



It's all about meme

Carolynne looks at the best online distractions of the past decade

No point in 'protest for the sake of protest'

- National president rallies against opponents during Lancaster visit

Collette McColgan
Assistant Editor

JUST WEEKS AFTER two University of London institutions – Birkbeck College and the School of Oriental and African Studies – held a vote of no confidence in him, President of the National Union of Students, Aaron Porter, said that he felt he was still capable of leading the student movement in this difficult time for the Higher Education sector.

On a rare visit to Lancaster, as part of the Winter Officer Conference 2011, Porter spoke of how the fight over the changes to education as we know it is not yet lost, and how he intends to lead the student movement in the remainder of his time in office.

"In my mind, the NUS has been on the front foot [with its campaign]. The important part of any successful campaign is that it has a range of activity.

"I have no problem with forms of direct action, but it has to be lawful and if it's not it needs to be called out"

In my mind, there shouldn't be protest for the sake of protest; protests should be organised when you have a clear objective and goal in mind, and that's certainly what we had on November 10."

Porter has faced criticism of late for the perceived slowing in the NUS' campaign efforts, most notably felt on December 9, when MPs voted on the fees raise; the more radical, but unofficial student protest took place in Parliament Square, causing a great deal of damage, whilst the official NUS glowstick vigil went virtually unnoticed.

Porter defended his position on

forms of protest using direct action: "We haven't signed up to every single protest that's out there, because for some of them, we don't believe that they have been properly organised or that they're safe for the participants or for the general public. I think it's right for the NUS to be distant from some protests that we believe to be organised by a violent minority, but we have supported the vast majority of them."

This position has, however, resulted in a backlash against the NUS President. With a campaign being started to call an emergency national conference through 25 students' unions holding successful votes of no confidence against him, Facebook pages have sprung up against Porter. "Aaron Porter does not represent me – Campaign to sack NUS 'President'", speaks out against the way Porter dealt with the media on November 10, in response to the violence at Millbank.

"What I said on the day is what needed to be said. I took a responsibility: when you are responsible for something you take the credit when it goes well, and I think you need to say what needs to be said if something goes wrong. Unfortunately, some of the scenes of the violence that we saw were too far, and were undermining our cause," he explained.

He went on: "I have no problem with forms of direct action, but it has to be lawful and if it's not it needs to be called out. I think, under very difficult circumstances – under what, in truth, was an exceptional amount of pressure – I said what I needed to do, and I hope that I did it in a way that enhanced our cause and meant that we weren't opened up to much worse consequences."

It still seems that for every group against him, there is one in favour of his actions: a divide that Porter is all too aware of in his role. "When you

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



Aaron Porter speaking to Lancaster's new student officer last week. Photo by Tom Skarbak-Wazynski

Lancaster castle closes as a prison

Collette McColgan
Assistant Editor

THE PRISON IN Lancaster Castle is set to close by the end of March, due to being "outdated and expensive".

The prison, which has capacity for 238 people, is formed from a large part of Lancaster Castle, leased from Lancashire County Council with the land being owned by the Duchy of Lancaster.

The plans to close the prison come as part of Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke's plans to reduce inmate numbers by 3,000 over the next four years. Since December, the number of inmates has decreased by around 2,000 inmates.

Other prison closures have been announced: Ashwell Prison in Rutland is a former army camp and has a capacity of 214. It will close with Lancaster at the end of March.

Morton Hall, a former RAF base in Lincolnshire will change to an immigration removal centre some time next year, taking its capacity of 392 from the prison service.

Currently, prisons in England and Wales are almost 5,000 below capacity. These closures will remove a total of 849 places from the service.

The inmates from all the prisons will be moved to others, and staff will be given the option of transfer or voluntary redundancy.

Clarke told the BBC: "The decision to close any prison is a difficult one but one that we have had to make. Closing outdated and expensive prisons is an important step in our strategy to provide a secure and modern, fit-for-purpose prison estate, while improving efficiency and value for the taxpayer."

"The changes will reduce our current capacity by 849 places and I am confident that they can be safely managed within existing headroom, whilst maintaining our ability to cope with any increase in population."

Lancaster Castle is a Men's Category C prison – for those who are unlikely to try to escape, but are still not trusted in the conditions of an open prison. The structure also encompasses a museum about the medieval history of the castle, and a Crown Court.

No point in 'protest for the sake of protest'

Editor
 Lizzie Houghton
 scan@lancaster.ac.uk
 01524 592613

Assistant Editor
 Collette McColgan
 scan.assistanteditor@lusu.co.uk

News Editors
 Chris Housden
 Charlotte Urban
 scan.news@lusu.co.uk
 Meet: Mon 1pm - Furness Bar

Investigations Editor
 Samantha Newsham
 scan.investigations@lusu.co.uk

Comment Editor
 Emily Robertson
 scan.comment@lusu.co.uk
 Meet: Mon 5:30pm - County Bar

Sports Editors
 Nick O'Malley
 Jack Smith
 scan.sports@lusu.co.uk
 Meet: Tues 6pm - Furness Bar

Carolynne Editor
 Hannah Fearon
 scan.carolynne@lusu.co.uk

Features Editors
 Louise Day
 Kristina Beanland
 scan.features@lusu.co.uk
 Meet: Monday 12pm - Furness Bar

Lifestyle Editor
 Lauren Hirst
 scan.lifestyle@lusu.co.uk
 Meet: Mon 2pm - Furness Bar

Culture Editor
 Alex Harris
 scan.culture@lusu.co.uk
 Meet: Fri 3pm - County Bar

Website Editor
 Khairil Zahfri
 scan.website@lusu.co.uk
 Meet: Mon 4pm - Learning Zone Pod 9

Head of Photography
 Elliot Westacott
 scan.photography@lusu.co.uk
 Meet: TBA - please email

Marketing & advertising
 Louise Mason
 l.mason@lancaster.ac.uk

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.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
 represent an organisation that has seven million members, and you run a very high profile campaign, there will always be some students, and otherwise, that aren't fully supportive of what we've done. I believe the vast majority of students' unions and students believe that the NUS have led a campaign that has sought to build public support and held politicians to account, in a frankly unprecedented way; I think we've brought more issue to government on tuition fees than even the introduction of tuition fees back in 1998."

He added: "Whilst I am proud of what NUS has done, there are some students' unions and students who think NUS haven't been radical enough, that we should have perhaps supported violence, but there are actually some students' unions who think we've been too radical, that we've incited violence, and that we've been reckless in our actions. But I'm still confident that the overwhelming majority of students and students' unions support what we've done and I am proud to have played a role in that."

Criticism for Porter also stems from his decision to pursue ensuring fairness in Higher Education with the increased fees in place, rather than continuing to oppose them directly.

"I think there are two choices for students' unions: we can either con-



Claire Solomon, President of London Students and a vocal critic of Porter is tipped to launch a leadership contest against him during the NUS elections at the National Conference in April.

tinue our principled opposition to fees having gone up, and just continue saying that; or we can retain a principled opposition, but also accept that a vote has been passed and try and make sure we win some concessions for students, and I think the latter is a more appropriate course of action," he explained.

In terms of thinking for the future, he spoke of holding universities to

account in cases where they charge over £6,000 for tuition. High on his list of priorities were increased bursaries for poorer students, improved support for careers and graduate opportunities, and investment in the student experience.

"I think students' unions are going to have to take an aggressive stance with their university by saying that if students are now paying for the bulk of

their education then they should have the right for earlier access to timetables, better resources in the library, quicker turnaround on feedback: the day-to-day issues that students care about, universities need to take more seriously," he said.

He does, however, still continue to oppose the raise, and hopes for change in the future: "We need to continue our opposition to a market in tuition fees, and students having to contribute as much as they are going to as graduates. We also need to make the case for reinvestment from the state in universities: this coalition have said they've had to withdraw as much teaching funding as they have because of the economic situation we're in... They hope that within four or five years the deficit will be eliminated, and so I'm hoping we should be on the front foot saying when that deficit's eliminated, the universities should be one of the first areas where the government starts to reinvest, and perhaps if they reinvest they can reduce the tuition fees.

"What I do know, is that NUS is now in the minds of students in a way that it never was three months ago; that we've held the government to account; that we've still secured some successes from our campaign, but there's still more to do and I want to work with those who are working in the interests of students, rather than perhaps attributing blame."

IN THIS ISSUE

Carolynne

With all the flu knocking about at the moment, Carolynne goes viral looking at all the fads that have swept the internet in the early 21st Century. We also take a look at the Disney dream gone horrible wrong in the corporation's own make-believe village.



Comment

The JCRs used to be exclusive, idolised, a symbol of power, faces of the college and above all, envied. So what happened? Sam Fresco looks at the demised of the t-shirt tyrants and why, for the good of our democracy, we need them back.

Sports

Sports round up all the action from the last weeks of Michaelmas Term. Catch up on the Carter Shield and George Wyatt Cup. While you're at it, you can find out just how wrong Jack Smith was with his Premier League predications



What SCAN says

The interests of students, both nationally and at Lancaster, are in jeopardy if the student movement insists on flogging dead horses. It's time to get back into the realm of the living and engage with the government and University in order to make the best of bad situations.

FREE legal service with clarkson | hirst SOLICITORS

Students & staff can get FREE legal services including:

- Housing matters
- Personal injury and criminal injuries compensation claims
- Family law matters
- Criminal defence representation
- Consumer matters
- Wills and probate.

A solicitor will be available on Thursday afternoons in LUSU Advice. Appointments can be made in person at the LUSU Information Desk or by calling 01524 593765



Lancaster Music Society to host first University Brass Band Championships



ULMS Brass Band at the Whit Friday Marches in Saddleworth. Photo provided by Max Stannard.

Matt Power

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY WILL play host to the first ever University Brass Band Championships of Great Britain on Saturday, Week Five.

The event was originally conceived by a group of students from the University of Lancaster Music Society (ULMS), and they have since received support from the British Federation of Brass Bands (BFBB).

A wide range of brass band competitions are already in existence, but the majority require each player to be registered, costing large amounts of money. ULMS President Max Stannard believed there was a gap in the market for a university brass band competition. He said: "After originally thinking about the possibilities of a competition at Roses against York, we decided to broaden our horizons and create a competition for all university bands from across Britain".

The championships, which are the result of over a year's planning, will be judged by the composer Alan Fernie and conductor Richard Evans, both of whom are highly respected within the brass band community. Fernie has spent over 20 years of his life teaching brass, whilst Evans was the one of the founding members of the National Youth Brass Band.

13 universities have signed up for the competition, and they will each perform a programme of 25 minutes. York University are amongst the

"The British Federation of Brass Bands are extremely pleased to be involved in UniBrass and we are assisting the ULMS team with some core funding and access to expert advice and guidance"

competitors, and Stannard believes there will be other "interesting rivalries", particularly referring to Cambridge and Oxford University, who will both perform at the championship. Stannard also said: "There are bands representing Edinburgh, Cardiff and Bangor, meaning the contest will really find the best of British university banding."

ULMS are hosting the championship, in association with the BFBB. Founded in 1968, the organisation's website states they aim to maintain, improve, represent and promote the practice and performances of brass band music in the UK. Terry Ludding-

ton, Liaison Officer for BFBB, said: "The British Federation of Brass Bands are extremely pleased to be involved in UniBrass and we are assisting the ULMS team with some core funding and access to expert advice and guidance". Luddington added that the event will be "major new National Brass Band Championships".

Stannard was keen to state the contest's wide appeal and hopes it will bring in a fresh new audience for brass band music. He said: "As the contest will have an entertainment theme, we hope that those who watch the event will realise that brass band music isn't for stuffy old men, but can be fresh, vibrant and entertaining."

Hosting the championships signals the start of another busy year for ULMS. The group concluded 2010 with a Christmas concert, held at Lancaster Cathedral on December 15, 2010. The concert featured a variety of music including the Brass Band, the Choir, the Symphonic Wind Band and the Symphony Orchestra.

The championship will take place on Saturday Week 5 in the Great Hall. Beginning at 9am and concluding at 6pm, there will be day passes available on the door for £5. More information regarding the event can be found on the championship's website www.uni-brass.webs.com.

Morecambe MP raises question of where students should vote

- Local residents concerned they are being 'outvoted' by shifting student population

Chris Housden
News Editor

THE MP FOR Morecambe recently brought the subject of student voting to the attention of MPs in Parliamentary discussions, suggesting that perhaps student populations should only vote in home local elections.

David Morris, elected to the seat for Morecambe and Lunesdale for the Conservative Party in the last year's General Election, put forward an Early Day Motion (EDM) on December 15 which contained the idea that the current system whereby students can vote in elections at their place of study may not be the best method.

In the motion Morris said that he "believes that this short term population can often outvote[sic] the permanently settled communities", and he "further believes that it is unfair for a community to be outvoted[sic] in this way and resolves that students with both permanent and term time addresses should be required to vote at their permanent address".

A spokesman for Morris explained that the purpose of an EDM was purely to bring topics from constituencies to the attention of the House of Commons. "It's purely a series of ideas that people have put down. It is purely a statement of belief, to highlight something and get discussion and debate going."

"At this stage really it's an idea that's out there for people to discuss, to talk about and have a think about", the spokesman said, confirming that it isn't something that will have immediate consequences. He continued to explain that the EDM could become important at a later date if the system was ever looked at with a view to changing it: "At some point in the future it might be something that is voted on, maybe this will become part of that."



Morecambe's David Morris started the discussion after comments from local councillors.

The reasons for the EDM being made by Morris was explained further by his spokesman. The system currently allows students to vote at home and in their temporary residencies, and "some of the residents were saying that it was a little bit unfair that students who are only here for three years electing MPs who will serve much longer terms than that."

Further to that, Morris' spokesman said that the system fails the students too, saying there is often "confusion

as to who can vote and when they can vote." He went on to say "I'll give you an example: Lancaster University, like all universities in this country, put all the students in halls on the polling register for local elections, including Serbians and Russians who can't vote and end up confused."

He also cited the fact that a lot of students don't realise they can vote twice, for their home seat and the seat at their place of study. The idea of changing the voting system, he said, would clear up any confusion.

Morris' spokesman summarised that the opinion of Morris' office is that "the whole thing is a bit confusing and doesn't work very well for the students or the residents."

Student opinion on the matter appears to be unanimous that there should be the opportunity to have a vote wherever they live.

Second year student Harry Foulkes is among those who feel that even temporary residents should be allowed to vote in both places they live. He said: "Considering I spend most of the year in Lancaster anyway I think I have a right to vote in that election." Foulkes continued to debunk the idea that his vote should be worth more at home than at university. "Just because I live at 'home' in Wales doesn't necessarily mean I have plans to live there when I finish uni, so I don't really see why we should be made to vote somewhere else even though I live in Lancaster 30 out of 52 weeks."

Third year student Jodie Waggoner believes that "as we live here for usually about three years and may continue to do so after we graduate, we should have an opportunity to have a say on what we would like for the community we are currently in." Like Foulkes, Waggoner said that just being able to vote at home wouldn't be fair. She reasoned that "I understand what the MP is saying but I think everyone should be offered the chance to vote."

Morris' spokesperson was keen to reinforce that EDMs and Parliamentary questions don't commonly prompt consequences or action. "What we tend to do, when people write to us with ideas and questions, we put some of them forward as EDMs and parliamentary questions".

