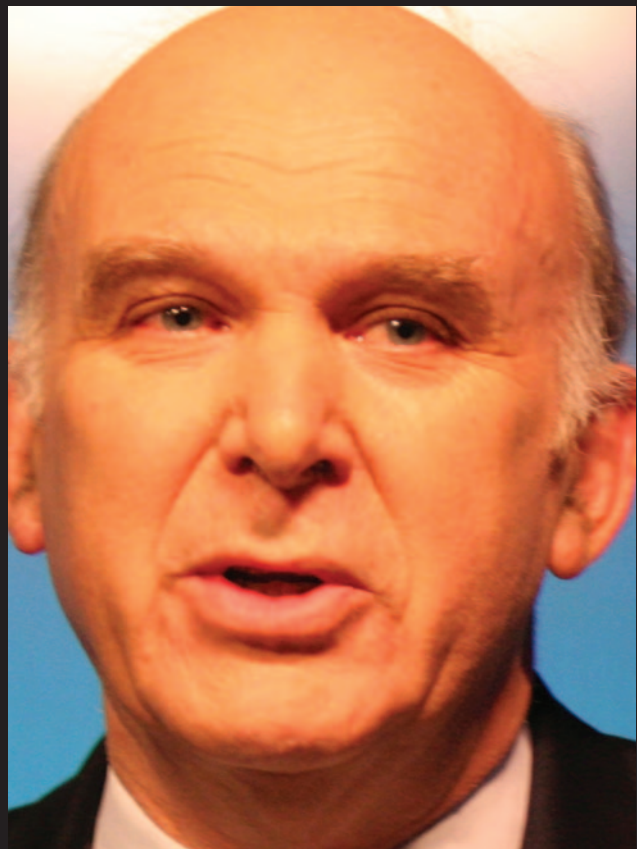


## Everyone's cup of tea?

Carolynne meets the students trying their hands at business



## Turkeys vote for Christmas

- Tuition fee cap rises to £9000 as government vote is passed
- 28 Lib Dems vote in favour of the rise despite promises not to

**Collette McColgan**  
Assistant Editor

THE TUITION FEES cap will increase to £9,000 from 2012, after the controversial passing of the government's proposals on Thursday, December 9 2010.

The fees hike came after Lord Browne's report on Higher Education, delivered to Parliament earlier this year. The vote was only on the fees charged, and other aspects of the report will be voted on in a White Paper to be put forward in 2011.

The bill passed with a 21 person majority – 323 MPs voted in favour, with 302 voting

against. 25 MPs are thought to have abstained or been absent from the vote, leaving a controversial low majority to pass the proposal.

The vote came in the middle of a backlash against the Liberal Democrats, who are thought by many to have betrayed students in the forming of the coalition government with the Conservative Party. All Liberal Democrat MPs signed a pledge by the National Union of Students, which declared that they would oppose any increase in fees.

28 Liberal Democrat MPs voted in favour of the change, meaning more than half abstained or voted against them.

Among those voting against were former Liberal Democrats leaders, Charles Kennedy and Sir Menzies Campbell. The current Lib Dem leader and Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg voted in favour of the rise, as did Business Secretary Vince Cable and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander.

Surprisingly, six Conservative MPs also voted against the change, with two abstaining. David Davis MP, who stood against David Cameron in the Conservative Party leadership election in 2005, was among those who voted against the fees increase. Three ministerial aides – two Liberal Democrats,

and one Conservative – resigned due to their abstentions after a three-line whip was enforced on the government.

Eric Ollerenshaw, MP for Lancaster and Fleetwood, met with representatives from LUSU and University of Cumbria Students' Union before the vote, and took on their concerns. He did, however, vote in favour of the fees increase.

Three of the LUSU Full Time Officers – President Robbie Pickles, Vice President (Academic) Robin Hughes and Vice President (Media & Communications) Lizzie Houghton – journeyed to London on the morning of the vote, to speak with MPs in

Parliament.

Pickles explained: "We went down to Parliament and we lobbied three or four MPs to vote against the increase and to fight for a fairer system of funding. I think it's fair to say that we failed to convince the vote entirely but I still think it was worthwhile us going down."

"I think in particular we will have influenced MPs voting next year on implementing, not the rise, but the system which will come into place in 2011 that hasn't been voted on yet. I think we've influenced ministers quite well on that, and I'm hoping we'll get quite a good result in the new

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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## WANT TO WRITE?

If you want to write for SCAN the best way to get involved is to go along to a section meeting. All of the section meetings are listed above so you can see where and when to go. If you can't make a meeting email the section editor and ask to be added to their mailing list. Membership of SCAN is £3, but you can join Bailrigg FM and LUTube.tv at no extra cost.

## NEWS

# Second turbine proposal takes shape

**Chris Housden**  
News Editor

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY'S CAMPAIGN to invest in alternative energy sources for campus has been revised and resubmitted for planning permission.

The proposal was submitted on October 13, planning a wind turbine to be built on the University's Hazelrigg site, to the east of the M6 motorway.

A briefing note from the University on both the previous plan and the current resubmission outlined the effectiveness of the project. "The turbine would produce approximately 17% of the University's annual electrical power requirements, equivalent to two thirds of the residential requirements of all students who live on campus."

Last year a proposal to set up two turbines on the same site was voted against by Lancaster City Council. The decision, which at the time prompted talk of a potential appeal, saw the project revised to include just a single 100m high turbine on the site.

The briefing note commented on the previous proposal. "After carefully considering the Council's feedback on the previous application, the University has decided not to appeal this application," it said.



The previous proposal, while appearing to be out of favour with local residents, was a close decision, with the Council receiving 287 letters objecting to the plan and only slightly

less letters supporting the plan, 232 in total. Halving the number of turbines proposed could see the minor difference in opinion reversed, the University hopes.

"Lancaster University believes that by submitting a new application for just one turbine (in the same location as the previous north turbine) and omitting the south turbine, the previous concerns of Lancaster City Council can be addressed, and any visual impact will be significantly minimised," read the briefing note.

The University is looking to work closely with LUSU to promote and gain support for the proposal. On Friday Week eight LUSU President Robbie Pickles met with Director of Facilities Mark Swindlehurst to discuss the proposal and how the two bodies can work together to publicise it.

The turbines are not the only way the University is implementing more eco-friendly technology. The briefing note said there are "a number of other major projects to reduce its [the University's] carbon emissions, such as replacing its main boilers, and installing a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Unit and it has plans to install a biomass boiler."

The reviewed proposal, and the optimism with which both the University and LUSU are treating it, is aimed towards high profile support. "The University is therefore encouraging supportive members of community to express that support, by registering at [www.yes2wind.com](http://www.yes2wind.com)."

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Carolynne

2010 certainly proved itself to be an eventful year. The Carolynne team look back over the last 356 days and pick out their cultural highlights. Find out whether you agree with them or not in Carolynne pages four and five.

[www.scan.lusu.co.uk/carolynne](http://www.scan.lusu.co.uk/carolynne)

### Comment

With the tuition fees voted now passed, one Conservative party member writes about how he cannot stand with his party on this issue.

[www.scan.lusu.co.uk/comment](http://www.scan.lusu.co.uk/comment)

### Sport

The bad weather may have stopped most of the college and university sport recently, but SCAN looks at how Bowland faired against Pendle in Women's Darts and who would win Sports Distort's Alternative Sports Personality of the Year Award.

[www.scan.lusu.co.uk/comment](http://www.scan.lusu.co.uk/comment)

### What SCAN says

The student movement must reorganise itself after last Thursday's vote to increase fees. Student unions around the country must ready themselves for a new role, not as critical friends to universities but as watchdogs for student consumers.

[www.scan.lusu.co.uk/editorial](http://www.scan.lusu.co.uk/editorial)

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# Students' Union finally embraces societies and sports officer

- After years of debate, societies and sports will come under one Full Time officer's remit
- Union Council finishes two-year review of officer roles



The Vice Presidents for Sports and Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies propose the role change to Union Council. Photo by Elliot Westacott.

## Erin O'Reilly

ON FRIDAY WEEK Nine, Union Council passed a change to the current roles of the Vice President (Sports) and the Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy & Societies). Societies will be taken from the remit of VP (FEDS) and given to VP (Sports) to create a Vice President (Activities) and a Vice President (Events & Democracy). Finance will be removed from the title of FEDS to reflect the minor role it plays in the officer's remit and passed to the Union President.

LUSU President, Robbie Pickles, said that he thinks "the new position will be a fantastic way to ensure that both sports clubs and societies get a high standard of representation which is worthy of the hard work and dedication of their members".

He went on to say that "the current role of VP (FEDS) is far too large and leads, every year, to each area being slightly neglected and the burden being passed elsewhere. However, this burden is not the main reason for the change. Instead, it is a need to bring sports and societies together to ensure better representation for both".

This is not the first time, however, that this position has been proposed.

In Michaelmas 2008 the position was discussed at the sabbatical review but was voted against, largely due to 500 students who had turned up to boycott it, particularly members of the then Athletic Union (AU).

As reported in SCAN at the time, the issue was with the AU clubs who believed that their interests would be overlooked if there was not a Full Time Officer solely in charge of running the Athletic Union. The opposition resulted in the VP (Activities) role being renamed VP (Sports) removing all responsibilities of societies and passing them onto the VP (FED). The meeting was seen by many as a clear battle between LUSU and the Athletic Union.

This year the reception was a more positive one. At Union Council meeting Marc Handley, VP (Sports), proposed the change and discussed how he had been round to all the individual sports teams and was met with agreement about the change. It was also taken to the Societies Executive Committee where it was approved. Handley went on to say how it is "the right change" to be made and it is "not about shifting workload" as sports and societies have so much in common that it just "makes sense".

Some members of the council thought that the decision was perhaps too quick to be made in the meeting and may have needed more student

**"The new position will be a fantastic way to ensure that both sports clubs and societies get a high standard of representation which is worthy of the hard work and dedication of their members"**

consultation; however, Robin Hughes, VP (Academic), expressed enthusiasm about it, saying that "this change has received more student consultation that I think has ever been done" with a "massive amount of student support".

Secretary of the Lancaster University Ballroom Dancing Society, Emma O'Gorman, was also very supportive of the new position. "Generally, we think it's a good idea as at the moment we feel the societies are under-represented compared to sports. It seems quite unfair that we are tagged along

with finance, events and democracy which in themselves probably could have their own position, whilst sports get an officer just for them. By merging the two positions it will give everyone equal consideration and time; and maybe blurring the distinction between societies and sports isn't a bad thing."

On the other hand, when asked what he thought of the new position, Chris Whalley, President of Lancaster University Tennis Club, said: "Handley seems to be stretched already, and even though he does a fantastic job, it would be far too much for one person to be able to do effectively. Even if they could manage all the responsibilities for the clubs and sports, it would leave very little time for the students to go in and see them about any issues, which could make the teams feel isolated or not sure how to resolve any issues."

The new ruling has been passed and will be in effect in the Full Time Officer elections in Week Eight of Lent Term. The decision will be discussed at the next general meeting of the Union and its members, at the start of next term. General meetings are able to repeal any decision made by Union Council, providing it has a majority vote.

## Pruned funding for Green Lancaster

Emma Hughes

GREEN LANCASTER, THE Student Union's eco-friendly volunteer unit, could be forced to close due to a lack of funding.

Currently, Green Lancaster is funded by the University in conjunction with V, a charity which offers financial support to volunteering programs for young people. V has provided Green Lancaster with over £200,000 over the last two years and since then it has expanded its services and been awarded the Gold Standard in the Green Impact Awards from the National Union of Students (NUS).

V will stop funding Green Lancaster on 31 March 2011. As of yet no plans have been put in place to decide what will happen after that date and how the organization will cope without this money.

"Robbie Pickles [the Students' Union President] and Director of Facilities Mark Swindlehurst will meet this month to discuss environmental initiatives including the wind turbine project and Green Lancaster, which features in the University's Carbon Management and Travel Plans," said Victoria Tyrell, Head of Press Office.

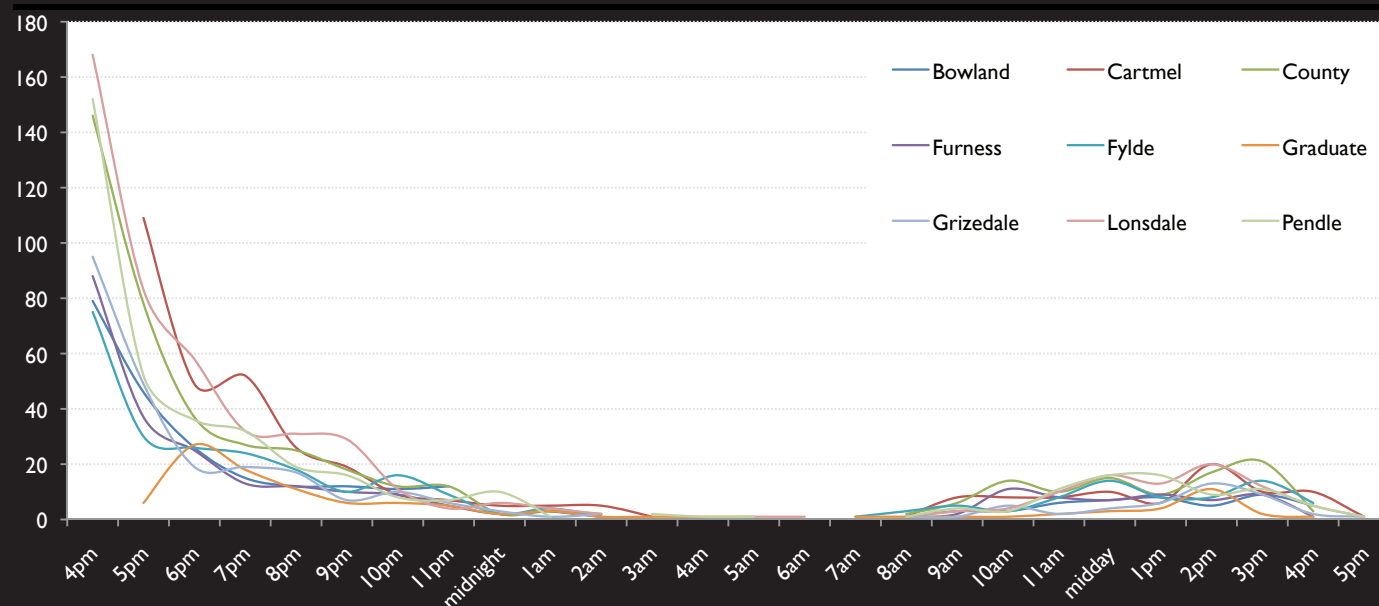
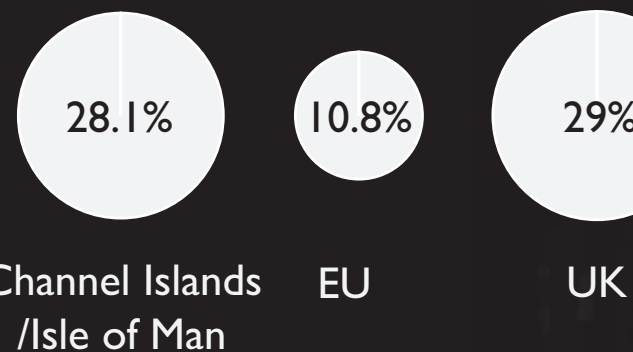
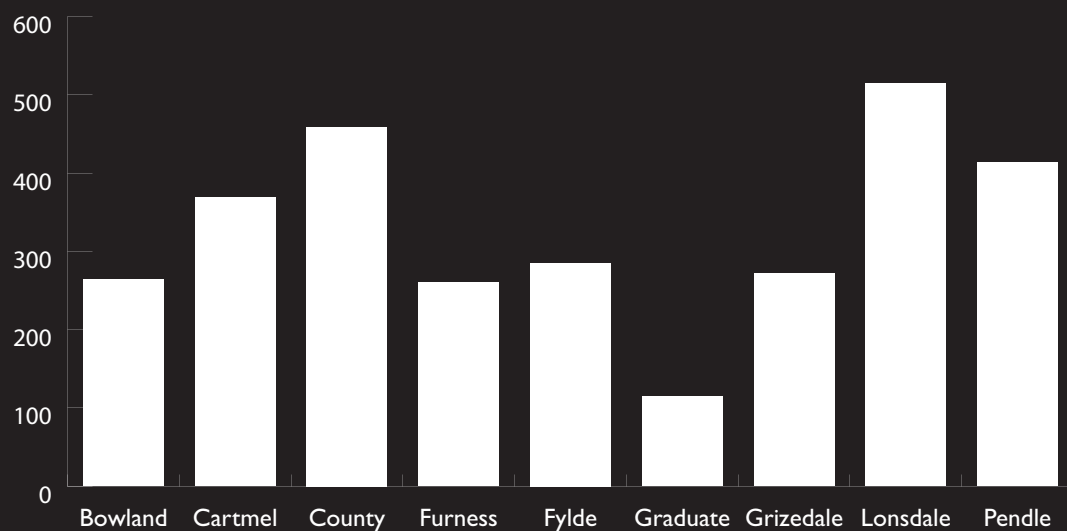
Green Lancaster has been involved in a number of projects around campus and the local area since it was founded in 2006. It encourages students to recycle and use eco-friendly means of transport in addition to educating students about how they can individually make changes to reduce their carbon footprint. There are a number of volunteering opportunities for students to get involved in, from growing organic vegetables to working with the Lancaster Wildlife Trust (LWT) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

"Green Lancaster has been very successful in the time it has been running, involving nearly 500 students in projects both on campus and with the local community. The Carbon Competition which was a brand new project really engaged students, with nearly 1000 students incentivised to reduce their electricity usage and win cash prizes," said Sarah Hinton, Deputy Director of LUSU Involve, the volunteering and entrepreneurship development initiative run by Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU).

