



# THE GRYPHON

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The official newspaper of Leeds University

## Tell My Wi-Fi Miss Her

A Branson Pickle as students complain of “appalling” Virgin Media broadband in Hyde Park



**Euan Hammond**  
News Editor

*The Gryphon* has received a number of complaints from students living in the Hyde Park area about poor Virgin Media broadband service, a problem which seems to have been recurring for over a year now, with many customers trying to claim money back.

Oliver Howarth, a disgruntled fourth year economics student, told *The Gryphon*:

“My house, and I’m sure many hundreds of others, opted to use Virgin as our internet provider. The service can only be described as appalling. Virgin told us there is a local area network issue.

“They have also refused to let

us leave the contract because in their eyes there is ‘some degree’ of internet. If we leave, we have to pay off the remaining balance.

“This is absurd given that we entered into the contract on the basis of receiving an internet service from them that works.

“I managed to get £109 out of Virgin after a few phone calls, which is no real win because we are still going to have very poor internet for months.”

Despite this issue, the Virgin Media website continues to advertise broadband speeds of “up to 200mb/s” for properties in Hyde Park.

On contacting Virgin about the apparent issues, they informed us they were working to resolve it. A spokesperson told *The Gryphon*:

“We recognise that there is an issue

in the area and we are working hard to resolve it as quickly as possible. We’d like to thank our customers in Hyde Park for their patience while we complete the necessary fix.”

A customer service worker had more to say over the phone. After being asked why the internet in the area was slow, he stated that the “utilisation in the area is really high.”

“According to my readout the utilisation in the area is at around 90% from around 5pm to midnight. We are planning to increase uptakes in the area but the fix date for that is the 15th of February, although the time it takes could be longer or shorter.”

However, some customers are not content with the speed Virgin are

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Youths descend on city centre in “Mad Max” Halloween ride out

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Women share stories of sexual assault to show why its #notokay

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## Quote of the Week

*Jesus Christ, he better not bloody win. It would be a victory of irreversible consequence.*

Dominic Johnson, when asked about Ed Balls and his chances on Strictly

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# Editor's Letter:



As we draw in to the last two months of 2016, it'll be interesting to see what more this whirlwind of a year will throw at us. I'm sure I'm not the only one keen to see in 2017 and hopefully a year with a little less political turmoil, less celebrity deaths, and just maybe, a year when Donald Trump doesn't dominate the headlines every single week.

It's an idealistic vision and one which I, among many others, am increasingly starting to fear will never happen. There are just five more days until the next President of the United States of America, one of the most powerful people in the world, is voted into power and Donald Trump seems to have a worryingly good shot at gaining access to the Oval Office. With the FBI yet again investigating Hillary Clinton's emails, she's starting to slip in the polls and it seems almost neck-and-neck between the pair at the moment. It strangely doesn't even seem that long ago when Trump was being laughed off as the wild card candidate that no one would take seriously - I've lost count of the amount of times I've heard "Don't worry, he'll never get elected". But 2016 is a strange realm where nothing can be predicted or taken for granted.

Not just the US elections but Brexit has of course provided us with the most tumultuous events of the year. Resignations galore, Farage's smug face broadcast on every screen and a new Prime Minister in the space of a couple of months. And as I write this, it has just been announced that Parliament will after all have to vote in favour for Article 50 to be triggered. It was a victory for the 48% and heartening to think we're not just being ignored but is also likely to cause yet more political divisions, backstabbing, controversial rhetoric and potential party splits. It could even trigger the next general election.

I don't think it's too melodramatic to say these events are in actual fact quite scary - there was a reason Donald Trump costumes were so popular this Halloween. As part of the generation about to embark on the rest of their lives, these historically momentous events will inevitably have an impact on us the most. For the first time, politics feels like something that genuinely matters to me and my own personal lived experience - what happens in parliament or the White House is not some abstract process but something that will have a real impact on the way I live the rest of my life.

So while these events are frightening, I suppose in some ways they are also a good thing - they are creating a dialogue between groups of people who might not necessarily have had a voice before, or who had never been stimulated to find that voice. For the first time in a long while, politicians in Britain are taking seriously the views of the working classes, who feel isolated and left behind by the whirlwind effects of urbanisation and globalisation. Similarly in America, the reason Trump is gaining so much support is that he offers an alternative to the establishment that middle town Americans feel so alienated from. The struggle we have is separating these legitimate grievances and opinions from hateful rhetoric directed towards the 'other', a scapegoating tactic that has been used for thousands of years and has led to so much violence and death.

It's both exciting and worrying to be witnessing history as it unfolds, and Tuesday night will be one of the most politically momentous events we'll see in our lifetime. Yes, it's terrifying, and yes, a world with Donald Trump at the helm is not a world I'm ready to entertain, but we should be trying to harness this increased political debate for good - as impossible as that may seem at times.

**Jessica Murray**  
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## Corrections

- The Gryphon incorrectly stated that a meeting that took place on Wednesday 19th October was the first meeting for EU and non-EU staff and students to discuss the consequences and impact of Brexit. The University held three sessions hosted by the Vice-Chancellor for staff about Brexit in July, and there were two sessions open to staff with a lawyer specialising in immigration in September. Members of the public can go to ForStaff website where the university are updating staff with new information about Brexit as and when they have it. You can also download the Brexit Q&A from the information sessions with the lawyer.

- The Gryphon would like to apologise to the Library Representative from the School of History for quoting him without his permission in our article 'Library Resources Under Threat' (Issue 4, 21/10/16).



# Police issue warning over suspected GHB overdoses

Jonathon Chard

West Yorkshire Police have issued a public warning after a suspected contaminated batch of the party drug, Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB), led to four people falling ill at a Halloween Event on Saturday night.

Police were called to the Leeds' Centenary Pavilion, on Lowsfield Road in Beeston, at around midnight after ambulance staff reported concerns for four individuals who were receiving treatment for suspected GHB overdoses.

GHB is a naturally occurring fatty acid with effects similar to that of alcohol and has been classified as a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) in the UK since 2003.

The two men, aged 21 and 25, and two women, aged

30 and 31, were taken to Leeds General Infirmary and have since been released.

A 32-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of supplying controlled drugs and is currently in custody while enquiries continue.

Detective Inspector Jaz Khan, of Leeds District CID, said:

"We would urge anyone who has recently purchased this substance in the Leeds area to throw it away, as it is possible there may be a contaminated batch in circulation.

"We would also ask anyone who attended the event at The Pavilion, who may have information about anyone selling controlled substances in the area last night, to contact us on 101 or report anonymously via the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555111."

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Virgin are working at. Ellen, an English and Theatre student, spoke of how the slow internet has been a recurring issue.

"I lived on Brudenell Mount in Hyde Park last year [2015], and the internet was just as slow then. After multiple calls, they told me that the fix would take place in February, like they have told me this year. But as the problem still exists I have my doubts.

Ellen went on to suggest that in some circumstances refunds might be available from Virgin on a month-by-month basis where customers lodge their complaints with the company.

With many students relying on their services to do important tasks such as meet deadline and, of course, watch Netflix

It seems that the situation won't improve until at least February next year so, if you want to watch Netflix - I mean do your work, of course - maybe a trip to the Laidlaw will be the way to go. If you can find a seat...

Cover image credit: YouTube Washington Post

# Marauding Motorcyclists Cause Chaos on Streets of Leeds

Christopher Tobin and Sarah Berry

Two arrests have been made following an incident on Halloween when a group of youths drove erratically around the centre of Leeds in a 'Mad Max'-style ride out on motorcycles, scooters and quad bikes.

Police were forced to close Kirkstall Road in order to dispel the group, causing traffic chaos across Leeds.

The Yorkshire Evening Post reported that as many as 50 riders were involved in the chaos with a large scale police reaction taking place.

A police helicopter was seen flying over the action, before the police closed off the road. The group had

earlier been seen speeding through Briggate in city centre and in areas Hyde Park.

West Yorkshire Police received over 200 calls about the bikers between 4pm and 9pm on Monday evening. A spokesman reported that the gathering had been organised on social media, where the chaos was captured by onlookers and posted on Twitter.

Detective Sergeant Mark Atkinson, of Leeds District CID, said: "This incident caused an understandably high level of public concern and we are continuing to progress our enquiries and expect to make further arrests.

"We would also like to reiterate our warning to

people to think very carefully about the consequences of taking part in unofficial gatherings like this that cause disruption and threaten public safety."

"Two arrests have been made in connection with the incident."

One 26-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday, and has subsequently been released on bail. On Thursday morning a 30-year-old man was also arrested and a vehicle was seized on suspicion of

Frazer Sparham, a third-year Graphics student, said: "They went past my house and there were loads of them, they were even riding on the pavements. There was dirt bikes, motorbikes, all sorts."



Image: @peopleofleeds

# Campus Watch

## 1 University of Coventry Safe sex initiative offers students £400 to have sex on camera

A Coventry University project aimed at reducing the number of young adults with STIs has been criticised after offering students £400 to have sex on camera.

Project leader Dr Katie Newby explained that the films and other accompanying elements of Chance2Change – financially supported by the government funded Medical Research Council – hoped to encourage young people to be safer in sex by “increasing their use of condoms” and thus “reduce the incidence of sexually-transmitted infections”.

With the intention of promoting the message that the use of condoms doesn’t kill the mood, the Chance2Change project looked to feature “real couples in loving consensual relationships”. The “tastefully shot” films would utilise “natural settings”, such as student accommodation and a car.

Chris McGovern, the chairman of the Campaign for Real Education, noted the responsibility of educational institutions to “look after the sexual welfare of their students”, but told *The Daily Mail* he “struggle[d] to understand why Coventry University feels the need to delve into territory like this.” Chairman of Parents Outloud, Margaret Morrissey, warned that students involved could “jeopardise future employment prospects” and said that the project offended the intelligence of students.

## 2 Keio University Beauty contest banned due to ugly behaviour

A beauty contest held at Keio University in Tokyo has been banned after allegations were made against the organisers. It has been claimed that the group was forcing minors to drink and that male members of the group gang-raped a female student.

The banning of the beauty contest has sparked outrage amongst some students who saw the show as an opportunity to kick-start their career in the TV industry. Large cosmetic companies also benefited from the pageant, using the candidates to promote their products.

Like many major beauty pageants around the world, the contests at Japanese universities have sparked much controversy. One group from the university released a statement regarding the nature of these pageants: “We stand against beauty pageants because they have a history of reinforcing a unitary concept of ‘women’s beauty,’ which is highly racialized, somatically normative, and classed, as well as a history of functioning as a tool for sexual objectification of women.”

Other universities in Japan have opted not to endorse these contests, with Meiji University holding a fashion show instead and the elite Waseda University banning all forms of beauty contests whatsoever.

Anna Matthews



## 3 University of Sydney Mourning of famous tree spreads across campus

Australian students awoke on Sunday morning to the news that ‘Jacaranda’, “the most famous tree in Australian education” had collapsed.

Jacaranda (a purple jacaranda) was the university’s most treasured flora, featuring in “thousands” of wedding and graduation photos since she was planted in 1928.

A layer of purple blossom litters the now-bare quadrangle she once occupied, serving as a melancholic reminder of the plant’s demise.

An emotional university spokeswoman cited “old age” as the cause of death. Foul play is not suspected.

Jacaranda was firmly rooted in university folklore, with undergraduates fearing failure if they neglected to study before the tree’s first bloom. Some students have nervously speculated that the event will prompt academic turmoil.

Whilst the removal of Jacaranda’s carcass was completed before midday, the emotional repercussions of the tree’s tragic tumble are likely to be long lasting, even perennial.

Alexander Jones

## 4 University of Wisconsin University shocked by charge of student serial rapist

Alec Cook, a 20-year-old student at the University of Wisconsin, was charged with sexual assault and false imprisonment against five women last week. The disturbing details that have since been released have shocked and horrified the Wisconsin campus and students worldwide. Cook is alleged to have committed 15 crimes against women involving sexual assault and false imprisonment in addition to strangulation. According to police and prosecutors, Cook befriended students before entrapping and attacking them.

Since the arrest on Thursday, dozens of women have come forward. The police presented the existence of a notebook kept by Cook which detailed plans of attacks on his victims. Cook and his attorneys have insisted that the sex was consensual with no foul play taking place. Despite pleading not guilty, Cook has been suspended from the university.

Christopher Tobin



# Vice Chancellor Question Time

In a Q&A session, VC Alan Langlands condemns government policy and hears students' concerns about University fail-

Ian White

The event began with Sir Alan Langlands outlining his views on how Brexit could affect the University of Leeds, warning that the exit from the EU could lead to a drop in international student numbers as well as making it harder to attract top academics from abroad – a fear given substance by the UCAS report of a drop in EU student applications also reported upon by *The Gryphon* this week (see p.6).

He also expressed his opposition to the government's plans to include international students in overall migration reduction targets, condemning the Home Secretary Amber Rudd's speech to the Tory conference as "ill-judged". He even claimed to be more worried about the government's attitude to migration than he is about Brexit.

When asked about the status of students and staff at the university from the EU, he said that he hoped the university could remain open and outward looking. "It would be shameful if we destabilise the lives of EU citizens involved with the university" he said.

His criticism of the government continued in a carefully worded critique of the new Higher Education Bill. He claimed it would increase the marketisation of the higher education system, something he later said he opposed and viewed as highly dangerous for the reputation of British universities.

However, he also attempted to reassure students worried about the threat to study abroad programmes posed by Brexit. He said that he expected mutually beneficial, bilateral arrangements between universities, such as exchange programmes and joint research projects, to continue as there is a desire in universities across Europe for cooperation.

Later in the Q&A, as questions were opened up to the audience, the issue of student democracy and



Image: Nikki R Haldane Bevington

representation was raised by a number of students who argued that the University council ignored the results of student referendums on issues such as university funding for fossil fuels and the presence on campus of companies involved in arms sales, such as BAE.

Other members of the audience questioned how it was fair for students who have less contact time to pay the same as those with more, effectively subsidising the courses which are more expensive to run. Sir Alan

was sympathetic to the issue but said that he couldn't see a better alternative.

Finally, the lack of BME students and staff at the university was raised. The proportion of BME students and staff is below that of many other universities and the city of Leeds in general. Sir Alan agreed, stating that "a university should reflect the community it serves" and conceding that there was more to be done to encourage greater representation of ethnic minority groups.

# Knitwear Sculptures Keep Campus Cosy

Sarah Berry

Students have been left bemused this week following the appearance of odd, knitted creations across campus.

The "community-made knitted sculptures" were produced in celebration of the Yorkshire Year of the Textile, an arts project initiated by the newly launched Cultural Institute at the University.

Members of the public turned up in their hundreds to the "innovative" finger knitting sessions which were held in villages across Yorkshire, from Halifax to Howarthand.

The University community was also heavily involved in creating the canopies. Sessions were led by School of Design Teaching fellows and artists Jane Scott and Elizabeth Gaston. BA Textile Design students also participated alongside attendees at workshops at The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery and ULITA – an archive of international textiles.

The Cultural Institute aims to further cultural engagement in Leeds, but may wish to consider its communication strategy in light of students' confusion with regard to the woolly apparitions.



Image: Camille Hanotte



# Institutional Racism in British Universities

Jangira Lewis

Despite their endorsements of diversity and inclusivity, institutional racism has been a recurring theme throughout British universities. With statistics such as 60 of the UK's 14,000 professors being black across the entire sector, academics and student organisations have been lobbying for change.

Apart from the racial inequality in the staffing, a central issue to the institutional racism has been identified as the curriculums themselves. It's been argued that universities produce racism through their overly "white" focuses on Eurocentric narratives. Last year's Runnymede Trust report found that universities possess a "remarkable resilience to change in terms of curriculum, culture and staffing".

"Universities produce racism," Kehinde Andrews, an associate professor at Birmingham City University told *The Guardian*: "Little has happened to challenge ingrained attitudes and approaches". In his own discipline, Sociology, Andrews stated that narratives taught as the foundation of the subject is "a collection of dead white men".

Some argue that Eurocentric curriculums is a given at any British institution that has a British focus, but with the majority of institutions claiming to be diverse, their curriculum should reflect that promise.

Other professors have expressed their concerns. Academics at Cambridge are running a research group on "decolonising the curriculum", which aims to explore the possibility of changing the structure of universities. Initiatives such as the push for a "Black Studies" degree and the Black British Academics network have strongly recommended changes within the university system.



Image: The Atlantic

Institutional racism has not gone unnoticed in the student body. The National Union of Students' campaign "Why is my curriculum white?" was launched last year, bringing awareness to the lack of ethnic diversity in texts assigned to students.

In May 2016, the campaign put together a series

of recommendations and proposed them to the university, with the intention of launching diversity in the curriculum. As *The Gryphon* reports on page 5, the Vice Chancellor, Sir Alan Langlands has admitted that not enough has been done to represent the diversity of the student body.

## EU applications to study in UK down by 9%

Rabeeah Moeen

According to UCAS, the number of applicants from EU students for top university courses in the UK have dropped by 9%.

Following Brexit, there was concern from both UK and EU students about its impact on studying abroad as well as travelling, particularly in regards to the restriction of free travel for the UK. It is thought this drop is linked to those fears.

Nicole Dandridge, chief executive of Universities UK, linked the fall to uncertainty about government funding for EU students. The lack of clarification received by EU students about any financial support they could receive while studying clearly led to a fewer number applying to study here. In fact, a statement was only issued by the government a short while before the November deadline for particular universities and courses closed this month. Although it stated that funding for EU students would remain the same in 2017, with access to loans, it may have come too late for November applications.

There are two deadlines for UCAS applications. The November one is for Oxford and Cambridge Universities as well as medicine, veterinary and dentistry courses for September 2017. The data describing the 9% drop is for these courses, and Dandridge stated the full picture would only become clear about the January

deadline had passed, which makes up 90% of total university undergraduate applications.

Following the government's clarification of financial support available, it is unsure if EU students will still distance themselves from UK universities following the EU referendum result or not.

The 9% decline marks a turn in application numbers, as applications from EU students were previously on

the rise. The number of applicants was 6240, a 620 drop from the steadily increasing climb of previous years.

Contrastingly, the number of total applications has gone up 1% this year. Both Mary Curnock Cook, the chief executive of UCAS, and a government spokesperson claimed this was a positive figure.





# Is Your Taxi Safe? License Review Reveals Criminal Convictions

Sarah Berry

Following a review of taxi licensing regulations, Leeds City Council has uncovered “a range of unreported convictions and police cautions” among the city’s taxi drivers, according to a report drafted for councillors.

Previously, Licensing checks were carried out at the point of renewal or following a complaint, but the Licensing Committee changed its policy to include random checks following the Rotherham child sexual exploitation scandal. The Alexis Jay inquiry, whose report was published in 2014, highlighted the role of taxi drivers in facilitating the abuse.

The Licensing Committee, which is responsible for taxi and private hire vehicles and their drivers, began the Disclosure and Barring Service checks for 6,000 licenses in November 2015. The Service (replacing CRB checks) accesses criminal records to ascertain whether or not a person is suitable for working with vulnerable groups, such as children.

The report states that “to date four decisions to revoke driver licences have been taken, with others cases receiving formal written warnings and/or training requirements, along with other decisions pending and awaiting further information” following the revelation of 61 undisclosed convictions and cautions.

The Committee has taken numerous other steps to ensure taxi safety in Leeds is maintained, including an assessment of the suitability of the initial licence



application process. One concern of the Additional Licensing Safeguarding Proposals is with regard to non-UK citizens, because less personal information is available to Officers to aid them in making a “fit and proper” person assessment.

The Council acknowledges that it has “been reliant on information supplied personally by an applicant in the form of a ‘Police certificate of good character’ from foreign non EU countries, or personal references which lack professional focus, credibility, or opportunity to verify them in a credible way.”

A spokesman for Leeds City Council emphasised that “the safety of taxi and private hire passengers travelling in Leeds is always our primary concern,”

while Union Community Officer Jamie Ali said that:

“While getting around Leeds is normally safe, it doesn’t hurt to take care of yourself. LUU has a partnership with Amber Cars which means students can give their student ID to the driver and collect it the next day from helpdesk at LUU, if you don’t have the money to get home. Always make sure that the cab you’re using is the one you’ve ordered. We also have the night bus which leaves from LUU until the early hours and it will get you to your front door for just £1, just ask about it at Helpdesk.”

Notably, the number of drivers of who have had licenses revoked following the licensing review represent 0.08 per cent of all those checked.

# Community Sports Fight Housing Development Plans in LS6

Polly Hatcher

The future purpose of a site in LS6 is in dispute, with LS6 Community Sports – which sees a desperate need for a sports field – fighting against plans for housing developments.

On the website of LS6 Community Sports, they suggest that “Leeds City Council Plans department gave permission for the site to be developed as housing based on legal advice that they might have been taken to court by the developers if they refused.”

They believe that the need for the sports field is huge as LS6 has no publicly accessible sports pitches in Hyde Park, five of the local primary schools in LS6 have limited space for sport and two have no grass areas for children to play and that there is a lack of support for the planning applications.

In 2008, over 1200 people from the area have signed a petition saying that the facilities here should be kept for school and community usage.