He also commented that this practice applies to anything brought to Morris' office, saying that "there's no benchmark" of people needed before a constituent's view is acted on by their MP. The EDM on voting was used as an example: the suggestion was made to Morris by two councillors, who had each had a number of people in their wards express views on the subject. Although the voting system is "not something that we [Morris' office] get a huge postbag on" it was still acted upon in the interest of the local community.

University infrastructure ready to weather tuition fees storm

- Lanacaster at relatively low risk due to funding changes according to universities union

Samantha Newsham
Investigations Editor

WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the Browne Review, a series of student protests and the Government voting to raise the cap on tuition fees to £6,000 at the end of last year, it is not easy to avoid the issue of university funding.

As yet, the full implications are unclear, for Lancaster or any other university. It isn't known how much funding Lancaster might lose, how high fees will become or how courses and departments will change – if indeed they do. However, the figures suggest that Lancaster University is entering a period of turbulence – “the biggest change any of us in this room will ever see to Higher Education,” as Lancaster's Vice Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings described it to staff – in a strong financial position.

In November 2010, just after the Browne Review was completed, Wellings gave a presentation to University staff, to reassure and inform them about Lancaster's financial security given the proposals in the Browne Review and the Comprehensive Spending Review. Speaking to a packed Great Hall, Wellings paid tribute to the University's financial strategy in recent years.

“We've had over the last decade a pretty sharp finance strategy here [...] It's been about making the right sorts of investments,” Wellings said during his presentation. “If we're in trouble 85% of the sector is in trouble.”

The most frequently quoted measure of success is the University's surplus – that is, the surplus of income over expenditure. For the financial year 2009-10 it was 4.4% (in real terms a surplus of £4.5m on an income of £177.9m) and has been over 4% for several years, compared to a sector average of 1.7%.

The Vice Chancellor was not the only one to pay testament to Lancaster's situation. A Universities and Colleges Union (UCU) report, Universities at risk, put Lancaster at low risk of impact from the Browne proposals.

The biggest potential effect of these proposals is an 80% cut in the undergraduate teaching budget. The remaining 20% – around £0.7bn – would be focused on priority subjects: those relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The gap will be filled by higher tuition

fees, as can be seen in the graph below. The flip side is that there are likely to be fewer cuts to research funding than expected, something which will benefit Lancaster.

“As a university we're very research intensive [...] So we're in a slightly buffered position here because of the research intensity that we have,” Wellings told staff.

Research income at Lancaster has increased by 68% over the last seven years and dependence on Higher Education Funding Council of England funding – one of the indicators of a low-risk university in the UCU report – has fallen to 28%.

Alongside HEFCE funding, tuition fees make up 28% of income, research grants 16% and “other operating income” 27%. This last figure includes, amongst other things, colleges and residences income and commercial services.

On an operational level, staff costs are by far the largest area of expenditure – £99.9m in 2009-10. As with the surplus, the University has a target covering this: to keep payroll costs at less than 60% of total expenditure. (For last year they were 58.4%.) Broken down by activity, the biggest expenditures are on academic departments (£95.4m), Central Services (£30.7m) and Facilities (£15.1m).

In terms of the effect of income and expenditure on students, SCAN's survey suggests some students feel that University management are primarily concerned with keeping up appearances. There have been significant cuts to student services recently, the most prominent being the closure of the Nurse Unit and the SLDC.

In a statement on behalf of senior management and the Finance Department Professor Wellings said: “In the first part of 2011 individual universities will hear about the resource allocations. Once Lancaster University has its grant letter we will trigger the cycle of events relating to fee setting. There are no proposed changes to our normal processes.”

With regards to possible increased investment in student services following increased fees, he added: “The finance strategy is well established and already sets aside recurrent resources for a broad range of activities, including many relating to the student experience. The capital programme has also prioritised many aspects of student life on campus.”

“Staff are always too preoccupied with research to invest time in students which is irritating as it's our so called 'tuition' fees that pay for it. [They] spend too much on the Management School; it may be a good school but the other departments shouldn't be ignored. Charging the new fees would be daylight robbery, the tuition is not worth what we pay now never mind double or triple.”

Psychology Undergraduate

“The most visible investment seems to be in the building work and rejuvenation projects. Whilst [this is] commendable I would give all the town houses back if it meant skimping on investment in education resources, excellent faculties and services designed to increase access to resources for students.”

Politics and International Relations Undergraduate

“The closure of the Nurses' Unit and the SLDC has meant that students have been left without the support they need and so money should be re-invested in these areas. The University should look to re-investing money into support for students as well as individual departments.”

Politics Undergraduate

“I think that the SLDC closing is very negative. I know of a few people who have used this service and I think if it was underused, it was because it was not publicised well enough. The counselling service needs more investment. Emailing you to say that you are on a waiting list a week after you have asked for an appointment is not helpful.”

History Undergraduate

£300m invested in campus reju

Jonnie Critchley

MAJOR PROJECTS SUCH as the new Sports Centre and the rejuvenation of Alexandra Square have made construction work an inescapable presence around campus for the last few months, with the University investing heavily in construction and regeneration over the last eight years.

Between 2003 and 2009 £300m was invested in building new spaces and refurbishing old ones, although the rate of investment is expected to decrease from 2011-12. In 2007 the Facilities Department commissioned the 2007-2017 Masterplan, which details all possible projects. It is worth £420m over the period; much of the work already completed or in progress is included in this figure.

Mark Swindlehurst, Director of Facilities, emphasised that the Masterplan is “not a blueprint of what we're definitely going to build” but rather a guide to “steer our thinking” regarding campus development.

Describing the importance of the Masterplan, Swindlehurst spoke of his sense, upon arriving at Lancaster in 2003, of an opportunity to help the University campus to support its students and staff. “The reason why

we reinforced the Masterplan in 2007 is because we wanted to reflect back to the original thinking of the master planners that developed the campus in the 1960s. We felt that we needed to do that, because we were starting to lose our way somewhat,” he said.

50%
of students surveyed believe the University invests most money into building work

However, students have been less than enthusiastic about much of the work currently taking place. One History undergraduate described this work as “unnecessary building projects that disrupt, rather than enhance, the student experience,” while a Computing and Communications student called for “more reasonable construction periods with less disruption.”

In response, Swindlehurst described the importance of the work in not allowing the campus to fall into dilapidation. “These big projects represent a peak in investment, which compensates for a lack in past years,” he said.

A key element of the Masterplan is the £2.25m rejuvenation of Alexandra Square and the Underpass, expected

to be complete by March 2011. Delays, primarily caused by cold weather, have affected it, but Swindlehurst was quick to defend the timing of the work. He spoke of how students use the Square, in particular the steps in front of the Learning Zone, mostly in the summer months, which made it logical to work through the winter despite the restrictions of shorter daylight hours and bad weather.

Additionally, the £10m Charles Carter Building is now six months behind schedule. This is due to a combination of cold weather and unforeseen complexities. “The project got off to a stalled start because when we started works on site, there [was] a real complexity in that area of some underground services,” said Swindlehurst. However, he was confident that the project is still on track for completion within the next four to six weeks, and that “we plan to occupy that building at the end of March, so we're within our timeframe for occupancy.”

One project which has been largely successful has been the £3m Learning Zone, opened in October 2009. Pro Vice Chancellor for Colleges and Student Experience Amanda Chetwynd said: “I think the success of the Learning Zone comes from the strong partnership

34%

Feel their course represents good value for money

95%

Feel their course would not represent good value for money if they were paying £6000-9000 for it

53%

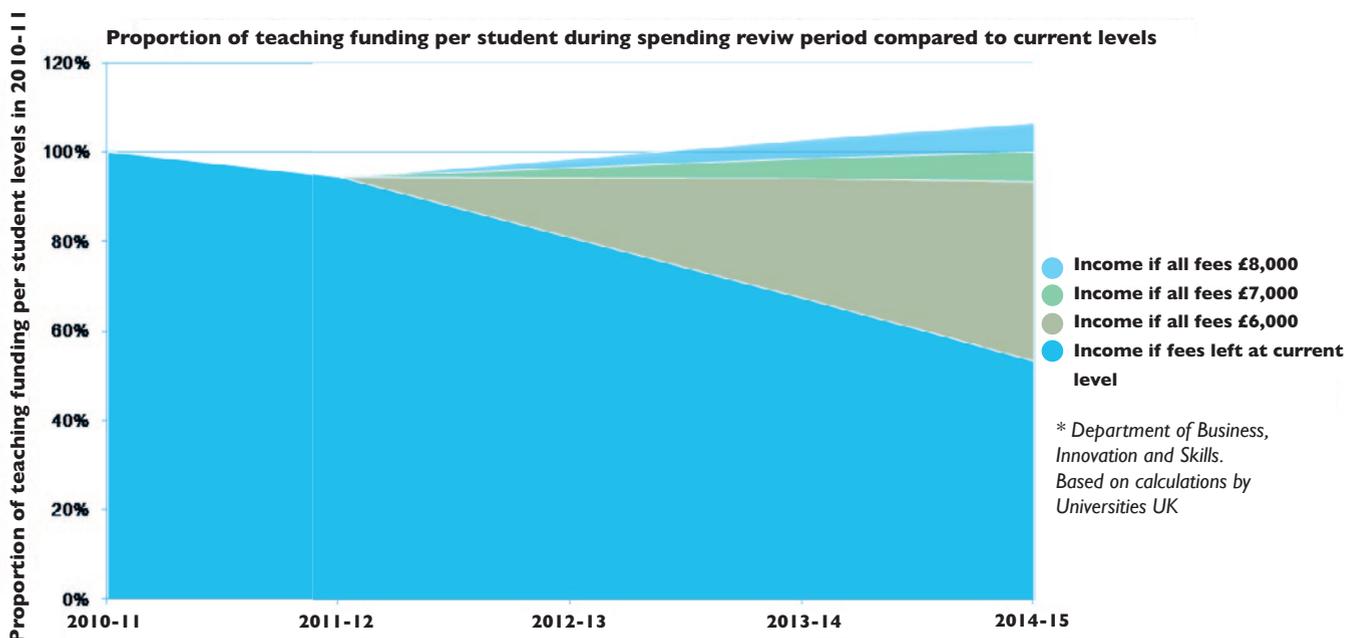
Feel student services represent good value for money

90%

Feel their student services would not represent good value for money if they were paying £6000-9000 for them

*Taken from 59 students surveyed

Indicative impact if cuts to teaching budget follow shape of BIS* cuts



Just 3.4% of students see academia as one of the University's priorities

Jen Day

SCAN CARRIED OUT a survey between December 13, 2010 and January 13, 2011 asking students whether or not they felt they received good value for money from Lancaster University. 34% of the 59 students surveyed felt that their courses represented good value for money, while 53% believed that the other student services provided by the University represented good value for money.

34%

of students surveyed feel their course represents good value for money

However, an overwhelming 90% of Lancaster students felt that if they were paying between £6,000 and £9,000 for their course it would not represent value for money.

60% of the students believe that there is not enough investment in student services and that the University needs to focus more on "the internal rather than the external." The recent closure of the Nurse Unit has caused an outcry from students who do not understand the reasoning behind its closure. "Why are we closing the Nurse Unit but then getting in iPads in the Learning Zone? It just does not make any sense," said a undergraduate from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Building work is seen as the University's main priority for investment by 50% of respondents, with the Management School and public image following with 14% and 9% respectively. Academia was felt to be a priority by just 3.4%.

Other services such as the porters and cross campus events are seen to be positive investments. 15% of students felt that the Students' Union and the Learning Zone are the best services that the University provides, followed by CEEC (14%) and the library (12%).

"The Learning Zone's been a big success with students, so that's one building project that was worth it," said an English and Creative writing undergraduate.

However, there is a feeling that more should be done to invest in library resources, particularly for specialist subjects, Students' Union buildings for sports clubs and societies as well as more contact hours and investment into teaching.

"I am quite satisfied with the infrastructure of the University, but the hours contributed to the lectures are [few], lectures should be more descriptive. I think the University should invest more into teaching," said an Economics postgraduate, echoing the sentiments of many.

Renovation masterplan

between the students, academic and Facilities staff throughout the design of the project," explaining that the building was designed "because of student views expressed in the 2007 Lancaster Student Experience Survey."

Money has also been invested in events such as Campus Festival and Roses, which Swindlehurst feels are "an important part of the University experience." In particular, he was excited by the development of the University's sports facilities ahead of Roses 2012. The event, he said, should be seen as a celebration, and an opportunity for

£300m

amount invested into refurbishment between 2003-09

the Lancaster district "to get behind its University."

Construction of the highly-anticipated £20m new Sports Centre is on track for a Summer Term opening. A number of proposals for use of the old Sports Centre are being considered. LUSU President Robbie Pickles told SCAN that "LUSU is currently developing a proposal which sets out the need for better space in light of the modern environment for student experience, especially now that Lancaster is a top 10 institution."

Pickles cited the "ever expanding needs of societies" for space which he feels the Sports Centre could provide. However, he said that Deputy Vice Chancellor Bob McKinlay has argued that there already is "adequate flat floor space for societies despite insistence from the Union that there is not."

Swindlehurst has advised LUSU that they must "demonstrate [their] demands for the space," while emphasising his desire to "unlock where we can" for society use.

Students concerned by reduced services

Jen Day

CUTS TO STUDENT services have been criticised recently, with the most significant disapproval directed towards the closure of the Nurse Unit, which offered 24 hour support to students on campus.

"I think the Nurse Unit should not be closing; it will delay people from getting medical advice and making GP waiting times weeks rather than days," said a Religious Studies undergraduate.

Pete Macmillan, LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) said: "The closure of the Nurse Unit will have severe consequences on student welfare." He added: "I am encouraged by the reinvestment in mental health that has resulted from the closure of the Nurse Unit but do not feel that the process in which the new mental health advisers are being recruited necessarily represents value for money."

This closure follows the disbandment of the Student Learning Development Centre (SLDC) over the summer. Students feel that they do not get enough academic sup-

port, believing that more money is put into building work than academia.

"More teaching staff. More contact hours and more academic help," said a Psychology undergraduate when asked what services need to be invested in.

"I think there is a case to say that the university is investing in aesthetics rather than substance, although the Facilities Department is also facing cutbacks," said Macmillan. "The worry with Facilities cutbacks is that the 24 hour college portering system will be cut back instead of a potential new building."

The Base has recently been created to combine various student services including counselling, careers, disability, funding and international links. Questions have been raised about the practicality of having all these services in one place.

"The Base is a great idea in theory but in practice we are yet to see it work. The fact that someone coming in for counselling will have to go to the same information desk as someone accessing careers guidance is ludicrous," said Macmillan.

ONGOING/RECENT PROJECTS

- Sports Centre: £20m
- Refurbishment of County South: £11.5m
- ISS Building: £10m
- LICA Building: £10m
- Charles Carter Building: £10m
- Refurbishment of Bowland College: £5.5m
- Grizedale College social complex: £3m
- Learning Zone: £3m
- Refurbishment of Alexandra Square: £2.25m
- Refurbishment of Faraday Building: £2m
- Refurbishment of Pendle Bar: £0.3m

New trim trail kicks off healthier campus

Samantha Newsham

A NEW WOODLAND Walk and Trim Trail which has been built around campus was officially opened over the Christmas holidays.

