



THE GRYPHON

The official newspaper of Leeds University

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Issue 2

06/10/17

Fabian Hamilton

We spoke to the Shadow Secretary of Peace and Disarmament

Page 8



Photo Showcase

The Gryphon Photography team have showcased their best work

Page 12



Come Fly With Me

Business took a closer look at budget airlines

Page 17



Varsity Round-Up

All the details from the biggest university sports event of the year

Page 23



Image: Adriana de las Cuevas Salgado

Leeds Uni Edged Out After Rugby Collapse

Beckett regain their crown after last year's Finale loss

Reece Parker
Editor-in-Chief

The University of Leeds has been pipped by Leeds Beckett yet again to Varsity victory, after the year long period of events culminated in the Rugby Union finale earlier this week. The finale, held at Headingley Carnegie amongst ongoing development works, began as a tense affair before Leeds Beckett pulled away in the second half,

winning 29-8. The overall victory was confirmed before the game had even began, results elsewhere meaning Leeds Beckett ultimately came out on top with a clear victory, 32.5-29.5.

Clean sweeps in basketball, cricket, handball and tennis by Leeds Beckett killed off any real chance of Leeds University achieving the overall win.

Despite this, spirited performances in the pool, in both swimming and water-polo, gained Leeds University

all points on show, whilst their squash and volleyball teams took the lions share in their respective sports. Of the 62 games played, the results varied from decisive victories, such as Leeds University's thumping 13-4 victory in Korfball, and narrow defeats, such as Woman's Football 1s last minute 2-1 defeat. Strangely, indoor rowing was called as a draw, whilst Women's Netball was nicked by Beckett by a mere two points.



Editor of the Week

Jonny Chard

Alongside looking after the online News section and interviewing Fabian Hamilton, Jonny found time to fix our website, and launch a Gryphon Fantasy Football League.

Quote of the Week

“May has appropriated Corbyn’s policies. What will she do next – grow a beard and start an allotment?”

Eddie Mair to Amber Rudd

Credits

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Editor’s Letter:



Dear Readers,

When taking this post, amongst the barrage of warnings and guidance provided to me by the previous Editor-in-Chief, Jess, one thing seemed a little peculiar. ‘You will always forget to write your Editor’s Letter’, she warned me, ‘just when you think print night is going smoothly, it will rear its ugly head’. I was sure this wouldn’t happen to me, but no later than the second official issue of the term, I’ve stumbled into the age-old pitfall. So here it is, my hastily scribbled Editor’s Letter, my weekly attempt at ‘doing journalism’, my sloppily carved headstone on my freshly dug grave.

The first few weeks of term are always a peculiar experience for students. That permanent hangover which dogs you through freshers week is replaced by the somehow worse freshers flu, the honeymoon period between loan coming in and rent going out is cruelly snapped shut, and you finally work out who it is in your house that is secretly not buying milk. Its also when the first assignments of the year begin to roll in, and you realise that Edward Boyle isn’t just a nice place to get coffee and catch up with your mates. Now I’ve graduated and work for this paper full time, I thought I wouldn’t suffer from the feeling of terror this period provides. However, it has somehow been intensified by existing in a strange purgatory between professional and adult

life, where although the stream of work I find myself in doesn’t fluctuate week on week, I feel it must do, and constantly fool myself into thinking that I’ve got a shed-load of work that I’ve forgotten about. Reading through what I’ve written so far, I think Jess should’ve warned me that the Editor’s Letter might become a form of public therapy session, something which I must put in my handover to my successor.

In other more relevant news, this week was dominated by our loss to Beckett in the Varsity. This year was a strange event, with large sections of the ground being shut due to renovation, which meant the crowds were smaller, and the atmosphere suffered as such. Whilst the main event went out with a fizzle rather than a bang, the Varsity Day Festival filled the void it left, and the Varsity Park Run was also a huge success. If we’re being honest, the success of last year was hugely unlikely to be matched, but when we do win again, it will certainly be an experience.

Reece Parker,
Editor-in-Chief
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Contents:

4-9	News
10-12	Features
13-15	Views
16-17	Business
18-19	Science
20	Society
21-24	Sports

Exec Columns:

Jack Palmer – Union Affairs Officer

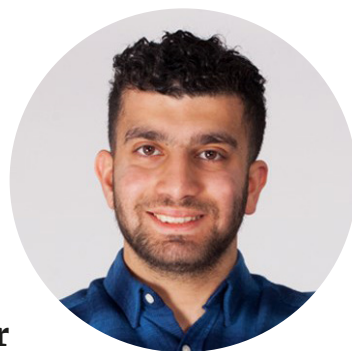


I'm writing the morning after Leeds Varsity Finale, and while I'm still getting over the heartbreak of the rugby, varsity is a great time of year to showcase all the sports we do at Leeds and support our friends. Well done to everybody who competed and made it so close!

It's also the beginning of Black History Month, where our Equality & Diversity Officer, Tash, has worked with students and staff to put on an exciting calendar celebrating black culture internationally and here in Leeds. Keep an eye out for the next event and get involved.

This week I've been sitting on interview panels for recruiting new senior members of staff, planning a democratic engagement event for early November to talk about the future of LUU and attended our Appointments and Governance subcommittee (sexy right?) to talk about this year's Leadership Race in February! It's never too early to chat to us about wanting to be on the Exec, so make sure you get in touch. Otherwise, since last year I've been involved in some really positive work with the University regarding access to education for Asylum Seekers and while there may be some exciting news to tell you in the next Gryphon, the Exec are currently planning a campaign to raise awareness, watch this space...

Zaki Kaf Al-Ghazal – Education Officer



So as semester one is well and truly under way, there's a lot to look forward to! Discussions with the university over asylum seeker scholarship provisions are gathering pace and we've been making good progress – watch this space! Our work on improving the personal tuition system is going well – Chloe and I have just met with the Organisational Development and Professional Learning staff at the University and we're looking to expand the way in which personal tutors are trained and prepared for their roles. The University is aware of how important pastoral care is to students and know that changes need to be made. It's just trying to speed the process up and gear it towards holistic change.

We're also preparing for our first Education Assembly in a few weeks and ensuring other School Reps are inducted. Being a Rep was one of the highlights of my time at the university so I'm really keen on empowering the Reps and making sure that they get the best experience possible. Melz and Tom, the previous Education Officers, gave me an awesome experience when I was a Rep twice in the past, so hopefully their great work can be carried on by me!

George Bissett – Community Officer



The lights came up to illuminate a shimmering sea of exhausted dancers. "Thank you for coming, Fruity will be back next week!" Exodus. Bounding up the stairs, I decided to take the Night Bus home, because the night is dark and full of Crispy's.

"Excuse me," I enquired with the yellow-jacketed gatekeeper, "can I take the Night Bus home?" "Everything's that way, love!" I marched round the corner, only to be herded out of the building by more of the yellow jackets. "I'm trying to get to the foyer to get the Night Bus!" I blurted out in an impassioned attempt to get past the security, but to no avail. 'No bother,' I thought to myself; 'the front door of the union must be open if I am being forced out of this door...'. "We want to get the Night Bus!" I mouthed to the guard on the other side of the locked glass doors. I was granted access back into the building I was ejected from just moments ago. I looked through the window across the barren wind-ravaged precinct, filled with young friendships, lost souls and blue tongues. Why me?

I learned that the Night Bus is near impossible for students to take home from Fruity and I've already met with LUU senior staff to get this sorted out; one day, the Fruity Bus will be a reality.

Jess Bassett – Activities Officer



Did you forget to go to the Fresher's fair? Didn't get a chance to sign up for a new activity? Feel like you can't get involved with societies? Don't worry, we can help! The Give it Go term 1 program is running until December, providing the opportunity to try a new society or activity with no prior experience needed. Find more details about the events at www.luu.org.uk or pop into the Union to pick up a GIAG booklet! I promise you won't regret it!

After working at LUU for the past 3 months it is amazing to see some of my ideas become a reality. Did anyone notice the red VK's in Fruity? Thank me later. After an eventful night at Fruity on Friday it was great to see so many Uni of Leeds students and Beckett students turn out for the Varsity Park Run at 8.30am on Saturday morning. It was fantastic to see so many students, staff and alumni take part in the running and volunteering at this event and wearing their colours for Varsity this year! As I write this we have played 12 fixtures with 49 remaining therefore it is all the play for and I am feeling extremely positive. A massive well done to everyone involved and best of luck for the upcoming matches!

Natasha Mutch-Vidal – Equality and Diversity Officer



October means one thing...Black History Month! I have organised a calendar of events for the whole month for students to get involved in. Famous black LGBT activist Audre Lorde once said 'Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare'. This was the inspiration for the first event, a 'self care day' on the 10th October. We invite self-defining Black women and non binary students to a day of gardening and a colouring session, a first ever for BHM in LUU so this is very exciting!

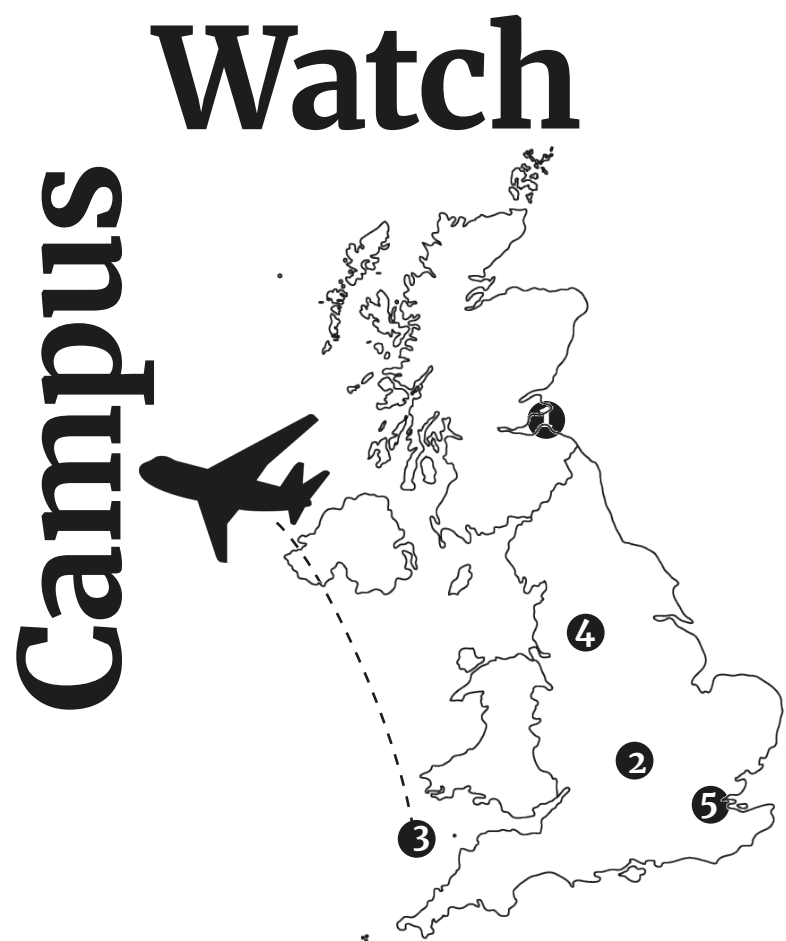
I am also really looking forward to our discussion on traditional African spirituality on 19 October, a topic often shrouded in mystique so come along to find out more! My last highlight is that we will be getting a pop up barber shop in on the 25th October! This is linked to our mental health event centring the voices of young black men who are too often labelled and stereotype negatively in society. Finally, throughout the month we will have a pop up Black History Month space in Market square opposite Santander with all the info and a display of how we have celebrated this campaign in the past so come through!

Chloe Sparks – Welfare Officer



Leeds is an amazing city to live in, with so many great places to go to that even after 3 years of living here I still have a bucket list of things to do here. Yet there can be times where as students we don't feel safe, even on our own campus. There's a lot that LUU does to support student safety, such as the Ask for Angela scheme and the we've got your back campaign that trained our staff as well as bars and venues in Leeds to always believe our students who disclose incidents of sexual harassment.

There's still so much more to be done in Leeds to create a culture of zero tolerance for sexual harassment and violence. If you went to some Varsity events you might have spotted the Zero Tolerance campaign that I've been supporting Leeds Beckett Students' Union to run. Leeds Rhinos have taken a pledge to take part in some consent training, and Leeds Beckett students are already following in their footsteps taking LBSU's pledge. Keep your eyes peeled for the chance to take the pledge with LUU to show that students in Leeds care about creating a safer city and environment for us all to enjoy uni.



1 University of St Andrews, Scotland One student suspended and six disciplined

One student has been suspended and six disciplined after indirect threats made through a Facebook group chat.

These threats were made to third-year female undergraduates at St Andrews University. Not only did they include threats about “murder” and “elaborate revenge”, the messages also talked about throwing battery acid in the victims’ faces, according to screenshots shown on Sunday.

The victims told The Saint, after finding out about the threats, that they felt “scared and violated”, afraid to leave their flats alone.

Originally the conversations were reported to the police. However, no criminal act had been committed so St Andrews University was left to deal with the punishments as they saw fit.

One student was suspended and the other six were made to write letters of apology to the victims, while also undergoing an anti-bullying course.

Freya Kerr

2 University of Oxford Oxford college remove portrait of Aung San Suu Kyi from its main entrance

The portrait was removed in response to the international criticism Aung San Suu Kyi received following the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar.

The decisions to remove the portrait was made by the governing body of the college.

Under the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi, over 400,000 Muslims from the Rohingya population of Myanmar have been displaced. The United Nations commissioner for human rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, said “the whole situation seems like textbook ethnic cleansing”.

Oxford also commented on the incident saying it “hopes the Myanmar administration, led by Oxford alumna Aung San Suu Kyi, can eliminate discrimination and oppression, and demonstrate to the world that Myanmar values the lives of all its citizens”.

Aysha Zaheer

4 University of Manchester Manchester University censors title of Holocaust survivor’s speech criticising Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians

When Israeli diplomats claimed that the title of the survivor’s speech amounted to anti-Semitic hate speech, the university have censored the name of Marika Sherwood’s talk, headlined: “You’re doing to the Palestinians what the Nazis did to me.”

The talk by the survivor of the Budapest ghetto had been organised by students, to speak as part of Israeli Apartheid Week in March about the treatment of Palestinians by the Israelis. An email from Michael Freeman, the embassy’s counsellor for civil society affairs, after a visit from the diplomats to Manchester in February, highlighted the breach of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of anti-semitism.

Following this email, the event’s organiser, Huda Ammori, was informed that the title of the talk was not to be permitted, in light of its ‘unduly provocative nature’.

Sherwood claimed her talk’s heading could not be characterised as anti-Semitic, but the event went ahead with the title removed.

Beccy Hutchinson

3 George Mason University, Virginia Student dies after taking hallucinogenic drug and falling from fifth floor

A student at George Mason University died on Saturday after allegedly ingesting a hallucinogenic substance and falling from the window of his dormitory room, located on the fifth floor.

The student was a 19-year-old sophomore, according to GMU spokesman Michael Sandler. The student’s name has not yet been released, and the university have declined to identify the hallucinogenic drug in question.

The incident occurred at the Potomac Heights residence hall around 4:40p.m. on Saturday. The student was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

There is concern that others may be in possession of the same drug. These students have been encouraged to call campus police in the interest of safety, and will not be prosecuted if they decide to come forward.

Christy Bucklow

5 University College London London students to strike as accommodation becomes too expensive

Students in London are preparing to strike because the cost of their accommodation has spiralled out of control.

It comes after 200 students at University College London successfully protested against the cost and condition of their halls earlier this year.

The students were granted £350,000 to fund accommodation bursaries. Many students in London are disgusted with the conditions of their houses with live wires exposed, broken furniture and unsafe boilers, leaving them with no hot water.

Vice-President of Welfare at the NUS claims students are being taken advantage of, stating “It’s unacceptable for landlords to be offering students inadequate homes. More robust accreditation schemes are necessary, and we want to see local authorities enforcing adequate standards.”

William Marriott

May Offers Olive Branch to Students

Alex Jones

The government has promised to freeze fees at the current rate of £9,250. In an interview on Sunday with Andrew Marr, Theresa May went back on her campaign pledge to increase tuition fees to £9,500, claiming to have 'listened to voters' following the June election.

The U-turn represents just one part of an effort by the Conservatives to tempt young people from the lure of Jeremy Corbyn.

May has also chosen to re-evaluate fee repayment thresholds. The new plan will be officially introduced in the November budget, when graduates will thereafter begin loan repayments once they earn £25,000, not £21,000.

Moreover, in the third prong of this wholesale review of student finance, the prime minister has refused to rule out the introduction of a 'graduate tax' – a method of financing higher education.

Clearly, the Conservative Party is attempting to broaden its student support base. Labour, who are intent on abolishing student fees altogether, have labelled May's so-called 'Uni-turn' as "desperate".

This change of tune embodies only half of May's double-barrelled attempt to gain support amongst

the disillusioned young. The Prime Minister has also promised a £10 billion extension of the Help to Buy scheme, which aids people in the pursuit of owning newly built homes.

Entering the housing market is undoubtedly one of the greatest challenges facing young people today; only 20% of twenty-five year olds own a property, down from 46% two decades ago.

The Help to Buy scheme enables buyers to get a mortgage with a deposit of as little as 5%. The government's proposed extension of the scheme has been predicted to place 135,000 people on the first rungs of the property ladder. The Adam Smith Institute (a right-wing think-tank), however, has likened the proposal to 'throwing petrol on a bonfire,' implying that the scheme counter-intuitively serves to push up house prices.

The economic implications of these new proposals are currently unclear and will be judged in due time; but their intention is certain: to right the wrongs of the election and chip away at the youth-sustained surge of Jeremy Corbyn.



Image: Daily Mirror

Students Should Live Modestly, Claims Minister

Rabeeah Moeen
News Editor

Following headlines about maintenance loans leaving students short on cash every month, Jo Johnson, the Universities minister, has said students need "a frugal existence" in order to get by.

After being informed about the fact that many students struggle to cover their rent, Johnson said students can work or save, thereby saving their parents from covering the loan shortage. He added that some students "want to live very modestly," as opposed to "a different lifestyle."

His comments have come under fire by Angela Rayner, the Shadow Education Secretary, saying: "Johnson's ignorance about students' lives is absolutely breathtaking."

This comes amid the news that the government may be bringing back maintenance grants.

Only a year after the move, which generated a large amount of backlash, ministers in the Department of Education may be planning to reinstate the maintenance grant, according to iNews.

A senior DofE source told iNews: "we don't think it is right that the poorest students come out of university with the most debt."

Police Appeal for Information After Woodhouse Sexual Assaults

Ian White and Jonny Chard
News Editors

Detectives from West Yorkshire Police are looking for a man thought to be behind two sexual assaults on women in the Woodhouse area of Leeds last week.

The attacks took place in the early hours of Tuesday 26 September. One woman, 21, was grabbed and pushed into a bus stop by a man as she walked home across Woodhouse Moor.

She managed to struggle free but the man approached and grabbed her again at the junction with Delph Lane. When she shouted for help and flagged a passing taxi, the man fled.

Less than half an hour later, a different 21-year-old woman was walking home from a night out when she noticed a man following her along Delph Lane.

As she was on the doorstep of her house the man approached her and tried to force his way in. The victim managed to shut the door on him and the man left the scene.

Officers are also looking into whether these incidents are linked to a robbery of a woman outside her home the previous week, at about 4.30am on Tuesday 19 September.

The 21-year-old woman was returning to her home on Blenheim Terrace after a night out, when she was approached by a male who pulled her to the floor. The assailant stole the victim's phone after a brief struggle and made off in the direction of Blackman Lane.

He is described as being black, aged between 25 and 30, and of average height and strong build.

Detective Inspector Richard Holmes of Leeds District CID, said that the same suspect is believed to be responsible for both sexual assaults on September 26.



Tuition Fees: Where do the Two Main Parties Stand?

Ian White
News Editor

Conservatives

Theresa May has pledged to cap tuition fees at the current rate of £9,250 a year, as well as raising the earning threshold for beginning repayments from £21,000 to £25,000 a year.

She has also promised a review of higher education and student funding in the long term, with the possible reintroduction of maintenance grants and varying levels of fees depending on individual courses.

“We are pledging to help students with an immediate freeze in maximum fee levels and by increasing the amount graduates can earn before they start paying their fees back,” May said as the Conservative party conference opened.

The move to freeze tuition fees seems to have killed off the proposed Teaching Excellence Framework, or TEF, which would have allowed courses with high levels of student satisfaction to increase their charges beyond £10,000 per year.

This change of direction by the government is intended as an olive branch to younger voters, who overwhelmingly voted Labour in June.



Image: Conservative Party



Image: Labour Party

Labour

In its 2017 election manifesto, Labour pledged the complete abolition of tuition fees and the re-introduction of maintenance grants.

In an interview during the campaign the Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn suggested that labour would “deal with” existing graduate and student debt. However, cancelling existing debt may cost upwards of £100bn, and labour quickly distanced itself from the suggestion that debt would be written off.

It has been estimated that abolishing tuition fees would cost the government £9.5bn a year. Labour claims the money required would be raised by increasing taxation of high earners and big corporations.

Pledging to abolish fees has contributed significantly to Labour’s popularity amongst younger voters, reflected in their better than expected showing during the election.

As a result, issues surrounding student finances have been propelled to the forefront of the national political debate, with both parties likely to make further policy announcements in the coming months in the battle for the support of students and younger voters.

Academics Threaten Strikes Over Pensions

Anna Smith

With the raising of university tuition, Vice-Chancellors have been accused of being fat cats creaming off the increased fees. Yet the financial position of most academics is far from secure.

The University Superannuation Scheme (USS) – the pension fund for more than 390,000 academics – now has the largest pension debt of any UK pension fund, with a deficit of £17.5 billion.

The deficit is a result of poor management and failed stock market investment following the 2008 financial crisis.

“However, lower pensions and reduced take home pay, with an increase in pension contributions, means the overall benefits of an academic career may be in decline”

Ben Goldacre, an Oxford university academic, has accused the USS of using “dodgy assumptions we wouldn’t tolerate in research”.

USS has claimed that to keep retirement benefits at the current levels, contributions from employees and employers would have to be raised from 26 per cent to over 32 per cent: something that the employers reject.

The pension crisis is likely to have a profound impact on academia and universities on a wider scale. There have been suggestions that tuition fees will be diverted away from teaching and research and into the struggling pension fund. This could cause a decrease in the standard of teaching in UK universities.

Furthermore, one of the main draws to academic jobs is the pay and the promise of a good pension. However, lower pensions and reduced take home pay, with an increase in pension contributions, means the overall benefits of an academic career may be in decline.

At a time of uncertainty this may mean a smaller academic market and a decline in the quality of those working in Higher Education.

Academics are becoming increasingly concerned about the pension scheme and the employer’s reaction. The lecturers’ union, the UCU, is currently consulting members over future options, including the possibility of going on strike.

The danger remains that unless the situation is resolved, there could be serious disruption in Britain’s universities.



BHM17 / For more details
and the full line-up,
visit us at luu.org.uk

Self Care Day / Tuesday 10 October

In collaboration with Leeds University Union's Black Feminist Society, Rooted will be running a closed gardening session for black female and non binary students. Have a brew on us, and chill out with their 'Sisters Uncut' colouring books after the session.

Rep Your Nation / Tuesday 10 October

Students from African diaspora (international and British born) are invited to an evening of food, music and socialising to celebrate BHM17. Feel free to bring your flags and come in your traditional wear.

Black Magic: A Discussion on Black Spirituality / Thursday 19 October

Join us as experts and practitioners explore African spiritual philosophies, a topic shrouded in much mystique, negativity, superstition and ignorance. We will explore the spiritual essence of humanity and relationships with the immaterial realm.