After a public enquiry last Wednesday, the inspector is yet to come to a decision on the matter.

One developer wants to build a student village on the field, arguing that the site would be publically

accessible which would allow people to integrate with the students.

John Davison, who is working hard to ensure that the area is not developed into anything other than a community sports centre, states that “A community sports centre would be vital because the area doesn’t have anything by way of official sports pitches and so has very few sports clubs the public can access.

“As someone who works with young people for free on concrete facilities I see that there are aspirations from young people and parents for facilities that could host sports clubs and increase young people’s opportunities for sport and there are legal requirements for council to facilitate these things.



Image: ls6communitysports.org.uk

“The problem has always been money and space. We can see the space, so we need to try to collect some money to assist councils who won’t pay for this land on their own.”



# Views

## Should Britain continue selling arms to Saudi Arabia?

Yes

Saudi Arabia is the key power in the gulf and most importantly an influential voice in a region that dominates Britain's key foreign policy and security objectives. We've had a long history with Saudi Arabia that has helped project Britain's influence in the Middle East. This is also important at home, as Saudi Arabia plays an important role in counter-terrorism and helping to keep British citizens safe. It is vital that this history of good relations with Saudi Arabia is continued and business such as the arms trade between our two nations helps strengthen this relationship further. To damage our relationship with Saudi Arabia would be a move that requires delicate consideration

over knee-jerk reactions, which at this time would be premature.

Although there has been speculation on Saudi Arabia's activities in Yemen and whether these do violate international law, there is no hard evidence on which Britain could use to justify cutting off arms sales. Although like most people I am doubtful of the sincerity of the assurances that Saudi Arabia has offered in light of their questionable bombing targets, it would not be helpful to anyone to immediately cease arms trading with Saudi Arabia without hard evidence.

Currently Britain provides Ministry of Defence support to Saudi forces in addition to our relationship in

arms sales. From this position of influence and insight that we have with Saudi Arabia, it would be more productive in regards to upholding international law by ensuring that these standards are adhered to rather than cutting off military ties that would only lead to less scrupulous nations working with Saudi Arabia.

The question over the arms trade is an opportunity to question the role that the Britain plays in the Middle East. There seems to be a popular view of non-action and for Britain to stay completely out of Middle Eastern affairs. However, taking a proactive role in building up our relationships in the Middle East at a tumultuous time can only benefit

our ability to share our values in an area of the world that contains many "countries of concern" according to the Foreign Office. Yes, the British company BAE sells fighter jets to Saudi Arabia but that also means that BAE trains Saudi pilots - training them with the same ethical standards of the British military. We can't just turn our back on an ally nor can we dictate when and how that ally protects itself. We can however work with our allies, strengthening our relationships to build a more secure world that enshrines the rights of our allies to protect themselves from aggressors.



Kane Emerson

No

The UK government exporting arms to Saudi Arabia should be considered the highest form of hypocrisy. Britain, as one of the so-called leaders of human rights in the developing world, should not be supporting a country with a long history of alleged human rights abuses which now include accusations of the Saudi-led coalition using schools, hospitals and other civilian areas as military targets. There has been an estimated 8,100 civilian casualties so far in Yemen. By supporting Saudi Arabia, those numbers are set to rise and we are not only ignoring our legal duty as a player on the international stage but also our moral duty as a nation committed to upholding human rights across the world.

In the past year, the UK has exported £3.3 billion worth of arms to Saudi

Arabia. Defenders of this deal may point to benefits in the economy and increased employment. However there has been, so far, no government study on the economic benefits of exporting arms to Saudi Arabia. This is likely because the evidence would not support the exaggerated claim that the deal would make a remarkable difference to our economy or employment for the vast majority of people. Even if this were to be the case, the UK government acknowledged in its 2005 Defence Industrial Strategy that economic benefits should not be used to justify arms exports. The price that the people of Yemen will have to pay because of this deal likely exceed any benefits we could possibly gain here in the UK.

In January, a UN panel accused Saudi Arabia of breaking

international humanitarian law during its assault on the country through targeting civilian areas. Chris White, who chaired the inquiry of the Committees on Arms Export Controls, agreed calling for the UK to halt its trading with Saudi Arabia as "During this inquiry we have heard evidence from respected sources that weapons made in the UK have been used in contravention of International Humanitarian Law."

Supporters of continuing trade with Saudi Arabia, such as the Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, have pointed to an internal Saudi report which claims to have found no breach of international law through the investigation of eight incidents in Yemen. However, the finding of these investigations have not yet been verified by any

independent organisations.

Even the British Foreign Office withdrew previous claims that the UK judged that no breaches of humanitarian law had occurred. Previous government statements from Philip Hammond, which had stated that the government "have assessed that there has not been a breach of international humanitarian law by the coalition", were later corrected to "we have not assessed that there has been a breach of international humanitarian law by the coalition".

Trading arms with Saudi Arabia will only serve to prolong the conflict and extend the suffering of civilians in Yemen. However, there is still hope for a peaceful resolution to this conflict through the most potent weapon ever used in warfare - negotiation.

Sophie Wheeler



# The Not-So-Great British Bake Off

**Rachael Dickinson**  
BA Broadcast Journalism

With its soggy sponges and three-tier showstoppers, the BBC's *Great British Bake Off* has come to an end. After seven series and countless weeks of showing the nation all of Britain's finest baking, *Bake Off* will be moving to Channel 4 and there is no doubt that there will be some significant changes to one of the public's most beloved shows. We've sat through years of innovative and colourful cake designs. We've even witnessed some of the biggest baking meltdowns. But I can't help wonder: are these really the best bakers that Britain has to offer?

Over-baked and overrated, this series quickly grew tiresome with an overall lack of sophistication and presentation from the bakers. Biscuit week was a fine example of one of the show's

many disasters – I think we all wept in frustration at the greatest gingerbread house failure of the century. With Louise's biscuit church resembling the aftermath of a house in an earthquake and Rav's Christmas fairground looking more like a Christmas nightmare, one would have thought that the contestants had never even picked up

*Over baked and overrated, this series quickly grew tiresome with an overall lack of sophistication and presentation...*

a recipe book in their lives. Let's also not forget the mess that came during week five, with Val's undercooked and inedible tarts.

With the recurring theme of mishap

and misfortune, can we really categorise this as quality baking? The constant look of disappointment and confusion on Paul Hollywood's face would allow me to assume that the judges also shared my distaste for this year's showstoppers. It's certainly puzzling as to how they managed to elect a star baker each week – of course the contestants could always rely on winning Mary's favour by lacing the cakes with liquor (as Tom and Benjamina quickly discovered). Yet whilst disaster is expected to occur during the early stages of the competition, raw mixture and under baked pastries in the semi final are a cause for concern at such a late stage. Perhaps it's just the pressure and overwhelming fear of failing causing the bakers to slip up. Or maybe it's Paul and Mary's constant glares from across the tent that evokes a sense of

nervousness. But it's fair to say that *Bake Off* isn't at the same standard it used to be. Maybe it's for the best that Channel 4 is taking over, a makeover is exactly what this programme needs right now.

However, on the better side of things, it wasn't all doom and gloom. The series did have its highlights. Selasi of course will forever remain in the nation's heart with his laid back attitude and chilled approach to baking. Andrew's botanical breakdown certainly had us on the edge of our seats, and Val flossing her pastry will remain an iconic moment in the tent's history.

Whilst it has still been an enjoyable series, let's hope that next series brings not only entertainment but the best of British baking.

# Gay Rights or Party Politics?

**Alex Passingham**  
BA History

"I don't support gay marriage in spite of being a Conservative. I support gay marriage because I am a Conservative".

With those words at a Conservative conference in 2011, David Cameron set Britain on a course towards being a country where marriage would no longer be denied to people based on their sexuality. It might seem natural therefore that, as he steps down as an MP, the LGBT website 'Pink News' should name the former Prime Minister as their 'ally of the year'. Strangely, however, the reaction to this award

*Cameron's decision cemented Britain's place at the forefront of international commitment to gay and lesbian rights.*

has been, to say the least, mixed.

Much of the anger comes from people who disagree ideologically with much of what Mr Cameron believes and policies he enacted during his time in office. However, the fact is they also, overwhelmingly, support the legalisation of gay marriage. That they cannot give somebody from what they might see as the 'wrong' party credit is unfortunate and symptomatic of

the wider lack of understanding many people (left and right) feel for their political opponents.

Furthermore, it is worth remembering that it is Cameron himself, not the Conservative party, which has been given this award. Frankly (and I say this as one of its staunchest supporters) the Conservative party would not have deserved such an award. It was politically brave of Cameron to commit to legislating for equal marriage; his doing so split his own MPs, not to mention party members, down the middle. In these circumstances, the willingness to do what was right rather than politically convenient only strengthens his case as a deserving recipient of Pink News' award.

Cameron's decision cemented Britain's place at the forefront of international commitment to gay and lesbian rights. It can also be viewed as a national, rather than party political, achievement. The extension of the benefits of marriage to all by a Conservative led coalition government followed on from previous Labour governments' reforms, such as the introduction of civil partnerships. As such, it is particularly disappointing that some cannot put their partisan loyalties aside and applaud the tremendous step forward for our country that such reform represented.

Cameron's quote which opened this piece highlights another way in which he has succeeded in furthering the cause



Image: PINKNEWS

of LGBT rights. To make a case in favour of gay marriage which is profoundly Conservative, arguing in favour of it in terms of strengthening and extending the institution of marriage as well as on the key grounds of equality I feel helped win over new supporters to the cause of equal marriage, both within the Conservative party and the general public. It also, perhaps, allowed

for a same sex marriage bill which enshrined religious liberty within it, juggling the two pillars of a free society that are freedom of religion and equality of opportunity regardless of sexual orientation. For all the above reasons, it is surely difficult to argue that David Cameron was anything other than a deserving recipient of Pink News' award.



# Trump Rising: The Frightening Phenomenon

Christopher Vickers  
MSc Physics

I have a confession to make: I'm obsessed with Donald Trump. Really. Ever since the first Republican debate I've been transfixed by this unique phenomenon. For years we've been clamouring for a straight-talking politician who speaks his mind, and here one was. Just one small catch of course, he's a racist, sexist, unintelligent, ill-informed, pathological liar.

Oh well, we thought, it's just a neat marketing stunt to sell a book, there's no way he'll stick around. But he did. Then the polls came in with him leading, but that will never last once the novelty wears off, the leader at the beginning of a primary is never the winner, there's no way he'll hold his lead. But he did. What do polls know? He'll never actually be able to win a primary. But he did. That,

of course, was because the GOP was split between other candidates; in a two-horse race there simply aren't enough extremist voters to keep him relevant, there's no way he can

*The reason that his supporters are so loyal is that over the last 12 months they've been conditioned not to treat him as a political candidate, but as a mascot.*

get over 50% of the vote. But he did. Having the popular vote is one thing, but there's no way he'll be able to get the establishment GOP members to support his candidacy. But he did.

We're losing sight here, it's long been apparent that the GOP contains a far greater proportion of extremist voters than the American public as a whole. Just wait until the polls of him vs Clinton come out, there's no way he can persuade them with his racist rhetoric. But he did. Then the audio of him openly discussing groping women was released – Trump has survived a lot of smaller-scale scandals, but there's no way he can recover from this one. But he did.

And here we are. As I write this there is just one week to go before the election – Trump's success is unprecedented. With almost every media outlet in the country running constant spin stories to hurt his chances, and every prominent figure scrambling to endorse his opponent, he'd be dead in the water against literally anyone else. Trump is truly fighting an uphill battle, but there's a reason he's gotten this far. It's the

reason his supporters are so loyal even in the face of evidence that should make them turn.

The reason that his supporters are so loyal is that over the last 12 months they've been conditioned not to treat him as a political candidate, but as a mascot. A mascot for 'their' team. This election isn't politics anymore, it's a sport. And while voters are fickle, fans are loyal. If a politician does something despicable, the voter abandons them. But when it's your team, the scandal is not something to dwell on or think about, it's just another obstacle in the path to winning that, as a team, you have to overcome.

This fanatical loyalty he inspires is, frankly, terrifying. But hey, the people of America can't all be that blind. There's no way Donald Trump will become president...

# The Rumble In The Jungle

Lauren Walker  
BA English and History

Morality prompts us to question whether the demolition of the Calais Jungle is a humane act. However, politics, on the other hand, implores us to acknowledge the stain that is The Jungle on the French and the damage it is causing for tourism and the economy, amongst other things.

Personally, I feel the demolition of the Calais Jungle is the best thing for the people: French and foreign. With the 1,200 unaccompanied children currently living in The Jungle, without any support or parental care, it is completely just to demolish the camp because sufficient care and housing should be provided to protect each human life. The Jungle is recognised as the symbolic centre of hope for getting a better life, for migrants and refugees, than the war-torn existence they have fled from. Although this symbolisation may boost morale, it is not justification for it to remain open – the standard of living and safety of those inhabiting the area are constantly at risk. An interesting point to raise is whether or not this question of morality and compassion outweighs other aspects of life that The Jungle is affecting.

The French people have suffered an estimated 40% drop in revenue in the Calais area alone, due to the fact that the once go-to-spot for British tourists to stock up on French cheeses and fine wines is now synonymous with the

distressing images of the refugees and migrants attempting to board trucks to the Channel Tunnel. Furthermore, the violence surrounding the camp has caused a 25% drop in tourists visiting the area – either on holiday or as part of a pit stop in their European tour – as the unrest exhibited by the migrants has discouraged people from visiting the area.

Additionally, France has itself been tarnished on an international scale; its decision to demolish the Calais Jungle

has resulted in worldwide disapproval and condemnation. For instance, actress and Special Envoy for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Angelina Jolie, has visited the camp on various occasions. She wanted to experience life within the camp and the unsanitary, unsafe conditions the refugees are living in. In a recent speech at The Oscars, she pleaded with First World nations – such as the United Kingdom, Germany and the USA – to 'be of use' in their life and do something

courageous to ensure every life remains sacred and of better quality than those which she saw in the camp.

Thus, may it be more correct to say that the demolition of The Jungle is doing more good than bad? Ask yourself: would you rather live in a place of sanitation and safety whilst waiting for asylum, or would you rather live in an overcrowded jungle with only a slim chance of escaping to make a better life for yourself elsewhere? I know what I would choose.



Image: Getty



# The Rules of Civil Disobedience

Michael Everritt  
BA Philosophy

The Stonewall Riots. The Suffragettes. The Black Panthers.

History offers us no shortage of cases where operating outside of the law has changed a society for the better. In a recent example of such 'civil disobedience', an individual disguised as a maintenance worker took a pickaxe to Donald Trump's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. As so often seems to be the case these days, the true significance of this story was to be found, not in the articles written about it, but in the Facebook comments. Trump's supporters were out in force accusing those hailing the vandal as a hero of being hypocrites.

As painful as it is to admit, Trump's supporters may have a point. It seems unlikely that, had a supporter of traditional marriage vandalised the star bearing the name of an LGBT celebrity, so many people would have considered their actions praiseworthy. So why is one act of vandalism considered justified civil disobedience and another is not? It is tempting to say that some people are simply on the wrong side

of history, but this is a dangerous line of argument. To presume yourself to be in the right, however confident you may be, is to undermine the foundation of a democratic society. More to the point, this fails to resolve the matter, since both sides will doubtless consider themselves just.

*Civil disobedience is justified only when those involved are both reluctant and desperate.*

The real difference lies in the motivation behind the breaking of the law. Civil disobedience is justified only when those involved are both reluctant and desperate. To resort to such actions is to be like a wounded animal lashing out against a hungry predator. It is, and must always be, a last resort. Can we call Julian Assange reluctant when he seems to be having so much fun meddling in the US election? Can we call a homophobic Christian baker

desperate when the worst fate they face is having to bake a cake? Can we call Trump supporters reluctant or desperate when they overwhelmingly hold privileged positions in society?

If Clinton is elected, then at worst we will have a conservative war hawk in the oval office. If Trump is elected, then at best we will have a mentally unstable demagogue persecuting minorities and destabilising global security.

Civil disobedience is a necessary part of any fully-functioning society, but so are soldiers and prisons. All three are necessary evils and that is something

we seem to have forgotten. People these days are all too quick to jump on the bandwagon when a new protest movement emerges. It feels like too many are just looking for an excuse to break the law or champion those who do. Is that really a society we want to live in? Returning to the case of the Walk of Fame vandal, they acted only after the Republican party had every opportunity to elect a respectable candidate and failed to do so. By all means fight the system, but you have to first give the system a chance to work.



Image: Jackson Krul

# The Rise of The Illiberal Liberals

Rory Claydon  
Views Editor

Recently, the famous anti-extremism campaigner Majid Nawaz was declared an 'Anti-Muslim Extremist' by the Southern Poverty Law Centre (SPLC) in what Nick Cohen succinctly labelled "the first ever fatwa of the white left". And indeed, Cohen is right in his description.

For anyone who is familiar with the work of Majid Nawaz, they would know that he is anything but an extremist. After moving away from radical Jihad, he co-founded the Quilliam Foundation – a think tank dedicated to counter-extremism, particularly against radical Islam. He did this as a Muslim because he, to quote, wanted to "demonstrate how the Islamist ideology is incompatible with Islam."

Indeed, he has gone on to success doing this, writing personal stories on the topic, conducting frequent talks and debates all whilst championing his status as a moderate Muslim. To label him 'Anti-Muslim' does a disservice to not only Nawaz, but scores of Muslims across the world who abhor and reject the violence of groups like so-called Islamic State.

It's curious then, why the SPLC would then decide to slap Nawaz with the label of an anti-Muslim extremist, lumping him in with the likes of the KKK and the EDL.

If one goes to the SPLC's own page on Nawaz, you will simply find a long paragraph that reads more like an attempted character assassination than anything else. It states that Nawaz is more interested in "self-promotion and money" than combating extremism. This makes me think that someone at the SPLC has a personal grudge against Nawaz, and nothing hurts more than slapping someone in this line of work with the label of 'extremist'. Although luckily, the SPLC was greeted with nothing but rightful ridicule and scorn over this ruling.

Nawaz isn't the only victim of this however. Many elements of the hard-left often pour homophobic and sexist scorn on their opponents, as in the case of Angela Eagle announcing her candidacy for Labour leader and the disgusting social media reaction from many Corbyn supporters as a result, or the 'Bernie Bros' in the United States whom again used slurs against Hilary Clinton and her supporters.

It's an issue that is perhaps most

pertinent to you, Gryphon reader, as it's widespread across western university campuses. Brendan O'Neill called a certain group of students 'Stepford students' and described them as such: "To the untrained eye, they seem like your average book-devouring, ideas-discussing, H&M-adorned youth, but anyone who's spent more than five minutes in their company will know that these students are far more interested in shutting debate down

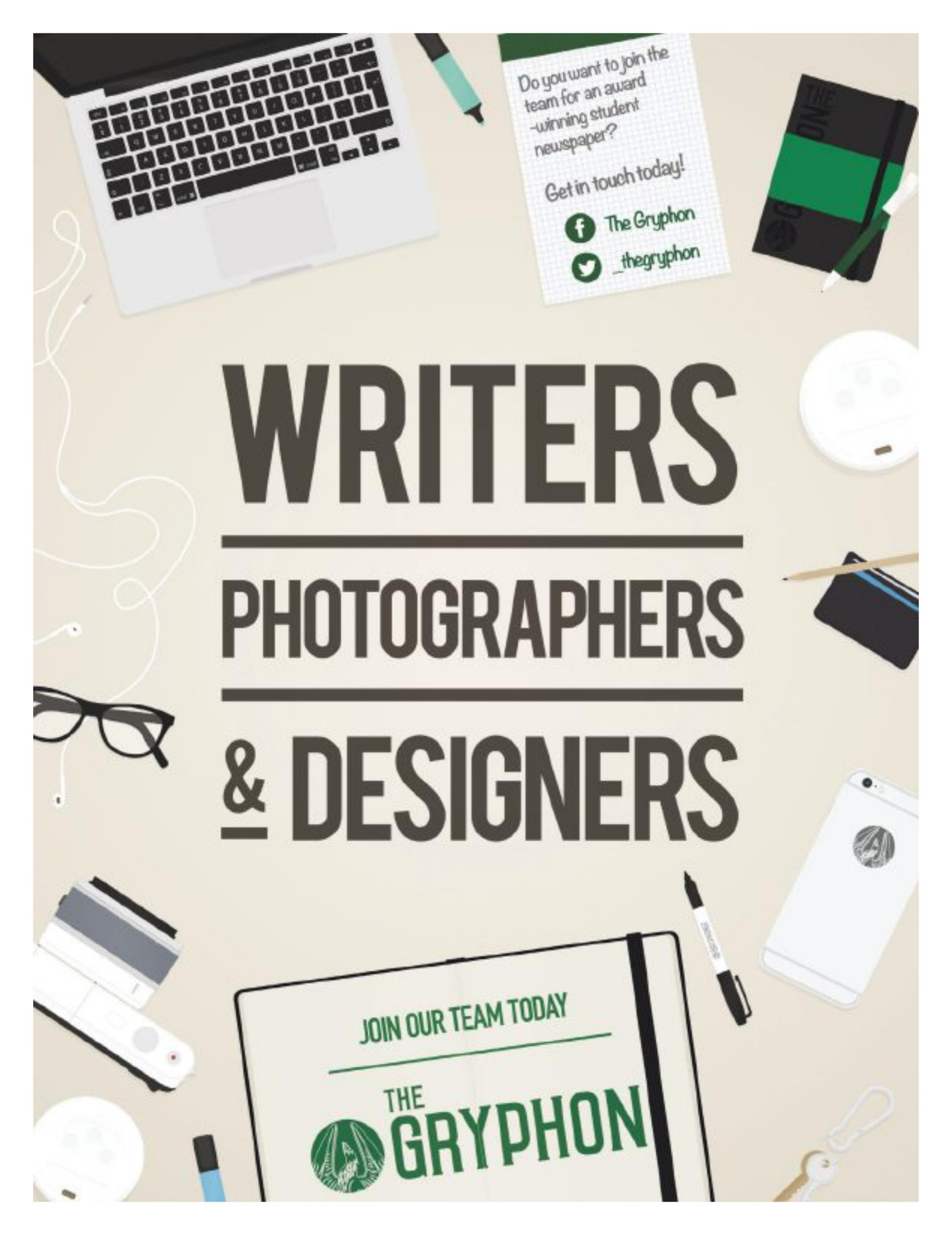
than opening it up."