Around 100 people attended the opening event, predominantly members of staff, and had the opportunity to try either the Woodland Walk or the Trim Trail. Staff from the Sports Centre were on hand to demonstrate safe use of the Trim Trail equipment. It is hoped a similar event will be run for students during Lent term.

“[We’ve got] a beautiful campus, but how do we make more use of it?” said Professor Amanda Chetwynd, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Colleges and the Student Experience. “The grounds have always been here, but just being able to get in through the grounds on a nice easy walk, I think that’s going to make a huge difference. I think people are going to love it.”

The walk and trail form part of the £300m investment in changing the face of the University campus. The Woodland Walk, around the perimeter of campus, is 2.6 miles in its entirety and provides access to more of the woodland surrounding campus that was previously readily available. The Trim Trail runs for 700 metres from Alexandra Park to Bigforth Drive, and offers 11 different exercise stations. Both walk and trail are intended to be



Photo provide by Lancaster University

accessible to users of all ages and fitness levels.

To raise awareness of the trail, the Facilities Department has produced a leaflet detailing the routes and the equipment available. Hard copies have been placed around campus and in the LUSU building and a pdf is available on the Sports Centre website.

Designed to encourage staff and students to be healthy whilst working, the project marks the start of the Healthy Campus Wellbeing Project.

“We’ve been thinking about all the things we’re doing on campus to make it a more fun and more healthy place,” Professor Chetwynd said. “Our pro-

ject encourages healthy lifestyle whilst working and socialising on campus for both students and staff. [...] I hope that the walks and the Trim Trail will encourage more of us to leave our desks at lunchtime or leave the library to come out and enjoy the campus.”

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Professor Chetwynd expressed thanks to the teams behind the trail’s creation.

“I want to say a big thank you to the team in Facilities who’ve put together and designed the trail for us – in particular Ian Sturzaker and Kim Montgomery and their teams, they’ve worked really hard to get this going for us,” she said.

Lancaster student teams up with Al Gore for climate project



Terzian Niode in Jakarta

Charlotte Urban
News Editor

A LANCASTER UNIVERSITY student won the privilege of being trained by former Vice President of the United States, Al Gore, over the Christmas break. Terzian Niode attended the Climate Project Asia-Pacific Summit 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia between the January 8-10, which focused on the topic of climate change. Gore is renowned for his documentary An Inconvenient Truth which won two Academy Awards in 2006. 350 people attended the summit from 21 different countries worldwide.

When asked about his day with Gore, Niode said: “Our training session with Al Gore occurred from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon. We were trained on how to present Al Gore’s slide show”, which was a modified version of the one he presented in his renowned documentary. Niode went on to say “it included the fundamental theory behind climate

change, the science behind it, real life occurrences, the solutions and what we can do to solve it”. The summit also aimed to show the volunteers how to reduce their pollution levels and explain the transition to clean energy solutions. As well as being trained by Gore, the volunteers were also taught by various other speakers on creating an effective presentation and perfecting presentation techniques.

Niode applied to attend the summit having been told by a friend it was taking place in Jakarta. According to Niode, there were more than 2000 applicants. Niode said: “I applied online over a month ago and I’m glad I made it through the selection process”.

When asked how he felt about being trained by one of the most influential campaigners in the climate change movement, Niode said: “I am very thankful and excited that I was trained by Al Gore. I hope I can increase awareness about the climate crisis and inspire people to live a greener lifestyle”.





Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases

Catch it! Bin it! Kill it!

Stop Germs Spreading

Government announces new fees scholarship for military families

Ryan Merrifield

THE GOVERNMENT HAS announced new scholarship schemes to help fund higher education for children of servicemen and women who have been killed whilst on active duty. The scheme will provide £3,200 for tuition fees and £5,000 towards maintenance per year for prospective students whose parents have been killed in active duty since 1990. The first students to be eligible will be those beginning further studies in 2011.

University Minister David Willetts, who spoke about plans for the scheme in October, has assured that the payments will go ahead despite the funding cuts. He said: "It is surely right that we go out of our way to support the families of these brave servicemen and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep the nation safe. The scholarships scheme will ensure that children who have lost a parent on active duty are not disadvantaged if they decide to study at university."

Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans Andrew Robathan said: "Britain has a moral responsibility to its armed forces. Each and every day these men and women make sacrifices in order to ensure our nation's security." He added: "The government is

committed to giving service personnel, veterans and their families the highest levels of support in recognition of these great sacrifices."

The government has estimated that the scheme will cost £800,000 a year and could benefit as many as 100 students at any one time. The payments will also be further reviewed after the tuition fees increase to an estimated £9,000 a year on some courses.

Lancaster University student Kate MacDonald, whose father retired from the Armed Forces in 1999, praised the scheme as a "great idea". She said: "The country should protect its soldiers and their families, and while there is no substitute for a lost parent, I think it would be a great comfort for the surviving family to know that at least their children would be taken care of."

£800,000
the cost of the scheme per year

The government also confirmed it will continue to help fund an existing programme which supports service leavers to undertake a first or further education qualification, and will provide funding to help enhance the

scheme.

In the future eligible servicemen and women will be able to apply for

"While there is no substitute for a lost parent, I think it would be a great comfort"

support after they have served a minimum of four years. Those medically discharged will not be subject to a minimum service requirement, and entitlement may be transferred to a partner or spouse in certain circumstances.

Furthermore, it was reported on the Department for Education website that the Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove has announced that the children of those in the armed forces, who are still at school, will receive a pupil premium. It was said these children "face unique challenges and stresses. The premium will provide extra funding to schools with service children to support the schools in meeting these needs."

A total of 339 British forces personnel or civilian MOD workers have been killed in Afghanistan since 2001, according to departmental figures at the end of last year. A further 179 British troops were killed on duty in Iraq.



are you **purple**® yet?
get your card online now!

early morning

nightrider



Your ticket home at the weekend

Thanks to Stagecoach, you can enjoy a good night out in Lancaster without having to worry about getting home.

Our **early morning** service operates until 3.20am every Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning.

Bus times from Lancaster Bus Station			Bus times from University Underpass		
Fri early morning	Sat early morning	Sun early morning	Fri early morning	Sat early morning	Sun early morning
0130	0130	0130	0108	0108	0108
0200	0200	0200	0152	0152	0152
0230	0230	0230	0222	0222	0222
0300	0300	0300	0252	0252	0252
			0320*	0320*	0320*

All times apply during term times only
* Direct via Greaves Road

rail connection

unilink



Your connection from the University, direct to Lancaster Rail Station

The X1 bus service runs between the Railway Station and the University every 20 minutes Monday - Saturday daytimes and hourly on Sundays.

Bus times from Lancaster Rail Station			Bus times from University Underpass		
M-F	Sat	Sun	M-F	Sat	Sun
0815	0840	1310	0909	0909	1338
0840	0905	then	0929	0929	then
0905	0925	hourly	0949	0949	hourly
0925	then at	until	1009	1009	until
then at	45	2210	then at	then at	2238
45	05		29	29	
05	25		49	49	
25	until		09	09	
until	1425		until	until	
1425	1445		1509	1509	
1445	1510		1529	1534	
1505	1540		1609	1604	
1545	1610		1649	1634	
1625	1640		1709	1704	
1640	1710		1739	1734	
1710	1740		1809	1804	
1740					

All times apply during term times only



Services to/from town

We run regular buses from the University - Services 2, 2A, X2, 3, 4 and X1. Services 3 & 4 operate between the South West Campus and the Underpass, then onto town. Services 2, 2A & 4, operate past the University of Cumbria. Service X1 operates between the Underpass and Lancaster Rail Station.

Where will U take your Unirider?

The Lancaster Unirider is a bus ticket, which is only available for students and staff attending Lancaster University and St Martins College and offers unlimited bus travel on all our services in the Lancaster & Morecambe area.

Doesn't cost U the earth!

You can buy your Unirider from either the Lancaster University Student Union Office, the Stagecoach Travel Shop on Lancaster Bus Station or purchase in advance online at www.buymyunirider.com

To travel using your Unirider, you'll need to have a current University Library ID Card, as Unirider is only valid and accepted on board, when you show your Student ID.

scan:COMMENT

Bring back the T-shirt tyrants

The cliquey JCR Exec was good for one thing, it made people want to be them

Sam
Fresco



The JCR is no longer cool. To many, this issue may not seem a problem; however, given the current caliber of candidates applying to be a member of the JCR executive, it seems that this is in fact a problem. Things were not always this way – the exec used to be exclusive, idolised, a symbol of power, faces of the college and above all, envied.

I am not a naïve fresher, nor am I a passive, lethargic college member – far from it. I have been on the JCR; I have been involved in the union, in the organisational side of university events and above all I am a normal student. Although, now nearing the end of my education, and, seeing the current state of affairs, I have formed a critical and hopefully inspiring debate for your consideration.

Firstly, let's rewind to 2008. I can remember standing in the queue to Sugarhouse on a grim Friday night. Despite it being 11.30pm, the queue was already backed up to the entrance by the smoking area. With arms crossed to help with the shivering, I hear voices and a blur of green shirts streak down the left-hand side – the JCR. Direct from their large taxi they strut straight past the queue, laughing all the while, and continue into the club.

"Pricks" my friend commented. I added: "If I ever became JCR, I would never abuse the power. Or wear the shirt out. Everyone thinks they're just dicks." It seems this mentality was shared across campus, sparking the 't-shirt tyrant' debate in the first place. The following Tuesday, I'm paying £3 at the Cuba front desk. As we walk into the club, the area on the left has a velvet rope across the sofas along the wall. Inside the VIP area is bucketed champagne guarded by a bouncer, with everyone inside wearing a primary coloured polo shirt. Everyone looks incredibly attractive – power has that effect. An extremely similar conversation to before is played out by many that night: "Just because they organize the night, doesn't mean they're above us".

Now the rotation has gone full circle, now those moany freshers are final year students, and sticking to their guns, not wearing their shirts, just doing their jobs properly – the exclusivity of the JCR has died.



The self-appointed bourgeoisie.

Despite how much they were hated for being the self-appointed bourgeoisie of Lancaster, this created an arguably necessary clique. It was because you could strut straight into a club; that you could organize a roped-off alcohol-filled area; that you could only mingle with one another; the authority

'Despite how much they were hated for being the self-appointed bourgeoisie of Lancaster, that's why you wanted to be in the JCR.'

those poorly nicknamed t-shirts contained: that's why you wanted to be in the JCR. I do not believe that a student would hustle and campaign just to sit in an empty office for an hour a week to discuss welfare with no one. EDW officers are imperative, but few JCR members went for these sorts of

roles with the raw intention to fulfill that position. The same goes for Chairs: they do not want to take minutes, they want to be in a position of power. People want to be that person in the bar that sighs at the ever ongoing disasters.

Two years ago the Comment Editor of SCAN wrote an article on these T-shirt Tyrants which noted: "Every JCR on campus contains CV hunting, power hungry ego merchants who don't know their arse from their elbow." This is what we need in healthy doses, we just didn't know it then. By being exclusive, with the shirt being an icon of this ego, it became something you want to be. Each generation of JCR has been drilled into not being a dickhead, and have consequently steered clear of this. But by doing this, the new freshmen of 2010 have no desire to want to be a part of a stressful, low-key and unglamorous executive. The clique is what gels the members, what reduces the bickering and what strengthens the new concepts.

Over the years, the JCR has been

set on a loop. It goes from the cool and the beautiful who made the role appealing in 2007. The following year sees the rise of the t-shirt tyrants; all power, all talk and nothing done. 2009 saw the peak in the tyrants, the popularity contest at its climax. Next year and a majority of these characters have now left, paving the way for that shivering fresher who wants to do it by the book. Freshers do not see the perks in the JCR and go for a position just for something good to do, a chore. Fewer strong characters join, leading to less cohesion as a unit – even less gets done. We then come to 2010 where JCRs hit rock bottom, and there's no competition for a position, so the "I might as well go for that if no one else is" mentality occurs. So freshers get voted in, they get arrogant, they get an ego and this cycle resets.

I am not suggesting that the tyrants were in the right. I am simply implying that it was for this reason that in previous years there has been a higher caliber of candidates. Bring back the tyrants. Well, some of them.

Kindle doesn't make a good present for a Literature lover, does it?

Emily Roberston
Comment Editor

I hated the Amazon Kindle. What did this cold piece of plastic have on my wonderful old books? There is nothing I liked more than bending back the pages of a brand new book for the very first time and feeling the perfect, unblemished pages. Or even rummaging among the shelves of the bookshop for that beautiful leather bound book with its unique smell that could never be reproduced, especially not by Amazon's new creation.

I had been one of the greatest advocates against this new book killing technology. True lovers of literature would never use such a thing: reading is not just about the words but the experience. These are all things I could have heard saying all the way up to Christmas Eve.

So you can only imagine then the look of horror masked by a courtesy smile on my face on Christmas Day when my father passed me a box which contained said book killer. It was a major dilemma. Did I confess to my hatred of his gift that he was extremely excited about giving to me? Or did I grin and bear it, but still smuggle my growing book collection into the house so as not to let on? So as not to upset my father who thought he had got the perfect gift for a literature student, I feigned excitement and let him show me how to use it.

Even more to my horror, he'd downloaded my reading list for this year at a fraction of the price of the print copies. But before Christmas dinner was served I didn't want a way out, I was hooked. So many books for under £1. I could have an entire library in my hand. I found I could make notes and underline any section and upload these notes on to my mac (perfect for writing essays). Yes, not the coolest points ever but the Amazon Kindle far exceeded my expectations. And what's the big fuss about books anyway, we were okay replacing records and CDs with our shiny new ipods.

By Boxing Day I felt the weight of my ever growing guilt. My books were sitting in the corner of my room, untouched, whilst I was reading on my Kindle and loving every moment. I'm become one of those people, the converted; had I too betrayed books forever? Could I justify spending nearly a tenner on a book I could buy for pennies on Kindle? And I wondered how many other book lovers where struggling in the same predicament.

On the one hand the Kindle is hugely practical and noticeably cheaper but on the other books are part of the whole experience of reading and if we all turned Kindle they would be lost forever.

Lancaster must review how it deals with sex, gender and democracy



Aaron Spence
Pendle
LGBTQ Officer

Having heterosexual students vote for LGBTQ officers robs voters of their right to representation

LUSU's latest Cross Campus Officer elections were all about sex. You may have missed it (I really would not blame you if you had). Debate was raging across campus about how the Union deals with its sexual minorities and their representation.

Naturally, as with all matters relating to the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) when I say the debate was raging; I mean a few people whispered about it a little. There was, unfortunately, no grand open debate; only a hust with a few questions afterwards from those few LUSU loyalists who remained until 11pm. So, assuming you missed it, let me remind you of what was whispered quietly.

When taking the decision to run for the LGBTQ Cross Campus Officer and for Pendle JCR LGBTQ it became apparent to me that I could not rely solely on my LGBTQ friends to elect me. I had to appeal to a wider audience. I had to appeal to the heterosexual majority. Bless you guys, you are actually rather easy to please. All one needs do is to do a hust and seem particularly wound up over some issue or another, throw in a sprinkle of specialist terms that no one dare admit they do not recognise or understand and hey presto you are an officer. Thanks, but really, you guys deserve more.

After all, you are the people who voted me into office. Why then do I only bare any obligation to represent those who fall under the categories of LGBT and Q? Surely if you vote, you ought to have some sort of vested



interest in the outcome? Why also do LGBTQ Students not have a say in their own representation? We can vote equally to any other, it is true, but what use is a vote if we can't even collectively affect the outcome of the ballot?

