



The memorial service was held in the University's Chaplaincy Centre. Photo by Matthew Power

## Two hundred attend memorial for Lancaster student murdered in Salford

**Matthew Power**  
 Editor

200 people attended a memorial to the life of Anuj Bidve on Saturday January 21st (Week One). Held at the Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre, the service came nearly one month to the day since Anuj was murdered in Salford on Boxing Day.

Staff and students came together to celebrate the life of the Lancaster student who was spending Christmas in Manchester with friends when he was shot in the head at close range in the early hours of Boxing Day.

The service featured a slideshow of photos of Anuj's time in England that provoked an emotional response from

his friends. Anuj's friends read out a tribute to him, before Professor Malcolm Joyce (Head of the Engineering Department) and Claire Povah (Principal of Graduate College) presented their own reflections on the 23-year-old's life.

**"The service was a beautiful tribute to Anuj"**

Halfway through the service, Father Hugh Pollock (Catholic Chaplain and Principal of Grizedale College) introduced a

silent reflection period and welcomed guests to light a candle in memory of Anuj. Several people laid flowers alongside the candles at the front of the Anglican and Free Church Chapel.

After the lighting of candles, there were further reflections from different institutions, including the Lancaster and Morecambe Hindu Society's Mrs Harsha Shukla, Lancaster University's Vice Chancellor Professor Mark E. Smith and the Bishop of Lancaster, Reverend Geoff Pearson.

Dr Shiv Pande, Secretary to the Indo British Association, met Anuj's parents during their visit to England at the beginning of January and read a poignant e-mail from Anuj's father, Subhash Bidve, in which he described the

family's loss.

Speaking to SCAN after the service, the University's Vice Chancellor said "it was a highly appropriate ceremony that had a wide range of representatives from the University and the community that reflected both the feelings and his life well." Lancaster University Students' Union President, George Gardiner, commented that "it was a fitting tribute to a student that represented everything that is good about Lancaster University."

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Colleges and the Student Experiences, Professor Amanda Chetwynd, expressed that "the service today was a beautiful tribute to Anuj. The pictures of Anuj with his friends so full of life

were particularly moving." She added "his death was such a shocking waste of a young life full of promise."

As people left the Chaplaincy Centre, a collection took place for the Memorial Fund for Anuj Bidve. There was also the opportunity for guests to sign a memorial book which will be flown to India and presented to Anuj's family in a fortnight by Lancaster University's Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Robert McKinlay.

It was also confirmed during the service that an Anuj Bidve scholarship is to be established for an Indian student to receive funding to attend Lancaster. Details of the scholarship will be discussed when Professor McKinlay meets Anuj's parents in Pune, India, next month.

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Front cover images courtesy of Lancaster University Press Office and Guangdong University of Foreign Studies Press Office.

Design by Tom Skarbek-Wazynski & John Porter.  
Printed at The Guardian Print Centre, Longbridge Road, Manchester, M17 1SN

**SIXTY SECOND SCAN****NEWS****Swank's temporary closure**

Erin O'Reilly, News Editor, reports on the recent temporary closure of Swank, the city-centre bar. The bar is due to re-open on February 4th. **Page 4**

**SPORT****Team in the spotlight: Women's hockey**

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**NEWS****Oxfam Society presents Oxjam**

With a vast line-up of student bands and plans to raise money for the charity, Oxfam's society's Oxjam event is reported by Emma Nelson. **Page 8**

**SPORT****College football preview**

Tom Belger previews the rest of the inter-college football season as Cartmel, Pendle and County battle it out to finish top of the league. **Page 20**

**LIFESTYLE****The drunk Facebook status saga**

Amy Hawthorne examines the growing trend amongst students who are returning from a night out and proceed to update their Facebook status. **Carolynne - C2**

**COMMENT****Mitt Romney isn't the right man for America**

Following Romney's victory in the New Hampshire primary, Matt Hayes discusses the candidate's vision of a 'restored America'. **Page 12**

**FEATURES****Time to back away from the bargains?**

Annie Gouk says she has got all the clothes she needs and has decided to step away from the January sales. She puts forwards her case for you to do the same. **Carolynne - C14**

**NEWS****Student challenges disability services**

An online article from a Lancaster alumnus has caused a stir on a social network site. Assitant Editor, Jonnie Critchley, reports with comments from the University. **Page 9**

**EDITORIAL****The Business Process Review**

SCAN Editor, Matthew Power, argues that the University can not take human interaction for granted, with reference to the BPR they are currently undertaking. **Page 15**



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time, the University is going to fund Oxfam Goats, Water supplies, Toilet facilities, teacher training and health checks to the poorest countries in the world. The more students who fill out the survey, they more the University will donate.

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LUSU

# NEWS

## Hard work acknowledged at LUSU awards

Heidi Nagaitis

Lancaster students and staff were rewarded for their dedication to the University at this year's Lancaster University Students' Union's (LUSU) Winter Conference Awards.

The event, held on January 12th at Lancaster House Hotel alongside the annual Winter Officer Conference (WOC), was a huge success with many talented individuals being recognised for their hard work.

Olly Trumble, Vice President (Events and Democracy), explained that "the awards celebrate the achievements of various staff and students who are involved in LUSU. Members of the University can nominate friends and colleagues who have gone the extra mile and have really made an impact on student lifestyles."

