

University appoints new Vice Chancellor

Smith replaces Wellings

Matt Power
Editor

Following a special meeting of University Council on August 4th, Lancaster University have announced the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor. Professor Mark Smith, who currently holds the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Warwick, will take up the post from January 2012.

After the announcement was confirmed, Professor Smith spoke to Lancaster University's website. "Being appointed to lead Lancaster University is a great honour and tremendously exciting. I am delighted to have this opportunity to work with the community of talented colleagues to advance the high quality of teaching and research and to pursue Lancaster's international ambitions," he said.

He added, "I wish Professor Wellings well in his new post. It is a tribute to his leadership that I join a financially robust institution with an outstanding campus and a strong international reputation."

Smith, who grew up in Suffolk, is a highly reputable physicist who studied at Churchill College, Cambridge before completing his PhD at Warwick. He has enjoyed a rapid rise through Warwick's senior management, and has now been appointed Lancaster Vice Chancellor just 20 months since taking the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor

at Warwick.

Pro-Chancellor Brian Gray, who led the selection panel which appointed Smith, gave a statement explaining the appointment. Smith "impressed the panel considerably with his strategic insight, personality and demonstrable strengths in financial and staff management," Gray said.

"A respected academic with a reputation for 'making things happen', Smith demonstrated in interview a good understanding of the necessary balance between collegiality and clear, strategic focus and a commitment to delivering change in a globally competitive organisation," Gray continued.

LUSU President George Gardiner was present at the meeting that approved the new appointment. Speaking to SCAN after the announcement, Gardiner was positive about the new appointment.

"Professor Smith has an excellent track record, reflected in his rapid promotion during his time at Warwick. I am very enthusiastic to establish a good working relationship with the new Vice-Chancellor and eagerly anticipate what he has to offer the University," he said.

Gardiner added "Our newly appointed Vice-Chancellor is well aware of the challenges ahead within the Higher Education sector and I hope that he is able to steer us through it, whilst maintaining the high level of student experience we currently provide at Lancaster."



Editor

Matthew Power
scan@lancaster.ac.uk
01524 592613

Assistant Editor

Jonnie Critchley
scan.assistanteditor@lusu.co.uk

Carolynne Editor

Ruth Eaton
scan.carolynne@lusu.co.uk

News Editor

Erin O'Reilly
scan.news@lusu.co.uk

Comment Editor

Paul Hannah
scan.comment@lusu.co.uk

Sports Editors

Rhys Elias
Alex Rastall
scan.sports@lusu.co.uk

Features Editor

Nick O'Dowd
scan.features@lusu.co.uk

Lifestyle Editor

Hannah Husthwaite
scan.lifestyle@lusu.co.uk

Culture Editor

Joe Henthorn
scan.culture@lusu.co.uk

Website Editor

Craig Bojko
scan.website@lusu.co.uk

Head of Photography

Meher Gupta
scan.photography@lusu.co.uk

Marketing & Advertising

Louise Mason
l.mason@lancaster.ac.uk

SIXTY SECOND SCAN

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NEWS

Involve host students from overseas

Erin O'Reilly
News Editor

LUSU Involve's International Opportunities Programme recently played host to 83 students visiting from Pakistan, Malaysia and India for a three-week programme this summer.

The programme is not just a way for students from a variety of different cultures to experience life at Lancaster University, but is also seen as a way to enhance their own personal and professional development, achieved through interaction with multiple businesses, government officials, academics and community organisations.

Within the group were five students from COMSATS Institute of Information and Technology in Pakistan, 33 from Sunway University in Malaysia and 45 from GD Goenka World Institute in India.

Along with spending time in Lancaster, the students also travelled down to the International Leadership Summit held in London. The three-day event enabled students to attend a variety of talks from renowned business leaders such as IBM, KPMG, Centrica and Ernst & Young.

Melody Hossaini, recent contestant on the BBC's *The Apprentice*, was amongst the guest speakers. Hossaini is the Founder and Director of global social enterprise,

InspirEngage. Other speakers included representatives from the British Council and Speakers' Trust, a training organisation which specialises in public speaking.

A trip to Parliament was also included in the visit, where students met with Lancaster University alumnus Tom Levitt MP and the Rt. Hon Patricia Hewlett MP, to learn more about British politics.

International Opportunities Intern, Kim Warrillow, said that "a personal highlight [of the visit] was seeing the students apply what they had learnt in the previous weeks when they were in London."

LUSU Involve's International Exchange Programme will also see 55 students heading overseas in September, with 28 travelling to Sunway University and 27 travelling to GD Goenka World Institute. Students will take part in a variety of different activities during their three week stay.

Heather Yates, International Opportunities Manager at LUSU Involve, commented that: "Student exchange between Lancaster University campuses around the world can only enhance the student experience. Specifically allowing students to become internationalised, informed and connected individuals, who will endeavour to support their communities and future careers."



Students from Malaysia and Pakistan at the farewell event. Photo by Matthew Power

Green Lancaster deemed edible

Natalie Walker

Green Lancaster, one part of LUSU Involve, has recently been 'Highly Commended' at the Incredible Edible Awards in the Higher Education/Further Education category for their orchard, organic gardens and chicken run projects.

The awards are run by local organisation Local and Effective Sustainable Solutions (LESS), and celebrate local growing projects from schools, community groups and individuals.

The judges were particularly impressed with the level of student input and the integrated approach to local growing, environ-

mental education, and considerations for native species and wildlife.

On receiving the award, Volunteer Coordinator Jonny Casey said, "The award is a fantastic recognition of the exceptional work all our volunteers have contributed to our projects this year. This has really inspired us to continue to develop the orchard area further. The University Facilities team have been a brilliant help too."

The organic garden project is a student-led team that grows crops of organic vegetables and fruit on a small campus allotment. The chicken run project allowed students to rear hens on campus, most of which

have been rescued from a battery farm. The students then went on to sell the eggs at a weekly farmers' market.

The orchard project aimed to encourage students and staff to make better use of the campus, while focusing on sustainable growing. Tasks within this project included tree planting, building a compost facility and laying paths. PhD students from the University's 'high-wire project' have also used the area for a 24hr 'hackathon', while PhD students from Lancaster Environment Centre have provided wildflower seeds to encourage pollinators.

Lancaster and Liverpool in collaboration talks

Samantha Newsham

Collaboration talks between Lancaster and the University of Liverpool have sparked fears of a merger, along with claims that dealings between institutions have not been properly transparent.

On 1 July, it was announced to all staff via the Press Office newsletter LU-Text that Lancaster and Liverpool had set up a Joint Strategic Planning Group to "explore the benefits of closer collaboration." A week later, the independent online newsletter Subtext published a special edition claiming that collaboration was merely a euphemism for 'merger'. The Subtext newsletter also expressed the opinion that the University had not told members of Senate and University Council, its governing bodies, until it absolutely had to.

"Clearly, this was something that was well underway before anybody in Senate or even Council had even heard about it," the newsletter said. "It is almost as though those at Lancaster who have been principally involved in setting this course of action in train [...] realised that they were about to be found out, and so engaged in these damage-limitation exercises."

The Lancaster Guardian also picked up on the story, running a front-page article on 14 July headlined 'University in 'merger talks' with Liverpool' which expressed fears that a merger would lead to redundancies across both institutions.

The University, however, has firmly denied all claims that the planning group is looking to consider a merger. In an email to staff on 19 July, Lancaster's Vice Chancellor Professor Paul Wellings said: "The Group's discussions are focussed on ways in which the two universities can collaborate in their long term strategic interest and are not based on short term finan-



The University of Liverpool was founded in 1881. Photo by Tom Patterson

cial considerations. [...] Unfortunately, there has been some unhelpful, erroneous speculation in the media that the Group has been set up to discuss a merger between the two institutions. This is not true."

Lancaster and Liverpool already have several research and teaching collaborations in place in medicine, particle physics and social sciences.

"Little chance of students being directly affected"

The planning group, which is chaired by Professor Sir Colin Lucas, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford, met during July and its initial findings were reported to University Council at the start of August. A further statement was issued by the University after this

meeting which said: "It was agreed to continue to look at opportunities in the coming months and the universities will consider a Green Paper in September. This will be discussed by Council and Senate. New and innovative ways to collaborate will be explored especially around international strategy and research."

All University statements have stressed that any collaboration will only be pursued if it supports Lancaster's Strategic Plan. No further information has been made available, however; no senior members of staff have offered comments and no other members of the planning group have been named.

So far it is thought unlikely that collaboration will have a significant impact on the student experience.

"Due to the fundamental difference in student experience at the two universities there seems little chance of our students being directly affected," said LUSU President George Gardiner. "However, we have to ensure that any further discussions do not lead to a negative impact

on Lancaster University students."

University statements also say that collaboration aims to allow Lancaster to take full opportunity of a Government White Paper on Research and Innovation which is expected to be published in autumn 2011. According to Subtext, the White Paper "will examine the question of research funding, among other things, and it is widely thought that it will recommend its concentration in a small top tier of HE institutions."

The issue of dealing with severe budget cuts is one currently facing all UK universities. In September 2010, the Minister of State for Universities and Science, David Willetts, told the Universities UK Annual Conference that universities should be looking to share back-office services between institutions to cut costs. It has recently been announced that the University of Warwick, along with five other currently unnamed institutions, are planning to share some administrative and IT services to improve efficiency.

Analysis: What does it mean?

Samantha Newsham

So what is Lancaster looking to gain from collaborating with Liverpool? Leave aside for a moment the sordid issue of financial considerations the University has summarily dismissed and think about the institutions' relative positions in the league tables. In any table you can put your hand on, in student satisfaction, in graduate employment, Lancaster outranks Liverpool significantly. We might be forgiven for wondering if Liverpool has more to gain in terms of raising prestige.

It was announced in February of this year that the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham are to enter a partnership. Although this, like the Lancaster-Liverpool collaboration, is not a merger, the universities will share academic staff and work together to expand markets abroad. Nottingham has links with Asia whilst Birmingham is closer to North America, giving each institution the opportunity to take advantage of the other's partnerships.

International students are big business with universities these days – and not just international students but international partnerships. Both Lancaster and Liverpool have strong links with universities in China. Recent changes to Chinese law have made it easier for foreign universities to forge links with Chinese institutions and it may be that they are both looking to develop further their presence there.

Sordid as financial considerations may be, we cannot ignore them in a discussion of potential gain. The Birmingham-Nottingham partnership came hard on the heels of cuts to both universities' budgets. The Government would like universities to share administrative services and the Government holds the purse strings.

New scheme offers deposit security

Emma Hughes

A new nation-wide scheme called SAFE Agent has been launched to ensure students are financially protected when paying deposits and rent to landlords.

The initiative has been set up in the wake of the recent economic recession, which saw many tenants out of pocket after their letting agent absconded or closed down without repaying deposits.

Currently, letting agents and landlords can voluntarily sign up to be part of a client money protection scheme, but the scope of these is wide, with varying levels of credibility making it confusing for first-time renters.

Instead, SAFE Agent aims to bring all the chief client protection schemes together and award landlords who are members of the schemes one clear title – that of SAFE.

If a letting agent is registered as SAFE it means they are 'Safe Agent Fully Endorsed', and thus any financial transactions between the agent and a tenant are protected.

The National Union of Students (NUS) has thrown their support behind the initiative. In a recent statement they said: "NUS is proud to support the SAFE Agent scheme. All too often students can fall prey to letting agents who do not have client money protection.

"We know that the private

rented sector is growing... and therefore it's vital that we have mechanisms in place to make this a safe and professional sector."

So far, 1,000 landlords and letting agents have signed up to the scheme. LUSU Living, however, is yet to sign up. Currently, it regulates the landlords on its books through Lancaster City Council's accreditation scheme.

The SAFE scheme is also finding popularity with students. "It's hard enough to find a house without having to worry that the landlord is trying to rip you off," said Claire Braintree, of County College. "All a student needs to know is if the landlord is SAFE."



Hope Street is full of students. Photo by David Bleasdale

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Professor Mark Smith: interview

Matthew Power
Jonnie Critchley
Editor/Assistant Editor

Following his announcement as Paul Wellings's successor, Lancaster's next Vice Chancellor Mark Smith sat down for an interview with SCAN Editor Matthew Power.

Asked for his initial reactions to being appointed Vice Chancellor, Smith said that he was "hugely excited" to be taking up the position, explaining that "Lancaster in the sector has a very positive reputation, particularly in the past decade in the way that it has been seen to improve and do lots of great things. To have this opportunity at a university with that reputation is really very exciting for me."

Smith spoke of his appreciation of being able to learn about the University throughout the application process. "There were lots of chances to ask questions and find out where different bits of the University thought they were going. Particularly, how it sees itself developing over the next few years, and all of that was very positive and there was plenty of chance to meet people and talk to them. The interview process itself was very thorough in the sense that there was plenty questions asked of me and hopefully I gave some of the right answers," he said.

Smith has clearly had the opportunity to educate himself about Lancaster, citing the National Student Survey (NSS) and the Research Excellence Framework amongst an increasing amount of publicly available information about institutions as useful indicators of the University's position.

