



**Interview**  
The Gryphon meets local MP, Greg Mulholland.

**After Ferguson**  
Comment discusses the entrenched problems of American society



**In The Middle**  
Hessele Audio stalwart chats about his skyrocketing career



Save the Real Junk Food Project

## Hoax Twitter accounts attempt to influence elections

Jasmine Andersson  
Editor-In-Chief

A group of twitter accounts have been created in an attempt to influence LUU politics.

Three profiles on the popular social media website have been identified as fake accounts pretending to be female students.

One of the accounts in question is using the image of a dead girl on its profile.

The profile, which pretends to be a first-year Maths student, is using the photo of a 15-year-old girl, Rosie Whitaker.

The late teenager committed suicide after suffering from bulimia in 2012, which has been reported on several national media websites.

Two other profiles on the micro-blogging site have also used 'fake' profile pictures.

It appears that the images for the two first-year female students have been garnered from a 'hipster tumblr' website.

There is a strong suggestion that the accounts are related.

As well as 'following' one another on the social media website, the accounts have retweeted each other and appear to have been set up within a fortnight of each other.

The majority of tweets from each account appear to have been sent just a few minutes apart.

It appears that the person(s) in charge of the accounts have a working knowledge of Union politics, as well as the NUS elections.

The accounts also share a strikingly similar group of followers. They also follow a high proportion of the same people.

The accounts have tweeted about the LUU big debate under the hashtag #leadluu, as well as actively criticising executive members and have backed candidates running in the NUS delegate elections.

A Union spokesperson said: 'The

Union doesn't take responsibility for policing these accounts.

However, we would ask people to consider the feelings of others when creating accounts and setting profile pictures and to not cause unnecessary upset.'

Unofficial profiles are rife on the social media site.

Although Twitter uses the 'blue tick' authorisation system in order for public figures to validate their profile, the website also encourages users to report fake accounts.

A second-year Philosophy student said: 'I think it's really bad for the reputation of the NUS elections. It's particularly shocking that the identity of a dead person has been used. I hope that the Union get to the bottom of it.'

A fourth-year Politics student said: 'Student politics are so careers-tailored that I'm not surprised people are plunging to these depths to succeed.'

The identity of the account creator(s) is currently unknown.



5 12 14

## Weather

		HI	LO
Friday	sunny	6	0
Saturday	cloudy	6	5
Sunday	sunny	8	2

## Tweet of the Week

Never thought my life would come to this: listening to a man reeling off endless numbers while people make a noise that sounds like mooing.

-Helen Lewis of New Statesman discusses the perils of political journalism during Wednesday's Autumn Statement

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## Credits

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# Editor's Letter

A fervour of student protest lit up Warwick University this Wednesday, as students staged a peaceful sit-in to express their discontentment with tuition fee rises and university staff wages. Part of the National Day of Action called by the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts (NCAFC), the movement sought to reignite a sense of collective protest in the wake of the reelection.

Despite the eminent wake of the Cops Off Campus sleeping dragon, the students and the police force entered into yet another unwanted debate of violence. Recording several clips of police using unwarranted physical force, students insisted that tear gas canisters and tasers had suddenly entered the conversation. It's a tiresome stand-off that never yields results, but it is a situation all too frequent due to a lack of under-

standing of protesting living in harmony with peace.

As campus protests inevitably gain momentum over the next few weeks, it is essential to establish the groundwork for these demonstrations to happen without unnecessary hurt. If a person intends to partake in a non-violent protest, there should be assurance that they are not harmed by the body that is meant to ensure their wellbeing and safety. As these citizens

venture to rock the boat to improve the educational system, it should be made known that the vast majority of those that participate only want to make a dent in the financial deficit.

Jasmine Andersson



IB Times ©

## Crossword

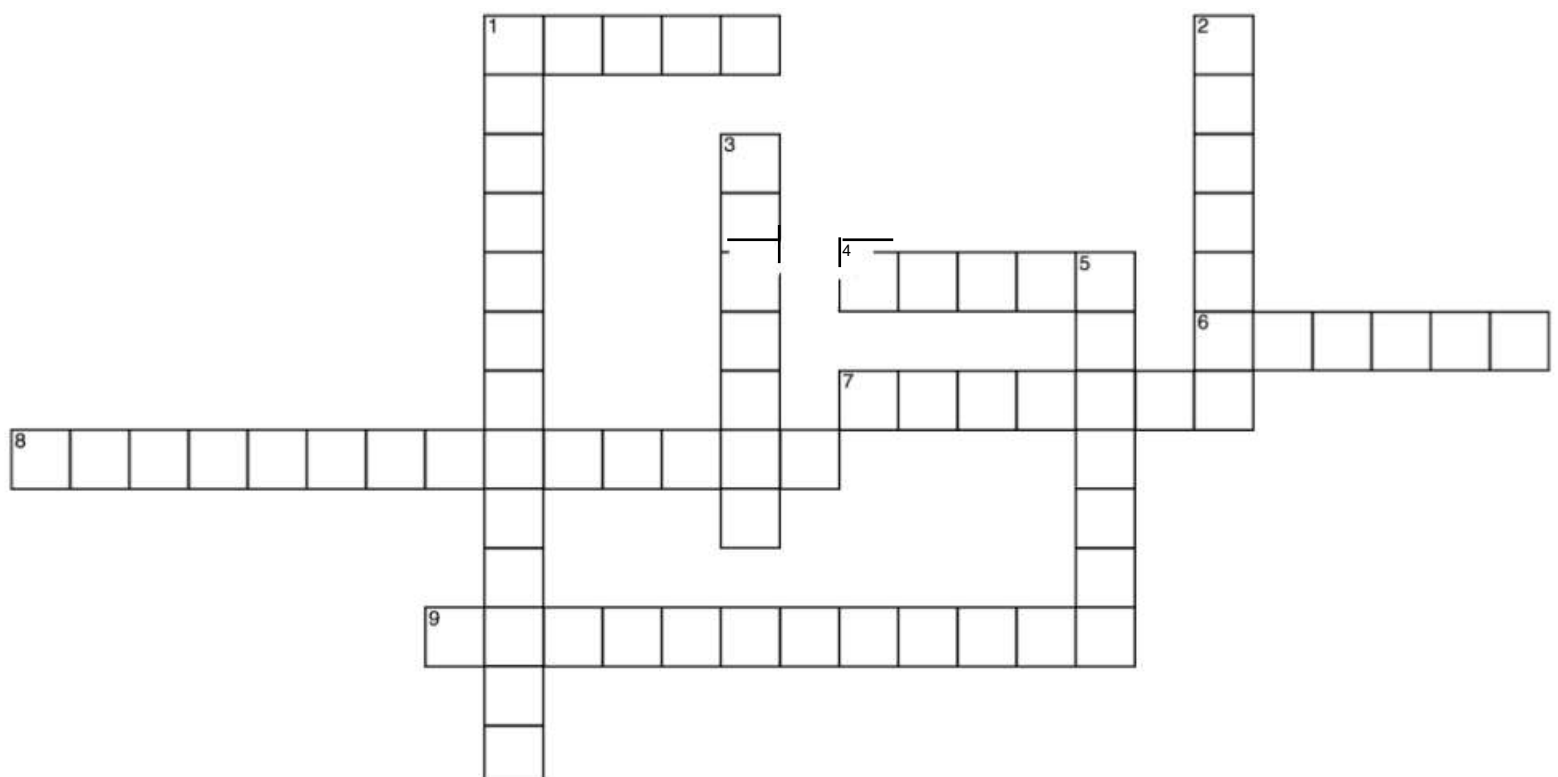
This week's current affairs in black and white squares

## ACROSS

- 1 Karen \_\_\_\_\_ made her maiden speech in the House of Lords on Thursday
- 4 Keyboardist Ian McLagan passed away this week. In which band did he play in with fellow superstar Rod Stewart?
- 6 Which country became embroiled in a doping scandal this week?
- 7 Premier League ground to be expanded, starting Monday
- 8 Which renowned violinist shocked an audience this week by berating the parents of a coughing child?
- 9 Which 2012 internet sensation was revealed to have nearly 'broken' YouTube this week

## DOWN

- 1 Jeff Young is celebrating the milestone of not missing his team play a football match in 27 years this week. Who does he support?
- 2 Jimmy \_\_\_\_\_ - first 'I'm a Celebrity...' contestant voted off the show this year
- 3 George \_\_\_\_\_ - delivered final government assessment of the economy before the 2015 election
- 5 Title of new James Bond film, announced this week







# 'Junk' food outreach centre faces closure

Guest writer and charity volunteer *Bryher Bloor* explains why the closure of a vital lifeline in Armley would be devastating for the local community

A café that intercepts and uses food destined for landfill is in danger of closure after the building that houses it was put up for sale.

The Real Junk Food Project situated on Chapel Lane in Armley needs over £100,000 after the premises were put up for sale. With the café in danger, the owner is appealing to the people of Leeds for help.

For the past year The Real Junk Food Project has been intercepting food that would have gone to landfill and serving it in their café. The project has been an unprecedented success, gaining widespread media attention and leading to similar stores opening across the country.

In the UK, a third of all the food bought goes to waste. That equates to 7 million tonnes a year; the same weight as thirty-five thousand blue whales. This waste is juxtaposed with the statistic that in the UK 13 million people are living below the poverty line and struggle to feed



themselves and their families.

These were the problems that the founders of The Real Junk Food Project set out to tackle just under a year ago. Since then they have intercepted over 20 tonnes of food, fed 10,000 people and cooked more than 40,000 meals. Following the success of the project in Leeds, other people

have been inspired to open their own cafés based on The Real Junk Food Project model. There are now 48 initiatives operating across the country,

Just as importantly, the café in Armley has become a vital fixture in the local community. Problems facing some of the residents of Armley are homelessness, un-

employment, substance abuse and mental illness. The café has become a place where local residents and customers go to share skills and knowledge.

One customer said, 'The café is so much more than just a physical space, it represents everything that The Real Junk Food Project stands for and it keeps this wonderful community of people going.'

With the future of The Real Junk Food Project under threat, the owner has started a campaign to try and raise the money required to keep the premises. You can donate to the project in the Green Action Food Coop in Leeds University Union or online via the café's indiegogo campaign. More information about upcoming events can be found on the campaign page or by emailing [therealjunkfoodproject@outlook.com](mailto:therealjunkfoodproject@outlook.com)

If you are a student and want to get involved with fundraising on campus get in touch with Bryher for further information: [bryher.b@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bryher.b@hotmail.co.uk)

# LUU campaign to 'normalise the nipple'

Charlotte Mason  
News Editor

Students have been baring all this week as part of a campaign to 'Normalise the Nipple'.

Men and women stepping into the 'boobie booth' were asked to take an anonymous photograph of their chest to be displayed in the Union next week.

The campaign aims to combat the sexualisation of female nipples.

An estimated one hundred black and white photographs will be exhibited in the Hidden Café next Wednesday.

The campaign states, 'It seems the media has decided that female nipples are either to be covered up or sexualised. Men do not face this problem, although they too have nipples. They are normal and we want to promote that by showing that this is what real nipples look like.'

The four-day campaign, run by LUU's

Amnesty International society, coincides with the international 'My body, my rights' campaign, which aims to empower people with freedom to make choices about their health, body and sexuality.

Speaking to *The Gryphon*, LUU Amnesty's Ellie Butler-Church said, 'The response we've had to our campaign has been fantastic. We've had compliments from so many people who are excited that this issue is being addressed.'

Similarly an American movement 'Free The Nipple' argues against indecent exposure laws which prohibit women, but not men, from going topless in public.

A student who took part said, 'As soon as I heard about the campaign, I knew I had to take part. It didn't feel like a scary thing to do. I've already had them pierced, and there's nothing odd about someone else seeing your nipples. I'm interested to see how people react when the pictures are published.'

## Campus Watch

### News from campuses around the world

#### 'Intimidating' UKIP banned from UEA

The UKIP Chairman has been banned from speaking at the University of East Anglia, after students launched a petition to 'protect' those who feel 'intimidated or degraded by the party'.

Eric Masters and his MP candidate Steve Emmens had their appearance cancelled when the petition attracted 1,150 signatures. UKIP argues the decision damages freedom of speech.

Danny Anderson

#### Students play dead outside UCL

Students played dead outside a UCL Council meeting last Friday to campaign against the university's reported 14.4-million investment in the fossil fuel industry.

Around 70 protestors staged a 'die in', blocking the doors and other access points to the building, with many of the university managers arriving late to the meeting as a result of the disruption caused by the protestors.