According to Hinton: "Green Lancaster has been written into the University's Carbon Management Plan and University Travel Plan which highlights the importance and recognition of the work that is delivered by students and staff."

LUSU Involve is hopeful that there is an alternative to closing Green Lancaster. "We submitted a funding proposal to the University Facilities over the summer. Although we cannot confirm all of the details at this point it has been made clear to us that University Facilities are committed to financially supporting Green Lancaster over the period of the Carbon Management Plan. A more detailed announcement relating to the funding of Green Lancaster is expected from Facilities in January 2011," said Hinton.

# College Presidents set out agenda



## Elections broken down

The top-left graph shows voter turnout by college in the JCR and PGSA elections. The bottom-left graph shows the times votes were placed by college. The top-right graph shows what per cent of students in different fees brackets voted.

All statistics are taken from Lancaster University Students' Union/Mi-Voice.

Photo to the right taken by Elizabeth Young.

## • Saving the college bars and a transparent College system dominate new Execs' thoughts

**Chris Housden**  
**Charlotte Urban**  
News Editors

THE RESULTS HAVE been announced for JCR Executive elections, which took place between Monday and Wednesday Week Eight, revealing the new officers to take Lancaster University into 2011.

All members of a college are members of its JCR or the PGSA: elected officers form the Executives.

For Fylde Ste Smith was elected as JCR President. He said: "I'm really happy to be elected president and can't wait for the new year to begin so that our team can get cracking with some of the brilliant projects that we have in the pipeline. I have decided that our main goal for the year is to continue improving participation in the college from things such as elections and campaigns to socials and events."

Jasmine Blakemore, who was elected as Cartmel's President, said: "I'm very happy being JCR president, especially now I can get more involved with the college and university events and hopefully inspire others to take part in everything from protests and socials to elections and sports. Over

the coming year I'd like to continue Cartmel's successes and keep the college going from strength to strength. I'd like to make Extrav a sell out again. I feel that we now have a very strong foundation to build on and can afford to take more risks- be it with bigger socials, or looking to turn the Patriots' Cup (against Furness) into a weekend event."

Rachel Essex was voted as the president for Lonsdale JCR. "I'm extremely happy to have been voted JCR president, knowing that I have a chance to represent Lonsdale across campus and make a difference within my college. I'm so excited to get started running socials, attending meetings, talking to Lonsdale students and carrying on the great work that the JCR last year did. It's also very exciting to be the first solo female president that Lonsdale has had in over ten years. I want to run an amazing Extrav. And another priority for me this year would be to win Founders' [the annual sports contest between Lonsdale and Bowland]. I want an amazing Founders' weekend with great socials and exciting matches. I want to improve college involvement by Lonsdale students having a say in Extrav and other socials. As JCR President

I want to listen to any issues students have in Lonsdale, and voice them at a higher level. I will fight for what students in Lonsdale want such as battling against the bar closures."

Christy Parkes was elected JCR president for Grizedale. "I'm obviously really, really happy about getting the presidency, but also with all of the other candidates that have won in Grizedale. We have elected a lot of freshers this year which I think is really going to bring with it some great innovation and optimism. Grizedale's 2011 JCR Exec will be open and accountable to the college and its members." He wants his JCR Exec to be "a Grizedalian voice to LUSU and the University".

"In order to achieve this goal we will be extending office hours, improving college media, and developing the communication link to and from the JCR all in the interest of making the Exec only port-paroles of the college. Our main focus is to preserve the colleges. There have, over the last few years, been some issues concerning the running of the bars and more recently the value of inter-college sports such as the Carter Shield. As a JCR we all feel strongly about preserving the colleges and will be opposing bar closures

and help to maintain all college sports to the best of our ability," he added.

He listed other issues he wished to tackle, among them "the tuition fee crisis, the closure of the nurse unit, the end of 24 hour porters".

Sam Crompton was elected as the JCR president for Pendle. "I am exceedingly pleased with the wealth of talent and experience within our new Exec. My aim for Pendle is foremost to create an open JCR Exec. By doing this socials, welfare and finances can be tailored to best fit the majority view, but also cater for Pendle students on a much more individual scale.

"Community feel, as played on during hustings, is one of my biggest passions. I feel the most informal JCR Exec meeting has brought the group together and will hopefully mean Christmas break will be a very productive time for all," he concluded.

Jemma Gaskell was elected as the JCR president for County. "My priority this year is to sort out our bar. Until the University are willing to put money into the bars, people aren't going to use them. My priority campaign, apart from the bars will obviously be related to tuition fees. County College had a huge turn out at the protest in

London and I would look to continue the work of our current President Matt Saint with regards to raising awareness about this controversial issue.

She also hopes to "attempt to make LUSU a more approachable body [by] getting rid of pointless technical jargon and getting rid of inappropriate procedures [which] will help make the body something which everyone can feel involved with, not just the people who are elected and working for the body."

Adam Pearson was elected as JCR president for Furness. He said he feels "absolutely elated to be able to give something back to Furness. My main priority is going to be solving the problems of my fellow Furnessians, after all I have been elected to look out for their interests in the college." He said his main focus will "be the bars, as there is a lot of outrage in our college about the Saturday closure."

Sarah Taylor, elected as President of Postgraduate Students' Association, said she is "very grateful to all those who supported me". Her plans involve addressing the college's status on campus. "I think one of the main issues in the past has been getting our voice heard. I will strive along with my



# enda for the next year

## Cross Campus Officer election suffers from external fault

**Chris Housden**  
News Editor

VOTING FOR THE Cross Campus Officer positions, initially planned to coincide with JCR election voting, had to be postponed until Monday of Week Nine due to a fault with the voting website.

The problem also effected some JCR elections, with the voting period being extended by two hours to compensate issues with voter codes not being given out or being faulty. The Cross Campus Officer elections, however, were deemed to have suffered irreparably in the initial voting period, and as such the decision was made to postpone them and re-run them the next week.

The issue that arose involved the voting website service used by LUSU, MiVoice, being unable to cope with the amount of internet traffic it was subjected to. Matt Windsor, LUSU Vice President (Finance, Events, Democracy and Societies), explained that despite assurances that “the MiVoice backend servers were able to cope” they clearly failed to do so, and as such it was an external error which had disrupted the elections. The incident saw all the unique voter codes issued to students to use in the Cross Campus Officer elections fail to work due to a technical issue.

The emphasis on it being an external fault follows several election failures during last academic year.

The election was held, and the second voting period occurred without an issue. All voter codes issued in the second period - between 4pm Monday Week Nine and 4pm the following day - worked.



8.9%

Overseas

fellow PGSA members to represent the postgraduate community effectively, consistently and with both enthusiasm and imagination.”

She also hinted at redressing the structure of Graduate College, something she feels “together with LUSU we can work on to improve not just for this year but for those to come.” At present Taylor feels the PGSA and post graduate students aren’t always able to communicate as well as they should.

Anastasia Rattigan was elected as Bowland JCR President. She said she’s “mainly excited mixed in with a few nerves. I’m really looking forward to being able to represent the college and start implementing ideas that I’ve thought of in Bowland, mainly in terms of communication”.

She said she plans to deal primarily with “the bar refurbishment. Last year the bar shut, but we didn’t get a refurb. I want to make sure it happens this time”. She’s also going to start looking for an alternative venue for this year’s Extrav as the bar will be out of use. Rattigan also said that while she has campaigns in mind to lead, she wants “to ask what campaign the JCR thinks is the most important first, so it’s not just my opinion”.

## E-voting: A history of errors

Collette McColgen

**ONLINE, ELECTRONIC VOTING was introduced to LUSU elections in Michaelmas Term 2009. In its first outing, in the JCR and Part Time Officer – now Cross Campus Officers – elections the turnout increased by 30% on the previous year.**

Until this point Students’ Union elections had also been held by paper ballot. But a motion passed by Union Council in Summer Term of 2009 meant that the long anticipated move to an online voting system could finally be achieved.

Though MiVoice, the system used by LUSU to host the votes, was initially slow in the Michaelmas elections – with some pages taking up to 10 minutes to load – the voting process soon sped up. The effects were still felt, however, with the position of Academic Council Chair, which was first on the list of Part Time Officers, receiving almost twice the

amount of votes as those lower down the list.

Other problems included people not receiving their voter codes, or the emails containing them being accidentally deleted. These were felt to be problems that could be resolved by the next election, due to take place in Week Eight, Lent Term 2010.

When it came round to the elections for the 2010-2011 Full Time Officers in Lent Term, however, there was a problem with the distribution of the unique voter codes.

Some students in Graduate College did not receive their codes, meaning that another email had to be sent out with the codes. Due to human error, different codes were provided in the second set of emails which effectively gave some Graduate College students the opportunity to vote twice.

Once this mistake had been realised, a third email was sent cancel-

ling the Graduate College vote from the Thursday, and reopening it from 6pm on Thursday until 6pm on Friday. This meant, however, that 97 Graduate votes had to be discarded.

When it came to counting the votes for the positions of Vice President (Academic) and Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity), it was found that the margins were so close there could be no way of guaranteeing that the 97 votes would not have influenced the result. In the end the Vice President (EWD) competition was won with a margin of just over 100. The Vice President (Academic) position was won by just one vote.

A re-election was announced for the following Tuesday, but the work of many people involved was called into question, including then Chair of Elections (Chief Returning Officer), Samantha Johnson. Many candidates felt she was not capable of handling

the situation and that her actions prior to the election had been the cause of the error.

Throughout all the failures with elections, those involved insisted that they were not down to the e-voting system itself – something which was claimed once more in the 2010 Summer Term elections.

These elections, though largely just to replace people leaving positions and elect new Sports Representatives within the colleges, also suffered from problems. Due to another human error with the unique voter codes, those received by Fylde and Cartmel colleges did not work on the MiVoice system.

As a result the elections in those colleges were postponed until the following week, and Samantha Johnson resigned from her role as Chief Returning Officer, leaving then VP (Academic) Danny Ovens to act in her stead.



# Over 700 residents and students take to the streets of Lancaster to march against cuts



Protestors take to the streets of Lancaster. Photo by Elliot Westacott.

## Khairil Zhafril

MORE THAN 700 local residents in Lancaster and Morecambe braved the cold weather on Saturday afternoon of Week Eight to protest against government spending cuts.

The protesters, including children, gathered near Thurnham Street and marched through the streets in Lancaster city center before a rally at Dalton Square. The passionate crowd called anti-cuts chants like “banks got bailed out, we got sold out” and “when I say Nick Clegg, we say dickhead” attracting the attention of weekend shoppers who stopped to witness the demonstration. High street fashion retailer, Topshop was targeted by the protesters for tax avoidance as they passed by its store on

Penny Street.

By 1pm, the protesters reached Dalton Square. Speakers representing various groups addressed the passionate crowd inspiring applause and cheers. The protest leader, who led the march in his wheelchair, told the crowd how he and others like him would be disadvantaged by the government cuts.

“It started, actually, under the last government with reviews of our welfare benefits: incapacity benefit, employment and support allowance. Many of us had been called in [...] and asked questions which had nothing to do with our health and disability. The cuts are going further now. I own my house, I get help with my mortgage. If I come off benefits and go on jobseek-

ers now, after a year I’m in danger of losing my house and all its adaptations because they will only pay the interest on my mortgage for a year.

[caption id=“attachment\_12002” “They talk about the big society. A group of large number of disabled people would be so marginalised that they won’t belong to any society. And that’s the way it’s going. I’m sat here because I want to get that message out. Please don’t forget us, [...] we need your support,” he added.

A pupil from Lancaster Girls’ Grammar School shared with the crowd how the Head Teacher misinformed the students to discourage them from participating in a protest.

“They told us, if we went to the protest and got photographed there,

if there was any violence, we would be immediately arrested [...] and we would then not be able to get into uni, we get criminal record and not to be able to get a job,” said the girl who only wanted to be known as Daisy. She went to the protest anyway and was told by a police officer what the school told the pupils was wrong.

After about half an hour rallying at

**High street fashion retailer, Topshop was targeted by the protesters for tax avoidance as they passed by its store on Penny Street**

Dalton Square, the crowd dispersed. A small group of protesters later got together on Market Street outside Vodafone store expressing their disapproval of the telecommunication company’s tax avoidance.

There were strong police presence throughout the street demonstration which went peacefully. Several police officers on horseback escorted the crowd as they marched on the streets. Other officers were stationed along the demonstration route to monitor the protest. Some of them were equipped with video cameras to film the event.

The demonstration was organised by a local civil society action group called Lancaster and Morecambe Against the Cuts.

## Sit-in failure: student apathy or poor organisation?

### Jonnie Critchley

A SIT IN protest planned to take place at Lancaster University failed to gather support, causing students to question its planning while the organisers lamented student commitment.

The protest was planned to take place in Faraday Lecture Theatre early in Week Nine, in the vein of similar protests seen at other universities recently. It was organised by the Facebook protest group Lancaster University Student Protests (also known as Lanksy), an anonymous group of students who use the profile as a tool, claiming that “Lanksy is not one person”. Having failed to generate much support the event organisers attracted criticism over its preparation, publicity and purpose.

A statement by Lancaster University Student Protests on the Facebook page for the event invited students to

occupy the lecture theatre from eight o’clock on the morning of December 6.

The statement also gave reasons why protest was called for. “Our Vice Chancellor will not listen to us, he will not make a pledge stating he is against these plans [to increase tuition fees], he will not consult with students about recent changes regarding the University including the closure of the nurses unit and the college bars. He will not listen. So we will make him listen.”

Criticism from students was levelled in a debate played out on the Facebook page. The criticisms aimed at Lancaster University Students Protests centred mainly on their policy of anonymity, cited by several students as a reason why very few people got involved; however, there was also some doubt as to the time spent on the organisation of the event. Many felt that the publicity was poor and that

the little that was done to publicise the sit-in was very short notice.

“I think the frustration comes from the organisation and lack of cooperation with other groups like LUAC [Lancaster University Against Cuts]. You can’t expect people to turn up at [eight o’clock] in the morning after receiving a message the night before to meet a completely anonymous person [or] people”, said Alex Whitehead, who added “a bit more organisation could have yielded much better results”.

The planned event was also branded “shambolic” by one student.

There was particularly high criticism from members of LUAC, a similar Facebook-born group set up before the Lanksy profile. LUAC gave their aim on Facebook as providing “a cross-politics group for all Lancaster staff and students whose oppose the cuts to higher education and beyond.”

In response, Lanksy defended the

principles behind the protest. “We only ever set out to do this to try and make a difference [and to] try and get Lancaster involved”. In response to claims that the event was “an embarrassment”, the group argued that the real embarrassment was the lack of real student activism at Lancaster.

“We are personally ashamed to be at Lancaster in regards to this and we cannot believe that frankly not even 10% of the student population [care] about the devastating blow [which] future generations of students are going to be dealt,” they said.

Peaceful-yet-disruptive protests are the central policy of Lanksy’s activism; they feel it is important that students do more to make their case known. Lanksy also strongly maintained their commitment to the student cause, reiterating their intention to be part of other protests around Lancaster organised by groups such as LUAC.



# Fees rise to £9000 a year as Government wins divisive vote

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

year," he added.

At the demonstration in London on November 10, the NUS and University and College Union drew attention to the promises made by the Liberal Democrats during the general election in May of this year. Most of the anger on the day was directed towards the Conservative offices in Millbank Tower, and more violence was anticipated on the day of the actual vote.

**'We are incredibly disappointed and angry with the politicians who have let us down so badly. They have voted for a policy they know is unfair, unnecessary and wrong'**

The police had anticipated 20,000 protestors and prepared for this accordingly. However, the Metropolitan Police Force has come under fire from many people for claims of brutality and being under prepared for the day's events. Many protestors were kettled – some for as long as 10 hours – while the demonstrations were going on, and many reported witnessing unnecessary violence by the police.

The protestors, however, caused a great deal of damage across London, with Oxford Street and the Treasury being among the targets. A great deal of the action took place in Parliament Square, with people defacing the statue of Winston Churchill with graffiti and climbing on the cenotaph.

At 3pm, people inside Parliament were being cautioned not to go outside due to the protests. People were also not allowed to leave the kettle in Parliament Square until much later in the evening, when they were released one-by-one.

Pickles, who was kept inside Parliament for three hours, also spoke about the violence. "I think the police used extremely brutal tactics, but we should accept that it was an extremely difficult situation for everybody involved. I think that the protestors were extremely violent; I think that's clear."

He added: "I think that I would personally not use violence in those situations but I can see why people were angry, I can see that people felt that democracy was not working for them and that there was no choice other than recourse to violence... I



Students outside Parliament get increasingly frustrated as the debate inside continues. Photo by ucloccupation.

## The story inside Parliament

Eye witness Robbie Pickles

Arriving in Parliament, we entered a surreal lobbying process with MPs and students sitting in makeshift booths around the entrance to the House.