And so I made the case for the LGBTQ Officer to be reshaped into a Sexuality Officer with responsibility for the sexual health and wellbeing of all who can vote them in. It had a mixed reception. In LUSU, it went down like a rock. The other two candidates opposed it and if the questions after the hust are anything to go by, the other LUSU officers did not

much like the notion either. Compare that to Pendle where about two dozen students came to me after speeches had ended and told me they agreed entirely and we can see that this is a contentious issue.

I was elected to the Pendle JCR but not as a Cross Campus Officer (CCO). Thus the case for consensus arises. A JCR member who has been elected on a mandate to reform and a CCO elected on a mandate to block it. In my mind, that is a perfect recipe for a Christmas sitcom. Not so much for a joint-campaign.

The review has now come then of the way in which Pendle and the

Union deal with minority sexualities, gender identity, democratic mandates

'Surely if you vote, you ought to have some sort of vested interest in the outcome?'

and remits. The solution? We went to Trev and had a pint. Robin Goodings, the newly elected LGBTQ CCO, his predecessor Sarah Newport, Pete Macmillan, LUSU's Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) and I sat down and talked sex.

What we came out with was rather interesting. We agreed. My fears of a three man gang up against me were shattered, as a constructive discussion on where we in the JCRs and Union stood on such matters, took shape. We talked about how the Pendle JCR position needed to be inclusive of all but that LGBTQ still needed to be visible. In the end, Robin and I walked away with a piece of paper each outlining what had been provisionally agreed to.

I will be presenting that consensus to Pendle's JCR elect over the next week or so and will be formally presenting it to the JCR in the coming term. By Easter, we may see our consensus in place.

It's a success for compromise and it says a lot for the future of LGBTQ on campus. Lancaster's Sexual Consensus is here and it looks to be popular. Two men, two different mandates, one agreement. Hey, maybe we could form a coalition?

It's popular sound not new sound which wins contracts

Alex Littleboy
Deputy Comment Editor

The X Factor is indicative of a music industry which has lost its soul

Another year, another Christmas Number One won by an artist I can't stand. I loathe the X Factor, and every song it has ever produced. I detest it with a passion. To me, it represents everything that is wrong with the music business today, as those who know me hear time after time whenever it is on TV. Somehow, every year, I get drawn into it, like a moth to a flame, simply to give myself something to hate. Personally, I find the idea of the show, that one person, debatably chosen by the public and Simon Cowell, immediately transitions from being your average student/hairdresser/Brazilian P.E. teacher into a superstar, to subvert the most important and defining time in an artist's career – the period before they break through.

Nowadays, it has become common for acts to perform on several live shows, win a televised talent show, and to start churning out records. However, there is a problem with this. Take Alexandra Burke, a reasonable singing voice, winner of the X Factor, and simply dull. She hasn't pushed the boundaries in any way, to break the



The X Factor champions style over substance.

formula, to try something new. She is a photocopy of acts that have gone before, of the best features of other acts. Her act has no soul of its own, nothing that hasn't been tried and tested before. Perfect in a market situation, where the act is essentially a risk-free sell to musical executives, but in an artistic context, she hasn't contributed anything truly original. If artists don't have success thrust upon them like this, then instead they need to search for something about themselves, anything, which gives them that unique sound, style or emotion – something that separates them from the rest of the acts on the shelf in HMV.

This is not to say that taking features from what has gone before is bad, of course. Many good artists have taken influence from what is currently popular and what has gone before: the Beatles Back in the USSR and Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da famously being born as a parody of the Beach Boys and a reggae song respectively. But this isn't all that they are, there is a part of the artist's soul in them, something that I don't see in the work of most manufactured artists.

This isn't to say that I'm a musical snob, I will like music of any sort, provided it is good. My personal preference is, in general, 80s-90s alternative rock, but my iPod is full of hundreds of different genres, from pop to jazz to heavy metal. I will listen to Lady Gaga, an artist that I consider to be a voice of originality in a stagnating genre, where everything is slowly becoming homogenous and dull.

Of course, I'd be silly to blame all of this on the X Factor, a single TV show producing a single act each year. There are far more acts coming to the fore than can be churned out by Cowell and co. The principle cul-

prit is the musical system in itself. An executive will choose an easy sell over a hard sell any day, and if that means more of what the public already like, and less boundary pushing, then that is what the music business will do.

To me it is upsetting that after centuries of development in music, with countless new innovations coming in the 20th century, that we have stagnated like this. We have gone from Mozart daring to compose an opera in German to foreign artists writing all of their songs in English to appeal to larger markets, from the constant innovation of the Beatles to Scouting for Girls releasing the same song a billion times with different lyrics for each.

Unfortunately, it's unlikely that this will ever change. I guess I will have to accept it as a fact of life that music has changed from being about the new sound to being about the popular sound. This may not be the X Factors fault, but it's a symptom of the problem, and a figurehead for what I see as a grave issue in music today.

Or maybe I'm still bitter that Alexandra butchered Hallelujah.

Political ignorance is no longer bliss

Will
McDonagh

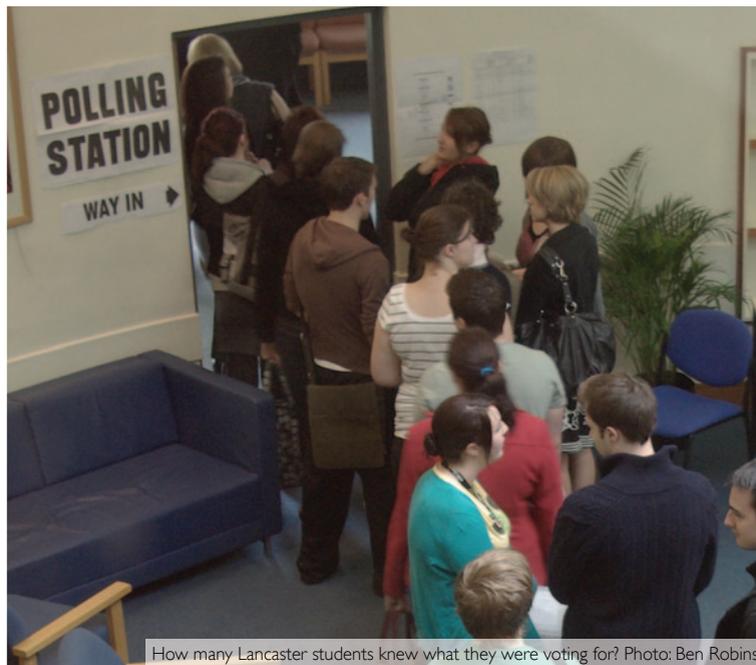


In the grown up world where political decisions do affect us, blindly ticking a box no longer works

Ignorance is bliss. Whether we like to admit it, is something each of us lives by. Whether it is delaying checking your email to find out just how you did on that essay which you rambled through in the short hours before the deadline; deliberately leaving your phone on silent when you remember you were supposed to meet your friend an hour ago and are still in bed with no intention of getting up; or most commonly refusing to be informed about exactly what went down in Sugar last night. However diverse our examples may be, we all enjoy living within that bubble of ignorance where nothing bad can happen.

This was true of myself, and still is, but what I'm centring it on is of politics. I'm not going to lie, I'm not the most politically astute student, news stories on power shifts or tax rises fail to grab my attention, and instead my attention shifts to the blurb for the next episode of Sherlock (which isn't something to look down on, Stephen Moffat is a legend).

So last summer, when chance came about that I stood with my friend as she had a smoke the conversation arose: "Who are you voting for William?". My simple answer – "I dunno". My simple thought, "I don't care". Because quite frankly I had no concern about who would be leading my country. That was until she mentioned a fellow named Clegg. Now I might have been ignorant but I had heard of this man, so I asked her why



How many Lancaster students knew what they were voting for? Photo: Ben Robins

she was planning to vote for this politician. Her response: "No tuition fees!" (Oh hindsight, you wonderful thing.)

This was it for me. I said I will vote for him too. She told me to look at the policies online (I didn't) and started feeding me some facts (most of which blended into one). I never read any policies, didn't watch any debates, and didn't pay any attention to the endless news articles about the election. All that I retained in my mind was those three words "no tuition

fees". So along I went on D-Day to vote, I ticked the box, and walked away, thinking about what I would have for tea that night, instead of thinking about how I might just have contributed to shaping the next Government of the United Kingdom.

Coalition. I didn't know what that meant when it formed, nor did I care either. The election was finished, the vote didn't go in my favour, but I was much more disappointed when Stacey Solomon didn't win The X Factor (thank God for I'm a Celebrity) so I

gave little thought to this outcome.

Cue my bubble of ignorance bursting. First, my attention was finally caught by the shake up of the structure of the NHS. Having worked for this organisation in my gap year in a moderately high position, I found their proposed changes to an already practical system absurd. The abolition of the Film Council was also something that I found hugely frustrating, and of course, lest we forget, the abolition of those three words "no tuition fees".

We can be mad, we can write letters of complaint, we can even protest (but really, what did Camilla do to anyone?), but I personally feel I cannot. I don't have the right to complain, even though I do. A lot.

This is the first time in my life where I feel affected by politics, and it has opened my eyes to the fact that I can't be content anymore ignoring who puts the prices on my milk. My ignorant view that all politics is the same has been completely refuted. I'm not alone with this, most of my friends were as careless as myself.

Changes such as the increase in tuition fees have been made and there is nothing we can do to reverse these. One thing myself and many people should take away from this is the lesson that we as students have firmly arrived in the target range of politics, and if we are not alert and careful in this terrain, the only people we have to blame for getting damaged is ourselves. But damn you Nick Clegg.

Robin Hood could have the answer to government cuts

Lucy Searles

Taxing banks is the responsible way to look after the world's poor

Unless you have been living under a rock recently, it can't escape your notice that the country is tightening its purse strings in the light of the spending cuts. 490,000 public sector workers set to lose their jobs, rising tuition fees at universities and the state pension age rising to 66, are just some of the joys we all have to look forward to in the coming years. But is there another solution that has been overlooked? To say the solution lies with Robin Hood sounds a bit silly and probably to most people just brings up images of men in tights, which I'm sure we will all agree won't really help anyone, but his simple slogan "steal from the rich, give to the poor", could make the country billions. Easy and its called the Robin Hood Tax.

Now we aren't talking taking in a stand and deliver sort of way, but a simple tax on the financial sector (the rich) and giving to those who need it (us, the poor.) Now here is the technical stuff. The Robin Hood Tax comes in three forms, an FTT, a financial transaction tax which takes about 0.05% from transactions on things like stocks, bonds, foreign currency and derivatives which could raise £250bn a year globally, or £20bn in the UK alone. A bank levy, which is just a flat rate tax on large financial institutions and taxing excess prof-



The Robin Hood Tax makes its mark on the Bank of England. Photo: Mark Chilvers

its and remunerations which is sort of VAT on the financial sector and could raise as much as £3.9bn a year. Taxing the financial sector makes sense; it has cost us £1.5tn to bail out the banks, that's £31,250 per tax payer in the UK. To put it in other terms, the financial sector owes us, and now it's about time it gave something back.

The money from the tax can be used to fight poverty in both the UK and abroad and to help combat climate change, all worthwhile causes that are going to suffer in the current economic situation. The Robin Hood Tax supporters have pointed out

ways the money could be used. In the UK £2bn avoids housing benefit cuts; £4bn halves child poverty; £5bn insulates every home; £10bn protects the NHS. If the policy was adopted worldwide £4bn puts every child on earth in primary school; £5bn pays for healthcare for 200,000 people; £7bn means Haiti can fully adapt to the threat of flooding.

And while people across the country are losing their jobs, the bankers are still receiving their huge bonuses and returning record profits, surely the most sensible way to create some money is to tax these institutions

and make them begin to fix the mess they caused in the first place? There have already been some steps taken towards introducing this tax, such as the Bank Levy introduced by the baby-faced chancellor George Osborne, however this doesn't go anywhere near far enough. This tax will eventually generate £2.5bn but is slightly offset by a cut in corporation tax, but compared to the possible £20bn that could be raised this figure seems ridiculous. It may seem like a huge sum of money to take but the sector's profits and bonuses total more than £100bn, so it's an easily achievable figure when put in context. And of course the idea that the financial sector can't handle these kind of cuts is ridiculous; in 2011 the financial sectors taxable income could reach more than £75bn. A Financial Transaction Tax will also rebalance the tax system, so that organizations that can pay do pay. And it will refocus our economy away from the riskiest elements of the financial sector. The tax is supported by charities and organizations all across the world, including Oxfam, (and Lancaster's very own Oxfam Society) and numerous celebrities and politicians who all recognize the Robin Hood tax as a sensible way of steering the world through the difficult economic times and creating money to counter all the serious government spending cuts.

scan

Editorial

New year must see an end to dead horse flogging

THE NEW YEAR period saw a strange phenomenon occur right across the globe. From Arkansas in the United States to Romania to Japan, thousands of birds were mysteriously found dead. The excitable view is that this means the end is nigh. The scientific view, for Romania at least, is that the birds had had too much to drink.

The student population has its own abundance of dead animals over the years, namely horses, which it continues to flog in the naive hope that this will bring back to life something which should have been buried long ago.

Dead horse flogging affects all levels of student life: from Lancaster right up to the national scene. On the national level it is the gullible, and frankly absurd, belief that students can 1) make the government retract its vote to raise the fees level to £9000 a year, and more seriously 2) that on top of this we can somehow get them to reverse all the cuts and fees period. The dead horse of free higher education is so far gone it's practically fossilised. While this isn't the ideal situation by a long shot, holding onto the belief that there can be a Jurassic Park revival is not going to make the current situation any better for students.

In Lancaster the dead horse which just won't bolt is the Nurse Unit. No one with the interests of students at heart can deny that the closure of this service is a great lose, and that it continues to be right to oppose the principle of it. The reality though is that this horse is never going to get back on its feet, regardless of the best efforts of students and their representatives. Staff have been made redundant and the money has been reallocated, and while there still may be battles to be fought on these grounds, the simple truth is that the service has closed and nothing short of a necromancer will bring it back.

The danger with continuing to flog these dead creatures is that you're not invited to join in with the funeral plans. While the government or University is away planning what happens next, they are unlikely to engage in discussions if the people they are talking with cannot accept that there is a next. Opposition to harmful decisions should always be strong, but there is a point when that opposition itself becomes harmful. That point is the loss of credibility, which if students are to make the best of bad situations is what we desperately need. There has to be a realisation that life goes on, and that to make the most of it we need to be in the world of the living.

This is not a rallying call to accepting defeat, but a reminder that life is what happens while you're busy making other plans.

Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to 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.



In defence of dim witted students

There seems to have been a lot of hate directed at 'dim witted' students in the SCAN letters page of late. I feel I should speak out in defence of them, but I don't really want to group myself among them: a moral dilemma if ever there was one.

I do still feel, however, that several points should be raised.

1. The use of "like" excessively in a conversation, as referred to in the first letter, does not demonstrate a dimness of wits; it is simply a symptom of the generation, and will often be used instead of a pause or filled pause (words like "erm").
2. The student mentioned in the second letter seems not to be dim witted, but to have some sort of anger issue/general attitude problem. Or maybe he was just having an off day.
3. Anyone who has filled in a UCAS application, will surely realised university places are based on academic grades and references, not how much

common sense a person has. If only there were a way to judge such a thing; perhaps then Mr. O'Brien would be studying with the calibre of people he would expect from a top ten institution such as this.