Emily Willson

#### Cardiff University Union votes against pro-choice stance

A motion which would have made the University of Cardiff's student union officially pro-choice has been defeated.

The proposal called for the student union to support campaigns for accessible and safe abortions for students and make information about contraception and abortion readily available and distributed in the university grounds.

However, there was so much opposition that votes weren't even counted.

Emily Willson

#### Northumbria student dies after exchange drink spike

A Northumbria University student has died after having her drink spiked while on a university exchange placement in Germany.

Jane Khalaf collapsed suddenly at Cologne's St Marien Hospital on November 12th with traces of amphetamine and ecstasy in her blood.

Her parents are now demanding to know the circumstances of her death.

Emily Willson



# Thailand murder suspects charged



Greg Whitaker  
Online News Editor

The two Burmese men accused of the murder of University of Leeds graduate David Miller and fellow backpacker Hannah Witheridge have been officially charged in a court in Thailand.

Twenty-one-year old Burmese nationals Zaw Lin and Win Zaw Htun were first accused of the murder in September after the bodies of the two British tourists were found on the Thai island of Koh Tao.

Both Miller, 24, and Witheridge, 23, had suffered severe blows to the head, and a post-mortem examination later revealed that Witheridge had been raped.

The men have been charged with conspiracy to murder, conspiracy to rape and robbery by a public prosecutor at the Provincial Court on the island of Ko Samui, according to Deputy Police Chief spokesperson Colonel Kissana Phathanacharoen.

Mr Kissana said, 'They have been charged, both by the police and by the public prosecutor.'

Last month *The Gryphon* reported that the pair had withdrawn their confessions and claimed to have been tortured by Thai police. They had previously admitted to the crimes and provided DNA matching to samples found on Ms Witheridge's body.

In October, a petition demanding a new, independent investigation into the deaths attracted more than 100,000 signatures following concerns the suspects were being used as 'scapegoats' to protect Thailand's tourism industry.

Mr Miller, who had completed his Civil and Structural Engineering degree at Leeds in June, has been described by his family as a 'hard-working, bright and conscientious' young man who will be 'sorely, sorely missed'.

# Autism gene found

Danny Anderson

Researchers at Leeds have made a pioneering link between a certain type of gene deficiency and autism.

The study led by Pharmacology lecturer Dr Steven Clapcote tested mice to discover whether the neurexin-II gene was linked to autistic symptoms.

Mice deficient in the gene were found to have the same lack of sociability and interest in others attributed to the disorder.

Dr Clapcote said, 'In other respects, these mice were functioning normally.

The gene deficiency mapped closely with certain autism symptoms. This is exciting because we now have an animal model to investigate new treatments for autism'.

A Stanford University scientist had already established a link between autism symptoms and another gene. The Leeds study is the first to find a connection to neurexin-II.

Dr Clapcote added, 'Not all people with autism will have the neurexin-II defect, but we are starting to build up a picture of the important role of genes involved in these synapse communications in better understanding autism'.

# Uni powerless over 'unsafe' legal highs

Charlotte Mason  
News Editor

A University figure has called for a zero-tolerance approach to legal highs after it was found there is no legislation to protect students from their use on campus.

Residential staff are currently discussing a potential ban on legal highs to be written into University accommodation contracts. However, *The Gryphon* understands that concerns have been raised about how legal highs would be prohibited, with some substances commercially available.

Speaking at a University conference last month, Nick Berry of West Yorkshire Police said, 'You're not allowed to light candles in your room, but having a few boxes of nitrous oxide delivered, that's fine'.

The University's Police Liaison Officer PC Matt Guy told this newspaper, 'Legally, I can't do anything about students taking legal highs. Police have no power of confiscation. Lots of legal highs do contain elements of illegal drugs so personally, I do confiscate. But I would support a zero-tolerance approach on campus'.

The news comes after a police pledge

to clamp down on head shops which sell legal highs, with four stores in Leeds shut down since 2012.

Psychoactive substances or 'legal highs' contain chemical substances which mimic the effects of illegal drugs, but have not yet been controlled under UK law. It is estimated that one new substance is introduced into the legal highs market every week.

DC Jamie Hudson told *The Gryphon*, 'West Yorkshire Police remains concerned that psychoactive substances known as 'legal highs' are sold openly in the city and across West Yorkshire. This makes some people, particularly the young and vulnerable, feel they can take them without risk. Essentially, we want to dispel the myth that it is safe to take legal highs'.

A University spokesperson said, 'We are concerned to ensure that our students understand the risks associated with taking both illegal drugs and so-called 'legal highs'. Our online help@leeds service, developed in partnership between LUU and the University, provides information and links to the various services which can help students in difficulties'.

# Uni strikes gold



Charlotte Mason  
News Editor

The University has secured £1.5m to fund a new 'treasures gallery', it was announced this week.

The money will be used to create a collection of historic artefacts in the Parkinson Building displayed in a climatically controlled gallery. A public engagement room is also due to be opened.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Alan Langlands said, 'We are incredibly proud of our Library with its Special Collections of international importance which have been

built up over the past century. I am delighted that this grant will allow us to bring these 'treasures' to a much wider audience. We look forward to working with our partners in Leeds and in West Yorkshire to ensure that we make the most of this investment which is of real national and international significance'.

The project follows the opening of an exhibition at Durham University as well as several other galleries across the country.

Planning approval for the project was secured in July this year.

The collection is due to be completed next winter.





## Uber under fire



Charlotte Mason  
News Editor

The Union has expressed safety concerns over new taxi app Uber, arguing an alleged lack of driver security could put students' safety at risk.

Uber Taxis, which launched in Leeds last month, uses a GPS tracking system to connect the passenger directly to a driver nearby, allowing users to book and pay via a cashless system.

The app, called UberX, has been criticised for allegedly avoiding licensing regulations and undercutting taxi firms.

The Union's Community Officer George Bradley told *The Gryphon*, 'Concerns have been raised about Uber, specifically the UberX service, which allows unlicensed drivers to be able to pick people up off the street without an advance booking. This raises obvious safety worries.'

He added, 'LUU has a partnership with Amber Cars which aims to ensure that students can get home safe, even if they've run out of money. As long as they have their student card, they should be able to hand

it over and get it back from the Union at a later date. If students are experiencing problems with Amber's process, however, let us know, and we can take it back to Amber and work out how to improve it.'

Uber have assured customers that all its drivers in the UK have passed background checks, are licensed by a regulator and are insured as private hire vehicles.

However, the app has been banned in several cities including Berlin, where authorities argued not enough was being done to protect passengers against unlicensed drivers.

One student said, 'I used them back in Manchester and got a free ride with the friendliest driver I've ever met!'

A University spokesperson told this newspaper, 'We would advise students to follow LUU's 'five steps' taxi advice and policy: only use a licensed taxi or pre-booked hire vehicle; wait for the booked car to arrive; always check the driver's badge; ride with friends; and, if you have any doubts, do not get into the vehicle.'

The *Gryphon* contacted Uber Taxis for a quote but they did not respond.

## Med student jumps to the rescue



Greg Whitaker  
Online News Editor

A University of Leeds medical student found himself at the centre of an airline drama last week when he rushed to the aid of an elderly passenger experiencing a severe seizure on the runway.

Luke McMenemy, a final-year medic, was returning home to Belfast to attend a family funeral when he heard a flight attendant ask if there was a doctor on board the plane.

Mr McMenemy, 23, said, 'I thought here we go. I looked around, sweeping my eyes around thinking to myself 'there'll be somebody here', but nobody stood up. She asked again, so I thought 'I'm going to have to do something here'.

After examining the patient, Mr McMenemy examined the patient and decided that they needed urgent hospital. However, with any potential ambulance

at least twenty minutes away due to a drivers' strike, Mr McMenemy knew he had to act.

Whilst waiting for the arrival of emergency services, the student used an on board medical bag containing basic oxygen and medical drips to insert a drip into the patient's arm.

He added, 'I was thinking to myself, 'Of all days, do not miss this vein!' The pressure was on, but I got it in thankfully.'

Mr McMenemy, who is set to graduate in August, was praised by the medical staff who arrived at the scene shortly after.

Speaking after the incident, he said, 'You read all the books and practice on the ward, but it was just amazing whenever no one else was there, you had to just get into gear and just do it. So it was quite rewarding to think that I must be doing all right and if I keep this up I should

## Wetherspoons may join Otley Run

Greg Whitaker  
Online News Editor

Popular chain J D Wetherspoon has applied for the licence to turn an abandoned building on Otley Road into a pub.

The successful company purchased the Elinor Lupton Centre on Otley Road, which was formerly the Leeds Girls' School building, earlier this year.

Wetherspoons, which currently runs over 900 pubs in the UK including seven in and around Leeds, will become the first branch on the notorious Otley run pub crawl.

University of Leeds graduate Will Fenwick wrote on Facebook, 'I think it's a good thing. That place is perfect for a pub and 'Spoons normally make good pubs. I think if anyone else tried to make it a pub or club there's a good chance they would fail because of the stiff competition in that area.'

Local resident Will Harry Ball posted, 'Leeds really doesn't need more bars/pubs. (I would prefer) something that would actually benefit the community, students or otherwise.'

It has not been announced when the premises is due to open.





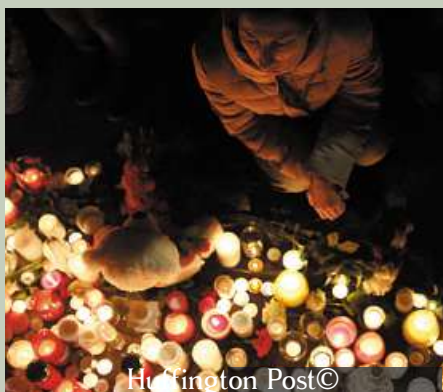


LUUMCC©

The University's Men's Cricket Club has paid tribute to the late cricketer Phillip Hughes, who died last week after being hit by a ball during a match in Sydney. The club took part in an international #putyourbatsout campaign by laying down thirty cricket bats in memory of the player. They tweeted, 'From all at LUUMCC, Phil Hughes, this is for you! A talent lost too young, doing what he loved #63 #forevernotout'.

Breaking down the stories that matter.

## The Digest.



Huffington Post©

### Germany pays tribute to student

Tributes have been paid to German student Tugce Albayrak, who was beaten to death after defending two girls that were reportedly being harassed by a group of men.

Albayrak intervened when she heard screams coming from the toilet of a restaurant. Her attacker is believed to be one of the group of men and is currently under investigation.

On Sunday, thousands of people across Germany took part in candlelit vigils in her honour.

Over 100,000 people have signed a petition asking that her act of courage be recognised with a national award.

Fiona Harris



ITV©

### Ferguson shooting officer resigns

Darren Wilson, the police officer who fatally shot Michael Brown on 9th August this year, has resigned from the police force in the US town of Ferguson.

Mr Wilson, whose resignation is effective immediately, explained that resigning was the "hardest thing" he had ever had to do but the decision was made to prevent the lives of police colleagues being put at risk. The Mayor of Ferguson, James Knowles, has said Mr Wilson has not received any severance pay.

Charges against Mr Wilson were dropped by a Missouri grand jury last week, sparking nationwide debate regarding the relations between black communities and law enforcement.

Elli Pugh



Telegraph©

### Autumn Statement announced

Chancellor George Osborne announced his autumn statement to the House of Commons on Wednesday.

Amongst the headline policies was a cut on Stamp duty for 98% of homebuyers, a removal of APD on 12-16 year olds and a £2bn spending increase for the NHS.

Borrowing was announced to be higher than originally thought but Mr Osborne claimed that the UK would be 'into the black' by no later than 2020.

An OBR report accompanying the autumn statement stated the government's overall plan is to reduce public spending from £5,650 per head to approximately £3,880.

Emily Willson



BBC©

### MP Mark Pritchard arrested

Conservative MP Mark Pritchard has been arrested following an alleged rape in Central London.

Mr Pritchard has been MP for The Wrekin in Shropshire since 2005.

Wednesday's parliamentary Hansard refers to a letter sent from the Metropolitan police to speaker John Bercow relating to the arrest of Mr Pritchard.

A Met spokesman said: "We can confirm that a 48-year-old man voluntarily attended a north London police station on Tuesday, 2 December where he was arrested, following an allegation of rape in central London.

He has been bailed until January 2015.

Jake Hookem



# The Gryphon meets Greg Mulholland MP



Jake Hookem  
News Editor

Greg Mulholland MP is the MP for Leeds North West, covering Otley up to Headingley. Mr Mulholland was speaking at a 'Meet your MP' Q and A session organised by LUU on Thursday. *The Gryphon* spoke to him after.