These are the people who issue threats against ideological opponents and shut down those who they disagree with. It makes a mockery of basic liberty and the right to free speech – and as Cohen hinted at, with every passing day the hard-left starts to reflect the attitudes of extremist groups, Nawaz may be the first victim of the liberal fatwa, but he most certainly won't be the last.



Image: The Daily Beast





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# In The Middle

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# Cultural appropriation in the music industry



**With Black History Month just drawing to a close, Isobel Moloney takes a closer look at the worrying trend of cultural appropriation in the music industry.**

It's dreaded X Factor season again. Despite my determination not to involve myself in this strange cycle of churning out average pop stars who will either fall into anonymity or a sustain very short-lived career, here I am writing about The X Factor. The joke act that's got everyone's attention this year is Honey G, who introduces herself as a "genuine urban artist".

What has caught the attention of some is Honey G's "modern-day blackface", as *The Guardian's* Lola Okolosie has termed it, criticising her act as "a caricature of blackness as stupid and illicit". It's not difficult to see how Okolosie has made this connection. The first thing we hear when Honey G opens her mouth is her ridiculous and forced slang, before she takes good hip hop songs, raps them very badly and manages to shovel her stage name in every now and then.

This character speaks of the blackface that we've seen before – watch 1915 film *Birth of a Nation* and you'll find the most disgusting portrayals of black people as rapists and criminals. This kind of racism was so normalized that even the president at the time had a screening of the film at the White House. It may be subtler in the form of Honey G, but compare the two and it feels like we've gone full circle.

But this is nothing new – we can't seem to acknowledge just how much has been adapted (and sometimes plainly stolen) from other cultures, especially black culture. This is a system that's been ingrained into modern music for decades, if not more.

Jazz, a highly respected form of music today, originated from African Americans in New Orleans in the early 1900s, combining the expression and rhythm of African music with the European instruments that were available in the US. However, jazz was more marketable when played by white musicians like Dave Brubeck. The movement of reggae and ska was, of course, conceived in Jamaica, but look to the present, and we've got UB40 and Madness, white bands that are now some of the biggest names in this area of music.

Hip hop originated in some of the poorest areas of the US, the ghettos of New York City and LA, where not only were there massive problems with drugs and poverty,

but black people were being victimized by the law and politics. Hip hop became an experimentation with loops from old records, including a lot of jazz, in some ways celebrating the musical heritage of black musicians. From its origins running through to today, hip hop has acted as a form of expression for the oppression and experiences of African Americans.

So now we come back to present day, where a white 35-year-old recruitment consultant is butchering Tupac on national television and everyone finds it hilarious. The worst part about this is that while white musicians make features of black culture and music a fashion statement, black artists celebrating their own culture are consistently criticized.

At this year's halftime Super Bowl show, Beyoncé was accompanied by an army of black female dancers as she sang the politically-charged 'Formation', a song celebrating the power of black people, especially women. She then faced an enormous amount of backlash resulting in a police union calling for a boycott of her world tour, simply for referencing the Black Lives Matter movement and drawing connections with the civil rights movement.

Meanwhile, Miley Cyrus places twerking black women in her music videos to make her look cool. In the most astoundingly clear example of cultural appropriation in music today, we see Miley wearing dreadlocks while Nicki Minaj calls her out on her dismissal of comments concerning the struggles of black women in the music industry.

2016 has been a year where we have seen and heard a wide variety of representations of black experience, from Frank Ocean's green hair on the cover of his album *Blonde* appearing like a failed bleaching attempt, to Solange's revolutionary album *A Seat at the Table* through which she asserts, "Don't feel bad if you can't sing along / Just be glad you got the whole wide world... Some shit you can't touch" in 'F.U.B.U.'. And in the spirit of Black History Month, it is time to appreciate the provocative art put before us by talented black musicians, instead of commodifying and trivializing black culture.

**Isobel Moloney**

**"It is time to appreciate the provocative art put before us by talented black musicians, instead of commodifying and trivializing black culture"**



# Fresh Beats

## Clear Shot by TOY

*Clear Shot* is the new atmospheric ten track album from neo-psychedelic Brighton band TOY. In the three years since their last album, *Join The Dots*, the band have lost keyboardist Alejandra Diez but gained a more experimental sound, offering a refreshing change amidst the grime and pop suffocating the music scene this year.

No track on the album is an easy listen, each song laced with hypnotic melodies and monotone vocals to entrance the listener and almost demand their entire focus. The opening track 'Clear Shot' offers a one minute intro to keep fans in suspense just that bit longer, a risky feat that would deter a lazier listener. Nevertheless, enduring the repetitive rhythmic build-up to the compelling vocals of lead singer Tom Dougall evokes a sense of intrigue, one that encourages you to continue through the whole album.

The stand out track is 'Fast Silver'. The layering of subtle percussion over soothing guitar perforated by the keyboard creates a well assembled enjoyable grunge-pop track. Nevertheless, the more up-beat

pace of 'Dream Orchestrator' and 'We Will Disperse' offers another dimension to their aesthetic, with a sound dominated by the synth, perhaps more appealing to the masses. Being relatable and mass produced doesn't however seem to be a priority for this group at all, with their final track 'Cinema' seven minutes and fourteen seconds of artistic musical manipulation that would go unappreciated by many. The intense ethereal slow paced sound at the start clashed with the teen-angst style climax of drums and high pitched synth sounds as the track ended, creating a piece that encapsulated the myriad of emotions created by cinematic productions.

**Their gothic tone definitely appeals to a particular audience- TOY are not an artist you'd expect to hear in Pryzm anytime soon. However, their dedication to the revival of the shoegaze sound that lagged post 90s is something to commend.**

Andrea Loftus

Rating: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

## Shrines of Paralysis by Ulcerate

Bringing death metal from New Zealand, Ulcerate's *Shrines of Paralysis* begins by almost paralysing the listener. The opening is disorienting and brutalising, before pulling you back in for an easier to follow experience. Throughout the album the guitarwork is captivating, leading you on a journey that is dramatic, and surprising. It's almost a masterpiece. Almost.

The album is often tainted by jarringly out of place drumming. While the second track 'Yield to Naught' introduces doom elements that blend well with death metal, the drummer doesn't seem to have left the opening track. What would otherwise be a captivating moderately paced song, is tarred by a percussion track that tries to cram in as many snare and bass hits as conceivably possible.

The drums also represent the weak point in production. While the guitars come across as suitably atmospheric, the drums give off the impression of a rushed soundcheck, leaving you at times struggling to

make out the rest of the song. When the drums slow down is where things shine. The bass guitar comes through well, and the guitar puts you in a somewhat trance like state. The vocals are fine, they just won't stand out in your memory.

When things get more aggressive in the third act it all gels together well, 'Extinguished Light' is probably where it all balances out. In 'End the Hope', the album ends as it began, with captivating disorientation. But again the drums have not progressed past hit-everything-really-fast. I want to love this album, and in terms of the music on paper it is brilliant.

**Aiming for an out of body experience, it's just a shame not all the instruments came along for the ride.**

Edmund Goldrick

Rating: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

## Back From the Edge by James Arthur

"Maybe he's past the screaming girl phase and he wants people to listen to what he has to say and not just be propped up on stage to sing songs and perform like a monkey. Maybe he's just over how famous he is." Yeah, maybe.

But having listened to James Arthur's new album, *Back from the Edge*, his words defending Justin Bieber's recent outbursts seem a bit hypocritical. On Arthur's new release, people won't be able to "listen to what he has to say" because he doesn't "say" a great deal. Unsurprisingly, considering Arthur's X Factor past and subsequent fall from grace following sex scandals and homophobic slurs, much of the album focuses on the perils of fame and media manipulation.

He makes this evident most explicitly in 'The Truth' and 'I Am.' As an authority on the negative consequences of fame, I was naïve enough to expect actual insight, but sadly, Arthur sacrifices this for rhyme. His lyrics are simple and vague, formed

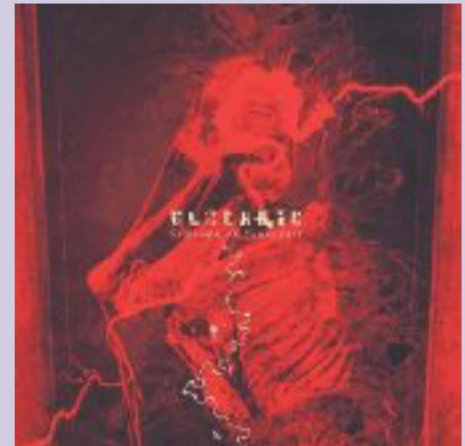
of repeated platitudes and recycled lyrics. On the positive side, cute love songs such as 'Remember Who I Was,' and 'Can I Be Him' emulate a less sophisticated version of Lewis Watson or Ed Sheeran, and the former track is beautifully produced, making it a beacon of hope, alongside perhaps the only remotely cheerful song, 'Sober.'

Arthur is going to have a tough time being "propped up...and performing like a monkey" for so long on this 17 track album. Listening to it took a precious hour and four minutes from my life. It was too long, and I could have easily cut five tracks - if only I had had the opportunity.

**Back From the Edge, hails Arthur's move from the borders of mediocrity right into the centre of it.**

Emma Dutton

Rating: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐







# In The Middle with James Vincent McMorrow

Image: mwxn.com

**Following his recent album *We Move*, folkster James Vincent McMorrow graced our very own Leeds Town Hall as part of his current tour. We chatted to him to get his views on songwriting, America and 'Higher Love'.**

The first time that Dublin-born James Vincent McMorrow played a gig in Leeds, it was in Call Lane's cheeky Tiki Hideaway to an audience of around fifty urban beachcombers. His second and only other performance was at the less ill-fitting but still small-scale Brudenell Social Club. Now, his latest performance took him up a step into the acoustic grandeur of Leeds Town Hall – and there was no doubt that his show matched the grandness of the venue. This was McMorrow's fourth date of his European tour, supported by fellow Irish band Wyvern Lingo – the folky-rocky trio who kicked the night off with a very authentic thirty-minute set. Having collaborated with Drake and Kyga, McMorrow is a paradox: he's also a die-hard Phil Collins fan, with his drum/singer-led band joining him over the coming year.

**So you've just released a brand new album *We Move*, congratulations! How has the reception been so far and the reactions you've had on tour?**

Great! We're only four shows in so it's too early to get a full sense of what the reaction is to the new record. People have been responding to the songs they know well. The makeup of audiences in a show is so early in a tour cos people have bought tickets before they've heard the records, so some people might be there because they're into the first record or they just might be curious. I don't really look at the crowds that much, but the guys will tell me that they'll see a lot of people singing pretty deep cuts off the new record already which is great; it means people are paying attention. The two singles, 'Get Low' and 'Rising Water', people tend to respond to those quite excitedly which is cool.

**What's the decision process in terms of choosing which song to release first?**

There's two sides of the world and the two sides have two different demands. 'Get Low' is the single in the US that's starting to do really well, but that hasn't been released as a single here. It's trying to find a route through it that makes everybody happy, and I'm fine with it because I wrote them all and I'm excited. As long as my audience are happy and they don't want me to make radio edits that compromise the songs too much then I don't mind. For most of my career, I've been trying to get to that point where I can put together the things that I love, which is hip-hop production and my singer-songwriter sensibilities, and 'Get Low' definitely encapsulates those things really well. The idea of that song doing well in the US is great because it makes me feel like my decision-making process was right.

**Do you think that the success of it in the US is down to shifting towards a more progressively electronic and R&B influence?**

I don't know if that's true or not. Success and failure is a strange thing. The first time I played in Leeds I remember playing in a place that looked like a Tiki Hut or something on the inside, it was sold out but there were about 120 people or something like that, and I remember thinking "Holy shit this is amazing." The next thing we've come back, and were playing in front of about 800-900 people tonight. Radio has never been a part of the narrative in terms of how it's progressed, but it doesn't necessarily have any massive bearing on the success or failure of me as an artist because it's never been there before. If it comes then I'm excited but if it doesn't then we'll just keep doing what we did before and

I'm okay with that.

**I feel like you've evolved quite a lot compared to a track like 'Higher Love' you released back in 2010. What's been the influence for that evolution of your sound?**

Just a personal confidence. I know the sounds I want to use and I know how I want it to be. With 'Higher Love', it was recorded in an hour and had no real sense of "this is going to be a thing"; it was recorded for a charity record initially and then it took on a life of its own which is great, and I love that song. The last song on this new record is just me and a piano and that's the first time I've ever done that since I recorded that in 2010, so I guess to a degree it has come full circle. Progression seems like you're moving away from the thing before. I don't agree with that. You take the things that you want, and you lose the things that are not necessary, so it's more of a refinement of the idea rather than a progression. I've been refining these ideas as a songwriter and as a producer – I don't see that as a regression, I just see it as part of this thing that I've built.

**Has working with amazing producers like Frank Dukes and Two Inch Punch helped you in this refinement?**

I think that they opened me up to a part of music that I've always been obsessed with but never delved into as a musician in my own right because I have certain musical proclivities. I still believe that a vocal, you capture it, you shouldn't fuck with it; you just leave it. If you listen to 'Get Low' which was a one take vocal, I sing the wrong word in the second chorus, but I left it in because I was like, "Fuck it that's life, it's supposed to be like that." What the guys did was bring up the sonic level to a place that I couldn't get to. It's a real inspirational thing being in a room with people like that. They just blow my mind. My passion is singing, and writing, and capturing ideas really fast and that catalytic energy, then I include people in the process

that have that same sense of passion and catalytic energy for those things that I was doing functionally.

**Lyrical speaking you talk about very difficult personal boundaries you've had to overcome. Has writing and releasing honest and vulnerable lyrics been a difficult process in the public eye?**

No it hasn't, because it's not like I'm engaged in a conversation about it that often. The reason I did it is because that part of me hasn't been accurately reflected in the music that I've made up to this point. There's a way to write a song that is emotional and will resonate with people but also doesn't have that bit of you in it that reveals the thing that you might not want to reveal. The last song on the record is a song called 'Lost Angles', and I just play it by myself and you can see the reaction to it physically in the room and it feels important. Not in a narcissistic bullshit way but it just feels like we're sharing something that is actually real. I hate when musicians are like "I'm going to sing about war," like fuck off. For me as a human being with quite humble aspirations and also a pretty heavy level of cynicism as an Irishman, I feel like I see through those things. I don't believe that. Songwriting that's honest is vital.

Sian Evans & Kitty Pandya



# Gig Roundup

## Corinne Bailey Ray @ Leeds Town Hall 28/10/16



Image: AustinLiveMusic

I've always felt quite an affinity with Corinne Bailey Rae. To have both studied English Literature at Leeds, and to often see her pass in the street or to speak at my place of work, she is an artist with more of a footprint in my personal life than most.

Seeing her on Friday night, this affinity was blown out the water. The crowd for Leeds's favourite daughter was full of connections of a greater scale. Large portions consisted of her friends and family, whilst the remainder clearly held her in total admiration; evidence that her music breeds empathy, nowhere more so than in her home town.

Leeds Town Hall was a suitably opulent location for such an elegant performer, the domed ceilings both an acoustic and aesthetic aid. Whilst the £25 price tag was a little out of budget for much of Leeds' younger population, the crowd showed a variation of ages, a testament to her wide appeal.

Corinne opened with 'Been to the Moon', setting the tone for an effortlessly powerful yet incredibly graceful performance. She then progressed into 'Closer', everything a live version should be, as clear and crisp as an album recording without compromising on passion.

Stepping into the spotlight in only jet black, the ballsy Nottingham singer simply has to pluck the first notes of 'On My One' to command the sold out crowd's attention. They were clearly waiting for the verse to begin so they could wail along to Jake Bugg's all too familiar nasal voice.

The intimacy continued as the song morphed into 'Strange Creatures' with only a quick "Hello Leeds" squeezed in between. Clearly, Bugg doesn't need extensive dialogue; his music speaks for itself. Even during this relatively unknown song, featured only on the four track *Messed Up Kids* EP, every word slipped out of the audience's mouth.

Since his spiral into the public eye in 2012, some things have remained constant. He still starts 'Seen It All' with the tenuous E minor chord held in a vicious strumming pattern, before twisting into the well-known lyrics about a rough party back in Clifton. He also reverted back to the original version of 'Broken', singing the emotional "Where's Sophie?" that was

As part of a series of Beacons Metro events spanning venues all over Leeds, they teamed up with Super Friendz to bring Leeds locals Hookworms to Holy Trinity Church, alongside an eclectic support lineup.

A raging psychedelic-punk band playing in a church could have gone two ways. Either Hookworms would create an unlikely, yet captivating juxtaposition, filling the traditional setting with their crazy, boundary pushing creations. Otherwise, the atmosphere would be swallowed by the sheer unsuitability of their sound to a church. Across the evening, the gig seemed to teeter between these scenarios.

Generally, Hookworms' set was energetic, well-played and exciting to watch. Their recorded music was brought to life with layers upon layers of synthesisers and samplers. Highlights came in the form of 'The Impasse' and its seamless transition into 'On Leaving', paying perfect homage to second album *The Hum*. Lead singer and keyboardist MJ brought a driving passion to the performance which mesmerised those around him.

As the set progressed, a personal highlight was a stripped back version of Bob Marley's 'Is This Love', before an injection of pace with 'Paris Nights/ New York Mornings' set feet tapping and bodies swaying.

Towards the night's end, the focus shifted from Corinne to the musicians joining her, with a yearning guitar solo from John McCloud particularly impressive. The captivated crowd were then urged into the performance, the later songs encouraging refrains performed in the audience, before Corinne stepped down from the stage for 'Trouble Sleeping', which evolved into a chant of 'don't say I'm falling in love'. With her husband Steve Brown behind on keys, I have a feeling that's it's a little too late.

**Reece Parker**

**Rating:**



cut from the Rick Ruben arrangement.

Yet, in the four short years that have passed, there's more than just new songs which break away from folk roots. He's switched up his band, and replacing the second guitarist with keys has left Bugg's guitar skills truly exposed, as fingers jump all over the fret board.

Rushing through a twenty song set in just over an hour, with enchanting instrumentals, the audience was offered up an eclectic mix of classics alongside outstanding new songs, like the acoustic charm of 'The Love We're Hoping For'. Every song captivated the crowd, with people constantly clambering on shoulders, flailing their arms about with phones sparkling like stars.

**Jenny Pudney**

**Rating:**



Aside from Hookworms, Virginia Wing were without a doubt the peak of the night's support. Combining airy vocals with powerful, almost violent, instrumentation, it made for a truly hypnotising performance. Holy Trinity Church itself was a beautiful venue put to good use, with hypnotising projections blown onto the stained glass windows at the back, making for a very intriguing use of the space.

What let this fantastic show down was that the church just does not work as a venue. With no stage, only a tiny fraction of the audience at the front has the chance to feel involved in the show, with the rest left standing slightly clueless and detached. It seemed to suck energy out of what should have been an overwhelming response to a great set.

**Isobel Moloney**

**Rating:**



## Jake Bugg @ O2 Academy Leeds. 26/10/16



Image: UnderTheRadar

## Hookworms @ Holy Trinity Church, 28/10/16



Image: Brudenell Social Club





# Halloween Haunts

## Flux Sets the Standard

Flux returned to its beloved home Beaverworks for its Halloween party on Monday, and the highly anticipated, sold out night did not disappoint.

With six rooms to choose from and the addition of a bonfire spectacle, a night at Beaverworks is like no other, and certainly matches the nature of Flux events. As we arrived at the venue I was initially worried by the sight of the queue which seemed never ending, but once we passed through there was plenty of space inside and easy access to all of the rooms.