An evening with Lady FKA / Monday 23 October

The UK's headline POC gender non-conforming drag artist Lady FKA hosts a part poetry and spoken-word performance, part open discussion lecture and part make-up tutorial. The night will also explore Lady FKA's experiences of dysphoria, social anxiety and gender troubles.

Man Up! Black Masculinity and Mental Health / Tuesday 24 October

Join us as we discuss the notion of the 'strong, black man'. Research shows that black men are overrepresented in the diagnosis of serious mental illnesses, yet are discouraged from opening up. Selected attendees will be offered free trims in our pop up barber shop where they are willing to listen to any worries.

Live Performance: Meet the Crafts / Thursday 26 October

The live performance of Ellen and William Crafts' best-selling novel 'A Thousand Miles to Freedom', their true story of escaping slavery in America.

In Conversation With: Fabian Hamilton

First running for Leeds North-East in 1992, Fabian Hamilton has held the seat since 1997. For the past twenty years, he's worked tirelessly for the people of his constituency, earning his place in the shadow cabinet from 2016 with the new position of Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament. Editor-in-Chief Reece Parker, and News Editor Jonny Chard, speak with him about Trident, the Rohingya Crisis, Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn.

You saw your personal majority grow by 15% to 17,000 in the latest election. How did you find the campaign?

The extraordinary thing about the 2017 result comes when you see it in context. North East Leeds was, for nearly 100 years, a Tory seat. In 1987 Labour was in third place, around 12,000 votes, with the Social Democratic Party 1500 votes above us, and the Conservatives with an overall majority of about 22,000 votes. I stood in 1992 and lost by 4000 but established Labour as the main contender in opposition to the Tories. We won in 1997 with a 7000 majority, and people said 'you'll hold it for two terms then it will revert to type'. Our majority decreased slightly in 2001, dipped after the Iraq War in 2005 due to our large Muslim population, although I did strongly oppose the war. Labour were damaged, we went down to around a 5300 majority, and people said 'you've lost it, Labour was out, Hamilton was out, end of story'. We won by 4500 votes. That was the low water mark. 2015 was the worst year for us [Labour] in living memory, and we increased our majority to our highest ever, 7250 votes, and a total of 23,000 votes. Move to June 8th this year, and its now just nine short of 17,000, with the majority bigger than the entire Conservative vote of 16000. We are the second safest in Leeds after central Leeds.

It was a personal victory but it was also a party victory and a victory for the workers. We had almost 100 people on the street, almost continuously for the entire campaign, in multiple locations. The Tories couldn't compete with that, nobody could really compete with that. There were 7 candidates, but it became a very binary election.

Do you believe Jeremy Corbyn is capable of winning the next general election?

Absolutely. The election was declared on April 18th, the day after the Easter holidays and the day we were due back in parliament, everybody was in shock. The first couple of weeks were a bit rocky. For the first couple of weeks we were getting a lot of people saying 'yes' in regards to voting for us, but then always 'but'. People didn't like Corbyn, or Brexit, or some-other reason. We began to get rumours of the manifesto about 10 days before it was actually launched and people were saying 'I quite like what you're putting in the manifesto, I might vote for you because of that... but I don't like Corbyn'. Then of course it changed, and it changed radically when Corbyn turned up to the Brudenell Social Club and 5000 people were there. They weren't all students, you look at the pictures, there's people as far as the eye can see, but actually a lot of them are older people, younger people, children even, it's a complete mixture. As we got nearer people were saying 'ive never voted labour before but im voting labour because of Corbyn', so the complete opposite.

Could he [Corbyn] be prime minister? Has he got what it takes? I think he showed we had. We are such a class ridden society that we believe our leaders, whether male or female, have to be kind of superhuman, have to be people up there that we can never touch, that we can never come close to, and we attack them for being like that but actually that's what we are looking for, someone that is not one of us. Increasingly that's become something that people are disillusioned with. They don't want some kind of remote leader who doesn't have any idea what people go through day in day out. Can Corbyn be prime minister? My answer is not conventionally no, but he's shown that he's a man that actually understands what people are going through, that he empathises with people. Look at Grenfell tower after the election, he was straight out there, that could've backfired very badly. But the first person he'd met was somebody he'd known for years. He is what we need actually, he's ordinary, normal, he understands people's anxieties and pressures.

Do you think the attempts to oust him are now completely over?

Yes. You have to contrast the first PLP meeting in June after the election with the one the year before just after the EU referendum. It was boiling hot and hostile. Corbyn spoke and was heckled, and anyone who tried to support him was shouted down, he sounded robotic and he sounded exhausted. A year on, even those who hated Corbyn admit they only scraped in through a handful of votes due to the 'Corbyn Effect'. Some thought he was going to lose and that he

was going to lose the next ten elections, and he proved the opposite, and that's all they want. They may not like his brand of politics, and some of the people around him, but they full accept that he's an election winner not a loser.

You recently called for Labour to change its policy toward renewal of Trident. Why was this?

I've always been opposed to our nuclear so-called 'deterrent.' My view on Trident is that the matter is decided, we can't go back on this now. The money's gone, the submarines have been built, but we don't have to deploy them and I would rather we didn't. Can we stop trident? I don't think we can, but can we get rid of our nuclear weapons? Yes, by treaty. We have the United Nations Ban Treaty, and when you change the international norms of a certain type of weaponry, as we did for chemical weapons, you make them illegal. It doesn't matter if all the countries in the world don't sign up for it, if the majority of the members of the UN do, then it starts to become rather disreputable to own these weapons. Already more than 50 countries have signed up for it, and once 50 ratify it through the international Parliament, within 90 days of the 50th country signing it, it becomes international law whether we've signed it or not.

Every nuclear weapons system is irrelevant in the event of a cyber-attack, and our entire world is dependent on information and communication technologies. You can shut down the NHS, you can shut down traffic systems. We should be concentrating on hybrid warfare, on asymmetric attacks. Your enemies are different now, its not a polarised world where you have the Soviet Bloc vs the Western Bloc, and therefore these weapons are totally outdated. I think we've just spent a lot of money on something which will be totally irrelevant.

With the stand-off between North Korea and the United States, and Donald Trump recently dismissing Rex Tillerson's attempt at diplomatic dialogue and negotiation with 'Little Rocket Man' as 'wasting his time', peace and disarmament is seemingly unattainable. What is your response to the level of nuclear threat posed by the situation?

Its very dangerous and it certainly threatens to spiral out of control with someone like Donald Trump in the White House. But let's step back for a minute, Kim Jong-Un may be a dictator but he's not mad. Gaddafi started to develop a nuclear weapons system, and he was persuaded to dismantle it. In return we [promised] to have diplomatic relations with him again and Libya would be not excluded from the international community. Look what happened to Libya, not only was he deposed and eventually murdered, but it's a total mess. Kim Jong Un isn't mad, getting rid of nuclear weapons doesn't do any good because [to him] you can't trust the West and the only threat they understand is a nuclear deterrent. It's an evil wicked regime but you have to see it from his perspective. How do we deal with it? We have to talk to these people. The economy of North Korea is less than 2% of that of South Korea, and even though they spend a third of their GDP on defence, it is a fraction of what South Korea spends on theirs. I think we need to talk to them. Clearly your people have needs, your economy has needs, how can we help you develop that economy to benefit people you claim to represent.

Speaking of foreign affairs, Boris Johnson claimed in the week that 'Sirte', a Libyan city, could become a world class tourist destination if it could 'clear the dead bodies away'. Hedi Allen, a fellow Tory MP, has called for him to be sacked. What is your take on the whole situation?

It's a shocking thing to say. The problem with Boris is that there's only one thing Boris is interested in, it's Boris. This is a man who purports to be one of the most brilliant and best educated people who acts as a clown, I think actually he's a fool, who pretends to be clever and acts as a clown. He only cares about Boris Johnson. He knows what he wants, but he's not even clever at it.

With the Rohingya crisis, as its not one which receives much mainstream press coverage so do you mind giving us a quick overview of what it is for our readers. Outline the current Conservative policy towards the crisis, and if you were in power, how would yours differ?

The Rohingya are a Muslim minority of Bangladeshi/ Bengali origin who were forcibly moved by the British empire into what we used to know as Burma, but is now known as Myanmar. That was a few generations ago, they've never been accepted by the Burmese who are predominately Buddhists. Burma has been run a group who took over the country thirty years ago and have ruled it with a rod of iron ever since. One of the democracy campaigners was Aung San Suu Kyi who won a Nobel prize for her promotion of democracy and her opposition to these appalling people around the country. The problem is, here are a group of fairly poor people, they've never been given citizenship to the country and so they are kind of strangers in their own land. So in the frustration of the discrimination they face day in day out, a small number formed a kind of radical terror cell, if you like, and started attacking police stations and military institutions.

What you have to remember about Myanmar is that Aung San Suu Kyi, after nearly 30 years of campaigning for democracy, is now nominally the leader of the country, but the generals are still in control. She doesn't have any say over the military forces whatsoever under the new constitution. Of source she should be speaking out about this, but she's quite scared. She's getting a lot of the opprobrium from the international press and the governments in the world. I'd like to be a bit softer on her, but I'd like her to speak out, don't get me wrong. In retaliation for the attacks by a small proportion of the Rohingya Muslims, The Burmese forces and police started burning, pillaging, murdering and raping Rohingya people so they fled en-masse to Bangladesh. It's a terrible, terrible humanitarian situation, it really is a genocide in a way, and two million have turned up on the border of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a very poor country, it does not have the resources to support them, the UN is doing its very best, and people are calling the Nobel prize award of Aung San Suu Kyi to be withdrawn. I feel that's irrelevant, what we have to do is put pressure on. We raised this in the House of Commons, and the answer that Mark Field, the Minister of State, gave was really complacent. It overlooked the fact that the Burmese authorities are not democratically accountable, that it's not a proper democracy, that they went completely haywire after some pretty serious criminal attacks by people from the Rohingya minority and took it out on all of them. It is disgraceful, and the government are saying it's not surprising that the authorities are doing this, that we'll do what we can to help and we'll put the pressure on.

No, we should be taking the lead in the UN Security Council, we should be saying no, never mind Aung San Suu Kyi, the regime there will never be accepted in the international community if they continue to do things like this, and we will stop all exports of weapons and know-how and assistance to Myanmar as long as this carries on. That we expect them to pay the costs, to pay their dues to the people who have been expelled, to compensate the people who have been murdered, and bring to justice those who have done the murdering. We need to be much stronger otherwise people get away with it.

Can Corbyn be prime minister? My answer is not conventionally no, but he's shown that he's a man that actually understands what people are going through, that he empathises with people.

When your post of 'Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament' was announced, Gerald Howarth, a Conservative MP, shunned it as 'absurd'. Adding 'What are they going to do, go around and be nice to people'. Your thoughts?

I initially said ' [it's a] strange thing to say'. I recently spoke to the Bishop of Leeds, who said 'I thought what's wrong with that, it's a good start, why don't we be nice to people'. There are some people in the world who are so evil and wicked, you can never ever change them, you've just got to deal with them. But the vast majority of them are nasty for a reason, and if you attack the underlying reason you might just get some sense out of them. I think, yes let's be nice to people, that's a good start.

Claims of anti-Semitism have plagued the Labour Party in recent years. As a Jewish man, yourself, do you feel the Party dealt with the allegations in an appropriate manner and do you feel the Party is doing enough to deal with the problem?

I don't think we have done a good job and covered ourselves in glory. There are a fringe of people in the Labour Party, as there are in all political parties, that think the cause of all the issues in the world is 'the Jews'. No, we've not dealt with it adequately in my opinion, we could've been much stronger. Jeremy Corbyn is not an anti-Semite or a racist, he never will be, there isn't a bone in his body that's anti-Semitic or racist, and I know that because I know him personally. Still, there are some people around him that like to call themselves Corbynites or Momentum Supporters that believe this lie that the cause of all the problems in the reason is the existence of the state of Israel and the so-called Zionists who are the enemy. You cannot separate Zionism and Israel from the Jewish people. Every Jew in this country will have a relative in Israel. I don't like what the government of Israel does, that does not mean to say that I think the state of Israel should be abolished or should not exit.

What is your favourite thing about being a Leeds MP?

The city of Leeds of course. Of course I want Leeds United to do well but I'm not a great football fan. I'd say the other thing is what we've done in cycling, because that's my sport. I'm London born but I've lived here 38 years now. Leeds has been very good to my family, all my kids were brought up here and have Leeds accents. It's a great city and I'm so proud of it, it has been a real privilege serving North-East Leeds for 20 years.



The problem with Boris is that there's only one thing Boris is interested in, it's Boris.



Volunteering Abroad: Do You Only Get What You Give?

Stephanie Uwalaka discusses her personal experience volunteering abroad, as well as the benefits of volunteering locally.

Stephanie Uwalaka
Features Editor

This summer, I undertook a volunteering placement in Senegal, West Africa, doing a care placement to help street children, called 'Talibés', in a volunteer centre. Talibés are young boys aged from as young as three to twenty-one years old, who have been sent into urban areas to go to school but are from such poor backgrounds that they must fend for themselves in groups; selling what they can to make money for their teachers or just to get something to eat. Even the boys I helped while volunteering sleep in abandoned houses – or nooks and crannies in more built up areas – in order to get a decent night's rest. Although the local community is aware of the boys' situations, helping where they can with food, money and clothes, the immense health, safety and developmental risks for the children sleeping rough are still all too present.

"Volunteering is not something you have to go abroad to do. Just because there are no photos in a sunny, faraway place, doesn't mean that the value of the work cannot be the same"

I chose to do my volunteering placement through *Projects Abroad*. I had wanted to go to Senegal for some time and thought this placement would allow me to work with children, to develop a variety of important skills (ranging from first aid training to teaching basic English and French), and to use my French in an environment well outside the confines of a university seminar room.

To tell you a bit about *Projects Abroad*:

"*Projects Abroad* is the world's leading international volunteering organization, with headquarters in the UK and offices and projects in over 50 countries around the world. With our global reach, we offer the widest range of volunteer projects and locations, and our own dedicated staff are on hand 24/7 to make sure our volunteers make the most of their experience and leave a lasting, positive impact. [...] Since 1992, we have sent volunteers to work in 38 countries and helped over 100,000 people make a lasting impact across the globe."



Image: *Where There Be Dragons*



Image: *Projects Abroad*

Through the volunteering project, I got to meet and work with lovely locals and other students and young people from Italy, Belgium and France. Working as a team in the centre was highly necessary, because at times there were so many kids running and jumping around, you could feel a bit outnumbered without some support! It was also extremely interesting to get to work in a different climate, environment and culture – overall, a valuable experience indeed. But upon arriving I felt an immediate sense of being 'back home'; the near-tropical humid air, coupled with the intense midday sun on my skin and the fleeting cool breezes of the evenings, reminded me of family holidays in Nigeria.

After only a couple of weeks volunteering, I had made strong bonds with some of the boys and it was incredibly difficult to say good bye, almost as much as it was to say bye to my fellow volunteers! Not only this, but leaving my host family – with whom I had now become almost part of the furniture, and who were wondering why I was leaving at all – left me pondering changing my flights just so I could stay.

But as summer neared its end, I returned home with my heart warmed from being able to help these children who at times have no-one to tell them to behave. To give them a hug. To blow their noses. To encourage them to draw and be creative. I am so grateful to have been even the slightest of help, and can only hope the charity and organisation from *Projects Abroad* can give consistent aid for more projects like this, and allow people who are willing to give their time and funds to go abroad and volunteer.

"Upon arriving I felt an immediate sense of being 'back home'; the near-tropical humid air, coupled with the intense midday sun on my skin and the fleeting cool breezes of the evenings, reminded me of family holidays in Nigeria"

However, it is important to remember that volunteering is not something you have to go abroad to do. There are so many great causes here in the UK and Leeds in particular that require volunteers' support; just because there are no photos in a sunny, faraway place, doesn't mean that the value of the work cannot be the same. Change starts when and where we begin to help our neighbour, our friends, our communities, and open ourselves up to being able to volunteer our time, energy and resources to help those in need.

Volunteering at home or even abroad may not be for everyone, or for the faint-hearted, but for those who have the will, drive and ability, why not?

For more information about *Projects Abroad*, visit:
<https://www.projects-abroad.org/about-us/>

For more information on volunteering placements at Leeds, visit:

<http://students.leeds.ac.uk/info/10600/opportunities/1028/volunteering>

<http://www.leedsforlife.leeds.ac.uk/opportunity>

<https://www.luu.org.uk/clubs-and-societies/volunteering/>

– Meditation – It's Not What You Think

Amidst a chaotic life at university, mental fitness can easily be pushed down to the bottom of our priority lists. The Gryphon uncovers the significance of mental fitness and mindfulness in today's fast-paced world.

Somya Mehta
Features Editor

Stress, depression and anxiety: words that were fairly uncommon a few decades ago have now become a topic of daily household conversation. Burdens caused by education or work and interpersonal relationship issues have prevailed in our society for as long as one can remember. So, why then, has mental illness increased remarkably over the years? Is it that suddenly a lot of people have developed mental health problems? Even though human-beings have been dealing with problems and stressful situations for decades, mental illness has never been as common as it is now.

“Meditation refers to the act of embarking on an journey within, to attain a place beyond every-day consciousness, where we can indulge in positive reflection and introspection and thoroughly enjoy the silence created around us”

What has changed? Simple: The negligence of mental health. Especially at university, where students are constantly juggling between attending lectures, completing assignments, maintaining blossoming social lives, and maybe even holding down part-time jobs, mental fitness can easily get placed at the bottom of a young person's list of priorities. The human mind is often taken for granted, its fitness deemed as insignificant and in isolation to the rest of the body. However, mental fitness is vital to be able to cope with the fast pace of this rapidly changing and complex world. So, just like going to the gym or eating healthy for our physical fitness, we must make sure we do the very same for our mind. While there are a number of different mindfulness practices one can undertake, meditation seems to be a highly effective way to establish a healthy mind and body connection.

The problem that arises now is the widely attached stigma to meditation. Meditation refers to the act of embarking on an journey within, to attain a place beyond every-day consciousness, where we can indulge in positive reflection and introspection and thoroughly enjoy the silence created around us. It is not, by any means, an escape from reality, to a state of trance or expanded consciousness. Practising it does not require us to chant any mantra and it certainly does not classify us as hippies-on-the-go! It does not make us avoid reality. Instead, it allows us to face our surroundings with an elevated thought process- the product of clear introspection.

Practicing meditation can help organise our thoughts in a manner that is manageable by the mind, in order to prevent a build up of mental confusion, conflict or chaos. Needless to say, there have been several scientific studies based on the importance of mediation in one's life and its advantages. Yet the fruitful results of meditation stay unknown to many people. A study from UCLA established that long-term meditators had better-preserved brains than non-meditators (2015). Similarly, a review study at Johns Hopkins explored the ability of mindfulness meditation to reduce symptoms of depression, anxiety, and pain. The researchers found that the effect-size of meditation was the same as the effect-size of anti-depressants (2014).

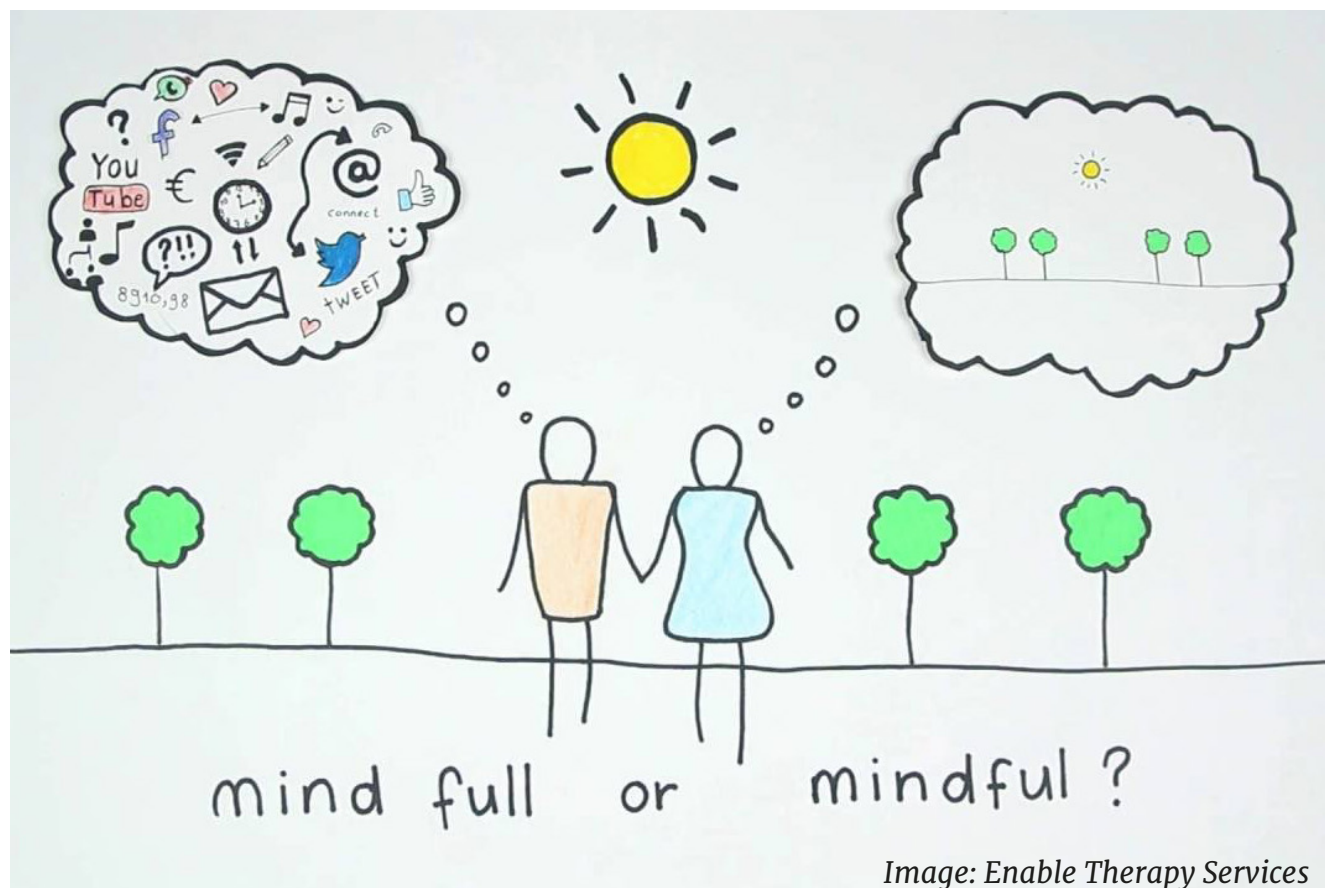


Image: Enable Therapy Services

Meditation helps us to choose creative thinking over the automated responses and ways of thinking that our minds have been conditioned to over the years, allowing us to re-discover ourselves and our positive qualities. By re-discovering ourselves, not only can we build on our strengths, but also develop new attitudes to life. However, like any other skill, this too follows the principle of “practice makes perfect”, and the more we practise it in our daily lives, the more effective our practise becomes.

“A review study at Johns Hopkins explored the ability of mindfulness meditation to reduce symptoms of depression, anxiety, and pain. The researchers found that the effect-size of meditation was the same as the effect-size of anti-depressants”

Many people reject the idea of meditation as they are unable to practice it successfully and, therefore, regard it as hogwash. Again, like any other skill, it might not come to you the very first instance. Rarely do people like to control their diet and include all whole meal and green veggies. But, if necessary for their fitness, they are ready to be disciplined. In the same way, meditation acts as those green veggies and whole meal for our mind. And if we want to strive for mental fitness, it is important that we feed our mind with the right mindfulness ‘nutrients’.