This year's awards panel consisted of LUSU President George Gardiner, Vice President (Media and Communications) Matthew Power, the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Colleges and Student Experience Amanda Chetwynd, Chief Executive of the Students' Union Peter Elliott, and External Trustee Jacqueline Whiteside.

Will McDonagh, LA1: TV's Station Manager, gained the Officer Initiative of the Year award. "I never thought about any type of recognition for what I do," he said "The fact that LUSU take the time to award people like this is a great way of inspiring people to do more as hard work does not go unnoticed."

Chris Osborn, a fourth year student, was presented with the most prestigious award of the evening, the Sir Chris

Bonnington Outstanding Achievement Award. Chris told SCAN: "I'm honoured to win this award and have thoroughly enjoyed working with LUSU on events like the Campus Festival, the Christmas Markets and getting involved with LA1: TV and Lancaster's Music Society.

"I think it's so important that the efforts of both staff and students are recognised because it's vital that everyone understands how these individuals make a difference to their university life." He continued, "With less than half of the student population involved in societies or JCRs, students only see the result of LUSU's hard work in the form of college balls and socials. Without LUSU's members, Lancaster University couldn't deliver the brilliant student experience that it does."

Other award winners included Matthew Linnell as LUSU Student Staff Member of the Year, and Sugarhouse's Venue Manager, Lou Davies, as LUSU Staff Member of the Year. Volunteering endeavours were also recognised, with Vincent Davies being awarded LUSU Volunteer of the Year, and Cassie Seeley as LUSU Volunteer of the Year, Highly Commended.

The Campaign of the Year Award was won by Sam Norman, Priya Jadeja, Nathan Connell and Jon Robertson who led a team of JCR members and Cross Campus Officers to create and implement the "Still Human" Mental Health Campaign last term. The team helped to raise awareness and promote the normalization of mental health issues, helping to remove the stigma surrounding mental ill health.



LUSU Officer Campaign of the Year winners. Photo by Alex Holley

## Vagina Monologues returns bigger than ever

Holly Sutton

The Vagina Monologues will be returning to Lancaster University this February in tradition of the V-Day campaign held by Lancaster University's Students' Union (LUSU).

V-Day is an organised campaign against the maltreatment of women.

The show is a series of monologues, created by Eve Ensler, based on interviews with a diverse range of women, and has been running at the University for a number of years now. This year sees the biggest show so far, with a cast of thirty three women.

**"the biggest show so far, with a cast of 33 women"**

Matt Saint, LUSU Vice

President (Equality, Welfare & Diversity), commented on how The Vagina Monologues "raises awareness of many different women's issues, such as rape, sexual awakening and oppression, but it is also a celebration of womanhood."

**"This year we are pushing out all the stops" - Director**

This year, the campaign has chosen to support a Lancashire-based Safe Centre which works to help rape survivors. Along with this, Saint said "the campaign will be raising money for The Vagina Monologues, as well as local women's charities."

Jennifer Grayson, the director of the performance, said that directing it for the past two years has been "eye opening."

"This year we are pushing out all the stops to make this the best year for The Vagina Monologues" she added, "we have an amazingly diverse cast and a fantastic team and directing has been nothing but a pleasure."

In terms of the performance itself, Saint said that some people may be "apprehensive" about coming to watch it, but "it is such an incredibly eye opening and enjoyable experience to watch a piece of theatre that is so real and vibrant," going on to say that the show "effectively raises the profile of women's equality and liberation."

The Vagina Monologues will be taking place in the Nuffield Theatre on February 12th, 13th and 14th.

# Swank to re-open 28 days later following licensing review



Swank are currently advertising their 'Grand Opening'. Photo by Meher Gupta

**Erin O'Reilly**  
News Editor

City-centre bar Swank will be re-opening February 4th following a 28-day closure. According to a document published by the Lancaster City Council's Licensing Act Sub-Committee from the review hearing, which took place on January 4th, "the Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary [had] submitted an application for a review of the premises licence for Swank bar" in December, under the grounds of "prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm."

Section 51 (1) of the Licensing Act 2003 says that the grounds for a licensing review must relate to at least one of the licensing objectives listed above.

Licensee Daniel Binnie told SCAN that Swank are "re-organising [their] operation and implementing the conditions that have been placed on [their] premises licence."

## "Positive about the future of Swank"

The document also revealed that the review had the support of the Environmental Health Services due to the fact that they had "a history of complaints of noise arising from the late night operation of the Swank Night Club."

An article in the Lancaster Guardian stated that music from the bar had caused disturbances "to customers

and staff two doors down at The Brown Cow." Guests at the Travelodge in the centre of Lancaster also received refunds after complaining of a lack of sleep.

Binnie acknowledged that Swank "are guilty of noise pollution" and have since "apologised to [their] neighbours."

The police felt that licence holder Daniel Binnie had "continually shown a blatant disregard to the licensing objectives over the past 10 months despite being issued with several warnings," as reported in the review.

Binnie commented that he is positive about the future of Swank and has taken the closure seriously. However, he does feel that Swank has "been made an example out of by the council and the police" but "will continue to be Lancaster's true House venue."

The Lancaster Guardian reported that two separate incidents of violence in December had prompted the police to make a request for the review. These incidents involved a man being "kicked unconscious outside the premises and another man had his jaw broken while he was in the bar's toilets."

