gargantuan South African pack advanced. But once the game settled, England began to expose a poor Springbok team. The 37-21 scoreline flattered South Africa and the result confirmed that England have picked up where they left off after the summer's tour of Australia.

For me, two virtually identical moments of quality sum up this match. I am referring to both of Ben Youngs' sublime dummies to set up tries for George Ford and later for Owen Farrell. The unfortunate Pieter-Steph du Toit was twice left for dead by these magical moments from a player right at the top of his game.

It is fitting that Ford and Farrell, who are rapidly becoming a world-class double act, were the beneficiaries as they dominated the game. These moments highlight exactly how England defeated the Springboks; speed of thought from Youngs bamboozled the laborious opposition forwards and he always had two world-class playmakers to choose from.

**12** Successive wins for England, 11 of which have been under new head coach Eddie Jones.

The South Africa win was followed by a 58-15 demolition of Fiji. The 43 point margin of victory was the largest England have ever recorded over the Pacific Islanders, which is remarkable given the fact that the team sent out was largely a second string side.

Next up at Twickenham are Argentina and Australia. Victories over the southern giants will not help to quieten talk of Hartley and company challenging New Zealand's recently-set world record of 18 consecutive wins.



## Resounding victory for volleyball

**Robyn Aitchison**  
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK WOMEN'S 1s beat Leeds Beckett 1s spectacularly in a thrilling game of volleyball this Wednesday, ending in a 3-0 victory to York.

The opening set showed York's superiority as 15 minutes into the game had passed and Leeds Beckett were yet to score a point. With York leading 11-0, it seemed unlikely that they were going to achieve any points any time soon.

York were serving with ferocity, particularly Maria, not even allowing for a rally to be established between the two teams.

Leeds Beckett were making errors continuously, leading to members of the team growing increasingly frustrated as they were struggling to even get a shot in following York's aggressive serving technique.

The two teams managed to establish a rally, with Leeds Beckett winning themselves a few points in the first set, but that was not enough for Leeds Beckett to win, as York finished the first set with a victory of 25-3.

The communication within the York team was instrumental in their

victory as they exchanged tactics efficiently with one another in order to win. The Leeds Beckett team's inefficient communication led to their downfall as they tumbled into one another, failing to signal where others would be going next.

The second set opened with extreme promise for the York team because of their strong victory in the first set. However, Leeds Beckett began to catch up with York, scoring a couple of points one after another, causing York to re-evaluate their techniques.

Long rallies began to ensue as Leeds Beckett were able to change where they were going wrong, with strong work from Zolotariof who continually managed to get in spikes against the team as York continued to stay ahead.

A member of the Leeds Beckett team called for a timeout, and so during a short break, York sorted out the problems they were having that had led to Leeds Beckett beginning to catch them up, and they began fighting back stronger than ever.

What was once only a four-point lead became seven points with a score of 16-9 to York, with spectacular spikes from the likes of Maria and Guobyte.

Furthermore, Beckett's enthu-

siastic attempts to try and defeat York nearing the end of the game simply led to the ball continually going into the net, or merely going out of the playing area, leading to point after point going to York.

Leeds Beckett gave their best effort on Wednesday, but it was to no avail, as York completed the second set with another amazing victory of 25-13, showing how their valiant work was paying off as they won another set with a strong lead against the opposing team.

The third set of the game

showed York's determination, with particular efforts being made by Piou, bringing the team together and motivating them to continue playing with energy as they chanted "let's go York, let's go!" They played with power, conquering Leeds Beckett and completing the match winning all three sets.

The York women's 1s team have won many of their matches so far this season. If this week's match was anything to go by, they will continue to sweep their matches with flying colours.



IMAGE: WILL PALMER

### Wheelchair basketball

Following the success of sitting volleyball, The University of York Basketball Club is teaming up with the local York Sharks Wheelchair Basketball Club in order to create a wheelchair basketball team of their own. Give it a Go sessions will begin in week two of term two. In order to help form a wheelchair basketball team. The York Sharks will provide wheelchairs and coaching to build up for a 'novice tournament' at the end of term, where the freshly built team will get the chance to play competitively. The goal is to be eventually included in the Roses championships.

### Santander Scholars announced

This year's Elite Santander Scholars have been announced as Stuart Hosie (rowing), Elspeth McLeod (weightlifting), Shellby Stephenson (underwater hockey) and Matthew Tomlin (softball). Normally three athletes each receive £5 000 to assist with training and tournament costs. This year, however, one scholarship was split between Stephenson, who is competing in the under-23s Underwater Hockey World Cup in Tasmania next year, and Tomlin, who competed for Team GB in the Slowpitch World Cup in Florida earlier this month.