I feel I should also point out, Mr. O'Brien referred to "the lady" who wrote the first letter. I feel, had he any wits about him, he would have noticed that the letter was signed "A member of the travelling public". Unless Mr. O'Brien was intending to make a sweeping statement about the users of public transport, he has potentially offended a fellow SCAN correspondent.

*Harriet Murdoch,
Furness College*

Hoot off

I don't know if anyone else has noticed it recently, but there seem to be a lot of owls knocking about in the daytime around campus. I was always under the impression that owls were nocturnal, but clearly not the ones at Lancaster University.

It truly was a mystery, and then

one sober Friday night I cracked it. The owls have grown sick and tired of being awake at the same time as students, screeching around on their way back from the Sugarhouse; our owly friends should be the ones who are screeching around, doing their owly business.

I know you're all having a hoot, but think of the owls. When you come back from a night on the lash, think of the little owl children getting up for school; think of the owl students with their essays in Owlology due in later that day, desperately edging towards the word count. Do it for the owls: let them sleep.

It should be noted, this letter is just an attempt to get students to be quieter when coming home from their wild nights out. I know what it's like, I was one once. But now some of us have a dissertation to write, and the only joy to be found in life is potentially having a joke letter printed in SCAN. This is my life now, pity me.

*Lydia Bennet
Bowland College*

Intelligence Officers

Intelligence Officers £24,750 + benefits UK based

Analysing information. Spotting connections. Making decisions that really matter. This is what MI5's dedicated and focused Intelligence Officers do every day. Working together, we help safeguard the security of the nation. This is challenging and vitally important work that demands strong communication, analytical and organisational skills – not to mention a good deal of patience and attention to detail. If you enjoy solving problems, becoming an Intelligence Officer is one of the most rewarding and interesting career paths you could choose.

Make sense of it at www.mi5.gov.uk/careers/intelligence

To apply you must be over 18 and a British citizen. Discretion is vital. You should not discuss your application, other than with your partner or a close family member.



SECURITY SERVICE
MI5

purple[©] offers week 8

ALL OFFERS OPEN TO PURPLECARD HOLDERS ONLY • T&Cs apply

OFFER OF THE WEEK

DOMINO'S PIZZA

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

THE BIG COMPETITION

FREE MEAL FOR TWO

TO ENTER SIMPLY EMAIL COMPETITIONS@LUSUMARKETING.COM AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

'ON WHAT NIGHT OF THE WEEK DOES THE DALTON ROOMS HOST A LIVE JAZZ NIGHT?'

MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, COLLEGE AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.
THE COMPETITION CLOSES ON THURSDAY 20TH JAN 2010.

SOMETHING A BIT RANDOM

MAMA MIA

BUY ONE PIZZA, GET A SECOND HALF PRICE

BETWEEN 5-7PM
TEL: 01524 542689

THE BOROUGH

TWO PEOPLE EAT TWO COURSES FOR £7.46

2.00PM - 6.30PM MON-FRI
TEL: 01524 64170

NICE BAR 20% OFF

ALL DAY EVERYDAY
TEL: 01524 509094

The biggest Roses build up is about to begin

Marc Handley
LUSU Vice President (Sports)

At the time of writing, the Vice Chancellor of York University, Brian Cantor, is celebrating his birthday (many happy returns to him). I was thinking about what present I should give to the Vice Chancellor of our opposing institution, and then it hit me. The best present possible would be the Carter James Trophy; letting him see it for a small number of days before the Red Rose Army and its supporters reclaim it and make the overall Roses score even.

This term will see the build up to the biggest away Roses that Lancaster has seen in many years and I'm really looking forward to seeing just how good we can be. With a disappointing term due to cancellations and poor weather behind us, we must now refocus and bring our determination and skill to the fore. York are determined to follow the trend of a home win, so much so that they have set the first event of the Roses weekend as possibly the biggest match of the entire competition - Mens Rugby firsts. The match will be played at Huntington

'Many more of our teams are capable of destroying the White Rose as we saw last May'

Stadium, home of the York City Knights. In this 3,500 seater stadium, York University will witness the demolition of not just their favourite team, not just years of dominating this fixture, but the entire Roses weekend too. Our currently undefeated Mens team are looking to this fixture with the aim of righting the wrongs of last year's ever-so-close defeat, and their confidence is certainly there for all to see. I hope this confidence is not just within our Rugby team however; many more of our teams are capable of destroying the White Rose as we saw last May and, regardless of how this year's fixtures have gone so far, it is definitely still possible.

I hope to get around and see lots of our teams train and play this term as BUCS only runs for the first two terms of an academic year so, technically, this is my last BUCS term, but that doesn't mean that the drive and determination should be any less than at the very start of the year. I will be doing all I can to ensure a Roses victory, both in my position as Vice President (Sports) and as a member of the American Football team - and I hope all other members of the Sports clubs can do the same.



Five still fighting after first finals day

- Nine points separate the top five teams

Nick O'Malley
Sports Editor

THE WEEKEND OF Week Nine marked the finals day of the Carter Shield. Rather than seeing any one college pull away at the top, Finals Day saw the league remain very tight at the top. Lonsdale and Fylde are tied at the top after the first four events with 47 points. Bowland and Grizedale are tied for third spot, six points further back on 41, with County just three points further back in fifth position. It is still between any one of these five teams for the overall title.

No college had made it to the semi-finals of all four events, making every extra three points gained even more important. For making it to the semi-finals a college receives nine points, to the final 12 points, with the winner of an individual event gaining 15 points.

Dodgeball

Finals day kicked off with the eagerly anticipated Dodgeball, and a semi-final encounter between Lonsdale and Grizedale. Lonsdale edged ahead with a close win in the opening leg in the best of three. Grizedale pulled it back to 1-1 with four players left standing in the second leg, and looked to take the momentum into the decider. However Lonsdale rallied and took the initiative from the very start of the final leg, taking out two key Grizedale players within the opening 10 seconds and went on to secure a final place with a 2-1 win.

The other semi-final saw Fylde up against the winners of group two, Bowland. Fylde had improved massively from their second place finish in the groups and dominated proceedings,



County taking the title. Photo by Ben Robins

with the result never seeming in doubt as they strolled into the final with a 2-0 win.

The final was a best of five, however Lonsdale seemed as if they had somewhere else to be and destroyed Fylde 3-0. Lonsdale got off to a flying start in all three legs, being the first to at least two of three balls on each occasion and rarely wasted a throw, in a resounding victory that saw Lonsdale crowned Dodgeball champions.

Volleyball

The second event of finals day was volleyball. Pendle were the strongest team in the group stages and were up against group two runners up Fylde in the opening game of the event. Pendle were in unstoppable form again and never looked like losing in a 25-17 win.

Grizedale and Bowland continued the extremely high standard of volleyball in the other semi-final in what was a nip and tuck battle. There was never any more than four points between the two teams, until Grizedale finished off Bowland winning three consecutive points to secure a 25-20 win.

The final saw a repeat of the closely contested group stage match between

local rivals Pendle and Grizedale. Pendle clinched the opening set quite comfortably, but Grizedale fought back bravely in the second set to level the scores at 1-1. Pendle stepped it up in the decider and sneaked a win by four points in the final leg to take a 2-1 win and the volleyball title.

Pop Lacrosse

County were unstoppable in the group stages and appeared to have an even stronger present at finals day. They completely outplayed group two runners-up Pendle in the opening match in a convincing 3-0 win that laid down the gauntlet to the other two teams remaining in the event.

The other semi-final saw an unbelievably scrappy match between Lonsdale and Grizedale with very little fluid play. Lonsdale scored with their only clear-cut chance and limited Grizedale to half chances as they sneaked through to the final with a 1-0 win.

County were just too good for Lonsdale in the final and in spite of Lonsdale's disruptive tactics still created an unbelievable number of chances with Lonsdale's goalkeeper preventing what could have almost been a

double figure scoreline. Lonsdale had one half chance at 1-0 down to level the scores, but hit the side netting. County took a 2-0 lead with a fantastically worked goal, as they scored from a Lonsdale clearance well inside their own half after two clever passes and a smart finish. County retained the ball for the majority of the rest of the match to easily pick up the pop lacrosse title.

Womens Football

Bowland versus County was an extremely exciting match between two open and expansive teams. Bowland came out on top with a much deserved 3-2 win. Fylde proved their class in the second semi-final as they outfought and outplayed Lonsdale in a mesmerizing display of football in a comprehensive 4-0 win.

Fylde were clearly the best team on show but that did not guarantee a win against a brave and battling Bowland side. Bowland had an early chance to take the lead, however this was as close as it came. Fylde dominated the game from then on, with much more meaningful possession. Fylde cruised to the title and a further six Carter Shield points with three for Bowland.

When Premier League predictions go wrong

A friend of mine recently sent me a link to an article on SCANonline, accompanied by the text: "Fancy a laugh?" I opened the link with understandable trepidation to find it was an old article from this column, from the start of the season in fact, titled Premier Predictions. It was my attempt to predict what might happen over the course of this Premier League season. Naturally, none of the predictions look like coming true - neither at the top of the table, or the bottom.

For example, I predicted Chelsea to win the league. The idea of the Blues retaining the title this season was a reasonable assumption to make back in August, to be fair. To look at the table now and see them sitting in fifth place, nine points off leaders Manchester United who have a game in hand, is shocking but perhaps testament to the way the competition has played out this season.

Chelsea's form has been exceptionally poor. At the time of writing, they have had just one league win in ten matches, thanks to Malouda's goal in

an unconvincing performance at home to Bolton, where the Blues failed to get a shot on target in the duration of the first half. If I had predicted a run of form like that in August, I might well have lost my job as Sports Editor due to incompetence.

Some of their results are shocking to look back on even now. Recently the Champions lost 1-0 away at struggling Wolves; but remember some of these results from November: 1-1 at Newcastle, 1-0 away at Birmingham, and of course 0-3 at home to Sunderland.

Anelotti isn't to blame as much as some managers elsewhere in the League. Roman Abramovich has clearly grown tired of football, with a lack of investment allowing the Chelsea squad to become stale. The ridiculous decision to sack assistant manager Ray Wilkins also forced unnecessary instability on the club.

I went on to write - don't laugh - that Liverpool would be the biggest challengers to the title. Having just left Roy Hodgson to walk alone, Kenny Dalglish is now back in charge at Anfield with Liverpool sitting in

twelfth position - just four points off the relegation places.

The road had ended for Hodgson. He is a man I have a lot of time for, and a very good manager. You might be able to hold your position if the fans are on your back, but once a manager has lost the dressing room, it is time to go quietly. He was seen as a safe appointment, someone to gently rebuild Liverpool to allow them to mount a strong challenge for the European places next season after new owners were found.

While the promised new investment has come in, the Kop was forced to witness some truly disgraceful performances such as against Blackpool and Northampton Town in the League Cup. A top half finish will now be an achievement. Hopefully Dalglish will be given the respect, and investment, he deserves to rebuild this once great club.

This might be one of the most exciting and wide open Premier League seasons for many years. It is now January, and at the time of writing, ten points separate 20th position

from seventh.

Even at the top, things are open. The sentence "Arsenal have no hope, and Man City will be reminded that winning the league takes more than money" from my original article completely overlooks the fact that the former are in third place and the latter are in second. We will ignore the top scorers prediction. If you want to find out what was said, you'll have to look on the SCAN website; it is not being re-printed. As for managers: who would have called Sam Allardyce's sacking, Gérard Houllier's return, or this strange speculation about Diego Maradona going to Fulham?

Somehow, I don't think there will be a Premier League predictions article next season.

Jack Smith
Sports Editor



Rivals edge closer at top as Geroge Wyatt heats up

- Bowland make further headway with rivals Lonsdale close behind

Robert Wiggans

THE INTER-COLLEGE POOL, Darts and Dominos leagues have reached the half way point, and as the weeks have passed by it is now becoming clear who are the main contenders for this year's leagues.

Pool

The mens A league has seen Lonsdale maintain their undefeated record most recently beating Fylde 6-3. Graduate, their closest challengers, recently slipped up to both Lonsdale and Fylde losing 5-4 in both games. Lonsdale are 17 points clear of Graduate in second, who have a game in hand, meaning that a lot could come down to the contest between Lonsdale and Graduate at Lonsdale bar. If Lonsdale were to win this encounter it would be their league to lose.

The mens B league is a close contest with a mere seven points separating the top five; Bowland, Lonsdale, Pendle, Fylde and Cartmel respectively. Bowland have a four point barrier at the top having most recently beaten Cartmel 5-4. Fylde have a game in hand over the top three but suffered defeat in the closing week of term to Graduate 6-3. This league remains wide open and is likely to go down to the wire.

With regards to womens pool, Bowland sit nine points clear ahead of Cartmel and Lonsdale sit a further five points behind the top two. Bowland have most recently defeated challengers Cartmel 6-3. Lonsdale have a game in hand over the top two and in the final week of term defeated County 7-2. Bowland will have to maintain the consistency from first term to remain at the top until the end.

Darts

The mens league sees the trio of Graduate, Lonsdale and Bowland separated by a mere five points. Graduate have a game in hand and look like the team to beat, having recorded several large winning margins and had only one defeat 5-4 to Furness. Lonsdale are a

mere three points off the top but would need some big victories and Graduate to suffer further defeat in order to take top spot.

In the womens league Pendle, who are yet to suffer defeat, sit at the top with a nine point advantage over Bowland and Cartmel sit a further two points behind. Pendle's last game was against County with a 5-2 victory; their biggest challengers battled it out against each other in the final week with Bowland defeating Cartmel 4-3. This league currently has a clear favourite and it is down to Bowland and Cartmel to attempt to close the gap in the final term.

Dominos

Bowland sit at the top with a five point lead in the Dominos league, with Fylde and Furness in second and third respectively. Fylde have the opportunity to close the gap by having a game in hand, who in the final week defeated Graduate 2-1, similarly leaders Bowland defeated Cartmel 2-1. Both Fylde and Bowland have only suffered one defeat from eight and will be battling it out until the end.

In summary, Bowland sit at the top of three of the six leagues; mens B pool, womens pool and Dominos and along with Lonsdale are close behind Graduate in a close mens darts league. Pendle have a distinct advantage in the womens darts league and if consistency is maintained should see them through to the end. The mens A pool league sees the biggest gap at the top with Lonsdale having a 17 point advantage over Graduate, it would be a major shock if they still were not at the top in the final week. No team is thinking of celebrating just yet, with most of the leagues remaining close and with still eight games to play next term the leagues could change significantly. Bowland have to maintain the form they did last term before they can celebrate another George Wyatt victory, as Lonsdale sit close behind them for the title.

Find out what happened at the Charter Shield finals on page 14.



Photo by Ben Robins

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	3	1	0	9
County	3	1	0	9
Cartmel	3	1	0	9
Lonsdale	1	2	0	3
Furness	1	1	0	3
Pendle	1	1	0	3
Bowland	0	2	0	0
Grizedale	0	3	0	00

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 One, Lent Term

Fancy a bite?