## "Guilty of noise pollution" - Daniel Binnie

A statement from Lancashire Police Press Office outlined that "Police have been called to attend

over 30 incidents at Swank bar for a variety of reasons over the last 12 months. This includes nine incidents relating to anti-social behaviour; five relating to assaults and one relating to drugs offences."

However, Binnie commented that "we have had two violent attacks in the last 14 months," adding that "if you compare that to our competitors it is an extremely low number."

The re-opening of the bar will see new refurbishments, including new lighting and a new floor, along with guest DJ Andy Ferrell. Binnie urges people to "keep Swanky."

Popular bar and restaurant collaboration, Touro and Bar Eleven, have also been reported as being closed. The Lancaster Guardian said that "there has been no sign of life at Bar Eleven and Touro" since they were last open on December 31st.

# New Confucius Institute strengthens ties with China

Catherine Chorley

Last month saw the official launch of the University's new Confucius Institute, a joint venture between Lancaster University and its overseas partner, the South China University of Technology.

Since December 20th 2011, the Institute's doors have been officially open for business, with the aim of enhancing the cultural and linguistic opportunities in Mandarin Chinese for both students and staff alike.

The Institute also hopes to branch out in offering language and culture lessons to local businesses, schools and communities. The facility's website states

that a key objective of this initiative is to help promote and support North-West enterprise through the application of three key 'themes': innovation, sustainable development and China itself.

Manager Colette Webb expressed the belief held by her and her colleagues, stressing that it is "important to equip students, staff and local business to work better with and in China."

The Institute, located in the Round House at the top of the north spine on campus, will also provide credit-bearing courses in Mandarin Chinese to students looking to study the language as part of their degree. Separate beginners' courses are

open to students and staff studying the language for the first time, with the choice between two two-hour sessions hopefully providing those wishing to participate with a degree of flexibility in their new subject.

Classes will run throughout the Lent term in blocks of two hours per week, for a total of 18 hours in nine weeks for students and 20 hours in ten weeks for staff.

The Confucius Institute will also facilitate a series of seminars, lectures and special performances to celebrate festivals, such as the forthcoming Chinese New Year in the Spring-time.

This latest cultural and academic innovation

occurred only two months after the signing of a separate international collaboration agreement between Professor Zhong Weihe, President of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, and Professor Paul Wellings, the previous Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University.

Along with the interest in the Chinese language and culture already expressed through students' participation in societies such as the Chinese Society and Wing Chun Kung Fu Chinese martial arts society, new avenues of communication and learning can now be facilitated at an academic level, complimenting the existing research in this field already

undertaken at Lancaster.

Professor Wang, President of South China University of Technology in Guangdong, said: "The establishing of the Confucius Institute has great significance in the exchange of education and culture between our two countries. The British Higher Education system is an important model for China and we hope to learn from each other, inspire each other and have a mutually beneficial relationship."

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Bob McKinlay also expressed enthusiasm about the new endeavour. "We are delighted that the Confucius Institute will enable us to broaden and deepen our ties with China," he said.

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## Special Coverage

# The University must strike a balance

Catherine Chorley

The University is going to find itself walking a very fine tightrope between trying to draw in as many people as possible to negate the impact of budget-cuts, despite the increased fees (especially in the cases of those who might be academically bright but not financially able), whilst maintaining or improving its status and league-table rankings by securing the highest calibre of candidates.

This would, in turn, vindicate the aforementioned fee-increase as well as secure future funding. Furthermore, Lancaster has to achieve all this whilst endeavouring to fulfil its strategies of international expansion and outreach, inter-university collaboration and campus redevelopment.

In order to offset the Coalition's planned reduction of teaching grants by 80% and capital by over 50%, Lancaster University will be among the many taking advantage of the ability to triple the tuition fee charge to home undergraduates in September 2012.

Previous Vice Chancellor Paul Wellings justified this decision by arguing that "[t]his will allow Lancaster to build on its track record of success in attracting well qualified students from a variety of different backgrounds and to invest further in the student experience."

Wellings pledged a sum of £3.9m to be spent by the University on widening participation through scholarships and bursaries to incoming undergraduates. The aim is to incentivise studying at Lancaster whilst retaining

the means of countering financial turbulence borne of Government spending cuts.

Lancaster's statement of Widening Participation is set out in its Office For Fair Access (OFFA)-approved 2012-13 Access Agreement, which states its intention to increase fees whilst providing financial support for a range of categories of students (such as ethnic minorities, mature and disabled students) deemed most vulnerable to financial difficulty.

Between 2006 and 2009, Lancaster frequently surpassed its targeted percentage of entrants in each specified target group.

## "Surpassed targets"

In order to achieve the objectives laid down by Lord Browne in his 2011 report on Higher Education, the University must retain its standard of academic provision whilst the Students' Union maintains or enhances the students' university experience.

Browne's objective is to increase the competitive nature of the Higher Education system, with applicants electing their desired destinations based on prospects of prestige, high standards and – crucially – value for the large amounts of money they will be investing in their education.

Entry requirements for some subjects have risen this year in response to the numbers of applicants per place, as one impact of a rising status could be the need for greater discernment in accepting applicants.

For example, the entry requirement to study English Literature has risen

from ABB in 2009 to AAA/AAB to now. Entry requirements have risen across the faculties, in departments including English Language, French, Management, Psychology, Mathematics and Physics.