The crowning aspect of the night was the variety, we could be singing along to funk and soul classics like Earth, Wind and Fire during Detroit Swindle's set in the Red Room, or to dub mixes by Youandewan in the basement. Whatever you were searching for, Flux catered to it.

## Regression Sessions: All the Icing, none of the Cake

Choosing Halloween events in Leeds is even harder than essay questions. From Fruity to Flux to Triple Cooked or even Pryzm if you were desperate, there was a lot on offer.

I chose Regression Sessions for the promise of the decoration and design the events are known for. A halloween with inflatables, bouncy castles, face painting and more looked set to be impressive.

On that point there was no let down. The DJ decks were hidden inside giant grinning clown faces, with skulls and huge tarantulas decorating the stage of the main room and inflatable aliens being handed out to the crowd.

Devil-style dancers also kept popping on stage for a spin, and the DJs aptly went for spooky fancy dress as much as the crowd did. 'Freak Show Performers'

## Old Red Bus gets Triple Spooked

It is a well known fact that one of the biggest decisions Leeds students must make every year is where to go out on Halloween. Despite the pressure, I'm very glad I chose to go to the Halloween Special by Triple Cooked.

Triple Cooked managed to secure a late venue change to their new home at The Old Red Bus Station, and it was this venue which really made the night. This was the first time I had been there and it really was like stepping into a spooky world.

No expenses had been spared with the decoration, from cobwebs and tissue paper to pumpkin shaped lanterns and floating bats across all four rooms. This, combined with everyone's commitment to dress up as scary as possible, created an atmosphere perfect for Halloween.

The bouncers and bar staff were all very welcoming and friendly, with some even dressing up with us.

There wasn't a time or set where the atmosphere was suffering, everyone just wanted to celebrate Halloween together and have the best night possible. The addition of fancy dress costumes and trippy light shows only heightened the experience, with very few opting out of the Halloween theme.

Something which particularly stood out for me was the quantity and the attitude of the staff who seemed to genuinely want everyone to have the best and safest night, particularly refreshing at large club events like this.

Even during the chaotic taxi rush at the end of the night no trouble occurred. I would go so far to say that Flux Halloween Party was one of my favourite nights so far as a first year in Leeds and it is obvious why it is such a firm favourite with students.

were also bobbing about; the production value for this Halloween Special was high and well appreciated.

**"The main room seemed distinctly samey, after about ten minutes there it was easy to get bored and want to head off to explore somewhere else."**

Sadly, I either couldn't find, or just missed, the apple bobbing I saw advertised on the events page, and the queue for the bouncy castle in the cold meant I didn't get to have a bounce. Those were small losses as Regression Sessions, as always, pulled out all the stops.

Although it was not as busy as I expected, with some rooms slightly empty, it did not deter me from dancing the night away in the main room, to music ranging from Disco to Grime to House. What more could you need than Basement Jaxx's *Red Alert* blasting loudly under multi-coloured funky lights on a Monday night?

The night was not too intense, if you wanted to take a break from the action you could have gone downstairs to their second bar for a more laid back vibe with Halloween themed cocktails.

For a cheaper night out it was a very good evening. The music selection was eclectic and high quality, the night ended with the theme tune from *Arthur* - a nice touch which brought a smile to everyone's lips.

Rating: ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☐

Caris Dollard



Rating:



Alex Coogan

In terms of the music, however, I was slightly disheartened. The main room seemed distinctly samey, after about ten minutes there it was easy to get bored and want to head off to explore somewhere else.

The second, smaller room was more upbeat. There was a good mix of Drum n Bass and Hip Hop, and this seemed to make it the more popular room in general, despite the fact that it was hidden away at the back.

To compete with events such as Flux, more prominent DJs on the line-up could have added to the good vibes that Regression Sessions creates with its decoration and charm.

Rating:



Milly Whyman







# Brotherhood Halloween Party

Rising from its humble beginnings, Brotherhood have developed an eclectic brand and soundsystem working closely with the likes of Jungle Jam, Just a Little and Vagabanondz to continue their ascent into the EDM stratosphere throwing some of the most high energy parties in Leeds.

This Halloween promised a continuation of their high octane bookings as the festive mist hovered in the Yorkshire air. The venue? Freedom Mills. Correct choice? Debatable. Although their attempt to highlight some of the less well-known venues in Leeds must be commended, it has to be said however, that the industrial creative space was a questionable venue for a Halloween blow-out. The dance floor was slightly on the small side and not helped by the toilet queues which would rival those of Hyde Park Pub during quids in. Despite this, the intimate setting alongside the ever friendly crowd meant that the night was not tainted (as much), and the selection of bangers went

a long way to ensure the daylight saving time was put into good use. I arrived towards the end of the warm-up set and

**“The industrial creative space was a questionable venue for a Halloween blow-out.”**

inevitably the place was near capacity as Space Dimension Controller kicked off their trance-heavy set, taking the vibe back by around 20 years. Leeds turned 1990s Berlin with the smoke and lasers beaming through the dancefloor. With the selection of music ranging from Tech house to Heart FM Classics and everything in between, the strange vibe for the night resonated around the venue and into the equally

strange smoking area. It was an atmosphere suited to the occasion, and at the end of the day we all had a laugh.

Alex Ogilvie and Amy Alford saw the night out and finishing with a Prince classic was a nice touch. Not their best work, but the attention to detail the Brotherhood brand puts in their parties cannot go unappreciated. They continue their mission to bring obscure locations out of the shadows with their end of term party at Northern Monk Brewery on 10th December. I'll be there and it's guaranteed to be an experience, but maybe go to the toilet beforehand to avoid disappointment.

Rating: 

Zahaib Hussain

# Monday Night Halloween Project



Let's be honest, if you were heading to Mission for Halloween it's probably because you didn't manage to get Regression Session tickets. Nonetheless, it's a pretty safe choice for a Monday night and worth considering for your Halloween escapades.

With two rooms of music and DJ sets evolving throughout the night, there was enough variety to keep your interest. The main room, known as 'The Arena', mostly covered chart anthems with some house and techno. 'The Rabbit Hole' served as the second room and offered R&B, hip-hop and urban. All in all Mission didn't offer anything new or different and it felt like they had made quite safe choices with the song and genre selection, but it still made for an enjoyable atmosphere.

The night was complete with spooky décor, and Mission certainly made a strong attempt at transforming their space. With a gigantic spider hanging over the entrance, staff in costume, ghostly figures hanging from the rafters and giant inflatables being thrown across the dancefloor, Mission were successful in making a fun atmosphere for the night. My personal favourite was 'The Rabbit Hole', featuring a tunnel entrance and netting covering the entire room, it truly felt like you were entering another realm. My only criticism would be the overcrowding of the venue, and this was mentioned by many other

guests on the night. It was clear to see that Mission had sold well over capacity and because of this they compromised on quality. With people queueing round the block from early in the night and a seemingly endless stream of people waiting for entry even

**“It was clear to see that Mission had sold well over capacity and because of this they compromised on quality.”**

at 3am, it felt like Mission could have been better organised for their event in order to make it a smoother process and a more enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Overall, whilst Mission might not have been the most ground-breaking of Halloween events and it did feel like they were playing it safe with their music and décor, I definitely would not scrap it from your options for next year.

Rating: 

Clare Redman





# The High Street Issue

## KENZO x H&M: Another victory for the high street retailer's designer collaborations

Versace's done it, Marni's done it, even Alexander Wang's done it, and now KENZO is the latest high-fashion label to collaborate with H&M on a more affordable capsule collection of womenswear, menswear and accessories. Dropping online and in over 250 stores on Thursday 3rd November, the collaboration promises more of the brand's iconic bold prints and luxe streetwear, putting a fun and colourful spin on high-fashion.

Creative directors Humberto Leon and Carol Lim, who previously founded the label Opening Ceremony, continue their mission to tap into global youth through their fashion, whilst also honouring and drawing upon the work of Kenzo Takada, who founded the Paris-based luxury brand in 1970. Since coming to the brand, Lim and Leon have strived to shun 'traditional' designs for a more eclectic use of patterns and shapes, proving that fashion is anything but boring. Their iconic tiger sweatshirt has been the standout piece during their reign, sported by celebrities such as Beyoncé, Lorde, Joan Smalls and Rihanna, whilst their collaborations with avant-garde artists and filmmakers such as David Lynch have cemented their status as a truly unique brand.

This collaboration is no different. Themed on diversity, the look-book, shot by legendary photographer Jean-Paul Goude, features various names such as Iman, Chloe Sevigny and Chance The Rapper as ambassadors for the brand. In a series of videos, these ambassadors sport items from the collection whilst sharing stories from their life that show how they have broken the mould in their industry. Social media has been



a huge part of this campaign, with coverage of the runway show on H&M's Snapchat, featuring snaps of front-row celebrities and clips from the show, which included a cast of dancers, drummers, brass musicians and models who turned the runway into one big dancefloor.

As for the collection itself, its eccentric patterns and inventive shapes mean that not all the pieces are necessarily the most wearable, but I have narrowed down a few top picks that would fit into any uni student's wardrobe.

At £49.99 for a silk blouse and £149.99 for a coat, you'd better start saving your pennies now if you've got your eye on something. Ultimately, this collection is set to be another sell-out triumph for H&M's high-fashion collaborations, so check out the full collection online and start sharpening your elbows for November 3rd.

Izzie Ghaffari-Parker

### Top Picks:



£49.99



£39.99



£39.99

Images: Elle.com

## Is fashion too accessible?

**Fashion used to be the realm of the rich and famous, but with the rise of social media and high street collaborations, there has been revolution in the fashion world - but is this a good thing?**

In recent years, we have seen a shift in the fashion industry; going from a somewhat elitist affair, where rich 'it' girls would hide behind the glamorous façade of designer labels that the average person could never afford, to a readily available market that people, no matter what class, can access. However, with the diminishing of this elitism which was once so important to the fashion industry, can we even call fashion 'fashion' anymore?

This change is predominantly due to the rise in social media; not only can we see, almost instantaneously, the pictures posted from the front row of London Fashion Week, but more importantly, there is the fact that anyone can use social media - Instagram is used by models and teenage girls alike to show the world their own concept of fashion.

Some say that this is damaging to the fashion industry. Many claim that these new fashion 'gurus' now have more influence than the high-end designers which is 'damaging' as these new influencers will favour the high street over designer brands. Furthermore, a survey in 2015 showed that one third of people's style is influenced by inspiration on social media. This could be seen as problematic for designers as people who aren't showcasing the high end of fashion, are holding an ever growing influence over consumers.

Yet maybe this should be seen as a good thing; fashion should not be limited

to a certain people, it should be for everyone as a means of self-expression and interest. Bloggers and gurus often use high-street brands, rather than designer labels, therefore there is a lot less pressure on people to buy luxury items of clothing.

High street brands using digital influencers and social media can't be seen as detracting from the high end but rather returning the meaning of self-expression to consumers. An excellent example of this is street-style which is popular on social media, such as ASOS' '#AsSeenOnMe', where the true emphasis lies with individuality and self-expression, rather than following catwalk trends, thus making fashion accessible to everyone.

Tessa Jones



# Collaborations: Saviour of the high street?

**Lynsey Rose Kay discusses the reasoning behind designer and celebrity collaborations for the high street.**

Presenter, writer and all round fashion 'it girl' Alex Chung this week launched her latest collection for M&S, and with the Kenzo H&M collab landing this month, we thought we'd discuss designers and celebrities partnering with the high street.

H&M have been championing the designer collaboration for 12 years now, since a collection by Karl Lagerfeld in 2004. Since then they have had many popular campaigns with the likes of fashion giants Stella McCartney and Donatella Versace, whose brands have grown with publicity each time. Most popular so far was the collaboration with French fashion house Balmain last winter which, according to *The Telegraph*, was H&M's most successful collaboration to date. It saw the high street brand sales rise by 10% from the previous year. The collection had months of media attention leading up to its release with backing from friends of Olivier Rousteing including the Kardashians and Gigi Hadid.

These collaborations with designers give the non-Kardashians of the world - think poor, budgeted students - a taste of designer fashion. The Kenzo collection, landing this week, does have expensive pieces at or over £150 but this is little compared to the £650 Parka available from Kenzo.com. The collection also has much more affordable pieces such as sweatshirts for £34.99 and t-shirts at £24.99. However, it's more than paying to have a designer label, as the style of the brand is evident on each piece. The Kenzo collaboration this year includes

bright rainbow coloured animal prints and is inspired by archive looks from the brand in the 70s, 80s and 90s.

Collaborations also give 'regular people' the chance to dress like their celebrity style idols, which is definitely the case for Archive by Alexa. Having already done two popular collaborations with AG jeans as well as writing/presenting for *Vogue* and launching her own fashion app, it's evident that what Alexa does in fashion, people follow. This is perhaps why M&S, who according to *The Guardian*, have been struggling in fashion sales over the last five years approached Chung for a collection. That and the fact that when she appeared in an M&S suede skirt in 2015, it sold out within days of her being photographed in it. In April M&S reported that 34,000 shoppers pre-registered their interest for the collaboration before it even went on sale. The affordability of the collection also made it more accessible to a millennial audience at £35 for a sweater. Perhaps Alexa will give M&S a sturdier position in the market again.

It would seem that these brands need the backing of celebrities and designers as much as the people want them and if that means that we can dress like Alexa and feel like we're buying luxury then let the collaborations continue.

**Lynsey Rose Kay**



## High street knock-offs: Keeping the wheels turning?

**Are high street knock offs of high-end brands plain plagiarism or a welcome dose of fashion democracy?**



**Gucci Embroidered denim**  
£1890



**Topshop fall floral embroidered jeans**  
£60

Copying or inspiration? The two words carry very different definitions and also very different meanings, especially in the fashion industry. There has been endless debate as to whether high street knock-offs are keeping the wheels turning for high-end fashion houses or damaging the industry.

This is very clear when looking at Gucci's embroidered denim pre fall edit. They've gone for light wash, vintage denim, hand embroidered with bright botanical and bird prints. A convincing replica can be found at Topshop with a huge £1830 price difference.

High street shops would argue they are simply taking inspiration from the high-end fashion designs and re creating them so they are more affordable for everyone. However, the top designers disagree, with most of them saying that high street knock offs dilute and water down the industry, bringing down sales and ultimately driving out the high-end brands. Emerging designers also criticise the replicas as they believe it means their work goes unnoticed because people buy cheap copies without being aware of the original designs they are based on. Some up and coming designers say they feel their work has been 'ripped off' and it

isn't fair that a high street chain can take the credit for it.

As always, there is a flipside to this argument. The cheaper copies, to an extent, definitely keep the wheels of the industry turning because high street copies can echo and draw attention to their high end inspiration, acting as advertising for designer brands. Some luxury fashion designers have also described seeing high street copies as complimentary, since shops have considered their work to be appealing to a mass market.

It is difficult for designers to claim absolute originality. Most fashion takes inspiration from trends that have gone before and whilst the super rich will always clamour for luxury labels, not everyone can afford almost two grand for a pair of jeans this autumn. Perhaps designers should enjoy the fact that those of us who can only afford high street copies are at least appreciative of their art.

**Lucy Brown**



# The Beauty Fix: High Street Picks by Harley Wild

Makeup Revolution Ultra Contour Palette, £8

Almost a perfect dupe for the Anastasia Beverly Hills contour kit, but at a fifth of the price!

Collection Lasting Perfection Concealer, £4.19

The holy grail of all bloggers, and it's not hard to see why. Amazing coverage, and so cheap!

Rimmel Stay Matte Powder, £3.99

It does as it says, keeps your make-up matte all night!

L'Oreal True Match Foundation, £9.99

Supposedly a dupe for MAC's Studio Fix, this foundation stays put all day and is super buildable.

NYX Lip Lingeries, £6.50

These liquid lipsticks come in a variety of shades, and are only a fraction of the price of Kylie's lip kits!



## Depop Hotlist: Vintage addict

**If you missed the vintage fair, dont worry, it'll be back in December. In the meantime, you can grab yourself a bargain on Depop.**

**@ellahannington**

Depop is her life. No, literally, her life. She does it as a full time job, finding treasures to sell on her page, from new items to the best vintage clothes you need for your next festival. She sells quite cheaply (rare for such items) and, if you want to save even more than you already are, follow her on Instagram to get a 10% discount. To be honest with you, her Instapage is so nice that it won't be a waste of time.

**@abiewles**

Also a vintage queen, with a more retro, funky and colourful theme. She ships worldwide which means that wherever you go, you'll still be able to get anything you want from her page. Need more incentive? She makes deals whenever you buy multiple items.

**@bassoi**

New on Depop so not yet a renowned seller, he has new and vintage uni-sex items chosen with care. What's great is that he lives in Leeds which will save you the postage price if you decide to meet him in person.

Head over to Depop.com and make your account to get shopping

**Sarah Ashford-Brown**

## Coat weather at last...

**It's time to wrap up warm - take a look at our round-up of this season's best high street coats...**



Patched fur bomber jacket: £80.00, Asos



Faux fur striped coat: £59.99 Zara



Navy parker with fur trim: £55.99, ASOS



Padded jacket: £25.99, Pull&Bear



**9PM – LATE ON NOVEMBER 8TH**

# **THE RACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE**

**PUB QUIZ 9PM  
LIVE COVERAGE FROM 11PM  
FROM OUR NEWS TEAM AND  
LSR DJS**



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Image: eOne Films

## Ken Loach's Palme D'Or winning new film is a heartbreaking and thought-provoking experience...

After winning the Palme D'or – the oldest recipient in the award's history – Ken Loach is back in UK cinemas this week with *I, Daniel Blake*, a story of the titular Tyneside joiner (Dave Johns) kicked from pillar to post by a faceless, uncaring establishment after suffering a debilitating heart attack.

The film is likely to be as polarising as much of Loach's work, if not even more so due to the climate in which it is being released. Depending on one's political persuasion the film could be seen to act as a standard-bearer capable of doing what few films dare to – hold an uncomfortable mirror up against a consciously cruel state – or to be a trite and manipulative piece of bleeding-heart leftie socialist propaganda. The

care Loach has taken to avoid seeming disingenuous, however, makes it hard to believe it is too much of the latter, and rather than sensationalise, what his film does is cast light on an uncomfortable truth.

Any potential distractions from the film's message such as a score, flashy camera-work and editing, or recognisable actors, are utterly absent. The camera keeps a very respectful distance from its subjects to lay bare the drama of scenes undiluted by other factors, becoming most effective in an already somewhat infamous scene at a foodbank which reduced much of the audience at the screening I attended to tears, covering their aghast mouths with their hands in horrified pathos.

Loach has created a film far greater than the sum of its individual parts. Not dazzling, but firmly clear in vision, not loud, but wilful to be heard, and not dogmatic, but resoundingly true. *I, Daniel Blake* is a not just an excellent film, but for the world we live in, deserves to be recognised as an important one.

Rating:



Jonathan Atkinson



## Lupita Nyong'o and David Oyelowo star in *Queen of Katwe*: the true story of a talented young chess player

*Queen of Katwe* is a beautiful looking, sensitively made sports film that surmounts the cliches of its genre. The talent of Lupita Nyong'o and David Oyelowo and the beautiful directing delivers a dynamic and bustling film that is a joy to watch, if not completely groundbreaking.

The film tells the story of a young girl from the slums of Uganda who discovers chess through stealing into a chess club run by the kindly Robert Katende (Oyelowo). He soon realises she is incredibly gifted and packs her off to a series of chess competitions. She encounters challenges, but ultimately defies the odds and becomes a success. I envisioned this film as an exercise in the Disney feel good tearjerker with a suitably family friendly message

about overcoming anything. Yet from the opening credits I was introduced to a more complex film.

The setting is beautiful and vibrant without ever shying away from the harsher reality of living in a slum. The environment feels so alien compared to the usual Disney output that it seems less mainstream and engineered. Consequently this 'based on a true story' film actually feels authentic, culminating in a simple yet incredibly moving end credits sequence uniting cinema and reality. The performances are effortless; perfectly blending with the loud, bright soundtrack and bustling setting. Nyong'o steals the show as our heroine Phiona's mother. Moreover the presentation of chess manages to be engaging even for someone

like me who doesn't particularly understand the game.

At times admittedly the plot became a little monotonous, and the dialogue could slip into overworked cliché. But it is bright and moving in a way that cannot help to please.

While *Queen of Katwe* was not particularly original or innovative the cast, directing and optimism ensure an engaging watch.

Rating:



Ellie Goodwin



# In The Middle with Matt Forde

**Before he takes the stage at Leeds' City Varieties, *In The Middle* sits down with comic Matt Forde**

**What can we expect from the new tour?**

It's a jam-packed show of jokes and impressions, trying to make sense of the absolute mayhem engulfing politics.

**There are few comedians so closely associated with politics as you. Why do you use comedy to tackle some of the biggest political issues of today?**

Because when all hell breaks loose, you have to find the funny side. Politics has gone crackers lately, comedy is the only way to deal with it. I mean, of course it's not, but you know what I mean.

**You've interviewed the likes of Tony Blair and Nigel Farage. What's it like having one foot in the politics' camp and the other in the 'comedy' camp? Does it get bewildering?**

Oh it's never bewildering. I'm obsessed with politics and love talking to people at the centre of it. I think it's a real treat to sit opposite someone who's taken big decisions or been involved in major events and understand what they went through and laugh about it.