From a student's perspective, he said, "something that would be very relevant to you is the National Student Survey. You go back ten years ago and that didn't exist. This now gives a public snapshot of how the students view the

teaching. So you can get a lot of information about a university externally now."

The most recent NSS results were to be published soon after the interview, and although he hadn't yet seen them, Smith told SCAN that they were "certainly something I'm looking forward to having a look at," having spoken with Lancaster's Pro-Vice Chancellor (Colleges and Student Experience) Amanda Chetwynd.

"You have to find out what the people who make up the University really think about it as well"

However, Professor Smith was keen to stress that he wanted to get to know the side of Lancaster University not portrayed by statistics. "You then of course have to find out what the people who make up the University really think about it as well, because of course the people who lived it day-to-day can add the colour to those numbers. So it's taking those two things [statistics and opinion] together."

Smith will arrive at Lancaster following the University's recent rise in national league tables, which he is keen to continue. "I think obviously the answer is one has to be keen to maintain that position but of course you have to keep asking yourself how do we do that because there are a lot of competitive institutions in the UK who actually want to move themselves up, so therefore you can't stay where you are by

standing still.

You've got to keep challenging yourselves and saying, 'how do we improve actually where we are?' Understanding what it is you can do better, understanding why it is you are where you are, [which] sometimes isn't easy for any institution, and I'm not talking about Lancaster specifically here."

SCAN suggested the importance of avoiding complacency, which Smith agreed with. He appeared impressed with the mentality of the people he had met so far at Lancaster. "[Complacency] is the worst of all possible things. But I don't see any complacency here I have to say. From the discussions I've had with people, they want to keep the position and improve upon it, and they want to keep earning the right to be in that position."

"I look forward to very fruitful discussions with the Students' Union"

Talk of Lancaster's collaboration with Liverpool University has been rife in recent weeks, with the Lancaster Guardian running a front-page article in July claiming that these could even lead to a merger. Having asked about this during the application process, Smith said: "What I think is, my understanding [...] is that there are discussions going on about how universities, in this case Liverpool and Lancaster, can cooperate more to make themselves more competitive. So particularly in research – if you look at the agenda for research coming



Professor Mark Smith is currently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor at

out of both research councils and government – the idea of collaboration is something that all organisations are being challenged on."

Smith sees the current discussion as "a very broad range discussion about what is and isn't possible, [and] what does it mean for the institutions. I think that's the stage we are at at the moment, looking at the case of where does it make sense for us to work together."

Smith was also keen to point out that collaboration should not be seen as a way of saving money, having already commented to the Lancaster Guardian that the talks would not lead to staff redundancies. "It's about how do we work together as institutions to actually improve," he said. "It's a very

'what if?' strategic discussion, not a nuts-and-bolts 'how do we save a little bit of money?' discussion."

The conversation moved on to consider the role of the Students' Union, about which the new Vice Chancellor was very positive. "I think university is all about two key things, although their missions are very broad. One of those two key things is obviously the student education experience element, and any university which doesn't do this with their students' union I think is missing a trick."

"I look forward to hopefully very fruitful discussions and interactions with the Students' Union to be able to understand from your point of view what the University is doing well and doing less well, and how we work



The University of Warwick. Photo provided by the University of Warwick

The new Vice Chancellor must offer leadership

George Gardiner
LUSU President

The Higher Education sector is in turmoil. The Government consistently offers no clear leadership or vision and students, from 2012, will be burdened with a debt that is equivalent to a small mortgage. The level of uncertainty around the country's institutions reflects the recent White Paper; students being told they will be at the heart of the system is a nice focus point, but without any concrete proposals it's difficult to see how the sector will be improved.

national partners and most recently ongoing talks over collaboration with Liverpool. These areas require great skill in leadership and will shape the immediate and long term future of Lancaster.

"It is an exciting time to be a student at Lancaster"

However, he must also understand the importance and role the Students' Union has to play within the University. Student experience is, quite rightly, the buzz phrase around the sector and it is time for universities to recognise that; and specifically here in Lancaster. LUSU has a great track record of providing students with a wide variety of opportunities that give new experiences, are fun and make students more employable. Moving forward, further unlocked potential that LUSU has to offer can be realised through greater communication between the Union and University.

My challenge to the incoming V-C is to communicate and work proactively with LUSU; the potential to truly provide a fantastic and unique Lancaster experience is there to be realised. The year ahead will provide challenges for everyone within the sector, but it will also provide opportunities. It is an exciting time to be a student at Lancaster and already we are excited for the start of term in October.

"Professor Smith has a fantastic track record"

University Vice-Chancellors need to be taking a renewed lead in the sector as they work to provide a university experience that justifies the fees students starting in 2012 will be paying. Here at Lancaster we will be welcoming our sixth V-C, Professor Mark Smith, in January and it is with great anticipation, as well as expectation, that we await his arrival. Professor Smith has a fantastic track record and has quickly risen through the ranks at Warwick. The incoming V-C will need to maintain and consolidate the University's current position and research activity if Lancaster wishes to continue to be a top institution.

Professor Smith must provide concrete leadership in the obvious areas such as research, teaching, inter-

together to keep Lancaster in the position that it has earned itself over the past few years.

"I think if you don't understand what that key constituency, the student body, what they think about things, then you're missing a trick, and as I say, I'm looking forward to doing that," he said.

Alongside being known for his rapid movement up the senior management of Warwick and now Lancaster Universities, Smith has an excellent reputation for his research in the field of Physics. He hopes to be able to keep up his own work as well as leading Lancaster, taking inspiration from Warwick Vice Chancellor Professor Nigel Thrift. However, Smith is under no illusions regarding the scale of his responsibilities as

Vice Chancellor.

"I've got no illusions as to what the number one job is, it's actually to be the Vice Chancellor of the University of Lancaster, that is the number one priority and then we'll see what space gets left [for research]," he stressed.

Smith has an excellent reputation for his research

"As I've moved through the Warwick system as Pro-Vice Chancellor and then Deputy Vice Chancellor,

I have been able to maintain a research career, but [I've] had to alter what [my] expectations are, what [I] can actually achieve and I think I'm in a similar position now. I just need to similarly work out in this current context what is and isn't possible."

Smith will maintain contact with his previous employer Professor Thrift for advice; "he has been a very good boss to work with and I'm sure I'll be leaning on him every now and then to ask him how he manages it all," he said.

Professor Mark Smith will become the sixth Vice Chancellor of Lancaster University in January 2012, when Professor Wellings departs to take up his role at Wollongong University, Australia.

Further strikes likely in academics' pension dispute

Jonnie Critchley
Assistant Editor

The University and College Union (UCU), which represents approximately half of Lancaster University's academic staff, is balloting its members over further industrial action in protest at changes to pensions. The dispute has already seen lecturers walk out in two days of strikes in March this year, and it is expected that this vote will lead to further action.

Action is likely to include at least a one-day national strike as well as action short of a strike, both of which would disrupt teaching.

The dispute between UCU and the Employers' Pension Forum (EPF) is over

changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), a pension scheme for academics and related staff. The changes proposed by the employers were narrowly approved at a meeting between the parties in May, much to the displeasure of the academics, and come into effect from October 1st.

James Groves, Press Liaison over the dispute for Lancaster University's UCU branch, spoke to SCAN about recent developments. He stressed that saying the changes have been "approved" is an over-simplification; "the employer and UCU reps were deadlocked and the Chair's casting vote was used to approve the employers' proposals," he said, add-

ing that "this did not come as a surprise to UCU's national negotiators (or to Lancaster UCU)."

Under the new system, those joining USS after October 1st will be on a different type of pension scheme from existing members, effectively creating a two-tier scheme. The key difference is in the way pension payments are calculated; existing members will retain their final salary pension, but new entrants will be on a career-average system.

On the final salary scheme, members are paid a percentage of their final salary throughout retirement. Under a career-average system, payments are calculated at the end of each scheme

year and added to previously accumulated benefits. These benefits accrue interest up to the age of retirement.

UCU argue that new entrants will receive a significantly smaller pension as a result. In a letter to members in June, UCU General Secretary Sally Hunt said, "if you are a new entrant to the scheme, you will now join a vastly inferior pension, with a very poor average benefit structure."

Hunt also stressed that the changes will disadvantage all members of the scheme. "While our campaign has won protection for existing members, who can stay in the final salary pension scheme, the employers are pushing through changes

that remove your right to an unreduced pension if you are made redundant. At a time when we face tremendous insecurity in our sector, this is a naked attempt to make it cheaper to sack you and your colleagues," the letter said.

It is now likely that strikes will take place in Michaelmas Term, with the result of the ballot being announced in September expected to be in favour of action. Groves sees a one-day national strike as "pretty much inevitable," and also suggested that action short of a strike "could well include a marking boycott of some form."

UCU are also hoping to promote their cause with some "high-visibility protests" in Intro Week.

LUSU unveil new Education and Support Unit

Emma Nelson

LUSU Advice's Education and Support Unit has undergone a complete rebranding "in response to the vast changes currently being made to Higher Education," according to the Unit's newly appointed staff member.

The changes made include the appointment of an Education and Policy Adviser, which will benefit both current and future students, using both training and research to assist the Executive Committee in policy making.

Students will also see a visible growth in the centre's online identity, along with "a more proactive approach with campaigns regarding academic and welfare issues."

Newly-appointed Education and Support Unit Manager Natalie Read explained that the development of the centre will allow the Union to "invest a greater amount of time into addressing student issues and enhancing the student experience."

Such issues range from plagiarism and exam stress to debt management

and sexual health, and can all be dealt with effectively through the expertise and help of a "team of three professional advisers."

Students can also seek advice regarding University procedures and policies, and can be accompanied by officers from the centre to any meetings or hearings with the University.

LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) Matt Saint is positive about the changes. "This allows a more singular focus from a management angle on the [Education Support Unit] which will help with direction and clarity of its role for students. I think this is a positive change that will hopefully allow us to engage with and support more students than before."

Students can receive free and confidential advice within normal working hours during the week, excluding the University vacation. Appointments are also bookable via the Information Desk between 5-7pm on week nights and between 11am and 5pm at weekends.

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Higher Education White Paper a 'recipe for disaster'

Lizzie Houghton

The Government's recent higher education White Paper was 'a real missed opportunity' according to Lancaster's Vice Chancellor.

The long-awaited White Paper outlines the future of higher education and student funding and has caused controversy in the higher education circle since its publication at the end of June. Sir Steve Smith, the outgoing president of Universities UK, the body that represents UK universities, said that with the White Paper the Government had given the green light to a market for A-level students with the best grades.

Universities will be allowed to offer incentives to AAB students

Under the proposals set out in the White Paper, from September 2012 English institutions will be able to take on an unlimited number of students who achieve AAB grades at A-Level. Universities will be allowed to offer financial incentives to these students, effectively producing a bidding war for the best and brightest students. Universities could offer these students cut-price deals or bursaries to try to secure them for their institutions.

But there are pitfalls for institutions that attract fewer top pupils than they do currently. Sir Steve said: "The complication for universities is if you don't recruit the same percentage of students

with AAB or better than you had last year what happens is you lose the funding for those students.

"That means those students become very attractive and thus institutions will do what they can to lower the cost of attending university in order to attract them."

Recent data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) has shown that the universities most likely to benefit from this ability to recruit unlimited numbers of high-achieving students are those that currently perform lowest on widening participation.

HESA's data shows that universities in the existing AAB elite have a strong showing in tables of institutions with the fewest students from state schools, from less wealthy socio-economic classes and from low-participation neighbourhoods, the Agency's three widening participation indicators.

Of the 10 universities with the highest proportions of AAB students, six are in the bottom 10 of English institutions on all three widening participation indicators. These are Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London, Bristol, University College London and Exeter.

Speaking to the Times Higher Education supplement, Les Ebdon, chair of the Million+ group of newer universities, said the "misguided AAB policy will result in more resources for the most socially exclusive universities."

"By favouring measures of input quality over measures of added value, the government is damaging widening participation, which it claims to favour."

The General Secretary of the University and College Union, Sally Hunt, branded the introduction of a higher education market as "a reci-



Vince Cable. Photo provided by Department for Business, Innovation & Skills

pe for disaster."

"With teaching budgets being slashed by 80%, institutions are desperate to attract students to replace this lost income," she said.

"The Government is obviously hoping that expanding places for students with AAB grades will lead to a bidding war and drive down costs, after it spectacularly botched up its sums on university funding. I fail to see how moving from a system where there is collaboration between institutions to one which encourages cut-throat competition is in the interest of our sector."

In contrast, the 1994 Group of research intensive universities welcomed the introduction of "flexibility to the allocation of student places" as positive news.

Lancaster University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings, speaking in his role as Chair of the '94 Group said: "It's good news that the White Paper will introduce flexibility to the allocation of student places. Allowing the best universities the freedom to expand will encourage competition for students based on the quality of experience on offer. However, the Government needs to take a rich view of quality. High quality student experiences are not confined to a small

group of institutions that are perceived to be the elite.