AAB entry requirements are rapidly becoming more common at Lancaster. The University Press Office has confirmed that five further departments are planning to raise their requirements.

LUSU President George Gardiner is positive about Lancaster increasing the standards which applications must attain. "By increasing their entry requirements it reflects [the University's] ambition to be a top university and that's definitely a good thing because we want [them] to be striving to be a top university," he said in an interview with SCAN.

However, Gardiner added that "The conditions with that are to make sure that [...] they continue to deliver a top-quality education, so the experience of the student who will strive to get AAA or AAB at A-Level needs to be of the quality that they expect."

"Obviously expectations are going big thing coming in this year, and managing that is something that the University and the Students' Union are going to have to do."

In particular, Gardiner called upon the University to provide as much information as possible about student finance to students who may be debt-averse due to a lack of knowledge about the Student Finance Company, for example.

"I think the University has got an obligation to put out a lot of information about the finance that is available but also to continue to make sure that they're offering good resources to first-year students

# Higher Education

## Fees & Funding

# 40%

– the cut in the Higher Education budget announced in 2010  
(source, *The Guardian*, 20/10/2010)

# 23%

– the cut in teaching grants being imposed in the period 2010/11 to 2012/13  
(source, *Public Finance*, 20/12/2010)

# £3.9m

– the amount pledged by outgoing Vice Chancellor Paul Wellings to ensure widening participation and access to Lancaster  
(source, *University Annual Report 10-11*)

particularly and obviously continuing that on to second and third year," he said.

Such an initiative would be part of Lancaster's policy of widening participation. Gardiner was positive about the "vast diversity of students" at Lancaster as well as the University's "good retention levels," but stressed that support had to be provided for students "who don't necessarily drop out but still struggle and don't have the support [they need in their degree]."

In the context of the £9000-a-year fees to be paid by students as of September, the LUSU President wants to see more done to eradicate additional course costs such as theatre performances for Theatre Studies students.

He argued that "that's

one example where I would argue that the University should be funding that kind of thing.

"Our basic position on it, because course costs are a really complex thing, is that anything that's compulsory or assessment-related should somehow be incorporated into tuition fees."

The increase in entry requirements would aim to discourage students viewing subjects it as a 'soft option' or pursuing them when they have no real interest in the subject.

These measures, among other things, are all indicative of Lancaster's aim to improve the already highly-regarded standards of its teaching and learning and thus enhance the overall student experience.

# Education in numbers

## Internationalisation

# 11

– foreign countries in which students will be able to study for Lancaster degrees once the new campus in China opens between 2013 and 2014  
(source, University Press Office)

# 50%

– the rise in international students studying at Lancaster by which the university will measure the success of its internationalisation by 2015  
(source, Strategic Plan 2009-15)

# 20%

– the rise in international fees income in the last year. Home undergraduate fees income rose by 7%  
(source, Annual Report 2010-11)

## Lancaster-Liverpool Collaboration

# 7th

– the hypothetical UK ranking of a Lancaster-Liverpool collaboration, in terms of 'research power'  
(source, 'The Case for Collaboration Between Lancaster and Liverpool Universities')

# 9000

– the projected number of international students studying in Lancaster and Liverpool by 2015  
(source, see above)

# 25,000

– the projected number of students studying for Lancaster or Liverpool degrees around the world by 2015  
(source, see above)

## Context: fees and funding

Rachel Stafford

Proposals for a raise in undergraduate tuition fees were made by the Government after cuts of 40% to the Higher Education budget were announced at a spending review on 20th October 2010. These proposals caused controversy and street protests across England in 2010/11.

Despite these protests the proposed changes went ahead. The cap on tuition fees has been raised, for universities in England, from £3,375 to £9,000.

The rise in tuition fees has been announced in order to cover major cuts to the Gov-

ernment's funding of universities. Universities argue that the extra tuition fees will not result in any superfluous money for the university itself; it will just cover the cuts from Government funding.

A cut of 6% to teaching grants has already been in place for the 2011-12 academic year, with a further 16% cut anticipated for the year 2012-13.

Prior to the rise in tuition fees, 29% of a university's total funding was made up of the fees, including those from postgraduate and overseas students. Another 35% came from government funding bodies, while the rest came from other sources

such as private investments and grants for research.

## The cap on tuition fees has been raised from £3,375 to £9,000

In England, due to the rise in tuition fees and cuts to government funding this balance will change; much of the cost of university courses will no longer be met by the

taxpayer, through the Government, but will rely more on the student's tuition fees.

Yet every university cannot simply charge £9,000 for all their courses. Those wishing to charge more than £6,000 must show that they are encouraging applications from students of a variety of backgrounds. This could take the form of summer schools, or outreach projects, such as Lancaster's own AimHigher project.

The universities must prove that they are appealing to students of all backgrounds, especially those of a less affluent background in order to be able to charge £9000. Support also has to be provided for these students from poorer backgrounds, during their study, in the form of bursaries or reductions in rent.

The system for the payment of fees will not change; the Government will still lend students the money, which they will not pay back until they have graduated and are in a secure job. While students who began studying prior to 2012 will have to pay back their loans once they are earning a minimum of £15,000 this will rise to £21,000 for students paying the maximum £9,000 as of 2012 and will continue to rise annually alongside inflation.