Meeting only Conservative MPs, our lobbying success was only ever going to be small. However, we were able to convince Eric Ollerenshaw (MP for Lancaster and Fleetwood) to ask some questions of other MPs on our behalf. Ben Wallace MP, who that evening broke the NUS and LUSU pledge to vote against an increase in fees, was nowhere to be seen.

With the police advising visitors not to leave the Parliament building and we spent most of the afternoon watching the debate whilst news drifted into us that the crowd outside had gotten angrier. Rumours of horse charges and thrown barriers were spreading fast and the MPs in the House below were getting more and more agitated as the debate raged on.

The debate lasted five hours and, interestingly, was mostly between backbench Labour and Lib Dem MPs. Only with about ten minutes to go did many Conservative MPs arrive and Cameron was notably absent during the entire procedure. Vince Cable did, to his credit, sit through the vast majority of comments.

With 30 minutes til the vote, it was announced that we had all been locked into Parliament due to fears of a student invasion. Everyone except for us and the MPs had been evacuated. The thought that we were now technically occupying the Public Gallery got a cheer from the onlookers.

On the announcement of the result, however, the mood turned to one of despondency. Turning to leave, I saw one man crying whilst another offered him a hanky and two girls sat as if paralysed, unable to comprehend what they had seen.

Emerging from a side exit of Parliament, we stepped immediately

into the centre of the police base of operations. We were between three lines of 900 policemen dressed all in black, their faces covered, their numbers hidden and a baton and shield in either hand. Fireworks were being set off only five metres away and everybody was shouting and milling around. It was clear we were not supposed to be there but they did not know what to do with us.

Surrounded by guns, abandoned riot gear, journalists in helmets and armoured horses, and with the strangely non-reassuring presence of Big Ben framing the scene, it felt as though we had emerged into a dystopian police state and that the army had led a coup of Parliament. Despite the presence of so many police officers, we had never felt less safe. Being a student was to be branded and treated with suspicion. In order to leave the area, we had to advance of a line of police horses and pass through them.

think we need to be very careful about how we condemn those students [...] their voice was not listened to, the Liberal Democrats did betray them and they did the only thing that they felt that they could to have their voice heard."

Scotland Yard told the BBC 12 police officers had been injured, with

**21**  
more votes for the increase than against

six being taken to hospital. 43 protestors also required treatment. In total 33 arrests were made, with two being for arson.

The following day, Prime Minister David Cameron spoke out against the violence. He told The Independent: "There were quite a lot of people who were hell bent on violence and destroying property... It is not acceptable, it is against the law to smash property, to behave in that way, to attack police officers, and I want to make sure that they feel the full force of the law."

This came at a time when the NUS announced that Cameron was "playing fast a loose with the facts on fees" claiming that the Office for Budget Responsibility does not support the theory that the fees increase will reduce the deficit, and that despite claims no students will have to pay upfront fees many part time students will not be eligible for loans.

Pickles also spoke out against the hike: "We absolutely condemn a rise to £9,000 fees. You can put statistics and facts out the window, I'm going to deal on gut feelings here – and my gut feeling is that poor students will be put off university... While some poor people will take that plunge many poor people will refuse to do so. This is not socially progressive and we absolutely condemn it."

NUS President Aaron Porter spoke of the events of the day on the union's website: "We've taken to the streets in our thousands, won the arguments and the battle for public opinion. We have lost in the House of Commons today only because MPs have broken their promises. We are incredibly disappointed and angry with the politicians who have let us down so badly. They have voted for a policy they know is unfair, unnecessary and wrong."

He continued: "But this is not the end, and our protests and our work have sparked a new wave of activism which will grow stronger by the day. As they come for the education maintenance allowance, as they seek to raise interest rates on our loans and as they peddle lies about fairness we will expose their betrayal. I am incredibly proud of the student movement today and we stand ready to fight the next stage of this campaign together. Our future is at stake."

### HOW THEY VOTED

- 28 Lib Dem MPs voted yes
- 21 Lib Dem MPS voted no
- 8 Lib Dem MPS either abstained or were absent
- 6 Conservative MPs voted no
- 2 Conservative MPs abstained
- 253 Labour MPs voted no
- Nationalist parties also voted no

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# Cartmel Exec officer resigns amid public row

● Vote of No Confidence in Social Sec escalates out of proportion

**Heather Mann**

Monday Week Seven was an eventful day in Cartmel politics. Social Secretary Bex Hamilton resigned after being issued a Vote of No Confidence (VNC) by the Cartmel JCR Executive.

The VNC was proposed by two members of the Cartmel JCR exec and was voted through by 70% of members that evening. Hamilton chose to resign, rather than take the option of an appeal in front of a general meeting of the College, which would have taken place on the same night as the JCR election results.

The college conflict escalated from the JCR meetings to Facebook. A note entitled A formal response, from Mark Lord, Cartmel JCR President, 30/11/10 was published, along with a response from Hamilton, entitled The Last Word.

Many, including friends of Hamilton, jumped to her defence on Facebook and on her Facebook wall. Concerns were made that the Vote of No Confidence was issued for personal reasons, as opposed to reasons related to her role and level of work. These beliefs were strengthened as the VNC came only two weeks before the end of term, and the end of Hamilton's role as Social Secretary.

Cartmel President, Mark Lord, responded to these concerns in his Facebook note, saying, "the two officers who proposed the Vote of No Confidence did so purely based upon matters of JCR work and any statement that there was a personal element is definitively wrong".

The Vote of No Confidence was put forward by two JCR members, James Davies and Chris Palmer. They proposed the measure in response to the level of work and effort Hamilton offered in the role suggesting that failing to contribute to the weekly Sunday Quiz and Tuesday Revolution events were influencing factors. This was combined with her lack of preparation for the upcoming Canal Street social which she had volunteered to organise.

However in her Facebook note, Hamilton, who is also a LUSU officer, felt "maybe not being sociable enough and other people not realising the effort that goes on behind the scenes is a reason why some people have formed opinions of me that I think are pretty way off the mark". She added: "Being a social sec is about being organised and doing the behind the scenes stuff to make sure that others have a great time."

In response to rumours that he didn't propose the Vote of No Confidence himself as he was running for election as a LUSU officer, Lord said: "As for personal comments made over Facebook regarding why I did not per-

sonally propose the Vote of No Confidence, I never intended to propose the Vote of No confidence, nor did I attempt to persuade others to do so in my place." Lord told SCAN that he was hurt that people would assume he had acted in his own interests, as opposed to Cartmel's.

Hamilton was offered the opportunity to defend herself, both in front of the JCR in the emergency meeting called to discuss the VNC, and through an appeal in front of Cartmel College. Hamilton said: "I found the [emergency] meeting very difficult as did other JCR members. It was upsetting and I made an attempt to outline what I had done this term, but it seemed that the JCR had already made its decision." Hamilton chose to resign, rather than to appeal the VNC, commenting that "the general meeting would have been on Friday when the college should be celebrating results night and the success of incoming officers. Instead, it would have been a night that was remembered for the wrong reasons- the night a Vote of No Confidence was decided upon."

She also said that her belief that she had been "betrayed by them" was a reason for her resignation.

Talking to SCAN, she said that she's very upset by the whole thing: "I understand that constitutionally, Cartmel's JCR Exec did not do anything wrong. However, I felt it was unnecessary to suggest a VNC at this time in the year in any case, and especially after the hard work I had put in." She added: "I feel that there should have also been a clearer warning, particularly as it was not expressed beforehand that anyone was displeased with my input."

Commenting on whether he should give Hamilton an apology, Lord said that "no apology will be given for a decision made by a large majority of Cartmel JCR Exec", commenting that "full procedure was followed and further chance was available for the officer to defend themselves to the college through a general meeting which all members of the college could attend". Talking to SCAN however, Lord commented that the whole situation has been very regrettable, with the Facebook response being "blown out of proportion, and out of hand".

He added: "When I first became Cartmel President, I did not envisage or want any VNCs being passed against any of my executives". He added, "I would like to go on record now and say thank you to Bex for all the work she has done as Social Secretary".

Hamilton finished by saying, "I believe that the situation has been handled maturely on both sides. All credit to Cartmel JCR Exec- they have remained civil and mature throughout and with some of them, I am still great friends".

# Delayed Alexandra Square construction pains independent businesses



The cold weather hasn't helped business recently. Photo by Elliot Westacott.

**Keith Morrison**

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON the redevelopment of Alexandra Square has encountered delays and caused disruption to businesses, a situation which could continue into next year.

The redesign of Alexandra Square and the underpass was originally set to take place over the summer holidays, but plans had to be pushed back and the construction during term time was becoming detrimental to the residents of the area. A spokesperson from the contracted firm behind the construction has said that the delays were due to changes in the planning as well as the winter weather.

Mark Swindlehurst, Director of Facilities, said that "the work on the rejuvenation of Alexandra Square and the underpass is progressing well." He reasoned that "obviously the cold weather does not help and we envisage it will have an impact on the work but we are working with the contractors to maintain the programme where possible."

With temporary fences causing diversions, some of the businesses set up in Alexandra Square have seen a sizeable reduction in custom. When asked about how the construction has affected trade, a member of staff from Robinson's Newsagents replied: "Massively. We're seeing a lot less students in here now and it's not just us that have been affected."

They also said that "the initial idea was to have the construction taking place over the holidays at times when students wouldn't be here and we're not sure as to why that's not hap-



A mock-up of how the Square will look when completed. Photo courtesy of Facilities

pened," indicating little communication has occurred.

It is the feeling that the independent businesses on Alexandra Square feel like they aren't getting any support from the University. Staff members at The Green Room Florists feel that some kind of compensation is needed for their losses and have said that nothing has yet been awarded. Other businesses have seen reductions in the levels of custom they are receiving. Waterstone's have said that on Saturday 4 December, the main entrance had to be closed for construction and it was noticed that a severe loss of trade had occurred due to customers not being aware the shop was open using another door.

NatWest have also complained about the construction works. They were told that at one point there would be at least one of their ATM machines

free at all times, however one staff member said that both were blocked off for an amount of time. Gregg's, one of the none independent holdings on Alexandra Square, has not seen much of a change in trade stating that the only problems they are going through is the noise pollution.

Events such as the farmers' market and Christmas Festival that would usually be located in Alexandra Square are this year located elsewhere. One stall member on the farmers' market said that "the difference in business hasn't been substantial as this is quite a busy area [outside LUSU], though not quite as busy as Alex Square tends to be". Christmas Festival this year was located around the Bonnington Steps opposite the Postgraduate Statistics Centre. Construction is scheduled to be finished by March 2011 with plans for an event to mark the re-opening.





# **what's on this vacation?**

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going on over  
the Christmas  
period



Christmas Festival gets campus into the festive spirit



Photo by Elliot Westacott.

Zoe Haynes

ON THURSDAY AND Friday of Week Nine, Christmas Festival came to Lancaster University. Organised by the Students' Union and situated from Fylde Quad to the Bonnington Steps, there was a range of festivities from reindeer and mulled wine to live music and jewellery, as well as fake snow to create the effect of a white Christmas. The stalls and activities were open to all students, staff and local visitors.

The Helter Skelter slide was a popular attraction to many, as eager students said it was worth queuing, free of charge, for the experience.

The tents held a range of treats, from handmade jewellery from Marmalade Forest to displaying a greener Christmas. Although various stallholders said business had started slowly, the number of visitors attracted had grown by darkness, as the Lancaster University Brass Band began to play live music to add to the Christmas atmosphere. Popular carols were sung such as Once in Royal David's City, and there was a Christmas Extravaganza show from 5pm on Friday. The show featured performances from LUGlee, Lancaster's Glee

Society and from the University's Dance Society.

The most popular stalls seemed to be the handmade chocolates with free tasters of fudge, chocolate and chocolate lollipops; the reindeer, with the opportunity to have a photo taken for £5 drawing a large crowd; and the mulled wine where a non-alcoholic spiced apple or amaretto shot could be added for £3.50.

There was also a Santa's grotto opposite Fylde Bar. The presents offered to those keen to enter the Grotto included selection boxes and free entry to Sugarhouse before midnight on the Friday of Week 10, as well as information on how to gain free entry and a hoodie with the Sugarmouse.

Whilst a few students felt there could have been more to look at, the general reception was fairly positive, with many enjoying the atmosphere of Christmas Fest 2010.

The two day event was organised by Lancaster University Students' Union. Although there was one member of staff who centrally coordinated the event, a number of student volunteers were taken on to help organised the various different groups involved. A number of students also had stalls at the market.

Summary of services over Christmas

Thursday 23rd December	Normal Service Service X1 will not operate from this date and will restart 4th January
Friday 24th December	Normal Service With Services finishing around 8pm
Saturday 25th December	No Service
Sunday 26th December	No Service Except Service 2A & 40 will operate a special timetable
Monday 27th December	Sunday Service
Tuesday 28th December	An enhanced service will be provided on routes 2A/X2, 3A, 4, 5, 6A, 7, 10, 40, 42, 55/55A, 81/81A/81B
Wednesday 29th December & Thursday 30th December	Saturday Service
Friday 31st December	Saturday Service With Services finishing around 8pm
Saturday 1st January	No Service Except Service 2A & 40 will operate a special timetable
Sunday 2nd January	Normal Service
Monday 3rd January	An enhanced service will be provided on routes 2A/X2, 3A, 4, 5, 6A, 7, 10, 40, 42, 55/55A, 81/81A/81B
Tuesday 4th January	Normal Services Resume

No Services will operate on the 26th December and the 1st January, however, Services 2A & 40, will operate a special Boxing Day and New Years Day timetable!

26th Dec & 1st Jan only	2A		2A		2A		2A		2A
University Underpass	1018	then	48		18		1618		1648
Bowerham Hotel	1029	at these	59		29	until	1629		1659
Lancaster Bus Station	1042	mins.	12		42		1642		1712
26th Dec & 1st Jan only	2A		2A		2A		2A		2A
Lancaster Bus Station	0955	then	25		55		1555		1625
Bowerham Hotel	1004	at these	34		04	until	1604		1634
University Underpass	1015	mins.	45		15		1615		1645

This is not a full timetable and only shows times between the University & the Bus Station. Service 40 will operate a limited daytime service along the A6 (University Gates).



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# scan:COMMENT

## What makes Living worth while?

If the Students' Union really wants to provide the best experience for students it need to look closer to its homes



Alex Littleboy

This time last year everyone in my flat on campus was faced with a decision – do we choose to stay on campus, or do we search for accommodation in town? Thinking the chances of getting a space on campus to be low, we opted for the latter, and chose to search for a house with the Students' Union housing company, LUSU Living. We signed the lease for a house, which had several issues, that we were promised would be fixed before we moved in.

After the summer holiday, we moved in, and the problems began. The issues we had been assured would be fixed simply hadn't – including five substantial holes in our bathroom wall to the outside world and an extractor fan that squealed loudly when the bathroom light was turned on. There were also further problems we didn't anticipate – we found there was a missing glass plate in our oven which meant that we couldn't use it until it was repaired, a skylight in an upstairs bedroom was jammed open, and whenever we used one of our showers water poured through the ceiling of our kitchen. Shortly after we moved in our fridge-freezer broke down, causing all of our food to expire, exacerbated by the fact that we couldn't cook anything in our oven. Furthermore, it was obvious to us that our house hadn't been cleaned during the summer, evident because of mould in our fridge (which hadn't broken at that point), among other issues. To us, this was something that we believed should have been fixed during the holiday, but it wasn't the biggest of issues – we simply reported our issues to LUSU Living, and trusted them to sort them out.

Days passed, with no sign of anything. Whenever we contacted Living, we were assured that cleaners would be coming, but that our other issues would take a little longer to sort, as they had more pressing matters – other houses were apparently still going without gas.

The cleaners never came. Several times we were informed that cleaners would be coming on certain days, but each time we stayed in the house specifically to let them in there was no sign of them. Another week went by and there was still no sign of workmen, who we were continually told would be with us soon. We eventually came to the conclusion that our complaints were simply not being taken



What's the deal? Photo by Elliot Westacott.

**“We thought that, as a Students' Union run company, it would look out for the students it was providing accommodation to, something that we haven't experienced this year”**

seriously. At one point, one of my flatmates went into the office to check and see if anything was being done, to overhear people in the office talking about our house, saying “the saga continues”. Never at any point did we feel that we were being unreasonable in our requests, but obviously those in the office disagreed with our attempts to restore our house to the condition it should have been in when we arrived.

After a while, we decided that we weren't going to communicate with the office verbally anymore. We wrote an e-mail outlining all of our issues in detail, and asking when they would all be fixed. We also added that, should

nothing happen, we would seek legal advice over how to proceed with the matter.

Luckily, we never had to resort to this. A few days after sending the e-mail our house was full of workmen. It had taken around three weeks of complaints in order to receive a working fridge, but in general the issues were sort-of fixed around this point. It took another week or two to fix our oven, and we have only just regained the use of our upstairs shower, but the bulk of these issues were addressed shortly after we gave LUSU Living an ultimatum. At the time of writing, our kitchen ceiling will still slightly leak on occasion, and our landline won't make outgoing calls, and the holes in our walls were simply covered with plastic vents, but in general the house is in a reasonable condition now. In their email response to us, however, they stated that the house had been cleaned before we arrived, which was clearly not the case – if the house had been cleaned during the summer, it would have been clean when we arrived, and they would have noticed the issues, such as holes in our bathroom wall.