"The Government also needs to avoid driving down standards by auctioning students to low cost institutions. Student places must be awarded where there is clear evidence of good value. We should not encourage higher education providers to short-change students by cutting corners. We will look at the details of student places with interest."

"It's good news that the White Paper will introduce flexibility to allocation"

Wellings also pointed out that in not mentioning financial support for research, postgraduate students or the internationalism of the British higher education sector, the Government had failed to seriously consider Britain's global standing.

He added: "At a time when international competitors are growing ever stronger on all

of these factors, the White Paper's failure to set forth a comprehensive and compelling vision is a real missed opportunity."

The new president of Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU), George Gardiner, said: "LUSU is continuing its proactive approach in response to the changing environment in higher education. Following the publishing of the White Paper, LUSU is looking to strengthen student representation in order to ensure value for money, whilst simultaneously helping students understand their rights and obligations under the new system."

"The Union will continue to play its part in national consultation, developing opportunities for students that will help to make Lancaster University the university of choice for more prospective students. In particular we will deliver activities to support widening participation, whilst consistently ensuring all our activities support the development of student employability." The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills caveated the changes, saying universities will need to meet tough new criteria for attracting the brightest students from lower income backgrounds, including fee waivers and bursaries.

There's no longer an app for that - iPad scheme unsuccessful

Emily Turner

Feedback from students has indicated that the Learning Zone's iPad loan scheme was ultimately unsuccessful after a trial period. The responses suggested that the technology was not a useful resource, and due to poor take-up there are no plans to continue the loan system next year.

This comes after the purchase of over £8000-worth of technology. With each of the twenty 16GB Wi-Fi enabled models costing £439 plus VAT, students' reactions were mixed even at the beginning of the trial.



Photo by Yutaka Tsutano

The iPads cost £8000 to purchase

"iPads are a waste of money" said Aran Wilkinson, a third year Computing Student. "They could have spent the money making the Learning Zone a better area

for users with laptops."

It was thought that the iPads would be popular given the success of the laptop loan scheme which was introduced free of charge to students and staff, and has proved useful in the Learning Zone.

Commenting on the disappointing result of the iPad trial, Chris Dixon, Head of Service Delivery and Opera-

tions for ISS, confirmed that iPad loans would not be continued until service could be improved.

"Instead, we are extending the number of laptops available and also offering longer loans via the library," he explained.

Following reports on Apple online forums, there were also concerns regarding personal information being

stored on the devices. However, ISS guaranteed that this was not an issue after having fully tested each iPad to ensure that no user settings were left behind.

Dixon concluded in a statement: "We are always keen to respond to student feedback, and while some will be disappointed about the iPad loans, I feel that our time is better spent deliver-

ing the things that students tell us they want."

"I feel that our time is better spent delivering things students tell us they want"

It has not been announced what will happen to the £8000-worth of hardware that ISS purchased at the beginning of 2011.

Recent figures showed that Apple had sold over 28 million units since the iPad was launched in April 2010. The iPad accounts for for 75% of tablet PC sales worldwide in 2010. Technology critics have praised the tablet's quantity of applications and high quality screen.

Students and staff mourn passing of lecturer

Jonnie Critchley
Assistant Editor

Students from the Linguistics and English Language Society (LAEL) are arranging to pay tribute to a popular member of staff from the department who was killed in a car accident earlier this month. Professor Anna Siewierska was on holiday in Vietnam when the accident occurred on August 6th; she was the only casualty after a lorry collided with the minibus in which she and her husband

were travelling.

A brief announcement on the department's website informed people of the news, also promising that tributes and details of a memorial will be posted in the near future. An email to the same end was also sent to students and staff of the department.

Professor Siewierska had been Professor of Linguistics and Human Communication at Lancaster since 1994, having served for three years as Head of Department during that time.

She had previously worked and studied at universities in Holland, Poland and Australia.

Acting Head of the Department Paul Kerswill told SCAN that "we were shocked to learn of the death of our colleague and friend Anna Siewierska. Anna was a linguist at the very peak of her career, on a still upward trajectory."

"She was a leading figure in the Societas Linguistica Europaea, and was to have given two papers at its September conference."

A statement from LAEL Society Treasurer Grace Fitzpatrick paid tribute to Sierwierska. "Anna was a remarkable woman who commanded respect from her students and who would also go out of her way to help them. We are all truly shocked and saddened by this tragic news. She will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her students," she said.

Fitzpatrick added, "we got to know a friendly side of Anna outside of lectures and knew her as somebody we

could turn to."

To pay their respects, the LAEL society has organised for a card to be sent to Professor Sierwierska's family containing messages of condolence from many students. This was "to make sure they know how much she touched our lives and how valued she was as a Professor," said Fitzpatrick.

Students also plan to pay tribute closer to the date of the memorial which is being arranged by the Linguistics and English Language Department.

EST. 2010

CAROLYNNE

STUDENT CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

THIS YEAR'S
BEST FESTIVALS

CAROLYNNE WTF?

CAROLYNNE'S STORY GOES BACK TO THE VERY BEGINNING OF LANCASTER UNIVERSITY. WILLIAM SMETHURST, A BOWLAND STUDENT, TOOK A FANCY TO ANOTHER STUDENT CALLED CAROLYNNE. IN A BIT TO ATTRACT HER ATTENTION, HE NAMED A CULTURAL MAGAZINE AFTER HER. IN 1968, THE COUPLE ANNOUNCED THEIR ENGAGEMENT, SO WILLIAM'S TRIBUTE PAID OFF.

FAST FORWARD TO 2010 AND THE THEN SCAN EDITOR, LIZZIE HOUGHTON, DECIDED TO CREATE A NEW SUPPLEMENT WITHIN THE STUDENTS' UNION NEWSPAPER. CAROLYNNE WAS DEDICATED TO LIFE AS A STUDENT AT LANCASTER UNIVERSITY.

WITH FEATURES, LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE, CAROLYNNE IS YOUR ONE STOP SHOP FOR LIFE IN LANCASTER.

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TOURISM TRAP TENERIFE & ME



Photo by Kristel Jax

FEATURES

One thing I love most about going on holiday is the chance to experience a new culture. Trying to obtain a vague grasp of the language, deciphering restaurant menus, understanding the history and traditions of the new place and experiencing the city by night. This summer I went on my first beach holiday to Tenerife and I had no idea what to expect.

Upon arriving in Tenerife I was quite shocked to see how British the whole place was. To me, as someone who had never been to a place like Tenerife, it was quite bizarre how the majority of the island had become dominated by big English takeaways and everything a tourist could possibly want. Don't get me wrong, I had a great time in Tenerife and I would definitely go back. I also completely understand why some people choose to go on a tourist-orientated holiday; but I just can't help but feel that some of the Spanish charm was lost.

I WAS SHOCKED TO SEE HOW BRITISH IT WAS

Set amongst an amazing mountain backdrop, the beach was awash with bars and restaurants. The island of Tenerife seems to have fallen into a tourism trap, instead of trying to draw in the tourists it has been shaped into a perfect tourist resort, frozen into sun, sea and Britishness. Everyone I met spoke perfect English, all of the food was British and a pint was only one Euro. There was something quite comforting about everything being in English; there was none of that panic about what you are eating at dinner and no sense of danger as you board public transport with no knowledge of its destination. I understand completely that the main industry of

Tenerife is tourism and this is the native's livelihood, I just believe that if you wish to travel abroad you should be willing to embrace foreign culture. We should change for them, and not the other way around.

PUSHY SALESMEN DROVE ME INSANE

The only piece of my holiday which truly drove me insane was the pushy salesmen. The salesmen unfortunately seem to have developed as another part of the tourism trap. I get the feeling that the salesmen are not a natural part of the Spanish culture but instead part of the culture of tourism, where a salesman of any nationality will try and draw the punters in through any means possible. By day three we had invented a rule. We would not go into any bar or restaurant where a salesman had tried to draw us in, but this was easier said than done. Every bar along the main strip had someone outside trying desperately to get you to eat there. I hate to be pressured and I can make my own mind up without the help of someone else. This meant that whenever we went for dinner I ignored everyone in sight and always stayed away from the main beach. I am very glad this isn't a part of British culture.

It almost feels as though that the tourist beach of Tenerife is a far flung part of the British Empire, long forgotten about but still colonised by British people. Without tourism this island's economy would crumble, struggling to return to its once rural roots. With all of the beautiful weather that Britain cannot provide I am certain that people will continue to flock there for years to come.

Claire-Louise Hazel

SAY NO-NO TO THE YO-YO LOOK GOOD ALL YEAR

LIFESTYLE

The beach; the thing we look forward to but also our greatest fear. It's the place to enjoy the sun and sand but also the dreaded debut of this summer's swimwear and with it the bikini body. But why do we try to desperately shed the pounds just for the summer, instead of trying to maintain that healthy beach body all year round? Let's avoid this age old fad of 'yo-yo dieting' and look and feel great all the time!

MOST PEOPLE WILL 'YO-YO DIET' AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES

Most people will 'yo-yo diet' at some point in their lives, in fact celebrities like Natalie Cassidy, Lily Allen and Kelly Osbourne do it all of the time. But most of these celebrities have spoken of feeling their worst after drastic diets. Putting on and losing weight quickly can affect our mood, skin, hair and general health. So why put your body through that when with just a bit more effort over the year you can keep a healthy weight, look fab and be happy?

Winter offers us the perfect chance to stay covered up in those toasty jumpers, but let's pretend that this isn't an option and try to keep up a healthy weight throughout winter. Wouldn't it be great to feel good all year round instead of putting pressure on ourselves to lose unrealistic amounts of weight for summer?

There are many tips for keeping up a healthy weight (the usual fruit, veg and water spring to mind), but by just being a bit stricter with ourselves we don't have to go without all together. Substitute chocolate for healthy food and fizzy drinks for squash. Small changes make big differences but by moderating ourselves we can keep a healthy weight and still treat ourselves when we feel like it. Instead of making unhealthy food a necessity make it a luxury! The student lifestyle goes hand in hand with takeaways and drinking, so why not avoid the "I can't believe I had cheesy chips last night" conversations by making other meals healthier; it's all got to balance out eventually, right?

All of us at Lancaster have the perfect opportunity to really improve our fitness and weight with the opening of the new Lancaster Sports Centre. Make exercise fun by going to the gym with friends or joining a team when the new academic year begins. Exercise can be a way to see friends and can be - dare I say it - have fun. Let's face it, we all have one friend who will make an exercise class hilarious by going the complete opposite way to everyone else! Zumba anyone? Enjoy the new facilities and make maintaining a healthy weight an every day occurrence and not just a frantic fast near the summer.

C.3



Zumba in action. Photo by Erik van Roekel

Yo-yo dieting may be practical for a week, but those sneaky pounds lost will only go straight back on later when we are not being as careful with what we eat. So why not try and make a new resolution to try and stay healthy all year round and instead of those afternoon power naps in preparation for a night out, wake up your body by visiting the gym. Kathryn Wright

GRADUATE JOBS

FEATURES

Graduates today are finding it harder than ever before to get jobs after university, with an unprecedented 83 applicants to every vacancy at top firms. With the competition so high, it seems simply getting a good degree is no longer enough. It's more important than ever to stand out from the crowd, and one of the best ways to do this is through work experience and internships.

Not only do these student jobs give you the experience you'll need to make your CV look impressive, they can also help you find a future career. As an English Literature student, there is no particular job waiting for me once I graduate. The same goes for many degrees, and luckily about 60% of jobs don't ask for a specific subject. If, like me, you're not completely certain what you want to do once you leave university, work experience offers valuable insight into a career, letting you see if it's right for you.

There are loads of jobs out there for students looking to gain experience, and just as many ways to go about finding them. The best way to look for these placements is through student job websites, such as studentjob.co.uk, milkround.com and targetjobs.co.uk.

Those are just a few of many student job websites, and if you go to the careers fair during Freshers' Week you can sign up to most of them there. The process is simple; you give them information about what kind of job you are looking for, and they email you jobs they think you would be interested in. The only problem is, there are so many options that it's hard to find the exact thing you would like to do. It's worth looking around and making comparisons rather than jumping to apply to the first job that attracts your attention.

I personally gained some amazing work experience through a student job website, and this August I am travelling to Berlin for a month to do travel journalism, visiting attractions and writing about them for a tour guide. There are plenty of work placements like this abroad, which can be a great idea for those who want to travel as well as improve their CV!

Another good way to get work placements is through independent applications. This is better for those who know what job they are looking for. You can find out if a company does work experience opportunities from their website or by calling them. Even if they don't advertise an internship it is worth emailing to ask if they have any available jobs; one thing employers are looking for is initiative, and if you go out of your way to impress them they might just offer you a summer job.

Don't be discouraged if you can't find a placement in the field you want to work in. As long as you are gaining transferable skills, it doesn't really matter what the job is! As well as this, make sure that you apply good and early; typically if you want a summer job you need to be applying around Christmas time, though some deadlines are later. You'll be lucky if the job pays or includes expenses, plenty of employers expect you to work for free and that's normal. In some cases you might even be asked to pay them, for example if you work abroad, but if they do it's important to make sure it's not a scam.