### Rugby women's seconds win

Last week's Merrell Team of the Week was Women's Rugby Club 2nd XV who stormed to victory in their very first competitive fixture against Cumbria, winning 44-0. The performances of both teams have been outstanding and backs up the choice to choose women's rugby as a focus team for the first year ever. Their attitude off the pitch is also amazing and I believe the club will go from strength to strength.

### New YUSU accreditation scheme

A new accreditation scheme is set to launch for all sports clubs at York. Clubs will be able to apply for a rating from YUSU of either bronze, silver or gold. Sports President Isaac Beevor highlighted how this the scheme will "encourage clubs to look for ways to get more involved in the local and University community." The level of award will be determined by how the club scores in three categories: development, inclusivity and community. The ratings will act as a signpost for the quality of the club and will also correlate to different levels of rewards from YUSU.

## York women break eight club records

**Rebecca Hall**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

YORK'S SWIMMERS headed to Sheffield's Pond Forge International Sports Centre last weekend for the first of their BUCS competition of the year, with the hope of continuing last year's impressive form. The girls set the pace early on, boosted by an impressive selection of newcomers, with a new club record in the 4x50m freestyle relay going to Rebecca Britten, Jade Hutchinson, Nisha Desai and Jodie Alder.

Men's captain Victor Amara led the way at the start of Saturday's session with an encouraging sub-two minute time in his 200m freestyle. Simon Duston and Peter Schlichter came in close behind, both clocking a time of 2:01.39. Alder then grabbed her second club record of the meet in the 50m backstroke. Not to be outdone, Ellie Griffin and Sam Timpany both set new records in the 50m breaststroke, before sub-one minute 100m butterfly times for Duston and Amara closed out the morning session.

The afternoon began with Alder and Schli-

chter setting new 200m backstroke records with impressive times of 2:25.47 and 2:12.09, respectively. Next up were the 50m freestyle heats, Duston again ahead with returning veteran Bill Timpany and newcomer Brandon Teo not far behind. Alder collected yet another record with her time of 27.65 and a collection of other fast swims, including a 200m breaststroke record for captain Fiona Whiting that was quickly re-broken by Griffin, indicating a hugely promising season ahead for UYSWC's ladies.

Saturday was rounded off with the popular medley relay heats; both men and women comfortably beat their Lancaster counterparts which suggest that the Roses crown has a good chance of returning to Yorkshire this year.

No one fancied the 200m butterfly, so for UYSWC, the Sunday session began with the 100m freestyle and a huge personal best for Alice Rush. Chris Unsworth came out top in the 100m breaststroke with his time of 1:08.40 and Griffin claimed another new record with a time of 1:18.58.

The competition finished with

Schlichter almost matching his 100m backstroke record set at Roses last year, an impressive achievement for this point in the season.

12

The number of club records broken by York's swimming team at Sheffield

Women's captain Fiona Whiting was thrilled with how her team performed. She told *Nouse*: "the girls swam amazingly well, it's the first time that we've had three relay teams compete at BUCS and we only just missed out on qualifying for the finals. I'm so proud of how they swam this weekend, there are so many more exciting things that are going to happen with this talented team."

Men's captain Victor Amara had similar high praise for the boys on his team. "This first competition of the season produced some fantastic swims in a broad range of strokes and distances. Such results not only set a high standard for the rest of the season but are also a preview of the success that is to come."

Both swimming captains highlighted the excellent efforts of Ellie Griffin and Sam Timpany.





# New sports arena to officially open next week

**James Voyle**  
SPORTS EDITOR

RENOVATION WORK to the York Sports Centre on Heslington West is nearing completion.

Final touches are being made to the £2.2m investment. The centrepiece of the project, the new sports hall, opened for use earlier this month. The impressive new structure boasts 65 per cent more playing space than the previous building.

The hall will be utilised by a number of sports clubs, including futsal, volleyball, netball, badminton and basketball.

12 600

Total surface area in metres squared of the new sports hall

The improved facilities will be officially opened next Monday following the completion of the team tunnel, a new feature at the sports centre that will be emblazoned with

black and gold, welcoming teams into the arena.

York Sport President Isaac Beevor is looking forward to the additions being made to the sports centre. He said, "what is exciting is the little touches that will go into it. We have a branded team tunnel and lobby which means that clubs that come here know that this is the home of sport at York".

Construction work at the sports centre was expected to be completed by the start of this academic year. Demolition of the previous structure at the sports centre occurred in May, meaning that total construction time has exceeded seven months.