One of the main issues we discovered when considering our options was that, according to our contract, we weren't able to withhold rent for any reason, even if LUSU Living weren't responding to our issues. When we decided to get a house with LUSU, it was because we thought that, as a Students' Union run company, it would look out for the students it was providing accommodation to, something that we haven't experienced this year.

I would like to say that I have met people who have had very positive experiences with LUSU Living, as well as those who have had both positive and negative experiences elsewhere. The important thing is to be careful, whoever and wherever you search for accommodation. When there are potential issues, ask what will be done about them before you move in. If there are issues, be firm when asking for them to be fixed, and most importantly, don't skim over the contract – read it carefully. My experiences have been negative, but so long as you take care, issues with your accommodation next year should be minimal, and you can enjoy living off campus.

Why we should reclaim the dreaded-evil-worse-than-a-racist-word

Ross McCaffrey

I'm sure we've all being there before, that time in a meeting place with friends, old and new, having a joke and a chat. Someone says something mind-blowingly ridiculous, and as a result you and your friends rip that person to shreds to no end. Laughing, you explain to the fool why what they said was so funny. And then you make what will soon to be considered the biggest mistake of your social life. You call them a silly cunt.

Big mistake. The whole room goes silent. You are looked at like you have strangled an infant. A mixture of rage, tears and unadulterated shock can be seen in the face of everyone within a five mile radius. Someone is texting a friend in utter disgust, regretting ever having the displeasure of meeting you. The BBC has been informed, and you're to be on the headlines of the six o'clock news. Everyone you know is sure to hear about this, you are forever doomed to a life of seclusion, labelled as the silly cunt guy or girl.

I'm a cunt. I am a cunt in the same way I'm an idiot, a bastard, an arse-hole and a pillock. I am a word used to describe me when I've done something stupid or have done something unfair to another individual. I am a cunt and I'm OK with it, I have no qualms whatsoever with that piece of swearing. To me, it is banal as calling someone a fool. The point that I'm getting at is that, to me, it is in no way the word itself that offends, and simply the delivery of it. Calling someone a cunt and calling someone a cunt are two completely different things. It's all in the matter of context, and on a completely egalitarian point of view, it's ridiculous. I'm fairly certain that the majority of you reading this (if you swear that is) would call someone a dick or a prick at the drop of a hat, so why all this uproar when someone mentions a different genitalia? Twat isn't a bad word; in fact I think it's a hilarious word. No one ties you to a tree and pummels you with rocks if you mention the word twat, so it seems a little ironic that referencing exactly the same thing but using a different word should cause such upheaval and render you a social pariah.

Personally I think there's a double standard surrounding the word. I heard a story in sixth form about a general chitchat in class. Someone mentioned the dreaded evil “worse than-a-racist-word” in conversation and a roomful of people pretty much burned her at the stake. However, in the same class the next day, the supposedly shocked masses continued to sit down for the entire hour and share racist jokes. Silly cunts.



# Wit wins the day when it comes to election campaigns



**Emily Robertson**  
Comment Editor

Student elections are in essence a popularity contest. It all comes down to how memorable you make yourself

**B**y the end of Week Seven I found it's impossible to walk a single step along the Spine without coming face-to-face with the witty, creative and sometimes frankly garish campaign posters plastered in every available space. For all the creativity and wit of these posters though, many of them do not even mention or have any relevance to the position the candidate they promote is standing for. They exist simply to get the name of the candidate into the minds of students without leaving any substance behind them.

I am all for having a creative and witty campaign to grab the attention of those apathetic students who don't have much interest in student politics or those who are actually running. Of course those running have to get their names out there to get those votes, but my issue is really when substance is entirely pushed aside in favour of witty catchphrases and slogans that are totally irrelevant to the position the candidate is running for.

Those candidates with this kind of campaign poster also often add what I like to describe as shine to their husts. They are charismatic individuals who are probably already very popular within their college, winning them votes before they have even started. But when students go to vote are they, and more importantly should they be, voting for a personal-



Students thought Hogan knew best in the 2008 LUSU Sabbatical elections.

ity rather than on actual merit, experience and suitability of the candidate for the position.

When it comes down to voting, students I spoke to who actually voted and only did so because they are or were involved in LUSU or JCRs or had friends were running. It is always those names that seem most familiar for whatever reason that win the vote. For the students that actually get onto

the voting website there is an endless list of names, many of which you will be unfamiliar with, which will result in you choosing just the name that stands out, the name related to the poster that made you giggle to yourself on your way to your lecture, the random student you met on a night out who told you to vote for them, just those little glimpses and associations which make you click on that name

and give them your vote. There's not often much of an educated choice involved, it is for most simply based

**'For all the creativity and wit of these posters though, many of them do not even mention or have any relevance to the position the candidate they promote is standing for'**

on the poster or campaign that caught their eye for that split second longer than the rest.

Having said that, this isn't parliament: this is Lancaster University. We aren't MPs: we are students. Should this all be taken so seriously? If we vote purely because someone made a good poster, or speaks well but perhaps hasn't got as much experience as those running against them with less witty slogan, is it really such a bad thing? If those voted into those positions aren't completing their responsibilities once in the role they can always be dismissed. So as long as the elections are fair and square I'm quite happy to be entertained by whatever witty slogans and wacky pictures the posters on the Spine throw at me.

# I cannot agree with my party on fees debate

**Richard Sykes**

Fees increase hurts all but the richest in society and encourages the view that education is solely for future monetary gain

**I**am a Conservative, I have been a party member for three years and campaigned a lot during the General Election. There is however one party policy I strongly disagree with: the cuts to university funding and the rise in tuition fees. I believe it hurts all but the richest in society and encourages the view that education is solely for future monetary gain.

I believe strongly in the Conservative tradition of meritocracy, that people should succeed based on their ability and not based on the amount of money they have. Both Margaret Thatcher and John Major came from humble backgrounds and eventually became Prime Minister. Both of them benefited greatly from a free university education (as has almost every current MP). On principle I believe it is wrong to make people pay for their education as some people have better means to pay than others therefore meaning that access to education would be partially based on wealth.

The new system introduced by the coalition will mean that universities will set tuition fees of between £6000 and £9000 per year. The argument behind this range is that it will create a market and people will assess the value of the education provided by universities and choose accordingly. In reality most students from poorer backgrounds will choose the cheapest universities due to fear of taking on an extra £9000 of debt. The grants system will remain fundamen-



tally flawed as it is based on household income which is often not an accurate reflection of parents ability or willingness to fund their children's education. A student from a large middle income family is a good example. If you are one of three or four children and your parents earn £40,000 you will receive no help from the state and probably very little from your parents meaning you could easily end up £40,000 in debt. If the grants system also took family size and its assets into consideration then the argument that the whole system is fair would hold much more weight.

The credit culture caused the recession. It's ludicrous that one of the gov-

ernment's solutions to get us out of the mess is for half of young people to borrow an extra £9,000-18,000 more than they would currently do. It will considerably reduce their take home pay and act as another millstone around young people's necks. How the average graduate is expected to pay £30,000 debts and save up for a deposit on a house is beyond me. The only saving grace of the system is that you don't pay it back if you don't earn a decent wage in the 30 years after you graduate. However most graduates will earn enough to pay it back but pay decades worth of interest in addition to what they originally borrowed. It's a policy that doesn't take into account

the burdens faced by those in their 20s even when there are plenty of jobs.

The deficit needs to be tackled as we cannot remain in a situation where the government continues to borrow a quarter of what it spends. However this does not mean that cuts of 60% to government funding for higher education are necessary. It's an area which only absorbs just over 1% of overall government expenditure. The coalition's cuts to university funding save £4.2bn a year on a deficit of £155bn per year. Universities should not be spared cuts while other public services have to be cut, however the scale of the cuts should be significantly smaller. A four year freeze in funding would in real terms save about £1bn a year by the end of this parliament and could be implemented without significantly damaging the system or increasing student debt. While this would mean an extra £3bn of cuts spread between other departments were the damage would not be felt as strongly by people, compared with taking away the majority of university funding.

For all the faults in the new system, it is however important to remember that the Conservatives said before the General Election that they may increase tuition fees and lost many student votes for doing so. Even though I totally disagree with the policy I admire my party's honesty, something I cannot say about our coalition partners.



# Student movement is a microcosm of how democracy works in the UK

Ebru Thwaites



The politics and protests of Lancaster give us an insight into the national picture

A mass student demonstration against cuts took place in London on November 10. 52,000 people marched and some protestors forced their way into Millbank. David Cameron responded: “Even if we wanted to, we should not go back to the idea that university is for free”. This demonstration breaks the passive consensus that ensured the British people’s acquiescence until recently. The economic and political elite’s response to mass demonstrations across the country, including those on Lancaster University campus is a microcosm of the condition of what we know as democracy in the UK. Democracy can be seen as a forced complicity of the masses into the legitimisation of the consequences of the government’s attack on society. It is the consensual representation of capitalism.

Under the illusion that elected politicians represent the general interest of the public in the idea of democracy, we are forced to comply with the outcomes of the government’s policies that shifts the costs of the economic crisis onto the public sector. Authoritarianism is disguised under the promise of common sense discussion on the unilaterally defined agenda of the capitalist elite in the City of London and the Parliament. The government’s talk on the financial crisis disguises questioning crises in other production processes: of commodity and labour. The ability to question the causes of the crisis by the ordinary people is foreclosed.



Students protest in the south west of campus. Photo by Chris Osborn.

In Britain, the universities’ role in the consensual representation of capitalism is more politically complicit than ever. For example, two days before the protest, the Vice Chancellor of Lancaster University, Paul Wellings called for a “constructive debate rather than protests” in an article in the Guardian, saying that the increase in fees will enhance the competitiveness of the higher education sector. This statement resonates well with the message Cameron gave to Chinese students in his visit to China: “In the past we have been pushing up the fees on overseas students and using that as a way of keeping them down for domestic students. We have done the difficult

thing. We have put up contributions for British students.” This announcement sharply contradicts with other policies of the government, such as the cap on non-EU immigration. Currently, the overseas students account for 60 % of the overall non-EU immigration to UK. On the other hand, the Home Secretary, Theresa May’s exemption of entrepreneurs and investors from the immigration cap – “no limit to the number of wealth creators who can come to Britain” clearly demonstrates the economic class that the government wishes to represent.

By transforming into a service provider to individuals, the university becomes a site on which consensus

is forced upon to legitimise the viewpoints of managerial elite. Thus, the struggles that take place in the university can be seen as a microcosm of how democracy operates in UK. To identify some local manifestations of these tendencies at Lancaster University, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) announced its plan to open the faculty for business. Developing an enterprising mind set among students was set as one of the main aims of the Enterprise Centre. Although the idea was posed as a question - “Should FASS be open for business?” The initiative forces critical scholars to comply with the legitimisation of a market directed education and research. Despite the message that came across in the event, “business values social science”, there is overwhelming evidence that thinking is done despite business’ attempts to commodify it.

Another example concerns the recent protest organised by LUSU and anti-cuts groups on campus. This event resulted in one arrest of a student for crossing the tape and disproportionate use of force by the police, hitting the student on the head with handcuffs. It seems that the return of the truncheon and possible incriminatory practices for students who attend demonstrations in the future will cast further shadow on the idea of university as a free speech environment. Our choice is between complicity into a forced economic and commercial usefulness and exploring the possibilities for collective resistance: thus politicising the highly apolitical university in UK.

# Freedom of information comes with a price

Tolulope Openiyi

Wikileaks’ overall interest should be international peace and security. Crime should not be a way of informing the public

In this day and age, information is very important. In 2006 Wikileaks, a non-profit organisation founded by Julian Assange, was set up with its sole aim to disclose documents and information from anonymous sources which are ordinarily not available to the public.

Anybody can add a document to the Wikileaks website and an unknown team of editors confirm the authenticity of the documents. They usually aim to publish and comment on leaked documents which assert government and corporate misconduct. However, Wikileaks claims that its “primary interest is in exposing oppressive regimes in Asia, the former Soviet bloc, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, but we also expect to be of assistance to people of all regions who wish to reveal unethical behaviour in their governments and corporations”.

Wikileaks has become more popular recently due to its recent revelations about America. A lot of diplomatic communication America makes with its allies has been exposed. This has been extremely damaging to America’s reputation because of the sup-

posed human rights abuses it has committed and its accusations against the British royal family. This is a threat to diplomatic relations between US and its allies and also is very damaging. In her response to the leaks, Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton said she “deeply regrets” the leaks and says that it is an attack on not just the United States but the international community.

It must be acknowledged that Wikileaks has made some revelations that have been very beneficial. Some of them include the case of the British National Party membership list, the report on toxic dumping in Africa, and Sarah Palin’s email records. In the British National Party membership list issue, some police officers were dismissed for political association. However, a lot of questions need to be asked about the activities of this organisation.

My first issue with Wikileaks is the manner in which it gets information. All you need do to provide information for Wikileaks, is to go on its website and submit it. With this system, people who are working for strategic institutions, for example, military intelligence

that are disloyal can easily send secret information to the public and more importantly to the enemy. The activities of Wikileaks could also amount to a breach of the Official Secrets Act because there have been cases where people who originally had access to official files leaking it to Wikileaks. It has also been established that information available on the Wikileaks website has been obtained through hacking.

Secondly, Wikileaks is a threat to diplomatic communications between countries. Officials of governments need to have the confidence that they can communicate privately, especially on delicate matters that involve national security, without the fear of a scandal. Obviously, while Wikileaks is trying to expose condemnable acts of government, sometimes it ends up sabotaging the efforts of government. Due to this Pete King, a US Congressman has asked for Wikileaks to be listed as a terrorist group. American authorities are already investigating the possibility of prosecuting Julian Assange, the founder of Wikileaks under the Espionage Act. American authorities have also warned that the leaked informa-

tion could endanger the lives of US troops and their allies.

Also, should the media spread information gained from Wikileaks? David Cameron disapproved of the Guardian for publishing Wikileaks documents, but I do not see any reason why the media should not spread information that is already available to the public via the internet. The media does not have the responsibility to save the government from embarrassment.

While I would state that the activities of Wikileaks, is not condemnable in its entirety, there must be a limit to what and how they expose considering the effects it could cause. Though there is freedom of information, care should be taken to ensure that it is not abused. I also think that it is very important that atrocities committed by government should be exposed. However, I do not support when it is done without discretion. The overall interest should be international peace and security and crime should not be a way of informing the public. While I support the activities of Wikileaks, I think that it should not cause more harm than good.



## COMMENT

scan

Editorial

## The battle may be over, but the war has just begun

**THE GOVERNMENT'S LINE on the increase in tuition fees was extremely evident during the debate on the vote last Thursday: it's what university Vice Chancellors have been calling for.**

Skimming over the relative untruthfulness of this argument, the increase in fees means that the English university has become a radically different playing field, and the internal politics has shifted almost irreversibly. The relationship between students and their university will never be the same, nor will the relationship between students and their unions and those unions and universities.

Students' Unions will no longer be able to rely on being just the critical friend of universities. They will soon find that the only viable way to continue representing students in a market based higher education system is to take on the role of consumer watchdog - there to ensure the university is delivering on the promises which made students buy into it in the first place.

Whether this is what Vice Chancellors have been calling for is somewhat doubtful. If student unions do come to represent sector watchdogs, then universities will be forced to afford them more credibility and respect than they currently receive. At Lancaster specifically age old battles about space and the student experience will cease to be points which can be flip-flopped over. They'll become points on which the University can make or break itself in the eyes of current and potential consumers.

The full details of this change to the higher education sector are still unknown. Full legislation will be coming to Parliament in 2011, and until then all that can be done is speculate on how universities and students will operate in a market economy. In that time unions need to prepare themselves for more battles ahead.

# Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to [scan@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:scan@lancaster.ac.uk) with you name and college (even if you want your letter printed anonymously). SCAN reserves the right to edit your letters for publication.



### Dogma in context

Alex Harris is right to call out the hypocrisy of so-called Christian fundamentalists who profess to treat the Bible as the inerrant word of God, but selectively omit to observe some of its more bizarre commands whilst also taking a hard line on homosexuality. A distinction must be made however between fundamentalists who wish to harm homosexuals, and mainstream Christians he mentions who merely dislike the practise of it. It is anyone's right to believe that anything is acceptable or not for any given reason. For example, we have people who honestly believe that all religious people are stupid and harmful to society. This is doubtless irritating, offensive and stupid itself, but that's not to say we should cajole people out of this view for the sake of conforming to a 'point of moral understanding'. It's a shame the media infrequently captures the subtlety of the Christian position: that whether homosexuality is a 'sin' or not is partly inconsequential, as we are all sinners by definition. For a true Christian, this basic doctrine

contextualises all subsequent Christian law. A sinner is also a brother, and an enemy is also a friend.

Of course, the obligation is also on Christians to show that they understand the universality of this, their own message.

*M. Goulden*

### Dim witted students 2

I have to say I agree with the lady complaining about the quality of students at Lancaster University. Recently, I was attempting to write my dissertation in a quiet zone of the library when a fellow students phone rings.

He then proceeded to shout and swear down the phone so loud that it began to echo and everyone on B floor was getting quite annoyed and offended, no one was doing anything so I decided to walk over and ask him to stop.