To find out more about work experience you can go to the Careers Centre on the University campus, or go to their website: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/sbs/ceec/>. Annie Gouk



THE HOUR

Breaking more than just the news

[ORIGINAL
BRITISH
DRAMA]

BBC
TWO

UK VS US DRAMA

HOUR DRAMAS JUST DON'T LIVE UP TO US COUNTERPARTS

TAKING VIEWERS BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE LAUNCH OF A TOPICAL NEWS PROGRAMME IN THE 1950S, THE BBC HAD HIGH HOPES FOR THEIR SIX-PART THRILLER, THE HOUR.

HOWEVER, WITH A NEED TO APPEASE A MASS MARKET, AND 'SPOON-FEED' VIEWERS, THE BBC'S ONE-HOUR DRAMAS WILL NEVER COMPETE WITH DRAMAS CREATED BY OUR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS, WRITES GEORGE SIMMONETT.

The BBC has a tendency to repeat itself. It has a strange costume-drama fetish; anything by Dickens or Austen is worthy of adaptation. And it has a knack for producing crime and hospital dramas, all of which do convincing impressions of one another.

Its new flagship show, *The Hour* – whose pre-match hype likened it to AMC's *Mad Men* and suggested it might take TV drama in a whole new direction – just couldn't do without another of the BBC's stubborn traditions. The tradition of the 'maverick' Freddie Lyons (Ben Whishaw) is the star of *The Hour*, Abi Morgan's six-part drama about the coming-of-age of British television journalism. And Freddie fancies himself as the latest in a long line of irritating maverick types, from the fast-talking Doctor Who to the frankly ridiculous Luther.

The year is 1956, with the Suez Crisis boiling up nicely in the background but getting very little coverage on television news, a bland and reassuring affair modelled on cinema newsreels. "We are calcifying in television news!" howls Freddie. Determined to shake things up a bit, he takes on the execs and the state single-handed, and even finds time to solve a murder mystery. At this point I'm slapping my forehead and wondering why everything seems to be so silly in this 'intellectual drama'.

Next thing we know Freddie's getting the unlikeliest of clues from a cockney newspaper vendor – "sorry I couldn't be of more assistance, Sir" – and then he transforms into Louis Theroux, interrogating politicians to within an inch of plausibility, and then he's Stevie Wonder, solving a Braille crossword on a cigarette filter. It's all a bit too cloak-and-dagger for me.

COMPARISONS TO MAD MEN WERE A BIT DAFT

So I was foolish to think *The Hour* was going to be a drama about the birth of the news and current affairs delivery we see today. Perhaps that was the original intention, but a lack of faith in the viewing public led them to believe that without plenty of sex, violence, glamour, mystery, and murder, no one would be interested. All the comparisons to *Mad Men* were specious and a bit daft really. Any resemblance between the two shows is superficial at best; both have lots of smoking, vintage clothes, and sexism.

I cannot speculate as to how accurately the show depicts the fashion and the lingo of the 50s. I can barely remember the 90s. But none of that stuff really bothers me too much anyway. What does concern me is that all the characters seem to be fluent in the clichés of our own day – including "Freddie, you really need to focus" and "an exciting journey" to describe a new TV show. The dialogue is very patchy. Ruth (Vanessa Kirby), for instance, seems to have wandered in off the set of a pantomime. She comes into the BBC studios to give Freddie a wincingly melodramatic tip-off: "They are everywhere. They will kill me if they know I'm talking to you." Thankfully, Ruth gets what's coming to her by

the end of episode one.

On the evidence here, then, it's clear that British drama is in a spot of bother. There was a time – I've been told – when our small-screen fiction was the envy of the world. Many of our greatest writers and directors (Mike Leigh, Alan Bennett, Ken Loach, Alan Clarke) all made classic TV before moving on to bigger projects. But now polls of the greatest ever shows are dominated by *The Sopranos*, *The Wire*, *Mad Men*, and other awe-inspiring American imports. Why is US drama suddenly light-years ahead of us?

THE BBC HAS £200 MILLION TO SPEND ON DRAMA PER YEAR

Money obviously has a lot to do with it. The BBC has around £200 million to spend on 250 hours of drama per year, whereas just the first hour of *Boardwalk Empire* – HBO's latest flagship show – cost a whopping \$20 million. All this cash means that HBO has the funding and confidence to back the big vision; committing to 13-episode runs with quick-fire options on further runs. In the UK, commissioning is too often short and cautious, so when a hit emerges – step forward, *Sherlock* – we are faced with a lengthy wait before our next fix. Yet, paradoxically, once a franchise is established we refuse to let go of it. Which means that hit shows which jump the shark (*Skins*, *Shameless*, *Midsomer*) are needlessly kept running on life support.

Another big problem is that drama execs have no balls. Tried-and-tested formulas reign supreme; I've already mentioned the Beeb's costume-drama fetish. Yet notice that the recent American shows have unlikely settings (a funeral parlour, a 1960s ad agency, the streets of Baltimore) and unconventional heroes: mafia bosses, druglords, corrupt politicians.

Part of the reason we're so lacking in imagination is, presumably, because viewers are dumb. How can we possibly make great shows if TV executives are constantly throwing in chase scenes and expository dialogue to keep the average viewer spoon-fed? HBO only has to please its subscribers, whereas the BBC has to appeal to a mass market. People are stupid, basically. How else do you explain the popularity of *Miranda*?

As to how we solve the problem, I suggest we look no further than Shane Meadows' *This is England '86*, the best British drama I've seen in recent years. Let's identify the talented writers, directors and cinematographers working in independent film and encourage them, like Channel 4 did with Meadows, to bring their craft to the small screen. And then don't bother with all the bureaucratic fumbling designed to please the average viewer. Just let the clever people get on with it.

THE YEAR'S BEST OUR



Photo by Rob Glover



Photo by Amelia Wells



Photo by Mike Mantin

CROPREDY CONVENTION

Billed as 'Britain's Friendliest Festival,' Fairport's Cropredy Convention in Oxfordshire is one of the biggest folk festivals in Europe. With much more on offer than just folk music, Cropredy is a must for anyone looking for a different festival experience. The entirely independent festival has just one stage, giving bands a captive audience of 20,000 people.

This year the festival welcomed reggae band UB40, brit-pop legends The Coral and singer-songwriter Badly Drawn Boy mixed with newer acts such as Katriona Gilmore & Jamie Roberts and The Travelling Band, culminating in the three hour Fairport Convention set.

Thursday was all about 'rock-grass' band Hayseed Dixie. Their unique take on classic rock songs and an enthusiastic live show meant that the Americans got a great reaction.

Friday headliner Seasick Steve stole the festival. The blues legend, joined by Led Zeppelin bassist John Paul Jones, surpassed all expectations with a perfect set; so loud it set car alarms off in the nearby fields.

With rain imminent, a brilliant rendition of 'Hit Me with Your Rhythm Stick' from The Blockheads got the sun shining once again. Special guests The Horslips played a polished set after a 30-year break with a unique mix of rock and traditional Irish music, before Fairport Convention brought the excellent weekend to a close. **Conor Scrivener**

GREENMAN FESTIVAL

Last year's Greenman festival was exemplary. The line-up had the biggest depth and range of any major festival. The atmosphere was wonderfully friendly. The food was almost Michelin Star quality. And the real ale was... I can't remember, actually, as I drank too much of it. In fact, it was so good that even an unfortunate series of events that left me dangling helplessly (without shoes) from a dangerously rickety lamppost above four days worth of mud, rainwater and slurry from the nearby toilets – all whilst 15,000 people walked by and laughed at me – couldn't ruin it.

This year's Greenman looks set to do the impossible by improving upon last year's festivities. Once again, it's hard to find a festival with a better line-up; Iron and Wine, Explosions in the Sky and Fleet Foxes are some of the best headliners of the year (though I can't help but think they might have had the pulling power for some even bigger names). And in a victory for eclecticism, post-dubstep pioneer James Blake and the very Radiohead-esque The Antlers find themselves alongside modern folk heroes like Laura Marling and Noah. But all of the hardcore festival-goers know what the true highlight of the weekend will be – the rotisserie chicken stand. **Joe Henthorn**

END OF THE ROAD

End of The Road gets its name because it takes place in September, right at the end of the festival season. And whilst the likes of Bestival mean that it no longer has the distinction of being the last stop for touring during the Summer, it can still hold its head high, since it boasts what is almost certainly this year's best festival line-up. That, as well as the massive variety of comedy and literature events that are happening at the same time, pretty much explains why it has managed to sell out in a year where more established festivals have been struggling. The line-up's strength is that it caters for pretty much everyone. For the hippest of hipsters there's the rampant experimentalism of Merrill Garbus' tUnE-yArDs and the massive noise-rock of HEALTH; Joanna Newsom and Laura Marling cater for those of a folkier disposition; and then there's Lykke Li, Beirut and Best Coast for those who like their indie-rock to have some poppier sensibilities. Hidden further down the list are the glorious Lanterns on the Lake, who will probably be even better than headliners Mogwai at providing orchestral, post-rock treats. If you've managed to get tickets then you're in for a real treat, and if you've got money to burn and a bit of spare time at the start of September, then it might well be worth splashing out for tickets on eBay. **Joe Henthorn**

FEST FESTIVALS TAKE



Photo by PG Brunelli



Photo by Tom Spalding



Photo by Daniel Davies

SONISPHERE FESTIVAL

Sonisphere is quickly becoming the Download-killer of the British summer festival season. It's easy to see why, as the two are both basically catering for the same audience, except that Sonisphere has, for the most part, better music aimed at more committed metalheads. It's an eclectic mix, with geek-rock quintet Weezer sharing the stage with the so-called 'Big Four' thrash metal acts of the 1980s (Anthrax, Slayer, Megadeth and Metallica), which makes little aesthetic sense, but nonetheless there is something about quirky humour that seems to appeal to rock music fans. QED – Bill Bailey had a set.

The atmosphere of Sonisphere 2011 was, as one expects, over the top; screaming "SLAYER!" being the primary form of acknowledging strangers. The food was, predictably, overpriced and merchandise seemed aimed at the few millionaires in attendance, so if you're thinking of going next year then it's advisable to save well if you want to have a good time. But metal festivals are wholly about the music, and Sonisphere's lineup was the best for heavy music lovers this side of Bloodstock. Highlights were Slayer's hypercharged set on the Friday and Slipknot's emotional close to the festival on the Sunday night.

Alex Harris

LEEDS & READING

Leeds and Reading are undoubtedly the stalwarts of festival season, but this year things have been going a little awry. In previous years tickets have usually sold out within minutes of being released, but this year it's taken a whopping 127 days to achieve the same feat. It's easy to see why of course; it costs far too much and the line-up is one of the worst in recent memory. Of course, Muse, MCR and Pulp will make for fantastic headliners, but there's hardly anyone else worthy of gracing the main stage. There are even some shockers on the usually reliable NME tent; last year the inimitable LCD Sound-system headlined, but this year it's Liam Gallagher's third-rate Beatles tribute act, Beady Eye.

Nevertheless, there are some gems hidden further down the list. The jaunty math-pop of Dutch Uncles, Dananananaykroyd's ferocious live show, Islet's indescribable take on post-rock; there's plenty to see if you know where to look. The recently reformed Death From Above 1979 look set to be the true highlights of the festivals, though. They've been flattening audiences State-side since Coachella and will almost certainly cause a mass dancing outbreak on a par with the Strasbourg Dancing Plague of 1518, thanks to their delightfully vicious and DEAFENINGLY LOUD brand of dance-punk.

Joe Henthorn

BEATHERDER FESTIVAL

One of the fastest-growing small music festivals of the UK season, Beatherder offers an eclectic mix of dance acts, DJ sets and... The Lancashire Hotpots. It's not the biggest festival – of roughly 10,000 capacity – so a walk across the arena area would probably only take a couple of minutes, but what Beatherder lacks in size it more than makes up for in approachability and friendliness. The staff are all uniformly nice to people and the food consciously avoids the commercial, money-squeezing trappings that plague the bigger summer festivals. The stands all have the feel of independent traders and it's possible to feed oneself for under a fiver; a rare luxury at festivals nowadays.

Musically speaking, Beatherder in large part deals in rave music, which wasn't really my cup of tea beforehand, but since I've been listening to Simian Mobile Disco and Afro Celt Soundsystem a lot more than I used to. Easily the best part of Beatherder is the Toiltrees area, a stage which hosts DJ sets from acts such as Mr. Scruff in a woodland area. The rave carries on into the early hours of the morning and at night plays host to a great atmosphere unrivalled by the more commercial and well-known summer festivals. All in all, Beatherder is a great choice for those looking for a smaller festival with an attitude more welcoming than the unflinching capitalism of the bigger festivals.

Alex Harris

COMIN' THIS MONTH



COWBOYS & ALIENS

FILM - OUT NOW

In a year saturated with genre-crunching film, Cowboys & Aliens is offering much less excitement across the pond than was hoped. I'm sure director Jon Favreau will have made sure the film is as fast-paced as possible, but reports are saying that the James Bond / Indiana Jones mash up of Daniel Craig and Harrison Ford has proved underwhelming. But if you're a fan of lassos and little green men then it won't hurt to give it a try.