Even if that requires an extra bit of discipline and hard work, we should be open, rather than dismissive, towards it.

Quick Guide to Meditate Successfully:

Choose light meditation music to play in the background.

Find a comfortable place to sit.

DO NOT try to empty your mind or stop your thoughts.

Find a set of positive thoughts to replay in your mind and create a relaxed mind-set.

If you feel like it, you can take it one step further, and go through the actions you have performed throughout the day.

See yourself as a performer, undertaking particular roles and performing certain actions during that day.

In your visualisation, alter the actions that you would've liked to perform differently.

This need not be something excessively trivial, it could be as simple as, perhaps, wanting to change the way you responded to your friend over lunch or coffee.

If this seems too complicated, then search for a guided meditation commentary on YouTube and follow that.

Photography Showcase

Are you an aspiring photographer? Do you simply like taking pictures? Join us on Facebook @ 'The Gryphon Photographers 2017/18' for the opportunity to publish your amazing work in the newspaper.

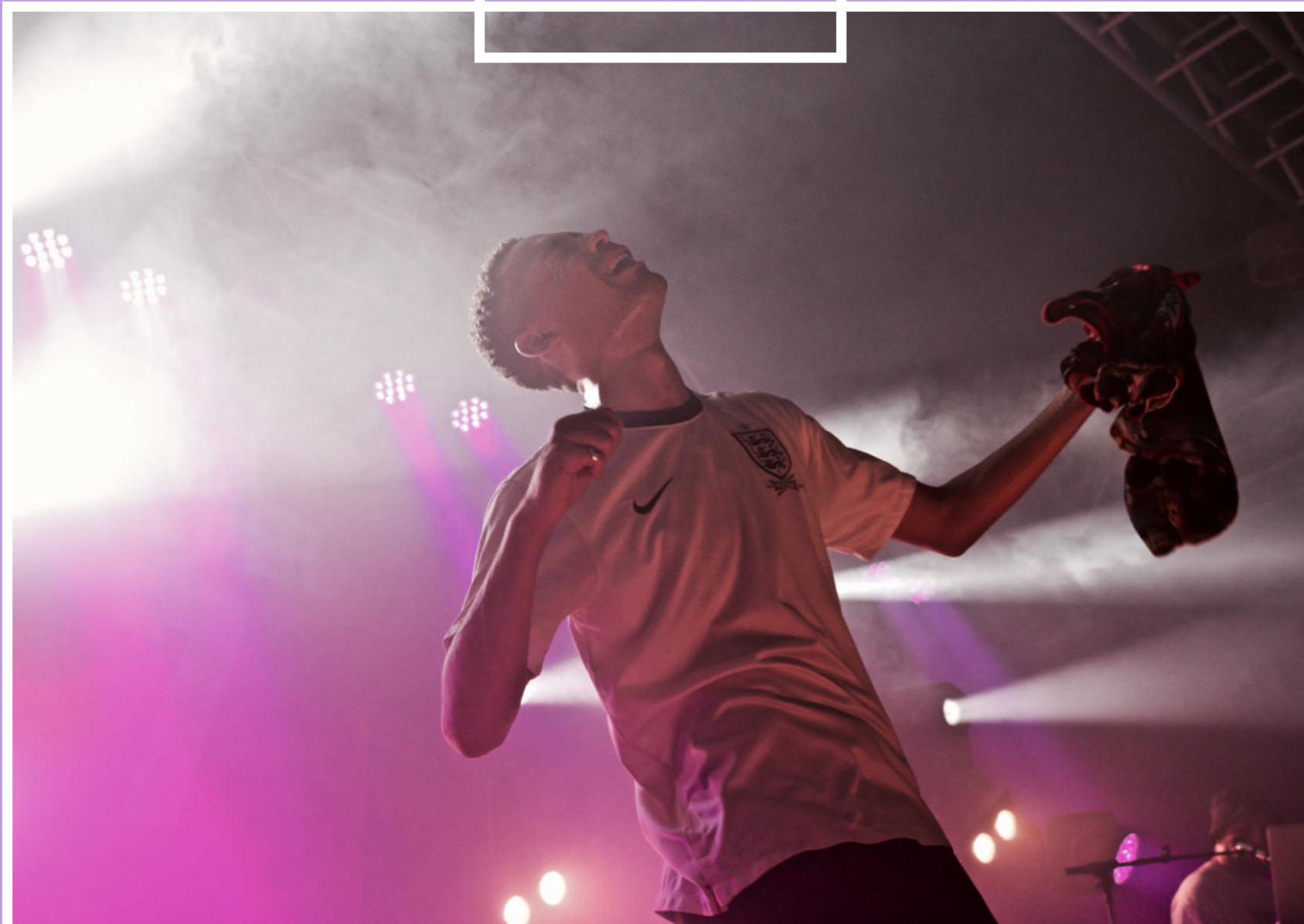
Adriana de las Cuevas
Photography Editor

A big thank you to everyone that participated in this showcase (the first one so far!), and congratulations to those who were selected. Don't worry, if your picture was not showcased this time, keep taking photographs and good luck for the next issue!



In The Middle

Issue 2
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Music • Clubs • Fashion • Arts • Lifestyle and Culture • Blogs

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Contents

4

Online Associate, Juliette Roswell,
speaks to indie band Anteros

6

This week's gig round up includes
mercury-nominated Loyle Carner and
YouTube sensation Lewis Watson

8

Douglas McConachie, resident
Primal Sound DJ, give us his African
Boogie roundup

12

Style Editors, Sara and Stephanie,
take you through the best outfits on
the streets of Leeds

14

We discuss the nominees for this
years Tuner Prize held at Hull, City of
Culture 2017

18

Feeling homesick? Lifestyle and
Culture are here to make you feel
better!

21

International student, Pao-Hua,
tells us what it's really like to
experience the UK for the first time

23

This weeks Agony Aunt looks at
what to do in Leeds if you're not a
fan of clubbing

In the Middle with Anteros

London four-piece Anteros spoke to Online Associate, Juliette Rowsell, to talk about life touring, using songwriting as therapy and the inclusion of women in the music industry.



Image: Clash Magazine

Being in your 20s is weird. It's like being caught in the middle of two milestones. You're not a kid anymore, but don't feel quite ready to embrace the term 'adulthood'. There's this expectation that you have your shit together, but you feel anything but that. "Music is like therapy for us," Laura Hayward, the front-woman of Anteros tells me. "I always thought of music as a way of getting a piece of mind, without having to spend hundreds and hundreds of pounds of therapists."

If you haven't heard of Anteros yet, then take note. The self-proclaimed pioneers of 'bitter dream pop' are just that: therapy. From singing about failing relationships ('Breakfast', 'The Beat') to everyone's best friend/arch nemesis alcohol ('Drunk'), they are a band that have a knack for transforming the hardships of life in your 20s into intoxicating songs of celebration.

"At the end of the day we're all in our 20s, we're writing about things that we're going through. If you're going to write about something sad, if you're going to write about something affecting you, we feel it's a lot better if you do it to a happy melody. It almost gives you power and strength on stage and you're taking back those moments, but at the same time celebrating them in a way."

Josh Rumble, the band's bassist adds: "I think it gives you power over those situations. The whole idea of a 'positive mental attitude' doesn't mean that you're forgetting about the stuff in mind."

Indeed, with their pop-infused melodies and 100mph guitar lines, there is the sense that the band are on a mission to cure the world of heartbreak and hardship. 'I think at times like these when the world is in such a complicated situation, it's nice to go to a gig and reflect, but at the same time just let it out, see the positives and how there's so many people who have it so much worse,' Laura says. "When I go to gigs I like to dance, I like to use that as therapy for myself. We want to make people dance at our gigs. We want to make them feel like they can unleash that as well."

Despite having not yet released an album, the band have already played The Other Stage at Glastonbury, supported Two Door Cinema Club on tour, and been the Guardian's band of the week. To say it's been a busy year is an understatement: Josh describes how, "for the first four or five months of the year, even between tours, we had about five days off – at most." Laura adds, "it was really weird, we had one weekend when we didn't have a festival and it was like 'Oh we're at home, oh shit'."

I ask about the strain of living such a hectic lifestyle, and Laura replies, "it's weird not seeing your family or friends for such a long time and playing catch up." Josh adds, "hearing everyone's in-jokes that you have no idea about is

always really strange; when you come back to the conversation and there's jokes and references to things that you haven't got a clue what they're about." It's a sobering moment, and Laura responds after a pause: "Getting used to not being as hectic is weird. It's important as well to try and find some time to stop. Regain some mental sanity." Josh is our guru of self-care for the day, and he comments "people often forget that actually you need to stop otherwise you can't start again" – a piece of advice that we could all perhaps learn from.

Earlier this summer, Anteros were selected to co-headline the NME Under the Radar gig – a gig designed to showcase the latest up and coming talent. For audience members, it was a gig with a pure-party atmosphere. For the band, it was a moment of self-confidence: "it was great to feel like we're not doing this alone. With anything creative you're constantly flooded with self-doubt, so when someone like NME comes along, you're not going to say no." With Anteros being a female fronted band and their co-headliners, urban hip-hop band The Age of L.U.N.A., being the antithesis of the bands typically associated with NME, the gig was a celebration of talent and diversity.

And undoubtedly, Laura is the frontwoman that every girl growing up in the early 2010s wish they had: she is perfectly and unashamedly seductive, a glitter clad queen that knows how to rock a stage. "I think 100% there is still an issue," she comments in reference to the dominance of white boys within the indie scene. "But it's getting a lot better. We went on three tours this year, and I was the only girl in one of the bands, which says a lot about the industry."

However, despite the obvious issues that are still apparent, she is keen to stress that the industry is changing: "there are so many female fronted projects or bands, like Wolf Alice – what they're doing is amazing. Yonaka as well are great, and Girli. There are a lot of women coming through, it's whether or not the boy's club music industry is actually going to –", she pauses. "They're going to have to make way, they've got no other option."

So, what's next for Anteros? "Hibernation album mode starts where we're just banging our head against a wall all the time," laughs Laura. Having just embarked on their first headline show, the band are set to tour with Yonaka and Stereo Honey later this October. And why should you go see them? "Come down because it's fun! Come party with us! Come along and see how you feel, sing along, let all the shitty stuff out – we'd love to have you there."

Anteros are the predrinks, the party and the afters all stirred into one – don't be the last one to turn up to this glitter and bitter dream pop parade.

Juliette Rowsell

Anteros @ Oporto 27/09



Image: Meg Firth

For a band that have yet to release an album, Anteros set the jam-packed venue of Oporto alight with their 'bitter dream pop' setlist. Tonight is, pure and simply, about leaving your troubles at the door and getting intoxicated to the groove of Anteros.

The band are at home in Oporto: a tiny bar framed with red neon lights, it is a true party atmosphere. As they roar through the rollickingly jubilant 'Breakfast' and 'The Beat', the band's ability of reclaiming the darkness with their bright and fast-paced melodies is on full display.

Hayward is the captivating frontwoman that all 14 years old girls dreamed of being but never had. Yet, with the band's distinctively indie-pop sound, the London four-piece perhaps risk sounding stuck in 2007 rather than being a fresh band of 2017. But as a live performance, this doesn't matter. Live, their tracks are injected with an extra dose of explosive kick, and 'Cherry Pop' in particular feels like it was made to be performed live. The band has an electric energy and flare for performance, that whether you're a fan of their EPs or not, you are still captured by this communal sense of elation. It is a nineties and noughties revival haze all stirred into one.

Currently within the music industry – as with other art forms – the question of gender is one that won't go away. There has been debate as to whether it is progressive to bring up a woman's gender in reference to their art, or whether it stalls progress. But frontwoman Laura Hayward tonight shows why this is a discussion we should be having, and why we should be having it now.

It is a moment of feminism in action when Hayward interrupts mid-song to tell a crowd of drunk rowdy men to "watch it, there's girls here", pointing to the young girls that these men were crashing into. "We're not delicate", she says, after the song has finished, "we just don't want to be crushed to death". It is a simple action, one that many will have probably forgotten, but it is a moment that reveals many of the complications within the indie scene. Hayward's act feels like a moment of small revolution, yet it is also one that shouldn't feel so. In all my years of gigging and seeing male-fronted indie bands, I have never seen anyone make such a comment. It's a sobering moment: this is a gig that refuses to allow the male gigging experience have precedent over anyone else's. When Hayward brings three female audience members up to dance with her during 'Party', we get a glimpse into a world where other forms of gigging experiences are at the forefront. This is a party for all, not the few, and the band should be commended for making everyone feel welcome.

Covered in glitter and wayward curls, Hayward is the disco ball, lights and action all in one. As they sing their self-titled track 'Anteros', bassist Joshua Rumble and guitarist Jack Couzens leap wildly around stage to Hayward's soaring vocals. It is an atmosphere of pure celebration. This is a band that look like they're having just as much fun on stage, as we are watching them.

Juliette Rowsell

"It is a moment of feminism in action when Hayward interrupts mid-song to tell a crowd of drunk rowdy men to "watch it, there's girls here", pointing to the young girls that these men were crashing into."



Image: Meg Firth

This Week's Gigs Roundup

Loyle Carner @ Stylus 02/10

Loyle Carner has something special. This was evident from his first outings in Leeds, at Headrow House and Belgrave respectively, but even more so now, with this gig having to be upgraded from the latter to Stylus. For one night only, Carner brought his rhyming capabilities to the VK soaked floors of the student union.

With the opening act completed, the crowd swelled in anticipation of Carner, packing the dancefloor and balconies, raising the room temperature to almost uncomfortable levels. Rebel Kleff was first on stage, the first rotations of 'Isle of Arran' creating a swell of bubbling energy. Carner then joined him, roaring through his opener, finishing the track to chants of 'Leeds, Leeds, Leeds' which he dutifully replicated. Ever the showman, he passed a bottle of whisky into the audience, requesting that everyone took a sip and passed it around. This playfulness exudes from Carner, who dove straight into a performance of 'No Worries' before surging into a freestyle off of the back of it, which paired his name with the rhyme 'face kind of yellow look a bit like a banana'. Perhaps not his most intricate wordplay, but delivered in an infectiously upbeat style nonetheless. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Carner performed tracks such as 'BFG', a tribute to his late step-father, which ends with the refrain 'Everybody says I'm fucking sad, of course I'm fucking sad, I miss my fucking dad'. A touching moment which was met with an ovation.

Carner is not your run of the mill hip-hop performer. His performances are perforated with freestyles, his stage strewn with props to represent his family home, his music as much indebted to his mum as his producer, Rebel Kleff. For Carner, you can see how much this entire experience means to him, and how grateful he is for those who helped him get to this stage. As the backing track of 'Sun of Jean' closes, his mother's poem rings around the hall, which ends with a line which effortlessly sums up exact what Carner has done, and can do, 'the world is his, that scribble of a boy'.

Reece Parker

Lewis Watson @ Brudenell Social Club 25/09

If you've ever been to a Lewis Watson gig before then you know to expect an abundance of cheeky charm and a smattering of songs that tug on your heart strings, and his gig at Brudenell Social Club was no exception. Bounding onto the stage, Watson remarked that he and his band were going to "sing songs about [his] ex-girlfriend for a little while", before opening with his 2016 comeback single 'Maybe We're Home', which already feels like a classic the crowd have known for years.

With the recent release of an acoustic version of his second album, *Midnight*, Watson debuted a stripped-back, introspective take on his songs, his raspy voice serving to make the vulnerability behind his emotional lyrics more present than I'd ever noticed before. With that precedent set even old favourites like 'Sink or Swim' and 'Bones' were met with a new undertone of melancholy that certainly contrasted with his inherent charisma and amusing tales between songs.

Perhaps the most emotionally charged song of the whole night was 'Run', with the lyrics being delivered with a rawness that was electric and heartbreaking. Commenting that it was still a hard song for him to sing live, Lewis played acoustically to the quiet and respectful audience, whilst my heart felt like it was being torn from my chest. You could almost hear the lump in his throat and feel the rawness of his emotions over the quiet guitar chords.

Once everyone had dried their eyes, Lewis' band were back on stage to perform a slower version of 'Into The Wild', propelling the crowd back into a jovial singalong which continued for the rest of his set. The night closers, 'Forever' and 'Deep The Water', ultimately left you feeling like you'd had your heart sewn back together after all, as the whole room sang together in unity.

Everyone, including Watson, experienced how special Brudenell can be when the room was filled with an infectious warmth and love.

Lucy Bradshaw



Image: Laura Colson

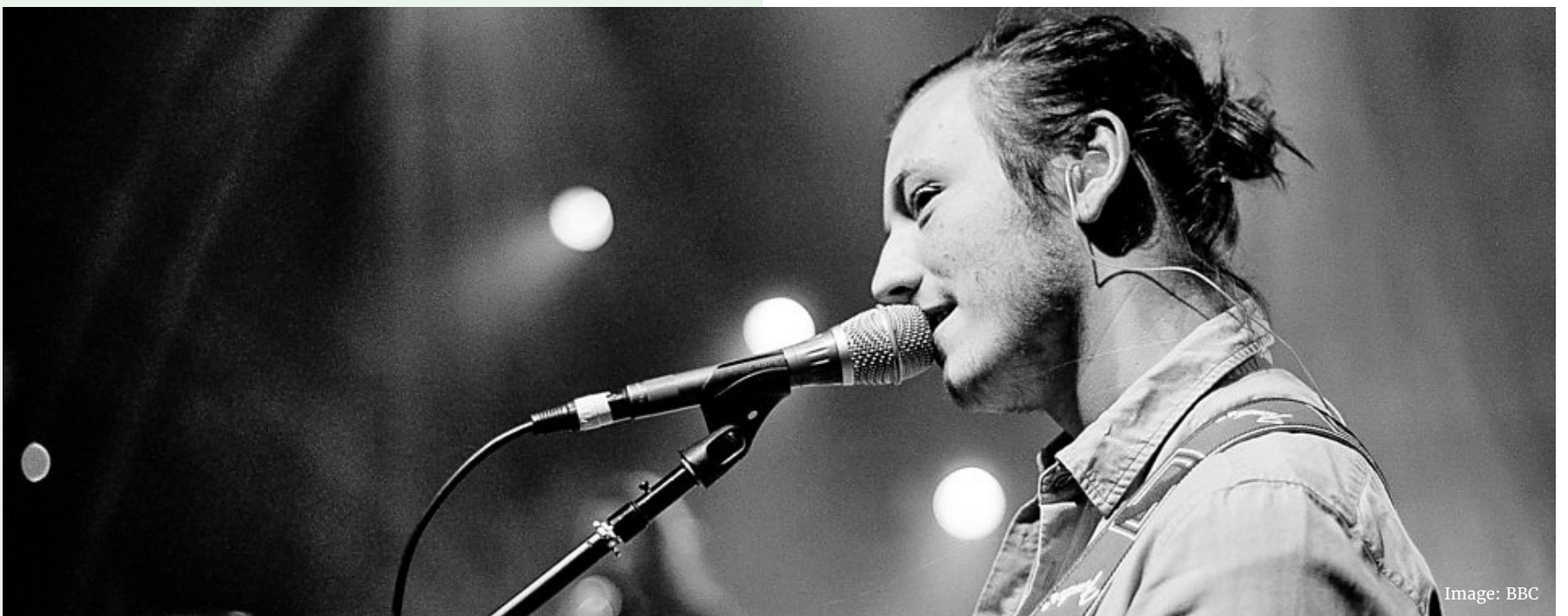


Image: BBC

Lorde @ Alexandra Palace 27/09

There's an awkward kind of restlessness amongst the Lorde crowd at Ally Pally tonight. Everyone's excited, but no-one really wants to show it. It's a whole different story when the lights go down though – within seconds everyone's dancing feverishly to 'Magnets', Yelich-O'Connor's 2015 hit collaboration with Disclosure. 'Tennis Court' follows and with it all inhibitions are soon forgotten, which is exactly what Lorde wants. "All of us in this room is alchemy," she says, and from that point on, we all know we're in this together. Throughout the show Lorde emphasises our commonality, and it's undeniable that the combination of us and her in this room will turn the evening into gold.

The fact is, every single person was there because they've felt the same things she has – something in her music has resonated with them, and it's this connection that Lorde is drawing out of us tonight, getting us to truly revel in our emotions, to be uninhibited and unafraid to just let go. After all, that is what *Melodrama*, her second studio album, is all about. This really shines through in *Liability*, which exudes a quiet strength through Lorde's swelling vocals. Things don't stay too sad for long though, as 'A World Alone' kicks into its chorus, with a beat that gets us dancing again.

The show is full of contrasts like this, sharp transposed against smooth in both music and dance. The elegant strings, swirling dresses and graceful movements of the backing dancers will dizzy you into a spell, but then Lorde brings you up short with a jarring beat, her signature jerky dance moves or a line that stops you in your tracks and sits heavy on your chest. The final song, 'Green Light' is a rapturous explosion, with arms flying everywhere as confetti cannons burst, immersing the crowd with paper stars. Despite how initially reserved the crowd may have been before arriving tonight, Lorde made sure we were all leaving happier, lighter and freer.

Ananya Sriram

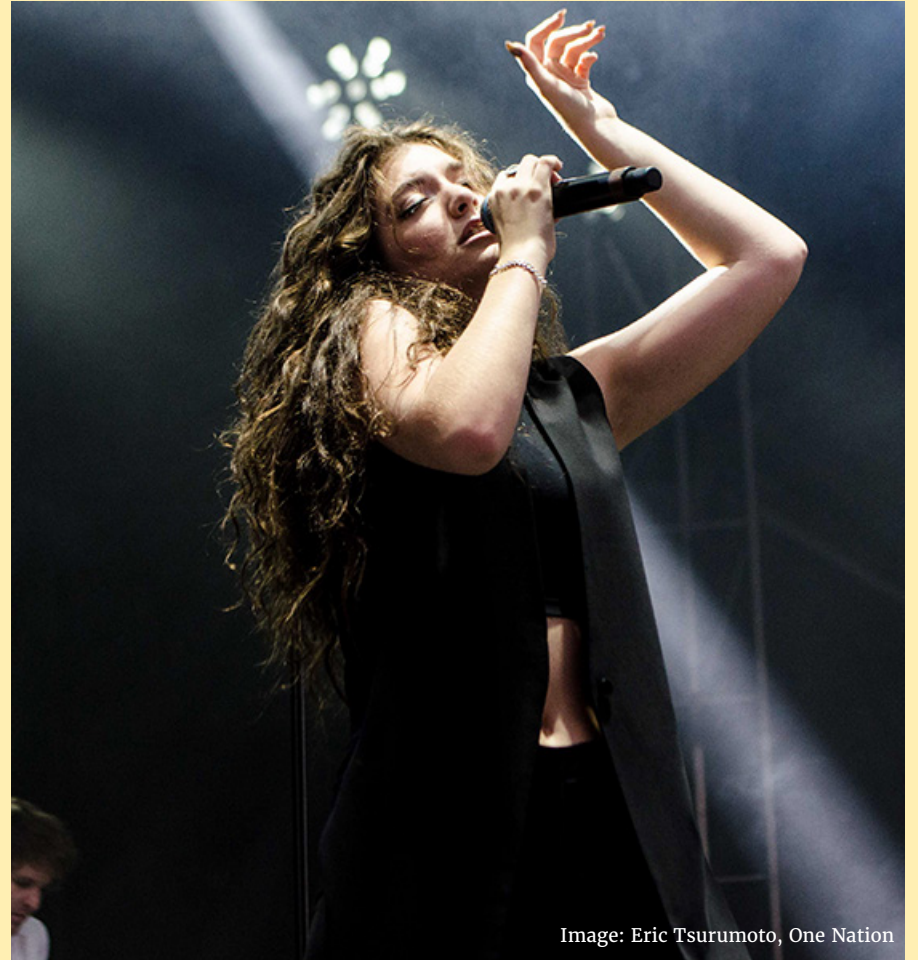


Image: Eric Tsurumoto, One Nation

Baby Strange @ Headrow House 23/09



For a band that started in 2012, around the same time as similarly frenetic bands Palma Violets and Slaves, Baby Strange have managed to create an impressive following and body of work in not very many years.