To this he replied with a stream of swearwords that would be more expected of a socially challenged chavvy 14-year-old, not someone attending a top 10 university. Between him threatening to "punch

my f\*\*\*ing lights out" and other charming proclamations I sat down next to him and calmly looked him in the eye and tried to explain why I (and half the library) were annoyed. I then asked him to look around and see what a fool of himself he was making which made him blush, but made the shouting louder.

It's quite sad that a university that claims to be top 10 allows students with such childish, abusive and dangerous attitudes to come here. The saddest thing is that this is by no means the first time I have seen such behaviour in three years at Lancaster. So much for being a top 10 uni...

*Rory O'Brien  
Pendle College*

### Americanisation

It seems to become almost every lecture that I'm reading the word colour without a u in it. Probably just as noticeable is the disappearance of s and it's now ever-present cousin z.

You see it everywhere. Neighbour is now neighbor. Sulphur is now Sulfur. How on Earth do Americans

spell Phosphorus? It is absolutely insanity that our spelling is being converted to the American dialect. As I see more and more British lecturers using these spellings, it makes me wonder...what has become of our traditional language? Oh and by the way, it's aluminium.

*Rosie Bates  
Cartmel*

### Corrections

• The byline Steve Feekins and Jack Smith should have simply read Steve Feekins. ('He just loves football...', November 30, page 17).

• Cartmel did not have a victory over Graduate in Women's Pool. Graduate forfeited the game. ('Bowland making headway', November 30, page 18).

SCAN's policy is to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please contact the Editor with the date, page or weblink.



## Regional Football

# Bleak outlook for regions football clubs

**Matthew Todd**

Lancaster City have suffered more than most during the recent cold-spell. The Dolly Blues have had their last three games called off due to a frozen pitch and have been unable to train with local facilities out of commission. The club's fans are certainly eager to see their side in action; before the scheduled home tie with Curzon Ashton volunteers cleared the terraces, only for the game to be called off at a late stage.

Despite recently moving in to a new stadium, Morecambe have also suffered with postponed fixtures. The eagerly anticipated Victory Shield clash between England and Scotland fell foul of the weather, with Morecambe losing out on valuable revenue as a result. Over 3,500 tickets had been sold for the game and, with Sky cameras in town for live coverage, Morecambe have missed out on the opportunity to publicize the club nationally. The Globe Arena did play host to a league game against Crewe in late November, with Morecambe succumbing to a 2-1 defeat. The Shrimps sit near the foot of League Two and their prospects of collecting vital points this weekend look slim, with Port Vale coming to the Globe.

With their lofty status amongst the elite clubs in the top tier of the English game, even Blackpool have been forced to postpone a home fixture. The Seasiders' much anticipated clash against Manchester United was called off with a day to spare, after the



Bloomfield Road pitch failed a preliminary pitch inspection. The club has been slammed in the media for not investing in under-soil heating and relying on covers that wouldn't look out of place in the lower leagues. The one Blackpool game played since the last report was a memorable tie against Bolton. Blackpool had raced into a 2-0 lead thanks to headers from Ian Evatt and Luke Varney, and they continued to steam forward as Bolton appeared shell-shocked. However, Blackpool's defensive frailties surfaced in the second half as they were carved apart by a resurgent Bolton to snatch a 2-2 draw from the jaws of victory. Blackpool will be looking to build on this positive result when they

travel to Stoke on Saturday.

The play-off campaign of Fleetwood Town has been halted by an enforced two-week break in league fixtures. Despite the lack of action on the field, Mickey Mellon has been keeping his players busy with unconventional training routines, including fell running and beach running. Fleetwood have also moved to strengthen their squad after Ian Crainey was allowed to re-join Accrington Stanley on loan; the Cod Army have brought back former star Jamie Milligan from AFC Fylde in a surprise transfer. Ironically, Fleetwood's only recent game resulted in a humiliating 3-1 loss to AFC Fylde in the Lancashire cup.

Both Wigan and Preston may have

escaped the spate of postponements, although given current form they may benefit from having a weekend off. Preston are still searching for a victory and have recorded draws in their last two league fixtures. The first was a morale sapping 0-0 draw against Millwall in which the home fans vented their frustrations at the final whistle. Given this disappointment, few expected the creditable 1-1 draw with Cardiff that followed. However, the overwhelming feeling around the club was one of disappointment; North End were seconds from claiming a victory, only for Andy Keogh to cruelly deny them in the fourth minute of injury time.

Wigan also claimed a point in their last fixture, however a 2-2 draw at home to Stoke must be regarded as below par. Their two other ties resulted in defeat, with a crushing 3-1 loss at Upton Park leading many in the media to consider Wigan as favourites for relegation. The Latics found themselves 3-0 down and facing a mauling, only for Mauro Boselli to squander their best opportunity when he missed a second half penalty and extinguished any hopes of a dramatic comeback. Wigan's Carling Cup run also ended, with a meek 2-0 surrender to Arsenal during which they failed to test the opposition defence and seemed content to maintain a damaged limitation strategy. A trip to Goodison Park, to face Everton will not fill Wigan fans with hope, as they look to pull away from the relegation zone in the Premier League.

## SPECIAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL DEAL FOR LANCASTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

**PNEFC  
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**SUBERB SAVINGS - RELIEVE HOLIDAY BOREDOM!**



**PNE v Middlesbrough, Tuesday 28th December, 3pm**  
**PNE v Derby County, Saturday 1st January, 3pm**  
**PNE v Leicester City, Saturday 15th January, 3pm**

Offer valid in 'goal end' areas; Alan Kelly Town End and Billy Shankly Kop. This voucher also entitles students to purchase 'stand' seating in the Sir Tom Finney Stand or Invincibles Pavilion at just £30 for all three games.

***Cut out and present this voucher at the Preston North End ticket office along with your Purplecard to enjoy three games for just £20!***

£20 offer available in the Alan Kelly Town End and Bill Shankly Kop. 'Stand' seating in the Sir Tom Finney Stand or Invincibles Pavilion also available for just £30 for all three games.



# Bad weather means teams will shine in spring

**Marc Handley**  
LUSU Vice President (Sports)

With this recent spell of bad weather, the vast majority of our outdoor sports here have understandably had to be called off. With our teams getting short on match practice and trying their best to find an alternative method of training, it is clear that they are taking their opportunity to represent both their college and university as seriously

**All of this bad weather will lead to a backlog of games in the second term as BUCS and Inter College Leagues aim to be finished in time for Easter so that people are able to fully concentrate on both Roses and their exams too**

as they can whilst also not losing out in an academic sense. All of this bad weather will lead to a backlog of games in the second term as BUCS and Inter College Leagues aim to be finished in time for Easter so that people are able to fully concentrate on both Roses and their exams too - I will let you pick which is the most important.

The benefit of this backlog however is that it gives the general population of Lancaster University the fantastic chance to spend some time seeing our guys and girls repping the colours, something which, if I'm honest, is the best bit about my job.

There is nothing better than walking into work on a Wednesday morning knowing that it is going to be spent watching our teams play other universities as well as the college leagues too. Some of the college matches that have been scheduled seem to have been picked especially for second term, when the weather is better, and bigger crowds can get out at watch.

There are some very big games at both college and university level in the next set of 10 weeks so I urge you all to get out there as I will be, and cheer our teams on - you'd be surprised how much of a difference people on the sidelines can really make.

May I also take this chance to wish the readers of SCAN all the best for the festive season; I hope you all have a happy Christmas, and I'll see you all in the New Year.



Sport Distort: Matthew Linnett cast a satirical eye on the latest sport headlines

# The alternative Sports Distort personality of the year awards

With the year drawing to a close, Sport Distort takes a look at the people who have performed exceptionally well - or horribly, you decide - this year

IT MAY BE the first of its kind, but it is already being mooted as the most prestigious accolade in sport. The Sport Distort Alternative Personality of the Year Award hails those who have set alight their particular disciplines in a way that no other sporting award would. For the past year our panel of experts have been tirelessly scouring the sporting world worthiest contenders, and here is our shortlist.

## ANDY CARROLL

This is merely a formality for the Gateshead juggernaut Carroll - if he really wanted the award he could just walk in and take it. The late 90s wrestler-turned-Spartan Shearer has rocked the scene this year, scoring for fun in the Premier League, earning an England call up, learning the nicknames of every bartender on Tyneside and successfully robbing a bank vault with nothing but his elbows.

Win or lose, rain or shine, you know what to expect from Andy Carroll - some sort of power header, a shot hitting the woodwork, a traumatized centre back, and a proper mortal pre-lash. AROO! AROO! AROO!

## AUDLEY HARRISON

In what was billed as one of the most one sided fights in the history of professional boxing Audley 'A-Force' Harrison has ascending to new levels



How Sebastian Vettel would look if he won the Award

of shite with his spectacular downfall at the hands of David Haye. Harrison not only let down his family and friends but also the thousands of people around the globe who forked out £14.99 for 472 seconds of boxing, a forgettable bout but a lifetime of embarrassment.

## IAN HOLLOWAY

Ron Atkinson, George Graham, Kevin Keegan, where would the Premier League be without its plethora of angry managers? Enter stage left, Ian Holloway, the new kid on the block. Holloway has added his original brand of management to the greatest league in the world with his Blackpool side this season, and what a season it's been so far. Winding up journalists, angry pleas to the footballing bodies and even the threat of resignation Holloway has not only got 11 players performing on the pitch, but he's always got a healthy handful of bollocks to share in his post-match interviews.

## JAKE HUMPHREY

The vapid, uninspiring, overused and overpaid Humphmeister General has

been a talismanic shining light for sports broadcasting in 2010. Everyone's favourite work experience coffee runner has had a very busy year - proving that you don't need to be burdened with passion for a sport in order to host a show about it, Humphrey was there for the BBC when they needed him most.

Need to grill pit crew in the pissing rain as the Belgian Grand Prix plods along? Jake's your man. Need to kill four minutes discussing QPR v Barnsley? Call on Jake. Need someone to grab you a cheeky baguette? There's old Jake. Need cover for Lineker on Match of the Day? Easy now.

## WAYNE ROONEY

While 25-year-old Manchester United striker may have failed to have had an impact on the footballing world this year, his impact on the UK's economy has been frightening. Following the farce ever his contract at Old Trafford many are emulating his tactics to achieve a 100% pay rise. Thousands have been taking spontaneous trips abroad, frequenting brothels and simply underperforming in their jobs.

There are criticisms from the Treasury that the Rooney effect could see the UK spiral into a double-dip recession, which is coincidentally one of Wayne's favourite sexual activities, although not with the wife.

## SABASTIAN VETTEL

Sebastian Vettel can drive a car very, very fast. Very very fast indeed. A born tactician, Sebastian Vettel strives to have his car finish in front of all the cars. Though this doesn't always work, Sebastian Vettel always shows the grit and determination to persist with this tactic. Oh Sebastian Vettel. Formula 1 Champion. So what if your team pumps millions into making your car the fastest car, faster than all the other cars? It means nothing to me Sebastian Vettel - cause nothing compares to you.

## BOUDEWIIN ZENDAN

2010 will be remembered for many great sporting moments: Spain winning the World Cup in fine style, Europe reclaiming the Ryder Cup in emphatic fashion, England and the other home nations putting in fine performances at the Commonwealth Games and Phil Taylor throwing some sharp pieces of metal.

Considering all these glorious occasions, as well as many more awe-inspiring sporting performances from across the spectrum, some moments do indeed fall by the wayside. But we at Sport Distort are determined to praise the unsung heroes - step forward Bolo Zenden.

This year, Zenden's role has arguably transcended the boundaries of sport - thanks to Bolo, white men need no longer be afraid of hitting the dancefloor again. After the flying winger's attempt at emulating the snakehipped Asamoah Gyan's funky shake, drunken uncles countryside stopped to show their support. Take a bow Bolo, take a bow.

# The Premier League: The disappearance of predictability

## Robert Wiggins

The easy ticks on a football coupon seem to have been lost this season; even between the lacklustre performances of the usual title contenders and the dogged and hard fought battles of the small, penniless clubs who have just reached the Premier League.

None of the usual top four contenders can stand proud at their Premier League performances so far. The clubs that can stand up are those that many thought would be sat down at the bottom of the table.

At present, Chelsea are left to dwell on their three losses from five after an initially strong start; most recently scraping a 1-1 draw at home to Ever-

ton, and the same scoreline against a depleted Newcastle side. Manchester United are only in their current league position through grinding draws and coming from behind. They have at best given an average performance; their latest result truly does highlight the lack of predictability in the league with a 7-1 victory over Blackburn.

Not many fans currently have confidence in what team will turn up to their next game. Who knows whether it will be a display of class or one of embarrassment? Arsenal seem to be the best of the rich bunch, but even so, it has still not been a consistent season so far with Spurs showing they are the comeback kings - beating both Arsenal and Liverpool from 2-0 and 1-0 down respectively.

There are too many surprise packages this season to mention, but Spurs would have to be to be team that has shown the most consistency especially with them gaining 15 points after coming from behind. Everyone had their money on Blackpool being the three points in the bag team and a cert for relegation looking at their squad, however they were quick to quieten such talk and currently sit in 11th position; based on previous seasons who would have predicted that Bolton, Sunderland and Newcastle would all be sat in the top half of the table 15 games in?

Probably the most unusual and unexpected of talk so far this season, is Liverpool for relegation. Thanks to their poorest league start in decades



# Carter Shield finals take shape after close day of pop lacrosse

County win all three of their games to qualify for the semi-final stages along with Pendle

**Nick O'Malley**  
Sports Editor

THE THIRD CARTER Shield event of the term was the keenly anticipated pop lacrosse. Bowland were drawn in group one along with bitter rivals Lonsdale, Furness, and County. Group two consisted of Cartmel, Pendle, Fylde, and Grizedale.

## GROUP ONE

The first match of the day was between Lonsdale and Furness, with Lonsdale the clear favourites on paper. Lonsdale took the lead in the match just after half time, however Furness responded immediately while Lonsdale where at their most vulnerable. Lonsdale's passing was wayward, their finishing was poor, and Furness truly merited the 1-1 draw through their enthusiasm and work rate alone.

County versus Bowland was the second game in group one. With Bowland always strong in every Carter Shield event and County missing one player, it looked like there could be only one winner. However as the majority of County's players play lacrosse for the University, they ground out a 2-1 in spite of Bowland's best efforts, demonstrating their superior passing and finishing.

Bowland demonstrated the same grit and determination in the third group game against Furness, to triumph 1-0, and pick up their first win of the day. County destroyed Lonsdale 4-1 in the fourth game of the day, at times toying with their opponents and on numerous occasions showboating with passes through legs and behind their own backs. It was an exhibition in how to play lacrosse, and how to finish opportunities by what was by far the best team present on the day.

County confirmed their first place finish in the group with a 3-0 win over Furness in the final game of the day without ever having to get out of first gear, as they seemingly strolled around the pitch before assuredly finishing their chances.

The final group game was of mas-



Lonsdale sports rep Lee Osborne receiving the ball as Lonsdale attack against Cartmel (last year).

sive significance, as Lonsdale knew they had to win to stay in the competition, while Bowland only needed a draw to qualify for finals day in second place. Lonsdale took an early lead, before coming under a barrage of pressure for the remaining seven minutes, including one outstanding opportunity for Bowland, which saw their player beat the Lonsdale goalkeeper, only to hit the crossbar, before the ball bounced just away from the goal. Lonsdale hung on for what was a massive win, and sneaked through to finals day in second place, seeing Bowland crash out uncharacteristically in third place for only six Carter Shield points.

## GROUP TWO

Pendle played Cartmel in the first game of group two, with Pendle having to play exceptionally well just to sneak an extremely late goal to win 2-1 after Cartmel had earlier equalised.

Grizedale struck an early blow to

last year's Carter Shield winners with an extremely important win in a very tight and tense encounter against Fylde, winning 1-0. Fylde responded immediately in their second game of the day, as they made light work against Cartmel, winning 2-0 spurning numerous clear cut opportunities along the way. However it must be said that it is the smallest of goals have ever been for Carter Shield lacrosse, which explains why it was such a low scoring day.

Grizedale were involved in yet another tight and scrappy affair as they clashed with local rivals Pendle in what was an enthralling 0-0 draw with both teams having chances a plenty, but with neither team a match for the clinical finishing of County.

Cartmel forced yet another draw, this time 2-2 against Grizedale, in what was an extremely exciting affair, which with last year's goals could have easily finished 5-5. The draw was enough to

see Grizedale qualify for finals day, and marked Cartmel's departure from the competition in last place in their group with only two points from their three games.

The final game of the group marked a similar situation to the earlier match of Lonsdale versus Bowland, as Fylde needed to beat Pendle to stay in the tournament. However Pendle's defence was too strong and never really looked like conceding as they held on for a 0-0 draw, which was enough to see Pendle go through in second place in their group behind Grizedale.

The semi-finals for pop lacrosse see group two winners Grizedale against group one runners up Lonsdale, with County versus Pendle the second semi-final. If County bring down the same five players again and maybe even a sixth it looks like the other teams left in the competition will be vying for a second place finish.

in the early stages of the season, they sat in the relegation zone. However,

**'The super-rich clubs have been caught up in trying to reel in the latest hot prospect rather than concentrating on their current squad'**

once the financial crisis at the club was resolved and new owners came in, the team seemed to be revitalised. They do still remain one of the most inconsistent teams in the league, struggling to gain any form and constantly going from a big win to a loss.