RED HOT CHILLI PEPPERS - I'M WITH YOU

MUSIC - FRIDAY 26TH AUGUST

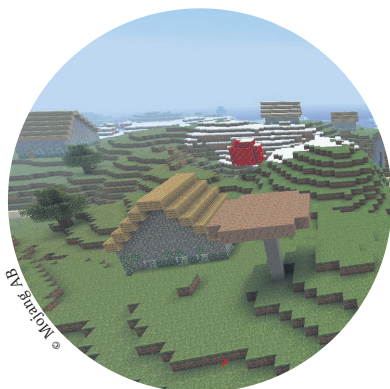
It's a well established fact that The Chillis haven't made interesting music since, well, since they were having fun with illegal substances. And with John Frusciante having departed again, they find themselves shorn of their most consistently creative member. So if there's any hope for I'm With You, it's that the long gap since Stadium Arcadium have completely rejuvenated them. Will it sell millions of copies? Probably. Will it be as good as Blood Sugar Sex Magic? Probably not.



THE INBETWEENERS MOVIE

FILM - OUT NOW

If, like me, you were disappointed by the last season of The Inbetweeners, you may want to approach the cinema with caution to see Will, Jay, Neil and Simon go off on holiday on the big screen. It will have all the lewd and crude antics of the popular Channel Four TV series, but I can only hope it maintains the sharp character-comedy that the first two seasons were bursting with.



MINECRAFT 1.8

GAME - COMING SOON

It's made its developer a multi-millionaire, it's one of the most critically acclaimed games in recent memory, and it has a player base the size of Wales; Minecraft's success is unprecedented in the realms of indie gaming. Version 1.8 will be the biggest release to date and will provide a few key insights into where the game might be going upon its first non-beta release in November, with improved combat and an extensive Adventure Mode threatening to ruin many a degree.



THE SKIN I LIVE IN

FILM - FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

Pedro Almodóvar is back on form with The Skin I Live In, a dark tale of a plastic surgeon and his obsessive relationship with a woman he uses for medical experiments. Word is that Antonio Banderas and co-star Elena Anaya give stunning performances and although this film is being described as a 'drama' I would suggest you steer clear if you're not keen on a few chills along the way.



DEAD ISLAND

GAME - FRIDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

With a growing horde of sub-par Left 4 Dead knock-offs on the shelves, it now takes a lot to get excited about a zombie-based FPS. However, Dead Island has made an extraordinary impression, mainly on the basis of its incredible trailer. Whilst pre-rendered footage isn't the best way to judge something that is fundamentally interactive, it suggests that there might be a bit more emotional nuance and narrative depth to the game, which is refreshing in a genre where plots largely revolve entirely around 'acquire shotgun, explode heads.'

All reviews written by
Andrew Eccles and Joe Henthorn
(Culture Editor).

MUSIC, FILM, BOOKS & GAMES



ONE DAY
FILM - OUT NOW

David Nichols' bestselling romantic drama One Day gets the Hollywood treatment this August, but despite the popularity of the novel the film adaptation is receiving mixed reviews. I expect this production won't be a disaster, with Anne Hathaway and Jim Sturgess apparently giving heartfelt performances. This tearjerker won't be ground breaking, but you still might want to take your tissues with you just in case.



POTTERMORE
OTHER - OUT NOW

Turn your ear towards the internet. "POTTERMORE! POTTERMORE!". You can hear it, right? The screams are understandable. The latest part of the Harry Potter franchise promises to flesh out Rowling's creation to an almost Tolkien extent. Hastily put together cash in or an entirely new spin on storytelling? I think it's a necessary shot of literary morphine to keep those Harry Potter withdrawal symptoms at bay.



FINAL DESTINATION 5
FILM - OUT NOW

Some franchises just won't die: Final Destination 5 hits our screens this August and death will come a-knocking again for a band of bridge-collapse survivors. If you liked the first four there is no reason why this outing should prove any different, but judging by US box office results audiences are slowly growing weary of this series. For seekers of light thrills this is an entertaining, if unoriginal, cinema trip.

have you tried **pocket** yet?
LANCASTER

LOST IN TRANSLATION

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS MOVIE

CULTURE

With the behemoth that is the Harry Potter franchise reaching its cinematic conclusion earlier this summer and the imminent theatrical release of the romantic drama *One Day* based on a superbly written and hugely popular novel by David Nicholls, it is easy to see that the book-to-screen adaptation is very much alive. But whilst JK Rowling's series of children's books have proved incredibly popular with cinema-goers, not all adaptations share the same success both in terms of quality and box-office takings. So what does it take to transform a great book into a great film, and what risks do filmmakers face when translating a story from the page to the screen?

I must say my faith in Hollywood reimaginings of the written word is fairly strong. On most occasions I greet these adaptations with excitement rather than apprehension, in spite of the fact that the cinema doesn't always reward my faith. Having read and thoroughly enjoyed *One Day*, the strength of which lies in the perfect characterisation of its protagonists Emma and Dexter, I viewed the trailer for the upcoming film and was left with some reservations.

MY FAITH IN HOLLYWOOD REIMAGININGS OF THE WRITTEN WORD IS FAIRLY STRONG

One Day is a very British story with very British characters but, understandably, Hollywood needs stars to sell movies and the role of Emma was awarded to Anne Hathaway. Now, I am a great fan of Hathaway and believe she has many fine performances ahead of her, not least as Catwoman in the last of Christopher Nolan's *Batman* trilogy (where I believe she is perfectly cast). However, as a Yorkshire lass I fear she may fall short. Her English accent has proved horrible in the past. The problem here is the value of money over soul; there would have been many English actresses who could have excelled in the role, but the selling of the film has clearly taken precedence over capturing the heart of Emma Morley.

This is a problem typical of literary adaptations. Anyone who read Audrey Niffenegger's brilliantly conceived *The Time Traveller's Wife* could testify that the novel was packed full of depth; the concept of time travel was



Harry Potter is the highest grossing film series of all times. © Warner Bros

transformed into a heartbreaking romantic narrative that leaves the reader stunned. The film version was, to put it bluntly, a disgrace. Director Robert Schwentke transformed Niffenegger's complex prose into an unintelligent and sickeningly corny film with little depth for its stars to work with. Oh, and the ending was unrecognisable.

Of course when adapting these stories alterations must be made; there is far more time in a book for subplots that simply can't fit into a standard film, but to take the haunting ending of this particular novel and mutilate it when it could easily have been used is nothing short of criminal. Rule number one in film adaptation has to be that the author should be respected. The novels are popular because the novelists knew what they were doing.

However, for the most part I believe that filmmakers prove their worth by getting these adaptations right. Many adapted novels of recent years have proved popular both with audiences and critics; it would be difficult to argue that films such as *No Country for Old Men*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Brokeback Mountain*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and *Cold Mountain* had failed to meet the standards of their literary counterparts. I choose this particular list because of these films' Oscar-laden and big box-office prowess, but there are of course many other much-loved films throughout history that first had

their stories told on the page.

Hollywood has a responsibility to these novels and to those who have enjoyed them. The joy of film is that it can take something that exists only in the imagination and bring it to life before your eyes. I hope that *One Day* lives up to David Nicholls's book and I hope that Anne Hathaway surprises me with her performance in a similar way to Kate Winslet when she did the impossible and brought Hanna Schmidt of *The Reader* storming to life, a character I believed impossible to portray on camera after reading Bernard Schlink's novel.

Nevertheless, even if this adaptation does prove to be disappointing, hopefully we can remember one very important thing - a bad film doesn't indicate a bad book. If you hate the movie please give the novel a try, you might just be surprised. Read *The Time Traveller's Wife*, have a look at *The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, buy a copy of Oscar Wilde's *The Portrait of Dorian Gray*. These are great works of literature that were unceremoniously trashed in cinemas worldwide. I would even say the terrible words 'read *Twilight*,' but sometimes bad films are born of bad literature! The moral of the story? Never judge a book by its movie. Andrew Eccles

CULTURE CLASH

CAMPAIGN VS MULTIPLAYER

Which of the following two utterances glistens the most with evidence of emotive response to and deep naval gazing into their respective tragedies?

Is it Gary Oldman (as Sgt. Resnov in *Call of Duty: World at War*) mourning his fallen brothers at Stalin-grad? "Mark my words comrade, one day things will change. We will take the fight to their land. To their people. To their blood."

Or, is it MeAtH00k-D3AtH1999's nerdgasm brought about by his broken killstreak? "F***ing gay camper scrub noob tubed me!" (Edited for decency).

Just by looking at it, it's Oldman hands down. While the latter can be avoided by muting Mr. D3AtH on your headset, this manner of brainless screeching (which I hasten to add is not practiced by all MP gamers) is the thin end of an unsightly wedge, disrupting the roots of everything that the current generation of first-person shooters stands for. Particularly with long standing franchises, continued interest in the series now relies on hooks to keep the buyers coming back for more. You want it to end with a freeze frame of the hero's car teetering precariously over the edge of a cliff, or you've no incentive to stick around for the next installment.

REAL ARMIES FIGHT TO THE END

By the time *Tekken 3* had perfected the series' mechanics, there was nothing else to pick up on other than a few more moves and some new fighters, so the developers introduced individual epilogues and gave you your character's story and prologue as a reward for defeating Heihachi in the final stage. The same can be said for the *Call of Duty* series, which took a departure from its bog-standard WWII re-enactments and began to offer a cinematic experience (in more ways than one - The CoD series now hosts premiere events and red-carpet interviews with the likes of Billy Murray and Craig Fairbrass). Why are gamers camping out like Harry Potter fans desperate to see how Harry will overthrow Voldemort? Because they're desperate to see how Captain Price will overthrow Makarov.

For sure, a gamer's patriotism is shifted to whatever nation they are fighting for in a multiplayer battle. The feeling of unity as you scrap in to your opponents, revive your comrades, give help over the headset and bask in the glory of victory together is as fuzzy and lovely only as a real war, but anyone with a scrap of arrogance will feel fuzzier and lovelier after taking down an entire Spetsnaz base by themselves on Veteran mode.

People stay for the multiplayer, as same-stuff-different-maps as it is, but I come for the campaign mode. To be thrust into corrupt wars and see the intricacies of it unfold as a result of the playable character's actions, not to shoot people with no consequence other than some XP points.

And the best thing? Real armies fight to the end, and won't retire to the lobby mid level when you're winning.

Ronnie Rowlands



© Infinity Ward & Activision



© Naughty Dog & Sony Computer Entertainment

I sink to my knees as the final shotgun pellet leaves the chamber. There is no where else to run, nothing else to fight with. It's over. The mindless horde throw themselves onto me. As much as I struggle, I can not free myself from their frantic hands, their manic screams, their gnashing teeth; they thirst for nought but my blood. I feel the life drain away from me, all of the lights go out, and all hope with it.

OK, OK. If you look past my attempt at writing something vaguely resembling *Left 4 Dead* fan-fiction, there's an important point to be made. Multiplayer games have a certain human power that is missing from all but the most well-written of games (that would just be games made by Team Ico, then). There's a certain emotional kick in you get from working with another human that's entirely absent from single player. The thrill comes from knowing that someone wasn't programmed to pull you up at the last minute; they've risked their own safety and reputation to rescue you from danger. Single player campaigns pale in comparison. As powerful as Price's fate at the end of *Modern Warfare* is, you can't shake the feeling that it was inevitable; it was always going to happen, regardless of how well or badly you played. That's never the way in multiplayer.

Part of the problem is that games put you, very literally, into someone else's shoes. You are Soap MacTavish. You are Gordon Freeman. So when you're given a degree of control over your character's actions, it seems almost unjust to force you down such a linear narrative path in the way most single player games do. But as games like *Portal 2*, *Left 4 Dead* and *World of Warcraft* are beginning to show, multiplayer gives you the chance to weave your own narrative, something which is unique to gaming as a medium.

RISKED THEIR REPUTATION TO RESCUE YOU

There's an entirely different aspect to multi-player gaming too, and that's the highly competitive, 'e-Sport' side of it. For many gamers, the challenge is in the competition, not the campaign. Playing identikit single player campaigns over and over is the same as kicking a football against a wall; there's a certain, solitary challenge to it, but it's hardly truly fulfilling. Whether that's honing your Hadoukens for some *Street Fighter Online* or perfecting your micromanagement skills for a *Command and Conquer* binge, the challenge and the fun lie in sparring with fellow human beings.

It's inevitable that you'll find a few foul-mouthed fifteen-year olds along the way, but that's just a problem with human nature. And anyway, it's that same fragile nature that helps to create the most gripping gaming experiences available.

Joe Henthorn

POSITIVE HABITS

LIFESTYLE

For those of us who are returning students this year, we've experienced this feeling before: arriving back in Lancaster fresh-faced, (usually) well-rested and ready to see friends. The summer months have dragged on and after watching younger family members returning to school and college a whole month before us, we reserve a tiny bit of jealousy that they were back seeing their friends sooner (albeit uniform-clad with no Sugarhouse to carefully balance the work-play ratio).