**Do you ever wish you could escape the "political comedian" tag,?**

Not at all. If I'm doing material about politics, I'm a political comic.

**Why is comedy important right now in a period of such uncertainty?**

Laughter helps you cope! Whether it's with friends or family or at the Leeds City Varieties howling with laughter at some guy called Matt Forde.

**You're current show has been described as a "slick, entertaining hour,, Given your status now, who would you point to as the best emerging talent in British comedy?**

Let me just say that on the first part, I completely agree. It's slick, entertaining and I would even add "funny". Jess Robinson is a phenomenal impressionist. Her shows are ram-packed with brilliant voices and songs. I'm amazed that she's not got her own TV show yet. She's the only comic I've seen get standing ovations in Edinburgh.

**Could you comment on what Brexit will mean for comedy and for the arts in general?**

It'll provoke a lot of people to create comedy, music, theatre and art about it. As all big events and moments do. On both sides you'll have people inspired by it or angry about it and that fuels creativity. In that regard it will be very positive for the arts.

I just hope that it doesn't make it harder for talented people to come and perform here or indeed for talented British people to perform abroad.

*Matt Forde: It's My Political Party (and I'll Cry if I Want To) is at Leeds City Varieties on Sunday 13th November*

William Rees-Arnold



## “Stranger than Gail Platt's Turtlenecks” *The Rocky Horror Show*

It's not usual to be asked to hand over any water pistols or lighters as you enter the theatre, but this was no normal night at the Leeds Grand. This halloween saw *The Rocky Horror Show* come to Leeds, a whirlwind of gender blurring, B-movie spooky delights.

With an infectious soundtrack and relentless energy from an impressive cast, the show managed to break most theatrical conventions – audiences were competing against one another with heckling which eliminated any form of order in the night's performance. I felt very out of place to have not gone wearing drag and all things inspired by characters from the show, such as Dr. Frank-N-Furter, the sweet transvestite from Transsexual Transylvania. The charm of this show is through its unapologetic

nature – the plot is nonsense, but who cares? The atmosphere was electric with audience members clapping away and cheering within the first two bars of the overture. The show itself was slick and tidy, which while steering away from the shabby chicness of the film, added to the professionalism and only enhanced this immaculate performance.

The use of bright bold colours in the set and gaudy costumes fitted well with the 1950s aesthetic, and the incorporation of the band at the top of the stage binned the music and action together in a perfect combination.

*The Rocky Horror Show* is certainly a cult classic and those who aren't aware of what they may be in for

may find it quite shocking – it is certainly not one for those who are more into their serious tragedies. That being said, by the end of the second encore, even the more reluctant were bending their knees in time to the world of mayhem that is *The Rocky Horror Show*.

Words cannot express how amazing *The Rocky Horror Show* was – by far the best thing I've seen in my four years at Leeds. An absolute gem.

Rating:



Mark McDougall





Universal Pictures

# Andrea Arnold: Re-vitalising Cinema

**With the recent releases of both *American Honey* and *I, Daniel Blake*, *In The Middle* takes a closer look at two of Britain's finest filmmakers...**

Andrea Arnold is one of the most celebrated British filmmakers working today, yet she is still little known amongst film fans. A serial prize winner at the Cannes Film Festival, and with an Oscar to her name, she has been recognized as a shining light of the British film industry. With her new release, *American Honey* (2016), she has diverted greatly from her previous work, swapping the oppressive council flats of London and Glasgow for the open highways of the USA.

While the setting of her latest film may differ dramatically from her earlier work, Arnold retains her interest in working class people struggling for fulfilment and battling personal demons. Her early short film *Wasp* (2000), for which she won an Oscar, tells of a young mother who takes her children with her to a bar where she has a date as she can find no one to care for them. She leaves them in the car-park, and it is at this point that a wasp becomes trapped in the car with the children, lending the film its name. Indeed, Arnold reuses this image of an imprisoned and helpless wasp in *American Honey*, which Star at one point rescues from drowning in a pool. This likening of people to trapped animals is especially relevant in *Fish Tank* (2009), the title of which evokes the feelings of central character Mia, who wishes to escape her mother and the council estate where they live.

There are many parallels to draw between Arnold and another of England's most lauded filmmakers, Ken Loach. The most poignant comparison to make between the two is the anger with which they portray young characters unable to deal with

the harsh realities of life. Billy in Loach's *Kes* (1969) finds solace from his bleak home-life in the training of a kestrel he finds, and *Fish Tank*'s fifteen year-old Mia seeks escapism in dance. Both characters have these passions destroyed; Billy's kestrel is cruelly killed by his older brother and Mia's love of dance is perverted by her relationship with Conor, her mother's boyfriend. Both are also drawn to social realism in their films, often going to extreme lengths to secure it. Andrea Arnold

often casts complete acting novices in her work, some of whom she merely passes in the street – Katie Jarvis was cast in *Fish Tank* after she was spotted arguing furiously with her boyfriend. Ken Loach too strives for realism, and famously filmed a scene of his film *Cathy Come Home* (1966) in a crowded train station where only the actors knew that a film was being made. The heart-rending scene in question sees Cathy's children taken from her by social services, after which she breaks down in despair. The reactions of passers-by, or lack thereof, offer an all too real insight into

**“Andrea Arnold and Ken Loach are two of the great British filmmakers, leading the way for our industry”**

English society.

Andrea Arnold and Ken Loach are two of the greatest British filmmakers, leading the way for our industry. They must be cherished while their work continues to grace our screens – a start would be to go to see Arnold's *American Honey* or Loach's *I, Daniel Blake* while they remain in cinemas.

**Joe Scott**







Image: Popova Valeriya/Shutterstock

# Don't Go Breaking My Art

## Is Michael Gove right to scrap Art History A-level?

### For

The axing of the Art History A-level has caused quite a stir, with some slamming Michael Gove for being “narrow-minded” and “short-sighted”. Despite studying an arts subject myself, I completely understand why Gove has made this decision.

It is a well-known fact that budgeting isn't always easy, let alone fair. Cuts have to be made in order to balance our economy and that's just the way it is. Some believe that Gove is downplaying the importance of arts subjects, but if we put budgeting into the context of education it makes logical sense to axe the weaker subjects in favour of more academic subjects.

Statistically, it has been proven that those who study “soft” subjects at university struggle to gain full-time employment after graduating. Employers don't seek out those who have an extensive knowledge of the

**“An A-level that is, to put it frankly, worthless in terms of practical skill”**

History of Art as they do those who've had actual work life experiences. It would be beneficial for young people to have more funding placed into vocational qualifications and apprenticeships over an A-level that is, to put it frankly, worthless in terms of practical skill.

There is an increasing need for trained professionals and, unfortunately, humanities subjects just don't contribute to the working world in the same way more scientific careers do. The scrapping of the Art History A-level shouldn't be viewed as an attack on all arts subjects but as a strategic move from Gove. Besides, an A-level in Art History is not required to study the subject at university, so those with the desire to do so can still pursue their interests; just outside of their schooling.

Adina Rees

Pursuing a career in the arts sadly often comes with the assumption that your chosen path will lead to unemployment. My own personal Art A level class contained few students, as many were discouraged on these economic grounds. Instead, subjects like Business and Economics were seen as ‘correct’ subjects to take. By removing Art History from the A Level curriculum the stigma surrounding the arts has now been solidified by the Conservative government.

My issue lies primarily in what the removal of the subject symbolises and the repercussions it will have. To deem it a ‘soft’ subject decries all creative subjects as ‘soft’, and with the increase in business schools around the UK, it brings into question the future of creative subjects and industries.

To understand the value of studying Art

### Against

History, we must consider the role art has played throughout the ages: that of reflecting, documenting and, most importantly, challenging the period from which it originates. To remove the study of Art History, one loses this unique historical relationship, and in the future, young students will not want to study Art History at degree level, if it is not viewed as a worthy A level.

**“The stigma surrounding the arts has now been solidified”**

As an Art History and Fine art student, I am most concerned about how it will affect the reputation of creative subjects in working class areas. Children from low income backgrounds will be even more discouraged to pursue a future in an area now labelled ‘soft’. Art is more than a subject of study, it is a way of life, and a way of life is something that should never be oppressed or discouraged.

Hannah Marsh

## An artist from two worlds

### The Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery opens its doors to a retrospective of the artist György Gordon

Sixty years after the ill-fated Hungarian Revolution of 1956, the University's Stanley and Audrey Burton Gallery mark its anniversary by opening its doors to a new exhibition, György Gordon (1945–2005) a retrospective. The collection of paintings and drawings that span between the 1950s and 1990s, recall the life and works of Hungarian-born painter György Gordon, one of many who witnessed the violence and turmoil of the Revolution, in a country that had been engulfed in both German and Russian occupation. He soon fled the tense situation, only to face another set of obstacles, including imprisonment and even separation from his daughter.

At the exhibition's opening last week, Peter Murray, the founder and Executive Director of Yorkshire Sculpture Park and an old friend of the artist, gave a short speech on Gordon's artistic journey. Murray described Gordon as someone from two distinct worlds. The first, “a sophisticated middle class background in Budapest, preceding the Second World War” and the second, “the tranquil landscapes of West Yorkshire, where he began a new life.”

While being rather small compared to other artist retrospectives, the collection nonetheless encompasses Gordon's move from one world to another. The first selection of paintings in the exhibition features his powerful, violent series *Torso*. Human torsos are depicted twisted and flattened in harsh sketched lines. Moving round, there is a transformation in colour and style with the change being most obvious in the last few pieces. Delicate, transparent portraits and interiors fill the space, demonstrating skillful and sensitive studies of light, associated with his move to Heath in Wakefield.

At the end of his heart-felt speech, Murray described Gordon as “a good artist” who echoed “what art is all about”, that is, someone whose work deserves to be recognized decades after its creation. This moving retrospective allows viewers to discover an incredible, artist who turned to a life in fine art and Yorkshire to reach freedom.

Fiona Holland

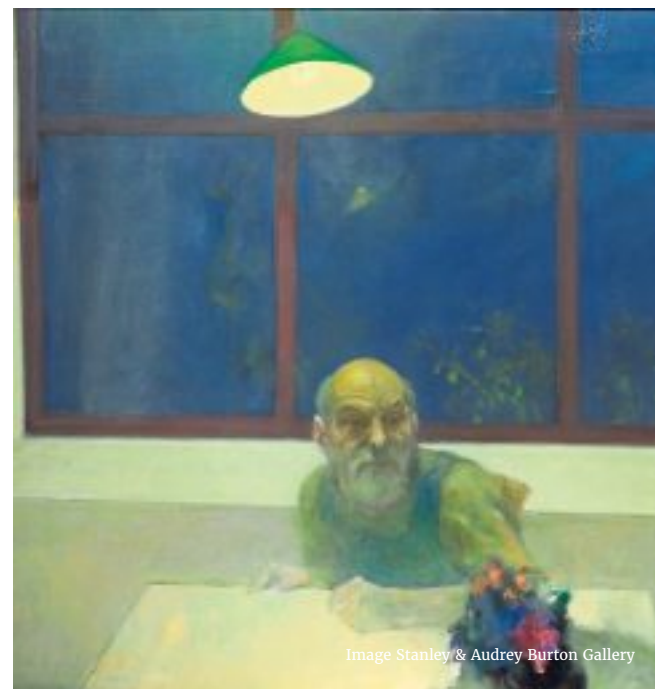


Image Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery





# Superwomen Directors

**Jessica Jones is coming back for a second season with even more girl power. Showrunner Melissa Rosenberg has announced that every single episode of the new season will be directed by a woman...**

Before you question the necessity of this decision, just ask yourself these questions: why is it normal to have shows where every single episode is directed by men? Are men really more qualified to direct show with a female protagonist?

I am not saying that men can't accurately portray the experiences of women, but there is quite the disparity between the number of episodes in popular television series directed by men and by women. It's actually shocking how few episodes of popular TV shows are directed by women considering how many episodes are released every year. In the 2015-2016 television season, there were over 4,000 episodes produced and women directed only 16% of them. Minority women only directed 3% of all episodes. While this percentage has been increasing over the past few years, it's not growing fast enough. This is not due to the lack of women directors either. There are plenty of talented and qualified women directors that are being overlooked.

This is an especially important step in creating room for more female directors considering that a large, well-known studio like Marvel is backing Rosenberg's decision. The lack of female directors in television and film has always been on the periphery of the discussion of equal opportunity for women. Simply by announcing this news, the studio is putting the issue front and centre. It's important to have these discussions, especially when it comes to media, considering nearly all of us spend an inordinate amount of time watching TV shows. In a time where media is being produced and consumed at unheard of rates, it's hard to believe that women are not being given the chance to play an equal role in influencing and producing what is released to the public. The television industry is dominated by the white male perspective, and with much of the audience not being white nor male, it's difficult to see why they are being hired at a much faster rate than any woman or non-white director. Shouldn't the people producing shows reflect the demographic of the viewers?

While 13 episodes won't even raise the stats by 1%, it is a step in the right direction for highlighting and, hopefully, fixing this issue. *Jessica Jones* has the chance to



Image: hitfix.com

change the current trend. The show already broke barriers by being the first Marvel project with a female superhero lead and its first season was a resounding success. If the second season turns out just as successful as the first, I would not be surprised if other shows followed in its footsteps by hiring more women.

I, personally, have extremely high hopes for the new season of *Jessica Jones* and am counting down the days until it graces my computer screen once again.

Jade Verbick

## A Reflection on *Black Mirror*

***Black Mirror* centralises around the possible consequences of technology. It always leaves you on the edge of your seat, wondering if you should throw your phone away and delete your social media while you still have the chance and with *Black Mirror* moving to Netflix, who wasn't excited to see what the budget could lead to?**



For the first episode of an anticipated season, I was expecting it to be as intense as the previous season's episodes. *Nosedive* was no one's favourite episode. That's not to say it was bad; it was just incredibly lacklustre. Imagine a world where everyone is rated out of five stars; you can rate your friends, strangers in a street, you can rate people anonymously, and you can down-rate people. All of this adds up to your score and determines your life. Let's hope Instagram doesn't get any ideas.

Moving on to *Playtest*, Brooker took things up a level. Things were looking like *Black Mirror* again: advanced technology? Check. Gore? Check. Plot twists to have you gripping your seat? Check. The future of videogames? Well, I hope not.

*Shut Up and Dance* was intense from the start. It wasn't a matter of high-tech, future technology, but of webcam hacking and blackmailing people with the threat of their darkest secrets dangling on the line. It was explosive, it was terrifying; it will leave you feeling sea sick, but it's worth a watch. It certainly felt like the 'classic' *Black Mirror* everyone was desperate for.

After *Shut Up and Dance*, Netflix swiftly moves you onto *San Junipero*. This one did not seem like an episode of *Black Mirror*, and that's not a bad thing. The technical side of things wasn't explained until the end, when revelations begin. For the most part, it's nothing more than a gentle romance between two girls. It's simple,

it's filled with aesthetically pleasing 80's club scenes, and, if anything, it's relaxing in comparison to the last episode—something you may be in need of.

If I'm being honest, I forgot *Men Against Fire* even happened until I realised I was missing an episode. I'll leave my comment on that as it is.

If you're not feeling exhausted after watching five hours of this season, then settle down for an extended episode when *Black Mirror* concludes with *Hated in the Nation*. As an extended episode and the season finale, it definitely had a lingering affect. Bees are dead; mechanical bees are doing bees' jobs; people are voting on who should die via Twitter hashtags. You don't need to watch this episode to picture this version of reality, but you should, because it was executed beautifully.

Overall, *Black Mirror* continued to ruin technology for me in the best way possible. This season had an unsettled pacing; undoubtedly, some episodes were above others but it's certainly binge-watch worthy.

Rating:



Paige Johnston





# Return of *The Walking Dead*

Have the writers gone too far? \*\* Spoiler Alert \*\*

## Reggie Yates Tackles America

**After presenting a successful run of documentaries about the socially excluded in 21st Century Russia and South Africa last year (also worth a watch ), Reggie Yates returns for a one-off piece covering one of the most prevalent issues in the United States today: gun violence and police brutality.**

There's rarely a week where gun laws aren't contested in the press, but Yates aims to delve deeper – travelling to Chicago to take a look at the issue first hand. Yates spends most of the time travelling around the South and West sides of the city, where gun crime rates are some of the highest in the West; he tells the camera that on 25th May, 54 homicides occurred so far that month, a week before the month was even out.

What this documentary does so well is allowing viewers to essentially put the data to a face as the shocking statistics become entirely more hard hitting when Yates visits family members of the deceased.

In one segment of the programme, Yates travels with a journalist picking up police radio signals. In just three minutes, they intercept a call outlining that multiple shots have been fired and a young black man has been killed. Police get calls like this every two hours in Chicago. These scenes prove incredibly hard-hitting, especially at a time when all eyes are on America in the run up to the presidential election. The viewer gets a real sense that black lives are in backwards-shifting turmoil, and we are yet unable to tell what effect the new government will have on combating violent gun crime.

Even when the focus shifts away from the crime scene frontline, and Yates is filmed just walking along a quiet street with an interviewee, sirens ring nearby. This made me realise that the Chicago residents get constant reminders of hate and danger, even if they're not immediately affected. This proves particularly harrowing – I can't even begin to imagine the hopelessness that these people must feel about their own and their families' basic safety.

The documentary ties in rhetoric from the Black Lives Matter movement, with footage from several peaceful rallies where we are made aware that African Americans have got to the point where they do not feel safe in their own cities, or under the hands of the law. However, interestingly the documentary also swings to focus on police officers that have lost fellow colleagues at the hands of guns – as one man says in despair “The whole system is broken”.

We're all used to seeing Yates present the likes of *Top of the Pops* with his cheery demeanour, but he is amazing in a documentary setting – he carries the programme with poise, in what was obviously a very challenging piece of film to present, as a young black man. *Life and Death in Chicago* is available to watch 24/7 online at BBC iPlayer.

Rating:



Lara Groves

Earlier this year, *The Walking Dead* fans were left on the edge of their seats with a cliff-hanger ending that alluded to the demise of a main character. The seventh season of the hit AMC show aired on 23rd October 2016, with the continuation of the episode that concluded the sixth season in April. To say fans were eagerly awaiting the show's return would be a massive understatement, with a total of 20.8 million views altogether, *The Walking Dead* deserves the title of the most anticipated show of 2016.

Some viewers have criticised the show-writers' decision to make us wait half a year to find out which character's fate suffered at the hands of Negan and Lucille but I'd argue that whilst this was an understandably frustrating wait, it was a clever move in terms of building up suspense for the premiere. The premiere has also received some negative feedback from fans, especially at the level of violence displayed in *The Day Will Come When You Won't Be*. The episode kicked off with not one cruel murder, but two. And as if that wasn't enough, we're forced to watch Rick (Andrew Lincoln) being emotionally tortured by Negan (Jeffrey Morgan), who gives him the ultimatum off cutting of his own son's arm or watching the rest of his group die in front of him. To some extent, I can understand the upset that people felt after watching the death of Abraham Ford (Michael Cudlitz) and fan-favourite Glenn Rhee (Steven Yeun). But this is a show about an apocalypse after all, so this level of gore shouldn't come as a surprise.

Maybe the close-up of the bloody pulp Negan had created wasn't necessary, but the brutality is an undeniably vital part of his character. This super villain is supposed to make our blood boil – he makes Rick, the leader of the group, look vulnerable. We all know *The Walking Dead* writers have a habit of tugging on our heartstrings so we shouldn't expect anything less than absolute senseless violence from such a psychologically (and physically) abusive character.

As if losing two brilliant characters wasn't heart-breaking enough, we're then forced to watch Negan test Rick's loyalty, trapping him on top of a zombie-ridden RV and making him fetch an axe like a dog. To add to the heart-break of watching such a strong character be reduced to Negan's “pet”, if you've watched the show from the beginning you may remember the Season One finale that has a parallel to this scene. Rick was trapped in the tank at the start of the walker outbreak and Glenn was the person who came to his rescue – now we know he will never be around to ever save Rick like that again.

So many people have already deemed this upcoming season a write-off but I think we should wait for future episodes to see how the recent deaths effect the group and how Negan's tyranny over the group unravels. I'm hoping Negan's promising villainous portrayal will continue on through this season.

Adina Rees



# The Hedonist Project: Let's Get Piste!



## We headed down to the latest version of The Hedonist Project - Get Piste - for winter cocktails and cosy interiors...

In celebration of their one year anniversary, bar-tending trio Tom Finnon, Daniel Crowther and Bruce Lerman partnered with Barcadi Brown Foreman and DC Shoes to create the latest incarnation of The Hedonist Project. This time it's an Alpine Ski Lodge, otherwise known as Get Piste. The first bar in the UK to reinvent itself seasonally, The Project has been formerly known as Trader Dan's Surf Shack and Liquor and Whiskey.