Having not seen them since the release of their debut album 'Want It Need It', I was excited but also slightly sceptical to see how their more poppy new EP, *Extended Play*, would sound alongside their older, grittier songs. When I walked into the half empty room, I have to be honest I didn't have the highest of hopes. After the first couple of songs dragged along, it felt as if neither the band nor the crowd really wanted to be there. However, this all changed when frontman Johnny Madden urged everyone to come forwards and fill the inevitable void that there always seems to be at gigs.

Following this with newer track 'Bring Me Down', the band brought energy to their set with a new-found charisma, playing their instruments as if their lives depended on it. The delighted crowd couldn't help but respond. Set highlights included the fan favourites 'Pure Evil' and 'Distance Yourself', with boisterous mosh pits emphasising the loud, bass-driven choruses. Newer tracks such as 'Bring Me Down' also held their own amongst the older, darker tracks, proving Baby Strange's evolution to be a natural one, and that their old sound had not been lost.

Despite the half-filled room, the band's enormous sound and the crowd's enthusiastic response made the room feel full to the brim, and I'm sure that it wasn't just me who left with a feeling of pure anticipation for what the Glaswegian trio will release next.

Rosie Simmons



A Celebration of African Boogie

Ahead of his set at Primal Sound this week, Douglas McConachie gives us a whistle stop tour of African boogie

Thomas Mapfumo – Mhondoro (Zimbabwe)

Our first stop arrives in Zimbabwe, where we meet Thomas Mapfumo (born 1945) known as “The Lion of Zimbabwe.” Mapfumo has an immensely strong political presence and popularity worldwide, in particular with his opposition to President Robert Mugabe and his government. Chimurenga music is native to Zimbabwe, and Mapfumo was the founder of this. In his music, he celebrates his people (the Shona– which means ‘struggle’) and describes their social and economic struggles. His distinctive style means for essential listening, and so starts us on our tour.

Mixed Grill – A brand new wayo

There cannot be a comprehensive list of African boogie without stopping in Nigeria. With its vast population and the artistically thriving city Lagos, it’s no surprise during the 70s and 80s so many afrobeat and afrofunk anthems originated here. Amongst anthems such as Oby Onyioha’s “Enjoy your life” and Joni Hastrup’s “Greetings”, I have selected this classic from Mixed Grill. Featured on the album Funk, Fast Times & Nigerian Boogie Badness 1979–1983, this disco-roller sums up perfectly the sound and enthusiasm from an important era of music.

Alotte Oho Jonas And His Sounds Of Joy – Mam Yinne Wa

Alotte Oho is arguably the most popular Frafra gospel artist from the booming music scene in Bolgatanga in northern Ghana. He first gained worldwide recognition in 2014 with the single Zota Yinne (PH45002). In this single ‘Mam Yinne Wa’ he is, as always, accompanied by his amazing three-piece female gospel choir ‘Sounds of Joy,’ who are all incredible gospel performers in their own rights. Mam Yinne Wa is truly an incredible piece of music, and is sure to bring joy and happiness to all who listen.

Letta Mbulu – Normalizo

Next up we have South African icon Letta Mbulu, with one of the holy grails of African music. Along with her husband Caiphus Semenya and talented companion Hugh Masekela, they escaped the brutal apartheid regime during the late 60s, until their return in the early 1990’s. These three important figureheads have each championed the sound of the underground in South Africa, encompassing traditional African sounds with jazz, soul, latin and funk. There is hardly an introduction needed for ‘Normalizo’; Mbulu’s soaring vocals over a beautifully deep, thumping bassline induce a warmth and happiness to listeners from the onset and throughout.

The African Brothers– Sakatumbe

The African Brothers band was a Ghanaian collective formed in 1963, led by Nana Kwame Ampadu. Ampadu is one of the most celebrated Highlife musicians along with Ebo Taylor and Joe Mensah. Highlife involves classical African instruments combining with European melodies, and was considered music for ‘living the highlife’ by Ashanti people in the early 20th century, during a failed uprising against the British. The African Brothers continued this sound, and Sakatumbe is a beautifully melodic deep funk groover which rounds off our whistle stop tour in style.

Douglas McConachie



Keep On Groovin’

Since June 2016, Brudenell Groove have been revolutionising the local music scene by bringing together Leeds’ DJs, promoters and dancers in order to eliminate the hostility of competition and replace it with cooperation and support amongst artists. If Brudenell Groove couldn’t do any more for the local community, all the proceeds of their monthly parties also go to local charities, thus emphasising their supportive and communal spirit. Last Saturday the charities that Brudenell Groove were supporting were Student Minds and Leeds Carers, organisations close to the predominantly student audience’s heart.

The positivity of this event was reflected in the crowd, who showed up in mass to support the local DJs, so much so that Wire had already reached full capacity just before one o’clock. The atmosphere on the dancefloor was incomparable, and everyone had a smile on their face, happily dancing the night away. The event as a whole had mainly a techno feel to it with some disco elements to add a dash of funk. The Brudenell Groove DJs showcased their collection of records with smooth transitions from track to track. From Josh Wink’s higher state of consciousness to Denis Sulta’s A.A.L.A.S, the response was impressive.

The atmosphere of the night was equal to one you’d expect from an event with a world famous DJ, the event was brilliantly organised and musically stimulating. In conclusion Brudenell Groove got me grooving.

Sally Galula



Image: Brudenell Groove

Editor's Cuts: October 2017

Clubs Editor Dan King talks you through his album picks for October

Mount Kimbie – Love What Survives

Mount Kimbie, the sought-after electronica duo, are back with their third album after a hiatus that saw them win production credits for Jay-Z and Kelis. An intense, gripping listen throughout, plus a standout guest appearance from King Krule, this album won critical praise but somehow escaped mainstream attention in September. But now you know about it.

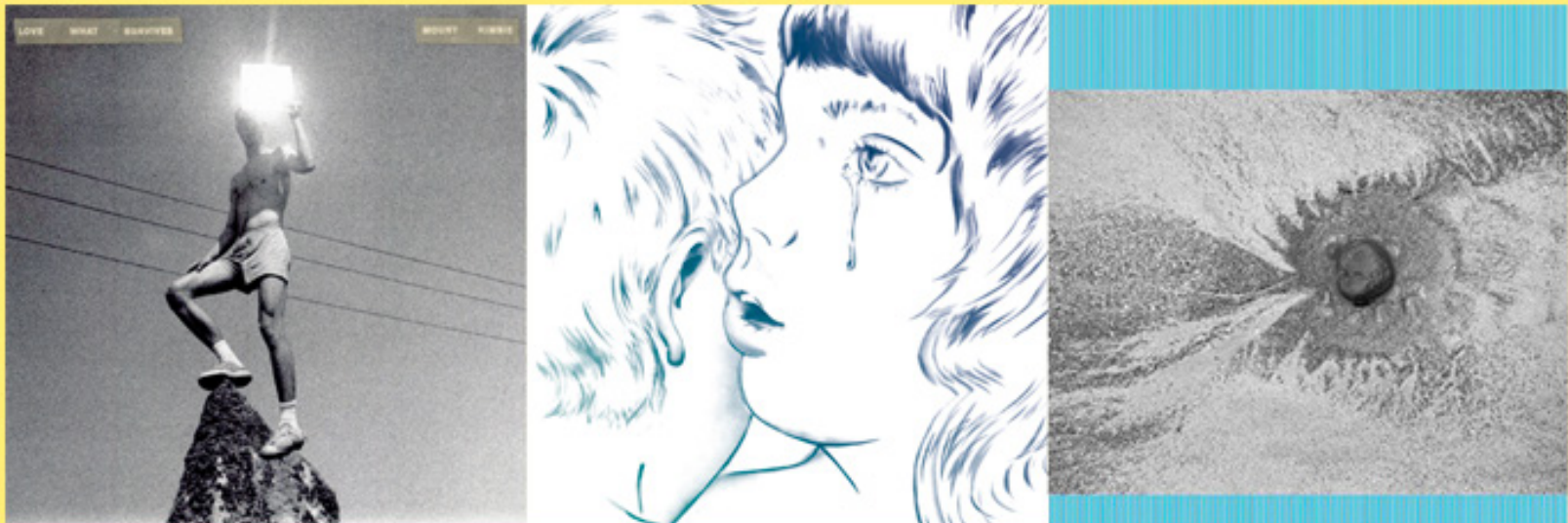
Hercules & Love Affair – Omnion.

Disco is a genre that will forever primarily be associated with decades gone by. But this new release shows, that even in 2017, the genre can be rehashed without going stale. It isn't all fun and games, though – perhaps the most memorable track of all, Epilogue, uses a children's choir to add a sombre finale to a varied but rewarding album.

Four Tet – New Energy

Two years on from the two-track LP Morning/Evening, Kieran Hebden returns to a more conventional fourteen-track offering this time around. And it's unmistakably Four Tet. Sometimes beautiful, and often glistening in his signature style, with a handful of dancefloor-minded tracks that characterise his later career, this is a release that deserves a listen this October.

Dan Kin



Ossia Presents: Avalon Emerson

As if Wire wasn't already bristling with standout club nights, this Autumn sees the launch of yet another party, Ossia. Over the past year, Ossia have made a name for themselves with events featuring names such as Ross from Friends and Kornel Kovacs, alongside collaborative nights with Manchester tastemakers Versions. The newly pan-Pennine promoters stayed true to form with their Leeds debut, bringing the Berghain regular Avalon Emerson to town.

By opting to have Emerson play from 1 'till 4, the Ossia residents were afforded ample opportunity to properly warm up proceedings. Providing a thumping opening set, the supporting DJ's delivered by allowing the headline act to break straight into a hard, entrancing sound that would go on to characterise the rest of her set. Barely five minutes in, she dropped her recently-released remix of Octo Octa's Adrift, the curiously named as Avalon Emerson's Furiously Awake Version. The fact that Emerson was commissioned to produce Octo Octa's first ever remix reflects the level of respect she is winning within the industry.

With sets like this, it's not difficult to see why. As the room filled to what must have been an almost sold out crowd, Emerson strayed from her harder techno sound to bring an acid-tinged flavour to proceedings, think Koehler's 'Isle of the Dead' (Mystical Psychosis Version). As things drew to a close, Avalon pulled out a sure-fire crowd pleaser. Last year's Whities release, The Frontier, drew a rapturous reception as the night hit a peak. The track serves a useful condensation of her set as a whole – the blissful synth arrangement, smartly contrasted with a forceful bassline, maintains a gripping pace and undeniable techno sound smattered with atmospheric high points.

As the clock struck four and the lights came on, Avalon stretched her set to the very end, marking a triumphant arrival to Leeds for Ossia with perhaps the weirdest selection of the night. With only my (admittedly hazy) memory to go by, the Arizonan opted for what I can only describe as some sort of Irish folk song to bring things to an unexpected end. A blinding start from Ossia, who will no doubt look to replicate this success next time round.

Dan King



Outfit Of The Week

Name: Tasha

Coat, Top and Dungarees: Vintage

Shoes: Puma

As it's Leeds, it's no surprise that our first 'Outfit of the Week' features vintage, vintage and more vintage. A furry coat is the statement of the season, keeping you cosy and warm yet effortlessly stylish all at once. Easy to dress up or down, pair it with your old favourite mom jeans for a lazy day, or go for skinny trousers and low heels for a fancy night out. Better yet, wear statement upon statement. A unique pair of dungarees isn't an easy find, but if you can hunt for that perfect pair it's more than worth it. Look for a laidback, loose fit and colour-popping embroidery that will sit perfect over a high-necked jersey in winter, and later, when the sun finally shows it's face again, a cool cotton t-shirt. Here, Tasha keeps the look super casual with a contrasting pair of Puma's and minimal accessorising.

Want to be featured? Email fashion@thegryphon.co.uk with your #OOTW and details of where you sourced your clothes for a chance to star as our weekly top pick!



The Fashion Capital of the North?

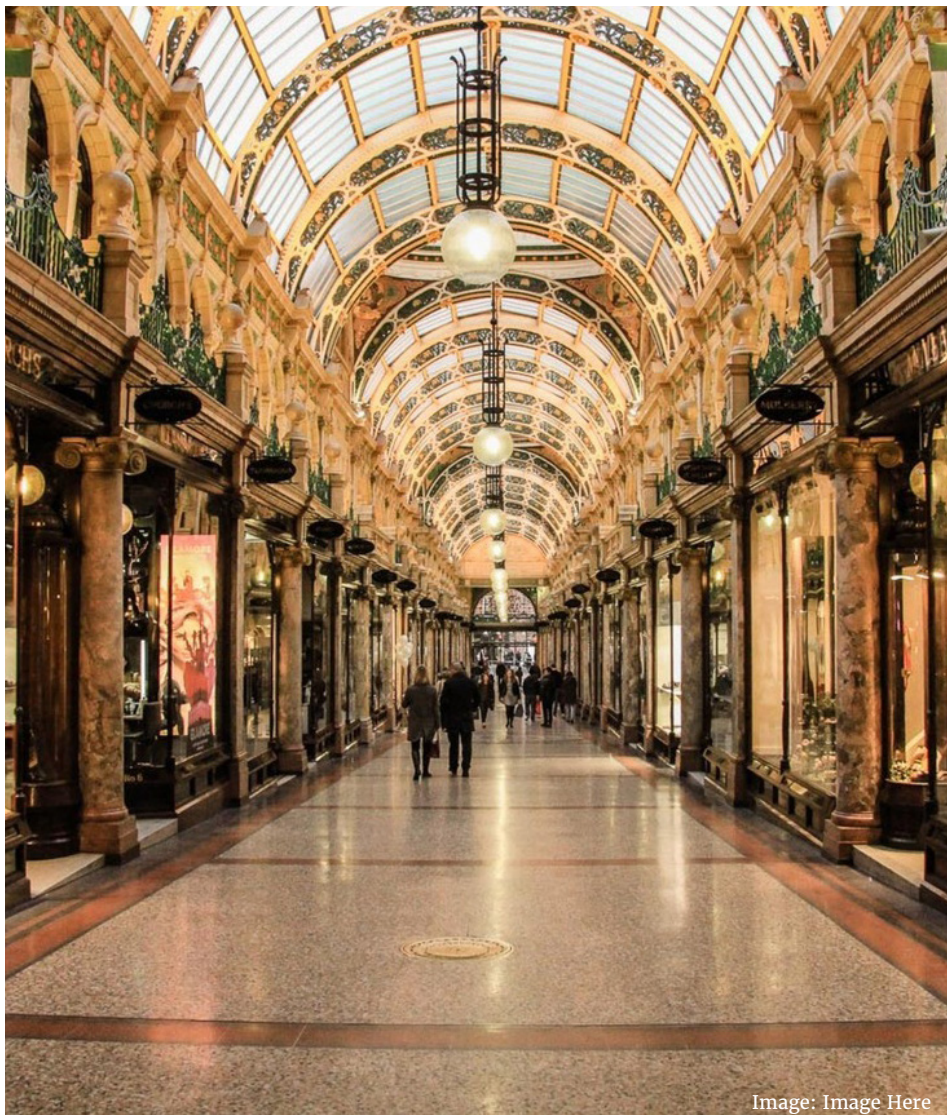


Image: Image Here

There is a common misconception, as with most industries in this country, that London is the undisputed hub of fashion in the UK. I would argue that we have the potential to rise above London as the new 'it' location on the fashion map with our vast amount of fashion events, organisations, shows and not to mention the incredible street style that glitters the streets of the city. If you're keen to get involved, here are a few pointers in the way of what to look out for across the city.

First off, let's start local with one of the most prestigious, exciting events of the year, the University of Leeds RAG fashion show. The 2017 show was a huge success, themed around the importance of sustainability in the fashion industry with some of the most intriguingly creative styling you could imagine, definitely one to remember. There is a vast array of roles to apply for across the show from styling to photography to modelling, an opportunity not to be missed!

Branching out across further Leeds, this metropolitan hub has had some incredible fashion events. This year alone, the Leeds International Festival saw an incredible Fashion fringe as part of the week's occurrences featuring only the edgiest of fashion shows showcasing the best of Briggate highstreet, as well as an incredible demonstration of the talent the Universities of Leeds have to offer, featuring our very own fashion students' work. The fashion fringe didn't stop there. Across the week, an array of phenomenal speakers took their turn to preach to the people of Leeds high street from the likes of Matty Bovan to Gary Aspden, each with their own intriguing topics to discuss. Leeds International Festival 2018 is seriously something not to be missed.

The festival phenomenon doesn't stop there, though, even sooner on our calendars is the arrival of the Leeds Fashion Festival taking place at the beginning of October at Leeds' very own, First Direct Arena. Tickets start from just £10 and if you're keen to get involved, there are countless opportunities to volunteer and get a true feel for the works of the fashion industry at its peak.

And of course, there's one way to get involved with the city's diverse style that we have yet to mention - joining the Gryphon fashion team! If you want to explore the latest trends, movements and dilemmas within Leeds and beyond, then writing with us is an opportunity not to be missed. Plus, there's biscuits at the team meetings!

Ellie Tattam

Bodysuits: Bae or Nay?

Bodysuits are like marmite, either you love them, or you hate them. Whatever way, you're almost bound to have tried them, or at the very least, wanted to. But are they really worth the hassle? Is that seamless silhouette justification for a night of awkward toilet situations? Fashion Editors Ellie Tattam and Lydia Varney decide.

Ellie Tattam: What's not to love?

There are plenty of reasons to wear bodysuits, which is probably they have remained within the fashion cycle since our parents' era of 'hip' fashion, to our glittery, club-ready style of today. If bodysuits were not an essential item of clothing, they wouldn't have survived the cut-throat fashion fad cycle we know today, and remained centre pieces on sites like Missguided, Boohoo and many others. It's not just coincidence that we're all wearing them on the regular, after all.

And let's not forget that bodysuits completely erase the need to constantly readjust your top as it inevitably bunches way above your jeans. A body suit is like a best friend, always reliable and has completely got your back covered (excuse the pun). What's more, they are incredibly versatile as a garment as you can wear them on nearly every occasion – from a casual daytime outfit, to creating a glam look for another Mischief mad one. Where the bodysuit comes into its own is of course the festival scene. This is where we become brave; venturing across the mud ridden fields in nothing but a pair of once white Nike Air Max and a standalone body drenched in sequins, a genuine diamond in the rough.

Undoubtedly the biggest advantage of wearing a bodysuit is its flattering nature. It looks fantastic with today's low riding trousers and jeans, and keeps those who are insecure about baring their stomach feeling suitably covered. It's a great confidence boost, and what's more, for us shorter ones, bodysuits are really good at elongating the torso, making us appear that little bit taller

Finally, the Lycra material of the garment provides extra support and control to really make you feel as confident and sassy as possible in your outfit. What more could you want?



Image: American Apparel

Lydia Varney: I'll give it a miss

If you haven't invested in the latest fad, the bodysuit, then you'll thank me for saving you time and money by warning you, quite bluntly, not to. You'll see it online and think it's the most flattering thing since the high waisted A-line, but you're wrong. It is, in fact, a scam.

Don't be fooled – of course it skims flatly over the models stomach, emphasising their womanly curves and all that. In reality though, it probably won't fit. What are the chances that your proportions are exactly like those of the skinny size 8 models? More likely you'll be choosing between something that sags at the sides, a compromise made in exchange for avoiding a permanent wedgie, or a slim fitting bodice and a sliver of fabric stuck up your behind. Not sure about you, but I'd rather not.

Don't get me started on the toilet situation. For some bizarre reason, this trend is commonly seen on nights out, when you're bound to be frequenting the bathroom at least once an hour. Whats worse, this trip to the toilet wil almost take this whole hour, as not only will you have to wait for your best friend to struggle in the cubicle next to you, you'll also have to struggle out of all layers of clothing to free yourself from what's basically a glittery swimsuit. And then, once you think it's all over, the struggle begins; can you get those poppas back together? I can't. Maybe I'm just too impatient to spend two hours fiddling with buttons between my thighs.

Overall, I'd say nice try, Missguided. Once in a while, I've pulled off a bodysuit, gathered in an array of compliments and ignored the fact that it was all a scam; I never pinned the bodysuit up. I just let it flap around under my skirt, desperately trying to pretend that yes, it fits, and yes, I did really want my neckline to be that low. But, let's be real – nobody can be bothered with that.

Leeds Street Style

Style Editors Sara AlHumiri and Stephanie Waring explore individual fashion in Leeds, capturing the city's best dressed in the city centre. Street-style has always been an important factor of the fashion industry, being a form of communication between brands and their consumers. A designer can take inspiration from their surroundings, and these surroundings can be subsequently brought alive by the fashion which passes through it. The best factor of street-style is taking that same Zara shirt you saw a girl wear in your course — and restyling it into your own completely different outfit. Street-style is not studio-based or made, we as consumers have control over it.

Below are our top ten street style outfits found in the city centre.



Name: Suida

Age: 20

Occupation:
Student —
business
management

**Favourite Places
to Shop: Topshop,
H&M, Zara**



Name: Hafsa Kamran

Age: 19

Occupation: Student

Favourite Places to Shop:
Vintage shops, thrift shops, off
white

Name: Ali Butt

Age: 20

Occupation: Style advisor

Favourite Places to Shop:
Charity shops, and kilo
sales, living by the motto of
never spending more than

Name: Sachi Vehira

Age: 22

Occupation: Student - Sociology

Favourite Places to Shop:
Depop, GU, Topshop



Name: Aisha

Age: 34

Occupation:
Mum

**Favourite Places
to Shop: Zara,
Selfridges, Dune**



Name: Zixu Zhai

Age: 22

Occupation: Student

Favourite Places to Shop: Hermes, Chrome heart, Off



Name: Alex

Age: 22

Occupation: Student — Film and media

Favourite Places to Shop: Blue rinse,



Name: Molly

Age: 19

Occupation: Student — Philosophy

Favourite Places to Shop: Zara, Topshop, Vintage Stores



Name: Lyne

Age:

Occupation: Carer

Favourite Places to Shop: Zara, River Island, New Look



Name: Emma

Age: 24

Occupation: Wine Specialist

Favourite Places to Shop: Asos, Zara, Mango

Written & Photographed by

Sara AlHumiri & Stephanie Waring

The Turner Prize Nominees 2017

Hannah Stokes takes you through this years nominees for the Turner Prize, this year being held in the Ferens Gallery in the UK's City of Culture 2017, Hull.



Image: Evening Standard

This year's Turner Prize takes place at the Ferens Gallery in Hull, named the 'City of Culture' for 2017, and is one of the most diverse Turner Prize shows yet. The recent removal of the age limit for nominations has allowed a broader scope of artists to showcase their work; every nominee this year is over 40, with 62 year-old Lubaina Himid being the oldest nominee yet. But the Turner Prize this year is not only diverse in the age of its nominees, but also in the themes they tackle in their work. Despite Michael Dean's sculptural work exploring poverty in the UK, last year's Turner Prize was largely apolitical; whilst art does not always need to provide cultural commentary, with the 2010s (and 2016-17 especially) being the era of Donald Trump, the BLM movement and Brexit, it seems only right that the work presented in this year's Turner should tackle issues of race, conflict and poverty.