Join us for a trip to find
the best food on campus

emails from @australia

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

THE FLOODS, WHICH Australia is currently battling with in Queensland, have inundated around 1m sq kilometres of the country's north-east region, approximately the combined area of France and Germany. 10 people have been killed and over 200,000 people have been affected. Most of the main roads leading into Queensland have been closed, leaving no transport options other than flying. It is estimated that the damage will cost the Australian Government 9bn Australian dollars (approximately £7.9bn). Although many believe this is manageable, it has also caused worry – are such extreme weather events going to happen more often in Australia?

Australia much more commonly experiences droughts than flooding. Water is considered a finite resource and a high political priority. The Murray-Darling basin in the south of Australia is frequently affected, limiting water supplies for domestic use and irrigation in the local area. Actions are being taken to reduce the risks of droughts such as the Murray-Darling water reform, which involves a combination of water entitlement policies and environmental management strategies. Questions are beginning to be asked over whether the Australian Government can afford both the damages of the Queensland floods and the Murray-Darling basin drought plans. Prime Minister Julia Gillard confidently states that although the flood is a hard hit for the Government's budget, the Murray-Darling basin plans should remain a central concern, as droughts have recurring detrimental affects.

So why is flooding happening in a country where droughts are commonplace? Many immediately jump to the conclusion that human-induced climate change is to blame, but it is not as simple as merely pointing the finger at anthropological greenhouse emissions and wastes. Natural climate change is also responsible. The event is also caused by La Niña-driven storms and high rainfall, which is caused by extensive cooling of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. This cooling affects many countries differently. On the east coast of Australia, La Niña events are known to increase the probability of wetter conditions. Such La Niña events are regarded as part of the Southern Oscillation, which is a natural cyclical pattern.

Many believe that anthropological climate change will increase the intensity and frequency of the Southern Oscillation, meaning events such as the Queensland floods and Murray-Darling basin droughts will become more problematic for the Australian Government. Although the Queensland flood may not be an absolute consequence of human-induced climate change, it should be heeded as a warning of what is to come.

As illustrated, Australia is a country of extremes with droughts and flooding known occur simultaneously in different parts of the country. Anthropological climate change will amplify these conditions, producing more intense and frequent climatic events that will rock the social, economic, political and environmental conditions of Australia. Australia can confidently survive and rebuild after the Queensland floods, but can it endure the effects of future climate change?



Going viral

If you choose one resolution for 2011, **Louise Day** reckons it should be putting your procrastination time to more humorous use

A LOT OF things happened in the last decade, from the election of America's first black president to the Great Recession. But let's face it, 90% of your popular culture and news updates came from the internet, but getting your news fix probably only took up 10% of your online time. Here's a quick fire guide to what we were all doing the rest of our time spent contemplating our computer screens and the internet memes contained within- and it isn't half an awe inspiring insight into the human race.

- **Dick in a box:** Originally a song featured on Saturday Night Live, the collaborative comedy piece featured Justin Timberlake and the creators of equally viral I'm On A Boat song. Essentially the sketch focuses on what to do when you're wise enough to know when a gift needs giving - and a step by step guide on how to go about, effectuating such a gesture.
- **Rickrolling:** The internet meme which

needs no introduction (and indeed characteristically never does). Basically internet users share links online supposedly relevant to a particular subject, which actually takes the user to a YouTube video of Rick Astley's 80s hit Never Gonna Give You Up. A meme whose awesome factor shot off the scale when the song featured in New York's annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.

- **Rage Guy:** Speaking of trolling, no compilation of internet memes would be complete without a mention of Rage Guy et al. Made famous through the internet site 4chan, Rage Guy is a never ending series of comics wherein the main character is particularly annoyed by an everyday situation (such as mistaking a fist bump for a high five) ending in the same final comic pane of aggravated exclamation: "Fffffffuuuuuu". Rage Guy is usually joined by trollface, forever alone and cereal guy, among countless others.
- **Advice Dog:** Advice dog was the first in a series of photoshopped images against a bright spiral background bearing two sentence captions that were inevitably hilarious. From Insanity Wolf, Paranoid Parrot, Foul Bachelor Frog and Socially Awkward Penguin, Advice Dog spawned the creation of an unending creative pool of memes allowing like-minded internet users to revel in their own complete lack of shame and personal hygiene.
- **R Kelly's Trapped In the Closet:** Also known as the HipHopera, R Kelly's Trapped in the Closet reached internet fame of vast proportions as users tuned in to 22 chapters of ongoing narrative of adultery and general sordid tales, inevitably leading to a bizarre and unexpected message about AIDs, not to mention numerous parodies.
- **Star Wars Kid:** Originally an innocent video of your average Canadian teenager

swinging a metal pole around as if it was a lightsaber, the student became a YouTube celebrity when the video was found and duly distributed. The student brought legal action against the culprits and the case was settled out of court, but not before TV shows like Arrested Development and American Dad honoured the viral video.

- **Bed Intruder:** Also known as the YouTube video with a happy ending. A group of YouTubers would habitually auto tune news stories and publish them to adoring fans. They reached their peak of fame when an animated Antoine Dodson featured on CBS News commenting on the attempted rape of his sister in the Lincoln Park projects (a low income housing estates). It was the most viewed YouTube video of 2010 and the song was actually released on iTunes, and the continued success and proceeds of the song has meant that the Dodson family have now moved out of the projects, and no longer need to hide their kids, hide their wives or hide their husbands.
- **Lolcats:** The classic meme that is arguably the most well known, consists of a photograph of a cat (already you know we're onto a winner) with a humorous caption with poor grammar and/or spelling. Trends appear, like monorail cat, invisible props, ceiling cat and cats professing to be "In ur [noun] [verb]ing ur [related noun]".

These are just a token few internet memes that we can cite in the last decade, but the joy of all things viral is that new videos, comics and captions are arising every day, and with sharing sites such as Tumblr, you really have no excuse to be wasting all of your valuable procrastination time Facebook stalking when things like internet memes win Emmys and recognition in Entertainment Weekly. You really can't afford to not keep up to date.

All a bit Mickey Mouse?



Ryan Merrifield examines whether Disney's Utopia was a step too far

The Disney Corporation began experimenting in urban planning years ago, resulting in the establishment of its new utopian community, Celebration, in central Florida in 1994. It was supposedly a return to small town values, a safer and less anonymous alternative to the modern American suburbia, with the obvious connections to the family oriented Disney franchise itself.

Reading about this place, it is hard to separate it from the idea of the Disney theme parks themselves, or the image of the old animated films with the immaculate lawns and picket fences. Doug Frantz, American journalist and co-author of the book *Celebration USA*, explains that it was to hark back to the dreamy pre-World War Two years of close knit communities: a return to the days when "everything would be within walking distance", in contrast to the "horrors of car-dominated suburbs" of today.

It's perfection to some degree, but seems so controlled and artificial. During autumn fake leaves are sprayed from lamp-posts and in the winter suds are spread to replicate snow, while Christmas music plays from the pavements. It feels so cartoony and yet intriguing, like going to Magic Kingdom for the first time. But once you've been there a day, you don't imagine living there forever. Or do you?

"When people come here they tend to think it's an unticketed gate at Disneyworld," says Frantz. "Well it's not, this is a real town with real people."

But developers seem to be forcing this way of life on these real people, when back in the past it happened naturally. How can they live the old American dream when they're being controlled so closely? Residents must sign a document agreeing to a list of strict rules if they are to live there. Only the "right kinds of plants" are allowed in the garden, for example, and there can be "no two houses the same colour next door to each other".

Albert Camus once said: "Utopia is that which is in contradiction with reality", and that seems all too relevant after the murder of resident Matteo Giovanditto in early December, which was followed by an unrelated shoot-out between a man and the local police. The perfection of this place seems to have been hit with a reality check. The developers couldn't manufacture human nature.

It could be argued that this is being blown a little out of proportion. Yes, it all seems a bit too restrained and like living as one of Truman Burbank's neighbours, but this is the only major crime the community has faced since it opened over 10 years ago. It does appear safer than many of the other suburbs and its popularity is growing. The population

has risen to over 11,000 citizens from just under 3,000 in the year 2000.

On the one hand, Disney has such a big reputation as an icon of American consumption and for such an organisation to want to experiment with how an entire community is run seems like such an easy target for naysayers. But as the naysayers would point out, it is that contradiction of trying to create an old-fashioned small town American sense of values, which were originally founded on ideals of freedom, and yet having it so heavily controlled by one organisation. And Disney is a company which seems to embody that contradiction anyway.

Is it all just a bit too 1984? How can you live a real life in a place that's so largely manufactured and lacking in a proper local electoral system? Many people who've visited have said it's like stepping onto the set of *The Stepford Wives*. Professor Bruce Stevenson poses the question: "Do you want a corporation, rather than a city council making your decisions? My answer is no." But as for whether or not Prof Stevenson represents the views of the rest of society in our increasingly fearsome world of climate change and terrorism, remains to be seen. For some people escaping from reality into a Disney movie no longer cuts it: escaping from reality into a Disney world may hold more attraction.

The dreaded quarter-life crisis

Bex Hamilton

FOR THOSE THAT aren't too familiar with it, the quarter-life crisis (QLC) generally rears its ugly head in the second term of the third year. Early symptoms can include induced sobbing when receiving emails about graduation and spending the entirety of your maintenance loan on inappropriate dresses that you will never wear again. I recently got told off for announcing in front of my boyfriend's parents "I'm getting old now". With a combined age of about 110, they looked at me quizzically as I droned on about the job market, rent prices and how I'd rather spend Saturday night with a cup of tea and the box set of *Doctor Who*.

Whilst sounding as dramatic as I can, we are stuck in no-man's-land. This is the place between Freshers' Week and the Job Centre. The inbetween stage of studenthood and adulthood that presents such problems and questions. Can I still get away with dancing on tables or should I be doing crosswords and listening to Radio Four? What am I going to do with my life? Why isn't there a *Dummies Guide* to being a proper grown-up?

And of course, anything can be blamed on the QLC. The fact I never reached those essay deadlines, that need to blow £150 in the Topshop sales, it was all down to my quarter-life crisis.

Everyone else seems to know what they're doing, too. It scares me as I receive wedding invites and am informed via gossip of an old school friend who is now due to give birth to her second baby. Many of my friends are continuing their study next year: MAs, PGCEs, other such acronyms that I don't understand. Others have grand plans: gap years and grad schemes, moving abroad. Here I am, permanently busy pretending to be grown-up, planning swanky jobs but all the time having hissy fits about how I'm going to fail my degree and run away to the red light district.

The QLC is dangerous. It fools you into thinking you are a failure, that you will never get a job and that you will be sat at home picking your nose, forever alone with a dozen cats. It makes you think that you have to be sorted in every aspect of the word by the time you don that silly hat and gown. Well, sorry, but this is a myth.

Yes, in years to come you will be paying taxes and acting like a sensible human being - it doesn't mean you have to be one. Next time the panic hits you, remind yourself that nothing is the end of the world (unless it actually is).

Wear that knitted panda hat with gay abandon, for you are never too old for animal related headwear. Have a glass of rosé and don't feel too guilty about it. Now, be gone: a double bill of *Jeremy Kyle* and a bowl of mouldy Frosties is calling you.





A matter of taste

Dom Stroud visits every eatery that Lancaster University has to offer and puts them to the test

THERE ARE 20 places to eat on campus, and, to me, that's 20 ways you might end up wasting your money. To this end, I threw any idea of a diet out the window, donned my bib, withdrew more fivers than I wish to remember, and went to work reviewing each place. What follows is my findings, and serves as the absolute compendium of Lancaster University's food offerings.

Lunch

Café 21 GOLD AWARD

Café 21 sits on the top floor of InfoLab and is one of the most pleasant surprises Lancaster University's catering has to offer. It has a lovely balcony area where you can relax and enjoy your food when it's sunny, and the light that beams in from every direction makes the large space feel deceptively cosy and warm even on wintery days.

I popped in and had the lemon chicken with Lyonnaise potatoes and green beans. The chef had cooked the chicken perfectly, and I wish I could have gone into the kitchen to ask how he'd done it. The onion accompanying the potatoes provided the necessary savoury grounding to the sweet lemon zing, demonstrating the chef's obvious ability to build a delicious plate of food. My only downer was on the green beans as they were watery, but this seems to be a pandemic problem across

campus anyway, so I let it slide on the strength of the rest of the dish.

The taste of InfoLab comes at an extra price of about £1 more per meal than other places, but the quality is worth it. This should be your definitive lunchtime destination.

Bowland Deli Bar SILVER AWARD

Every other college should envy what Bowland has. Its Deli Bar is in a snug corner area next to the bar and fosters a comfortable atmosphere complete with relaxing leather sofas. Their unique selling point is a hot roast sandwich carved whilst you wait, and it is with that in mind that I pootled in one grim Monday afternoon.

The chirpy cashier that served me was the first thing to cheer me up, and the pleasant bit of theatre that followed whilst she did indeed carve the meat whilst I waited was strangely

pride-inducing, like I'd just given her the break she needed in her acting career. I don't know, that's probably just me, but I appreciated the touch of seeing a genuine bit of well cooked ham in front of me rather than that weird 32% maybe-meat crap that you get in pre-made sandwiches. My roll had a generous amount of filling, and I was very pleased with how generally right and tasty everything was. I managed to find a crown jewel in a trough.

The Foodworks BRONZE AWARD

Straight off the bat, The Foodworks is excellent. It's easily the best place to eat on campus. No contest, in fact. Situated in the elegance of the Lancaster House Hotel, it oozes style, and the chefs have a blatant and intrinsic knowledge of food and how to make you want to get fat on it. The service is a demonstration in waiting perfection, and my wait-

ress Kath Pennington deserves recognition for this.

So, why's it not got gold? And why is it not more suited to the tea/dinner category? Well, regrettably, The Foodworks has a price point to match its excellence, and the cheapest option comes in at £11.50 for a two-course lunch from the deli table. This is by no means a compromise – no, the deli table has a fine sample of options (unless you're vegetarian unfortunately) of cold cuts of local meat, fish, and salad for a starter, an interesting and varied selection of mains, and cute, delectable sponge cake puddings. The cold cuts were not merely a few bits of ham, but slices of authentic chorizo and salami, and the main dishes had surprises in store such as the black bean chicken made by coating the bird rather than putting it with a sauce. There wasn't a single mistake on the counter.

In saying this, though, I simply cannot in all good faith as a critic recommend an £11.50 lunch as the best option in a student newspa-

Tea/Dinner

Atkinson's Fish & Chip Shop GOLD AWARD

You'd be forgiven for not knowing there was a fish and chip shop on campus, what with it being squirreled away in a corner and utterly dwarfed by Pizzetta's presence. It really is a tiny building, and a strictly takeaway-only affair.

It's comforting to be able to grab the most English of takeaways, and the regular staff are very friendly and happy to serve to your tastes regarding more or less condiments. Otherwise, this is very much as you'd expect to find it. The fish is well battered and does away with those horrible over-crunchy bits you can sometimes get at either end, and the chips are soft and greasy, filling a hole the way only chippy chips can. The prices are ridiculous for good reasons; they're so cheap you might even be able to trade them for poetry.

There are some bizarre occasions during their last hour of business when they'll have run out of fish (making them an 'n' chip shop), and, in general, their opening hours can cause confusion as they are open on one day one week, but not the same day next week.

However, if you can find it and get in, this is one of the most recommendable places on campus.