This will mean that undergraduates on a three-year course which costs £9,000, and who also receive full maintenance loans for accommodation and living cost, will leave university with around £43,000 of debt. The Government is still undecided as to whether a charge will be incurred for early repayment.

Universities in Scotland do not currently charge Scottish students, yet as of these changes becoming affective in September 2012, they will be able to raise the charges for non-Scottish students up to £9,000 in accordance with universities in England.

In Northern Ireland home students' fees will be capped at £3,465 whereas non-home students' fees could rise up to £9,000. The Welsh Assembly has also announced fees rising up to £9,000 to accord for cuts of 12% in funding to Welsh Universities.

## SCAN investigation

Jonnie Critchley  
Assistant Editor

Throughout Lent Term SCAN, in collaboration with Bailrigg FM and LA1:TV, will be producing a series of features documenting the changing landscape of Higher Education.

Specifically, we aim to show how these changes are becoming apparent at Lancaster University and how the University is responding to them.

## "Extending the project onto SCAN Online, more context is available via the website"

In this first feature, we outline the context of the issue and aspects where change is becoming apparent at Lancaster, take the Students' Union's perspective through an interview with the LUSU President.

Extending the project onto SCAN Online, more context on the globalisation of Higher Education - one of the most significant trends currently emerging - is available via the website.

Interviews with the University's Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) will be taking place in the coming weeks, and we will also be seeking contributions from students.

Upcoming coverage will take the form of further features in SCAN, as well as a roundtable discussion to be broadcast live on Bailrigg FM - provisionally in Week Five. Finally, we will be working with LA1:TV to produce a documentary presenting our findings.

# Oxfam Society to host music festival for poverty

Emma Nelson

Popular music festival Oxjam is set to hit Lancaster University on February 17th at 7pm for a night of live music.

For one night only Lonsdale, Pendle and Fylde bars will be transformed into musical venues hosting twelve amazing acts.

Oxfam Society representative and Event Organiser Lucy Searles, explained that the event, along with raising money for Oxfam, is "also about raising awareness of what Oxfam actually does and the current campaigns it will be running.

"We will have lots of promotional information in each bar and members of

the society handing it out, so if people have questions they can ask us. We are also looking at having someone from the society chat about the campaigns while the bands are changing over," she said.

**"A global team dedicated to fighting poverty"**

The line-up is set to include Innamorata, False Flag Operation, Our Day Remains, Underwater

Gunfight, Skant Handful, Fundamental, Alex Carrington, Holly Sutton, Fables, Julian Leto and others which are yet to be confirmed.

Lonsdale bar will be home to an Indie/Rock stage, with Funk/Jazz in Pendle bar and Acoustic in Fylde bar, "so whatever music people like they should be able to find something that interests them or dip into all 3 stages," Searles commented.

As a Lancaster University graduate, Alex Carrington told SCAN that "it is always a pleasure to come back every once in a while and perform.

"I commend the organisers for making it happen and I encourage students to come

out in their masses and simply support their local music scene whilst doing their bit for charity."

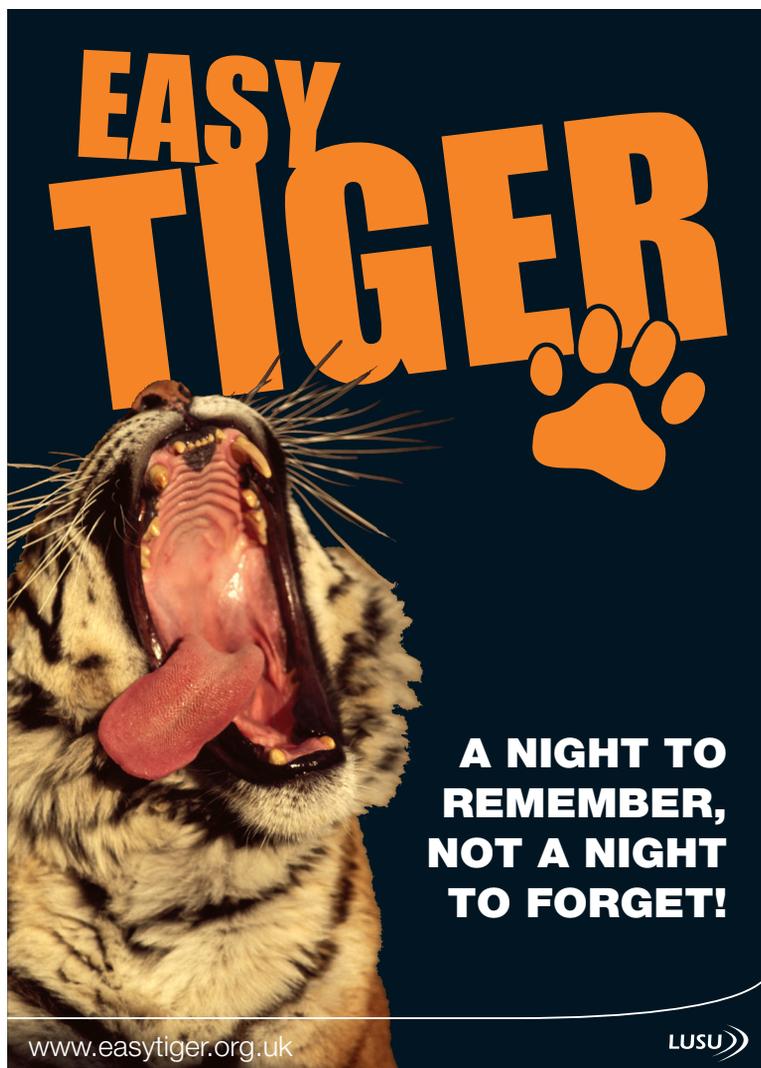
Lead Guitarist of Our Day Remains, Eshi Musaji, displayed further excitement for the event saying that "ODR are proud to be performing at the Oxjam Lancaster" which he describes as "a fantastic opportunity for ourselves and all that attend to be part of a global team dedicated to fighting poverty."