Lubaina Himid has been dubbed by the Telegraph as the "under-appreciated hero of black British art", and not only does her work aim to comment on issues such as slavery, but also the under-representation of black creativity and culture. This has been a cause that Himid has championed from the 1980s, when she staged a show to provide a platform for those artists she felt were under-represented within the Contemporary arts scene. In the age of cultural appropriation and whitewashing, Himid's celebration of black creativity seems more relevant, and more needed, than ever.

Another nominee who also focuses on race issues and black culture in his work is Hurvin Anderson, aged 52. Born in Birmingham to Jamaican Parents, Anderson works primarily with paint to produce images largely set in barbershops – significant locations within Afro-Caribbean communities – that explore themes of identity and representation. One of his key works displayed in the exhibition is "Is it Ok to be Black" (2016), which, like Himid's work showcases black culture in its inclusion of painted images of important black figures such as Martin Luther King, juxtaposed against more abstracted figures painted in gestural white strokes against rectangular black backgrounds to resemble photographs pinned onto a barbershop wall.

German nominee Andrea Büttner also pays close attention to current issues, with a large section of her Turner exhibition focusing on poverty and beggars. Büttner exhibits eight woodblock prints based on Ernst Barlach's 1919 sculpture

"In the age of cultural appropriation and whitewashing, Himid's celebration of black creativity seems more relevant, and more needed, than ever."

Verhüllte Bettlerin (Cloaked Beggarwoman), their simplification of form and flatness of colour heightening their immediacy so that the image of the beggar with her outstretched arms confronts the viewer. Whilst final nominee Rosalind Nashashibi has worked for years with printmaking and painting like her Turner counterparts, in this exhibition she displays two films, one made this year, Vivian's Garden, and one made in 2015 named Electrical Gaza. Electrical Gaza contrasts scenes from everyday life in Gaza with those that reflect the current Gazan political situation, providing a different view of Gaza where devastating conflict and ordinary familial life coexist.

Despite the lack of instagrammable gold bums in this year's Turner Prize, the exhibition proves its relevance by its confronting of a whole host of social and political issues that have come to the fore in recent years. Whilst the Turner Prize has championed YBAs in the past with the likes of Damien Hirst, Rachel Whiteread and Tracey Emin contributing to both the prize's fame and controversy, if the Turner is going to celebrate the best of British art, it seems only fitting to finally open up the nomination to include older artists. This decision therefore recognises those who have contributed to the British contemporary art scene for many years, but may not have had their 'breakthrough' as early as the YBAs of the 1990s. Indeed, this year's Turner Prize exhibition is one of its most mature yet, not only being a generationally inclusive show, but one that celebrates artists from varying countries and cultures.

Hannah Stokes

The Royal Shakespeare Company Sells Off Old Wardrobe in Jumble Sale



[Royal Shakespeare Company Twitter]

Fancy yourself a piece of history? Julius Caesar's chest armour perhaps? Or Lady Macbeth's guilt stained necklace? Last week, the Royal Shakespeare Company offered the chance to enter their old wardrobe and buy any of the items that were on show, in the most dramatic jumble sale yet.

As the Bard himself proclaimed, "clothes maketh the man [or indeed the person]". In Shakespeare's case, it's usually a pair of too tightly-fitting stockings and a similarly tailored corset — all part and parcel of an interpretation of one of the Renaissance plays. However, if you have ever taken a trip to the Royal Shakespeare Company, you will have witnessed for yourself the dexterity of the costumes that grace their stages, ranging from the elegant, and sometimes outrageous, to the downright gaudy and obscene. Having seen a production of *The Merchant of Venice* a few years ago, which was firmly set in the casinos and bars of the Las Vegas strip, I can safely vouch that the sets and wardrobes are far from the stuffy and worn corsets and pants that are often associated with period productions.

So those who got themselves down to Stratford Upon Avon's primary arts bastion on Saturday 23rd September were in for a theatrical treat, queuing for up to a couple of hours to hunt through the eclectic collection of around 10,000 items of the RSC's most creative costumes. Thrifty punters were able to explore the vast catalogue of garments up for grabs, which comprised of a generous variety of uniforms, jewellery, shoes, shirts and suits — all of which were somehow used by the company in their productions.

The sale was the largest the RSC have ever created, and with due reason, many were outside waiting from the early hours of the morning. Happy bargain hunters shared their finds on Twitter with the hashtag #StitchInTime, and included photos of their new treasures from Shakespearean codpieces to the stitched representation of gluttony, one of the Seven Deadly Sins from the 2016 production of *Dr. Faustus*. Some of the other pieces on sale included items from RSC productions of *Cymbeline* (2016), *Othello* (2015) and *Julius Caesar* (2009). Prices started from a mere £1 and the proceeds all help towards the restoration and rebuild of the RSC Costume Workshop.

This unique opportunity was very well received by RSC fans and the general public alike and demonstrates the hearty and non-pretentious culture of the company, despite their formidable reputation. Another Shakespeare quote springs to mind, albeit a rather darkly tinged one but at its basest, apt nonetheless: 'an eye for an eye' or rather, in this case, a slightly scuffed pair of boots for another yet to grace the stage. It is an imaginative way of funding the restoration of their new costume department through giving back to its supporters a piece of the company to own for themselves. It's this animated relationship between stage and spectator that characterises the RSC as the modern and quirkily creative company that continues to surprise and delight and its efforts to engage with its patrons and theatregoers is one that must be cherished.

Natasha Lyons

Kingsman: The Golden Circle Dials the Action Up to 11

The first film managed to pull-off a charming, self-aware tribute to the over-the-top spy films of old. Newspaper Associate, Robert Cairns, looks at *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* to see if it's managed to keep its charm despite being bigger and better than before.

It's fair to say that 2014's *Kingsman: The Secret Service* shocked the world with the news that its combination of working-class vulgarity with gentlemanly swagger and ridiculous gadgets was actually a good idea. But without the factor of surprise to guide it, the second dosage of all things *Kingsman* had an awful lot of expectation to appease; a weight it effortlessly carries.

On the surface, *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* ticks all the right boxes. It is hard not to be totally awed by the intense stunt choreography of the epic fight scenes that its older brother so unexpectedly promised, nor is it possible to be unmoved by the constant barrage of laughs or the Country and Westernised soundtrack that mirrors the indulgent action so perfectly.

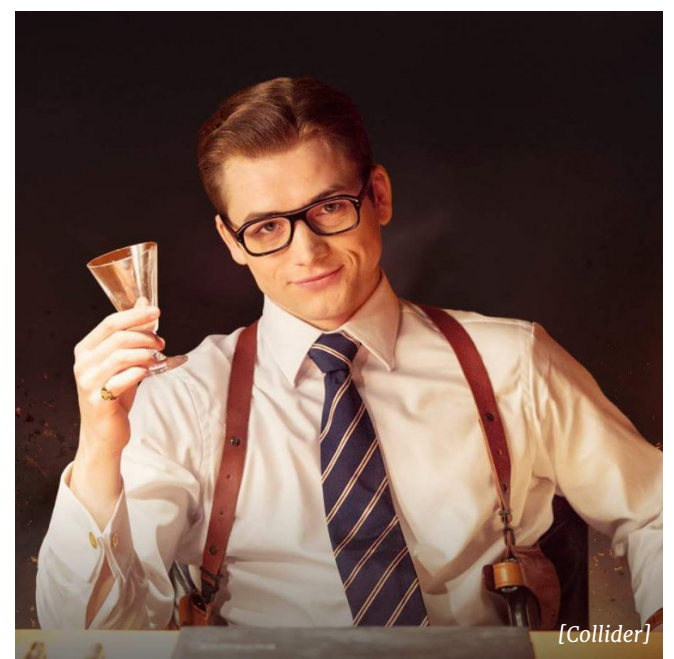
Yet, there is an irritating dimension to the film that is impossible to ignore, the voice of some disembodied, snot-nosed critic relentlessly whispering in your ear that something's wrong — some hyper-rational reason that you should not be enjoying the onslaught before you. Whether it's the

fact that the plot traverses the globe so incoherently that it's clear the *Kingsman* have recently invested in teleportation and expositional technology, or the fact that a large majority of the 'star' cast members are given less lines than your average frequenter of Canal Mills, there's a definite sense that this sequel should not be appealing.

But you'd have to be mad not to look beyond these criticisms and see *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* for the raw fun-fest that it so undeniably is. It's the over-the-top weaponry and almost indestructible heroes, the stylish realisation of every James Bond wannabe's dreams, the blatant disregard for the audience's intelligence... It's Elton John in a bird suit telling Julianne Moore to "Fuck Off" for God's sake!

That's what makes you wave goodbye to *Kingsman: The Golden Circle* with an irrepressible smile on your face and a weight off your shoulders that you didn't even know was there in the first place.

Robert Cairns



[Collider]

Mother! : Self-referential and Pretentious or a Masterpiece?



Image: Roger Ebert

Sabrina Sakhai explores the reasons why Darren Aronofsky's latest blockbuster horror, *Mother!*, failed to live up to its expectations.

Mother!, Darren Aronofsky's bizarre, nightmarish, avant-garde piece ingeniously blends elements of visual poetry, surrealism, horror, mystery and psychodrama within a plot driven by constant absurdity and eccentric surprises, which accelerate into a chaotic climax. With no definitive genre or clear structure, this film largely diverts from standard, formulaic Hollywood productions that pervade mainstream cinema. As such, *Mother!* stands out in stark contrast in all its complexities, becoming one of the most discussed film of the year that polarised public opinion.

Year by year Aronofsky's films have become more controversial, primarily exploring the horrific workings of the tormented mind from the likes of *Requiem for a Dream* (2000) to *Black Swan* (2007). None have received quite the hype as his most recent *Mother!* though, which is bound to get the audience pondering. The influx of negative responses has gone as far as to unfairly label *Mother!* as the worst film of the year. It even received the rare "F" score from the Las Vegas market research firm Cinema Score. This represents the 'fail' category, which only a dozen films fall under, leaving us to question how has this unconventional drama become so hated?

One major factor seems to be the way the film was marketed. The misleading film trailer was certainly ambiguous, giving no spoilers away. It displays a continuous shot of Academy Award Winner Jennifer Lawrence, who strolls through an empty house, whilst we hear overlapping soundbites indicating that her tranquil existence with her husband (Javier Bardem) is disrupted by uninvited guests. There are no clues of the stories' jump scares or highlights, as audiences would be accustomed to. As a result, Lawrence's fans who would supposedly expect light entertainment are left wholly unprepared for the mayhem and madness presented in *Mother!*. The reassurance that they sought wasn't given in the drama, shrouded by mystery and loose ends. The marketing could explain why a large proportion of the public developed a distaste for the film, as many were left baffled. However, can we look beneath the bizarre aesthetic of the piece to shape up a meaningful conclusion?

Mother! should be analysed beyond its gore, violence and extravagance as an artistic piece. Delving further into Aronofsky's narrative, we can see his meticulous attention to detail, which reveals deeper themes of love, greed and destruction that resonate closely with society. Upon closer analysis, the film is heavy on religious and biblical allegory. In this sense, we can see the mother (Jennifer Lawrence) as a representation of Mother Nature, and her husband (Javier Bardem) as her creator. Aronofsky took the subtleties of incidents by which people abuse the earth and wildly represents them through the film's disjointed narrative. When the uninvited guests invade the couple's house, at first it seems to be a bit out of hand, as an overcrowded party is started. Then an explosive crescendo, which the audience to say the least were unprepared for. They begin polluting, causing breakages, starting riots, which turn into wars with many people killed, leading to the eventual burning of the house and death of mother, symbolic of humanity's abuse of earth.

Jennifer Lawrence pulls off an engaging and convincing performance during these pivotal scenes. Extreme close-ups of her distraught face fills the screen in midst of the crisis, as she desperately cries 'stop', only to be ignored. An emotional act for those audience members, who understand the familiar situation of unrequited love. Her character dedicates all her days to refurbishing the house and looking after her husband (Javier Bardem), only to be neglected by him, as he prefers the attention of the house guests, which lead to her demise. *Mother!* is such a unique and special piece, as it can be applied to many different scenarios. Aronofsky seems to particularly draw attention to what people don't realise they're doing but has consequences, be it our contribution in destructing the earth or taking advantage of someone vulnerable in a romantic relationship. It is in my belief that it is the shocking and enigmatic elements within 'mother!' that makes it underappreciated by a large segment of the public, who are used to comforting, americanised narratives that dominate the film industry. However, Aronofsky's alternative mother goes beyond the art of film, as it brilliantly dramatises the imperfections of human nature through its grandiloquence and vivid aesthetic. A true masterpiece, where everyone can find components to explore, relate with and cling onto.

Sabrina Sakhai

Hyde Park Picture House Listings

Arts Editor, Stephanie Bennett, gives you Hyde Park Picture House's October round up, exclusively for your viewing pleasure. Whether you're a devoted cinephile or just want to procrastinate preparing for the dreaded presentation, we've got you covered.

From September 29th – The Work

This film is set within Folsom Prison where three men must partake in a group therapy retreat with level-four convicts. Over the four days in which the film is set, the past of each man is explored. Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at SXSW earlier this year, this is an intense documentary that is far more thrilling than your seminar preparation.

From September 29th – In Between (Bar Bahar)

Shadowing the lives of three autonomous Israeli-Palestinian women living together away from the tradition and restrictions of their families. They find themselves free of such limitations and attempt to lead their lives as best they can in the 'in between' of freedom and constraints still enforced. This film also won the Toronto Film Festival's NETPAC Award.

From October 20th – The Death of Stalin

After Stalin's death, chaos ensues as everyone tries to get back to normal. A hilarious but still slightly historic comedy, if you want to avoid the crowds at your local Cineworld, The Hyde Park Picture House is your place to go.

Saturday 21st October – IT

From 10:30 the Picture House will be screening Steven King's remake of notoriously traumatising novel. In the unlikely event that you're not familiar with the film's synopsis: Seven children in Derry, Maine, forced to face a nightmare: a, shape-shifting malevolence that crawls from the sewer every 27 years to prey on the town's children. The children must fight to together against the murderous clown Pennywise.

Sunday 22nd October – Black History Month: A Dry White Season

At 3:00 pm HPPH will be screening this film adaption of South African author Andre Brink's classic novel. Teacher Ben du Toit (Donald Sutherland) tries to ignore the issue of apartheid in South Africa until he discovers that the son of a gardener (Winston Ntshona) at his school has been killed by corrupt policeman Stolz (Jürgen Prochnow). Du Toit encourages human rights attorney Ian McKenzie (Marlon Brando) to try the form a case against Stolz. During the trial, Du Toit's change into an supporter for justice is so complete that it detaches him from his family.

Studio Ghibli Half Term Specials:

The Cat Returns: Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th: Student Haru (Chizuru Ikewaki) rescues a cat that was going to be hit by a car – but it turns out that the cat is actually a prince. Out of gratitude, Lune's father, the Cat King, asks her to marry Lune. Haru is brought to the Cat Kingdom, where she starts to turn into a cat herself. When she is prevented from leaving, the Baron (Yoshihiko Hakamada) and Toto, two statues, help her escape.

Nausicaä and the Valley of the Wind: Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th: In the future after a conflict has ruined much of the planet, the few surviving humans live in dispersed semi-hospitable surroundings. Young Nausicaä (Alison Lohman) lives in the arid Valley of the Wind and can talk with the giant insects that populate the dangerous jungle. With the help of Yopa (Patrick Stewart), Nausicaä attempts to heal the planet.

Stephanie Bennett





Dealing With Homesickness at University

The countless hours spent drinking, partying, meeting new people can be overwhelming when you are at uni. Your newfound independence away from home can slowly start to fade away and that little homesick part of your brain that was earlier suppressed by copious amounts of alcohol is resurfacing. You are probably surrounded by some of the most interesting people, already have a bunch of readings to get through in your first week itself and have countless 'Give It A Go's to visit, but if you still seem to have that slight unsettling feeling, it's probably homesickness.

Leaving home, transitioning from hearty home-cooked meal to a Tesco meal deal is never easy. It is important to remember that the whole point of coming to university is so much more than just getting a degree. It's about getting to know yourself and building your own individual personality, which otherwise would be so much harder had you decided to stay cooped up in your comfort zone. So, congratulate yourself for making a sensible decision in moments when you let a tear or two escape. Start thinking of the amazing three or four years you are about to have at uni.

“Leaving home, transitioning from hearty home-cooked meal to a Tesco meal deal is never easy. It is important to remember that the whole point of coming to university is so much more than just getting a degree. It's about getting to know yourself and building your own individual personality.”

Now is the time to get absolutely stuck in. It's probably a good idea to try out that activity that caught your fancy years ago when you were mindlessly switching channels on tv. If making friends is going a bit slow, then societies are where you can meet people with similar interests.

Don't panic if the first few lectures haven't been quite what you were expecting them to be. Stick to it and you will eventually stop doubting your choice. If not, then a good 15 minute whining session to family on FaceTime will really work wonders and help with homesickness too.

Homesickness isn't always missing your family, but also missing home and the place you have spent a major part of your life in. So start off by thinking of Leeds as a second home and not just a place where uni is. Get familiar with the city, explore the beautiful culture, ride the bus and just live like a local. Come to terms with the fact that this isn't a holiday and you will be living in this city for some of the most important parts of your life. It is going to take some time accepting this place as home and getting somewhere without using google maps. Once your new room in halls starts giving you that nice welcoming feeling after a long day at uni, when finally you won't have to run to Morrisons every second day to get something you initially forgot, you my friend will be over with that dreadful homesickness.

Nishta Mital

Go Hard but Get Home

As the new semester kicks off and students arrive back in Leeds, it's very likely you'll be spending a few evenings sampling the city's night life. Leeds certainly has plenty to offer students, with a wide array of different venues to suit all personal tastes in music and culture. It is a busy time for the student night scene and with that comes the importance of playing hard but playing it safe.

Getting to your night out can be made safer and easier by ordering an Uber or Amber car who will send you the registration plate and the name of the driver. Apps like these also allow you to track the driver coming to pick you up, making it one of the safest options. Amber cars operate in partnership with the University of Leeds to offer a service meaning if you don't have enough money to pay for a taxi, having accidentally bought too many jagerbombs or spent questionable amounts of money on a much needed greasy takeout, then students can hand in their student card to the driver. The next day you can collect your student card from the union helpdesk and pay for your taxi.

Once you arrive at your night out it can be all too easy to spend the night buying drinks for your mates and forgetting about safety within the actual venue. Drink spiking in Leeds is something to be aware of. It wasn't until I got spiked that this became a really important issue for me to voice. While it is highly unlikely you will get spiked, it should be emphasised that you should never put your drink down or take a drink from a stranger. While you cannot avoid it completely, it certainly prevents and significantly lowers the chances of getting your drink drugged. In my own experience drinks on nights out tend to be costly too so I've taken to the precaution of just pre-drinking, and on the odd occasion I do buy a drink in a club I make sure it's a shot so I can put it away quickly. In bars it's a lot safer and easier and the issue is less prevalent due to better visibility than in a club but it still helps to be aware that putting your drink down or taking a drink from a stranger is far too dangerous a risk to take.

Pickpocketing is something to also be aware of and as a general rule you should always keep your valuables to a minimum and keep a close eye and grasp on your phone. When heading back from a night out make sure you are in a group, don't walk back on your own and especially don't walk back through Woodhouse Moor or anywhere that is dimly lit. It's much safer to stick to main roads than to tempt the possibility of anything dangerous occurring in the park. Besides what better way to end your night than to walk on a road filled with every kind of takeout your drunk self can dream of? Charcos, Milanos or the ultimate Crispy's to end your night sounds like a much better idea. What better way to limit your hangover and make it to that dreaded 9am?

Cara Bintcliffe

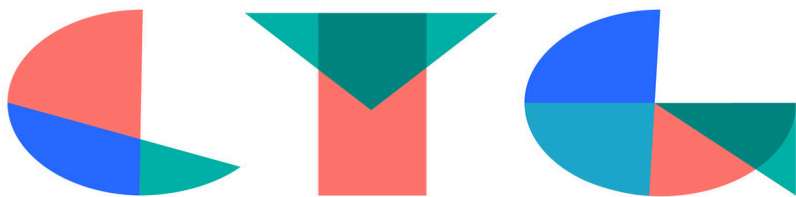
Podcasts: Let's Switch Tunes for Talks!

Podcasts are seriously underrated and have been around for 10 years now. Therefore, it seems only fair to shed some worthy light on the humble podcast. If you are an avid podcast listener looking for some new ear candy, or a rookie looking to broaden your podcast horizons, then take a look at our top picks that will have you thinking, laughing and crying, or all three rolled into one. The Lifestyle & Culture editors highlight and recommend their favourite podcasts from comedy gold to the perfect bedtime story to encourage you to practice the art of listening.

Welcome to Night Vale – Jade's pick

For the perfect bedtime story that will fill your dreams with imaginative ideas ...

If you're looking for a brilliant, yet incredibly strange work of fiction, look no further than *Welcome to Night Vale*. The podcast follows a radio show in the fictional desert town of Night Vale where anything and everything weird, wonderful, and terrifying happens. *Welcome to Night Vale* finds a way to inject humour and romance into the craziness that becomes commonplace for the town's citizens. Along with interesting content, the podcast also showcases independent bands and musicians. So if you like the unexpected and strange, but also want a fix for new music, this is the show for you.



CALL YOUR GIRLFRIEND

Call Your Girlfriend – Bella's pick

For deep down belly laughs ...

Long story short, this podcast holds the key to long distance friendships. Ann Freidman and Aminatou Sow are the perfect two who really know each other inside out and showcase the best of funny and frank female friendships. Be prepared for each episode to take your thoughts anywhere from general life updates and jargon, political views and legislation to Drake's penis muscles.

RadioLab – Bella's pick

For those searching for the answer to every question they have ever had ...

There is something so captivating about this series of podcasts and I am still undecided on whether it is because of the enthusiastic presenters Jab Abumrad and Robert Krulwich, who investigate everything under the sun, quite literally, or if it is the fact that the duo tackle commonly held misconceptions. If you want know about everything and anything including about human attempts to communicate with dolphins or want answers on why the sky is blue? Then look know further than RadioLab.



RADIOLAB



Spirits Podcast – Jade's pick

For those who love a drink ... or two ...

This hilarious podcast features two women getting drunk together and discussing myths, legends, and folklore from around the world. These women have been friends since childhood and it's easy to see in their witty and profanity-laced banter. Their topics cover everything from werewolves to Filipino ghouls to the crazy antics of the Greek gods with humour, passion, and a bevy of modern cultural references. Come for the interesting stories about how ancient people made sense of the world and stay for the laughter and thought-provoking conversation that these intelligent and hilarious women get drunk to have.

Think of podcasts as the younger, edgier cousin of radio that will get you hooked from the get go. These free, downloadable conversations are what we should be listening to in the 21st century. So, go forth and swap tunes for talks.

Bella Davis & Jade Verbick

Never have I ever played a drinking game...

In need of some drinking game inspiration? Will Nelson gives you a run-down of students best loved drinking games.



I'm sure you've all heard about the sheer amount of drinking first years get up to. So it only seems natural to help you on your nights out to Fruity, Mission and the like by giving you some drinking games to help set off your careers of long nights and horrible mornings with some of the most fun and effective drinking games.