Wong's Chinese Restaurant SILVER AWARD

There's a sign near the till of Wong's Chinese Restaurant that says "We serve good food, not fast food". It made me chuckle nervously to myself, but I was off with my takeaway well inside a decent 20 minute timeframe.

I usually use Wok Express to fulfil my Chinese cravings, and for all intents and purposes they do an alright job of it, so when I broke tradition to review Wong's I was curious to see whether their higher prices would really be worth it. They are. I could immediately tell that my king prawn chow mein had been made with much better, fresher, and, most importantly, tastier ingredients than at Wok Express, as the prawns swam on my tongue with a subtle saltiness that made me question if the chef had just fished for them himself.

The green peppers also kept their flavour and livened up the already delicious noodles.

The downside came from the Western-influenced sweet and sour chicken balls, which had a far too crispy coating. They took too much forking and had too little chicken inside to be worth the staggering £4.50 I doled out for them. In fairness, Wok Express don't do these very well either, but that's at the cost of £2.30.

If you go to Wong's wanting the more typical Chinese dishes, you won't be at all disappointed. They have certainly gained a regular with my custom.

Barker House Farm BRONZE AWARD

The menu at Cartmel's Barker House Farm is exactly the type that parents would love to see: a list of classic British dishes that will keep their spawn scurvy free and peppy.

The ever friendly and genuinely irreplaceable waiting staff brought out my huge helpings quickly. I should note that I'm not greedy, but Barker's portions are ridiculous. Most meals would satisfy two, and if you dare order nachos, they come to you on a platter. A platter! Good grief.

Barker does huge, hearty food, and it does it to your budget too. The phrase cheap and cheerful was invented for places like this, as I had to rely on taste memory to remember what my steak should be like. Don't get me wrong; it was cooked to my liking, it tasted like meat, but it was extremely greasy and lacked the strength and overall hurrah of a bloody good bit of red meat. The sticky toffee pudding was likewise. It was sticky. It was toffee. And, yes, it was a pudding. But there was no sugar rush, no "mmmm" as the warm cake melted in my mouth and the toffee sauce slid down my throat. No, it was just a bit nutty.

Taking all this into account, if cash is sparse and you are hungry, you could do a lot worse than eat here.

The Sandeman's Bar

The Sandeman's Bar, much like The Foodworks, finds itself in sophisticated company by being situated in

the Lancaster House Hotel. The difference between the two eateries is that this bar area is designed for a quicker meal, while The Foodworks would gladly have you relax in their all afternoon or evening long. And in this system lies the problem.

Whereas The Foodworks would like to keep you in and offer you discounts on extra courses for doing so, The Sandeman's Bar is going to make you keep paying full whack every time. It's not that they don't deserve your money, because the food and service is on par with perfection, but, on a student budget, it's too much for too little.

Perhaps if the management could introduce standard offers that don't rely on a Unite card then The Sandeman's Bar could become a special destination like its brother across the hall, but, until then, it's just too expensive.

Café Twenty Ten WOODEN SPOON AWARD

Café Twenty Ten is a new restaurant built in County to be the north campus clone of Barker House Farm.

I went in for a meal and was stared at until I proclaimed that I'd like the beef lasagne. No welcome, no "how are you?", just blankness. It was worse when I went to pay, as the staff member who should have been manning the till had wandered off.

I did pay my £3.50, and regretted it after a couple of mouthfuls of the heavily cheese-topped lasagne. I took a double take and tore bits apart to check I hadn't received a vegetarian option, and there was some meat in there, but it was bland and overpowered at every point by the mountainous layer of cheese. My vegetables were awful too, and had obviously been left alone at all stages of cooking as they were completely tasteless, watery, and cold. No wonder people don't eat their vegetables. The stupid picnic benches they have in there which make it impossible to sit and eat comfortably helped none of this.

Café Twenty Ten need to buck up and introduce a tastier, regular menu akin to Barker in order to achieve success. Until that happens, they can have the Wooden Spoon Award for worst in the tea/dinner category. Perhaps they can use it to cook better things with?

per. While the hotel's Unite card offers discounts of up to 50% off, it is only at 10% as a standard, which doesn't help that much. However, if you have the money, or if you want to celebrate a good coursework mark or the like in a small but worthy way, go here for lunch. It is the undisputed best eatery on campus.

The Private Dining Room

The Private Dining Rooms are a disgrace. They serve excellent food, it costs just £7 for a wonderful three-course meal, and it's disgraceful.

Why? Because it's a staff only venue, and the reason given for this is that staff may want their private space where they can get away for a bit. That's fine, but otherwise there is absolutely no reason as to why they get such better quality of food compared to students. This is especially galling considering the Private

Dining Rooms share a kitchen with the abysmal Café Twenty Ten and is overseen by the same head chef.

I would happily and immediately give the Private Dining Rooms a gold award if they would let me eat there without having to ask the LUSU President to accompany me for lunch. Amusingly, despite staff allegedly wanting to get away to avoid being disturbed, Robbie Pickles was interrupted a couple of times by other staff for a quick chat. Perhaps they just need to get away from us dreadful peons?

This is a public address to Lancaster University's Hospitality Division: please let me savour once again the succulent king prawns sautéed in garlic butter. Let me devour your sugar baked gammon cooked just right. Give my student brethren and me the chance to relish in the sweet-but-not-tangy raspberry roulade.

Give me the chance to eat great food at reasonable prices.

Grizedale Bar WOODEN SPOON AWARD

It's only right that I preface this review with the news that the barman told me after I didn't enjoy my lunch. Soon, although he couldn't tell me a date, Grizedale Bar will be reinventing their lunch menu and getting their own fillings to serve instead of reheating the packaged crap they currently dole out. This review was written before these changes (if they are indeed ever made) were brought in.

So then. You'll know already where they're going wrong. My reheated egg, bacon, and sausage ciabatta was flavoured well with pepper (gasp) but that's the only thing that was right with it. The bread was like cardboard, there was very little egg, the bacon was the fatty rather than flavourful kind of streaky, and there were only three bloody 1p sized bits of sausage in the entire thing. A side salad comprising three leaves that were wilted and trau-

matized accompanied the sandwich. I felt utterly ripped off.

Let's hope Grizedale gets these promised changes soon and they get better because of it. Until then, they get the wooden spoon award, with which they can use to bash open some more abysmal reheatable sandwich packets.

Read more online

Read the rest of Dom's reviews at scan.lusu.co.uk/carolynne including:

- Greggs
- Diggles
- The Venue
- SPAR
- County Diner
- Wibbly Wobbly
- Sultans
- Pizzetta
- Grab & Go at Fylde Bar
- HUB Café

Tuesdays

Dine out for £10*

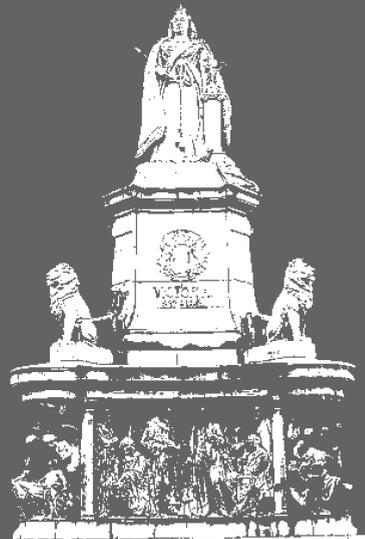
**Enjoy two courses
& glass of wine
for only £10**

* Based on courses from
our selected menu and
a drink of your choice



Bar, Restaurant & Entertainment Venue

01524 845785
www.daltonrooms.co.uk



Dalton
ROOMS

Bar, Restaurant & Entertainment Venue

Fridays

Live Entertainment

Saturdays

Comedy Club

Sundays

World Class Jazz

Check out www.daltonrooms.co.uk for up to date listings, offers and for more details

www.daltonrooms.co.uk

Wizards, pirates and superheroes return in 2011

This year's movie line up see more old favourites than new kids on the block

Hannah Fearon

WITH THE EXCEPTION of this month's *The Green Hornet*, there doesn't seem to be much going on in the world of film this spring. I'm looking forward to *The IT Crowd* and *The Mighty Boosh* star Richard Ayoade's directorial debut with his film *Submarine* released in March. April sees a film adaptation of *Red Riding Hood*, but it looks more *Twilight* than anything else, with a Robert Pattinson wannabe and werewolves being the key features.

The film season really starts to kick off in May with *The Hangover 2* and *Priest*. Little more can be said about the sequel to 2009's *The Hangover*, other than it's set in Thailand and it's another guy getting married. Sticking to the same formula could go either way for director Todd Phillips, but there seems little else in the way of comedy contenders this year. *Priest*, a post-apocalyptic sci fi thriller (a bit of



The Green Hornet kicked off this year's big money movies.

a mouthful already), could be worth a watch, with Paul Bettany as a legendary warrior caught in the war between man and vampire. Perhaps something a little more entertaining to watch than Edward Cullen's mopey glare.

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides hits the big screen on May 20, with Johnny Depp returning as Captain Jack Sparrow. The sequel is only loosely connected to the previous films, with Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley nowhere to be seen. Jack is searching for the Fountain of Youth and joined by a female pirate played by Penelope Cruz.

Then come the summer blockbusters, including the usual superhero flicks. Marvel are putting on quite a show, with *Thor* released in May and *X-Men: First Class* hitting us in June. The prequel focuses on the teenage years of the first series of *X-Men*, with an interesting cast including James McAvoy, Nicholas Hoult and Michael Fassbender. However, the whole teenage superheroes discovering their powers for the first time plot seems a little tired.

DC fight back with *Green Lantern* later that month, with Ryan Reynolds in the lead. I've always been a Marvel fan but I think that DC might just win this battle. Marvel release yet another film, *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, in July, but with the absence of Megan Fox, the series has probably lost half of its fanbase for the final instalment.

Once the superhero season is out of the way, the final part of the *Harry Potter* series comes to cinemas on July 15, with *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2*. I've never been much of a Potter fan, but I'm sure that the suspense of this release will have people squirming in their seats for the next six months.

Autumn sees the Halloween season begin, with a vast number of horrors and thrillers being released. First off is a fifth, yes - fifth, *Final Destination*. Another 3D flick, this time focusing on a suspension bridge accident. Sounds riveting, doesn't it? If it weren't for the emergence of 3D, this franchise would have been killed off long ago. October's a little more promising, with *The Thing*, a prequel to John Carpenter's classic. Carpenter's film is more comical than scary, but it's still a classic horror film. *Paranormal Activity 3* is also released in October, which is inevitable really after the success of the first two films. There's

It's more likely to follow the lines of awful flicks than enter into the exclusive club of successful remakes

little known about the sequel so far, so keep your eyes peeled - or rather, hidden under your duvet. So, as usual, the Halloween season is filled with sequels and remakes. With the *Saw* franchise finally over, Lionsgate release *Dibbuk Box*, in which a family finds a haunted box and struggles to face an evil curse. It doesn't sound that exciting, but maybe it's something to break the sequel cycle.

Along with all the horror of October, there's a remake of *Footloose* which will probably fail terribly. Not to be a pessimist, but it's more likely to follow the lines of awful dance flicks such as *Step Up* than be entered into the rather exclusive club of successful remakes.

Whilst October may not look promising at first glance, my most anticipated release of 2011 hits the screens. *The Rum Diary*, stars Johnny Depp as Paul Kemp, a young New Yorker working on a newspaper in the 1950s. *The Rum Diary* is adapted from the book by Hunter S. Thompson, much like *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* was. I'm a huge fan of Thompson's work, and the film certainly looks promising.

The film adaptation of the final book in the *Twilight* series hits the screens on November 18 (cue masses of Twihards queuing up outside the cinema with I Heart Edward banners and such). Alas, for all you *Twilight* haters, *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn* is merely part one, with the final part being released a year later. How on earth they've managed to drag the book out into two films is beyond me, so prepare for never ending scenes of topless males and sulking glares.

There's little info in the way of releases in December at the moment, but *Sherlock Holmes 2* is set to be a big hit at the box office. Definitely one to watch out for.

green

L A N C A S T E R

SPECIAL OFFER

new bikes

~~RRP: £219.99~~

only £150

accessories pack £20

includes a helmet, lock, lights & pump



**old's
cool**
it's a retro-haven

FRIDAY WEEK 1

ENTRY £3 B4 MIDNIGHT • DOORS: 10.30PM • THIS EVENT IS IN SUPPORT OF LUSU

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE LUSU SHOP

BUSES 10.30 & 11PM FROM THE INFO LAB & 11.30PM FROM THE CHAPLAINCY CENTRE

THE sugarhouse
www.thesugarhouse.co.uk

“PLAY fair. Don't hit people”

- Robert Fulghum

PLAY SATURDAYS

THE sugarhouse
www.thesugarhouse.co.uk

WEDNESDAYS

The Carleton
Student only night

£1 Selected Drinks
All night

FANCY DRESS THEMES EACH WEEK

FOOTKING
Student Promotions

BUSES & TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM CUBA BAR



Admission £4

with NUS or Library card all night
Arrive early to avoid disappointment

Advanced Bus Tickets available from the LUSU Shop from Mondays £1 or from the Underpass & Cuba on the night £1.50

Buses depart from: Underpass & Cuba from (9.45pm)

www.FOOTKING.co.uk

find us on our

facebook Group 'we love the carleton'

Marine Road West, Morecambe. Tel: 01524 414224

Belle and Sebastian frontman's collection of writings is a homely, if inconsistent, read: Fans will love it, others may be pleasantly surprised. By **Joe Henthorn**

Right then, first things first. If you're a big Belle and Sebastian fan, then this will probably be your favourite book of all time. The *Celestial Café* is, for all intents and purposes, a massive excerpt from Stuart Murdoch's diary. As a pretty obsessive music fan, I spend a disproportionate amount of time hunting down and rabidly consuming whatever incoherent ramblings my favourite bands pump out into the blogosphere. Much to my eternal chagrin, it's never much more than a brief "did tour had lols now we're breaking up". But this is a whole book, four years of Murdoch's (and the band's) life, and an incredible insight to the mind of one of indie's most pre-eminent figures. So if you're a Belle and Sebastian fan, you're an extremely lucky person, and you really ought to buy it.

For the uninitiated, Belle and Sebastian are a band that have attained an almost legendary status in the indie music community. They've made some very good music and critics usually throw their first album, 1996's *Tigermilk*, up there with *OK Computer* and *Loveless* in Best British Albums of the 90s lists. If you've heard any of their songs, it will have been *Piazza*, *New York Catcher* on the *Juno Soundtrack*. They're also sandwiched between Robert Burns and Robert the Bruce on the most important people to have come out of Scotland list (though I'm more than happy for any Scots to correct me on that!). The *Celestial Café*, then, is a pretty damn good introduction to the band and their music - it certainly has been for me. The book covers a period that covers countless world-tours, plenty of festivals, and the recording of their (rather good) sixth album, *Dear Catastrophe Waitress*. But is it any good? Well, yes. It's far from perfect, mind - but if you stick with it you'll find that this is a real gem of a book.