With the Oxjam ticket also permitting free entry to an after party at Dalton Rooms in Lancaster City Centre, it seems a night not to be missed. Tickets are available from Alexandra Square for £5 from a date that

will soon be confirmed on the Facebook event page. Tickets will also be available by request through the Facebook event page 'Oxjam Lancaster 2012'.

You can also follow the event on Twitter @Oxjam-Lancs, where videos and recordings of the bands playing will be uploaded.

"What better way to support charity than having as much fun as possible with our instruments?" asked Underwater Gunfight's lead singer, Natasha Gilbert. Oxjam is an ideal "respite from the dreaded doom and gloom of second term work" she went on, urging students to "treat [themselves] and relax, all in the name of a good cause."

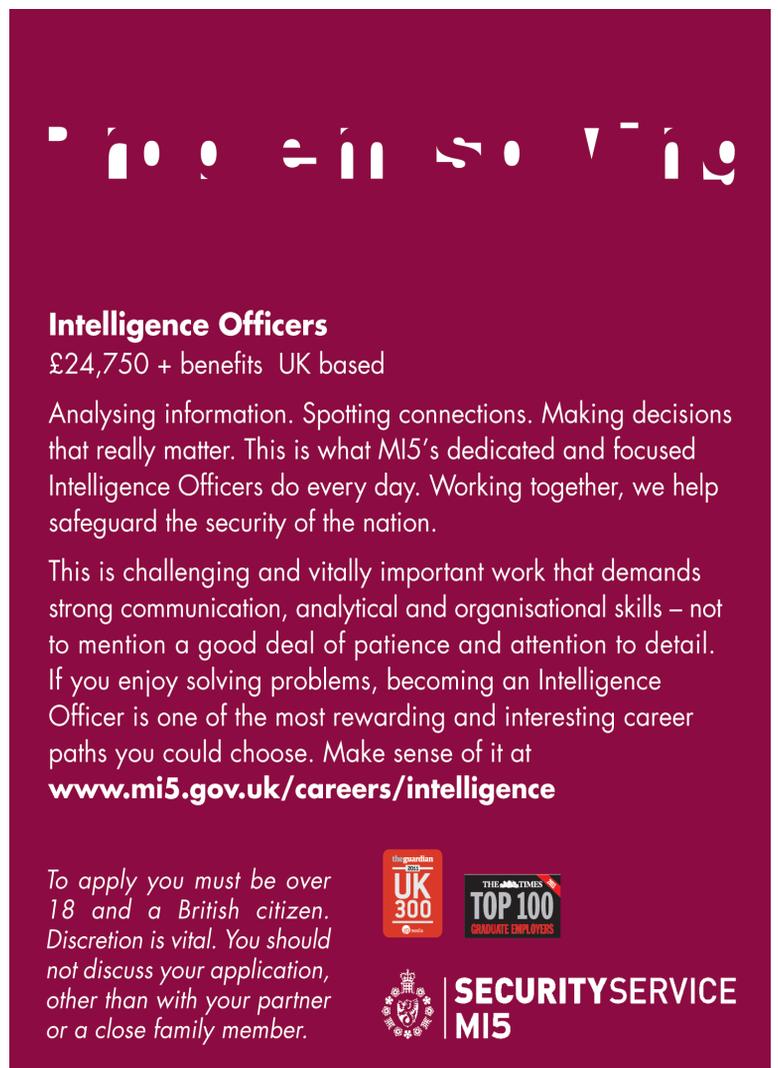


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 **SECURITYSERVICE MI5**

# Dyslexic student causes online stir with University complaint

**Jonnie Critchley**  
Assistant Editor

A recently-graduated Lancaster student caused an online stir in Week One after he published an account of the University's handling of his assessment, for which he required specific provisions to account for his dyslexia.

Mitch Vidler graduated in June 2011 with a 2:1 in Management and Entrepreneurship. Upon graduation he lodged a formal complaint with the University regarding inconsistencies in the transcription of his examination scripts and examiners' difficulties in reading his handwriting. This complaint "was found largely in his favour," according to a University statement.

Vidler challenged the University's response to his complaint, writing to Complaints Co-ordinator John Dickinson that "although [the University] admitted fault in all key areas I still found many factual inaccuracies within [the University's response] which firstly are very important to the severity of the case and secondly make me seriously worried about the clear lack of attention to detail displayed by your department."

He also rejected the £150 compensation offered to him, arguing that "I have incurred significant costs which far outweigh the proposed level of compensation offered."

In his online account, which has been 'shared' some 96 times via Facebook, Vidler wrote that "the long and the short of it is, I have spent £15 000 on fees for my education alone at Lancaster University and they have admitted they have made too many mistakes to call my

education fair. What is the point of learning if you can't be assessed fairly?"