Improvements to the sports centre are part of a wider range of projects currently being undertaken on campus. Vice-Chancellor Koen Lamberts said: "this new investment will create a number of natural campus hubs for students to be able to work, both independently and as a team, in a vibrant and creative space. Our campus is designed to encourage collaboration and bring students together to share ideas and support each other as they progress through their studies."



## First win for basketball girls

**James Voyle**  
SPORTS EDITOR

YORK 1s LANDED their first win of the season, with an energetic display against a static Sheffield side. An organised and swift offense paired with a tenacious defensive game allowed the York girls to shut out the travelling opposition in front of a lively home crowd.

After a slow start to the game, Sheffield opened the scoring. It would be the only time in the game that the visitors would be in the lead as they were soon rebutted by three York goals scored in quick succession. The first quarter remained a tight affair as York squeaked in at the break with an 18-17 lead.

Captain Bea Lansbergen spearheaded the attack with her rapid runs deep into Sheffield

territory. The defence had little response to the York team, who within minutes had opened up a six-point lead. While Sheffield were equally deft at advancing the ball up the court, their shooters were not of York's quality and failed to convert a number of opportunities. They were made to rue their missed chances: in the second quarter they scored just six points, as York went in at half time up at 28-23.

The second half began with another Sheffield free-throw. The raucous crowd did their best to put the Sheffield shooter off and were sent into delirium when the rebounded shot was collected by Lansbergen who stormed across the court and netted first time to give York the first points of the second half.

Sheffield began to find their feet and managed to reduce the deficit to just three points. As a sense of urgency gripped the team (who were hoping not to fall to

their third defeat in succession) they began to attack with earnest. York struck back through Frankie Ashby, who emerged as a key player with scoring two points in quick succession. Moments later, she nearly made it three as she ghosted past her defender but just couldn't quite convert.

The rest of the third quarter was characterised by York beginning to dominate the scoresheet. Deep into the quarter, a three-pointer from Sheffield was nullified within seconds by a spectacular shot from Sophie Bennett which really sent the crowd rocking. A goal was converted by the euphoric Rose Lagnado, just as the referee's whistle was sounded, who wheeled away in delight having given York a 43-34 lead at the end of the quarter.

A free-scoring ten minutes wrapped up the match. Passionate defending from Juliet Smith and Kayla Taylor-Schmidt kept the Sheffield team at bay, while three three-pointers from Bennet alone stretched York's lead even further. Taylor-Schmidt scored the last points of the game for York, who may be accused of letting their guard down towards the final whistle. Although in vain, Sheffield scored nine unanswered points in the closing minutes. York were outscored 18-19 in what was a frantic final quarter.

The York squad will hope that they can grab their first away win of the season in their next fixture against Sunderland.



## Mixed LAX results

**Georgie Moffat**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

This week marked a busy week in the Lacrosse calendar. A total of three matches were played over two days.

The women's 2s began the week in a commanding fashion by recording their first win of the season against Leeds Beckett 2s in the first round of the Northern Conference Cup. Despite the cold conditions, the team were on fine form from the very first minute, completely subduing Leeds Beckett to win 23-2.

It was a rousing performance by the attack, with hat-tricks coming from Hannah Crump and Izzy Morris, while centre Anniken Holst and Bethany Quinton exhibited excellent link play, ensuring possession and forward momentum from the centre draw. Such a win was well-deserved and well-needed, after a tough season for the newly-promoted team.

However the team were unable to double their success in their next game.

Despite showing some encouraging form against a strong Newcastle 2s team they went on to be defeated. Even with a valiant defensive effort the team still faced a 0-12 loss.

After a comprehensive win against Bangor 24-4 in their

previous match, York women's 1s were also involved in a tough match against local rivals, Leeds. It was a hard fought game in which the defence were heavily involved in stalling fast breaks from the Leeds attack.

Standout players Fenella Houlton and Joy Mendes de Costa worked tirelessly up-front, both in scoring goals and creating opportunities. However, the final score ended with a 4-21 loss to Leeds.

Both teams in the lacrosse club now look ahead towards their respective cup matches: the 1s to their game against St Andrew's, while the 2s travel to Manchester Metropolitan, where they hope to replicate their strong performance against Leeds Beckett.

The hope now is that this team can build going forward and reach new heights.





## Nouse Tries

Robyn Aitchison tries VX, one of the latest sports to hit York P.24



## England Rugby

Is this the best England team since 2003? P.25



## Volleyball victories

York women victorious against Leeds Beckett P.26



# NEWS SPORT

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## Freshers wince at price of York sport

**Robyn Aitchison**  
SPORTS EDITOR

TAKING PART IN sport at university is a great way to get involved. However individuals are sometimes not be aware of the hidden costs when they're partaking in taster sessions and becoming attached to specific sports.