**How do you ensure you represent such a socially diverse constituency fairly?**

I think that one of the fascinations of Leeds North West, more so than some constituencies, is that it is so diverse. There's only one way to effectively represent them and that is to really understand, work with and represent each community separately and differently. That is what I've tried to do in the 9 and a half years I have been the Leeds North West MP. I love all the areas of my constituency, and how they're all very different. When it comes to Headingley and students it's just down to understanding how to connect with those areas and those people and that's what I try to do.

**Are you for or against the Leeds trolleybus scheme?**

I think that it simply is not the right scheme for Leeds. The whole saga of trying to get a modern transport system for Leeds has been incredibly frustrating. We were told we were going to get the Light Rail Scheme by the previous government, who then cancelled it a few years later, and then said we could only have a bus-based scheme. I think what we need is the ability to make decisions on this locally. Hopefully we can make the final decision in Leeds, because given the option of a better system no-one would have the trolleybus. I think we should have a look at a more integrated transport system. I think we need a proper integrated approach to transport and I think that is the only way we're going to get the kind of

modern transport system that a 21st century city like Leeds deserves.

**How do you feel about J D Wetherspoons potentially opening a new pub on the site of the former Leeds Girls' School on Otley Road?**

I wrote to the owners, the Leeds Grammar School, in 2007 urging them not to sell the premises to a bar, pub or nightclub. There is a cumulative impact policy in Headingley that says we have enough licenced premises, which is certainly the view of the police and council. I asked for a firm commitment then that they wouldn't do it, and although I did not receive this commitment I did make clear the strength of feeling in opposition. I'm actually quite disgusted that they've now sold it to Wetherspoons. The sale doesn't mean that it will get a licence to open but I think that it was irresponsible on their part. I've been supporting the possibility of the building becoming a cultural performance centre and I know of two consortia who were looking at doing that, so I'm very disappointed. I still hope that thanks to the cumulative impact policy in the end it can be stopped from becoming a licenced premises.

**You admirably voted against tuition fee rises, do you think this will be enough to satisfy your student voters?**

Clearly some will feel that they want to vote based on that issue, and whether they choose to vote for me because of my vote of whether they choose to vote for another party on that basis is of course a decision they will have to make. In the end I believe I made the right decision. I think it's important that we have a strong Liberal Democrat presence in the next parliament. I think people should consider what it would have been like to have a majority Conservative government this time, and

how we've been able to stop the Conservative Party doing many of the things it wanted to do. I think many people can see that it's good to have a Liberal Democrat restraining force on either a Conservative or a Labour government, neither of which would be in the interests of this country.

**Who do you feel is your biggest rival at the General Election next year?**

In my constituency it's a straight fight between me and the Labour candidate. Many years ago it was a Conservative seat, but the Conservatives haven't even selected a candidate less than 5 months before the election, and they know it's not a seat that they can win. There will be people that decide to vote for one of the smaller parties, and I'm aware that there are some people who don't want to vote for Labour, the Conservative or Liberal Democrats at the moment, but certainly in Leeds North West it is Liberal Democrats versus Labour. Nationally I think it will be very interesting to see what happens because at the moment we're seeing a huge change in British politics. We may be seeing the end of 3 party politics in Britain, and everyone's changing to adapt. What we've seen with UKIP and the like is that people are going to be voting in all sorts of ways and that's why I think it's really important that we have the Liberal Democrats as a strong force in the next parliament.

**Do you feel let down by your party's leader?**

In the end my chances of winning are based on a number of things. What I really stand on is my own record, what I've done and the job that I've tried to do as the MP for Leeds North West. That's how it should be. We should all be judged on our own record. I've been absolutely clear that I believe that the decision in 2011 was a mistake, but I've also made clear

that I think that the system we now have for student finance is more progressive and fair than the one we had before. Let's not forget that the Labour Party made a clear promise to legislate against top-up fees only to then introduce them. I think both of those things are wrong, but I do think we have a more progressive system. People don't have to pay up front, they pay it back after graduation on the basis of what they are earning and it's close to a graduate tax. I just wish that the government had done what I believe was the right thing to do and introduced a graduate tax. Then we wouldn't have the fees or the sense of having large amounts of debt, and so I hope that going forward that is what happens in the next parliament.

**As a man celebrated for his clean expenses record, what made you rebel against your party and vote against Sir Ian Kennedy as chair of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA)?**

I really don't have confidence in Sir Ian Kennedy. I think if you look at his record with the safe and sustainable review into children's heart surgery then you would understand why I can't possibly have confidence in him. It was nothing to do with expenses. I absolutely support the idea of having an independent body for expenses, that's fundamental, obvious and isn't going to change. IPSA are improving and need to improve and themselves be more accountable. I have met Sir Ian Kennedy, seen what he's done and I believe he behaved in a very unaccountable and arrogant way over the proposals for the reconfiguration of children's heart surgery. It was nothing whatsoever to do with IPSA, it was to do with the fact that I've seen his record in something else and I don't like it, so it would have been wrong for me to then vote for him. I don't like the way that he's behaved in the past so I couldn't possibly give him my approval for anything.





# 25th December: Just another winter's day?

*For many people, the moment they can open the first door of their advent calendar signals the start of Christmas. But if only 60% of the population of the United Kingdom are Christian, what does this mean for the remaining 40% of the country? **The Gryphon** investigates.*



**Brigitte Phillips**  
Features Editor

I am by no means Christian, but yet here I sit typing this article, donning an ugly Christmas jumper and sparkly gold lipstick. My premature excitement isn't caused by the thrill of celebrating Christ's birth, but is more symptomatic of the rampant commercialisation of Christianity's premier holiday. I revel in the German markets, a piece of chocolate every day, and presents under the tree on the 25th, but violently resist Midnight Mass with every fibre of my being. Who'd have thought that a socialist like me would revel in so much capitalism?

Although Christmas seems like an almost irreplaceable part of British tradition, it has not always been at the forefront of our calendar. Despite the 13 year ban on Christmas during Britain's brief stint as a republic, Christmas wasn't really celebrated in the manner we know it today until Queen Victoria's reign, when trees, greetings cards and turkey dinners were introduced into our celebrations.

However, while I still celebrate Christmas, there are millions of people across the country – either atheist or of non-Christian religion – for whom Christmas day will be nothing

more than another winter Thursday. When mince pies, carol services, and the Doctor Who Christmas Special are as much a part of British culture as tea and imperialism, is it intimidating or excluding to be surrounded by something you're not a part of?

Zayd Rehman, Vice President of LUU ISoc, thinks not. 'I don't feel excluded, in fact it's quite the opposite.

'It's always fun to see the Christmas lights going up and hearing the Christmas songs on the radio. I associate it with winter, holidays and general merriment!' He concedes, however, that there are downsides to being a Muslim at this time of year, 'admittedly it does start to get a little tiresome closer to Christmas time itself, but I wouldn't say I feel excluded.'

Max Sherrard, president of JSoc, agrees, 'I don't really feel intimidated but I suppose it's just something I never really thought about. Maybe Christmas has been commercialised to the extent that it is no longer a religious hol-

iday as much as a national festive season; so the celebration is similar to Thanksgiving in the US, Guy Fawkes Night in the UK or New Year's Eve.'

While many non-Christians celebrate Christmas in some small way, whether it be eating a Christmas dinner or watching the Queen's Speech, this isn't the case for Zayd.

'Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are essentially regular evenings and days for me. I don't really do anything for them, but there's always nice stuff to watch on TV.' Max also has a fairly low key day, 'On Christmas Day we, as a family, gather together and

just simply have a family day, be it go for a walk, chill at home, have other families round for tea or have our extended family round for a big meal.'

But do people who don't celebrate Christmas buy presents for people who do? 'I never buy people Christmas presents' says Max. 'As a Jew we celebrate Chanukah at a similar

“My premature excitement isn't caused by the thrill of celebrating Christ's birth, but is more symptomatic of the rampant commercialisation of Christianity's premier holiday.”





time, and as custom we give presents on each night of Chanukah. Our equivalent of Secret Santa is Mystery Maccabee.’

Zayd also rarely buys people Christmas gifts, ‘I don’t normally buy Christmas presents other than maybe a box of chocolates, but I do give Christmas cards most of the time to my friends celebrating Christmas.’ However, he still gets stuck in with some Christmas festivities, ‘I get involved in Secret Santas, sometimes Mum makes a Christmas-themed dinner, sometimes we listen to the Christmas songs on the TV. We never really exchange gifts between ourselves though, or go to the mosque.’

Max comments on his involvement with Christmas festivities, ‘Getting involved in festive things, such as Christmas markets, I suppose comes down to the commercialisation of everything. Also it is somewhat hard to not get involved in all the Christmas sales, festive markets, seasonal food menus in bars, etc.’

When asked about the possible commercialisation of Islamic religious holidays, Zayd expressed doubt, ‘As much as I would love to see adverts on TV for Eid-ul-Adha and Eid-ul-Fitr, it wouldn’t really be practical as their dates differ from year to year between countries. This is because Islam follows a lunar calendar and the date of both Eids is purely dependent on the position of the moon in your

area.’

However, Max sees a possibility in the commercialisation of Jewish religious holidays, ‘I suppose we could have some of our festivals commercialised, but that is because there is a lot of symbolism around them. Family time and community are central to our festivals, and so in a similar way to Christmas being a day for families to get together, Chanukah could – together with the tradition of present giving – be commercialised.’

A notable exception of Christians celebrating Christmas is Jehovah’s Witnesses, who abstain from Christmas festivities due to the holiday’s origins in pagan traditions. Our Jehovah’s Witness source says that while she isn’t intimidated or offended by the festive imagery around at this time of year, she does feel like it is far too over commercialised. However, she does admit that she would buy presents in the January sales for her children if they felt left out of the celebrations.

In many ways, Christmas is about as secular as Christianity can be. Even the staunchest

atheists will celebrate with their loved ones around the winter solstice. Richard Dawkins himself has even admitted to breaking out into a carol or two around this time of year.

Clearly, regardless of beliefs, the 25th December is a good excuse to eat copious

amounts of food and spend time with family. With Christmas Day and Boxing Day being Bank Holidays, almost everyone is off from work and school, and even if you have no ma-

major religious holiday to celebrate you can use those days to reconnect with loved ones. However, the pure saturation of Christmassy things for practically the whole month of December comes at a price. Are the endless parades of sales, festive markets, and premature decorations devaluing one of the most significant days in the Christian calendar?

Despite the excess of Christmas spirit, non-Christians remain unimpressed by the mid-winter capitalist behemoth, and that can only be a good thing. ■

“Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are essentially regular evenings and days for me.”

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# UniversiTory Challenge

*Paul Dacre, Editor of the Daily Mail, famously said 'If you don't have a left-wing period when you go to university, you should be shot.' So how does it feel to be leader of the Conservative Future at a mostly left-wing University? The Gryphon speaks to Edward Hardy, president of LUU Conservatives.*

Rebecca White

Our generation – generation Y, or the Millennials – is widely panned by the media as being entitled, addicted to technology, and most importantly, apathetic when it comes to politics.

So on Monday morning, I sat down with Edward Hardy, leader of LUU Conservatives, and asked him about the society. After joining several campaigns while at school and realising that this was something he wanted to do, Hardy came to university and 'there wasn't much of a conservative society there. It had fallen apart a bit and so I immediately ran for president and worked on rebuilding it.

'It's been a fun two years sort of putting it together and we're increasing members every week now. We've had an increasing attendance for talks and it's great to see something we've spent two years working on become something at university.'

This was the reason I really wanted to interview him. Political opinions aside, in a time when our generation is being bashed for not caring, having a young person rebuild a political society within two years stands in direct defiance of that. However Hardy didn't seem to think that he was unique.

'I certainly think young people are extremely interested in politics. That may not translate into the forms that people are used to seeing, whether that's standing for parliament or voting in elections, but I think there's a lot of activism that students do and I don't think they get given credit for it.' He gave examples of the Free Education March and the more political elements of the vigil for the Ferguson Shooting last week. The latter is particularly poignant; marches have spread from London to Oxford to Manchester, not just for Mike Brown, but also for Mark Duggan and those killed in the UK by police officers. These protests are predominantly made up of the younger generation; it's hard to argue that we don't care when people are chanting outside of Parliament.

Perhaps we're just bruised and cynical after seeing our political system fail to meet our expectations. Even then, Hardy notes that 'if people want to implement a policy or believe that the party needs to change the best way to do that is get involved, not stand on the sidelines. If I can do one thing at

this university, it would be giving people a space where they can discuss policies.'