The main event was obviously the cocktail menu, which was filled with festive winter drinks, such as mulled wine and, my personal favourite, a cinnamon spiced, Jack Daniels based cocktail served in a copper mug. Each drink was carefully crafted in front of us, covered in all sorts of fruit, spices and winter touches that made the ski lodge theme all the more convincing. The individuality of each drink created an exclusive sense to the night while their aesthetic contributed to the winter décor. One of the more popular cocktails is named 'Winter Rose', stained a vivid pink and flavoured with Vodka and raspberry.

After a few too many cocktails we were served a Swiss-style fondue, which we dug into with wooden spoons to find steaming, melted cheese with slices of potato hidden underneath. The entire dish dissolved in my mouth as the rich flavours intertwined with each other and the added saltiness of the bacon created a perfect

complementary taste. The entire bowl had just the right amount of richness. Despite it being a dish I would never usually order, I found it delicious and it fitted effortlessly with the ski chalet vibe of the bar. Other people were served Continental style cheese boards, which also looked tasty. My only disappointment is that I didn't get to try more from the main menu, based upon Mediterranean mezze, including a pitta, humus and olive platter. Although, there is something for everyone from fish and chips for the fussy eaters,

to a classic super food salad for the healthy foodies. I fully intend to go back to try out the rest of the food, despite it being on the pricier side of the student budget.

**“Despite being in the crowded city centre, we were transported into a log cabin in the Alps from the moment we walked in the door.”**

From the cocktail names to the rustic interior décor to the Continental style food, I was immediately impressed by their attention to detail. The small, intricate details like the candles dotted around the room and the sprinkling of powdered spices over the cocktails created a special atmosphere to the bar, which captured the intimate cosiness of a ski chalet. Despite being in the crowded city centre, we were transported into a log cabin in the Alps from the moment we walked in the door. They successfully managed to build a chilled out, cosy atmosphere; perfect for the run up to Christmas.

**George Arkley**





# "Let's drink some more rum, shall we?"

The Lifestyle and Culture editors Megan, Will, and Charlie, spend an evening at Turtle Bay...

Every now and then, there comes a time when you have to pause to fully appreciate the perks of being part of *The Gryphon*. Last week, we were invited to Turtle Bay for an evening packed full of that same soulful, vibrant, delicious food and drink we've come to expect from Turtle Bay since it opened last year and because we aren't yet completely insane, we accepted.

Arriving at dusk in Leeds City Centre, the ambient glow of Turtle Bay drew us in like alcoholic moths to a flaming cocktail. We found the interior evermore appealing, the rustic wooden surfaces glowing under exposed bulbs and candles flickering through stained glass. The cocktail of friendly staff, delicious drinks, and fantastic food obliterated any thoughts of leaving.

But this was far from a regular evening at Turtle Bay. First off, we're seated behind an intimidating selection of rums. Now, I'm ashamed to say my experiences of rum prior to Turtle Bay extended no further than Sainsbury's Basics Dark Rum, so at this point anything could happen. Turtle Bay takes rum seriously, with a vast range from dark to white, spicy to sweet, coconutty to straight up 63%. A sample of each blew our minds, who knew there could be so many flavours? Who knew spirits could be so delicious on their own? But this was only the beginning...

A little wobbly on the feet now, we make our way to the bar. We're about to be shown how to make cocktails, Turtle Bay style. The barman, Adam, is the definition of happy, surrounded by hundreds of bottles, hundreds of potential cocktails.

First up is Charlie, who is shown how to make the signature Reggae Rum Punch - a classically delicious rum punch cocktail. Then Megan steps in to mix the Bahama Mama - you guessed it, a rare banana flavoured cocktail, and finally Will's up to make a mojito - with a Turtle Bay twist, we used a dark rum to give a richer flavour. Needless to say, we weren't

experts, but we were immensely proud of our alcoholic babies.

After consuming an inordinate amount of rum, we were served vast beach platters of Caribbean food, comprising spicy jerk chicken wings, pepper roti, sweet corn fritters & garlic 'n' herb flatbreads. The dream. Exactly as you'd expect, the food was outstanding, with a perfect blend of sweetness, spice, and Caribbean jerk and reggae tantalising with every bite. Before we knew it, we'd finished everything on the platter.

Quite simply, Turtle Bay is an escape. It's an illusory holiday to the Caribbean, strengthened by the authentic blending of traditional food, a carefully created atmosphere, lovely staff, and a vast selection of rum and just when we thought the evening could get no better, we heard the best sentence of our lives, spoken by the bartender, "Let's drink some more rum,

shall we?" Oh yes...

William Hoole

**"We weren't experts, but we were immensely proud of our alcoholic babies."**





# The Lad Bible and Mental Health



**This week, Health and Wellbeing Intern Martha Clowes, and LUU Welfare Officer Jess Read discuss the various campaigns for mental health that are currently running both within LUU and across the country.**

**From 7th - 11th November, LUU will be running the Don't Bottle It Up campaign to encourage conversation on mental health.**

When you think about *The Lad bible* what immediately pops into your mind?

Whatever just appeared in your head it probably wasn't a campaign which encourages more open discussion and greater awareness of male mental health. However, *LAD bible* is working with major charities Mind, the Samaritans, CALM (Campaign against Living Miserably) and the Mental Health Foundation on the 'U OK M8?' campaign; a series of articles, films and illustrations designed to spark conversation about this prevalent issue. Through these mediums issues such as male body image, male students dealing with disabilities whilst studying and alcoholism have been discussed in terms of the negative impact they have on the mental health of men in our society.

The mental health of men in the UK is an important issue which is not discussed as often or as seriously as it should. In 2014 male suicide accounted for 76% of all suicides, and constitutes the single biggest cause of death for men under the age of 45 in the UK. The 'U OK M8?' campaign highlights the fact that 41%

of men who contemplated suicide had never actually physically voiced those feelings to anyone.

That is a shocking statistic, and a scary realisation that in our society so many men for various reasons didn't feel they could talk to anyone. CALM, one of the key partners of the campaign, exists to prevent male suicide. They believe that if men felt able to ask for help, and could find that help easily, then hundreds of male suicides could, and would, be prevented. That is what the 'U OK M8?' campaign is trying to change. It wants to break down the barriers which prevent men from seeking the help they need.

We can facilitate the breaking down of these barriers every day. We can achieve this through opening up about our individual experiences concerning mental health and challenging the stigma around seeking help in times of mental vulnerability. Let's start the conversation that leads to the normalisation of looking after your mental health in the same way that you care about your physical health.

People go for a run or a swim when they are feeling a bit unfit so why is it different to go for advice when you're feeling run down emotionally? To ask for support doesn't de-masculinise someone, instead it makes you stronger and men need to know that. Gender shouldn't be the determining factor of whether you feel able to get the help that we all need from time to time.

Whilst living at University there are multiple services on campus readily available to those who need help starting the important conversation about male mental health. If you need to have the conversation in a safe and confidential environment then services such as the Student Counselling Service and the Student Advice Centre are there to listen and support you. But if you feel confident then start the dialogue with your loved ones around you and you'll find heaps of support is already waiting there.

**Martha Clowes**

## Welfare at Leeds: Don't Bottle it Up



University can be one of the best experiences you'll ever have, but it's not uncommon to have periods where you're struggling, whether that's feeling lonely or stressed, or experiencing mental health difficulties.

From Monday the 7th November until Friday 11th we are going to be running the 'Don't Bottle It Up' campaign, a week where we will be campaigning to make mental health a priority- no one should have to go through university feeling alone and unable to seek support. Over the week we have a tonne of great events running.

We'll be running mindfulness arts and crafts sessions and pet therapy on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and will have a session called 'How to Help Your Mate' on Monday, helping you understand what to do if you're worried about a friend.

In addition we'll be screening *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* on Tuesday evening, and Leeds Suicide Bereavement Service coming in during Tuesday daytime to facilitate a session where anyone who has bereaved through suicide can drop in for a chat.

On Wednesday evening we will also be holding a mental health panel discussion, which will bring together representatives from the university mental health team, students and different people from LUU. We'll be discussing what it's like to struggle with mental health whilst at university, about stigma and accessing services.

There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have if you would like.

You don't have to keep your worries bottled up- no matter how big or how small a problem might seem, there are people who will listen, who will care and help you through.

The LUU Student Advice Centre are here and can help you with whatever is on your mind, and if you just need to talk, Leeds Nightline are a helpline open to students in Leeds every night from 8pm-8am - their number is on the back of your student cards.

Please believe me when I say that no matter what you are going through you won't be the only one and you're not alone, we really are here to help.

**Jess Reed**

It's time to talk about mental health. From a very young age we're taught that if you fall and graze your knee you clean it and put on a plaster, that if you've got the flu you stay in bed and drink fluids, if you break your leg you go to A&E. What we're not taught is how to manage stress, or what to do if we're worried about our mental health, and it really is time to change.





# How Einstein Theorised University Relationships

**Can we use Einstein's theory of relativity to study the science behind university relationships? Mariana's here to talk about the so-called 'university bubble'**



According to Einstein's theory of relativity, space-time is warped in different parts of the universe. What Einstein did not predict, but which my friend Nicholas has keenly observed, is that the same is true on a planetarian scale. Essentially, different parts of the world, specifically university campuses, have a disrupted space-time continuum.

Take mine and Nick's friend as an example: single at the start of the semester, then suddenly in a relationship two weeks after meeting her boyfriend. Significantly, she is not an isolated case. The same happened to two other friends. In all likelihood, these scenarios are not foreign to any university student.

It appears the space-time laws that rule human interaction are compressed at university. Why? Probably because so many students are kept so close together with so much time and so many opportunities to socialise. The effect is that romantic relationships are accelerated. This would explain my friend's paradoxical claim from the other day: "It feels like I've known her [his girlfriend of three weeks] for so long". Beyond intensifying a relationship, I asked Nick how he thought 'the Bubble' affected campus couples.

Firstly, does the acceleration make the relationship "less real"? In his opinion, it does not. Whether a relationship develops quickly or slowly, the speed does not affect the genuineness of the couple's feelings. However, because the couple experience the relationship so intensely, it can be that the individuals believe their feelings to be deeper for each other than they actually are. If two people spend the better part of the day together every day, they might not have enough time or distance to properly reflect on the other person and their feelings for that person.

Secondly, is it unhealthy for a relationship to develop very quickly? Nick believes that as long as the two people are aware of what is happening, the Bubble should not be a problem. That does not mean that there won't be some challenges.

For instance, the acceleration can put unnecessary pressure on the couple. Even though making a

relationship "official" might seem like the next natural step for two people who constantly enjoy each other's company, one person might not feel ready. Despite needing more time, the person might find themselves trapped in a relationship because they do not have an "excuse" to spend less time with their partner without upsetting them – an "excuse" such as going to work (full-time) or living in a distant part of town.

Lastly, is the Bubble inevitable for university relationships? To some extent, yes. However, circumstance, personality and awareness frame how different students experience the Bubble. If a student is very occupied with a part-time job, societies or their studies, their relationship is not likely to develop as quickly. Furthermore, if a student is aware of the Bubble, they can balance their time more consciously and carefully.

Although this article has been very critical of the university bubble, it is important to remember that the Bubble is not intrinsically bad or good. It simply is. Relationships can work inside of it and outside of it. In fact, it can be a wonderful thing to experience a relationship intensely; to see the person you like or love every day. I honestly believe that as long as the couple is aware and balances their time, the Bubble has more perks than drawbacks.

**Mariana Avelino**

# Woman of the Week: Angelina Jolie

**We're all about celebrating the success of women here in the Blogs section. This week Hannah takes a look back over the amazing career of one of our best loved celebrities, Angelina Jolie**



Angelina Jolie is undoubtedly one of the most famous and influential women in the world. She is constantly in the media for her career, her relationship with Brad Pitt, her children and her work with the UN. When these are combined it is clear to see how she has become such an identifiable brand. This became more apparent when she was ranked Number 1 in Forbes' 100 Most Powerful Celebrities back in 2009,

surpassing the likes of Beyoncé, Madonna and Oprah Winfrey.

Since rising to fame Jolie has used her status and wealth to raise awareness and help those less fortunate. She achieves this by not just drawing attention to a matter but by actually impacting it, to improve the situation whilst simultaneously influencing people to support the cause. Angelina in recent years has been recognised for her support and aid on behalf of refugees around the globe. This is not just something she is passionate about but it is part of her role as a UN High Commissioner for Refugees Goodwill Ambassador.

After corresponding with the UN about the effects of war and poverty in Cambodia, she became more involved in the movement for change and was soon appointed UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador. Other ambassadors will speak publically about these issues in an attempt to gain more support but Angelina sets herself apart from the majority, as she is more hands on in her approach. Alongside public speeches she visits the countries and areas in need to offer what aid she can give.

She began field work back in 2001, meeting refugees in more than 20 countries including Cambodia, Pakistan, Ecuador, Kenya, Egypt, Chad, Iraq, and

Syria. Both her and her partner at the time Brad Pitt set up 'The Jolie-Pitt Foundation', dedicated to helping conserve natural resources and wildlife and decreasing cases of poverty. The foundation offers aid to almost 60 countries who are under threat of issues such as conflict, violence and malnutrition.

In terms of her career, Jolie has been incredibly varied with her acting roles, receiving critical acclaim and an Oscar win in 2000. She has also started directing films such as *In The Land of Blood and Honey*, *By the Sea* and *Unbroken*. In 2013 she won the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at the Governors Awards ceremony. The award is given to an individual who was contributed exceptionally to humanitarian causes.

There is no question of Angelina Jolie's commitment and dedication to helping others. Not only is she widely recognised as a good mother, actress, director and UN Ambassador but she uses her status and power to influence her fans to support different charities and foundations that will enact change. Angelina Jolie is definitely a powerful woman and that's why she's this weeks Woman of The Week.

**Hannah Snutch**







# #NOTOKAY: the fight against everyday sexual assault

With the #notokay trend taking social media by storm, Bea Warleta discusses everyday sexism and how it affects women's daily lives

Bea Warleta

"Women: tweet me your first assaults. They aren't just stats" tweeted Canadian author Kelly Oxford on Friday 7th October, after a video of Donald Trump making sexual comments about women had been leaked. "You can do anything. Grab them by the pussy. Anything", Trump said. Oxford's tweet continued, "I'll go first: Old man on city bus grabs my 'pussy' and smiles at me, I'm 12".

The response was a sea of tweets that flooded the internet, and continue to do so today, two weeks later. Under the hashtag #notokay, women share their experiences. Stories of crowded trains and buses, uncles and teachers, music festivals and clubs. A woman's doctor asks her if her nipples and genitals are pierced. A 13 year-old girl's classmates keep flipping her skirt up and laughing; when she speaks up, her teacher tells her it's not okay to lie. A woman remembers being groped at a crowded Walmart, at Disneyland, in the playground. These are only the less disturbing tweets. And yet, scrolling through Twitter, the most troublesome part remains how unsurprising it all is: how naturalized and common these experiences seem. Because while it's true that, yes, not all men are rapists, or gropers, or sexual assaulters, all women, sadly, seem to have been assaulted at least once in their lives.

By reading about other women's experiences under the name 'sexual assault' you, as a woman, realize something. You've been telling yourself that these experiences are normal, and they're okay. "The scariest thing about reading @kellyoxford #notokay

thread" one tweet reads, "is realizing how many times I was assaulted as a young girl and didn't even know". We've been taught to ignore it. However, it's always there, in the back of our minds, a little bit of ash that lights up into a spark: but it has the potential to become a fire, when women like Kelly Oxford bring out the matches.

*"The scariest thing about reading @kellyoxford's #notokay thread... is realizing how many times I was sexually assaulted as a young girl and didn't even know"*

Reading a tweet about a young girl getting her bum slapped by boys at her school brings to mind my own school days: being eight, nine, ten years old at the playground and wearing spandex shorts under my uniform because boys liked to lift the girls' skirts up. It was just the way it was. And so the teachers recommended wearing spandex so your underwear wouldn't be exposed for everyone to see.

Fast forwarding to the near future, I'm reminded of an incident a few months ago, when my younger sister messaged me at 2am A man had approached her at a bus stop, completely naked, touching himself.

I think of all the nights out when I've been groped on a dancefloor. I think of how my male friends feel the need to "pretend that they are my boyfriend" to stop the heckling. How incredibly sad and pathetic is it that the only way to stop sexual harassment is to pretend that you 'belong' to another man?

Although the main reactions from men on Twitter, from Trump himself, and from the men within Trump's campaign have been apologetic and empathetic, they all seem to share a common theme: as fathers, husbands, and brothers, they were personally disgusted. It seems that many men, in order to stand up against sexual assault, feel the need to emphasize their personal relationship to women in order to sympathise with their situations. Through mentioning personal relationships, some men somehow try to legitimise their public sexist behaviour: yes they have said a few sexist things to unknown women, but as long as they treat their wife respectfully it's ok, right?

Before women are daughters, sisters, and mothers, we must remember that they are their own individuals. They are being sexually harassed, first and foremost as women, secondly as daughters or mothers or sisters. Regardless of how men may feel, this is something that women need to learn to speak up about: and it is something that men, more than anything else, need to listen to. It's 2016 and women feel the need to walk through relationships and life in the same way they walk through the street at night: looking over their shoulder, fast-paced, heart pumping, powerless.

And it's not okay.



Image: Christine Baker, The Patriot-News



# What We Talk About When We Talk About Rape

Mikhail Hanafi looks at the Ched Evans and Brock Turner cases and why the rhetoric around rape still needs serious change

**Mikhail Hanafi**

On the 20th April 2012, Ched Evans was found guilty of rape. What followed was a media whirlwind, as traditional news outlets ran pieces with competing angles, yet all of them seemed to focus on the footballer himself. The headline chosen by the BBC was “Ched Evans jailed for five years”, whilst Wales Online reported “Wales star Ched Evans denies raping woman in hotel”. The Mirror perpetuated the hateful language directed at the victim from Evans’ friends, the author feeling the need to emphasise Evans’ ‘crying hysterically as he was found guilty’, before any mention of the victim.

The large majority of the coverage was focused on Evans himself and how it would affect his life and career. Meanwhile, the victim was subject to a social media shaming after Evans’ cousin leaked her name despite a legal guarantee of anonymity. The torrent of abuse that ensued was so extreme that the victim had to move across the country and change her name.

This disregard for the victim and the focus on the

*“Turner’s father downplayed the rape to “20 minutes of action”*”

accused rapist isn’t isolated to the Ched Evans case. In January 2015, Stanford student Brock Turner was found behind a dumpster sexually assaulting an unconscious woman. His actions were, and still are, indefensible yet the judge found a prison sentence would have a “severe impact” on Turner, giving him such a light sentence that a juror on the case publicly stated that “justice has not been served”.

Similarly to the Evans case, media outlets emphasised Turner’s reputation, grades and position at a prestigious university. Turner’s father pleaded for a lighter punishment so as to not destroy his “bright future”, downplaying the rape to “20 minutes of action”.

Both Evans and Turner were released early from their sentences, in both instances with problematic justification.

Evans was released after his defence brought up the woman’s previous sexual history in his retrial. It set what 40 Labour MPs called a “dangerous precedent” for future cases; they argued rightly that consent in a previous instance cannot be reused in a rape case as defence.

The victim, after all, was seen falling over in the streets on CCTV footage, and was described by a hotel worker as having walked in “extremely drunk [with] a blank stare”. Yet this evidence was quashed in favour of testimony that she had consented to sex on two separate occasions with two different men within

a few weeks of the incident.

Turner, on the other hand, spent only three months in jail. Judge Persky, who presided over his case, justified the decision by bringing up Turner’s youth and the damage a harsh sentence would bring to his once-bright future.

*“You can put a college student rapist on a lie detector test and they will pass”*

This problem of prioritising the feelings or future of the rapist isn’t limited to just the legal system and the media. Oklahoma State University professor John Foubert argues that the issue is buried deep within our culture; he argues that young people, particularly young people in universities, have a dangerously narrow idea of what constitutes rape.

Leslie Rasmussen, a childhood friend of Turner’s, argued in a letter to Judge Persky that Turner’s case “is completely different from a woman getting kidnapped and raped as she is walking to her car in a parking lot. That is a rapist. These are not rapists. These are idiot boys and girls having too much to drink and not being aware of their surroundings and having clouded judgement.”



Image: AFP/Getty



This false distinction is what Foubert alludes to, suggesting that it's one shared by an alarming number of university students. University of Arizona professor Mary Koss said that "You can put a college student rapist on a lie detector test and they will pass." Students who commit rape often don't legitimise it because they supposedly don't fit the misconceived ideas of what a rapist is.

*In reality the only quality that defines a rapist is rape*

According to a survey conducted by Koss, more than 7% of college students had coerced or attempted to coerce a date to have sex with them, yet they did not consider this to be rape or attempted rape. It's an issue that universities in both the UK and USA are struggling to address. Earlier this year, freshers at the University of York walked out of a sexual consent talk which they considered "patronising". Around a quarter of the students who attended the talks were said to have walked out in protest. At the University of Warwick, student George Lawlor boycotted a sexual consent talk he was invited to because he didn't "look like a rapist".