Arriving back to the small Lancastrian town that has been pretty much dormant for three months (ask any taxi driver in that first week back) can be the best feeling ever; meeting old friends and preparing to re-live Freshers' Week. But we should be careful not to suddenly turn our lives around dramatically at this stage. There are a number of positive habits we've grown to accept during the summer that we shouldn't simply drown away with a student loan-fuelled bottle of Smirnoff's finest.

Over the twelve weeks of university exile, we undergo a subtle transformation from our tired, poor, drained selves that arrive home after Week Ten of Summer term with a shoddily-packed rucksack on your back and stolen Extrav' decorations under your arm, needing bed, food and some good old homely TLC.

BOOST OUR CV WITH SOME CHARITY WORK

We slowly gain the energy to crawl off the sofa and find a summer job, or attempt to boost our CV with some charity or volunteer work. Gradually begin the days of getting up at times your alarm clock hasn't seen since college; healthy breakfasts are eaten, you can drive a car again, and see family members and friends from home. We basically pick up where we left off at the end of the Easter holidays, and after the initial week-long recovery from Extrav' Week, are ready to live our home lives again. Maybe you resume walking your dog, go for casual jogs again, meet the lads for a game of football or the girls for a shopping trip? The Jekyll and Hyde dual-life theory soon becomes evident as you pick up habits from family members that have been neglected whilst at university (such as becoming re-acquainted with the dishwasher, or enjoying Sky+ in ways that we ponder how we ever did without them back in Lancaster).

By the end of summer then, it's time to return to 'that bubble on the hill' that is our beloved campus, and after enjoying the different aspects of life more, they can easily be suppressed when we return. But this doesn't have to always be the case! To quote Example, you're "living two lives" and if you want to get the best out of both, try something new. Getting a job in Lancaster, finding a jogging route round campus or inviting friends to visit are just some ways. Maybe try (if you can) to get up early and seize the day like you may have done at home.

We all fall into the trap of spending too much money and becoming too tired in Freshers' Week and it seems as if our university life has come back to conquer us, but remember this doesn't have to always be the case. Matt Haslam

BBQ OR BOOKS? THE CLOCK'S TICKING



A Kindle paints a thousand words. Photo by Shane Lin

LIFESTYLE

Ten weeks of summer have quickly disappeared; you haven't lifted a book, opened a file or even thought about restocking your pen supplies. For how many students at Lancaster will this scenario be a reality?

In the days of high school where lying in bed until noon was an absolute priority, this would be the situation for all but the most keen of pupils. As undergraduates however, gone are the summers where you could sleep past mid-day, wake up casually to bacon butties from your Gran and then lounge about all afternoon watching rubbish telly without so much of an eye roll. Now we seem to be expected to use summer holidays once spent notching up our water fight victories to earn as much money as possible, put it to use wisely by buying all the books on our reading list and still somehow find time for an inconveniently unpaid work placement.

Summer is most certainly a procrastinator's dream. Therefore, when torn between the decisions to start working on the first chapter of a dissertation or trying out your barbeque for the first time, the answer is almost always going to be to swerve the books. But for how long can you put off the workload and the growing reading lists before you start feeling guilty about a lack of preparation for the year ahead and your future as a graduate?

Three months without academic expectations can at times seem put to waste when you find yourself hibernating in your pyjamas for a third date of the week with Jeremy Kyle. As students facing the pressures of term-

time, the realities of a joyless job market and lots of lovely loan repayments, should we be hitting fever pitch over summer to prepare for the future or should we be using these final few weeks to relax before the dramas of deadlines kick in?

As a third year with a full-time summer job, a severe addiction to baking and the mother of all essays to start writing, sadly the time has come to stop, prioritise and throw my recipe book away. As tempting as it is to trade paper cuts for an apple pie making session, getting prepared for first term in these next few weeks can be the ideal opportunity to get on the way to organised for the year ahead, helping you relax into the thought of a structured routine with highlighters and filing systems rather than lazy Tuesdays where my biggest achievement is my Victoria sponge.

With five weeks left of freedom there's plenty of time left to start ticking off, or even to start to write your to-do lists. Yes, everyone's list will be different, every student will see five weeks with no stress and no seminars as the ideal opportunity to check very different boxes. But whether tackling that pile of new books, collecting up the cash for Freshers' Week or letting your fancy dress ideas for the new term be the most stressful thing you consider, try to make your last month memorable. Get your CV sparkling, botch up a barbeque, but most of all make the most of it; you'll be back fighting with footnotes and flatmates before you know it.

Ruth Eaton - Carolynne Editor



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COMMENT



Amy Winehouse performing. Photo by Kim Erlansdon

Winehouse warrants scorn, not sympathy

Jon Wilby

Amy Winehouse was the latest in a series of musical talents to binge themselves into a premature grave. The cause of her demise is "as yet unexplained," but it doesn't take a genius to infer that she died of some drug-related condition. Others who have walked down this clichéd path of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll include icons such as Kurt Cobain, Jimi Hendrix and Brian Jones, so how does Winehouse rank among these bastions of the 'live fast, die young' ideology?

The presiding view of Winehouse's death is that it is a huge loss to the music industry and that she will be remembered as one of the all-time great solo artists. I'm indifferent to her music on the whole but I can't help but believe that her death and the widespread enshrining of her musical talents will lead to a distorted view of her in the future.

Two albums that sold well and were critically acclaimed does not constitute greatness; greatness is about standing the test of time. Moreover, her impact on music was nowhere near as large as that of Hendrix and Cobain. Winehouse's epitaph should read as one of aspiring to embody the 'live fast, die young' philosophy, but not reaching a legendary status enough to warrant acclaim as an all-time great.

Any human being virtually committing suicide is a tragically wasted talent. Many blame Blake Fielder-Civil, her former husband, for Winehouse's drug problem, but unless he attacked and forced her against her will to adopt this lifestyle then I'm afraid that she simply has no

excuse.

She could have sought help, she could have quit or she simply could have said no to drugs in the first place. Many artists handle the adulation of the masses without drugs. Moreover, there are countless examples of artists dabbling in drugs in relative moderation and not killing themselves, The Beatles in the mid-60s being a prime example.

John Lennon recognised his impending mortality due to his heroin addiction and overcame it by going cold turkey. Albeit unpleasant, it's a far sight better than Winehouse's method. Muse bassist Chris Wolstenholme developed an alcohol addiction as the band became increasingly popular, and it would have been very easy for him to spiral into a hole. However, he sought help by looking inwardly rather than seeking attention from the media.

Why then is Winehouse worthy of our pity? What kind of example does she set to young artists? Drug culture shouldn't be glorified, enshrined or even tolerated. This selfish behaviour is worthy of scorn, not tears. No matter how we phrase it Winehouse died because of her own stupidity. The dangers of drugs aren't exactly a myth and it is imperative that society only shows sympathy to those that seek help and not to those who show a total disregard for their problems and their impact.

Amy Winehouse's death was nothing short of suicide. Rather than enshrining her in glory and ignoring her drug use, we should condemn her dark private life and abysmal attitude towards rectifying her wrongs.

Who are you to judge Amy Winehouse's problems?

Ronnie Rowlands

The far too oft quoted comedian Bill Hicks once said: "what business is it of yours what I do, read, buy, see, or take into my body as long as I do not harm another human being on this planet?"

He died aged 32 of pancreatic cancer, which may or may not have been caused by his chain-smoking and heavy drinking. He struck a chord, and whether his vices contributed to his early death or not, whose business is it to judge and make statements presuming to know better than a doctor or a friend?

Such outspokenness falls far outside the remit of posturing social-networking numpties, pathetically attempting to nail into the ground their absence from whatever media bandwagons are rolling across the highway at that point.

It's obvious that the last thing a grieving family, friend or fan wants to come across is a barrage of relish in someone's death. And yet, anything which offers a platform (Facebook, Twitter, the pub)

is being used as a mouthpiece, emitting comments about the recently deceased singer Amy Winehouse. Comments include "just another smackhead off our streets" and "she had plenty of chances and she blew it."

The latter is particularly ignorant, displaying a total lack of understanding of how addiction works. It is not as simple as just walking away from addiction. Some will stall countless times before eventually cleaning themselves up. Some have nothing but false starts until it's too late. People can say "well I'd just stop there and then," but unfortunately we're not all as 'strong minded' as these individuals. One mustn't assume to know it all unless you've been, or been close to, a drug addict (as I have). They just don't understand, they just don't care, and boy do they love to brazenly show that off.

These ignoramuses are oblivious not only to how wrong they are, but also to the wider influence that their comments have over other drug users. Realising that

their lives are held in such low esteem by the majority is kicking them further into depression. How much longer is an unstable mind going to last with even lower self-worth? And to think that they have the front to accuse Winehouse of setting people off on a path to destruction. Pathetic.

Winehouse's drug use is supposedly an excuse to devalue her life, conceding that such habits strip a superstar (or anyone, for that matter) of their humanity. But she was a 'troubled star,' whose lifestyle was sadly of more importance than her talent to the tabloid media. That she was a 'bad role model' is the fault of the media which perpetuated that image and undoubtedly contributed to her demise.

"She has no right to live"? Who decides who stays and who goes? For all its 500 words, this entire argument can be neatly summed up in 24. She never did anything to harm you. If you've no understanding of the mental logistics of addiction and compulsion, shut up and sod off.



Oslo in mourning. Photo by Marcin Lachowicz

Norway tragedy can teach us to abandon our prejudices

Liam Shepherd

To commit an act of terrorism is to carry out violence in support of political ambitions. The recent horrific attacks in the usually calm, sanguine nation of Norway have served to bring its people face-to-face with the terrorist threat for the first time. As the country tries to understand and recover from the massacre inflicted at the hands of Anders Behring Breivik, the Western world as a whole must come to terms with the growing extremist threat not in the Middle East, but in its own back yard.

As news circulated of an atrocity having taken place in Norway, I don't think I am alone in saying that my first assumption was of it being of Islamic origin. Whether it was Al-Qaeda or a similar Muslim extremist group which had carried out the

attack, I naively assumed the Norwegians had become the latest to suffer the inhumanity of the Jihadist movement. How wrong I was. The perpetrator was fair haired, white skinned, and, perhaps most importantly, seemingly Christian.

The attack was not one motivated by a desire to remove Western influence in Islamic nations; rather it aimed to end the Muslim presence in the West. Breivik's aspiration was simple, he aimed to 'save Europe from Muslim traitors'. Comparisons with Bin Laden are chillingly prevalent.

The prejudicial beliefs which led many to initially attribute the attacks in Norway to an Islamic source allude to a more widespread failure among Western nations to stamp out discrimination and intolerance.

It is though such bigotry

men like Anders Breivik are inspired to commit such atrocities, and it is a notion present throughout Europe and beyond. Whether or not Breivik's allusion to like-minded cells throughout the continent is proven true, extremist organisations, often neo-Nazi, are increasingly commonplace in the West. It does not take long for one to find links to groups such as the American Nazi Party, suggesting it will 'do anything necessary' to achieve their goal of a white America, whilst as recently as a few days prior to the Norwegian attack, the grave of the Nazi Rudolf Hess was destroyed because of fears it had become a neo-Nazi shrine in Germany.

The events of July 22nd 2011 should serve to open Western eyes to the dangers of intolerance. The focus has for too long been on the

extremist threat emerging abroad, allowing the fanatical element to grow at home. Intolerance and bigotry are endemic in our society, and we as a nation must not gloss over this by looking only at the extremist dangers from Iraq, Afghanistan or some other far reaches of the globe.

"I don't think I am alone in saying that my first assumption was of it being of Islamic origin"

It is prejudice in society which feeds extremism, and it is through extremism that acts of terrorism are inspired. If we are to truly eradicate the

threat of fundamentalism, more must be done at home to stamp out discriminatory beliefs within the native population.

The attacks in Oslo and on the island of Utoeya will not be forgotten in Norway, indeed in much of the world, for some time. But they should be remembered all the more poignantly in the West for the message they have delivered; extremism is not limited to Islam. July 22 should be seen as a day where we abandon the prejudices that led many of us to initially assume the attacks were inspired by the Qur'an. It should serve as a day where we unite against the intolerance blighting all peoples in Europe and beyond. The attacks in Norway should open our eyes to the consequences such intolerance can have, and inspire our efforts to remove it from society.

Political point scoring is detracting from a much larger problem

The phone hacking scandal highlights serious issues

Drew Joy

Following Prime Minister's Questions at the end of July, it cannot be denied that any issue, no matter how big or small, is nothing but the crux of a political back and forth between the government and the opposition. The News of the World phone hacking scandal was at the centre of the House of Commons, and the majority of the questions focused on David Cameron's appointment of Andy Coulson and his liaisons with Rebekah Brookes and Rupert and James Murdoch.

The Labour backbenchers decided to barely probe the issue of the carefree and underhanded nature with which News International

treated the Millie Dowler case, and instead were there purely to try and unsettle the Prime Minister. However, as Cameron has argued his innocence so much over the last week with regards to Coulson, there was little more to say on that issue.