The election turnout in Leeds is just over 20%, and that's not enough. While our generation clearly does care, perhaps we need to show it in a more traditional manner. Optimistically, Hardy points out that 'the youth of the conservative party are quite liberal.'

'Pushing through policies like same-sex marriage, it's something that shows that the party is changing and it's reflecting the changing moods

and the changing times that we're in. If you take any political party they've evolved over time and I think that the Conservatives are doing exactly that.'

I'll admit, when I first arranged an interview with a Tory, I did expect him to turn up in a suit. Instead, like me, he's dressed in a hoodie (though his shirt is blue) and seems very earnest as he defends more liberal stances and excitedly invites us to join the talks. 'You don't have to be a die-hard conservative to attend, you can be someone who just agrees with the policies, a like-minded individual, and can be from any sort of race, gender or sexuality.' You almost wonder what makes him a Conservative at all.

'Well I think Thatcher is a great Prime Minister.' Ah. Nevermind.

'No-one can deny that she did a lot for the country.' I can think of a few people.

He laughed, a bit nervously, 'I do realise that students aren't always the biggest fans.' Neither are the miners, the trade unionists, or the Scottish.

This had come from me asking him about the difficulties he'd had starting up a conservative society in the North. Although he did point out that there were some conservative MPs running around



here, the line about students not liking Thatcher again shows more political awareness than we're given credit for, though I'm not sure what to make of Edward Hardy's opinions on the matter.

I did, however, ask him about Cameron's increasing anti-EU stance. 'I think that it's a topic that needs to be discussed; immigration and our relationship with the EU, and I think they are linked, if you think EU migration is specifically linked to our membership of the European Union principle of free movement that exists between member states.'

However, keeping with the more liberal stance from before, Hardy says, 'I think that having the opportunity for migrants to come here as well is extremely beneficial. This

country has grown and evolved with the help of migrants coming here.'

Which is a relief to hear. I make sure that he's not one of those who want to leave the EU entirely.

'I want to see what the

renegotiation would be. If we stayed the way we are I don't think our membership will be sustainable in the long term. But I think David Cameron will make a very successful renegotiation.'

In case you were wondering, #CameronMustGo is still trending on twitter.

In the final statements, Hardy urges you to 'come to the talks and see what it's about.' And though I don't agree with his political views, I have to agree. Our generation obviously has things it cares about. What we need to do now is put it into action. We need to vote. We need to get the government to pay attention to what we want. Conservative Youth certainly is, and if you disagree with them, then maybe it's time to get involved. ■

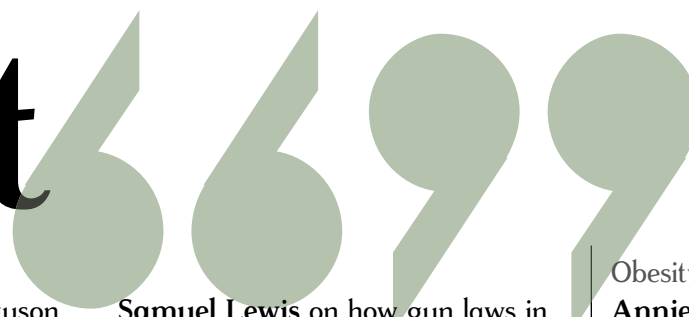
“There wasn't much of a conservative society [when I arrived]. It had fallen apart a bit”

“Pushing through policies like same-sex marriage, it's something that shows that the party is changing”





# Comment



Christmas

**George Crompton** discusses how Christmas should not be about material goods

Ferguson

**Ravi Mistry** looks at how Ferguson is another example of how racism is entrenched in American society

Obesity

**Annie-Rose Peterman** investigates how help with obesity needs to take a new approach

## What is the real cost of Christmas?

**George Crompton**  
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**A**s thousands descended onto the high streets last Friday in order to fight for a cut-price product, concern is growing that Yuletide consumerism is getting out of control. Although Black Friday may be dressed up as an amicable agreement, it is steeped in controversial history and has come to represent a clever marketing ploy to lengthen and increase Christmas sales. There are stories even of shops putting old, hard-to-sell items onto the Black Friday selection, to flog them off to unknowing consumers who believe everything in the sale is the deal of a lifetime.

Pre-Christmas sales are the biggest annual money-maker for production businesses, responsible for over six-hundred million pounds in pre-tax sales. This consumerist leviathan is richly fuelled by the unrelenting force of desperate gift-givers; spending every last penny to please friends and relatives with material goods. In a recent survey, 65% of three thousand people asked, said Christmas shopping was a stressful experience. Along with divorce, marriage, and moving house, it seems our festive season is becoming more anxiety-filled than needs be.

I expect many people have been thinking for months about what they

**This consumerist leviathan is richly fuelled by the unrelenting force of desperate gift-givers**

should buy for their family. What is the perfect gift for Mum? How much should I spend on Grandma? I have no money this year- what am I going to do? This



all adds up, and combined, this intense consumerism is severely damaging the historical traditions and social benefits of Christmas.

This winter holiday stems from one of the world's oldest traditional festivals, founded in the sun-worshipping religions of ancient people. I am adverse to use the word 'pagan', as the Church has historically gone to lengths to make it a dirty word. However, it stems from the Latin for 'field', crudely meaning 'those who work the land'.

The pagan celebration of Christmas, then, is rooted in the belief of the sun god, who was said to have been born on the winter solstice. As the sun ages so the days begin to grow longer. Many believe the Church to have hated this festival. Although they did consider it an issue, there seemed to be a degree of respect for the thousands of people who celebrated it every year.

Of course, there is the case that the Church rewrote the pagan festival, swapping the sun god for Jesus, and

giving it its modern name in the 4th century. Yet the idealistic spirit still remained. As the nights draw in, as the days become colder and darker, the need for warmth, feasting and celebration becomes ever more necessary. Before and after the Christian takeover, Christmas remained centred around the pillars of food, warmth, family and love. Even the German-founded 17th century Christmas tree draws its inspiration from the pagan practice of bringing plants indoors to celebrate the life that remained throughout the winter.

The act of gift-giving has also been around for centuries, but it wasn't until the 1800s that it became a Christmas tradition. Originally, small gifts were given on New Year's Eve as a symbol of a prosperous year to come. The Victorians shifted this to Christmas Day, unwittingly creating the consumer nightmare that gift-giving has become today.

Unlike Cromwell and his Puritans, I'm not suggesting we ban Christmas. Yet it seems the feasting and debauch-

ery that they hated has been replaced by desperate-to-impress present buying. There is a risk that the intense need to please people with our display of material affection is hindering the real message of Christmas.

**There's a risk that the intense need to please people with our display of material affection is hindering the real message of Christmas**

So when you're sitting there biting your nails with worry as you search for disappointment on people's faces, remember the people themselves. Forget the socks, iPhones and mountains of wrapping paper. Christmas may not be wholly Christian, but let's try not to let it become a capitalist festival either. Every expensive gift is worthless compared to those whom you're lucky enough to share this time of warmth with. They're the real gift this year.





# Ferguson is nothing new in America



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People across the world have been outraged by the gross injustice of the unarmed black teenager, Michael Brown, killed at the hands of a white police officer, Darren Wilson, in Ferguson, Missouri. This has become far too common an occurrence in the USA, from Trayvon Martin to Emmett Till. This is rooted in the founding of the United States and its political history. America was founded on the basis of a racist ideology. Racism is entrenched within the American system. From the millions of Native Americans who were killed in the 'red holocaust', to those who suffered untold horrors under the American slave system. Approximately thirteen million West Africans were forcibly taken to the Americas as possessions to serve under masters who never gave them their freedom. They lost their homeland, language, culture, history and identity. This, of course, could only be justified by the supremacy of the white race, and was even deemed 'moral'. This legacy continues to haunt the U.S. to this day.

When the country gained independence in 1783, slavery was established within the American constitution. Some of the founding fathers of the United States, such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, were slave holders, inflicting heinous atrocities upon the slaves they possessed. Yet they are glorified by countless monuments, have their faces printed on the US dollar, and are seen as men of liberty and freedom. The fact that America glorifies these so-called 'American patriots' is incredibly alienating to the goal of achieving real racial equality.

Nevertheless, great strides have been taken to tackle the problem of race in the United States, but equality remains a distant dream. Civil rights organisations and black leaders fought against the economic and social inequality, as well as policies such as the Jim Crow laws, which allowed for racial segregation in the American South. This was over 200 years ago, yet the African American community remains the most segregated group in America.

African Americans are the poorest community in America. Their median household income is only 62% that of whites, and black unemployment has remained between 1.5 and 2 times worse than whites since the 1950s. Segregation was abolished in 1964 but there was—and remains—mass inequality along racial lines, and the legacy of Jim Crow continues.

This racism has most prominently manifested itself within the American criminal justice system, of which Michael Brown was a victim. The mass incarceration of African American men, and the privatisation of prison for profit, is really a system which seeks to further oppress black minorities. The U.S. holds 25% of the world's prison population. Of this group, 39.4% are black. African Americans have often complained about racial profiling, and police brutality. But when this form of white supremacy was challenged by Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther party through armed patrols of black neighbourhoods against the police, gun control laws were introduced, and were actively supported by the pro-gun right wing.

As we mourn the death of Michael Brown, we must remember the question of racial equality is far from over. Steps forward have really only permeated the upper and middle classes, and for real change, mass mobilisation of the people is the only, and has been the only way that the long inherent entrenchment of racism, mass economic inequality and racial injustice can be overcome. In the words of Martin Luther King: 'we shall overcome'.



nbcnews.com



Samuel Lewis  
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Stories of shootings, violence and death seem to trickle out of America like blood from a wound.

Guns are weapons designed to kill efficiently. In the US, police officers are assigned to protect, serve and carry them. Some of them carry other things too, like racial prejudice. The use of excessive force by American police officers against ethnic minorities continually is brought forward by the media; the number of cases and the lack of action taken to stop these kind of occurrences is appalling. Michael Brown, an 18-year-old African American was shot and killed by officer Darren Wilson, and while this is appalling enough, last week, Wilson was cleared of all criminal charges. The officer has now retired from the police force, free to live the rest of his life and fall into obscurity.

The loss of life is the worst possible outcome for any confrontation between the police and civilians. Lethal force is not the go-to option. Like all people, police are fallible and vulnerable. The officer felt overpowered, panicked and threatened, and in this moment he turned to the all-American equalizer; the pistol. This case is indicative of the long standing racism that exists in policing and justice in the USA. Wilson said in an interview that the outcome would not have been any different had Brown been white; perhaps he even believes that himself. The fear that caused him to pull the trigger, delivering the fatal shots, is a symptom of racism. The reality that he was not punished for his actions is a symptom of

racism. The fact that his actions seem justified to many American citizens, is a symptom of racism.

For some, the justification of the actions of the officer lie in the particular circumstances. The age of the victim, his size, his race and the fact that he had smoked cannabis before the altercation have all been mentioned by the media, as have the testimony of several witnesses and the conflicting information that Wilson gave. As the final shots were fired, some say Brown was being aggressive, others say he was in the process of surrendering. In this case, Brown may have been aggressive, but he was also confirmed to be unarmed. The officer first fired in what would seem to be panic as Brown struggled with him. After that, the motivations for continuing to fire upon an unarmed teenager become less clear.

Regardless, these specifics are less important than the wider issue.

If using lethal force against an unarmed person is viewed as unacceptable, then it is inconsistent to deem it acceptable in a specific circumstance. Stripping away the spin, the shooting of Michael Brown was totally avoidable. Whether you think that officer Wilson is morally deplorable is your own judgement to make. However, Wilson was an officer of the law. He existed as part of a system that for too long has spread distrust, violence and prejudice rather than patience, justice and the protection of the innocent. The finger of blame cannot be squarely pointed at any individual here.

The American justice system consistently fails people like Michael Brown, and by doing so, fails all Americans. White officers of the law operate with privilege and impunity, and will continue to do so until time erodes them away. The time must come for education and reform to slice through the vines of prejudice that have grown thick around the concept of justice for African Americans.





# Obesity: our heavy burden

Annie-Rose Peterman

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This month McKinsey Global published a shocking report on possibly the most troubling epidemic to grip the world yet. It accounts for 5% of deaths around the globe, and if nothing is done soon, half of us will be suffering from it by 2030. The total cost to the global economy is \$2 trillion dollars, nearly as much as armed conflict and smoking. Although it might sound like it, I'm not talking about Ebola, I'm talking about obesity; the fact that, in crude terms, we are eating too much and not moving enough.