Now that fresher's week is behind us it seems appropriate to go through the games you've likely already played, and if not you're missing out! 'Never Have I Ever' is a simple game, but most effective at getting to know your new flatmates, who you may end up despising. All you do is say "Never have I ever..." and an action. If you've done it you drink. It can spark great conversation, but it usually devolves to being sexual or targeting someone's embarrassing story. For freshers it's a must.

'Ring of Fire' consists of a complex system which denotes rules for every card, which I simply don't have time to go through, but someone's always going to disagree with you (making for an interesting pres within itself) but essentially you draw facedown cards and do the action corresponding to it. Naturally involving drinking and when the cup in the middle is full the last person to draw a king drinks it. So this game does a better job of actually prepping for the night out, but is equally as fun.

'Red or Black' is a simple game, but effective, if you draw the colour of card you said then you don't drink. But if it's the other way around that's a finger of your drink! There isn't much else I can say about this game except I've heard it be used by lazy returning students to go and get things from upstairs, as the loser has to retrieve it.

Here is one of my personal favourites I picked up in the States, 'Iced'. So all your mates turn up for pres expecting some of the casual games listed above. But wait what is that? Your mate Dave has found a random bottle of that grim Smirnoff Ice hidden in the kitchen. So you order him to get down on one knee and drink the whole thing. Nothing he can do, it's too late. Now everyone at your pres is on edge, and rightly so, the rest of those Ices are waiting behind unsuspecting Strongbow Dark Fruits to get chugged.

Another unsuspecting game is 'Thunder'. How do you spice up a pres playlist? Simple, you put AC/DC's Thunderstruck in it a couple of times and every time it comes on the game begins. When THUNDER! Is first sung someone starts drinking (you choose) and they don't stop until thunder is said again, when it is the person next to them drinks. This goes on for the whole song. The great part is, there is a period of over a minute where he doesn't say it. So it sucks to be that guy.



Mushroom is just like Drunk Jenga (but not actually, as that's a real thing), except you fill a pint glass with whatever you want and place cards on the rim one by one, creating a sort of mushroom. Two corners of the card must be in the air every time, and when the inevitable happens and an Empire falls, the loser must neck the whole thing.

Beer pong is the quintessential drinking game that needs very little explanation. You can't watch any American film or show set in college or high school without this game being played with the iconic red plastic cup. It's a simple concept but less simple in practice. All you need is good aim (which is hard to come by), cheap alcohol and a strong stomach. Get ready to throw, miss and down.

This last one is better for people you know well, or think you do. Mr and Mrs requires two unspecific gendered people to stand back to back. Everyone asks them questions along the lines of "who is..." or "who is better at..." and if you think it's you drink. If you either both do or don't drink that's a strike and when you hit three you switch. Again this turns quickly sexual but tends to get some laughs and the job done with some banter.

So there you have it freshers, knock yourselves out with these drinking games. Because trust me, 'Ring of Fire' gets boring way too quickly and 'Never Have I Ever' works only once, when you're in second year these games are just so boring. So use some of these next time you see that fit girl you want to impress. It won't help, but it might make you feel smart so that's something.



Culture Shock: Life as an International Student

Having lived in Vietnam for the majority of my life with frequent visits back to Taiwan, it’s safe to say that moving to England has given me a few culture shocks. Below, I’ll list the most amusing and staggering shocks I’ve suffered so far.



1. Calling for the Bill

One bizarre thing for me is that it is rude to put up your hand or call for a waiter’s attention to ask for the bill. I have been told that, instead, you wait until you make eye contact with a waiter and they come over to your table. To me, this was a very different experience and waiting for the bill took longer than I was used to.

2. Early Closing Times

I found it very inconvenient that shops and restaurants tend to close so early, especially on Sundays. It was very different to Vietnam where shops mostly open to half-past ten at night, even on weekends and even later in Taiwan, famous for its night markets. It feels strange when I walk down the streets at around nine o’clock to see many shops already closed and only the bars and pubs still alive.

3. Alcohol and drinking

Despite having read about the drinking culture in England, I was still shocked that there really is not much to do at night besides consuming lots of alcohol at pubs and bars. I am not a big drinker and personally not a huge fan of alcohol so seeing most people drink did take me a little by surprise.

4. Traffic Lights

It was honestly fascinating to me that you can simply press a button to change the traffic light to red if you want to cross the road. No such thing existed in Vietnam, although to be honest the rules for crossing the road there seemed non-existent, so this was a shock that I found very interesting.

5. Measurements

Seeing food measured in grams but hearing friends refer to their weight in stones and small objects measured in centimetres but long distance in miles was incredibly bizarre, though mostly confusing. The inconsistent units of measurement will definitely take a while for my metric system-orientated brain to get used to.

6. Currency

I have learned over the past few weeks to not convert British pounds to Vietnamese dong or Taiwanese dollar when shopping to save myself from passing out at how expensive everything seems. Although I have learned how the currency works, using it in everyday life still felt awkward and I have a hard time differentiating the different coins. Thus, I would like to apologise whoever stands behind me in a checkout queue.

It’s only been 2 weeks since I moved to England, so I am certain more culture shocks will manifest as time pass, but I will just have to learn to adapt and embrace them all.

Pao-Hua (Mary) Yeh

Get Lost

Nick explores the value of the paper map in an age when digitalisation permeates our lives.



you to your destination, and apparently, it's one we prefer to that of a real human voice when we ask for directions in person.

With a paper map, you can take control of it, use it how you want, mark it up how you want and work out how to get to where you want to by yourself, instead of how a corporation wants you to get there. By doing so you can gain peripheral knowledge of your city, the system of street names, parallel paths, alternate routes etc. and soon you have learned the map, or rather via the map you have learnt your way around the city and thus the map is now within you, you have become the map.

Rebecca Solnit, the writer, critic and cartographer believes we are all atlases, maps of our own existence, from our childhood homes to our journey to uni. We have all internalised the maps of our first home and our walks to school.

The maps we use now show only a mainstream consensus. Google Maps shows you road exits, traffic problems, people post reviews of restaurants etc. and it shows us a landscape built only of driving and consumption. They teach you what to see and thus by extension what not to see. The problem we face is that we spend less and less time with maps, and the maps we do spend time with do not show us the world in any subversive or exciting manner.

When asked to define Google's mission, the former director of mapping wrote, "We hope to create a dynamically generated and highly personalised experience giving preferential treatment to the places you search for, and places you mention in your emails."

And therein lies the 21st Century Utopia, one that confines you to your emails. A personalised service based only on your previous searches and interests leaves no room for finding what hasn't before been found; surprises will be lost, hidden gems never

discovered. This bespoke mapping is a straightjacket that has bound us to the capitalist spectacle of consumption.

The city wanderer should aim to drift through the city, get lost and thus remap your city. Let's make this year the year we work to undercut the capitalist spectacle by seeing what we are not supposed to see; the homeless beggar, the illegal cladding, the immoral high rise buildings, the flats left vacant by foreign capital, the social cleansing. Having a map with no specific A-B, no travel time, no blue line, no 'make a U-turn when possible' is the first step to seeing the city laid bare. Arthur Machen put it succinctly in his *The London Adventure, or the Art of Wandering* when he said, "Here was the notion. What about a tale of a man who 'lost his way'; who became so entangled in some maze of imagination and speculation that the common, material ways of the world became of no significance to him?" Google Maps can only show us the common and material ways, so buy a map and get lost.

Nicholas Porter



Agony Aunt

“What else is there to do in Leeds in the evenings if you're not into clubbing?”



Squad Goals

Sam provides fresh insight into cheerleading. Once viewed merely as a side-line performance, it now stands out internationally as a competitive sport of the highest quality.



When you hear ‘cheerleading’, what comes to mind? At this time, your response may be influenced by the rise in popularity of competitive cheerleading in recent years. The time of cheerleading being a side-line performance to encourage other sports teams is quickly receding into obscurity. In its place, a complex and spectacularly watchable sport is taking the spotlight.

For those unfamiliar with competitive cheerleading, it’s garnering a staggering presence in the UK, with the vast majority of universities now offering a competitive cheer team among their sports clubs. As a performance sport, cheer consists of four main elements: floor tumbling (gymnastics), stunting, jumps, and dance.

Floor tumbling is a gymnastic discipline which you might be familiar with from viewing the Olympics. Tumbling in cheer is the same, but at a lower difficulty level. One of the reasons for this is because cheerleaders tend to have significantly less

formal training than their gymnastic counterparts. Another reason is because, in order to score highly, a routine must have a certain number of ‘running’ and ‘standing’ tumbling passes, so the skills have to be possible for a large number of athletes to master and perform several times in a routine.

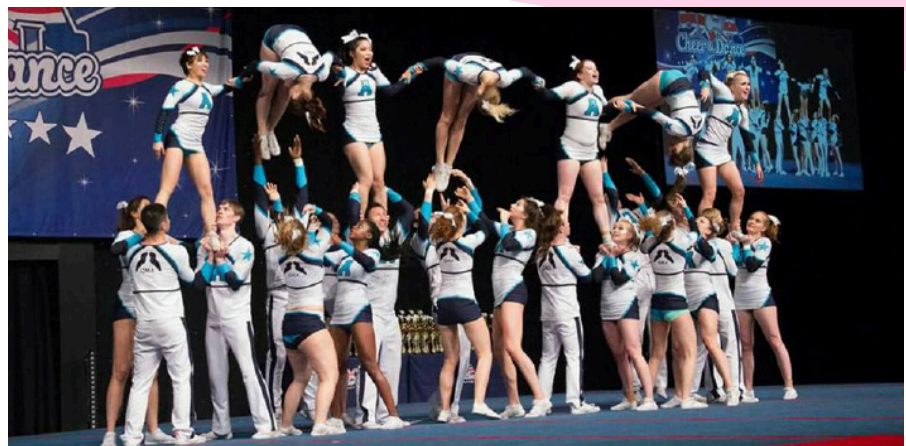
Stunting is the most visually striking element of cheer, and with tumbling makes up the majority of each team’s two and a half minute routines. Stunting involves lifting people known as ‘flyers’ into the air, and there can be anywhere from four bases to just a single person below a flyer at any one time. Single-base stunting takes a remarkable amount of skill from both the flyer and the base, and is an incredible sequence to watch in any cheer routine.

Another remarkable stunt is the ‘basket toss’. To execute it, the bases lock hands and wrists to provide a platform for the flyer. Then, as she loads in onto their hands, they throw her as high as possible to perform twisting or flexibility stunts in the air. For context on just how terrifying this stunt can be, the average height of a flyer thrown in a basket toss is about 10 feet. The current Guinness World Record stands at 18 feet in the air.

So, I’ll ask again: when you hear ‘cheerleading’, what comes to mind? Does this sound like your kind of sport? If your answer is no, be willing to try it out. I arrived at university having never heard a single thing about cheerleading. Fast forward just a couple of months after a taster session and I had fallen completely in love with it: the athleticism, the discipline, the team bonding. A sport that I had never even heard of when leaving home had gone on to become an integral part of my life just a few months later.

Cheerleading might conjure up pictures of bleach blonde American high schoolers waving pom poms (thankfully we have only had to use poms once in two years, and that was when we won silver at the European championships), but when I look around my team I see people from all walks of life: people of different races, genders, weights, heights, athletic abilities, and backgrounds. I see all of these people unified by a sport that encourages teamwork and determination. Cheerleading is a sport that anyone can and should become a part of, and you’ll find quite quickly that if you enjoy it, it becomes a part of you.

Sam Woodyatt



Leeds is a party city, it’s no secret. It can be daunting arriving in a place where the norm is a night out at Canal Mills or Warehouse, particularly if you don’t enjoy clubbing and staying out until the early hours of the following day. You may be worried that you’re the only one out there, sitting at the kitchen table in your new flat, listening to flatmates talk about the latest rave and thinking, “there is no way on this Earth I will enjoy this”. Never fear, there are plenty of things you can do instead.

Belgrave Music Hall is a popular bar in the Northern Quarter known for its indie decor, cosy setting and, wait for it... pizza by the slice. Inviting your new friends for a chat and a couple of drinks, surrounded by fairy lights, is a sure-fire way to impress and have a low stress night. Another one of my favourite places to enjoy a few drinks is LS6 Clock Cafe in Hyde

Park. They often have interesting evening events to keep you entertained, such as comedy, open mic, and anonymous letter readings. If you’re into the arts and cool people, you’ll find your place in LS6.

Bear with me on this next one: Have you ever considered going to a trampoline park? I went to Jump Arena with friends on a Saturday night during first year and it was potentially the most hilarious night I’ve had in a long time. In the same category of borderline sporty evening activities (not something I ever thought I would promoting, but here I am), Roxy Ballroom by Trinity is a great place to go with a group of friends. Booking a slot to play mini golf, beer pong or pool, then grabbing a vodka mixer and a bite to eat is a recipe for a memorable night. Drinking alcohol in a relaxed atmosphere is also a good compromise between clubbing and staying in.

An alternative idea is to relax and watch a film at the Everyman cinema. A movie is always a fun time, but the Everyman takes it to the next level with sofa seats and food service. I know, I know: bliss. The selection of movies is a bit limited in comparison to other venues, but the unique experience means that it’s worth visiting.

I imagine that if you invite new friends to any of these locations, you’ll soon realise that more people dislike clubbing than you think. Even if the people you meet seem to party all night long, armed with Jaeger-bombs by the dozen, they’ll almost certainly still be up for a chilled night now and again. University is all about discovering who you are, and there’s more than one way to live life in Leeds.

Emily Merrill



“For me, I went into university with the idea that I would... not reinvent myself, but not hold myself back.

I was a bit timid before, and I was like, ‘no, I’m not going to doubt myself. I’m gonna go on and do things’. So I got really involved in the Uni, ran and won the election to be the Co-President of a society... I just threw myself into everything.

I’ve had to tone it down in final year, but I would tell my first year self to just say yes to everything.”

“Everything but drugs!”

“Yeah everything but drugs!”

Labour Conference 2017: The Establishment Of The Political Mainstream

Eleanor Noyce

The word “conference” might typically invite images of men in suits, gathered around a table, bickering over paperwork, business formalities, and suchlike. The exclusion of social minorities and the excess of white, middle-class men are concepts which almost loom over the Dictionary definition of a “conference”. For years, these images could not be separated from the reality of politics, leaving an increasing number of left-wing loyalists behind.

“Left-wing politics is on the agenda, and it is here to stay. Labour has indeed monopolised the middle ground”

The Labour Conference of 2017 invited no such thoughts: social inclusion, social cohesion, and social unity appeared at the forefront of everything it set out to achieve. The excitement didn't just fill the conference room, either. It's energy extended, infiltrating television screens, mobile phones and laptops. One week on, and the buzz remains. Left-wing politics is on the agenda, and it is here to stay. Labour has indeed monopolised the middle ground.

For years, many voters felt locked out of the political mainstream. Blair's legacy produced politicians who were increasingly central, even centre-right, in their approach to government. For staunch socialists, it felt like there was no party representing them. The Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives similarly offered no viable alternative. The political mainstream was increasingly capitalistic; right-wing, and neo-liberal: each of these words inviting memories of the Thatcher regime.

“For years, many voters felt locked out of the political mainstream. Blair's legacy produced politicians who were increasingly central, even centre-right, in their approach to government”

And then, a new era began as Jeremy Corbyn was elected as leader of the Labour Party in 2015. Amongst the critics, and despite cries for resignation, Corbyn's Labour quickly became a home for both the loyal and the converted.

September's conference consolidated the new era of hope which began as the results of the General Election in June began to filter in. A hung Parliament, seventy percent youth turnout, and forty percent of the vote – Corbyn's Labour defied all expectations in June, and it continues to defy expectations now. The roar of the crowd as Corbyn began to address the conference spoke a thousand words:

a man with pure words and an honesty uncommon in politicians took back the political mainstream, just as he took back Theresa May's majority in June.

Three minutes of shouting, cheering, and singing from the crowd is unprecedented in British politics. Tories and Socialists alike can agree on this. No man or woman has inspired the same admiration that Corbyn has. A fourteen-page smear by *The Sun*, owned by one of the most powerful men in the world, did nothing to impede Labour's victory.

“The Labour Conference reinforced what we always knew: that politics shouldn't be governed by principles of greed, exclusivity or social hierarchies”

The Labour Conference reinforced what we always knew: that politics shouldn't be governed by principles of greed, exclusivity or social hierarchies. Politics is about honesty; about voicing opinions, and promoting a common cause. Corbyn has transformed politics for the better: September's conference demonstrated this.

The first blow to political convention was Corbyn's election as leader; the second was the slashing of the Conservative majority, and the third: a Labour Party Conference of such momentum that it attracted the largest crowd in the history of Labour Conferences. The political mainstream is Corbyn, and it is here to stay.

Hugh Hefner: The Man, The Myth, The Legend?

Elise Middleton

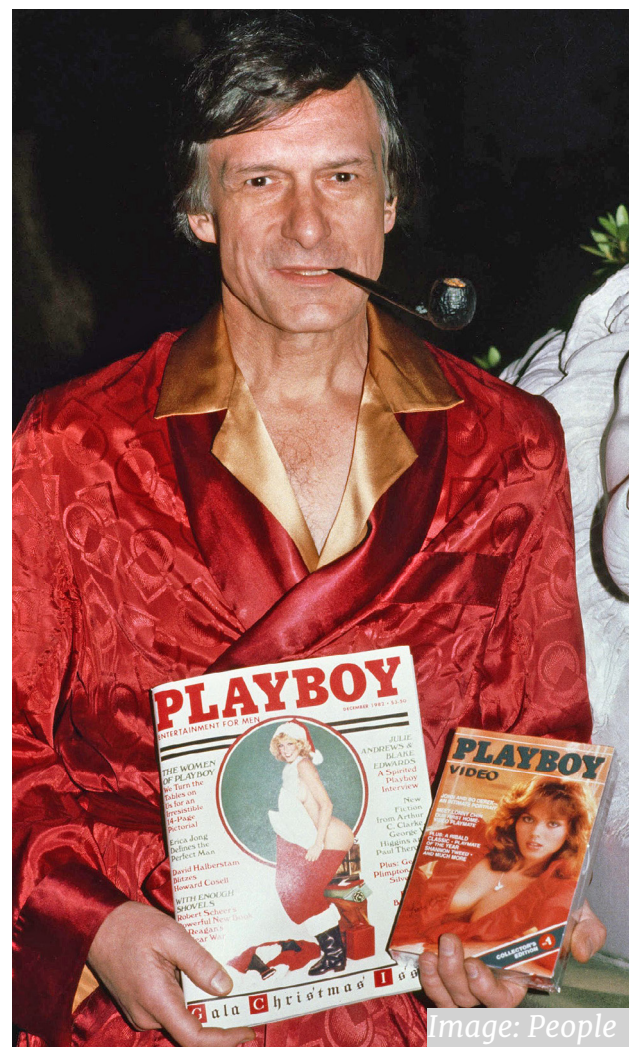


Image: People

The controversy of Hugh Hefner and *Playboy* magazine returned to the fore of public discussion when news broke of Hefner's passing on September 27th. Online it could be seen as a polarising topic – those hailing Hefner as a legend for founding the sexually explicit men's lifestyle magazine, and those renouncing him as a misogynist who exploited women. Hefner's son, and the CCO of *Playboy Enterprises*, described his father to have been a “cultural pioneer and a leading voice behind some of the most significant and cultural movements of our time”. Whereas an opinion piece in the *New York Times* remarked him to have been “a pornographer and chauvinist who got rich on masturbation, consumerism and the exploitation of women”.

While only known to many as a lewd old man, Hefner called himself a human rights activist. In 2011, he told CBS “I felt from a very early age that there were things in society that were wrong, and that I might play some small part in changing them”. From featuring figures such as Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr and Muhammad Ali, to allowing black performers to appear on stage in the *Playboy* club when they were shunned elsewhere.

In regards to women's rights, the photographs of many of the models used were seen as controversial for their unashamed presentation – the women tended to look down the lens, refusing to shy away as they owned their sexuality. These photos then helped bring debates about women's sexual liberation into the mainstream. Why shouldn't a woman feel sexy and confident?

“When considering Hefner's life and the work of Playboy, it is not easy to make a binary

Seemingly opposing the progress made in part because of the efforts of Hefner, the publishing magnate did a great deal of damage. The debut issue included a centrefold spread of Marilyn Monroe that had been purchased and used without her permission, beginning a long trend towards an exploitation of women. One of the most infamous images surrounding discussion of Hefner is that of him in the ‘*Playboy Mansion*’, surrounded by scantily clad women, all of whom were expected to partake in sexual activities. Seeing such things, it is not difficult to see Hefner as a lewd old man.

Playboy magazine has been described by *Stylist* to be the “forerunner of all today's abusive, misogynist pornography”, whilst Hefner himself has been labelled by the *New York Times* as the “grinning pimp of the sexual revolution”. Describing the publication at its debut as definitely not ‘a family magazine’, one that should be passed on by women to ‘the men in their life’, Hefner decided from the outright that the women involved in *Playboy* were not to be active participants, but objects to be viewed by men.

When considering Hefner's life and the work of *Playboy*, it is not easy to make a binary classification – feminist or chauvinist, progressive or lewd old man? He did a number of things that opened up conversations about civil rights at a time that nobody wished to discuss them, but spent the majority of his career exploiting the women involved in his work. Perhaps not the out and out evil publisher I once considered him to be, but by no means someone to be wholeheartedly celebrated in his passing.



Image: Evolve Politics



Is Politics Becoming Too Personal?



**Alex
Passingham**

When Laura Pidcock, the recently elected Labour MP for a constituency in Durham, said recently that she wouldn't 'hang out with Tory women' as they are 'the enemy', she received mixed reactions even on her own side. In the context of a hung parliament, and with Brexit causing substantial divides within parties, such an attitude to bi-partisanship from a member of parliament is concerning. Her stark language should be a warning to all of us with an interest in politics that something is wrong with the tone of political debate in this country.

At the heart of her argument is the question of whether somebody should have friends of differing political views. That people believe they ought not to is genuinely beyond my comprehension. Leaving aside the moral argument for a moment, are people not curious to hear other people's standpoints on particular issues? Refusal to mix socially with people whose political views differ from yours surely betrays either a staggering over-confidence in your own ideas, or such a lack of faith in those opinions that you fear them being challenged. If you care about politics deeply, (which, if you're still reading this, there's a decent chance you do), isn't one of the most interesting things about politics hearing something from somebody else's perspective? If one person or party had all the answers then we

"Seriously, Pidcock's comments and the numbers of people who agreed with them point to a growing problem with our politics."

wouldn't need elections. Talking politics with someone you disagree with is infinitely more interesting than doing so with someone who simply echoes your own thoughts, and also results in you being a better advocate for your own beliefs.

More seriously, Pidcock's comments and the numbers who agreed with them points to a growing problem with our politics. Perhaps it is an inevitable product of the nature of current events; the twin shock of the divisive EU referendum and the Corbynisation of the Labour party inevitably evoke strong opinions, whether for or against. Some might say we ought to simply expect an increasing level of political partisanship in our social circles in such times. To say this is to woefully underestimate the scale of the problem. Refusing to mix socially with people different from yourselves is the first step on a slippery slope which can have tragic consequences. It renders your opponents as less than you are, and leads to ugly scenes such as the battery of 'Tory scum' protestors currently outside the party's conference in Manchester.

Those doubting the seriousness of my point ought to recall it is barely a year since the murder of the Labour MP Jo Cox by a far right extremist. Political rhetoric about 'the enemy' in our midst can be taken all too literally. On a more upbeat note, I'd like to address my closing remarks to the writer of the opposing article. I don't believe we've met, but given the side you've taken on this I'd wager there's a fair amount we disagree on. Do you fancy a chat over a beer sometime?