Labour should have used the opportunity to send some serious questions across the house about Cameron's leadership of the country, as the confidence in the Conservative leader seems to be at an all-time low. With economists predicting a double-dip recession and with more cuts on the way, not to mention the economic turmoil on the continent, it looks almost certain that Labour will win the next election when it arises, even with the inferior

Miliband at the helm of the party.

Cameron may not have endeared himself to the majority of Labour supporters by echoing Margaret Thatcher's infamous "I'm enjoying this" quote, yet it cannot be denied that aside from this possible slip up, he was on top form across the 136 questions put to him by Parliament. The notable silence from Ed Miliband from across the house can only further prove the comfort the Prime Minister had with the repetition, and although he did not answer many questions with the elaborate detail the electorate might have liked, Cameron did himself no harm, proving that at the very least he is relatively at ease with some of the pres-

sure that comes with the job. I would expect to see a rise in confidence from the public, although I'm sure many would disagree with me.

"I felt it was going round in circles"

That Wednesday was supposed to be a rest day for politicians, being the last day before their six-week hiatus, which some may argue has come at the best time possible for David Cameron and the coalition government. The next few weeks will definitely be interesting to watch, with calls for Rupert Murdoch to step down as the CEO of News Corporation. Without the action of Left vs. Right,

Labour vs. Conservative in Parliament to keep an eye on, the actions of Murdoch et al. will be even further scrutinised by (most of) the unbiased media.

Personally, having watched the majority of the debate on BBC Parliament, I felt it was going round in circles, with so few different questions. I was pleased to see that the 136th and final question turned the issue back on to Ed Miliband's election as Labour leader, asking whether the select committee would be investigating the transparency of the Trade Union leaders' relationships with News International. However, this was yet another example of political point scoring and, love it or hate it, it is here to stay.

Public preaching? Public nuisance!

Emma Williams

I, like many of my friends, have returned home this summer with the primary objective of earning a few quid at my part time job and topping up that all important overdraft. So here I am, a month into my break, getting to know the inside of my workplace better than my own house. I don't actually mind this; I work in a clothes store in Manchester city centre with lovely people who I have known for 4 years now, and I'm not ashamed to admit that yes, I actually really like my job. Unfortunately every job has its downsides. Step forward: the preacher.

I'm going to say this now: I was brought up as a Catholic. I was baptised, confirmed, had my Holy Communion, went to Catholic schools, Mass and I sang hymns and prayed at morning assem-



God's angry. Photo by Matt Katzenberger

blies. As I've got older I've developed my own Atheistic views, and I love hearing logical descriptions about what other people believe in. But when I have some random bloke directly outside my shop with a microphone telling everybody 'Jesus loves you' and singing hymns by himself with all the gusto and joy of a talentless Ian Curtis, I'm rapidly going to get fed up of it.

His voice (and his awful

singing) take over the vast majority of the high street, and drowns out our music system entirely, so I don't really have a choice to listen or not. I think it's incredibly rude for people to force beliefs and opinions down your throat – irrelevant of whether those beliefs are about religion, music, or which flavour of crisps is best. It's just not really anything to do with other people.

Usually the high street

preachers are just rude as well. They will stand there and tell everybody in the surrounding area that we are full of sin and that we are bad people. Once, a preacher pointed out my best friend to shoppers on a busy Saturday afternoon and labelled her 'promiscuous', presumably on the basis of her wearing a rather modest floral print sundress.

And as for discussion with these preachers? No chance. I have plenty of time for Lancaster's Christian Society, who are willing to talk logically about the more debatable areas of religion. But the high street preacher will often reject any question time, and refuse to recognise any flaws in his actions. Often the ranting invites the attention of more outspoken passers by, whose involvement can range from attempting to engage the preacher in logical

debate, to immature reponses from younger parties. I can assure you of this though – the ranting preacher rarely looks sensible enough to encourage non-believers to 'see the light'.

Don't get me wrong, I'm fully aware that it's not just Christians who you see preaching. But I personally have seen, for example, Muslim preachers moved on within an hour of setting up. I have never seen a Christian preacher moved on, or studied warily from a distance by CSOs. This might be because England is (was?) a predominantly Christian society, but either way – a very public preacher can be a very public nuisance.

I appreciate you trying to saving my soul, but giving me a headache is more likely to make me find comfort in paracetamol, not in He Who May Or May Not Exist.

LETTERS

Editorial

Welcome to a new era of SCAN - what do you think?

Mathew Power
Editor

SCAN started life in 1967, as a one-page newsletter written by members of University staff. Over 500 editions later and the newspaper is now one of the longest-running student newspapers in Europe. Throughout its colourful history, SCAN has gone through many radical changes. Some have been popular with students, some less so. But, to the best of my knowledge, each change has taken place with the students at the heart of the decision.

With that in mind, it is with great delight and pleasure that I welcome you to a new era of SCAN. A new format, design and publication

schedule are all fundamental changes which we have made.

Upon being elected into this role, I sat in the SCAN office and looked through the impressive archive. There are papers dating back to long before I was even born, but I focused my research on the paper's recent history.

Over the past few years, the paper's content and layout has increased in quality dramatically. But I am all too aware that there are students at this university who still do not read SCAN – perhaps you are reading this paper for the first time right now, despite being in your final year. Perhaps it's too ambitious, perhaps it's too far-fetched, but I do not see a

reason why every student at Lancaster should not be aware of SCAN, and perhaps more crucially, should not be a reader of SCAN.

"We would love to hear your feedback"

With this edition, we present a clear, clean and concise look at campus life. Throughout SCAN, we deliver you the latest news, students' opinions on recent world news topics and the current developments in sports at Lancaster. Then, in

a newly-designed Carolynne, we present to you a wide-range of articles on culture and lifestyle. We truly believe there is something for everyone within 32 pages.

SCAN will now be published on a monthly basis. This will allow us to ensure that the paper content is always of the highest quality. Further more, it presents an excellent opportunity to allow our website to grow and develop. We have great plans for web-exclusive content, as well as working closely with the colleges, clubs and societies to make sure we are promoting their activities. I hope that scan.lusu.co.uk will fast become the website students need to visit, and want to visit, to get the very

latest news and stories from our campus.

We won't have got everything right and we would love to hear your feedback – there's a Sugarhouse card to be won if you submit feedback online in the next two weeks.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank the SCAN Editorial team for their hard work to get this first edition finished, particularly my Assistant Editor, Jonnie Critchley, who has been an incredible help. Finally, SCAN would not look as professional as it does without the expertise of Tom Skarbek-Wazynski and John Porter. My sincere thanks go to them.

Welcome to a new era of SCAN. Here's to the future.

About time

It's great to see the university finally recognising the importance of sport at Lancaster. From looking at their website and photos of the place, the Sport Centre looks absolutely quality. I can't wait to get back to university in October and join as a member. With brand new facilities and a new attitude from the University, we have a real chance at Roses 2012.

I nearly didn't come to Lancaster as they offered no sport-specific degrees, and the facilities were not that great – just look at the old Sports Centre! But I am delighted I came now as I have a University Sports Centre to be proud of.

My one hope for the Sports Centre is that they co-operate fully with all the sports clubs and allow them to get

their practices in on a weekly basis. With the amount of space available, I am sure it won't be a problem!

James Forbray

iCan't believe it

So the Learning Zone's iPad lending scheme has failed. What a shame! ISS should have had the foresight to see that these overpriced tablets would be entirely ineffectual in a multi-user environment. I'm glad the project's failed – perhaps the University will actually learn something this time.

Of course, the loss of £8000 isn't particularly important in the grand scheme of things. But this debacle exemplifies the sort of myopic decision making that is endemic in Lancaster and

Higher Education in general. It's the same kind of thinking that led to the year long pursuit to put some pathetic lights in the floor of Alexandra Square, only for them to be covered up within a week because they were 'slippery when wet' (an easy mistake to make, considering the drought-like conditions we Lancastrians have to cope with).

If Lancaster wants to retain its position as a leading institution after the fee reforms are introduced, it needs to stop this kind of short-term decision making and instead invest in genuinely useful services for students (the Nurse Unit, anyone?). We need more of the fundamentals that students really need, and not the superficial accessories that the University management seems to think we need.

Joe Henthorn

£9k fees

Having seen the article 'Lancaster's £9000 fees made official' on your website a few weeks ago, I must firstly say how little of a surprise this is. I did, however, find the LUSU President's words encouraging; it is clear from the opening of the new Sports Centre and the improvements to Alexandra Square, for example, that the University is making steps to bring the student experience at Lancaster firmly into the 21st century.

If LUSU can follow up on its vision of a new Union building within the next few years, then they too will be able to fully offer what students paying £9000 a year will demand.

That said, it feels a shame that as a third-year student I will barely be able to take

advantage of these exciting facilities. Obviously the work had to be done at some point, and it is only coincidental that it has occurred during my time here. However, that doesn't change the fact that I will have spent the best part of a third of my time here having to walk around the building site that has been Alexandra Square, with no access to the Underpass.

To make my point, I simply hope that the final-year experience of many students is not being subordinated to improve that of future entrants.

Kieran Hicks

Letters to the Editor should be sent to
scan@lancaster.ac.uk
(SCAN reserves the right to edit letters for publication)

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SPORT

Team in the spotlight

Year of the Lynx

Rhys Elias
Sports Editor

With the Lancaster Cats Rugby Union side looking like they will be left out in the cold, 2011/12 looks to be a huge season for their feline neighbours from the across the codes; the Lancaster Lynx Rugby League Club.

The Lynx will be looking to build on some good performances last year, having made the semi-finals of the cup. The club finished fourth out of eight teams in the league, winning three games and losing four. By the time the cup approached they had proven their ability to work well as a team and next year promises to be even better.

The club has undergone much change for this coming season with a new captain in ex-Hull KR Academy player Max Brown and the loss of the chairman Rob Nixon and vice captains Rich McLeod and Dave Swaysland. Many of the lads who played together last season will be returning alongside the arrival of freshers to produce what will hopefully be some exciting rugby in the coming season.

The Lynx did remarkably well last season to gel together, with the club given little more than a week to recruit and train a team to face Chester in their opening fixture. They lost their first game 40-16 but from then on showed gradual signs of improvement.

Captain Max Brown told SCAN, "we continued to build on our performances and confidence and although we were not winning and took a few 'batterings' as it were, we were learning that a well-earned victory would come with time. Players started to gel, I think this was due to more training sessions and social events and people

were becoming more confident on the field."

It was away at Edgehill that the team scored their first victory, snatching the win by four points. Despite an away loss to Manchester, the Lynx then went on to score back-to-back victories at home to Manchester and away to Bangor, despite the loss of many influential players to injury.

It was in the cup that the club's hard work really paid off. Their first cup game saw them play away against a determined York St John's side in a breathtaking game which finished 16-17 to Lancaster. A last minute penalty in the game allowed York to equalise, taking the game to extra time and the golden point. A break down the right wing from Lancaster's Nathan O'Connor was then stopped by a high tackle, giving Lancaster the penalty which Rich McLeod slotted over for the victory.

Captain Brown summarised the victory as one of the greatest moments of his rugby career. The quarter-final against Hull saw the Lynx seal a convincing win. The semi-final looked like Lancaster's for the taking when they learned they would be playing MNU Cheshire, a team they had already beaten. A poor first half showing cost Lancaster dearly and despite improvement in the second half, Lancaster could not overturn the deficit, slumping to a 42-16 defeat.

With the Rugby Union Club facing a prolonged ban, the Lynx have emerged as one of the figureheads of rugby at Lancaster alongside last year's winners of the Team of the Year, the Lancaster Rugby Union Women. With a pre-season game against the old boys already in the pipeline, one thing is certain; The Lynx mean business.



Lancaster Lynx Rugby League Club 2010/2011. Photo by Kathy Woods

Local Football

Tough season ahead

Tom Pinder

Blackpool will be learning how to cope without Charlie Adam this season, but a year in the Championship for last season's fans' favourites comes with one aim in mind: promotion straight back to top-flight football.

Ian Holloway has already bolstered his squad with proven talent, signing 30-year-old Matt Hill from Barnsley and former Birmingham captain Barry Ferguson in a move that signals the manager's intent on plugging the Adam-shaped hole in his midfield.

The arrival of Kevin Phillips is also sure to put a smile on fans' faces. However, the sale of David Vaughan to Sunderland, and DJ Campbell to QPR is still enough to cause consternation in Tangerine households.

With the multi-million pound injection from Venky's and a fresh start to the new season, Blackburn will undoubtedly be hoping for a stronger campaign than last season. Erratic form in recent years has not only cost Rovers the European place they should be challenging for, but has also left them

languishing in a relegation dogfight.

15th last year was achieved with a solid run of draws towards the end of the season, but Steve Kean will be looking for a lot more from his players this time around. Bolstered by the arrival of young Argentine Formica and Spaniard Rochina, Blackburn's new blood may have a lot to offer this season. A disappointing 2-1 defeat to Wolves on the opening day can't have been the start Steve Kean was looking for though.