61.9% of British adults are overweight or obese. If such a high number of people suffered from any other health problem, there would be a media frenzy, the government would be frantically calling COBRA meetings and panicked citizens would be barricading themselves in their homes. Clearly such a strong reaction should not be advocated, but it's also evident that society needs to be doing more both to prevent and treat obesity.

While on the surface, it's easy to dismiss obesity as simply eating too much and not moving enough, this is often not the case. To properly understand the problem, we need to understand the factors causing people to act in this way. Society today hardly encourages a healthy lifestyle, switching between two extremes of photoshopped pictures of size 0 models and fast food adverts interrupting every TV show, it's no wonder it's difficult to find a happy medium.

The question lies in finding the best

approach to tackling this tricky issue. The McKinsey Global report starts to provide an answer to this, by suggesting that we need to move beyond focusing on public health campaigns and

**“While it's easy to dismiss obesity as simply eating too much and not moving enough, this is often not the case.”**

individual willpower alone, and broaden our horizons to a huge 74 types of intervention, from 18 different groups and institutions in our society.

From things such as redesigning our cities to promote walking and cycling,

to free or subsidised healthy school meals and limits to fast food advertising, the report provides a comprehensive programme of changes to our public institutions to encourage us to adopt healthier life styles. Bearing this in mind, we must ask: what is Leeds University doing to encourage us to eat less and move more? Based on the fact that membership for a year at The Edge is £276 (if you want to visit the gym after 4 pm), clearly not very much. Rather than making it easy for people to become more active, it seems to me that the University is looking to make money from people's desire to be healthy. We aren't all coordinated or skilled enough to play on a sports team, and too many students (myself included) are being put

off gym membership by the hefty price tag. Why is it cheaper for us to sign up for a private gym in the city centre, rather than to exercise at the University which we are paying £9000 a year to attend? I would relish a proper answer to this question, because it just simply doesn't make sense.

It's time for society to wake up and take the problem of obesity seriously. If all 18 groups mentioned in the McKinsey Global Report took their public duty to promote healthy living seriously, then not only would we cut the cost to our economy, but the number of obesity related deaths. We need to stop blaming the victims of this phenomenon and tackle our heavy burden together.



New York Post

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## 11

times- how much more likely black people are to go to prison than white

## 1 in 5

American deaths are obesity related



# Debate

## Are politicians out of touch with young voters?

In the 21st century, politicians in Britain seem to be becoming more and more of a joke to the public thanks to social media mishaps and various scandals and broken promises. With the growing popularity of the Greens and new policies to help young people however, are politicians really as out of touch as we might believe?

### Yes

In light of the recent Twitter scandal involving MP Emily Thornberry the question regarding whether MPs are out of the touch with the electorate springs to the front of the public's mind once again.

Thornberry, on a visit to Rochester tweeted an 'image from #Rochester' with a white van parked outside a modern terraced house, draped with three national flags. Perhaps had she not tweeted this image at the same time as the Rochester and Strood By-Election, it may have gone unnoticed. However, Ms Thornberry implied that this gentleman would be voting for UKIP despite actually knowing a thing about who resided here. White vans have at times transpired as a symbol of core Labour values, of hard work and socialist principles. By simply assuming this individual would have voted for UKIP, not only offends a huge proportion of individuals but also highlights the disconnect Ms Thornberry has from the general public. It almost seems dreadfully naïve.

Unfortunately this occurrence draws on the wider issue of the majority of MPs

being way out of touch with the lives of the electorate and the disillusionment as a result of it. The concern is no new thing. Low levels of public trust in politicians have been prevalent for years. One only has to look back to the 2009 UK expenses scandal, which engulfed each and every member of the Westminster political class and consequently led to a heightened notion of apathy.

According to LibDemVoice, 61% of young people between the ages of 18-24 identify with a political party.

In May 2009, the Daily Telegraph uncovered a list of shocking revelations outlining the full detailed list of many MPs' expenses claims. It was exposed that MPs were making extravagant claims from accommodation expenses to almost laughable claims including moat cleaning, repairs to helipads and the purchasing of chandeliers, to name a few. The outrageous claims further confirmed many elitist stereotypes already associated with MPs.

Perhaps at a time when unemployment was and still is at a particularly high rate and huge numbers of people are struggling to get by, instances where MPs appear to be irresponsibly spending tax payers money deepens the gap between MPs and their constituents. This is certainly portrayed in research which outlines that trust in politicians hit an all time low after the 2009 expenses scandal. According to the 2010 British Election Study taken 9 months after the scandal first exploded 80% of people strongly agreed that MPs who were publicly implicated should resign.

Interestingly, as the Expenses Scandal engulfed the whole political Westminster class, whilst traditionally, Tory MPs were more commonly understood as the elitist members of Parliament perhaps this blurred the gap for all MPs. Now, all MPs are viewed as scandal-

ous as each other. This idea is certainly upheld in the context of Emily Thornberry. Whilst traditionally, individuals were perhaps more connected to Labour MPs, representing the working class it seems that in fact Labour politicians have more often than not, equally turned into lefty snobs otherwise known as Champagne socialists and now the whole political Westminster class is deemed 'out-of-touch'.

### Tara Adlestone

#### Waving the white flag?

Emily Thornberry MP resigned after tweeting an image that Labour Leader Ed Miliband called 'disrespectful'

Photo: The Guardian



### No

When analysing the damaged relationship between young people and politicians, there is only one place to start: the Lib Dem's notorious broken promise on tuition fees is the genesis of sweeping disaffection that has led to a thousand negative generalisations.

Undeniably, Nick Clegg devalued politicians' currency, damaging the relationship between political parties and expectant young people awaiting a new era of scrupulous politics. In their attempts to re-engage with the disillusioned, politicians have combatted a West Bank wall's worth of entrenched cynicism. But as the Coalition nears its end, politicians have shown to be in touch with young people: by creating policies catering for an aspirational generation.

However, with mistrust of politicians at an unprecedented high, their efforts to ingratiate themselves by expressing a love of pop culture are futile because their backgrounds veil their humanity.

Coupled with the noxious resentment festering since the tuition fees debacle, young people have elected to quarantine authenticity in a place politicians can't reach; foolishly inhibiting the reconciliation process.

If politicians show an interest in pop culture, they're ignorantly tragic: if they don't, they're tragically ignorant. They cannot win. Who can forget Johnny Marr rebuking David Cameron after he declared his love for The Smiths? Whilst the image of a radical Cameron fanatically roaring the lyrics to 'The Queen is Dead', his sincere attempt to connect with young people was outrageously ridiculed because of his upbringing.

More than ever, contemporary politicians have shown they understand the long term ambitions of young people from different backgrounds through the policies they've adopted. All three main party leaders showed they're in tandem with socially liberal values most young people hold today by rightly backing the legalisation of

gay marriage.

The Coalition's relentless promotion of apprenticeships has given people uninterested in going to university an opportunity to acquire crucial skills: Clegg rightly boasted about the £1.5 billion invested in apprenticeships in the financial year for 2013, and this should be celebrated. Young Greens, the youth wing of the Green Party, has enjoyed a 100 percent rise in its membership since March of this year, showing the party's policies, rooted in a fervent desire for social justice, are re-energising young people.

Hero-worship is an integral facet of growing up, so should we invest our hopes in romantically dissident figures like Russell Firebrand instead? No! Brand deservedly earned a cacophonous hailstorm

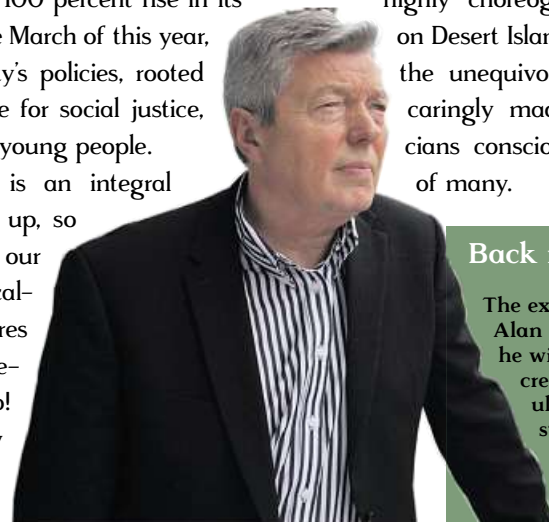
of derision for his appalling brand of infantile dogma.

Though the bond has deteriorated, it is up to both us and politicians to repair it. It is not in the interest of politicians to alienate the future generation, but Clegg's wretched U-turn has convinced many that all politicians are intent on it. Young people from whatever background should ignore highly choreographed appearances on Desert Island Discs and focus on the unequivocally helpful policies caringly made by today's politicians conscious of the ambitions of many.

#### Back from the brink?

The experienced Labour MP Alan Johnson has denied he will stand, after many credited him as a popular alternative to the struggling Ed Miliband

Photo: The Independent







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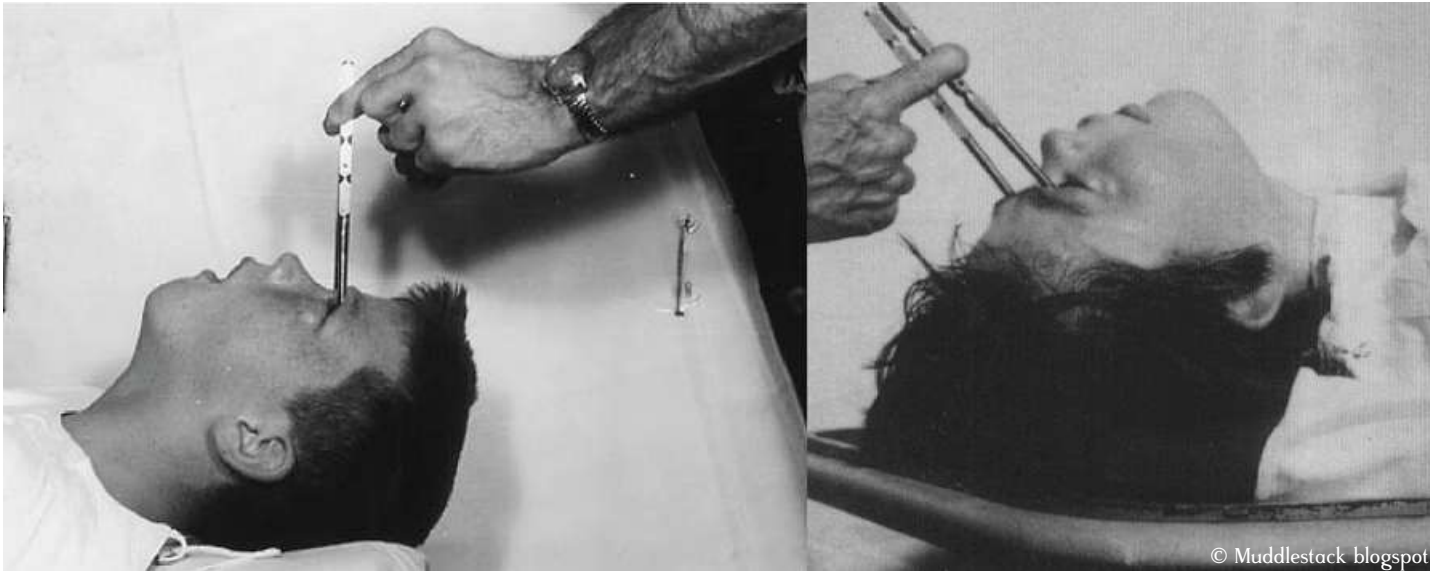
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# Crossing the rocky road towards fair mental health treatment



A lobotomy is performed on a patient in the 1930s by a doctor using the 'ice-pick' method.

Sam McMaster

Society always seems to tread a fine line when dealing with mental health issues. It's almost like we want to say we're helping people but just can't make the leap to actually doing it. Sure, treatments are available for those of us unfortunate enough to have an imperfect brain. We have pills and therapies but it's just not good enough. Countless people are suffering and they're being ignored or treated incorrectly. There's a ludicrous amount of discrimination against those with a mental illness, and that's fucking disgraceful.

I think you can tell I have fairly strong feelings on this; I am unfortunate (or fortunate depending on how I'm feeling) enough to have bipolar disorder. I have been affected by some of the issues to be discussed in this article, or at least have a good deal of knowledge on them. Now I hope you can forgive the short tirade that was the first paragraph and we can explore the issues of mental health and human rights.