The truth is, there is no specific "look" to a rapist. According to Rape Crisis England & Wales, over 80% of rapes are committed by a person known to the victim. This debunks the common idea perpetuated by Rasmussen and Lawlor that rapists look like a specific type of person, usually a dangerous stranger. In reality the only quality that defines a rapist is rape. There's no physical trait or aesthetic that renders someone more or less likely to commit the atrocity.

These attitudes all contribute to rape culture. From social media reactions to the Evans and Turner cases, it's clear that many are fighting to maintain the old, inadequate ideas of rape, blaming the victims for drinking, and absolving the accused rapists of their actions because they don't fit a limited and ridiculous rapist 'mould'. It's difficult to say what the solution is, but it's clear that the way rape is reported in the news and handled by the legal system aren't helping to break down the widely held societal misconceptions around rape.



Image: PA



Image: Paul Scuton/ The Guardian

# Marxist Society: An Opportunity to Learn

Chelsea Cao

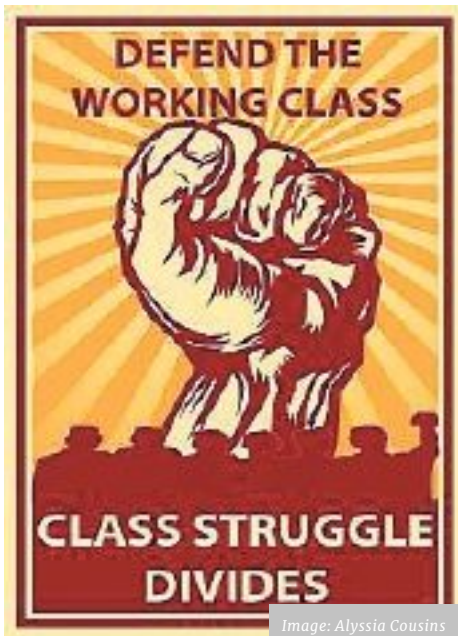


Image: Alyssia Cousins

Whether from distant or recent memories of classrooms and discussions, the term 'Marxism' is familiar to most of us. We've all heard about Marx: the philosopher, the economist, the sociologist, the journalist. We may even know the basics of Marxism: about the belief that capitalism generates a struggle between the working class and upper class; how the working class do all the work and create wealth in our society, while the upper class own the majority of it, and control the economy.

We've all heard the theories, and we've heard the stories of revolutions and uprisings. But what about Marxism today? The LUU Marxist Society is a vibrant society that holds weekly meetings and discussions – and I've found that most students believe members of this society are "just radicals". Eager to find out more about Marxism and the society itself, I attended their Give It a Go session on Thursday 20th October.

The first half of the session was information about Marxism itself. What is Marxism? I was glad they asked this – it's a big question, after all. The president of the society, Owen Walsh, summarised the answer in one simple sentence: "Marxism is the doctrine of the struggle of the working class". Listening to him talk about the concept of capitalism and its consequences for the working class, I became increasingly convinced of the unfairness of the system. And learning about Marxism's origins and history, and how the theories within it developed, was certainly eye-opening. And then came the big question: how is Marxism still relevant today? He gave us his insights, pointing out that after the 2008 financial crisis, people have begun to realise the reality of the inequality between the two social classes. What's happening in the world today, due to this crisis, is exactly as Marx had predicted in his book – and this is why Marxist ideas are still essential today: maybe it's time to move on to socialism, and work out a system that will benefit everybody, not just the upper class.

After the speech, we all engaged in a discussion, sparked from a question a girl asked: "What does prosperity look like under socialism?". While many questions didn't have answers in the end, everybody voiced their opinions – and there were certainly a wide variety of opinions, not just socialist or Marxist ones. People were so eager to discuss different ideas that they continued to do so on the way back home. The session was not so much a "group of radicals" imposing their ideas on others, as many believe, but instead an opportunity to discuss politics and economics – an opportunity, mostly, to learn.

# The Gryphon GIAG: Quidditch Society

Rebekah Chapman and Hannah Chowton

*Unless you spent your Freshers hiding under a rock for the past few weeks, we all know that there are an endless amount of 'Give it a Go' (GIAG) society sessions going on around campus. But which one to choose? The Gryphon decided to check out the Quidditch Society. I'm sure that many of us have often walked past those three elusive blue hoops standing proudly in Woodhouse Moor and wondered, "What on earth is going on?" Or maybe not for all those Potterheads out there! Well, we're here to tell you.*

Quidditch is not for the light hearted. It is a contact sport, reminiscent of both touch rugby and dodgeball combined. Yes, you have to run with a broom between your legs (made of PVC piping bought from any DIY shop), but it does work like a normal sport in its essential rules. (JK Rowling how did you do it?) The society is fitness focused, often organising days out such as hiking trips, as well as training at least twice a week.

As is frequent with the Quidditch society, Leeds were playing a rival team from York at the GIAG. We arrived to find the two large teams (consisting of both the core squad and freshers/new arrivals) split up into three drill stations: tackling, Beater work and Chasing skills. Our Leeds team are currently ranked seventh best nationally, and fourth best in Northern England. You can certainly see how it is an up-and-coming sport, having both national and international acclaim.

The team itself is made up of seven players. The society has enforced the rule that no more than four people of the same gender can be on the team at one time. This allows a greater gender balance for the sport, and ensures that everyone can get involved regardless of age or ability. In addition, people can switch around between different roles until they find the perfect one to suit their playing style (and yes, if you are a Beater you can chuck balls at people's faces).

But there is a lot more to Quidditch than just running around with brooms and throwing balls through hoops. The current committee have the unspoken rule of a pub session after every match (a necessity if you are a student in Leeds), and are keen to try out a number of different activities this year, including bowling and other team-building events.



Image: ABC News

And if you think that you'd just be staying in Leeds as a member of the Quidditch Society, then think again my friend! The squad often travels around the country for regional matches (their first, this year, being in November), and some of the committee have even had the chance to go abroad thanks to connections within the society.

Overall we think that if you're looking for something quirky, energetic and sociable, Quidditch is the sport for you – even if you're Harry Potter fan!



# Are Driverless Cars the Key to a Brighter Shared Future?

Julia Constable

Since its inception in 2009, Google's driverless car project has been at the cutting edge of autonomous car technology. With no pedals and no steering wheel, the 2014 'Koala Car' prototype model was a game-changer, offering a safer and more comfortable driving experience with the aim of revolutionising mobility in the future. The semi-secret research branch, Google X, developed the technology using a complex system of lasers and sensors, enabling the 'Koala Car' to map the road layout, whilst identifying and predicting the actions of pedestrians and road users alike. Safe, convenient and comfortable: what's not to like? Perhaps the price tag! Adding approximately \$10,000 to the sticker price of any vehicle, self-driving

technology is definitely not affordable for the average individual and according to a study conducted on Autonomous Cars for the IHS, the additional software will still have a hefty price tag of \$5000 by 2035.

Nevertheless, this ground-breaking technology offers the potential to eradicate human error, creating a safer driving experience. The positive potential for this software is undeniable, which prompts the question: would it be possible to introduce this technology to thousands of people, without substantial financial implications?

Car sharing could provide the answer. Businesses such as Liftshare are expanding rapidly due to the huge number of sharing benefits: commuters can reduce the cost of travel by splitting petrol expenses, which in most cases works out to be cheaper than using public transport. Inner-city congestion and environmental pollution is reduced, combined with the fact that members are free to travel without the burden of vehicle maintenance. Sounds good, doesn't it? Currently, Liftshare facilitates over 1 million shared lifts per month and claims to save a commuter approximately £1000 annually.

Advantages of car sharing could be multiplied if Google Cars were introduced: Google's map routing ability would enable autonomous cars to understand traffic patterns and navigate large cities using the least congested routes, ensuring fuel efficiency and further environmental impact reduction.

There's only one problem: this idea of a 'sharing economy' is a relatively new concept. Ultimately, the 'sharing economy' revolves around the use and access

of shared resources, whether they are physical (such as a car) or human assets (such as labour). Trading does not occur exclusively without monetary exchange, but different forms of value can be exchanged freely to create the most efficient and beneficial economy for all stakeholders. A hybrid economy which allows person-to-person exchanges would create the potential for an alternative socio-economic system that discourages excessive consumption and self-interest, but instead encourages collaboration and inclusion. Popular examples of this theory exist today, although they're not always recognised as characteristics of a 'sharing economy': crowd-funding, upcycling and favour exchanges are just a few ways the sharing economy eliminates waste and empowers citizens. If a high-profile brand such as Google could facilitate lift shares in driverless vehicles, it would raise the profile of the shared economy model and force us to raise our game by collaborating with others, to work towards a brighter and more sustainable future for all.



Image: Money subscribe



Image: Biose State

# Inspiring Business Women of the Week : Indra Nooyi

Zoe Alison

After 12 years of working for PepsiCo, in 2006 Indra Nooyi became the first female CEO and was later recognized by both Fortune and Forbes magazine as the 3rd most powerful businesswoman on the planet. Since claiming Pepsi's highest managerial position, the annual net profit has more than doubled, increasing from \$2.7 billion to \$6.5 billion.

Nooyi has been responsible for moulding the global strategy of the brand, helping to acquire Tropicana in 1998 and encouraging the merger with Quaker Oats Company in 2002. She has also reshaped the entire business model so much so that it would be unidentifiable with the original company structure. This is through her motivation to transfer corporate spending into making PepsiCo the healthy alternative within its market. She was the driving force behind the 'better for you' initiative creating low-fat variations of both drinks and snacks.

However, such prosperity and triumph didn't manifest straight away, growing up in a city obsessed with established morals and traditional values. Living in Madras, India the importance of marrying a

financially reliable husband was emphasised daily and experience of male suppression in the workplace was common and accepted. Nooyi recalls being questioned and undermined in meetings, with male colleagues believing her gender caused incompetence and a lack of expertise. Even when she became CEO of Pepsi, she was reminded not to forget her role as a mother and loyal wife.

Slowly but surely, with a confidence, an incredible work ethic and a powerful managerial position, she began to speak out for workplace equality:

"Look at graduating seniors from colleges, more than 50 percent are women. More than 50 percent!"

"So if you really want companies to be successful, we can't say 'Hey, we are going to exclude a portion of the population.'"

These statements form part of her outstanding performance at PepsiCo and give a more personal value to her global recognition as an appreciated international businesswoman. Unfortunately, there is still a long way to go and the process is a continuous one. Pay gaps prevail across the globe, with the average



CEO Indra Nooyi, Image: Business Insider

figure around 17% in 2009 and men still possess over 2/3 of high ranking positions within US companies. Although, we cannot disregard how 27 percent of senior executives at PepsiCo are now female, a figure Nooyi could have once only dream of attaining, and one were sure she is determined to proliferate.

# History's mad scientists and their obsession with death



Image: *Insomnia Cured Here*

## Steven Gibney

The Ancient Egyptians, Vikings and modern Christianity – all major civilisations and belief systems throughout history have had some predilections concerning life after death. In contrast to these beliefs, others have attempted to stop or, at the very least, stave off death. Just look at the wonders of modern medicine. But what happens if we try to go in another direction? What if, rather than extending life, we try to bring it back once it's gone? This is the garish question some of history's mad scientists have tried to answer.

Some of the earliest attempts at reanimation were carried out in the 1790s by the Royal Humane Society of London. They thought that under certain circumstances corpses were not actually dead; rather they were in a state of suspended animation. The Royal Humane Society sought to establish methods for reanimating these corpses, as well as share their knowledge of reanimation across the world. Almost all of the methods they tried were inevitably crude, including the application of electricity, massaging the corpse and the use of liquor forced down the throat of the deceased. As bizarre as these methods seem now, they actually spread across sections of the western world, in particular across the pond. During 1973 The Medical Society of South Carolina purchased specialised reanimation supplies from the Royal Humane Society, attempting to raise public awareness of the possibility of resurrecting the dead. The result of this was a law, passed in August 1793, which required all owners of places that sold

alcohol to take in persons deemed “dead” and use the Society's techniques to bring them back to life. This was because “spirits were a key ingredient to the process of reanimation”.

While it eventually became apparent that these procedures did not raise the dead, these were by no means the strangest attempts made throughout history. By the beginning of the 19th century a great deal of emphasis was placed on electricity as a means to reawaken the dead. One of the reasons for this was that the concept of electricity was not fully understood, with the effects of an electrical current viewed as almost magical. During the early 1800s, physicist Giovanni Aldini carried out a series of twisted experiments, involving the use of electricity in an attempt to reanimate dead animals. Aldini started out demonstrating how the application of a current could send dead frogs and other animals into twitching spasms. His experiments quickly devolved and – in one particularly gruesome display – he applied a large current to the decapitated head of an ox, which began to convulse and spasm as if alive. Eventually Aldini graduated from animals to begin performing his experiments on humans. He was able to procure a steady flow of freshly executed criminals, applying a current to their freshly decapitated heads. This caused the disembodied heads to grimace, convulse and twitch. After years of dreadful experiments Aldini finally got the recognition he craved, receiving an invitation to perform one of his experiments at the Royal College of Surgeons in London. In 1803 he performed his experiment on a hanged man, named George Forster, where witnesses reported the body was

on the verge of coming back to life. This recognition – by a well-known medical body – bolstered the belief that electricity could be used to cheat death.

As we started to understand more about electricity, alternative reanimation experiments began to pop up around the 1930s – mostly using dogs as subjects. One rather infamous figure in the field of canine resurrection was the American biologist Dr Robert E. Cornish, of the University of California. He theorized that a dead subject's life could be restored if the body was swung up and down rapidly, simulating blood circulation, while at the same time being injected with a concoction of adrenaline, liver extract, blood, and anticoagulants. Cornish would asphyxiate the animals then, after death, start the revival process.

Initially he suffered various failures, however his fourth and fifth experiments were allegedly brought back after being dead for 30 minutes. While the dogs – named Lazarus IV and V – had sustained severe brain damage, Cornish reported that after several days they were able to hobble around, sit up and even eat of their own accord. He claimed he had perfected his technique and in 1947 had the opportunity he desired; to perform his experiment on a human. At the time Cornish was contacted by a convicted child murderer, who had heard about his experiments and was willing to offer his cadaver for experimentation following his execution. Cornish made his preparations, even manufacturing the machine he had planned to use, however the prison warden's opposition halted his plans. Public opinion was also against Cornish, particularly the moral dilemma of what to do with the criminal if the whole bizarre experiment actually worked. If the criminal was put to death and then revived, had he technically served his sentence and was then free to go?

*Frankenstein-esque experiments gradually became nothing more than horror stories*

In the end, thankfully, Cornish never got his chance to bring a person back from the dead. Since those dark days we have come to understand cell biology and the process of cell death. Combined with a shift in the morality of human and animal testing, these Frankenstein-esque experiments gradually became nothing more than horror stories carried out in the name of science. It would appear that reanimation is nothing more than the pipe dream of mad scientists, barring an actual miracle or magic. That would, however, be the basis for a whole different type of story.



# One in six species to be snuffed out by 2100



Image: RedGazeller15

## Kira Knowles

There have been 5 major extinctions in Earth's history so far; each one has eliminated a huge number of species, taking millions of years to recover. The potential repercussions of recent predictions – that a sixth of species could be extinct by 2100 – are still not fully understood scientifically, but it may mark the beginning of another mass extinction event. There could also be indirect biological risks associated with mass extinction, however these simply are not known currently.

One of the problems is that the species count is still ongoing and there is still much to discover about Earth and its largely unexplored, isolated places. Some 18,000 species are still being found annually, which means that species could be going extinct before we've even discovered them. To put this into perspective, only 5% of the oceans, by volume, have been explored.

Additionally, climate change will create issues; small variations in temperature could cause catastrophic changes to the minute species at the bottom of the food chain. In less than forty years, winter temperatures have risen by 5°C in Antarctica, while krill levels dropped by 80% during the same time. Penguin species, such as the Chinstrap penguin, rely upon krill as a food source and as a result have become endangered.

This critical 5°C rise could lead to the acidification of oceans, consequently becoming more toxic to coral species. The changing chemistry of the oceans could be marked as one of the reasons why there is such a high extinction rate. Indeed, this has been a factor in past mass extinction events, with the current extent of change in the oceans previously unseen in the last 300 million years.

Humans have dramatically altered the world – possibly past the point of no return – which means that species have to adapt to the changing environment. Due to the impact of humans, the world can change rapidly, giving organisms' insufficient time to react

to a changing climate.

One of the worst extinction events, which occurred 250 million years ago, was caused by large volumes of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere for a prolonged period of time. Parallels are increasingly evident between this mass extinction event, named the Permian–Triassic, and the present day. Scientists have made the distinction that we are not experiencing the 'background rate' of extinction, there is a noticeably higher rate.

Worryingly, many of the species predicted to be extinct by 2100 are thought to be big animals, which will leave many species lower on the food chain able to expand their populations unchecked. For example, the well-loved polar bears could be wiped out in less than forty years which would critically endanger other species. This megafauna extinction could occur before scientists realise the full impact that these animals have as controls on the environment.

Some of the well-known species that have been found to be at risk are the Bengal tiger, Black Rhino and Western Gorilla. However, species that have tended to survive mass extinctions are widely spread and have the ability to adapt – none of these three big animals have a wide distribution. Endangered species are not the only worry; species that are thought to be in abundance could suffer equally by changes brought on by climate change.

The realisation of the loss of so many species has sparked plans for conservation. Reintroduction of species into areas they were previously driven out of is thought to combat extinction, returning animals back into their natural habitat. One example of this is the reintroduction of wolves back into the Yellowstone National Park, which allowed the Grey Wolf to be removed from the endangered list in 2009.

The news of the predicted loss of species by 2100 may jolt action from key decision makers, hopefully forcing more energy to be diverted into research – subsequently safeguarding the most at risk species. Even in extreme extinction scenarios, some species thrive on the environment created.

## What's new in Science?

• **Urban Forestry Reduces City Pollution:** Urban air pollution is a deep rooted problem in cities, however according to a recent study, planting trees could prove to be a cost-effective option for tackling it. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have reported that particulate matter (PM) pollution – estimated to claim 6.2 million lives a year by 2050 – could be reduced by as much as 24% in the vicinity of planted trees. In addition, the shade generated by trees can result in a cooling effect of up to 2°C. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) suggest that 90% of those living in cities are exposed to excessive levels of PM. Clearly planting trees could prove to be a popular option for city planners in reducing pollution.

• **Star shaped fillings for sparkling smiles:** All good things eventually come to end; a statement that can certainly be applied to dental fillings. However this may soon no longer be the case; scientists have create star-shaped structures which could help fillings keep their shape, even under extreme changes in temperatures. The structures, made from a mix of copper and elastic, display negative thermal expansion properties – meaning they shrink when heated, instead of expanding. Their combination with materials that instead expand when heated could help produce a substance that will retain its shape, no matter what you opt to put in your mouth.

• **Antibacterial Taz – Breast is Best:** Researchers in Australia have discovered several types of bacteria killing peptides existing in Tasmanian devil breast milk. The bad-ass marsupials – best known from the Looney Tunes cartoons – improve their young's immune systems by imparting six types of cathelicidins via their milk. Of these, three have been found to successfully kill bacteria, such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, and a type of fungi that are harmful to humans. This may sound 'looney' but their next step is to see if the marsupial milk can be utilised by humans...

• **Early intervention on Autism:** Parental training can result in sustained benefits for children with autism. Researchers from the University of Manchester have found that teaching interaction techniques to parents can produce improved social communication skills and reduced repetitive behaviours for autistic children. Although this is not a cure, it can significantly reduce the severity of the condition, although these benefits diminish over time.



# Red mist descends on Vettel in Mexico

**Thomas Lambton**  
Formula One

Lewis Hamilton completed the 51st Grand Prix win of his career in Mexico to ensure the 2016 F1 championship remains alive with two races remaining. Hamilton was largely comfortable throughout and only suffered a minor scare, running wide at the first corner. Hamilton, however, will recognise that the advantage in the title still remains firmly with his teammate, Nico Rosberg. Even if Hamilton were to collect maximum points in the final two races in Brazil and Abu Dhabi, this would likely be insufficient to overhaul the current gap of 19 points which affords Rosberg the luxury of requiring just a 2nd and a 3rd place finish.

However this win in Mexico, a typical dominant Hamilton performance, now takes the three time World champion to equal 2nd in the all-time list of Grand Prix victories, level with Alain Prost, and behind only Michael Schumacher. It provides further weight to the argument that were it not for Hamilton's frequent reliability, problems the state of the drivers championship would be very different.

Yet Rosberg did all that was necessary to preserve his position, and although he suffered a similar scare to Hamilton at the first corner whilst tussling with Max Verstappen, certainly the manner of his drive

points to his growing maturity as a driver. In a weekend where Hamilton was clearly dominant, there was no need for Rosberg to take any risks.

The race played out in front of a capacity crowd of 120,000, which Hamilton described in his post-race interview as 'honestly the best we get anywhere'. For much of the 71 lap race there was very little spectacle as Mercedes completed the rather expected 1-2. Nevertheless, the battle for the final spot on the podium, between Vettel, Riccardo and Verstappen, proved to be worth the wait and certainly provided its fair share of controversy.