**Aiden
Alexander**

In her first few months as the Labour MP for North West Durham, Laura Pidcock has already caused quite a stir, controversially stating that she would not be friends with other Tory MPs. Now, in this particular case, Anne Perkins in an article for the Guardian makes the important point that, for an MP like Pidcock, the ability to work alongside those you do not consider an ally can be an indispensable skill. But then again, when it comes to personal, individual feeling, I am firmly of the belief that politics can never be 'too personal'.

Politics is, by its very nature, a personal thing. It is a system through which the direction of an entire country or region is decided, and so to vote one way or another, or to not vote at all, is to support, legitimise, and champion certain ideological standpoints that aim to govern the lives of the individuals who make up a particular area. In this way, a political system such as the one which we have in place in Britain is one that can – and does – make or break people's lives.

For the people who take politics as personally as Pidcock, there is recognition of the fact that, for many, politics and personal feeling are in this sense made inextricable. The political debates that go on behind closed doors are ones that influence countless people and their lives,

"Political debates that go on behind closed doors are ones that influence countless people and their lives"

and so to suggest that this is not a system that has personal weight is frankly naïve.

I am willing to wager that most people who hold this view have never had their autonomy or the security of their

livelihood held in the palm of a politician's hand. For those of us who have, the idea of grabbing a coffee with, say, an anti-immigration Brexiter, a classist 'benefit

"For those who do not have the luxury of being able to separate the political from the personal, there will often be understandably a rejection of the political views that operate against them"

scrounger' rhetoric spouter, or a Human Rights Act opposer, is to associate with someone who fundamentally upholds the unequal treatment of themselves or of vulnerable people in general.

In putting forward this argument, I am not suggesting that one can't and should never be friends with someone who holds different views from them. For some, politics simply means casting a vote in the hopes that it will facilitate the most beneficial or desirable forward movement of the country. For people with this sort of viewpoint, politics seems a whole lot more removed from the particulars of everyday life.

But, for those who do not have the luxury of being able to separate the political from the personal, there will often be understandably a rejection of the political views that operate against them or against those with whom they feel politically and socially aligned. Therefore, as a direct, and completely understandable result of this, there will, in cases like Laura Pidcock's, also be a consequent rejection of the people who hold such views.

And I don't think there's anything wrong with that. At the end of the day we all exist together anyway.

Staff On Strike: A Just Response To Job Insecurity?

Alex Passingham

The University and College Union (UCU) has agreed to hold a strike on 11th, 12th and 13th October in response to University of Leeds' UCU branch's request. The strike appears to be the culmination of a long-going dispute between academic staff and 'university management' – ie. Human Resources and higher management within the University. A large part of this problematic struggle is the negotiation of a new University statute which would allow academic staff to be dismissed for 'Some Other Substantial Reason' (SOSR). Staff see this as a catch-all clause which would allow HR to dismiss them for any or no reason; citing instances at the nearby University of Huddersfield where SOSR has been used to dismiss otherwise experienced academic staff on the grounds that they did not possess a PhD. In simpler terms, academic staff at our university already feel that they are under great pressure in their jobs and that this further statute which they have already voted against is a heavy blow against their rights. The Leeds branch of UCU sees the new statute as the start of a 'race to the bottom' in terms of institutions driving down staff conditions nationwide.

It is essential to the quality of our education as students that the academic staff teaching us do not feel their jobs are always under threat, that they still have freedom to voice their expert opinions in fields well-known to them, and that the University of Leeds is able to retain academic staff who are at the top of their respective fields if they want to be considered one of the best universities in the

country for years to come. The logic is simple: if lecturers have to endure a significant decline in working conditions then they'll either leave or work at a lower standard; either one of these outcomes is a negative for any student at the University of Leeds.

The strike is a reaction against the ongoing marketisation of higher education which leaves lecturers stretched and students paying extravagant fees in exchange for a decent level of higher education. While the three-day strike will inevitably have an impact on teaching for the week beginning 10th October, in the long term hopefully a strike will be able to achieve what

academic staff need and want in their jobs. This should then make a positive difference to university life for students too. It's easy to paint a picture of academic staff as privileged people in ivory towers but, in reality, they are just normal people trying to do their jobs as best as they can and earn a living in something they love. Therefore, we should wholeheartedly support them in this endeavour to protect at least some semblance of job security.

Universities live and die by academic freedom, and so it helps no one – apart from a profit-driven higher management – to have an ever-present fear of an easy dismissal hanging over the heads of academic staff.

A University spokesperson said:

"The University is not introducing any new grounds for dismissal, it is simply modernising the procedures it would follow, in the interests of openness and transparency. Checks and balances that prevent any abuse of procedures have been included, and the principle and protection of academic freedom – a cornerstone of our constitution – is made explicit in all relevant procedures."

"We are disappointed with the decision to take industrial action, which we genuinely believe is unnecessary. We will do everything we can to ensure that students are not adversely affected. Only a small proportion of our staff took part in an equivalent strike earlier this year."



Image: Leeds UCU

The Fight for Freedom and Democracy!

Julien Yvon

The 1st October 2017 was a historic day for Catalonia. It was the day that the Catalan people defied the Spanish government by staging its own independence referendum. Unlike the Brexit referendum in Britain, the outcome was straightforward; 90.9% of the population voted 'si' to independence.

However, the vote was to be marred by the brutal violence that the Spanish police inflicted upon the Catalan people. The Spanish Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, had declared that the referendum was unconstitutional and should be ignored. Democracy was to be denied at all costs. Anyone attempting to cast their vote was met with the ferocious blow of a policeman's truncheon. People of all ages, including elderly women, were seen covered in blood from the beatings they had just received. The whole world witnessed the iconic images of Catalan fire fighters using themselves as a human shield in order to allow fellow citizens to flex what they believed to be their democratic right. But how did it come to this?

Despite having many similarities with Spain, Catalonia has its own distinct culture and language. Ever since its attachment to Spain in the 15th Century, Catalonia feels that it has been suppressed by its Spanish rulers. Subsequent kings attempted to impose the Spanish language and laws upon the region until 1931, when the national Catalan government was restored. However, the worst was yet to come after the Fascist dictator, General Franco, took control of the region in 1938. His obsession

"Anyone attempting to cast their vote was met with a ferocious blow of a policeman's truncheon."

with destroying Catalan separatism led to a period of suffering which saw the killing of 3500 Catalonians.

Despite its maltreatment, the Catalan independence movement did not regain traction until after the financial crisis of 2008. Many Catalonians believe that the region has an unequal economic partnership with the Spanish government in Madrid. This can be proven by the fact that the region, which makes up 16% of Spain's population, pays 20% of the country's tax yet only receives 14% back in public expenses. To put this into context, Catalonia's contribution to Spain is twice that of Scotland's contribution to the UK. Those demands have pushed Catalonia into debt and left a wealthy region struggling to provide basic services for its own people. Therefore, the Catalan government has sought to be able to manage its own tax. Many anti-independence politicians have described the ideas put forward as "selfish nationalism" which would leave Spain's poorest regions in ruins. However, what these politicians do not understand is the fact that the redistribution system in Spain does not bridge the wealth gap – it reorders it.

Another issue which arose from the 'illegal' referendum was the EU's intervention, or lack thereof. Despite the bloodshed witnessed in Catalonia, the EU refused to condemn police violence, instead deciding to regurgitate the Spanish government's words on the 'unconstitutional' vote. This is in spite of the fact that article 7 of the Lisbon treaty clearly states that member states that use military force upon its own people should be suspended.

The EU showed itself to be a technocracy by putting its own interests ahead of the safety of its people. Is this the day that democracy died?



Image: Links International Journal of Socialist Renewal

Should We Really Be Scared of Student Debt?

Julia Constable investigates whether your student loan is really as big of a burden as you are lead to believe

Julia Constable

Following a report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies earlier this year, it was revealed that over 70% of students who left University in 2016 are expected never to repay their student loans in full. These figures suggest that future university graduates will be in a similar position: saddled with “debt” that they will never actually have to repay. With this in mind, why does the concept of student debt create such psychological stress for current and future students alike?

The answer is simple: we know how to get in to debt, but we don’t know how to get out of it. Martin Lewis, the founder and chair of MoneySavingExpert.com, has been trying to tackle the anxiety students feel regarding student borrowing as the head of the Independent Student Taskforce, providing free advice and information to students in an attempt to bring clarity to the chaotic student finance system.

In his opinion, student loans are “the best type of lending you’ll ever get” for several reasons. Firstly, the amount you repay is proportional to the amount that you earn; graduates only have to make repayment contributions of 9% on the money that they earn over the £21,000 threshold, therefore you will only ever have to start repaying the loan if you earn enough to do so. Moreover, regardless of how much you

borrow, the 9% repayment remains the same. For example, if one student has borrowed £27,000 and another student has borrowed £100,000, providing that they are both earning the same amount of money (e.g. £31,000) then both will only have to repay £900 annually.

Secondly, in light of the recent research from the Institute of Fiscal Studies, the majority of borrowers will never be able to repay the original borrowed capital figure. In this scenario, not only does the borrower not have to repay their pay their student loan, they also do not have to pay the current 6.1% interest on the loan. Furthermore, the 6.1% interest rate isn’t fixed and is instead proportional to your earnings, meaning that for some people, the loan will be interest free and for others the interest rate will vary; the higher your income the higher your interest rate. It is important to note that no borrower has to start paying interest until they have repaid the initial capital borrowed in the first place. Ultimately, student borrowers will only ever have to repay what they can afford.

The concept of student debt is deceptive. In theory, students have borrowed money as a loan which they must repay with interest. In practice, the repayment of student “debt” functions in a similar way to



income tax, in that repayments are proportional to income. Furthermore, unlike other forms of debt, the loan is written off after 30 years with no record of borrowing on your credit files, meaning that the loan has no subsequent effect on your credit rating. Overall, we should see student loan repayment as a type of tax instead of a crippling liability. We shouldn’t fear student debt; although the concept of a government charging its citizens for education truly is distressing, loan repayment doesn’t have to be.

Why There Are More Working Mothers Than Ever

Grace Ennis

In 1996, a year in which many University of Leeds students were born, the rate of working mothers with dependent children stood at 61.9%. Within our lifetimes, this has risen to a startling 73.7%, correlating to an increase in 1.2 million women. Why might this be?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published data earlier this week evaluating men and women with children aged between 16 and 64, aiming to gain a valid insight into the labour market. The investigation was restricted to those employed in England and was based on two surveys: the Labour Force Survey and the Annual Population Survey.

The results marked an overall figure of 4.9 million mothers with dependent children in the workforce, a comparatively high number juxtaposed to 3.7 million in 1996. Part-time work was also accounted for, as the results showed a significant increase in women with children at the toddler stage in employment, yet mothers with secondary school age children came out on top for full-time work. On the whole, men were more likely to be employed in full-time work than women.

Relationship status also played a central role: the ONS found that single parents were less likely to be employed, illuminating a striking gap between those single or with a partner, at 71.7% and 93% respectively for fathers, and 68.5% and 75% for mothers.

These two weak-points converged, as single parents with dependent children aged under 4 were the lowest ranking, charting at just 48.4% for mothers and 62.3% for fathers.

Spokeswoman and statistician Emily Glastonbury indicated that this rise may be the result of ‘more flexible working practices, shared parental leave, and changes to government policy on the availability of childcare’. This may have been influenced by the 2015 announcement to share parental leave, which outlined 37 weeks of paid time-off and ensured it would be allocated equally between couples.

Both Labour and Conservative governments of the past 21 years have worked to encourage women with younger children to return to the job market sooner than previously expected, and the government’s recent plan to provide 30 hours of free childcare is a contentious example. Despite this progressive

motion, Labour has warned this policy may be exclusionary, as there is a minimum requirement of a 16-hour working week and a minimum-wage salary to be eligible. This could prove untenable for those on zero-hours contracts whose working schedules are unstable, or those on disability benefits who are unable to fully care for their children.



Image: konbini.com

Transatlantic flights for as little as £50

India Daniel

In July Norwegian Airlines announced the arrival of the world's longest low-cost flight; London to Singapore in 12 hours and 45 minutes for only £149.90. This followed the company's announcement in February that the airline would be offering flights to Chicago for £179 and to the North-East of America for as little as £50. For a generation of young people used to being able to book a flight for less than the cost of a pair of trainers, the news that you can now fly across the world for a similar price seems like the natural progression.

Today it was announced that the low-cost airline Monarch has gone bankrupt leaving thousands of passengers stranded or without travel. This announcement came in the wake of the news that Ryanair, the controversial grandfather of low cost European air travel, cancelled significant numbers of flights due to an admin error, leaving thousands of passengers stranded across Europe. Many people are now questioning the reliability and standards of passenger safety for budget airlines.

Norwegian airlines have worked hard to fight

“For a generation of young people used to being able to book a flight for less than the cost of a pair of trainers, the news that you can now fly across the world for a similar price seems like the natural progression.”

the traditional image of a budget airline and have been quoted as saying that passengers experiencing their budget transatlantic flights will experience a “spacious, modern economy cabin with seatback inflight entertainment,” or for an extra cost can opt for a Premium cabin with “more than a meter of legroom, complimentary meal service, generous baggage allowance and airport lounge access.”

A mix of factors have influenced Norwegian airlines' ability to offer such cheap flights: the advances in fuel technology mean that new models of planes are the more fuel efficient than ever; a weakened Norwegian Kronor, Sterling and Euro means that markets outside of Europe are much better value for money; a surge in operators offering transatlantic flights means companies are having to cut prices to compete; and a fall in the cost of jet fuel means that the cost of running flights has fallen.

Norwegian airlines accounts have shown an increase in revenue year on year since 2007, in line with their broadened operations. The company have almost consistently made a profit, something which is unusual in the aviation industry due to the huge investment in new technology, which often takes years to recuperate, and increased profit by 525% in the year from 2015 to 2016. The company says that their continued investment in a new air fleet is “necessary to keep [our] costs down” and allows them to offer “inexpensive fares”.

However, many of these factors are only circumstantial leaving many wondering just how sustainable this market is. Once Britain and Europe

have reached an agreement on Brexit, investors' confidence in the pound and euro is likely to increase leading to airlines' margins beginning to reduce, unless they increase prices. The current low price of jet fuel is also unlikely to last due to the oil market's notorious volatility. Norwegian airlines is also in a tough market with subdued growth for flights and holiday tour operators, as wages remain stagnant and living costs rise, meaning people have less disposable income to spend on holidays.

To avoid becoming the next Monarch, airlines need to ensure they have negotiated their fuel contracts to be fixed as far ahead as they are selling their low-cost tickets. Airlines should also have hedged against any fluctuations on the currency market over the next twelve months, as with negotiations for Britain's departure from the EU still going the currency market is particularly volatile with experts predicting that the current currency rates are unlikely to remain stable.



Image: uk.businessinsider.com

Monarch Overthrown

Reece Parker

Budget airline Monarch filed for bankruptcy this week, immediately ceasing all operations with the announcement. As a result of this, 2000 employees were left without a job, with many news outlets reporting that over 100,000 individuals were left stranded at airports worldwide.

Monarch's collapse is a sad end for the company, which at one point catered to more than seven million passengers annually. The company's downfall has been a long and protracted event. They were first bailed out in 2014 by Greybull Capital, who repeated the feat with a £165 million cash injection at the tail end of 2016. Whilst Monarch are yet to release an official statement explaining what pushed them over the edge, a weakened economy as a result of Brexit, and the increasing prominence of rival airlines such as Ryanair have been tipped as possibilities.

Monarch's handling of the situation has been widely criticised. Many passengers only found out about the cancellations once they had arrived at airports, with one passenger telling ITV news “Its an absolute joke. I've got 20 people here at the airport with me who've travelled from Lincolnshire and London and Bournemouth [...] and everyone's

“Civil regulators have mobilised 34 aircraft to pick up passengers in what is rumoured to be the UK's biggest act of peacetime repatriation.”

just stuck here abandoned”. Civil regulators have mobilised 34 aircraft to pick up passengers in what is rumoured to be the UK's biggest act of peacetime repatriation.

This isn't the end for Monarch, whose situation could go from already very bad to even worse. The Unite union have launched legal action on behalf of the employees who were laid off, a move which could add millions to the taxpayer's bill. The administrators, KPMG, made Monarch staff redundant on Monday, instead of the 45-day notice period, and some staff called a premium rate number to hear news of their redundancy, being billed up to £40 for the call. KPMG have since pledged to reimburse these costs.





Have I Got News for Flu

Image: Oceancrusaders.org

Leo Kindred
Science Editor

Freshers' Flu (FF) – odds are you probably will get it at least once whilst at university. That being said, when I went to university years ago in another life, I stayed in halls and yet, I was never on the receiving end of the dreaded illness, even when people I lived with in second year were all suffering. When I came to Leeds I got it straight away in my first year, despite living by myself, and having no friends.

A good example of how FF works is the story of the Native American princess Pocahontas. In the Disney version, the film closes in sentimental style with our heroine still in America, waving goodbye to her lover John Smith. In real life, she was captured and ransomed by the English in a war with her tribe. She converted to Christianity, took the name Rebecca, and was married to a tobacco farmer. She then travelled to England at the behest of the Virginia Company, who were keen to promote the idea of the tamed “savage” as part of a marketing campaign. Pocahontas then died at the age of around 20, from some form of infection. This probably happened because she came from a far-away, isolated land, where the variety of pathogens were different from those in England. Her body would have dealt with a local flora of viruses and bacteria in America, and built up a natural immunity to some of them. In England though, her immune system would have been confronted with lots of other different strains of microbes, and her body had no

chance to build up a defence in advance.

Fast forward to the current day, with people coughing like life-long smokers in your lecture theatre. It's a similar, if usually less severe, story. What we call “Freshers' Flu” is actually caused by an array of viruses. A virus is a very small pathogen which works like a guerrilla army invading an enemy stronghold. Imagine the army gets into the enemy base – your body, and takes over some of your cells. It then uses your cells like an arms factory to crank out more of itself, before the cell is destroyed by copies of the virus bursting out to invade more cells. This can make you feel crappy in general, but the virus can also make you sneeze and cough, which is its evolved way of trying to spread, either through being inhaled or getting on to surfaces and being transferred to the mouth or nose by hand.

Importantly, some of the things that make you more vulnerable to Freshers' Flu are actually psychological. The induction at university is a difficult time for some of us. My first few weeks in Leeds were marked by anxiety, stress, occasional anger, and some depression that can accompany being in a new, unfamiliar environment. This is important because stress can have a real physiological effect on your ability to fight off an infection. Under stress, your adrenal glands produce cortisol, which dampens the immune system by reducing the inflammatory response. This in turn can make you more susceptible to the various strains of pathogen that will be floating about, brought to the university by your fellows.

Much like Pocahontas, students at Leeds Uni come from far and wide to study, bringing viruses with them they have immunity to – but you may not. Enter Freshers' Week, with lots of immunologically weak people run down by stress, lack of sleep, poor diet and heavy drinking, going to lots of events with other people and having close contact (of one sort or another). To boot, all of this happens at the end of September which is the start of flu season, where the cooling temperatures are favourable for viruses to spread. It's an ideal environment for pathogens to thrive!

So, if you're looking to avoid the dreaded FF, the best thing to do is to look after yourself, both mentally and physically:

- Get enough sleep.
- Don't drink too heavily.
- Try and make sure you don't end up in the greasy take-away too often.
- Wash your hands often.
- And seriously, look after your psychological health.

If you feel you're not coping; anxious, stressed, sad, depressed – get in touch with Nightline or the university's counselling service. You may get ill from being part of a larger community, but you can benefit from being part of one too.

Student Counselling: students.leeds.ac.uk/info/100001/counselling

Nightline: www.leedsnightline.co.uk

Nikola Tesla: A Flamboyant Futurist

Sam McMaster
Science Editor

Tesla is a name I'm sure everyone is familiar with by now, but today it's perhaps more synonymous with the pioneering car company started by Elon Musk than the brilliant, if a little eccentric, inventor, engineer and physicist that originally bore the name.

Nikola Tesla was born on 10th July 1856 in Smiljan in the Austrian Empire (modern day Croatia) during a violent thunderstorm. According to his family, the midwife declared this to be a bad omen saying “This will be a child of darkness”, to which Tesla's mother replied: “No, he will be a child of light”.

Inspired by his mother, who would create small household appliances in her spare time, Tesla pursued the sciences; studying at the Polytechnic Institute in Graz and the University of Prague in the 1870s before moving to Budapest to work at the Central Telephone Exchange. It was here that he had the idea for the induction motor; after several years of failing to find investors for his idea, he moved to America at age 28.

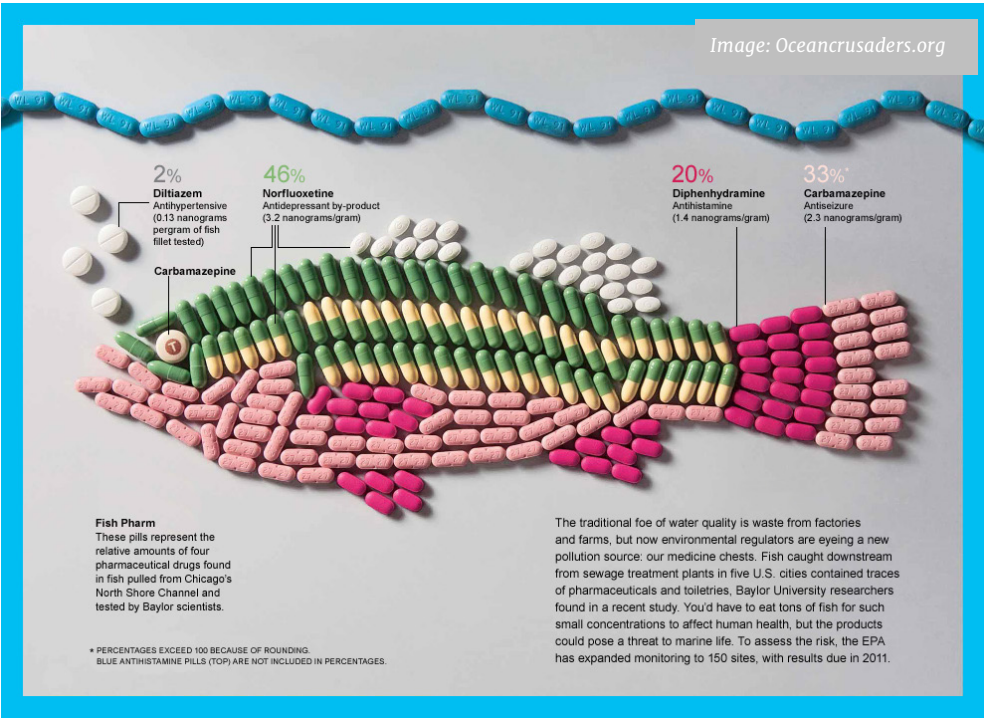
In 1884, Tesla arrived in the United States with few possessions and a letter of introduction to Thomas Edison, famed inventor and businessman. Edison hired

Tesla and they worked together to improve Edison's inventions but this wasn't to last as they soon parted ways due to personality conflicts. After a brief stint in working to improve arc lighting and working as a manual labourer, Tesla was able to find interest for his AC (alternating current) electrical system. Thus began further conflict in what has become known as the War of the Currents, with Thomas Edison who instigated a negative press campaign against Tesla and his AC system in favour of DC. Tesla eventually won when the Westinghouse Corporation, whom he worked for, was chosen to light the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and later in 1895, when Tesla designed the first AC hydro-electric power plant at Niagara Falls. The use of AC later became the standard current system worldwide and remains so today.