Seemingly, best way to start this analysis is to explore the current treatments available for those affected by a mental illness. I will then compare these to treatments available in the early part of the last century, when mental illnesses were much less accepted. In my experience, the treatments available for mental health issues in the UK range from CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy), to drug treatments and hospital stays. CBT aims to change the way we think to adjust our behaviour to better

cope with dysfunctional emotions. This is done through a set of goals and a systematic approach. Drug treatments deal, very generally, in raising mood, lowering mood, stabilising mood and preventing psychosis. Of course, this isn't exhaustive to all mental health drug treatments. Hospital treatment is administered to monitor a patient further and to ensure that they keep to their treatment.

Sounds pretty reasonable right? It is, but these treatment options assume that a doctor hasn't determined that you

are a threat to yourself and anyone around you; this is where things get a bit hairy. This is the perfect time to talk about some of the older and more barbaric treatments. We are all familiar with the insane or lunatic asylum, once upon a time these existed but as of the 19th century they were replaced by centres of moral treatment of the 'insane'. The Quakers led the way in this regard, founding the York Retreat in 1796, to treat using talk, rest and manual work.

There was still a long way to go though. The Lunacy Act of 1845 finally changed the status of the mentally ill to patients who require treatment, hard to consider that before they were regarded as less than people. Following this, in England and other industrialized coun-

tries, asylums became more regulated therefore helping to improve patient treatment. However, the 20th century brought about some of the worst treatments yet, such as insulin shock therapy, electro-convulsive therapy and the lobotomy. In the 1930s and beyond many people were forced into treatment, into asylums to be kept away from society and subjected to horrific procedures. The asylums were without doubt better than what came before, but the image of these still remains – the film

*Shutter Island* plays on our preconceived notion of the terror of asylums.

Thankfully these treatments were later replaced with drug treatments or other less invasive treatments, but not everywhere in the world, and many are still forced into treatment. The 1983 Mental Health Act introduced detention

of people for their own safety and that of others, generally known as being 'sectioned'. It requires the signatures of two doctors and an approved mental health professional. The assessment period lasts 28 days but after this you will continue to be detained up to 6 months until re-assessed, and following this you could be detained indefinitely. Whilst you are sectioned you can't vote, you can't leave the hospital and you can be forced to take medication. Of course, all of this can be done against your will.

As you can clearly see, it has been a rocky road towards fair treatment.

You may, though, want to know exactly which of the tenants of the human rights act have been or are still being interfered with. The right to life has been broken along side the prohibition of torture and degrading treatment. Freedom is directly interfered with, the right to liberty, of thought and expression and the right to privacy. Discrimination is ever present too, most often because people fear what they don't understand, or because the media has convinced them that mental disorders are dangerous. This makes it extremely arduous from those suffering to ask for help, and when you are already going through hell that's the last thing you need.

Several organisations such as Mind and WHO (World Health Organisation) are campaigning for better mental health services. It is estimated that over 500 million people around the world are affected with mental illness and this number will only rise if no action is taken. Mental illness affects all aspects of your life and in some countries the deprived are stigmatized even worse than they might be in the UK. Good health is important for all of us, and this must extend to mental health. WHO and Mind are approaching this problem by educating people and encouraging fairer treatment.

Despite all the progress that has been made we still see barbaric treatment. Only a couple of weeks ago on November 27th, a 16-year-old girl was detained in a police cell after being sectioned under the Mental Health Act 1983. This was because there were no beds available on the NHS. As terrible as the 1983 Act is, if you are to be cared for under by the NHS, a police cell is not the place to do it. Prior to this, she was at Torbay Hospital but was removed due to a "breach of peace". Apparently a cell is considered to be a place of safety – I'm not sure how true that is if you are going through a mental health crisis.

As we can clearly see the treatment of the mentally ill has come a long way but that's not to say that their human rights aren't still being abused. The disparity in treatment and discrimination of mental health issues are glaring problems that are being dealt with, but maybe not fast enough. ■

“Mental illness affects all aspects of your life, and in some countries the deprived are stigmatized even worse than in the UK”





# Sci-Fi & Surveillance: Is it still fiction?

Evan Canwell

Science fiction, at its heart, is an exploration of human nature. It can show idealistic visions of utopian futures or bleak, nightmarish dystopias where a totalitarian government has unrestricted access to people's lives. While those futures are exaggerated for effect, sci-fi can tell us where the surveillance state may lead.

The idea of a surveillance state constantly checking up on the lives of its citizens became more plausible with the spread of computers as reliable tools for data monitoring. Organisations have already realised their potential; the Los Angeles Police Department now has a 'Real Time Analysis & Critical Response Division' which uses algorithms to compile data about the locations of previous crimes and send additional patrols to that area. These algorithms cannot predict who will commit a crime, only where a crime is most likely to occur. This idea may seem reminiscent of *Minority Report*, in which the police use psychics to catch criminals guilty of 'pre-crime' – the intention to commit a crime in the future.

The idea of pre-crime does seem far-fetched, but even here in the UK several protesters of the recent Royal Wedding found themselves under arrest before they started demonstrating. It was suggested the police could have only known



their intentions from 'private' messages exchanged between protesters on social media, which makes these pre-emptive arrests quite sinister; especially when you consider that protesting is not illegal. Should governments be given the power to monitor all communication between citizens?

The ever-increasing links between the internet and daily life continue to cloud the issue of human rights online. Tablets, mobile phones and even bank cards send data about you over the internet when used. This makes it easy for a person or agency with the right technology to track your movements. Films like *The Matrix* have investigated

the idea of humanity becoming dependent on computers for survival. We are not at that point yet, but it's clear to see how reliance on the internet can be very useful for anyone wishing to monitor a person's actions, whether they are businesses, governments or security agencies.

No chatter about privacy invasions would be complete without mention of George Orwell's *1984*. Published in 1949, the book tells of surveillance across every aspect of life by a totalitarian 'Big Brother', manipulation of public information and a 'Thought Police' to ensure there are no negative feelings towards the government. In 1949, it was unthink-

able that the UK would have over 6 million CCTV cameras capturing images of us up to 300 times a day without permission, but now it's hard to remember what life was like before the cameras. There is evidence that CCTV doesn't deter criminals, however it does increase societal anxiety and is actually fuelling our fear of crime.

You have nothing to worry about if you have nothing to hide, right? When considering privacy rights and surveillance, there needs to be a clear distinction between secrecy and privacy. Secrecy is how criminal plots are created and this is what agencies like the NSA and GCHQ endeavour to eliminate to keep their countries safe. Privacy is the reason there is a lock on the toilet door; you have nothing to hide but it's nice to have some space to yourself. In a ham-fisted attempt to eliminate secrecy, governments of the world are blatantly disregarding the privacy rights of their own citizens, as was predicted by science fiction over 50 years ago.

Science fiction is a hard-hitting critique of modern society with trends extrapolated to create a commentary on social issues. It would be easy to dismiss sci-fi merely as stories but, due to the parallels between science-fiction from past and current society, it may be wise to heed its warnings, before it's too late. ■

## A cruel history – Cambodia's S-21

Harriet West

We're all familiar with the acts of Hitler and the Nazis from 1939 onwards, namely the obliteration of human rights within Germany's Jewish communities as millions were executed in the name of a 'master race'. Yet is it possible that a modern day Nazi-like scenario exists, covertly exhibiting instances of severe inhumanity?

Cambodia has an untold story, a history of horror to which the modern world seems to have turned a blind eye.

1975 saw the Khmer Rouge communist party emerge victorious in the country's civil war. The party was led by Pol Pot, who held goals of attaining a pure and 'master' race met by an agrarian society.

Four months after their victory, Chao Ponghnea Yat high school in the capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, underwent renovations. Classrooms were converted to prison and torture cells, windows were sealed with iron bars, and electrified barbed wired enclosed the buildings and grounds. The transformation of the school equalled the creation of 'security prison 21', known as S-21 to the Khmer Rouge.

From 1975 to its closure in 1979, an estimated 17,000 people were imprisoned in S-21. Aside from the horrors of everyday life within the prison – including impossibly small living spaces, lack of food and cleanliness, beatings and torture – a real breach of human rights involved the medical trials undertaken

within the walls of S-21.

Unlike the events that took place in the nearby 'killing-fields' involving mass human extermination, those of S-21 involved in medical trials saw death along the lines of prolonged pain and endurance. Bodies were cut open with the removal of organs without any use of anaesthetic. This was in order to educate young Khmer Rouge in anatomy, medicine and surgery.

Other experiments involved testing how long the human body survives on a decreasing blood supply. This was tested using intravenous pumps to slowly bleed the person until death, a procedure used to provide blood for Khmer Rouge soldiers. These experiments, amongst many others, enabled the deciphering of

the most effective techniques for torture and prisoner interrogation. In relation to the Nazis, the one English-speaking journalist who covered the Auschwitz trials from the beginning commented on the relation of both travesties: 'Dr. Mengele would give lollipops to small Jewish children before injecting their eyes with blue dye. Pol Pot's henchmen were not so polite.'

It seems evident that human rights are continually ignored in the presence of dictatorship and austerity, even today. This raises the question of human rights globally, and whether we as a race are able to learn from past mistakes and quash the abuses of power that cause such social atrocities. world of which we are unknowing. ■



# Sports Personality

Sport in 2014 will be remembered for so many different reasons; from the Winter Olympics Formula 1 season just last week there has been nonstop action. We may have had a been flying the Union Jack proudly. *The Gryphon* casts an eye over the candidates for

Not since Maradona's World Cup antics in '86 was there more hype about a right hand. Carl Froch's punch on George Groves in May had millions of us gasping and wincing at one of the most brutal yet captivating moments of sport seen for a considerable time in Britain. Froch's fourth defense of his IBF and WBO world super middle weight titles attracted over 80,000 spectators to Wembley stadium, a British boxing record, on a night like which Britain has never seen before. His 33rd victory in his 35th fight against Groves produced an exhilarating contest before Froch delivered what's being cited as the best punch

in British boxing history to knock out his opponent and stun those inside Wembley. This victory tops a career that spans over 10 years in which he also remains British and Commonwealth champion, and his endurance and continued success makes him a worthy nomination for this year's SPOTY.

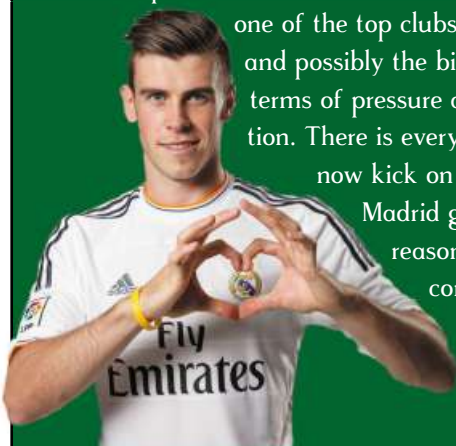
Chris Chadburn



Most footballers take time to settle into a new club, new country and new style of play. When Gareth Bale made the move to Real Madrid for a world record transfer fee last year, all the talk from the media and people in the game was about how he would adjust. A year later, with Bale having produced an excellent debut season packed with goals and assists, and having contributed heavily to a magical night in Lisbon as Madrid won their 10th European Cup as he scored the goal that saw them go ahead against cross-city rivals Atletico Madrid in extra time, it's safe to say he's answered those questions resoundingly. No British player has adjusted so well to playing at

one of the top clubs in the world, and possibly the biggest club in terms of pressure and expectation. There is every sign he can now kick on and become a Madrid great. For that reason he is a strong contender for this year's SPOTY.

Euan Cunningham



Kelly Gallagher, with her guide Charlotte Evans, became the first visually-impaired skier from these shores to win a gold medal. Evans herself has overcome significant hurdles to get to the podium. As a promising youngster, she snapped her cruciate ligament and had to retire from competitive action. Gallagher is no stranger to success and quickly became very accomplished. She won her first-ever international race, the giant slalom, alongside Claire Robb. She then went off to the Winter Paralympics in 2010, and became the first-ever Northern Irish competitor at the event. She agonisingly missed out on a medal in the giant slalom by the smallest margins. In 2011, she exorcised those demons to an extent with a silver and a bronze in the slalom and giant slalom respectively with Evans. They then went even better, wrapping up gold in the slalom, before their 2014 Winter Paralympics triumph.