In their handling of the complaint, the University have stressed that the £150 was never intended as reimbursement of Vidler's tuition fees but as compensation.

Vidler's complaint was founded upon the fact that an instance of maladministration led to his examinations not being transcribed in his first year, as they should have been. The University admitted this mistake, claiming it was the result of ambiguity in the document outlining Vidler's requirements.

A subsequent example of maladministration and also inappropriate comments made in an email between departmental staff were also admitted. The University have advised Vidler of his right to take his case to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator.

Minutes from a Stage 2 Complaint Appeal regarding Vidler's case in October 2011 show that Professor Christine Milligan, Complaints Panellist, "emphasised that [she] had provided him with that which he sought, i.e. an apology and an explanation as why the events had occurred as they had."

The University's press statement outlined that "the University acknowledged there had been some ambiguity in its communications, which led to failures to transcribe his examinations, but was satisfied that reasonable steps had been taken once the mistakes had been identified.

"Specifically, transcriptions [of Vidler's exams] had been made available, each department had been contacted to ensure that



**Mitch Vidler is a LUMS alumnus.** Photo by Meher Gupta

Mr Vidler had not been disadvantaged through the lack of transcription and the Examination Board had been explicitly informed of the mistakes and asked to take them into account when considering final classification of the degree.

"This had been duly done and the University was of the opinion that Mr Vidler had been awarded the correct classification of degree."

Responding to the issue, LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) Matt Saint said: "It seems that due to one original mistake with the information on Mitch's records, a series of subsequent problems have occurred. The University has obviously not dealt with this case well, which they themselves have admitted, and have advised Mitch of his right to take this case, if he wishes to continue with his appeal, to the office of the independent adjudicator.

"Over the coming months the University will be

conducting a review of its student support services and LUSU officers and staff will be closely monitoring proposed new procedures in this area to make sure they don't have the potential to allow mistakes like this to happen."

Saint also stressed the availability of support from LUSU's Education and Support team.

The University's statement explained that "Lancaster University welcomes applications from disabled students and is committed to supporting every student with their learning needs."

"We regret that [Vidler] was not satisfied with some elements of his experience at Lancaster and where the University considered improvements could be made it has acted," it said.

"The Disability Service completed a process review in late 2011 and has adjusted its procedures accordingly," the statement continues.

In an email to SCAN,

second-year mature student Brenda Rockall was positive about her experience as a dyslexic student at Lancaster, saying that she emailed Head of Student Based Services Tom Finnigan to "say how I had had such a different experience to Mitch's and I wanted to tell people."

Rockall, whose exam provision included extra time and a reader, said that her treatment had been "more than adequate."

However, Vidler's account has prompted further examples from other students with similar experiences

One student commented on his webpage that her brother had been offered "completely inappropriate" alternative assessment despite having Asperger's syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD).

As a result, SCAN intends to further investigate the administration of provisions for disabled students in the coming weeks.

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# CAROLYNNE

STUDENT CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

LOVED UP OR  
LOOKING?

# CAROLYNNE WTF?

# LATE NIGHT BOOK FACE

SECOND TERM IS HERE, DEADLINE DRAMA HAS INVADED AND I'M STARTING TO REGRET TRADING IN MY READING LIST FOR PROJECT FAT AND FESTIVE OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK.

BUT THE NEW YEAR DOESN'T JUST BRING NEW FRETS FOR TERM AHEAD BUT LOTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO (JUST ME THAT'S EXCITED THEN?)

IT'S A LEAP YEAR, VALENTINE'S IS ON ITS WAY, SPRING WILL SOON BE SPRINGING AND IF THAT DOESN'T GET YOU EXCITED (WHICH FOR THE SINGLE AND DAFFODIL HATERS OUT THERE IT WON'T) CAROLYNNE IS HERE TO SEE YOU RIGHT THROUGH THE MAN FLU SEASON WITH INTERVIEWS, REVIEWS AND A GOOD DOSE OF STUDENT LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE.

SO PULL UP YOUR BED SOCKS, PUT THE KETTLE ON AND ENJOY.



Photo by Detective Steve

## LIFESTYLE

We all have those annoying Facebook friends that have the wildest, most drunken nights out every single night of the week- according to their Facebook statuses, anyway. Statuses which can take up to a few minutes to de-code and actually make sense of, because they resemble the spelling and grammar of a two year-old, to put it nicely. Their enviable social lives are sprawled all over Facebook from Monday-Sunday. But how enviable can someone's night be, when they have the spare time to whip out their Blackberry to tell us all, "skjhfgdkjshgaiuyg"? I vow to you that this was somebody's status, posted at 1.39am on December 6th.

"Sooo hungover" statuses the next day. It appears as though the culprits are just trying to prove the point that they are living the party lifestyle, in an attempt to generate admiration and jealousy for themselves.

So, I went on a mission to track down and expose these after-hours Facebookers. Prepare to feel a deep sense of annoyance after reading this article.

There's the I-get-depressed-and-want-sympathy-on-a-night-out Facebookers. They post statuses such as "wishesj things hadn't changged", "Don't think my life could possibly get any worse" and "break m yyrt twice never thyry yii.rd." The latter is particularly mind-boggling, but I have de-coded it to mean something like "break my heart twice, never a third time." I might be wrong, but I'm not one of the professionals. Judging by these statuses, you might imagine that members of this category of Facebookers sit in a corner of a club, crying alone. Must be exciting company for their friends...