It seems that the super-rich clubs have been caught up in trying to reel in the latest hot prospect rather than concentrating on their current squad and, most importantly of all, winning. This is not the answer; managerial relationships with the team take time to build and recently some managers have hardly had time to get the bench seat warm before they have been sacked for poor performances.

The attitude of many owners, managers and players from the bigger clubs seems to be tunnel-visioned purely for money; the real football seems to have been forgotten. Lessons need to be learnt, and they need not look far - it is the clubs that are beating them that seem to have the correct formula. Blackpool, Newcastle, Bolton

and Blackburn are all teams that have consistently performed well even though their pockets are not deep and their squad is not bursting with talent.

The neutral football fan would argue that this has been the best season yet to watch - seeing the underdogs win, come from behind, and put the favourites in their deserved place. The die-hard football fan would obviously argue the opposite unless you are fan who wears orange or black and white stripes.

Many fans feared that the Premier League was over in terms of being able to reap success unless their club had the financial backing; this season so far has distilled such fears. Compare many of the clubs positions and points to previous seasons and it is a

very different picture. Maybe it is the most interesting and unpredictable season yet, but much has to be determined this season. The time has come for the big spenders, namely Chelsea and Manchester City, to stop scouring for the next big name and concentrate on their current squads, enable players to develop, improve and most of all gel. The message is now clear; placing eleven grossly over-priced and paid world-class players will by no means see them through to glory. Add the right management, player attitude, grit and determination to the formula then a different story may arise.

All doors remain open for the title, European qualification, and relegation; it will be interesting to see how long this wide-open Premier League lasts.

## It's smooth sailing for the Boat Club at the end of first term

**Becky Hoose**

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY BOAT Club has enjoyed a successful start to the year. Despite being plagued by the bad weather, members have been training solidly in an attempt to mirror the success of last year.

The only race of this term was York Small Boats Head. This was to be the first race for many of the novices, and as the opening competition of the year, a good opportunity for all new rowers to gauge what level they are at.

The men's intermediate (IM) crews enjoyed successful races, with the IM3 coxed 4 and the IM2 coxless 4 coming 3rd and 2nd respectively in their categories. The women's IM2 coxed four, comprising of four of last year's team that reached the quarter finalists at Henley, beat off competition from York University to come second.

It was the first race for all in both the men's and women's novice crews, who each claimed an impressive 4th position. With the next race for the club not coming until mid way through next term, there is ample time to build on these results.

The weekend of Week Eight saw the club travel to Leeds to attend the BUCS Indoor Rowing Championship 2010 in Yorkshire. The race takes place on rowing machines, where athletes compete to post the best time over 2000 metres. The star athlete of the weekend for LUBC was Lydia Allen, who won two gold medals in her races, which were the women's relay event, and the women's lightweight events.

The rest of the winning relay team consisted of Alice Lees, Jenny Tonkins and Helina Meos, who in addition all competed in the women's heavyweight category. John Campbell also medalled, winning won bronze in the men's race, in spite of his beginner status. The rest of the LUBC competitors, posted some impressive times, putting the team in good stead going into the Chester Indoors competition, taking place on Sunday December 12.

On the weekend of Week 10, the club have organised an exciting fundraising event. Dan Morgan will be attempting to break the world record for the most metres rowed on a rowing machine in 24 hours. The record currently stands at 213,061m in the under 20 men's heavyweight category.

This will take place at Market Square in the town centre, from 8am on Saturday December 18 until 8am on the following day. Morgan will be doing this to raise money for two worthy causes; the total proceeds from the event will be split equally between the Antony Nolan Trust and the LUBC. The Antony Nolan Trust is a charity which carries out life saving research into Leukaemia and other blood related diseases, as well as finding bone marrow donors for sufferers.



## Lancaster take on York in the choppy Ouse



Find out how who came out on top on page 19

## Pendle witches overpower Bowland’s wizards

### IC Womens Darts

Pendle	4
Bowland	3

#### Erin Royle & Nick O’Malley

BOWLAND VERSUS PENDLE in Women’s Darts is the college dartsing equivalent of an unstoppable force meeting an immovable object. Except there can only be one winner because Women’s Darts is best of seven, so there is no possibility of a draw.

After last year, Pendle were chomping at the bit to get revenge over Bowland, who pipped them to the post in the league by the way of a resounding victory in the end of season play off. To give you a picture of how close the league was last year – both teams had the same points, but one team had a higher score difference and the other team had a higher leg difference.

The date was shared between the



Bowland lacked that magic spark

darts game and the 21st birthday of a Bowland team member. The new tradition in Bowland is to all be in fancy dress if your game coincides with a team member’s birthday. So, all seven of the Bowland team dressed up as Harry Potter, ironically making it a clash between the witches of Pendle and the wizards of Bowland.

First up for Bowland was Helen Davies who, as of yet, is unbeaten. She finished the game cleanly with a 2 – 0 victory over Ellie Cram of Pendle,

giving Bowland an early lead. Next up was the birthday girl, Natalia Buckley versus Pendle’s Hayley Booth. Bowland were determined not to let her lose on her birthday and seemingly spurred her on to a 2-1 victory through the medium of song.

At 2-0 up Bowland knew the match was far from over, as Pendle is an excellent team with fantastic strength in depth and had most of their better players still to come. Pendle bounced back strong and before anyone knew what had happened it was 2 – 2 overall, with Pendle catapulted right back into the match courtesy of 2-1 and 2-0 wins for Kate Jenner and Poppy Mylroie respectively.

Aimee Hopper, a Bowland veteran from last year’s league winning team was up next against Hayley Smith of Pendle. Her performance on the night was outstanding scoring three tons, and checking out coolly and calmly with the minimum of fuss, sending Bowland 3-2 up with just two games to play. Next up for Bowland was Erin

Royle, who promptly dispatched of her wizarding cloak and glasses before stepping up to the oche. However Royle was no match for the ruthless Claire Walker, Pendle Captain, who had pulled the score back level within ten minutes of the game commencing. Emma Geraghty was far too good for Nicola Williams in the final game of the night, with some fantastic high scoring by both playes in what should have been an extremely tense encounter. Geraghty was the first to hit the double in both legs, winning 2-0 and helping Pendle to a 4-3 victory overall.

With this result, the league is looking extremely close. Bowland are sitting on top, clear by three points. However Bowland are the only team in the league to have played seven games. So, while Pendle won this time, the closeness of the match proves there’s no room for error and one mistake looks like it could cost a team the league. Term two is going to be very interesting for Women’s Darts, especially with Bowland now out for revenge.

### IC Football League A

Team	W	L	D	Pts
County	3	1	2	11
Bowland	2	1	0	6
Pendle	1	1	1	4
Cartmel	1	0	1	4
Furness	1	2	1	4
Lonsdale	1	1	0	3
Fylde	0	1	1	1
Grizedale	0	2	0	0

### IC Netball A

Team	W	L	D	Pts
Fylde	2	1	0	19
County	1	1	0	7
Lonsdale	1	1	0	5
Cartmel	1	0	0	3
Pendle	1	0	0	1
Furness	1	1	0	- 4
Bowland	0	2	0	- 9
Grizedale	0	1	0	- 22

### Carter Shield Fixtures

Sponsored by IBM

Week	Sport
2	Taster session
3	Taster session
4	-
5	Dodgeball
6	Volleyball
7	Lacrosse
8	Women’s Football
9	Finals Day

All fixtures take place Sunday, 12.45pm in the Sports Centre Main Hall

### George Wyatt Fixtures

Day	Sport
Mon	Men’s Darts & Dominos
Tue	Women’s Darts
Wed	Women’s Pool
Thurs	Men’s Pool A & B



# Carolynne

Week Ten, Michaelmas Term

That was the  
year that was

Carolynne looks back over what made 2010 great



## emails from @australia

Carolynne's International Correspondent, **Penny How**, gives us a taste of life as a Lancaster student Down Under

THE ACT OF travelling is referred to as many activities: backpacking, hitchhiking, drifting, and roadtripping for example. With so much ground to cover, travelling around Australia is commonly considered a full-time occupation rather than a recreational activity. In order to see the 7,741,220 km<sup>2</sup> of Australia, time-management, organisation, and thorough research is vital.

First and foremost, travellers usually obtain a map and a guidebook. Having flicked through a large majority of them, I found that each initially warned the reader of the dangers of hitchhiking. Most advise to travel by any other means than hitching. This has been a growing global opinion in the past 20 years, which was reinforced in Australia following the Backpacker Murders of the 1990s. Seven young hitchhikers were murdered in New South Wales by convicted murderer Ivan Millat. Many may have heard of these murders through the horror film Wolf Creek, which was loosely based on the backpacker murders.

So instead of hitching, travellers tend to rent or buy a car. The camper van rental industry in Australia is continually growing. Many a time have I spotted camper vans parked up by the beach with people sleeping inside during the evenings; especially on the Gold Coast, which is swamped with tourists in peak summer season. Of course sleeping in a camper van in an unknown public place has its dangers, but they can be reduced as long as precautionary measures are taken – for instance, sleeping with two or more people in an area that is near to some form of contact in case of emergency.

Another option is to use Australia's public transport system – domestic planes, trains and buses. Planes are especially useful for travelling long distances across Australia, carrying passengers between the west and east coast within five hours (which is a much shorter trip than the two day drive, or three day train journey). In comparison to the UK, trains are considerably cheaper: trains from Wollongong to Sydney (which travel around 90km) cost a mere \$5 (approx. £3.20).

Like in the UK, another popular way of travelling in Australia is youth hostelling. The Youth Hostel Association (YHA) is the most prominent chain of hostels. Currently I am working at Coffs Harbour YHA, which is situated south of Brisbane on the east coast. Many interesting people pass through youth hostels, from the young to the old, and the sane to the insane. This scope also includes people that are not too far from home as last week I met a man from Lancaster. The life of a youth hosteller is not for the faint hearted though. In order to keep costs down it involves a diet of bland pasta and sauce dishes, and late nights drinking cheap boxes of wine (also called goon).

Naturally though, travelling is not necessarily about the planning and preparation. Travelling should be spontaneous and impulsive. Luck is essential for a good experience. Sometimes travellers come across the most memorable areas by pure chance. In many cases, the best areas are those that are not mentioned in the guidebooks and only known through local knowledge.

# Student business as usual

Lancaster is a hive for student entrepreneurs. The Features team asked two of Lancaster's blooming business minds to tell us more about their ventures

## HANNAH FEARON

A third year Film Studies and English Literature student tells us about her unique jewellery business

I've always been a rather creative person, making my own jewellery and accessories for myself to wear. I like to create unique and quirky items, things that you don't find on the high street. Friends and family would often comment on my creations, and ask me to make them something. Eventually, this spread to random strangers asking me about them, and where I purchased them. I realised that there is still a market for handcrafted items, and that if so many people liked my creations, perhaps I should start to sell them.

So, I created my own small business, Marmalade Forest. I started by organising my own craft sales back home in Chester. I decided that I needed to expand and I started selling on eBay and Folksie, before creating my own BigCartel store. My online store, [www.marmaladeforest.co.uk](http://www.marmaladeforest.co.uk), is still very small, but I find that it suits my products.

I concentrate on making jewellery, but also make accessories, bags and even bake delicious cupcakes to order for weddings and other events. All of my products are unique, no two are alike, as I feel that Marmalade Forest is about hand crafted items that you won't find anywhere else. My most popular items are from my tea party range, which consists of handmade ceramic jewellery such as necklaces with cakes and teacups on them. Along with the items I advertise on my website, I create personal items by request.

At the moment, Marmalade Forest is a small business that I am running alone. I hope to expand it, but keep things small as I like the idea of keeping my items unique, rather than mass produced. I would like to explore the possibility of selling my items somewhere on campus or in Lancaster, so that people become more aware of my products. I believe that the next step in Marmalade Forest would be to get the name out there and advertise for students. My items are all created with great care and imagination, but are very affordable. I find that many high street shops charge a lot for their products, as do many websites selling handmade products. My aim is to keep Marmalade Forest original, unique and affordable.

## KATH EMBLING

A third year English Language and Literature student has also been getting creative for her business venture, Lick-O-Wrist Allsorts.

My recent business venture can only be described as a sweet accident, which although started as a bit of a joke, has suddenly blossomed into a real company. I like random and I like jewellery and when I came across a bracelet with liquorice allsort beads in my home town I knew I had to have it. I loved it. Unfortunately someone stole it when I was playing darts at university so upon buying my second bracelet I was extremely fussy when I saw the order of the beads wasn't as symmetrical as the first. The bracelet was quite expensive too so rather than complaining I bought my own liquorice allsort beads online and started crafting my own, first for myself then for my friends.

After already being helped along by LUSU Involve for other ideas I showed them my bracelet designs after a meeting and it went from there.

Now I will have my own stall on campus where I can sell my bracelets. I have had business cards printed and have aptly named my company Lick-O-Wrist Allsorts. Since planning for my first stall I have gone a bit mad buying loads of stock to make a great variety of confectionary jewellery, including love heart, dolly mixture, percy pig and marshmallow flump beads. I have taken a risk to fund this venture but I am always optimistic and I truly believe there is a gap in the market for something as fun and quirky as my bracelets. If all goes well I am planning on setting up a website by Christmas to take online orders and expand the company. I am so excited about the future of Lick-O-Wrist Allsorts, it may not be my long term life plan but a great adventure for now.



Photos courtesy of Marmalade Forest



# Meanwhile, post third year? No idea...

One third year’s opinion on what we should be doing next to optimise our chances in the job market



**Lauren Ainscough**

Careers fairs. Obviously, these events have been designed by universities in recent years to help guide the future generations into the jobs that they have spent years training for. You would think that after spending thousands of pounds and three years studying for your degree, you would be able to be enlightened at these events and that waiting for you after all the stress, hard work and expense, would be an answer to what you want to do with your future.

Well, no. This just isn’t the case for a lot of us. After adopting a proactive attitude and going along to this hailed gateway to your future experience, you kind of lose the will to live after passing stand after stand of careers for accounting, finance, engineering and business.

Graduates of, dare I say it, arts degrees like English or History, often find themselves unwillingly herded towards the only stand you are seen fit for, teaching. What a surprise.

No doubt everyone by their third year has also been victim to similar careers lectures, instances that pass in a bewildered haze of fear inducing members from CEEC going on about online graduate job application forms that we’ve never even heard of, and the people skills that employers now covet alongside your degree.

With the University now offering schemes such as the Lancaster Award that help gain these skills, third year life turns into a challenge of trying to balance dissertations, work experience placements and these skills insight courses, as well as the usual epic reading lists and essay deadlines. It often begs the question of whether or not this extra curricular career, while seeming to profess a solution to your future worries, delivers the desired results.

Websites like Prospects and, God forbid, Milkround, that we naively sign up for in first year, all claim to filter through jobs that are appropriate for our degrees. Yet after two years of receiving emails from these culprits, I have never had a useful notification about available jobs that are even relevant to what I am studying.

It is no wonder then, that a lot of us want to take a year out after graduating to travel and do bar work, often causing a horrified reaction on behalf of parents when this blasphemy is uttered. The preconception of the eternal student bum no doubt springs to mind, triggering the question we all dread: “So when are you going to get a real job?” It is no surprise that the route of postgraduate study for MAs, PGCEs, NCTJs, and every other abbreviated qualification we can gain becomes more and more appealing in order to stave off the inevitable job hunting.

Now that employers can ask for everything; a good degree, relevant work experience and the desirable skills, it seems increasingly harder to get our foot in the door to even try to pay off the £20,000 debt we will have accumulated. It is probably right to say that this is a little sensationalised by the media in a bid to sell newspapers, however with the marked rise in demand for university places that took place this year, I won’t want to be out of work by the time the class of 2013 graduate. By then who knows what standards employers will be looking for?

## Cor! Get a load of that bird

**Gareth Horn**

CHRISTMAS IS COMING, and the goose is getting fat.

Except it isn’t. It’s sulking over in the corner of the farmyard with a group of emo ducks.

Christmas is all about turkey: flash, loud, American turkey, come over here to steal our hens with his bawdy drawl, milk chocolate and nylons. Oh, how he loves the attention: “Look at his wattle!”;

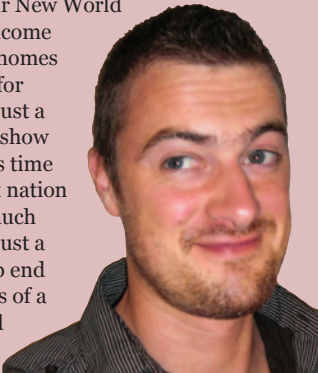
It is time, my dear friends, to embrace our New World cousin for more than just a Christmas

“What strong legs he has!”; “His plumage is dreeeeeamy!” But he knows it won’t last. Soon enough, when the Boxing Day hams have taken centre stage and the sofa companies are announcing their 12 month run of one day only sales, he will be little more than a fading memory, consigned to a fate of school dinner twizzlers and booootiful turkey ham.

Soon the proud goose will once more hold court as he waddles his web footed way around the farmyard, so easily forgetting his former friends who now once again paddle disconsolately in the duck pond listening to vintage the Cure.