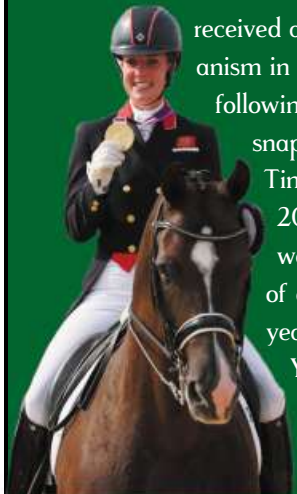
Alex Bowmer



Charlotte Dujardin has enjoyed a fruitful few years, picking up golds at two separate European Dressage Championships, the London Olympics and, most recently, the World Equestrian Games in Normandy earlier this year. All of these successes have been racked up with her trusty steed Valegro, whose career has dovetailed with the Enfield-born dressage rider. The pair have combined to clean up in the individual events, while Dujardin's skills have translated equally well to a team setting. As well as her successes in the saddle, she has also been showered with a number of personal accolades. She

received an OBE for services to equestrianism in the New Years' Honours List 2013 following her heroics in 2012, and then snapped up both the The Sunday Times Sportswoman of the Year 2014 and Sky Sports Sportswoman of the Year 2014. Out of all of the contenders for this year's Sports Personality of the Year, she has arguably been the most consistent over the last few years.

Alex Bowmer



Rory McIlroy, a young man from the North of Ireland who despite all of the pressure upon his shoulders, has grabbed golf by the scruff of its neck and achieved global domination. Two major championship victories, a World Golf championship win and a starring role in Europe's winning Ryder cup team is an outstanding achievement for any world class golfer.

No one can deny that his achievements warrant the upmost congratulation, but what is even more astounding, is that Rory manages to handle this talent with so much grace and respect.

Despite difficult circumstances off-course regarding the split with fiancée Caroline Wozniacki, Rory still handles the media attention in such a perfect manner, sharing opinions and views and respecting his fans. To

be world number one golfer at the age of just 25 and dominate the sport with perfect elegance and respect is the mark of a true sportsman it's no surprise that Rory is amongst the favourites for this year's competition.

Daniel Nixon



2014 was Adam Peaty's breakthrough year as the 19 year-old racked up six golds and one silver during an amazing summer. He claimed the men's 100m breaststroke title at the Commonwealth Games, pipping his idol Cameron van der Burgh to the post. The teenager from Uttoxeter ended the competition in Glasgow on a high, as he was integral part of the 4x100m winning medley relay squad. Peaty managed to up his game at the 2014 European Aquatics Championships in Berlin a month later. He claimed the 50m and 100m breaststroke title, breaking the world record in the former. He then emulated his feat in the 4x100m medley relay, before repeating the trick in the mixed equivalent.

After such a stellar year, Peaty will believe he deserves to be near the top of the list of contenders.

Alex Bowmer







# of the year 2014

in Sochi back in February right up to the climax of the forgettable World Cup campaign but so many other have this years prestigious Sports Personality of the Year award...

Lizzy Yarnold, the 26 year old British skeleton racer from Kent, blew away all her opponents to win the women's skeleton event at Sochi 2014. She was the only Great British athlete to win a gold medal at that Winter Olympic Games. Her performance was outstanding, with her leading each of the four rounds of the competition, setting new track records on her first and third runs, and eventually beating her nearest competitor by 0.97 seconds.

She also won the 2013-14 Skeleton World Cup after setting a British record of seven podium finishes in a season.

Her fantastic performances this year are all the more remarkable considering she only took up skeleton in 2008. Amy Williams, gold medal winner of the skeleton in 2010, described Yarnold as "unique", stating that "within five years of starting she has become an Olympic champion, and that is pretty much unheard of in any sport."

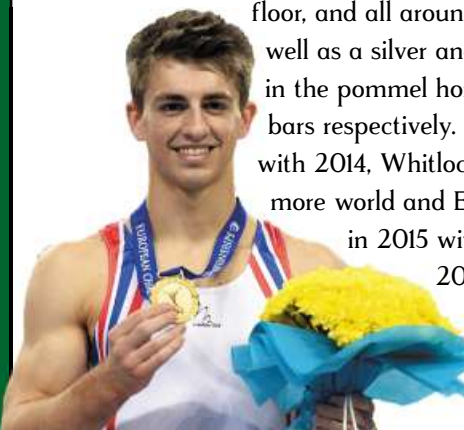
Nancy Gillen



What a year it's been for Max Whitlock! Not since the iconic Beth Tweddle in 2009 has a gymnast been nominated for SPOTY, however not since Tweddle has a British gymnast made such an impression on the global stage. The 21-year old's wide-ranging prowess this year ensured a spectacular all round World Championship silver medal behind only his childhood idol, Kohei Uchimura from Japan. That performance at the World Championships in China topped off an all conquering year where Whitlock became European pommel horse champion, beating Olympic champion Krisztian Berki, and team silver medalist. At the Glasgow games he became Commonwealth team,

floor, and all around champion, as well as a silver and bronze medal in the pommel horse and parallel bars respectively. Not satisfied with 2014, Whitlock has eyes on more world and European glory in 2015 with gold at Rio 2016 firmly in his sights.

Chris Chadburn



Despite previously being seen as outshone by her contemporary, Paula Radcliffe, Jo Pavey was actually a more accomplished youth, winning the under 15 British Schools 1500m title in record time, eight places ahead of Paula. With an impressive track record during the bulk of her career; including gaining silver in the 5,000m at the 2006 Commonwealth Games,

Pavey concretised her place as one of the greatest British female distance runners. At 40 and pregnant, less than a year before the 2014 European Championships, it was unexpected that Pavey would qualify at all, let alone compete. But she did – with style – by overtaking Clemence Calvin, almost 17 years her junior, to become the 10,000m champion just weeks before turning 41. Giving birth just ten months before becoming the oldest ever female champion at the European games, Jo certainly Pave(y)s the way for the continued success of older women and mothers in athletics.

Clare O'Leary



This year has seen the making of Lewis Hamilton, where FI's glamour boy has really seemed not only to find who he is as a driver, but more importantly as a man. Top of the class in 2014 he is now the most successful British racing driver in history in terms of wins, and at 29 is currently in the prime of his career.

Granted to have won the championship for the second time may not warrant such recognition, what should though is the fact that he has shown tremendous British heart and spirit in overcoming the deficit to Nico Rosberg. 2014 has really been a year in which we have seen the real Lewis, not only as quite possibly the greatest British driver of all

time, but also as a great man. For this reason he truly deserves to be considered for such an honour.

Tom Moore

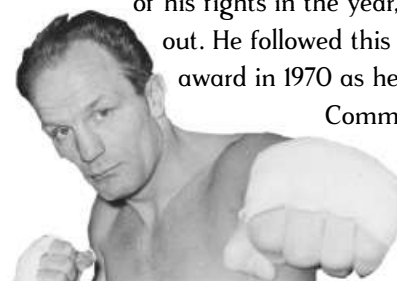


## Historic Winners

Christopher Chataway was the winner of the inaugural award in 1954 after a fantastic year in which he broke the 5000m record and won gold in the Commonwealth games in the 3 mile event. He also managed a silver medal in the 5000m European Championships to top it all off. After retiring early at the age of 25 he progressed into a career in television and also politics.



Sir Henry Cooper was the first man to win the award twice; firstly in 1967 when he won all three of his fights in the year, twice via knockout. He followed this up by winning the award in 1970 as he became British, Commonwealth and European Champion. These achievements also led to him being knighted in 2000.



Although possibly most well known by the younger generation for getting a cockroach stuck up her nose in I'm A Celebrity...

Fatima Whitbread was in her element in 1987 when she claimed javelin gold in the World Championships in Rome. Her customary celebratory wiggle was often seen on the field which won the hearts of many in the UK.



After finishing second in 1996 and third in 1997 Steve Redgrave finally got the award in 2000 when he won his fifth straight Olympic rowing Gold in Sydney. This also made him one of the most illustrious Olympians of all time after a such a successful 16 year spell.







# Qatar controversy may lead to boycott

Charlotte Stones  
Athletics

Olympic champion Greg Rutherford has spoken in favour of athletes who could boycott the 2019 World Championships in Doha.

The long jumper says he 'would back' any athlete who chooses not to compete in Doha, after the controversial decision to award Qatar the event.

The most recent announcement mirrored allegations of the mistreatment of migrant workers involved in the construction of facilities for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Rutherford has encouraged athletes and governing bodies to 'speak out' if further details emerge

of inhumane treatment in the run-up to the IAAF's flagship event in the Qatari capital.

More than 180 workers died last year and a significant number were injured as a result of unsafe working practices.

'Nobody should lose their life in the creation of a sporting venue.

'I'd like to think everyone involved with the bid and the subsequent building of the facilities are going to stick to the rules,' Rutherford told the *BBC*.

A recent report from

Amnesty International claimed that Qatar is failing to deal with the abuse allegations, although Doha 2019 officials maintain that appropriate working standards are in place to protect workers' rights.

Rival bids from Barcelona and Eugene failed to secure the event, with Rutherford hoping that Qatar's success was based on a 'safe and good environment' for its workers.

The 2019 World Championships are set to be held at a refurbished Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, which is

also a venue when Qatar host the 2022 World Cup.

The decision to award the 2022 World Cup to Qatar has also been met with criticism, with calls for the England team to boycott the tournament following FIFA's corruption in the bidding process.

British sportsmen, officials and politicians have spoken out in the past about England's participation in Qatari events after allegations of large-scale bribery among top officials during the bid for the World Cup.



## Leeds men finish as frisbee finalists

Sarah Norman  
Ultimate Frisbee

unday was another win against Oxford, putting the boys in tenth place, allowing them access to the top half of the draw in Sunday's games.

After making a strong start Leeds powered through the day, earning victory after victory against the UK's top teams.

Eventually Leeds had worked their way up to a rematch against Birmingham in the final. Despite a good start for Leeds, Birmingham unfortunately took advantage of some silly mistakes and took the lead, winning, once again, 11-5, showing their class and skill with the disc.

Captain Dan Lovesey describe the weekend as 'incredible', as his side was the true surprise of the tournament: 'the final may not have been our best moment but finishing second in the country is an incredible achievement and I couldn't be more proud of everyone who played'.

This weekend the Men's Ultimate Frisbee Team defied all expectation, earning second place at Indoor Division 1 Nationals.

Entering the tournament as 17th seed out of 20, the team was not predicted to even make the top eight, where BUCS points are awarded.

Their first game of the weekend was a confidence boosting 12-4 win against UEA, though their next game was a loss to tournament favourites and later winners, Birmingham, 11-5.

The penultimate pool game was a tense match against Strathclyde which was 7-7 on the buzzer, leading to a sudden death point and victory for Leeds.

Their last pool game was another close loss to Bath 1s 8-5.

Their final game of the day on Sat-

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# Formula 1 faces rule changes yet again

Charlotte Stones  
Formula 1

Formula One's governing body the FIA has published a revised calendar for the 2015 World Championship and several rule changes following a meeting of the World Motor Sport Council in Doha on Wednesday.

Next year's calendar now includes a provisional slot for South Korea, who have hosted four Grands Prix between 2010 and 2013, as well as for China, who will host the third round of the championship.

The FIA also confirmed a number of changes to the 2015 Formula 1 regulations, including the scrapping of the controversial double-points system. Introduced just last season, Bernie Ecclestone's double-points regulation aimed to prolong the life of a championship and attract high television audiences

through to the final Grand Prix.

Following successful trials in 2014, a Virtual Safety Car will be introduced next year. Trialled after Jules Bianchi's crash in Japan last season, the Safety Car will now pit once the last lapped car has passed, rather than waiting for lapped cars to catch up.

The FIA said, 'It will normally be used when double-waved yellow flags are needed on any section of track and competitors or officials may be in danger, but the circumstances do not warrant use of the Safety Car itself.'

Engine-related penalties have also changed, with full power unit changes now incurring penalties on a cumulative basis on the individual components of each power unit instead of a pit-lane start for the replacement of an entire battery unit.

Grid penalties for power unit components will no longer carry over to



the following race if the entire penalty cannot be served. Instead, time penalties will be introduced, running on a sliding scale depending on the number

of penalty places still to be served.

Finally, 2014's minimum weight of 691kg has now been increased to 702kg without fuel.

# One woman's journey from gym to swim

Clare O'Leary  
Swimming

I came back to my final year of uni with a mission – to get my swim on. After injuring my knee I was on doctors orders to ditch the gym and take up the swim.

In second year I became a proper gym bunny, sweating it out five times a week in the snazzy Edge fitness studio. I didn't swim once. In fact, the last time I swam regularly was when obliged to in year one.

I was really quite nervous about starting swimming, I had absolutely no technique (doggy paddle aside), no friends who swam to teach me and was unsure about how long/far/fast is normal to swim for. Plus the fact that you're basically naked – not that I'm prudish.

I descended into the pool and as I kicked off to start my first length, Dory's mantra 'just keep swimming' was on repeat in my head, yet I felt more akin to her counterpart Nemo as I gazed longingly to the gym above. Like Nemo I was away from home.