Though their recent ventures in the Premiership may begin to hint otherwise, Wigan can still proudly boast of being the only team to have played in England's top division and never been relegated. Manager Roberto Martinez may be content to simply reproduce this kind of form for his side's seventh consecutive outing in top-flight football, particularly after the sale of the club's best player, Charles N'Zogbia.

Formalising Ali Al-Habsi's move from Bolton is a smart one, and acquiring combative ex-Wolves midfielder David Jones will hopefully go some way towards replacing

Tom Cleverly after his return to Manchester United.

Realistically, Wigan will be lucky to extend their unique record for another season. Martinez can't be too upset with a 1-1 draw with Norwich on the opening day.

Relegation from The Championship was almost a formality for a post-Christmas Preston side that took thirteen attempts to win under new manager Phil Brown. Come this season and life in League One was anticipated in optimistic fashion, with Preston touted as potential favourites to secure a return to The Championship, but a 2-4 defeat at home to Colchester eradicated any complacency found at Deepdale.

The arrival of defenders Brian McLean and Graham Alexander and goalkeeper Iain Turner from Falkirk, Burnley and Everton respectively, should reinforce last season's leaky back-line, while up front the signing of Juvhel Tsoumou will hopefully prove to be a prosperous one.

For more previews ahead of the new season, see scan.lusu.co.uk/sports.

Athletics

LUAC satisfies neglected athletes

Alex Rastall
Sports Editor

The upcoming year at Lancaster brings with it the anticipation surrounding the newly-establishing Lancaster University Athletics Club (LUAC).

LUAC President Martin Burn competed as an athlete for his local club at home and was surprised to find that there was no accommodation for track and field athletics at the University. The closest connection Lancaster has is Lancaster and Morecombe Athletics Club, which is external to the University. LUAC has been established to allow any athlete, regardless of past experience, ability or event, to compete and train alongside other students.

The club is attracting attention online already, and Burn boldly believes that "LUAC could become one of the most popular clubs on campus, and with only a year until the London Olympics, I expect a lot of members joining come October."

LUAC plans to charge a basic membership fee of only £5, plus a very competitive and reasonably-priced England Athletics membership costing £10. However, additional training costs and competition fees remain uncertain. Training will be held at Salt Ayre Sports Complex in Lancaster, hence the extra cost, as well as on campus.

Regarding coaching, it seems that there are a handful of students who have a UK Athletics (UKA) coaching license, and the club also hopes to attract some external coaches with their affiliation to England Athletics.

The only club similar to LUAC on campus is Lancaster University Running Club (LURC), which has gone from strength to strength in recent years.

LURC cater for runners from beginner level to advanced ability and compete over a variety of distances throughout the year. LURC are also looking to develop their appeal to runners also affiliated with UK Athletics,



Anyone faster than him? Photo provided by Brunel Uni

which could be seen as a potential clash with the track side of LUAC.

However, Burns said "I don't believe we clash with LURC. I came to the University as a 400m runner and none of the societies catered for sprinters or even 1500m runners. LUAC was set up for sprinters, jumpers, throwers and the middle distance runners, none of whom had any access to training before now."

Presidents of both clubs have conversed and there is an understanding that LUAC

are not stepping on the toes of LURC. A joint membership scheme was discussed at this time, but this has not come to fruition just yet.

All the same, even though LUAC is in essence, the 'new kid' on campus, Burn certainly seems the dedicated President that the club needs for success. This commitment and enthusiasm looks to bring only more opportunities and sporting interest with the years to come and thus presents even more exciting opportunities for Lancaster's students.

The year ahead

Marc Handley
Vice President (Activities)

For the past few years now, University senior management have talked about a "new dawn" for sport at Lancaster, and finally we can begin to realise this in the biggest way possible.

A new Sports Centre certainly will not cure all the issues our students face by any means, but it shows a clear and positive direction change by the University, showing that our students and their experiences matter. One thing I already cannot wait for is seeing the new Centre in all its glory when we host Roses in May, which should really maximise its potential.

With the facility as our venue, Roses 2012 will have an entirely different feel to that of Roses 2010. For anyone yet to see a home Roses, you are in for one heck of a weekend. I don't wish to exaggerate, but this type of chance doesn't really come around too often in terms of this event, so I really hope you will be impressed!

I have been given a guarantee that there will be no exams for anyone on the Saturday of the weekend of Roses. To my knowledge this has never happened before, and hopefully will minimise the impact of exams on this fantastic event.

If there is one thing I can say for this upcoming year, it is that it's a year of opportunity. Do not let it pass you by; take any chances you want to and maximise your potential. I'll certainly be trying to help with every choice I make.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with thoughts on the new Centre at lusu.vp.activities@lancaster.ac.uk, and I will try to make your voice heard when I meet with the Centre on a regular basis.

May I take this chance to wish you all the very best for the upcoming year, let's bring things to a whole new level.

Carter Shield

2012 - Olympics, Carter Shield

Alex Rastall
Sports Editor

This year certainly looks set to be one of the most exciting and sport-filled to date. The Premier League is underway, the Rugby World Cup is imminent, and just around the corner are the London Olympics, a home Roses and the Carter Shield 2011-2012!

Ok, so perhaps the latter is a slightly over-ambitious plug at getting interest in the collegiate tournament, but, on a serious note the Carter Shield looks set for a re-invention.

For those of you who aren't aware of what the

Carter Shield involves, it is an inter-college competition which includes 'beyond-the-average' types of sport such as Ultimate Frisbee and dodgeball, women's indoor football to name but two.

Stephen Smith, President of Fylde JCR Exec, whose college have won the shield the past two years, said "it's great to give people the chance to get involved in something without being part of a club or team. It gives people like me, who wouldn't dream of joining a sports team, the opportunity to give something a go and just have some fun."

With entertainment and enjoyment seeming central

to the Carter Shield, it does beg the question as to why it lacks good participation rates. Why wouldn't anyone want to have a laugh, meet new people and, in the meantime, thrash college opponents?

Well, it can quite easily be said that, as of late, the tournament has suffered from a lack of organisation. Furness JCR Sports Representative Symi Jackson said that "there have been so many times when people have not known where to be at what times," and suggested that if communication lines between the organisers and college Sports Representatives were firmly established

and maintained more people would be inclined to take part.

It certainly seems a shame, given the initial emphasis on college pride during Freshers' Week that this mentality isn't carried off in a similar fashion in terms of the Carter Shield. Realistically, the framework for something great and prestigious is lurking underneath the shadows of disorganisation, and hopefully this year will bring a new face and a new reputation to the Carter Shield. So get involved, give it a go and give SCAN Sports something to write about - it could be your name in the headlines of the future!

Rugby Union

Rugby Union to appeal ban

Rhys Elias
Sports Editor

Lancaster's Rugby Union Club will appeal against the recent decision, announced in June, to ban the Cats from playing rugby in the 2011-12 season, and monitor the behaviour of players until June 2012, when a further decision will be made to see if the ban will be extended for another year.

The University Dean said that the club has 'consistently let itself down and the trust the University has placed in it'.

However, it is the club's decision to take the ban to appeal, and their defiance can also be seen in an on-line petition which has so far gained over 1,200 signatures. A Facebook page called 'Help save Lancaster University RUFC for the 2011/2012 season' has also been established to help mobilise support.

The ban followed two major incidents involving the club on tour in Prague and

at York during Roses. Regarding the tour, Club Chairman Tim Holloway told SCAN, "we acknowledge that the University must have been shocked and disappointed by the conduct of its students in Prague, but we cannot possibly overstate that the damage was perpetrated by a minority of individuals, and is not consistent with the values and standards that we hold in the rugby club."

Holloway commented that the incidents at Roses were "plainly unacceptable" and "unfair on other competitors representing the University." He was again quick to echo the fact that the actions took place at the hands of a minority of individuals who undermined the dedication and hard work of the majority, and that the club was quick to take full disciplinary action by dealing with the perpetrators and issuing a formal apology to York University.

Regarding the decision itself, Holloway added that "if the punishment is meant to have a retributive element,



The rugby union team in action during Roses. Photo by Tom Skarbek-Wazynski

we accept this, but our plea in this case is that the Dean considers a rehabilitative element as well.

"We understand that this will require us to prove not just our good faith, but our absolute determination through our actions, to play and behave (as individuals and as a club) according to

standards of which the University would be proud."

The ban comes as a bitter blow in a year which is likely to see increased interest in the sport, with the Rugby World Cup taking place in September. Under new captain Wilf Whittle, the club appeared to be going places, with his links to semi-

professional side Flyde RUFC ushering in a more professional and disciplined era at the club.

The Dean and the Vice Chancellor will meet on the 8th of September to discuss the appeal, and the club will find out if this has been a success or failure shortly after.

Sports Centre Analysis

Out with the old, in with the new

Alex Rastall
Sports Editor

Following two years in the design and development process, Lancaster's new Sports Centre has finally opened up its doors for general public usage.

The latest photos of the Centre's fitness room facilities were released mid-August via the Facebook page and those of the climbing wall, swimming pool and other amenities were uploaded slightly earlier on 29 June.

Before opening, the Centre hosted a number of tours so that people could view Lancaster's latest development in all its magnificence. People

were certainly impressed by one of the most remarkable features of the complex, namely the climbing wall and bouldering cave, which was specially designed with input from Chancellor and mountaineer Sir Chris Bonington. This is as well as the Olympic sized, variable floor-depth swimming pool that looks nothing short of perfection.

The health and fitness suites are evidently a vast improvement on the aging equipment and ambiance of the old centre. The website states: "The gym is situated on 2 levels and features cardio vascular and resistance machines from market leader Technogym [and] three of the latest model Powerplate

machines are incorporated in the functional area of the gym on the first floor." To be honest, as long as they aren't broken, squeaky or so few that users are left to time their workout around racing to a free machine – it will be extremely hard for people to pick fault.

What is also extremely pleasing is the variety of price packages that the new Centre offers. The old premier came in at around £190 for access to life fitness, weights, swimming, climbing wall and court use (essentially everything excluding the classes and the sun beds) – the new membership prices range from Bronze to Platinum. The former comes

in at £100 for students and allows use of cardio, weights and swimming at off peak times only. The latter comes in at a steep, but reasonable, £250. This allows full use of all facilities, inclusive of all classes. It is certainly safe to say that there is a price range to satisfy every member and consequently allows them to make the most out of what they use.

Another massive plus for all those early sporting risers, the opening times have been set back from the old 8.30am to 7.00am, perfect for those who want to put in a quick workout before a 9.00am lecture. As before, the swimming pool times vary slightly but details are available in

their specificity on the website.

Overall, it can safely be said that Lancaster got it right. Not only is the new Sports Centre miles better than the old in terms of facilities but it has also woken up to earlier opening times and more membership options. Yes, it may not be as conveniently situated in the middle of the campus, but the new surroundings not only provide a sound distraction to the timer on the treadmill or the number of reps of bicep curls, but also potential room for further expansion in the long term future and a chance for members to make the most out of their membership and their time at Lancaster.

SPORT



The new Sports Centre is one of the first sights when driving up the University's perimeter road. Photo by Matthew Power

"A new dawn for sport at Lancaster"

Head of Sport hails a new beginning as £20 million centre opens

David Watts

Lancaster University's state-of-the-art Sports Centre has opened its doors to the public. Costing £20m, the centre boasts a 25-metre swimming pool with a retractable floor for diving, a large sports hall, a comprehensive health and fitness suite, and sauna/steam rooms.

One of the outstanding features of the complex is a climbing wall and bouldering cave, whose build and design was developed with input from the University's Chancellor, and mountaineering legend, Sir Chris Bonington.

Head of Sport Kim Mont-

gomery hailed the centre's opening as "the new dawn for sport at Lancaster." It is with particular excitement that the Sports Centre awaits Roses 2012, in which the complex will be utilised heavily. Montgomery believed that "Lancaster have a lot to show off to York."

The move to the new complex has not been without hitches, but Debbie Bell, Sports Centre Manager, was quick to praise her "absolutely fantastic" staff members who had "got stuck in from day one." During the transition, many staff members worked full-day shifts at the old Sports Centre, before starting a night shift at the

new centre to get everything ready in time.

Along with the new Sports Centre, there has been an appointment of a Sports Development Officer, who begins their role in mid-August. The Officer will be in charge of officiating courses, liaising with national governing bodies for different sports, and working closely with LUSU Vice-President (Activities) Marc Handley, to ensure that students are getting the most out of the new facility.

Montgomery believes the biggest selling point of the centre was the "high standard of finish." She added that members would highly benefit from a new online system

that will arrive in September. The system will allow members to book classes, courts and other activities in advance of their visit, resulting in shorter queues at the reception desk.

"Lancaster have a lot to show off to York"

Whilst the Sports Centre is located on the main drive of Lancaster University, it is also open for the public to use. The management has

made a conscious decision to limit public memberships to 300, and they have already seen a large number sign up for membership, particularly due to the recent closure of Lancaster's Total Fitness gymnasium.

After 10 days of opening, the Sports Centre reported to SCAN that just under 500 members had already signed up. The largest number, 175, had signed up for the Silver Membership, which offers cardio, weights and swimming.

Students wishing to try the new centre's facilities can find a free day pass advertisement in this edition of SCAN on page 16.