During this time, Tesla also invented the Tesla coil and a number of other electrical wonders though many were patented by other scientists. These included the dynamo, radar, x-ray technology, remote control and rotating magnetic fields. With these accomplishments under his belt, Tesla became obsessed with the wireless transmission of energy, specifically building a global, wireless communications network to share information and free electricity throughout the world. With new funding from financial giant J.P. Morgan, Tesla began the project in 1901. He designed and built a lab (with power plant and transmission tower) on Long Island, New York, which became known as Wardenclyffe Tower.

Fish on Drugs: The Effect of Chemicals in our Water

James Deed



Over the past few decades the use of pharmaceuticals has increased dramatically, enabling a 10-year rise in the average life expectancy of the United Kingdom over the last 50 years. However, we rarely consider the other implications of such use outside our own wellbeing. Studies suggest that when we consume drugs they are not 100% metabolised by our bodies, i.e. there are trace amount which we do not use and are instead excreted. Alongside this, the by-products of many drugs are also released by our bodies, entering wastewater treatment facilities. These treatment plants are not able to remove the trace chemicals or hormones within the water, thus releasing the contaminated water into rivers and other water bodies.

Why should we care?

We already know that drugs within livestock and food can have an adverse effect upon the environment, such as the near-extinction of vultures in India which resulted from anti-inflammatory drugs in cattle feed. The newest threat to the ecosystem is the pharmaceutical industry; from which many of these trace chemical and molecules are released into water bodies and ingested by other organisms. In this instance, only a tiny amount of the drug may be present, however this increases as predators eat organisms below themselves in the food chain. Studies have only started to observe this effect due to the low concentrations of drugs, which are unknowingly leaking into the freshwater ecosystems and affecting the resident fish populations.

One of the most recent and shocking findings within fish populations is the effect of pharmaceuticals is the presence of high levels of chemicals and hormones from the contraceptive pill. This causes male fish populations to exhibit female characteristics because of higher level of oestrogen-like chemicals, growing eggs in their testes. The individuals also denature their typical characteristics, leading to a higher mortality rate of fish due to increased predation.

What does this mean for ecosystems?

These chemicals and hormones within the water not only change the physical characteristics but they also change the behavioural patterns of the fish. One study in Ontario identifies how the flathead minnow fish population has been wiped-out as a result of a change in their nature and inability to hunt for food. These species are found lower in the food chain; therefore a knock-on effect is observed higher up the food chain due to the lack of food for predatory species, in this case the top predator (trout) was found to have reduced in population by as much as 42%. Ultimately, this could cause problems for humans due to food shortages within an ever-growing global population.

The future effects upon the ecosystem prove problematic due to a lack of hormone-free alternatives as a long-term method of contraception. Lina Nikoleris highlights this where she says:

“The impact that human beings have on the environment is an important issue, so I do not only want to study the ecological aspect of how fish are affected by hormones, but also look at the way we use hormonal birth control. Technical solutions are not enough to purify our water.”

His investors began to doubt him when Guglielmo Marconi, with support from Andrew Carnegie and Thomas Edison, made advances with his own radio technologies by transmitting radio across the Atlantic. Forced to abandon the project, the Wardencllyffe site fell into foreclosure in 1915 and 2 years later, Tesla declared bankruptcy.

Tesla suffered a nervous breakdown but eventually returned to work, primarily as a consultant. Becoming more and more eccentric, he devoted much of his time to caring for wild pigeons and talking about building a death ray. If you're familiar with The Pretige, David Bowie famously portrayed the eccentric inventor at this stage in his life.

Tesla died on January 7th 1943, at the age of 86, in New York City, which had been his home for nearly 60 years. Almost immediately the Office of Alien Property of the FBI seized his property. This might have had something to do with his talk of building a death ray. His property was later returned to his family and later many things were taken to the Tesla Museum in Belgrade. A few rumours float around the internet that some documents remain classified by the U.S. Government, but this is speculation at best.

In a way, Tesla's dream came true. We are living in the age of widespread wireless communication, we just need to sort out the free part.



An Evening With... Lady Phyll



Lara Groves
Society Editor

Phyll had a difficult journey to get to where she is today. As one of the leading activists in the UK for LGBT+ rights and tackling racial injustices, she explains all the tragedies she has endured with poise. And I get the feeling they have been instrumental in her journey.

Lady Phyll puts forward that blackness is inherently political, and that the UK and the Western worlds' tendency to gravitate toward dangerous ethnocentrism is a serious problem for all BAME people- "we all have a responsibility for change". There is a tendency for momentum for black and minority issues and oppression to die down after October, so much so that we forget injustice is happening right now.

She goes on to talk about the creation of UK Black Pride, now in its twelfth year, a movement "born out of frustration", says Phyll. As she and others like her were not "seeing ourselves in the wider Pride movement", there was a perceivable lack of direct challenges of issues surrounding structural racism. She believes UK Black Pride promotes unity and ensures there is no "erasure of voices": BAME LGBT* people and their families have this safe, inclusive space that allows people to be both queer and black, or trans and mixed race- no one exists on the margin.

Phyll made headlines for turning down an MBE in 2016. A member of the audience asks her was it a difficult decision, one she had to pore over? Phyll shakes her head: she is vehement that she could not accept something that is so aligned with colonialism- "Anything that attaches itself to Empire leads a toxic legacy" she asserts. She recalls, the "venomous" backlash her decision caused both from the media and people at large (especially since she was by no means the first to do so). As Phyll speaks I am reminded of the similar abuse MP Diane Abbott received in the run up and aftermath of the 2017 General Election. Black women like Phyll and Abbott, both strong-willed advocates for change,

enduring racist abuse tells us why so much more needs to be done to tackle injustice. Sitting on my chair listening to this, I become very aware of my own race; as a white woman, would I ever be subjected to the same cruelty?

Phyll discusses the issues of so-called identity labels, and laments that "we fall into single issue politics". For example, she found that many LGBT+ groups she encountered in the past did not focus enough on the differing experiences between a white queer person and a queer person of colour. Intersectionality, she explains, is paramount to her. By recognising all aspects of our own identity - queerness, blackness, disability etc. - we can make the necessary steps in order to better understand how these signifiers interact and shape each other- they do not operate in isolation.

Phyll receives a question asking what steps a heterosexual and/or white person can do to support other groups. "To listen!", she smiles, explaining that it's important to recognise difference and to be an "ally", but "not dictate" on issues that are personal to identity.

Phyll quotes from the great Desmond Tutu: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor", a quote that perfectly summarises Phyll's stance. For this Black History Month, and beyond, it's necessary for all of us to take action in dismantling racist and homophobic structures.



Image: Poinciana School

It's the 30th anniversary of Black History Month, and LUU remain committed to marking the occasion with events, talks from key speakers, screenings and discussions.

On the 25th September, Society editor Lara Groves attended a talk from queer black activist Phyll Opoku, otherwise known as Lady Phyll, co-founder of *UK Black Pride* and trustee of *Stonewall*, to find out about intersectionality, Phyll's activism journey, and why we should be discussing injustice all year round, not just in October...



Image: Huffington Post

What now?

How else to get involved with Black History Month:

Get in touch with...

- Black Feminist Society
- African Caribbean Society
- Natasha Mutch Vidal- LUU Equality and Diversity Officer

Events:

1. Pyramid Cinema Club screening of *Hidden Figures*, in the Pyramid Theatre in the Union, on Thursday 12th October @ 6.30pm. (£5 entry)
2. Rep Your Nation, in the Pyramid Theatre in the Union, on Tuesday 10th October 7-10pm. Students from African diaspora (international and British born) are invited to celebrate BHM - feel free to bring flags and come dressed in your nation's traditional wear.

Wine Society – 'Wine of the Week'

The Wine Society's first event - an 'Introduction into Wine' - was a huge success with a great selection of wines and an outstanding turn out.

Each week the societies favourite bottle will be reviewed here to help everyone in Leeds drink better wine.

This week's clear favourite was the final wine, 'Animus', which also happened to be the cheapest bottle at the tasting. A steal at only £4.99, this one comes from everyone's favourite supermarket- Aldi.

The wine, a Douro valley blend, is made from the same grapes and comes from the same area as the world famous fortified wine known as Port. Three grapes in particular Tinta Roriz, Touriga Nacional and Touriga Franca make up this blend. Tinta Roriz,

known as 'Tempranillo' in Spain and used to produce Rioja wine, gives the blend rich and lively red fruit flavours. Touriga Nacional adds body, fruit and colour while the final variety, Touriga Franca adds finesse and floral rose character to the wine. The careful balance of each grape has produced this full bodied, red fruit flavoured sensation. It's also popular with the professionals as the wine was commended in the 2017 International Wine Challenge.

Wine Soc meet on Tuesdays at 7.30pm, Room 6, LUU Union Level 2

Coralie Strong - Wine Soc President



British Sportsmen and Booze

The Gryphon looks back at infamous British alcohol related incidents

Tom Davies

After a video of England cricketer Ben Stokes punching a man to the ground outside a Bristol nightclub hit the headlines last week, the Gryphon remembers eight alcohol-related affairs in the recent sporting history of Britain:

- Paul Gascoigne and the ‘Dentist’s Chair’ – Before the 1996 World Cup, Gazza was pictured strapped to a dentist’s chair and downing tequila in a Hong Kong bar. His subsequent celebration mocking the incident went down as ‘one of the most notorious moments in English football history’.
- The Pedalo Excursion – England cricketer Freddie Flintoff was famously stripped of the vice-captaincy following a 4am excursion on a pedalo during the 2007 World Cup in Sri Lanka.
- Motorway Golf Buggy Driving – Welsh rugby’s wild boy Andy Powell, in search of some cigarettes after a 2010 match in Cardiff, drove 45 minutes down the M4 in a hotel golf buggy. He was arrested and handed a 15-month driving ban.
- Rugby World Cup 2011 – England’s World Cup campaign was disastrous from start to finish in 2011, and cost coach Martin Johnson his job. Several England players were photographed drunk at a dwarf-throwing contest after their first win against Argentina. Later in the tournament, Manu Tuilagi was held by police after jumping off a ferry.
- Danny Cipriani – England’s bad-boy Cipriani has faced a number of alcohol-related controversies during his career. Last year, he was convicted of drink-driving, and he has been dropped numerous times for ‘breaching protocol’ with boozy nights out. Also, in 2013, he became the Otley Run’s most famous casualty after being hit by a bus near the Beckett city campus.
- Hardaker’s student assault – In another Leeds incident (2015), Rhinos and England rugby league player Zak Hardaker was fined and enrolled on anger management classes after drunkenly assaulting a student at the Opal One accommodation on Burley Road.
- Rooney in a Mini – Last month, England legend Wayne Rooney was charged with drink-driving after admitting to being three times over the limit. He was driving a Mini belonging to a woman he’d met on his night out, who accompanied him in the car. The result: a two-year driving ban and a marriage on the rocks.



- Ben Stokes – It will be difficult for the ECB to justify a return for Stokes in the face of such damning evidence. He’s also been warned before, after being sent home from the 2013 Ashes tour for persistent late-night drinking. The board are also bound by past decisions – they sacked Kevin Pietersen, and he was never filmed assaulting someone.



BUCS fixtures Wednesday 11th October

Varsity may have finished but there is still plenty of sports action in Leeds over the next 8 months. Many of the university’s sports teams start their British Universities & Colleges Sports (BUCS) campaigns this Wednesday, with *The Gryphon Sport* reporting on key fixtures each week. Here are some of the home matches to watch out for next week.

Badminton Womens 1st vs Manchester 1st
(2pm, The Edge)
Badminton Mens 1st vs Bangor 1st
(2pm, The Edge)

Basketball Womens 1st vs Durham 3rd
(5.30pm, The Edge)
Basketball Mens 1st vs Beckett 1st
(7.30pm, The Edge)

Football Womens 2nd vs Teeside 2nd
(1.30pm, Brownlee Centre)
Football Mens 2nd vs Beckett 4th
(2.30pm, Brownlee Centre)

Hockey Womens 1st vs Newcastle 1st
(5.30pm, Sports Park Weetwood)
Hockey Womens 5th vs Beckett 5th
(4pm, Sports Park Weetwood)
Hockey Mens 1st vs Nottingham 1st
(4pm, Sports Park Weetwood)
Hockey Mens 4th vs Beckett 3rd
(1pm, Sports Park Weetwood)

Netball Womens 3rd vs Durham 2nd
(4.30pm, Gryphon Sports Centre)

Rugby League Mens 1st vs Newcastle 1st
(2pm, Brownlee Centre)

Rugby Union Mens 1st vs Birmingham 1st
(1pm, Sports Park Weetwood)
Rugby Union Mens 4th vs Leeds U Mens 5th
(1pm, Sports Park Weetwood)

Squash Womens 1st vs Hull 1st
(1.30pm, Gryphon Sports Centre)

Tennis Mens 1st vs Chester 1st
(1pm, David Lloyd Leeds)
Tennis Womens 3rd vs Liverpool 2nd
(1pm, John Charles Sports Centre)

Ultimate Frisbee Mens 1st vs Shef Hallam 1st
(1.30pm, Brownlee Centre)

Volleyball Womens 1st vs Northumbria 2nd
(7.15pm, Gryphon Sports Centre)
Volleyball Mens 1st vs Shef Hallam 2nd
(6.15pm, Gryphon Sports Centre)

Full fixtures at bucs.org.uk

Rhinos Return to the Super League Grand Final

Nathan Olsen
Rugby League

This Friday night saw a close match between Leeds Rhinos and Hull FC at Headingley, ending in the Rhinos reaching a record-tying 10th Super League Grand Final appearance (on level terms with storied rivals St Helens). The Rhinos emerged victorious with the final score 18 – 16; two points being enough to put away the Challenge Cup winners, and fellow Yorkshire club, Hull FC.

In the Grand Final, Leeds will face a formidable Castleford Tigers team, who won the League Leader's Shield almost a month ago. The Tigers are perhaps the favourites for this match, finishing 10 points clear of Leeds in the regular season.

Castleford have dominated Leeds in the last eight matches in which the two teams have met, yet the Rhinos are never to be counted out. Leeds are bidding farewell to club legends Robbie Burrow and Danny McGuire after the Grand Final, and there is no doubt that the Rhinos will want to say goodbye with trophy in hand. After the 2016 season, which saw Leeds fall to 9th and the trials and tribulations of The Qualifiers, 2017 has witnessed a return to former glory,



Leeds Rhinos

with the Rhinos finishing 2nd in the table. Unfortunately, it is the team that they couldn't catch, Castleford Tigers, that the Rhinos will have to beat to win the Grand Final.

If Leeds were to win this Saturday at Old Trafford, it would have to be seen as a return to the winning ways of old. The 2015 championship treble and the so-called 'Golden Era' the Rhinos enjoyed from 2004–2012 would be joined by a Grand Final win in 2017, proving once again that the Leeds Rhinos are one of the most dominant forces in Super League.



Leeds Rhinos

Leeds Brushed Aside as Sheffield Wednesday Claim Derby Win

Elliot van Barthold
Football

Leeds clocked up a second successive defeat this weekend as they lost to bitter Yorkshire rivals Sheffield Wednesday. After such a promising start to the season, residing in first place in the Championship for most of September, they have hit a poor patch, dropping down to fifth in the table. Leeds were looking to bounce back strongly after losing to promotion rivals Cardiff the weekend before, however it was not meant to be. A Gary Hooper double and a Kieran Lee bullet ensured all three points stayed in South Yorkshire.

Leeds started the brighter of the two, Calvin Phillips and Ezgjan Alioski both headed wide before Kemar Roofs forced Wednesday goalkeeper Joe Wildsmith into an excellent save all in the first 20 minutes. But tragedy struck for Leeds 5 minutes later. Gary Hooper, the renowned poacher that he is, pounced on a Tom Lees header and put Wednesday in front.

From there, it was all Wednesday. Steven Fletcher missed a sitter from 5 yards out and Hooper had a

shot deflected wide. They kept pressuring though and, on 41 minutes, Hooper scored again. A looping cross was well won by Fletcher at the back post and Hooper guided his header over the goalkeeper into the net. Carlos Carvahal, who had been under some pressure coming into the game, looked relieved at the break.

Leeds came out stronger at the start of the second half, Lasogga hitting the post after the ball fell to him in the box – a chance a few weeks ago he would likely have buried. It was 8 minutes from time that Wednesday ensured no comeback. A poor clearance from Eunan O'Kane gave Lee a free shot on goal from 25 yards out, which he rifled into the back of Wiedwald's net.

Leeds Danish head coach, Thomas Christiansen, had this to say after the game:

"In the first half, they had two opportunities and scored. We gave too much space. We were defending back instead of defending up, which makes you lose the second ball."

"We spoke about [Barry] Bannan as being a key player we had to stop, but we were not able to do that."



Guardian

Historic Varsity for Women's Football

Despite losing overall, women's football saw their 3s beat Beckett 3s, a team two leagues above them, for the first time ever.



Nancy Gillen

Nancy Gillen Football

Varsity was a day of drama for the University's women's football team. Three teams lined up to play local rivals Beckett, with the 1s and 2s high on confidence after their victories last year. For the 3s, who had been beaten 9-2 the last time around, expectations were lower. However, Varsity 2017 produced a complete turn of events, with 3s emerging victorious with a 2-1 win, 2s drawing 2-2, but losing on penalties, and 1s losing 2-1. This was the first time in history that 3s had won their Varsity game.

The 3s were the first to kick off, and despite nerves that the team may be overwhelmed like last year, the Uni team started confidently, with the defence looking composed and stable and the attackers launching occasional forays into the Beckett penalty box. With the score at 0-0 20 minutes in, left winger Georgia Townend was played through one on one with the Beckett keeper, but her dinked shot hit the post and was then cleared away. After this chance, the 3s confidence skyrocketed and they continued to create more chances, but failed to capitalise on them. They would soon rue those missed opportunities, as five minutes before half time, a Beckett midfielder



Georgia Partridge

half volleyed the ball into the back of the net from 20 yards out. It was a wonder goal, and there was nothing the Uni defenders or keeper could do about it.

Despite this setback, when half time came the 3s were in great spirits. A one goal deficit against a team two leagues above them was not to be sneered at, and the team had a good chance of scoring an equaliser in the second half, judging by the chances they'd already created for themselves. The second half began like the first, with balanced possession and occasional chances for both teams. Beckett came close to extending their lead with a shot across goal, but Uni keeper Izzy Lowen pulled off an excellent save to parry the ball behind her post and out of danger. As the game crept on, the 3s pushed harder and harder for an equaliser and soon they got their reward. 15 minutes from time, a Uni attack saw right winger Fran Santos pass a dangerous ball across goal, and Milly Pope was there to turn the ball into the net, sparking euphoric celebrations. All of a sudden, the mood of the game completely changed. The 3s seemed determined to get a winner, and 5 minutes from time, they did. This time Georgia Townend's dink over the keeper was successful, and as the ball rolled over the line, the 3s realised that a Varsity win was now looking likely.

Just before the final whistle was blown, a bad Beckett tackle saw the referee blowing for a Uni penalty, giving the 3s a chance to extend their lead even further. However, the Beckett keeper pulled off an excellent save to keep their Varsity dreams alive, though their hope lasted only for another two minutes. As the final whistle went, the Uni of players and supporters celebrated wildly. Captain Elizabeth Ydlibi had this to say at the end of the game: "I'm so proud of all the effort everyone put in, we fought for it, we wanted it more, and it paid off. What an unbelievable way to start the season. I hope we can keep it up for the rest of the year."

On the other side of Weetwood, the 2s had been playing their Beckett counterparts. After being 2-0 down at half time, they'd shown strong determination to pull it back to 2-2 with goals from Courtney Jay-



Georgia Partridge

Dee and Mica Jones, with Jones's goal coming in the dying minutes of the game. This took the game to penalties. Unfortunately, the Beckett keeper pulled off two good saves, giving her team the win. This meant that Uni and Beckett had a win a piece, so it was down to the 1s to see which women's football team would win Varsity overall. The 1s started strongly in what was an extremely physical game. Their hard work paid off, going into the break with a 1-0 lead due to Hannah Hale's unstoppable shot from nearly 30 yards out. However, towards the end of the game they began to tire against a Beckett team which plays in one of the top leagues in the country. With Beckett remaining sharp, they overcame Leeds's tired defence and scored two goals, with the Beckett winner coming 5 minutes before the final whistle.

Despite losing Varsity overall, it was still a great day for the Uni's Women's Football team. For the first time in history, the 3s won against Beckett, which is an achievement in itself. The 1s and 2s also came extremely close to beating Beckett two years in a row, and made it extremely hard for their local rivals to prevent this from happening. If anything, Varsity 2017 has shown that the previous gulf of quality which used to lie between Uni and Beckett is narrowing year on year.

Leeds University 8-29 Leeds Beckett



Adriana Dics

Uni Fail to Replicate Success in Varsity Finale

Ryan Wan
Rugby Union

This year's Varsity finale would be very different to previous years. The University of Leeds came into the game as the reigning champions of Headingley and last year was our best result ever, narrowly losing Varsity by a single point.

However, the most notable feature of this year was the new look of the stadium; the South stand had been taken down due to renovations, leaving a big pile of dirt and machinery in its place. The knock-on effect this had was that the North stand was reserved for press and players, with fears of clashes if the stand was shared between the two rival universities. All this resulted in only the two smaller East and West stands being open to supporters and because of this the crowd size was more than halved from the 15,000 last year to just over 7000 this year. Regardless of crowd size the atmosphere at the game was the same as previous years: loud, energetic and boisterous.

Beckett started the game with a deep kick into Uni's 22, but Uni showed their attacking intent by carrying the ball out to just over the half way line before Beckett managed to turn it over. Early exchanges between the two sides were quite even, with both sides exhibiting

early signs of nerves, Beckett kicking it out on the full and Uni knocking the ball on. However, it was clear from the get go that Uni centre Tommy Ferguson would be a key player if Uni were to win; his powerful runs broke the Beckett line of defence on multiple occasions, bouncing and running through would be tacklers of the opposition.

The first points of the game came to Uni in the 25th minute through a penalty kick from just outside the 22. However, Beckett levelled minutes later with their own penalty kick, the longest one of the night, from 40 metres. Beckett went into half time with a slim lead, 6-3.

It wasn't long before drama ensued, with Beckett's hooker being sent to the bin. Despite Beckett kicking over another penalty during this period, Uni used their man advantage to score the first try of the game. A sensational solo run and finish in the corner by winger Harry Jukes got Leeds back into the game. Unfortunately, the conversion in the corner was unsuccessful and Leeds still trailed by one point, 9-8.

Another yellow card was issued in the 60th minute, but this time to Uni for collapsing the scrum. The Beckett pack really showed their superiority in the last quarter with dominant scrums and mauls in our 22, which were exacerbated by Leeds being a man

down. Beckett took full advantage of this, opting for the lineout and driving over with their powerful maul. Although they missed the resulting conversion, they more than made up for it with an easy penalty minutes later to push it past a converted try at 17-8.

In the 67th minute Beckett felt that they had the momentum and decided to kill the game off, choosing to kick for touch instead of taking the easy three. And kill the game they did, successfully adding another seven points to their tally to put the game out of reach at 24-8 with 10 minutes left on the clock. Even with Uni back to a full complement Beckett scored again to end the game 29-8.

Despite the disappointment of losing, the Uni team came over to their fans' stand and thanked them for their support throughout the game. Captain Oli Lamprell applauded the fans saying that they were "bloody amazing". He placed less importance on the yellow card and summarised that "it was just a lot of pressure coming through, they're [Beckett] a big pack and unfortunately a multitude of penalties let us down". He concluded by praising the efforts of his fellow team mates, saying "the boys stuck in there, they dug deep and I can't ask for anymore".