This being a diary, Murdoch covers a great deal of topics. There's the usual melange of subjects for a book of this kind: religion, sex, relationships, politics, globalisation and family are all discussed. It's interesting to get a rock star's



Belle and Sebastian's Stuart Murdoch. Photo by scannerfm_flickr/flickr

Glamorous indie rock 'n' roll

perspective on all of these, though his viewpoints aren't particularly novel. The War in Iraq was all about oil, you say? The Town Council are being slightly irksome? The big companies are, like, they're ruining everything man! The observations quickly become fairly inane and it's not helped by the smattering of completely irrelevant anecdotes that make an attempt at being funny but fall flat on their faces. We're treated to riveting tales about how Murdoch popped into Boots before it closed, and learn the crucial details of a time his Internet connection wouldn't work. Couldn't get a dialling tone, he says - how very 2002! It's not particularly gripping stuff and it wears thin extraordinarily quickly. I appreciate that this is a diary, and

that these sort of inconsequential asides are to be expected, but the first part of the book seems to be composed completely of this sort of thing. It makes the opening a really tough read, and it might even put Belle and Sebastian fans off, never mind the laymen. There's also an annoying amount of jarring non-sequiturs, which very nearly made me put the book down out of sheer exasperation. Murdoch's phantom girlfriends phase in and out of the book, and his switch to the religious way of life is never really fully explained. The religious aspects are, to put it bluntly, just a tad annoying, since they rob his often very interesting points about God and religion of any real context. Yet, for a band that have recently released an album called Belle and

Sebastian *Write About Love*, the lack of any real context or content on that matter is a real shame.

Fortunately, it seems like Murdoch also realises this and quickly moves on to the more interesting topics that he's more qualified to talk about. It's not often that a book like this will cover questions like what does indie mean and can video games be art but Murdoch makes frequently interesting observations on such disparate issues. His comments are by turns funny, witty and occasionally poignant, and really redeem the book after the first 100-or-so pages - I know that sounds like a lot, but really, stick with it! The reader is treated to a smorgasbord of very funny anecdotes, most of which relate to life on tour, but

plenty of the Glasgow-related stories are interesting, too. This is mainly because of the weird juxtaposition of the tales of rock n' roll excess - like when the whole band drink themselves into glorious oblivion at the Mercury Awards show - with the perfectly sedate

It's interesting to get a rock star's perspective on all of these, though his viewpoints aren't particularly novel. The War in Iraq was all about oil, you say? The Town Council are being slightly irksome? The big companies are, like, they're ruining everything man!

Glasgow stories - buying super soft slippers as to not disturb the new flatmates downstairs. It's later on in the book when these seemingly innocuous bits and pieces work well, as the story gets more dynamic and Murdoch gets into his stride as a writer. In fact, seeing the progression and the change over the course of a few years is one of the most interesting aspects of the book. Philosophies, ideas and musical tastes all change, but (after the initial lull) it's always top-notch stuff. There's something here for everyone; sure, you'll almost certainly enjoy it more if you are a fan of the guy's musical career, but the themes that Murdoch writes about are so universal that anyone can enjoy reading his insights.

I already feel like I've been a bit too harsh here - this is a very good book. The first 25% of the book is a bit of a let down, but it can be forgiven in light of the remaining 75% of sheer loveliness, regardless of how much Belle and Sebastian mean to you. And anyway, the book's best feature is simply how human it is. People like Murdoch are revered the world over, so it's refreshing to see that he's a very down to earth fellow, someone who still enjoys a weekly kickabout and a cup of tea. Yet he's aware of his own position in life and that's what makes his take on it all so interesting, at least for the majority of the time. After all, this isn't a heart wrenching tome of the sex and drugs rock and roll life - for the most part, anyway. It's a book about reality from a very unique angle, and one which I heartily recommend.

With the holidays quickly disappearing **Ruth Eaton** gives us her perspective on over indulgence and how to stop that all too familiar bloated feeling

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR have come and gone, and for many of us, so have the selection boxes. Passed are the days where a Terry's chocolate orange ticked off one of our five a day and Christmas puddings happily fulfilled our fruit quota for the week. Sadly, normality has returned, but how do we even begin to start taming our eating habits? How do we turn a diet sustained by Violette into one where mince is eaten in Bolognese and not as a sweet treat inside a festive pie?

Indulgence is often kick started by someone waving an open box of biscuits in your face and sadly, at the sight of the chocolate fingers, you're helpless. But with Lent Term a few weeks away it's time to start tearing ourselves away from Fox's luxury selection and towards the dry pasta and cereal. As a student we fend for ourselves in the food department.

Funds permitting, we can experiment with stir fry's, dial a dominoes or even crack out a Sunday roast. So why is it that at Christmas most of the Nigella's and Jamie's amongst us succumb to convenience, letting Mums, Dads and Grandparents serve up the parsnips



Please sir, I don't want any more

instead? Getting back into cooking and planning your own meals will help you realise exactly what and how much you're eating, helping you avoid those greedy moments where portion size seems irrelevant.

It's important to remember that Christmas comes just once a year. The munching of Quality Streets, Roses, and for the odd amongst us, Twiglets, seems never ending at first. But, after a few too many days of familiar stomach cramp most of us begin to understand that just because the Curly Wurly is there, doesn't mean we have to eat it. Making realisations like this confirms we are on our way to a Christmas recovery, ignoring the pain and tucking into another Yule log

takes festive indulgence past satisfaction and hurtling towards greed. When chocolate no longer appears as a novelty but as a constant it's useful to learn when to put down the matchsticks. An array of junk food, albeit interrupted by the occasional sprout, can lead to unnecessary fatigue. Think of all the assignments you'll need your energy for and crack open the bananas, your hips and your essays will look all the better for it.

Most of us will be settled back into a routine at home, maybe working or completing coursework for looming deadlines. When you have lots of busy days it can be difficult to eat sensibly, opting for convenience and practicality over quality. Try to prepare

in advance, especially at lunchtime. A quick sandwich and some fruit won't just save on pennies but will counter balance likely snacking at night. Make use of those oranges that your Gran stuffed in your stocking as a joke, they're free and can finally become useful.

Ultimately in the holidays, the partial bulging of stomachs becomes unavoidable. With fridges and cupboards clearing at speed it's no wonder most of us are just about ready to calm down and forget indulgence. Maybe fruit and veg, and the occasional pot noodle will be welcomed with open arms? After all, who really likes turkey and chocolate that much anyway?

I ♥ VODKA

Your Official Student Night

2 X COCKTAILS	<i>Transcripts & specials only.</i>	£6*
DBL VODKA RED BULL		£2.50
VK'S		£2
SIX SHOT STICK		£5
JÄGERBOMBS		£2

FREE PIZZA

EVERY TUESDAY

LAUNCH PARTY
TUESDAY 12TH OCTOBER

VODKA MISCHIEF

REVOLUTION

Penny Street, Lancaster LA1 1XN T. 01524 60851 lancaster@revolution-bars.co.uk

Let's rewind and revive the 50s

With 2011 well under way **Hugh Metcalf** explores the 50s trends that will have our wardrobes multiplying

It's a new year, so what are your resolutions for 2011? Maybe you need to get out of a style rut? Perhaps you need to add something different and exciting to your closet? Whatever your pledge here's a trend for the New Year that's guaranteed to make you feel better and last a lot longer than giving up alcohol and junk-food.

Fashion has been stuck in the 80s for a while but 2011 is the year it moves even further backwards. This season, Grease is the word. Well, a version of Grease. I'd never want anyone to idolise Sandy, she's a horrible role model.

The difference between 50s revival and 50s fancy dress is attitude. Where a true 50s palette is a cross between pastel and candy, the revival trend is more subtle with off-whites, nudes and muted colours featuring heavily.

Last year the bell-skirt was the essential shape, but for 2011 it's all about the midi-skirt. The midi is



Skirt £16, Jumper £16, Kitten Heel £10 at Topshop. Shoe £80 at Topman.

characterised from being anywhere below the knee to just above a maxi. Often seen as far too modest and unflattering, the midi-skirt has been a vastly unpopular item in our lifetime. But, if you're brave enough to experiment with this piece, it will pay dividends for your street-style for the next year.

An equally controversial piece of the 50s trend kit is the kitten heel. Neither as elevating and glamorous as the stiletto, nor as practical as your flats, this shoe sees very little wear nowadays. Nevertheless, the kitten heel is a small detail that will set off your 50s vintage look.

Men's fashion has also taken a tumble into this time warp, but don't bust out the studded T-bird jacket and hair-gel quite yet. It's important to keep your outfit eclectic to avoid looking outdated. The best item to absorb into your wardrobe is a pair of Brothel Creepers to help you channel your inner Teddy Boy. They may look odd and clunky but these bad boys are the newest cool kid shoes on the old block.

How to wear:

- **The midi-skirt:** The important elements of wearing a midi-skirt for an on trend 50s revival look are pleats and a high cinched waist. Floral print skirts are also a great way to capitalise on 50s kitsch while staying en vogue by following your revival rulebook.
- **The kitten heel:** Keep your shoes simple in both outfits with block colours and floral prints. Pick out a colour detail in your ensemble to match or stick with white and nudes for authentic vintage style.
- **The brothel creeper:** Bang on a pair of these with your skinny jeans for an impressive silhouette. Socks or no socks, it's up to you!

shop LUSU

purple® offers week 1



Buy any hoodie/t-shirt and get a GreenLancaster Bag for ONLY 1p (while stocks last)

ALL OFFERS OPEN TO PURPLECARD HOLDERS ONLY • T&Cs apply

shop.lusu.co.uk

central LUSU

purple® offers week 1



Get 5 pieces of Fruit for ONLY £1

ALL OFFERS OPEN TO PURPLECARD HOLDERS ONLY • T&Cs apply

shop.lusu.co.uk



MYSTIC MACLEOD



CAPRICORN
DEC 22 - JAN 20

Alex Square.

The vile knitted Christmas jumper from Gran doesn't

have to be a burden; if you can't find a hipster who thinks it looks "retro vintage yeah" to give it to then ram it under your front door to keep out that winter draught!

AQUARIUS JAN 21 - FEB 17

Change is in the stars this fortnight, Aquarius! Alteration is afoot, transformation is trotting towards you, modification will be master when conversion comes and you bash your head off a thesaurus and become Little Miss Synonym 2011. Brilliant! Luminous! Incandescent?

PISCES FEB 18 - MAR 20

Festive fun over, it's back to the grind and the deadlines; it is predicted you will come over all blue in January with nothing to look forward to. Get your flat to throw an Amy Winehands party: you're a student in your prime.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

It is predicted you will get consistently caught up in those chilly Sugarhouse queues, Aries. Apparently though, the queuing wall is made from the same bricks as platform 9 3/4! Give yourself a long run up if you're nervous.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 21

Saturn is wavering; you will have to make a big decision very soon! Maybe it's about doing a year abroad, taking a job offer or lecture vs. no lecture. Think like Saturn, Taurus, if you want it then put a ring on it. Good luck.

GEMINI MAY 22 - JUNE 20

Watch out, Gemini, that whiney flatmate will catch you in the corridor this week when you're in a hurry, bothering you about the recycling and odour from your room. Run! She'll make you later than the completion of

CANCER JUNE 21 - JULY 22

It is foretold in the stars that you will be Mr Nice Guy to start off the term; lending your coat to the cold and your money to the poor. Someone you live with will really need your support, so go earn some good friend brownie points.

LEO JULY 23 - AUG 22

Your time at home has really made you appreciate your uni friends. You will attempt to express this new found affection to them through cooking favours and spontaneous hugs. Don't get too teary or they will think you are unwell.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Procrastination over the holidays has come back to bite you where it hurts! Silly Virgo, you will miss all the fresh term fun! Unless, that is, you purchase a small intelligent rodent to patter about on the keys until genius flows.

LIBRA SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Time spent at home with the rents being good for Santa has sent your alcohol tolerance plummeting. Take it easy, Libra, or it is predicted you'll be dragging traffic cones to your room to decorate with squirry cream and vomit.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

After a frankly traumatic Christmas at home in what felt like Armageddon, you discover you have a penchant and aptitude for arguing and throwing objects long distance. Head to Refreshers Fair to find an outlet for your skills.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Santa put a new partner in your stocking this Christmas, ooh giggedy! Unfortunately your pals will not like the new meat, putting you between a rock and a hard place. Make new friends, Saggy, your existing ones are clearly dire people.

THE QUIZ - Literature

1. Which 14th Century poet wrote the Canterbury Tales?
2. What did Sherlock Holmes keep in the toe of a Persian slipper?
3. Who was the playwright son of Mary Arden?
4. Who wrote Paradise Lost?
5. In the Wind in the Willows, Toad has three companions. Who were they?

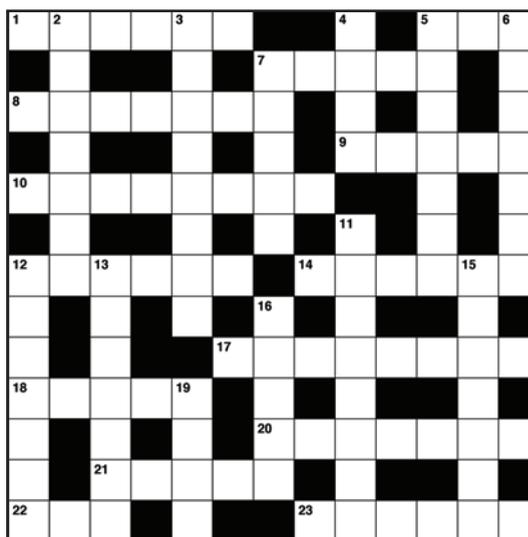
Answers below

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 - Consequence (6)
- 5 - Slippery liquid (3)
- 7 - Courageous (5)
- 8 - Attract (7)
- 9 - Droll (5)
- 10 - Supporter of James II (8)
- 12 - Margaret ____ : Canadian novelist (6)
- 14 - Throws (6)
- 17 - Physical wounds (8)
- 18 - Bodies of water (5)
- 20 - Pipe-like (7)
- 21 - Female relation (5)
- 22 - Canine (3)
- 23 - Procession (6)

Down

- 2 - Sweet icing (7)
- 3 - A set of recipes (8)
- 4 - Pack tightly (4)
- 5 - They are said to be the food of love (7)
- 6 - Legal practitioners (7)
- 7 - Irritate (5)
- 11 - Capital of South Carolina (8)
- 12 - Clap hands (7)
- 13 - Labouring (7)
- 15 - Green gemstone (7)
- 16 - Get together (5)
- 19 Wets (anag) (4)

The Su Doku

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

3	7	8			4			5
	6	2	8			9	4	
5				3		7		
				5	1	6	2	
			6		8			
	4	1	3	9				
		6		2				8
	3	9			7	4	1	
8			4			5	9	2

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

		8				4		
					2		8	7
2	6		8	9				
							5	2
6	5	1				3	9	8
9	3							
				7	6		3	1
4	1		5					
		6				9		

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Answers: (1) Geoffrey Chaucer, (2) His tobacco, (3) William Shakespeare, (4) John Milton, (5) Ratty, Mole and Badger

THE LIVE GIG

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 9PM

AN ECLECTIC MIX OF LIVE MUSIC FROM LOCAL AND UNI ARTISTS

WUN!

Set Stuffed

BEEN THERE - GOT THE T-SHIRT!

Come along and be in with a chance to win a 'Get Stuffed' t-shirt!

SELECTED SHOTS & SPIRITS EVERY MON, TUES, THURS, FRI FROM 9PM

£1.50

THE PLOUGH - WWW.PLOUGH-GALGATE.CO.UK

WE'RE JUST 5 MINUTES AWAY - TO BOOK A TABLE CALL 01524 751337