The costs of sports at university can deter new students from undertaking any sport whatsoever. It is becoming imperative that changes must be made in order for sports to be more inclusive for people who are unable to afford it.

The overall cost of joining the York Hornets cheerleaders can amount to over £200. This covers the costs of uniform, travel and competition fees. The club often has to fundraise over the year in order to raise funds for their expensive competitions, whose entry costs can be as much as £9000.

In comparison with select universities, York's membership does seem expensive, but other universities often don't include other fees in their yearly membership.

For example, Lancaster University's cheerleading membership fee is only £35. However, they were required to buy a gym membership for £99 in order to train.

A student at Lancaster University stated that it was 'ridiculous' that they were required to purchase a gym membership in order to take part in cheerleading as they wished to take part in the sport but did not want a gym membership.

The University of Liverpool Foxes requires its members to purchase: general cheer membership, a membership per semester, competition costs and access to the sports hall in order to be a cheerleader. Including their uniform, this can amount to £314 (providing they only partake in one competition per year).

As such, it is understandable as to why students may not be inclined to take part in cheerleading, and although it is a lot of money at the University of York, it is substantially cheaper to take part than at other universities.

More hidden costs can also be found in other sports clubs, as the

University has something called Black Tier or Gold Tier Membership. In order to join certain sports clubs, it requires students purchase membership of the club (which is usually around £30), and purchase either Black or Gold Tier membership (Black Tier is £20 and Gold Tier is £10).

Alongside these, participants may also be required to pay per session. Ben Lairig (Mountaineering) requires people to pay per weekend trip, where people may stay in tents or bunkhouses. Costs can be anything from £30 to £100 depending on where they go.

Furthermore, Rowing has a membership fee of £50 per semester. One Alcuin third year stated how he "almost quit rowing because of the fees as [he] was also under financial strain at the time". This shows that if sports at York wish to continue to flourish, the issue of prices must be addressed.

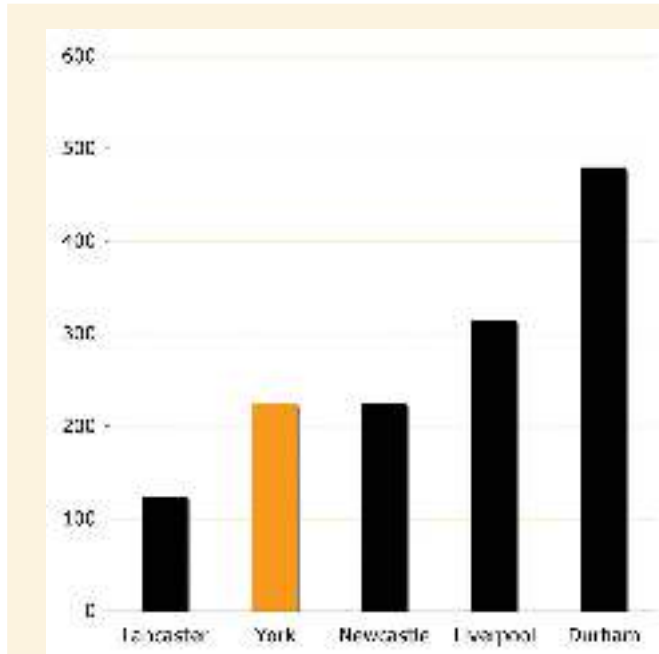
However, not all sports are as expensive. There are many sports which don't require these expensive membership fees. VX, for example, only requires £10 for membership for the entire year.

College sports are entirely free at the point of entry, though involve added costs for kit, equipment, and travel as they receive little to no funding from YUSU.

Additionally, the York Sports Union is continually attempting to decrease the costs of sports at University, partaking in RAG weeks in association with other charities in order to bring more money into the union to maintain excellent facilities and university teams.

York Sport Union President, Isaac Beevor, had this to say about the cost of sport at the University of York: "whilst I understand the cost of getting involved can be quite high for a number of sports, clubs usually try to keep this as low as possible. Often clubs at the start of the year will run open sessions, which gives people the opportunity to try out new sports and see whether they would like to become a full member."

Unfortunately, it is often the high costs that prevent people from becoming members after attending these open sessions. The cost of sports at universities must be assessed if they are to become accessible for all.



When comparing the average cost of cheerleading over an academic year, York ranks quite favorably to other universities in the north of England. The total cost of joining the cheerleading team at York is approximately £225, similar to that of Newcastle, compared with Durham's £480. Roses rivals Lancaster have some of the lowest costs, averaging £124 for each member of the team.