Old goose is fine. His bill is pushed out but only temporarily, and besides, his name will always be synonymous with luxury: foie gras and comfortable pillows. Turkey, however, is a mere flash in the pan (or one hour in the oven at gas mark 5, plus 25 minutes per kilo), forever associated with seasonal festivities and salmonella enterocolitis. Sure, he overplays his role for those few weeks at the end of each year, but who could blame him? For once the snow has cleared along with the indigestion, when the disappointing TV specials have been replaced by the same old same old, when that dusty bottle of cream sherry has been shoved to the back of the cupboard for another year, nobody cares. It’s all about the chicken.

How fickle we are with our faddy food ways. It is time, my dear friends, to offer an outstretched arm of affection and embrace our New World cousin. Welcome him to our homes and hearts for more than just a Christmas; show him that his time in our great nation can be so much more than just a short, sharp end at the hands of a man named Bernard.





# The best of 2010

**Alex Harris,  
Hannah Fearon  
and Joe Henthorn**  
look back over the  
cultural highs and  
lows of the last 365  
days



## Drama

The American hit you would be mad to miss

AMERICAN DRAMAS HAVE come a long way in the past 10 years, with the art form slowly evolving from being mostly cheap, mindless entertainment of the Miami Vice variety into epic, profound and crucial pieces of work. Chief amongst these in recent years has been AMC's *Mad Men*, which has risen from being a little known cult TV show for connoisseurs of U.S. drama into a cultural trendsetter, whose influence extends beyond the narrow confines of its medium, becoming an important influence on not just TV writers and producers, but also film makers and fashion designers.

Strange, really, considering the show's subject matter. When one hears about a TV show focusing on high paid advertising executives at the start of the 1960s, one imagines a show with a somewhat - ahem - selective audience. A dramatised version of *Dilbert*, perhaps, filled with boring board meetings and situations only relevant to people in the 9-5 grind of everyday life. Instead, what *Mad Men* offers is one of the most engaging TV shows of all time, rife with pathos, humour and believable, likeable and realistic characters, the biggest of which is the era the show is set in.

Setting the show in the 1960s and choosing to focus on characters one would normally think of as square coupled with the show's rigorous adherence to historical accuracy has allowed *Mad Men* to become an important window into a time where culture was changing. The establishment was being rocked, cigarettes were being demonised and *Mad Men*'s characters are not at the centre so much as on the sidelines, putting on a brave face to the world and pretending that they are in control of the situation in both their personal and professional lives. Rarely, if ever, is this the case and the self-doubt, self-aggrandizement and self-preservation of *Mad Men*'s characters has made for incredible viewing across each season.

## Album

Indie-pop's fire relit by small town bohemia

2010 WAS, FOR the most part, a love it or hate it year for music. Lady Gaga was at the forefront of an over hyped and much talked up supposed pop revolution. Kanye West's brilliant *My Dark Twisted Fantasy* took hip-hop into the realms of the psychedelic and progressive. But for many, the effect was polarizing. You either loved 2010's auto-tuned, pre-programmed chaos or rejected it and viewed it as another nail in the coffin of modern music, which is, the naysayers argued, destined to spiral into an emotionless, technology-obsessed abyss.

At least that would have been the case were it not for Arcade Fire's best album yet *The Suburbs*, an inventive, organic and carefully constructed indie-pop indictment of modern hipster culture. With eight members, one would think that most of Arcade Fire's work would sound cluttered and convoluted, but surprisingly this isn't the case. All instruments blend together perfectly to develop a soundscape with enough depth and complexity to keep listeners coming back for more, but not to the extent that it starts to sound like a cacophonous indie symphony.

Previous albums *Funeral* and *Neon Bible* showed promise for Arcade Fire, but stopped short of greatness in terms of consistency and songwriting. Great tracks like *Keep The Car Running* were broken up in between less memorable efforts and the tracks on the album never felt as much a part of a whole as they do on *The Suburbs*. The album captures the mood of its title, spoken from the point of view of a small town bohemian dreaming of greater things and is equal parts hopeful, pessimistic, sarcastic and anthemic. With much of the trend in 2010 being towards the emotionally hollow, it was refreshing to hear something so vibrant and colourful. Let's hope this sort of thing becomes more commonplace.

## Game

The Western that redeems B-movie games

THE CRITICISMS ARE obvious. It's glitchy as hell, the storyline is too short, the ending is an anticlimax and most of the game is spent following people around on horses. *Red Dead Redemption* is certainly not perfect. But it's still the best game of 2010 for one reason: immersion. The world that *Red Dead Redemption* brings you into feels like a genuine place in time, with people, wildlife, churches, prisons and characters – all feel at home in the turn of the century America that *Red Dead Redemption* offers and delivers.

In a way, it's an unorthodox choice. Most of the *Grand Theft Aunto* clones of recent years have tended towards faster vehicles, more and more densely populated environments (for maximum random carnage) and bigger explosions. A sandbox game with slow horses, lots of empty desert and low tech early 20th-century weaponry seems counter intuitive, but it's pulled off thanks to the detailed Western outback environment which captures the lawlessness and anarchism that the best *Spaghetti Westerns* portray.

Gaming, it is often said, has still yet to evolve into an art form which is comparable to literature, music, poetry, etc. The film critic Roger Ebert has compared gaming in its current form to etchings made on cave walls by early human beings. He may be right, and most games are still at the B-movie action level of entertainment (even the best written ones), but games like *Red Dead Redemption* are a welcome sign of the way things are going. More and more attention is being paid to character development, dialogue and script writing (just as well, considering how much time you spend following people around) and that, coupled with *Red Dead Redemption*'s immersive qualities are what allows one to forgive its many faults and why it is the best game of 2010.

## Comedy

One-liners win it for Saturday night laughs

WHY IS ALEC Baldwin so funny? The actor best known for serious, intense dramatic roles doesn't seem like the most obvious choice for one of the central characters in a Tina Fey created sitcom, but fortunately he is the best for the role of Jack Donaghy, Vice President of East Coast Television and Microwave Oven Programming for General Electric. Each line is given deadpan delivery and superb comic timing that gives the late Leslie Nielsen a run for his money.

Set behind the scenes of the live sketch comedy show *TGS* with Tracey Jordan (a comedy show which is basically *Saturday Night Live*), *30 Rock* has remained consistently hilarious throughout its four years. The main character, Liz Lemon (played by series creator, Tina Fey) is a classic buffoon, her life a series of failed relationships (two of her ex-boyfriends subsequently went to clown college) and poor hygiene decisions (she occasionally wears full-length swimsuits instead of underwear). She's surrounded by idiots and incompetents, played by a great comic cast, many of whom were brought along by Fey from her days as a writer on *Saturday Night Live*.

The show is really about the one-liners and is as readily quotable as a Will Ferrell movie (a good one) or an episode of *The Simpsons* (again, not one of the crappy ones). Sure, there is a story behind the jokes, but it's never quite as important as the brilliant, laugh-a-minute script. In fact, this is a point in favour for the show, as a storyline which requires constant attention would hamper anyone that wants to just dip into a random episode. TV sitcoms have come a long way in the past decade, but *30 Rock* has created a new standard, which keeps getting better with each series. Series five began in 2010.





# YouTube

The online critics who leave us seeing red

IT'S DIFFICULT TO decide on what the best YouTube video is of any year – after all, most of them are short clips of animals doing funny things or drunk celebrities. But awarding best viral video of 2010 to a cat playing the accordion or Cheryl Cole farting on X Factor would have seemed unjust, so the award instead goes to Red Letter Media, a small independent film company that has taken nerdy YouTube film reviews to a new level of insight, hilarity and, dare I say it, sophistication.

Most film fans have a readily available film in mind for their biggest disappointment. For some, it's Godfather Part 3, for others it's the sequels to The Matrix. For most film lovers of this generation, though, the three Star Wars prequels were the moment where hopes for cinematic greatness were dashed in a horrible combination of poor storytelling, shoddy acting, weak dialogue and tasteless CGI. Red Letter Media's reviews of the Star Wars prequels are approaching the length of the films themselves (the review for The Phantom Menace is over 70 minutes long), but they remain entertaining thanks to a brilliant method of comedic delivery, a macabre serial killer sub-plot and superb film-making 101 insights.

YouTube is cluttered with people offering their two cents on what makes certain films bad, but for the most part they consist of nerds talking directly into the camera and listing what they personally find tasteless about the 2009 version of Star Trek. Red Letter Media's reviews have taken internet criticism to a whole new level, managing to be equal parts judicious, entertaining and hilarious. It's difficult to get over two and a half million people to watch anything, let alone a review of Star Wars that is over an hour long. It's a testament to the quality of Red Letter Media's criticism that the reviews have proved so popular and they set a new standard for internet criticism.

# Book

A journey through sex, war and Brown

BEST MIGHT BE the wrong word for this one. It wasn't the most read book (Stieg Larsson's series of novels would have to take that crown) and it certainly wasn't the best written. Rather, Tony Blair's eagerly awaited memoirs was the book that had the most amount of impact on the widest audience, causing even people who hadn't even read it to take notice of its existence, purely because of the person writing it and the disappointing absence of any serious reflection on the Iraq war.

Instead, what we got was a sometimes insightful, sometimes unsurprising and often bizarre look into the life and psychology of one of the most loved and most reviled political figures of our times. A large amount of the book was dedicated to hating on Gordon Brown, which was to be expected, but it came too late in the game to actually have any serious impact on the political landscape in Britain. Nonetheless, political gossip hounds had an early Christmas present in the portrayal of Brown as a politically manipulative and vindictive power-obsessed curmudgeon, who wasn't beyond a little bit of blackmail if it meant getting his own way. Not that any of that came as a surprise or a shock, but to have it written down in some permanent form was interesting.

The most puzzling aspect of Blair's memoirs is what they omitted. Whatever one says about Blair, it is clear that he is in some respects an man of serious convictions. With that in mind, readers could have done with some serious reflection on why exactly the great communicator failed to connect with the British public on the most serious and substantive issues of his premiership. Instead, we got the one thing we didn't want – detailed descriptions of the Blairs' sex life. Gross, tasteless and profoundly bizarre.

# Film

Geekiness triumphs again over everything

2010 BROUGHT US some great cinematic gems, from Scorsese's Shutter Island to Disney-Pixar's Toy Story 3. We travelled to a magical world in Burton's Alice in Wonderland and looked behind the scenes at Facebook in The Social Network. However, the best film of 2010 wasn't a big budget box office hit, but a cute and quirky flick from Edgar Wright. Based on Bryan Lee O'Malley's graphic novels, Scott Pilgrim vs the World hit the cinemas in August.

From the opening of the film, an 8-bit Universal logo and Nintendo style theme, Scott Pilgrim vs the World is no less than awesome. Michael Cera stars as the socially awkward yet lovable geek, Scott Pilgrim, bassist for Sex Bob-bomb. Scott meets the girl of his dreams, the mysterious Ramona Flowers, and falls in love with her. He must defeat her seven evil exes if he is to date her, all whilst competing for a record contract.

Scott Pilgrim vs the World is a haven for videogame geeks, adorned with retro pastiche. Wright's comedy works wonderfully with the original story making it a very enjoyable watch. The fight scenes between Scott and each of the exes are entirely stylised, paying homage to the choreography of retro games. With features such as a pee bar and videogame style combat, Scott Pilgrim is definitely one to watch for some light hearted fun.

Whilst the role of Scott is certainly no challenge to Cera, known for his awkward teenager comedy, he excels as our loveable hero and I cant imagine an actor more fitting for the character.

If you're looking for something a bit different, highly entertaining and laugh-out-loud hilarious to watch over Christmas, Scott Pilgrim vs the World is the one to watch. The DVD is released on December 27, something to spend those HMV vouchers on.

# Gadget

The middle ground slab takes the high ground

THERE ARE SO many things wrong with the iPad. Apple's horrible app market restrictions. The fact that it's completely closed to any innovation unless Apple give the go ahead. The totally partisan decision to exclude flash player (among other video formats). In fact, I could probably fill this article with reasons why the iPad is one of the worst things to come out of 2010. But I also think the iPad is one of the most beautiful, elegant and downright intelligent things that Steve Jobs has brought into the world and it is for those reasons that - despite its worrying pitfalls - it is SCAN's gadget of the year 2010.

A lot of the iPad's initial appeal came from its "holy crap, it's beautiful!" factor - the endlessly shiny, strikingly minimalist design may just be an inflated iPhone, but there's no denying it looks amazing. Yet there's no way it would have had so much impact if it was just a looker - it's packed with innovation too. The excellent touchscreen controls and the mind-blowing selection of apps are the first things to come to mind. Sure, lots of the apps are absolute tripe, but they can be forgiven - the best ones are bloody awe inspiring. Turn an iPad into DJ decks with Groovemaker? Yes please! How about creating masterpieces (or just drawing HD penises) in Sketchbook Pro? Or, even better, playing the campest game in history - Robot Unicorn Attack - in glorious HD widescreen? There's no denying the genius of the app store.

Yet the iPad really succeeds because it does basic stuff extremely well. It's a beautiful device where Twitter, emails and that history essay you've not done yet can exist in perfect harmony. People said the iPad solved a problem that didn't exist by bridging the gap between phones and laptops, but Apple has managed to solve that nonexistent problem with such aplomb that it's made me think whether or not we even need laptops or phones when there's such a perfect middle ground.



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# living





# Dalton Rooms' Saturday night **comedy** is a delight



Photo courtesy of the Dalton Rooms.

If you're after a break from the standard drink-until-you-drop night out, Dalton Rooms offers excellent food and great entertainment. And a piano.

## Alex Harris

IT'S TEMPTING TO make my review of Dalton Rooms' Saturday comedy night a few sentences long. I think I could probably leave it at "they have a white piano and law books in the bar" and you'd get a rough impression of what the place is like and could fill in the blanks.

For sure, it's not your average student pub and I mean that in the best possible way. Too many of Lancaster's bars are aimed at the student demographic, but mistakenly think we're all ravenous alcoholics and pay little attention to decorum and atmosphere, instead opting to shove as many drinks offers in your face as you can take. Not that I mind that too much, but it's nice to know there's a place in town I can now go to that won't patronise me.

The piano, law books and its up-market, stylish theme tell you a lot about what Dalton Rooms is trying to be. In terms of drinks, an impressive array of wines and lagers, ranging from your standard Stella Artois to more adventurous flavoured lagers, as well as a diverse range of wines and spirits are avail-

able. Unfortunately this also contributes to Dalton Rooms' biggest drawback, which is without question the drinks prices, which are towards the high end. I was paying between £3.30-£3.50 for a pint, meaning you could probably save just under a pound going to other places if beer is your thing. This makes it unlikely that this Dalton Rooms will become a regular staple of student party nights out.

That said, I don't think that Dalton Rooms is aiming for that. Rather, Dalton Rooms seems to be positioning itself as a place that you'd maybe take someone out on a date, or somewhere you'd go if you're expecting something of a higher standard than your usual fare. The entertainment offered is varied, with various genres of music ranging from jazz to funk being offered on various nights. That's outside the scope of this review, though, as the only thing I got to experience is the comedy night and, of course, the food.

Dalton Rooms' chef, Liam Robertson, is impressive to say the least. I had the mozzarella and pesto risotto balls with roasted red pepper sauce for starter and beef bouignon for main course. The mozzarella balls were a good starter, but the main course was really

where the points were scored, with succulent pieces of beef in a not too overpowering red wine sauce complimented perfectly with fresh bread and home cut chips. All of it was cooked to perfection and presented beautifully, to the point where I had to double check the menu prices: I was sure that this kind of standard of food should cost more than £9.95 for both courses.

For students, the quality of the Dalton Rooms' food coupled with its wallet friendly prices mean that it's a good place to go for a meal if one is after decent food, but conscious of their spending. The price of two courses for us that evening weren't much more expensive (if at all) than you'd pay for a standard pub meal, but the quality was noticeably higher than average. Plus, the general atmosphere of the place is leaning more towards the restaurant side of things – slightly more formal and sophisticated.

After eating, we were shown to the performance room. Given Dalton Rooms' attention to detail in the presentation of its main bar area, the performance room is something of an anti-climax, with a few tables arranged around a main stage area, it can leave one feeling that

this room has been given slightly less attention than the main bar area. This can be forgiven though: when there's entertainment on, one pays less attention to décor than the standard of the entertainment itself.

Both comedians and the compère were top notch. The acts booked showcased a decent mixture of observational humour, relatable stories about relationships, of the wall Emo Philips style garden path trickery and the obligatory picking on the front row banter. There was also some welcome audience interaction, in the form of a make your own joke sheet, for which prizes were awarded at the end (the winning joke runs the risk of being defamatory, so I won't repeat it).

Overall, it's difficult to find much fault with Dalton Rooms' comedy night. One really has to nitpick or be some kind of professional misanthrope to find fault with it and the negative aspects are surely outweighed by the sheer attention to detail and effort that's gone into providing Lancaster with a new and exciting place to go on nights out. Whilst it may not be the place to be for typical drink all you can night out, that should not dissuade students from checking out what it has to offer.



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LUSU



# Deck the **halls** with cheapo holly

Are you looking for Christmas decorating ideas to bring the holiday spirit into your home? Well look no further as **Ruth Eaton** has some Christmas tips which won't cripple the bank balance

**W**ith deadlines flooding in and the Coca-Cola TV advert on constant loop, it can only mean one thing: Christmas is coming and it's time to dust off those decorations. You might think that the last thing a student, with suffering funds, needs to start thinking about is how to turn their accommodation into a grotto. But, whether you're living in halls or a tiny terrace, there are lots of opportunities to turn your humble Lancaster home into a Winter Wonderland, without having to blow the budget or the fuses.