The differing strategies of the drivers meant that entering the last five laps of the race, Verstappen was under severe pressure from both Vettel and Riccardo. On lap 68 this pressure duly told on the 19 year-old as he ran wide, cutting part of the opening corners, which prompted calls from Vettel to give up the place. Verstappen however did not relent and further aggravated Vettel by backing him into Riccardo. Riccardo looked to seize his opportunity on the final lap yet an audacious piece of defensive driving from Vettel prevented the pass.

Vettel's anger at Verstappen was evidently apparent as he offered a furious tirade of expletives over the team radio. Initially it appeared as though Vettel would take some consolation from a 3rd place finish as Verstappen was given a 5-second penalty for

cutting the track. However Vettel's joy was short lived as in further controversy he was penalised by 10 seconds for dangerous driving on the final lap whilst defending against Riccardo. The Australian was duly promoted to 3rd. The FIA has since decided not to take any action against Vettel for his outburst at the end of the Grand Prix.

Next-up, the drivers head to Brazil where Hamilton will be looking to defy his largely poor record in São Paulo and keep the pressure firmly upon Rosberg, with the German knowing that one win will give him his first world championship.



Image: Planet F1

# Sexism in football rears its ugly head

**Nancy Gillen**  
Football

2016 has not been the best year for sport. From doping to corruption allegations, negative headlines have often overshadowed the impressive feats achieved at this year's big sporting events. In addition, this year an old age issue within sport, especially football, has once again reared its ugly head.

In the past month alone, three football players have been punished for derogatory comments towards female match officials. These incidents have reminded us that sexism in football is still alive and kicking, even in 2016.

The first sexist incident occurred earlier this month, and involved two Sparta Prague players, goalkeeper Tomas Koubek and injured midfielder Lukas Vacha. They were angered by the assistant referee's failure

to call an opposition player offside as he scored a stoppage time equaliser. The female assistant referee in question, Lucie Ratajova, was subject to sexist abuse, with Koubek stating that 'women belong at the stove' and 'should not officiate men's football' and Vacha tweeting a photo of Ratajova along with the phrase 'to the stove.'

The second incident took place within English football. Brentford's Alan McCormack used abusive language towards a female match official during a match against Cardiff last April. An independent commission has now found that he committed a breach of the FA rules, resulting in a five-match ban and a £6,000 fine.

The most obvious case of sexism in football is on the pitch. Women's teams receive less funding and support, and their training facilities are often wholly inadequate. This may be less of a problem at grass-root level, but when this is still occurring in the higher echelons of the women's game there is obviously a fundamental problem. A case in point is the complicated pay dispute in which the USA's women's football team is currently embroiled. In March of this year, five players on the women's team filed a federal complaint, accusing U.S. Soccer of wage discrimination. This disagreement is yet to be resolved, but the players on the women's team have done well to highlight the sexism that is still occurring on the pitch.

However, sexism is prominent off the pitch as well, with backroom staff having to cope with abuse from

fans and managers. The infamous disagreement between the then Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho and the club's physio Eva Carneiro has been well-documented, and sexist undertones ran throughout the dispute. Mourinho claimed that Carneiro didn't 'understand the game,' suggesting that he had a complete disregard for her professionalism and knowledge of football. This contempt for a female's knowledge of football, despite them being a qualified professional, is also common among fans. I will always remember sitting amongst fellow Arsenal fans in the Emirates and hearing a tirade of sexist abuse directed at Swansea's female physio in front of us, who was simply carrying out the job she was more than qualified to do.

As long as an intimidating, sexist atmosphere remains around the footballing world, women will not want to enter it. Girls and women will refrain from playing football, officiating football, or even simply working at a football club due to the fear of being on the receiving end of sexist abuse. However, in order to eradicate the sexism running through football, more women need to get involved in it. As female players, officials and backroom staff are normalised in the footballing world, the respect and encouragement which is very much needed at the moment will naturally develop. There are numerous ways to get more women involved in football, some more difficult than others. Changing the fundamental attitude that football is solely a men's game will take time, but greater investment in women's grass-roots football and increased opportunities for women to partake in football related courses are already helping with this. Nonetheless, more needs to be done to drag football into the modern world.



Image: Rex Features



# Mighty Mike wins again in Belgium

**Luke Etheridge**  
Darts

Michael Van Gerwen showed the world why he is the PDC number one with a dominant performance in the European Championship final, beating Austria's Mensur Suljovic 11-1, with MVG throwing the highest ever average in a televised ranking final. The 27-year old Dutchman is now undefeated in televised ranking events since January, and will be hoping to continue his fantastic run of form all the way to the World Championship.

The only time van Gerwen looked under threat was in his first match of the tournament, against Simon Whitlock, with the match going to a last leg decider. Whitlock won the Euros in 2012, and looked like pulling off a huge upset as he went 5-3 up. The Dutchman broke Whitlock's throw to take the match to a final leg, with the Australian missing one dart at double 15 to win the match. This performance seemed to wake up van Gerwen, who was sublime for the rest of the weekend, and never looked like being beaten.

The new qualification format for the European Championship led to some big names missing out. Only the top 32 performers from the European Tour qualified, with former world champions Adrian Lewis and Raymond van Barneveld just a few of the big names to miss out. The system also led to some interesting first round draws, with reigning world champion Gary Anderson being whitewashed by number three

seed James Wade, and number seven seed Alan Norris being 'rewarded' for his performances this year with a first round match against Phil Taylor, with the 16-time world champion winning 6-3.

Many people went into the final day of the tournament expecting another Taylor and van Gerwen showdown in the final, with the Englishman playing Suljovic, who had only ever won five legs in their four previous matches, in the quarter finals. However, the Austrian has been one of the best players on the PDC circuit in 2016, and gained his first tournament win at the International Darts Open in September. Both Taylor and Suljovic played fantastically, averaging 104 and 105 respectively, but it was Mensur who was overcome with joy at the end of the match, bowing to his opponent as he won 10-3. Peter Wright was his next opponent, with Suljovic winning 11-8 to make it into his first ever televised final.

Although van Gerwen proved too strong in the final, this was the weekend where Mensur truly showed what he was capable of. His slow, methodical style of play can sometimes wind up his opponents, but there is no doubt it gets results, with his robotic accuracy on double 14 leading many commentators to call it 'The Mensur Double'. His performance in Belgium earned him £40,000, his highest ever pay-check in darts, and pushed him up to number seven in the world rankings. His confidence has grown tremendously over the last twelve months, and it will be a surprise if his form doesn't earn him his first ever invite into

the Premier League of Darts next February.

There was a sombre mood around the tournament, as news reached the players that famed darts commentator Dave Lanning had passed away following a short illness. There is no doubt that he would have enjoyed the fantastic darts on show, especially from the dominant Michael van Gerwen. Time will tell whether this is the season he finally turns his performances into a second world title.



Image: Sky Sports

# Historic defeat for England in Dhaka

**Alex Pestell**  
Cricket

A historic day in the world of cricket saw Bangladesh claim their maiden test win over England. Having only previously beaten minnows Zimbabwe and a severely weakened West Indian side, this was their first victory against a team of high calibre and prompted widespread celebrations across the country. Bangladesh had come out second best in 72 of their previous 95 test matches and were thus unaccustomed to such success. Their triumph however, having been marked as firm underdogs before the two match series, did not take all by surprise. The Bangladeshi's performance in the first test at Chittagong, losing

by just 22 runs, offered signs that this team might just be closing the gap with the top tier sides at the international level. 6 days later this was confirmed.

England, however, come away from Bangladesh unsatisfied and embarrassed. Their weak performance, primarily with the bat, has already led to questions concerning the preparation undertaken to compete against the dry, spinning wickets found in the sub-continent. Severe doubts have also arisen as to the side's chances in their upcoming series against India, currently the number one ranked test side. Historically England have struggled against spin when away from home however it seemed to be particularly problematic this time around. To make matters worse, issues off the field such as the daunting, albeit necessary, presence of armed bodyguards arguably affected the team's on-field performance. Nonetheless, whatever the reason, England will certainly have to improve to stand any chance of beating India in a week's time.



Image: Sky Sports

Invigorated by their narrow defeat in Chittagong and sensing an upset, Bangladesh started the second test in Dhaka strongly, putting on 171 with the loss of

just one wicket; Tamim Iqbal (104) and Mominul (66) leading the charge. However, as we have so often seen in recent years, Bangladesh were unable to sustain this pressure. The next 9 wickets, through poor shot play and tight bowling, fell for a meagre 49 runs, a shocking collapse even by Bangladeshi standards.

Despite this, England failed to capitalise on their advantage. Losing wickets at frequent intervals, they stumbled to 244 all out with only Root (56), Woakes (46) and Rashid (44\*) offering any resistance. England's weakness against spin was ruthlessly exposed by 19 year old off spinner, Mehedi Hasan, who, playing in just his second test, took a phenomenal 6-82. Encouraged by their bowling performance and just 24 runs behind, Bangladesh sought to push the game beyond England in their second innings. Yet another strong start from Tamim (40) and opening partner Kayes (78) saw their side firmly take the ascendancy. Further contributions from Mahmudullah (47) and Shakib (41) allowed Bangladesh to finish on 296 all out, leaving England a difficult 273 to win.

A convincing beginning from openers Cook (59) and Duckett (56) helped England to 100 without loss at tea on the third day. However, seemingly on the way to achieving their highest successful run chase in Asia, England proceeded to self-destruct. Duckett fell the first ball after tea, triggering the collapse which was to condemn them to their first ever defeat against Bangladesh. Middle and lower order failings left England 164 all out, 108 runs short, and pondering what had happened. This match will live long in the memory of both sets of supporters.

# Melbourne magic for Almandin

**John Gibby**  
Horse Racing

Britain's wait for a winner in Australia's biggest race continued this week, as Almandin won the Melbourne Cup for trainer Robert Hickmott and jockey Kerrin McEvoy. The seven-year-old gelding was sent after the leaders just after the turn into the straight at Flemington, and emerged victorious over Irish challenger Heartbreak City by a head, with

Hartnell, the 9/2 favourite, back in third. 100,000 people turned out to watch the race, which carried a prize pot of £2.25 million, and is the culmination of the Melbourne Spring Carnival.

All in all it was a disappointing year for the European challenge in the world's richest two mile flat handicap, a race which attracted a typically international field, including horses from New Zealand, America and Japan. Much of the pre-race hype surrounded Michael Bell's Goodwood Cup winner Big Orange, with former British Champion Jockey Jamie Spencer in the saddle. However, carrying top weight in this handicap race (in which the horses carry different weights depending on their ability) he could only manage tenth, with Charlie Appleby's Oceanographer, Aidan O'Brien's Bondi Beach and Willie Mullins' Wicklow Brave under Frankie Dettori all further down the field.

The leaders were no doubt suited by the quick pace from the off, which was set by Japanese raider Curren Mirotic, with Big Orange and Qewy also racing prominently in the early stages of the race. At two miles long, the cup is one of the longest top-class flat races in the world, and it clearly paid to be further back in the field through the first few furlongs as the first four home all raced midfield in the early stages. It wasn't long before the honest pace soon showed though as the field strung out heading into the back straight, and turning for home both McEvoy and Joao Moreira on Heartbreak City were perfectly positioned to sneak through together and do battle inside the final couple of hundred metres, with Almandin just about getting up on the line to land the spoils.

McEvoy described it as a 'dream come true' in the moments following the race, and it has been a case of lightning striking twice for the 36-year-old in 'the race that stops a nation', having previously won it on Brew in 2000. The world class Moreira will also be pleased with the fantastic ride he gave Heartbreak City, who recently won the Ebor Handicap a little closer to home at York, and in fact the owners of that horse said they were so delighted with finishing second that they 'would have been happy with last'. That is the magic of big occasions in racing like this; never mind how we all like to deride the phrase, here it truly is the taking part that counts.



Image: Getty Images

# Valiant volleyball defeat for Leeds

**John Gibby**  
Men's Volleyball-Leeds 1st 2-3 Manchester  
2nd

There was heartbreak for the Men's Volleyball 1s at The Gryphon Sports Centre on Wednesday, as they went down fighting 3-2 to Manchester 2s, in an epic match that lasted for well over two hours. It was Manchester who went into an early lead, taking advantage of some poor Leeds returning to shoot off with a 13-2 advantage in the first set, a period which was broken up by a lengthy injury break. Stopping the rot with a powerful and precise point, Leeds went on to peg their opponents back to 14-7, in a set that like the much of the rest of the game was played largely at the net rather than in deeper areas of the court. However, in this game, power is always important, and the Mancunians used theirs to perfection to assert in the first set as the Gryphons petered out and lost 25-15.

Things were more positive for Leeds at the beginning of the second set; it was 5-5 at the first time-out when they were given a stern talking to. These words seemed to do their job as they managed to shake off a persistent Manchester. The visitors never quite went away, always staying within five points but ultimately Leeds retained their lead, and with it took the second set to level things up in the match. Manchester finished off the set strongly, however, and carried this form over into the next, establishing a 10-2 advantage following a controversial call from the officials to award them a point after a perceived net foul. The home side pulled things back to 14-14 however, and from there it was nip and tuck play

until Manchester just about clinched it when Leeds struck the ball out to make it 27-25.

The fourth set, delayed slightly by the fact the allotted time for the game had elapsed - it had lasted that long already - was by far the closest of the five, with never more than a two point cushion between the two sides. It can't be said it was of the highest quality, either, being full of net fouls and misplaced serves from both sides, as the effect the long game was having on them was beginning to show. If either side has seized the initiative it seems they could have been comfortable winners of this set, but as it was Leeds needed two avoidable Manchester fumbles to just squeeze the point, again 27-25.

So it was that the game went to a fifth and final set - played to just 15 points as usual - and from the beginning it seemed that Leeds felt a beaten side. Manchester went into an early lead and within the short format the Gryphons never truly looked like catching them. After

more than two hours and over 200 points being played, Manchester sealed the win in the final set 15-9. The disappointment the valiant home side felt was evident, but they can take solace in their performance, in which they looked a real force to be reckoned with in the BUCS Northern 1A league this year.



Image: The Gryphon



# Basketball triumphant against Teesside

**Luke Etheridge**  
Women's basketball

The Edge played host to a fantastic performance from Leeds' women's basketball team on Wednesday, as they won at home for the first time this season, beating Teesside 53-15. Leeds were hoping to win their second game in succession, after beating Hull away from home a fortnight ago.

Leeds won the opening tip and started the game brightly, scoring with their first attack of the match. Teesside had a few good chances after this but were wasteful, with Leeds' counter attack working fantastically as they took a 4-0 lead. Quick thinking by the team left Aoise Keegan with an easy shot to put the home side 6 points ahead. Teesside spent the majority of the first quarter frustrated by good defensive work from Leeds, and were already twelve points down by the time they scored their first basket, courtesy of a free throw. Another score at the end of the quarter meant Leeds had a nine point lead going into the break.

Once again, Leeds were the brightest side at the start of the quarter, scoring two baskets in quick succession to take a 16-3 lead. Although they looked on top for the majority of the quarter, Leeds were committing more fouls, with Teesside taking advantage of the free throws to get within ten points, before the first three-point shot of the game from Leeds, followed up by two points from Lucy Craft, meant the home side were 21-7 leaders at half time.

Teesside showed good belief at the start of the second half, but resolute defending from Leeds neutralised

the threat, with both sides scoring points early in the quarter. Leeds then stepped up a gear, with some fantastic play from the team allowing Emma Johnson to make the score 27-10. This clinical finishing continued for the rest of the quarter, with Teesside unable to capitalise on the free throw opportunities they were given, and spent most of the match resorting to long shots, resulting in Leeds having the majority of the possession throughout the game. The home side's substitutions had given the team the extra energy they needed, as they scored twelve more points before the end of the quarter, to take an unassailable 39-10 lead, with only one quarter remaining.

The away side could attribute the performance to a lack of game time, having forfeited their first match of the season against Northumbria. Leeds were in no mood to be forgiving however, scoring six points early on in the final quarter. Teesside looked dejected with the score line, but managed to stop Leeds' run of twenty unanswered points with a good shot from underneath the basket to make the score 45-12. Free throws helped Leeds build their lead even further before a fantastic shot from well outside the three-point line from Emma Irwin put the home side past the fifty point mark, with both teams scoring a few more points in the final minutes as the game wound down, with Leeds ending deserved 53-15 winners.

Leeds will be hoping that score line gives them a psychological advantage as they play Teesside again next week in Middlesbrough, in their first cup match of the season. Another fantastic team performance from the Gryphons should easily see them reach the next round.



## BUCS fixtures 9th November

### Full fixtures and results at [bucs.org.uk](http://bucs.org.uk)

Badminton Mens 3rd vs Salford Mens 1st: 2pm, The Edge

Badminton Womens 1st vs Nottingham 1st: 4pm, The Edge

Fencing Mens 1st vs Northumbria 1st: 2pm, The Edge

Fencing Womens 1st vs Edinburgh 1st: 2pm, Venue TBC

Football Mens 3rd vs Huddersfield 1st: 1.30pm, Weetwood

Football Womens 1st vs UCLAN 1st: 2pm, Weetwood

Hockey Mens 1st vs Birmingham 2nd: 5.30pm, Weetwood

Hockey Womens 2nd vs Chester 1st: 4pm, Weetwood

Netball 2nd vs Lancaster 2nd: 1pm, Gryphon Sports Centre

Rugby League Mens 1st vs Hull 1st: 3pm, Buslingthorpe Vale Rugby Ground

Rugby Union Mens 1st vs Newcastle 1st: 2pm, Weetwood

Rugby Union Womens 1st vs Bangor 1st: 1.45pm, Weetwood

Squash Womens 1st vs Sheffield 1st: 1.30pm, Gryphon Sports Centre

Volleyball Womens 1st vs Sheffield 1st: 7pm, Gryphon Sports Centre

Volleyball Mens 1st vs Northumbria 2nd: 7pm, Gryphon Sports Centre

Water Polo 1st vs Manchester 1st: 2.15pm, The Edge



Image: Luke Etheridge

# Leeds 2nds 1-0 Leeds 3rds



## Tight win for 2nds in derby

James Felton  
Men's Football 2nds & 3rds

In a very close affair, Leeds seconds beat the third side by a solitary goal as the match finished 1-0 to the designated 'home' side at Weetwood Park. Although there was only one goal, the match was full of opportunities and, on the whole, it has to be said, was a fairly evenly fought game.

From the off, the match was intense: both teams pressed up the pitch in the early stages, aiming to put pressure on the other side hoping that they could force them into early mistakes. The 3rds started off the match with several decent chances, hitting the first shot on target with a header from Di Ken after a lovely floating cross from Callum Stratton. The seconds also created several impressive attacking moves in the opening stages, with right-back Charlie Howells providing plenty of width and whipped in several dangerous crosses which were begging for a goal to be scored from. After a quarter of an hour, then, there had been plenty of shots, but no huge tests for either goalkeeper. The thirds then had a brilliant chance to open the scoring as lovely build-up play saw Andreas Tofarides put in a brilliant cross but the header was just too much from Statton and

the ball went over the bar. Thus far, although there had been plenty of shots, the blocking, tackling and intercepting from both sides had stifled the attacking moves, meaning the attackers were feeding off scraps and not really having clear-cut chances to score.

Just after half an hour into the match a powerful shot from Tofarides looked to be heading into the top corner, but for a brilliant save from Liam Cline. From the resulting corner he had another good chance to open the scoring but Cline produced a spectacular reflex save to make sure the match remained level. The thirds then had a third glorious chance to score from yet another corner but some scrambling in the defence meant that the seconds finally were able to clear the ball away from the danger zone. When the thirds did manage to score, it was disallowed and so the score remained 0-0 going into half-time.

So far, this had been a fairly even match. Both sides defended well, and were perhaps just lacking that spark of creativity to produce better chances. Indeed, the chances so far – although there were plenty – had mainly been either long-shots or from set-pieces. The second half was certainly all to play for. During the opening stages of the second half, just like Frank Lampard six years ago, the thirds smashed a shot onto the bar which bounced down, thinking

it had crossed the line. The referee waved away the appeals and didn't give a goal, despite the substantial protests. Whether the ball crossed the line, only goal-line technology will know for certain. One thing that was for certain was that it just did not seem to be the thirds day. The first, and only, goal of the match was soon after scored by Reuben Knowles, hitting the ball over the goalkeeper and into the top corner and giving the second team a 1-0 lead.

With twenty minutes remaining the thirds went on the attack, Elliot Eaton came out for the ball, but the speedy attacker got there before him and guided the ball goal-wards. It seemed to all the world to be going in. However, as was the luck of the thirds, some brilliant defending from the second team meant they managed to clear the ball just before it crossed the line. In the last ten minutes, the thirds tried everything to salvage the point they were desperate for: long-throws, long-shots, headers, anything. The game would however finish 1-0 to the seconds. Both sides should be pleased enough with their respective performances. Both goalkeepers, Liam Cline and Elliot Eaton made outstanding saves which kept their respective teams in the match. A match that was combative, intense and entertaining, everything you want from a University fixture.