It was an okay first swim. I had no real idea what I was doing and didn't clock the time or distance I had swam. There was a reason for my distract-

tion – the male swimming team. The power with which these men tore up the swimming pool was insane.

We couldn't have been more opposite as my slightly undernourished looking, spindly figure undertook a conservative breaststroke in the lane next to them.

I remained committed and swam five times a week. After the last swim of week six while chewing over some post-workout food (a technical term for

eating what the hell you want because you deserve it) I also had some food for thought. Swimming lengths had become boring. It was time to mix it up and aqua aerobics was the answer.

Despite some passing comments from housemates about aqua aerobics being the activity of a middle class retired woman, which I chose to rise above, I was resolved to try it. It was energetic, hard work and a whole lot of fun. I would thoroughly recommend it,

even if you're not retired.

Now week ten I am a swimming convert. I feel less like a fish out of water (pun intended) and I am fitter, faster and stronger.

With swimming working every major muscle group, improving lung and heart strength, and burning up to 650 calories per hour, it's unsurprising I've noticed a difference. So whoever you are, channel your inner Michael Phelps and get your swim on.







# Newcastle victory leaves Leeds bottom

Clare Steel

Netball

Leeds Uni 1s 2-37 Newcastle 1s

Leeds Uni netball 1s were determined to end on a high when they faced Newcastle at home in the final match of the term. The starting seven featured new combinations, with Sarah Haynes debuting at goal attack. After a strong warm-up the side took to the court, having won the toss for the first centre pass.

A slightly shaky start saw Leeds down 4-0, but the team soon found their feet and started disrupting the Newcastle attack, with excellent defence by goalkeeper Lauren Potter and Bea Skingsley at wing defence. Having focused a lot on attack in training, wing attacker Rebekah Aspin and centre Claire Wilshire worked the ball around the court efficiently, successfully feeding the shooters, who managed to rein in the score to within two in the first quarter.

The score at the end of the first quarter was 8-4 to Newcastle, something that the Gryphons were determined to change. Inspirational words from Coach Shana Potgieter before the second quarter left the team raring to go.

Going into the second quarter, the team's initial centre passes did not go towards goal. However, Leeds regained possession after great turnovers by Georgia Blessed and tight defensive work throughout the court. Leeds were keeping Newcastle within reach. Persistence and concentration meant the shooters converted many of their opportunities, with Ciara Crosbie converting 78% of her shots. Despite illness, Amy Potter came



©Anne Wyman

on court, replacing Claire Wilshire at centre, and fresh legs were instrumental in keeping a hold on the Newcastle lead. The score at half time was 19-11 to the visitors, a scoreline that was definitely surmountable.

A confident and strong start to the third quarter saw Leeds score from their first few centre passes – instilling in the girls even greater desire. The third quarter saw Bethany Horridge replace Sarah Haynes as goal attack, with 100% shooting statistics for that quarter. The team received excellent support from all those watching on the side and this definitely had a positive impact on team morale, in particular in defence where

Lauren Potter and Georgia Blessed made brilliant interceptions and were always there to get the rebound. This led to a fantastic turnover rate, with a total of 41 in the entire match. Despite Leeds' best efforts, Newcastle were able to hold on to their lead, with the score being 27-17 at the end of the third quarter.

Despite the scoreline, Leeds did not let their heads drop and continued to fight throughout the final quarter. Issy McNeile made some excellent drives and persistently attacked the circle edge having replaced Amy Potter, and successfully linked the attack and the defence in the time she had on court. Bea Skingsley was also a key player in bringing the ball

up the court and out of defence.

Player of the match deservedly went to Lauren Potter who, through her determination and skill, played a vital role in defence and kept team spirits high. Despite their efforts, Leeds were not able to take the lead and the final result was a 23-37 loss, a score that the team was frustrated about. However, they could be proud of their performance against a strong Newcastle outfit. There were some moments of brilliance on behalf of the Uni girls, but there is still room for improvement, and the 1s are determined to hit the ground running when they return in the New Year.

## Leeds still struggling for form after defeat

Nancy Gillen

Women's Football

Leeds Uni 2s 0-7 Northumbria 2s

The women's football 2s endured a tough test against Northumbria 2s, losing 7-0 to the team one position above them in the table at the start of the game.

Things started badly, with Northumbria dominating from the off and Leeds failing to get out of their own half in the opening 10 minutes. Northumbria

took advantage of this control, scoring twice in quick succession, and leaving Leeds with a mountain to climb right from the start.

The Gryphons did soon start to get a foothold in the game, pressing Northumbria and creating a few good chances although they weren't capitalised on them.

However, Northumbria soon struck once again before the half-time whistle to make it 3-0 as the two sides went into the break.

With such a lead, Northumbria could afford to relax a little and Leeds enjoyed more possession at the beginning of the second half.

Stamina seemed to be an issue as Leeds began to tire halfway through the second half, and Northumbria took advantage of this. They scored 4 goals in the next 25 minutes, some of mind-boggling quality.

Despite Leeds' capitulation, they kept their heads high and kept trying to create chances to ruin Northumbria's

chance of a clean sheet.

Northumbria's defence remained resolute throughout and the scoreline finished 7-0 to the team from Newcastle. Leeds can still take positives from this game, and are in a good league position to not let this defeat dishearten them too much.

It is not until February that they have their next fixture against Bradford 1s, meaning they have plenty of time to put this result behind them.





# Leeds waves apart from Edinburgh as they claim victory



**Clare O'Leary**  
Men's Water Polo  
Leeds Uni 1s 15-6 Edinburgh 1s

This Wednesday was a glorious day for the University of Leeds men's water polo team, firstly because it was beautifully sunny, so The Edge swimming pool glistened like a disco ball as they played. Secondly, and more to the point, they were able to use this disco ball to dance their way to a comfortable victory over Edinburgh.

As both teams began a thorough warm-up, under the leadership of captains Melville and Danny Casey for Edinburgh and Leeds respectively, it was clear that they were both strong focused sides. During the warm-up, there were frequent apprehensive glances from the Edinburgh team, and for good reason. Leeds were fielding its shining star, goalkeeper Ed Scott. Having represented Team GB at the 2012 Olympics, he is a force to be reckoned with.

The first quarter opened with Leeds scoring in the first minute, courtesy of George Wibberley. Displaying great

attack, Leeds were able to bag another goal swiftly, this time delivered by Casey. The Gryphons' defensive tactics were also on point, as they blocked gallant efforts from the Scottish team. The hosts' domination meant that a further three goals were a formality, with the lead slightly dented by a penalty shot covered by Edinburgh, which was taken with a cool head, despite facing 6ft 6inches GB man Scott.

Quarter number two opened in style with Jarrah Al-Khandari creating the shot of the match, a fiery backhand leaving the keeper with no time to prevent the goal. Scott punched away a few on-target shots from the away team, but became a lone ranger when the Leeds defence went missing and Edinburgh seized the opportunity to chip away at the difference in goals by scoring their second.

Mental invigoration complete, the third quarter commenced. An early sin-bin for Leeds left them vulnerable to Edinburgh's attack, but any attempts were blocked, allowing Leeds to bear down on the Edinburgh goal. Goals nine

and ten came quickly for the home side, but defensive blips secured the visitors' fourth score. Quick to respond, the home side scooped up the ball for point number 11.

The final quarter saw the away side pick up the pace to score point number five, sparking Leeds into a response with their 12th. Unsurprisingly, in a far more physical quarter, another penalty given to Edinburgh meant that they finished on six. However Leeds stepped up their level in the last few minutes of the game to rack up three more goals.

So, a confident win for the home side in this crucial final match of term. A very close league means that we will have to wait with baited breath before the champions are announced, but after Wednesday's performance, we live in hope. ■

## Results



Badminton 2s (M) 5-3 Newcastle 2s  
Badminton 3s (M) 4-4 York 3s  
Badminton 1s (W) 4-4 Nottingham 1s  
Badminton 2s (W) 7-1 Manchester 2s  
Basketball 3s (M) 73-70 Newcastle 3s  
Basketball (W) 76-9 Bradford 1s  
Fencing (M) 135-69 Bradford 1s  
Fencing (W) 107-130 Sheffield 1s  
Football 1s (M) 1-2 Leeds Beckett 2s  
Football 2s (M) 3-2 Leeds Beckett 3s  
Football 3s (M) 2-2 Leeds Beckett 4s  
Football 1s (W) 10-0 Manchester 1s  
Football 2s (W) 0-7 Northumbria 2s  
Hockey 1s (M) 1-6 Loughborough 1s  
Hockey 3s (M) 4-3 Newcastle 3s  
Hockey 4s (M) 4-2 Sheffield Hallam 3s  
Hockey 5s (M) 0-2 Northumbria 2s  
Hockey 1s (W) 0-4 Loughborough 1s  
Hockey 2s (W) 1-4 Durham 3s  
Hockey 3s (W) 0-0 Northumbria 2s  
Hockey 4s (W) 2-1 Hull 1s  
Hockey 5s (W) 2-4 Newcastle 4s  
Hockey 6s (W) 0-3 Sheffield Hallam 3s  
Hockey 7s (W) 5-2 Hull 2s  
Lacrosse 2s (W) 2-25 Durham 3s  
Netball 1s 23-37 Newcastle 1s  
Netball 2s 53-31 Northumbria 3s  
Netball 5s 28-34 Durham 3s  
Netball 6s 11-81 Leeds Art 1s  
Rugby League 1s 62-10 Manchester 1s  
Rugby Union 1s (M) 12-36 Loughborough 1s  
Rugby Union 3s (M) 20-44 Northumbria 2s  
Rugby Union (W) 5-39 Northumbria 1s  
Squash 1s (M) 1-4 Durham 1s  
Squash 2s (M) 2-9 Sheffield 2s  
Squash 3s (M) 2-9 Sheffield 3s  
Table Tennis 2s (M) 11-6 Durham 3s  
Tennis 1s (M) 2-10 Leeds Beckett 2s  
Tennis 2s (M) 2-10 Leeds Beckett 3s  
Tennis 3s (M) 0-12 Newcastle 1s  
Tennis 2s (W) 10-2 Leeds Beckett 3s  
Volleyball (M) 3-0 Teesside 1s  
Waterpolo (M) 15-6 Edinburgh 1s





Netball 1s face a relegation six-pointer at home to Newcastle 1s p. 22

Sports Personality of the Year 2014 special. Who deserves the prize? p. 18-19



Could Leeds respond to defeat to Loughborough last week with victory over Edinburgh? p.23



Rutherford supports World Athletics Championship boycott in Doha - p. 20



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# Uni come unstuck against Beckett

● Leeds can't hold onto lead after Cunningham penalty ● Gryphons' unbeaten start comes to an end in close encounter

**Daniel Nixon**  
Men's Football  
Leeds Uni 1s 1-2 Leeds Beckett 2s

Leeds Uni football 1s failed to convert their chances on an icy Wednesday afternoon at Weetwood as they succumbed to an unbeaten run-ending defeat.

The home side sat three points clear at the top of the Northern 2B league before the match, having won three in three games, but Beckett's win means that the two sides now sit joint-second on nine points apiece.

As the sides did battle in the opening fifteen minutes, chances were scarce. The forward lines attempted to latch onto

a number of long balls, and extended periods of possession were few and far between, in what was a tough midfield battle.

The first opening came for Uni, as a ball came over from the left-hand side and brushed the Beckett defender's arm. Uni's resulting penalty appeals were accepted by the referee, and Daniel Cunningham duly stepped up and slotted the ball into the bottom right-hand corner, sending the keeper the wrong way.

Beckett began to pressurise the Uni defence, but the home side were always looking dangerous on the counter with the pace from Cunningham up front.

A decent spell of Beckett possession

led to a looping ball into the box which the home side failed to clear, with a scuffed effort from Will Coutts bobbling into the bottom right-hand corner.

Both teams continued to have chances towards the end of the first half, but neither side could find that all-important finishing touch, leaving the score at 1-1 at the break.

An excellent ball from the Uni midfield left Cunningham through on goal in the early stages of the second half. The speedy forward buried his effort into the bottom left-hand corner only for the referee to controversially rule the goal out for offside.

This was a major wake-up call to Leeds Beckett and they responded well.

Some good wing-play led to a fast-paced ball being flashed across the face of goal, and the onrushing Curtis James slid in at the far post to put the ball into the top-right hand corner.

Uni kept going and going, trying to find that crucial equaliser late into the second half. The side can count themselves unlucky; there were multiple controversial offside decisions and close-range attempts, but there was just no way through.

Heading into the winter break Uni still sit top of the league on goal difference. The side need to keep going after the break and still look strong contenders to claim that all-important division title.