It's deflating seeing an empty window at Christmas, neglected by the students who failed to realise their inner Art Attack mojo. Although this all may sounds slightly Blue Peter, when you see other houses cluttered with all things shiny I'm sure that you'll be throwing tinsel around in no time. As much as we don't always admit it, we're all secretly five inside when it comes to Christmas. So why not channel that inner toddler and make your own decorations? Not only will you spark that festive spirit but you'll also find it's an excellent excuse to procrastinate without affecting the bank balance.

Never underestimate the potential of a sheet of A4. You'd be surprised how long a paper chain can get when six of you sit around one night with a stack of corrugated card and a bottle of sherry to get you in the festive mood. Get rid of all those lecture slides you printed incorrectly and turn them into the vital com-

ponents of a snow scene. Recycling is, after all, aptly encouraged.

However, no matter how excited you are about all things festive, or how similarly enthused your flatmates seem, wandering in with a Christmas tree and a stack of glittery baubles might not go down well with everyone. Instead, avoid excess, take a more innovative route. Build a snowman out of cotton wool balls, make a tree out of empty beer cans (trust me, it's oddly festive) and sit back and watch in awe as others attempt to imitate your unique take on the North Pole. But beware, the competitive nature of student window dressing is only for the ruthless, Santa sabotage is common, especially if a college prize for best decorated window is up for grabs.

Oddly enough, all this creative genius may seem wasted when you realise that it's bad luck to keep Christmas decorations up past the January 6th. Seeing as Lectures are spared until weeks after this, the superstitious amongst you will have to take them all down, box them up, and clutter up your living room at home. Your Mum will love you for your innovative festive spirit, your Granddad will appreciate the Santa hat you found on the floor at the Carleton, but above all, you'll be able to keep them safe to save spending next year.

But remember, don't forget to throw your pennies away on at least one decoration. Mistletoe. A sprig from the market, placed over the right door, could well turn out to be your best investment of the term.



Home made decorations is the cheaper alternative. Photo by Patrick Q

# Christmas the Mancunian way

A European Christmas shopping trip that's only an hour away

## Amie Slater

ONLY AN HOUR away from here by train is a multitude of stalls and chalets to keep you occupied with the shopping, eating and drinking on offer. The markets are in Manchester until December 21 so take a break from end of term essays and visit them to get yourself in a Christmassy mood.

If you do go on the train I would recommend starting in Albert Square - there is a huge Zippy dressed as Santa in front of the town hall so you can't miss it. Once here you will find the most incredible Belgian chocolate muffins in the world. Ever. They are huge, covered in chocolate icing, and have 3 more chocolates on top, and, at only £3 very student friendly.

Once you have made a general scene by dribbling all over yourself by getting chocolate all over your face, keep looking and you'll see more culinary delights and businesses selling unique gifts that are ideal presents. Who

doesn't want a mug that says "And on the sixth day he made Manchester"? You can also get yourself some edible German fare if a Brätwurst or a mug of Glühwein, German mulled wine, take your fancy. There are also Christmas trees, sweet stalls and a stand selling microwaveable, lavender filled teddies, neck cushions and slippers if that's your thing.

Once you're finished there, you should work your way down to King Street, where there are French market stalls. It's a cliché that the French make the best cheese, but very, very true. The delicious Camembert that I tried tasted so fresh that I wondered if there was a cow round the back and a man in a beret making it. If you move down from the cheese there is Bistrot le Pétit Paris where you can have an authentic chocolat chaud and a sit down. Filter out the Mancunian accents of others sat around you and pretend you are in la belle Paris, cheese wheel and all.

Next, head to St. Ann's Square, where there are stalls selling handmade jewellery, toys, candles, ornaments and other things in between. There are also some of my favourite

chalets here: Amy Gibbing's Photography, selling her beautiful black and white prints, and the handmade clock chalet which has some interesting and unusual offerings. Then at another stand some of the world's finest musical talent has been immortalised in coaster sets of their records. Perfect if every time you put your cuppa down you want This Charming Man to be stuck in your head all day.

**Filter out the Mancunian accents of others sat around you and pretend you are in la belle Paris, cheese wheel and all**

Cross the road and work your way along New Cathedral Street where there is more of the same on offer, and then you should be in front of Selfridges.

This part has covered stalls as well as chalets and has the most variation in items for sale for in just this area you can buy puppets, fairy lights shaped like roses, hot chestnuts, pottery, fresh bread, scarves, cupcakes, hats that look like animals, a chocolate fountain, and there's even a stall of bags each made entirely out of one zip. Also if you've saved room you can go to The Roast Hog and Bar and get yourself a roasted hog roll or baguette and have a drink. If you'd prefer something sweet then you must go to La Crêperie and have the mini Dutch Pancakes. They are completely delicious and a perfect way to round off a lovely shopping trip.

**Useful Information**

**Train prices to Manchester**  
Return (Young Person Railcard): £9.25  
Return: £14



# Gifts that make a difference

Buying a charity Christmas gift can make a huge difference. **Alison Young** investigates how you can help others with your Christmas shopping this year

CHRISTMAS IS FAST approaching. Your shopping is either well under way or you may still be struggling with what to buy or even scrounging the last few pennies of your loan in order to buy them. Whatever stage you are at, it is important to keep in mind the numerous gifts and cards available that also support a charity. Christmas is a time of giving and what better way to treat your special someone as well as supporting cancer research, homeless shelters or whatever charity is close to your heart.

Christmas cards are a great tradition. A quick way to spread Christmas joy and make a lot of people feel loved. With so many to choose from, it can become more of a chore than a pleasure to buy, but keep an eye out for card manufacturers who donate a chunk of the cost to Charity and your good deed will be done for the day. Cards for Good Causes are a great company to purchase your cards online where at least 75p of every £1 goes to the charity of your choice. They have a wide selection of numerous designs and you can keep it personal to you too.

Hallmark is another great company who support cancer research and offer 18 different packs of cards to choose from your high street stores. Each pack contains 10 cards and costs £3.50, where 40p shall be donated straight to



the charity. As I'm sure you will agree this is an extremely worthwhile cause to be supported in order to help the millions of people affected every day.

The list does not stop there. There are numerous department stores selling products that donate straight to the charity themselves. Asda and Debenhams are both promoting Tick-

led Pink, a range of products designed especially for breast cancer research. Some items to look out for include bags, jewellery, t-shirts and underwear. So, make sure you get them on your Christmas wish list this year as well as treating your nearest and dearest. There are so many items to choose from which are all stylish and part of a great cause.

If you are looking for a more unusual gift this year, then look no further. Oxfam Unwrapped offer a unique service where your present is a gift to someone in a less fortunate position than ourselves. For example, you could feed a family for £7 or even send five bags of seeds for £10 for the local farmers in order to boost their self-sufficiency and grow their own crops. The list is endless and it definitely makes your present stand out from the rest. You can receive a fridge magnet and card in order for you recipient to know just where the money has gone on their behalf.

Christmas is an exciting time of year. With a break from university, many social events happening and enough roast turkey and mulled wine to last a lifetime. However, let's not forget those less fortunate than us. When you are out buying your Christmas presents, have a look at those on offer and see if you can help make a difference.

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# There’s no day like a snow day

As Lancaster freezes over for the winter, **Hugh Metcalf** casts his eye over winter accessories to make sure you stay cool in the snow

Yes, we’re getting snow earlier and earlier as the years and global warming progress. Unfortunately, for those pro-snow in Lancaster, it’s not a very snowy city due in some part to our proximity to the seaside winds of Morecambe Bay. However, despite Morecambe’s attempts to ruin this little quirk of nature for us (much like it ruins a Thursday morning, post-Carleton), we’ve seen a generous sprinkling of the white stuff already this winter and eventually, we’ll have enough to make a snowman out of.

But, snow days have the propensity to bring out the worst of our wardrobes. We dispense of fashion thinking, instead looking to the back of the closet for our thickest, most unfashionably functional clothes. Team this up with our nation’s penchant for comedy hats and we have a problem. It was fine back when we had one playful morning of snow a year, but now, the white menace is holding us hostage throughout the winter months, making snow gear an essential component of our seasonal look.

With christmas

approaching, and winter accessories being a favourite stocking filler since cold weather began, now is the time to identify the trends to keep ourselves looking cool in the snow.

Much of the fashion of gloves, scarves and hats seems only to be the leftovers of that season’s knitwear trends, but it’s fortunate for us this year that such a variety of woollen goods are en vogue. Fairisle patterns have proven themselves a geek-chic triumph on the high street this winter, so it is no surprise to see the design all over knitted accessories. This one comes with a warning though: one fairisle piece per outfit. If not, the clash of colour and pattern is going to be the next biggest contribution to road traffic accidents after icy roads. A trend that can be worn in multiples and still keep a fluid look is cable knit. The thick rope knit design will keep you toasty no matter the weather, whilst being one of the season’s coolest textures.

But, don’t feel limited to expressing yourself solely through the medium of wool. When layering up for the sub-zero temperatures, remember that texture is key. Too much knit and you run the risk of looking like you’ve been dragged through a haberdasher’s backwards. Experiment with other key textures like fur and leather. Remember camel is a key colour this winter, and when teamed

with a thick fur lining makes these accessories perfect for warding off frostbite.

A common problem with snow is appropriate footwear and as Britain’s weather progresses further into everlasting winter, it’s an issue that needs to be addressed. The name in weatherproof feet meets fashion is Hunter. They design stylish wellington boots, having even collaborated with shoe guru Jimmy Choo. Buying directly from the Hunter website is likely to take a chunk out of your wallet, but there are alternative sources for these killer wellies. Keep an eye out on eBay and Amazon online, and TK Maxx in town for slashed price Hunters.



Top: River Island £19.99  
Middle: Topman £14  
Left: Topshop £16



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MYSTIC MACLEOD

**SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21**  
Christmas is coming! But with every celebration comes a health and safety warning: dangerous paper-cuts and potentially out of date chocolate lurk behind each advent calendar door. They want to stop you from handing in your end of term assignments! Burn them!

**CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 20**  
Jupiter has paused mid-rotation which means you will stop aging for a day next week. Next Tuesday to be precise, you will not age the entire day. You have cheated death for an extra 24 hours, isn't that exciting?

**AQUARIUS JAN 21 - FEB 17**  
Left feeling inspired after purchasing and flicking through SCAN's very own naked charity calendar, you'll want your own slice of nude fun! A campus run in the snow will blow the cobwebs off (as well as anything else which freezes and becomes loose).

**PISCES FEB 18 - MAR 20**  
A cataclysmic secret Santa error will cause confusion and upset in your flat! Wrapping your presents in November seemed organised at the time, but those fishnets and stockings won't half make things awkward between you and that minger from room three.

**ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19**  
Beware of mistletoe, Aries, for it is forecast you will be caught under there by someone you'd rather you hadn't! Get out of there before you land in saliva central; population: you. The word is on your lips and the word is no!

**TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 21**  
Feeling hollow and empty, Taurus? Well your purse is: you've no pennies left! Classic end of term bank statement will cause you merry hell over Christmas! It is predicted you

will be sifting through bargain buckets till the 24th.

**GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 20**  
National attack of the snow this month has brought moisture underfoot and a general cold sensation, leading to inevitable chaos everywhere. It is predicted you will need a coat and hat! News programmes just aren't getting the word out, are they?

**CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 22**  
You shall go to the ball! The Christmas Ball that is, for your respective college, club or society. The festive treats in store will be a delight to the senses! Careful you don't snag your dress on a Christmas tree like I did.

**LEO JULY 23 - AUG 22**  
Bruised and broken this Christmas from memories of last year's loves lost, you'll be feeling a little blue over the next fortnight. It is predicted that this year, to save you from tears, you should give it to someone special.

**VIRGO AUG 23 - SEPT 22**  
Celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, (which we all remember from Christmas Fest is reindeer and Santa) you will enjoy a spot of traditional carol singing. Too much enthusiasm, however, will lock your jaw! That's your roast in the blender then, ay?

**LIBRA SEPT 23 - OCT 22**  
Your barmy housemate is driving you up the proverbial cracker, what a pain in the arse! Make a new, less talkative friend out of fruit and take him to the panto. What? You wouldn't do that? Oh yes you would.

**SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21**  
With snowstorms and the like hitting every city of the country bar this one, transport will become impossible and you'll find yourself stranded on the dry island of Lancaster for an extra week! That's why Windows invented solitaire.

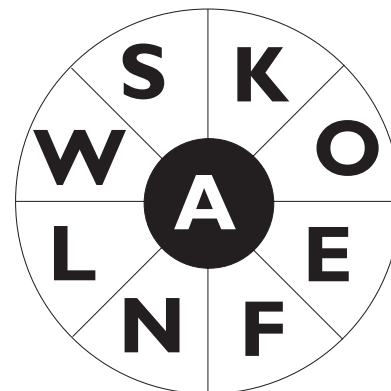
THE QUIZ - Christmas movies

1. In Jingle All The Way, what toy is Arnie trying to get for his son?
2. In Home Alone, what name do the two robbers give themselves?
3. In The Nightmare Before Christmas what are the names of the three children who kidnap Santa?
4. In Miracle on 34th Street, Susan is played by what child actress?
5. In The Santa Claus, what is the name of Tim Allen's character before he becomes Santa?

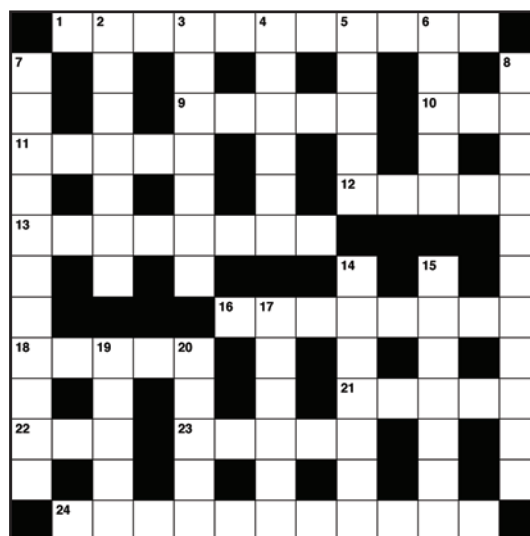
Answers below

The Wheel

Using the given letter no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs, adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives are disallowed.



The Crossword



Across

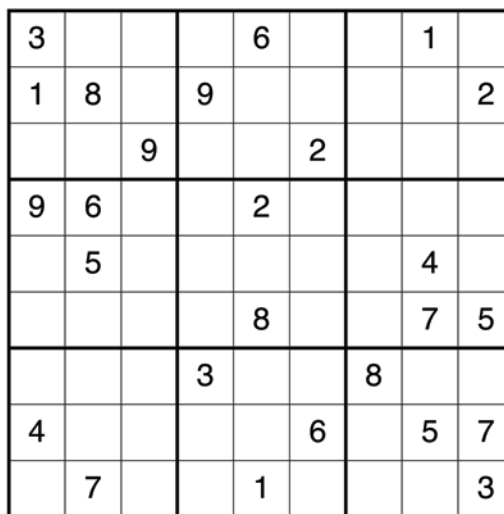
- 1 - Caused to stop (11)
- 9 - Extra component (3-2)
- 10 - Bill (3)
- 11 - Regions (5)
- 12 - Play the guitar (5)
- 13 - Views (8)
- 16 - Excess (8)
- 18 - Egg-shaped (5)
- 21 - A language of New Zealand (5)
- 22 - Charged particle (3)
- 23 - Country once ruled by Papa Doc (5)
- 24 - Rigid external covering (11)

Down

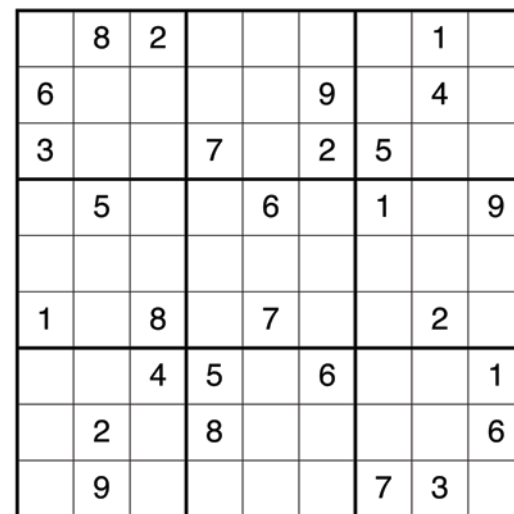
- 2 - Country in Africa (7)
- 3 - Flexible (7)
- 4 - Dennis \_\_\_\_: former basketball star (6)
- 5 - Pains (5)
- 6 - Go into (5)
- 7 - Desperate Housewives star (3,8)
- 8 - Vile or shameful action (11)
- 14 - List (7)
- 15 - Kingdom in North West Africa (7)
- 17 - Relating to wolves (6)
- 19 - Attach to (5)
- 20 - Distinctive spirit (5)

The Su Doku

Fill the grid of that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.



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Answers: 1) Turbo Man 2) Wet Bandits 3) Lock Shock and Barrel 4) Natalie Wood 5) Scott Calvin

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