Category number two. I-get-so-wasted-yet-still-remember-my-facebook-password. From this category, you can find general mis-spellings and comments about the night. A few statuses I rooted out were "I neef to get laid" and "kind jus gt in buzzin comfy quarta 2 6 jog ome x." The kiss at the end was a nice touch, but it doesn't make us forgive this person's awful status update.

Finally, we have the thoughtful category that likes to provide visual aids. Just to be completely certain that there is proof of a wild time. Pictures regularly involve a person planking, or vomit. Whatever it is, upload it the following day, not at 2.30am. Normal people are either asleep, or out partying (minus the continuous reel of status updates).

Obviously, I'm not suggesting that everyone should stay at home gathering dust. I strongly encourage making the most of your university experience. I'm just cynical about a status update that says "Wasted-ddd ,,,,teqwuiila BAAD", because it's more than likely that the writer is 95% sober, updating their status to avoid standing awkwardly or making small talk. One particularly interesting recent post read, "Getting drunk and being boring!" At least they know they're honest with themselves.

Amy Hawthorne

# AFTER A FEW BEVS I CAN'T FIND MY PHONE LET ALONE STATUS UPDATE

It is actually a rather impressive phenomenon. Personally, after a few drinks, I lose the ability to even use my phone, let alone post statuses or, even more remarkable, upload photographs taken during the night. This does pose the question as to whether this minority group's nights out are really as "amaznifng" as they would like us to think. The almost foreign language-like statuses are inevitably followed by the

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# WHO ATE ALL THE MINCE PIES?

## LIFESTYLE

\*Sighs\* Yes, its that time of year again, you feel bloated, bulging and unattractive. You've had one too many mince pies and a sip too many of the mulled wine and the prospect of slipping into that little black number for Elements Monday is ever-daunting. The January fat blues can be depressing, even for the best of us. The answer? Do something about it!

This might be easier said than done but shaping up after Christmas can be achieved. Even by a student who is faced with the ever tempting trip to Pizzetta after a night out or an "innocent pint at the bar." Its all about determination and perseverance.

To begin, you need the mindset. You need to really want to shape up and get a grip of your eating habits, in order to see any real results. If you've got the head for a diet, the body will come in time. You must be dedicated and consistency is a priority.

Next, its all about food. Even though you feel as though you've had enough nosh in the last month and that starving yourself on a lettuce leaf is the only way - this will not work in the long run. Eating little and often (of the right things) will do wonders for your figure. Contrary to common beliefs 80% of losing weight comes from what you eat. Get rid of those christmas choccies, throw away the rest of the fruit cake and get on it! Cutting out carbs in the evening can make a huge difference, its all about the meat and veg guys.

## LETTUCE LEAVES ARE NOT THE ONLY ANSWER!

Third, exercise! What's that you say? Yes, it can be forgotten about when all you have done is slob for a month. But getting back into the cardio not only does wonders for beating the christmas bulge but also for your health in general. Exercise increases your metabolism and makes you feel happy and healthy. Particularly at university when high workloads (yeah right!) can cause huge stress, exercise can dispel the panic and release pent up anxiety.

Now the problem for us students is alcohol. Unfortunately, like all the employed out there who go back to work and vow not to drink for a month, it is not quite so easy for us. Especially when your friends are yelling, "down it!" or "funnel!" and inevitably all those shots and pints are just empty calories falling onto our bodies along with the rest of the christmas indulgences. But results can still be achieved even with the odd night of bingeing. Keeping these nights to a minimum or drinking less on some nights (an absurd suggestion I know) will help.

So long as you keep eating and exercising well you should keep the beer bellies/alcopop flab at bay. Telling the drunk you that you do not need a pizza at 3am will also help. Although a seemingly impossible task at 2:59am!

C.3



Photo by Phillip Ingham

But don't forget to always keep the end result in sight - a slimmer, happier you! Hit the gym, eat well and go for it!  
Lara Sharp

# SECONDS ANYONE?

## LIFESTYLE

You spend a good solid two years- at least- worrying about getting into university. Personal statements, open days and not to mention all that studying, just so hopefully, come one sunny August, you will become a fully-fledged student yearning for knowledge and packing away your worldly possessions into a tiny room you now call home.

Then, the party starts. Freshers' Week, followed by more partying, with a dash of late nights and oodles of lies in. The student life ey? Doesn't everyone cram essays in at the last minute scribbling away in the Learning Zone late into the small hours? Before you know it, Freshers' Week has turned into Freshers' Year and you still have an unread reading list and not to mention, quite a bad headache. However, all that pretty much is fine, as long as you get 45% overall in your major and you're not expecting a first, isn't it? Well maybe it is for first year, but let's just say second year, well that's a whole different story.

You may, like me, have come from being fed, clothed and pampered at home thinking you were in for another eventful, crazy, barrel of laughs year. You join in at Fresher's Week and glance over your timetable, nonchalantly until, bang, second year all of a sudden arrives and refuses to leave. Suddenly it's Week One and all you hear are "deadlines," "essays" and so commences your student nightmare.

Cue metaphorical fairy godmother- a planner. It may sound simple but I can honestly say, "hi my name is Yasmin and I used to be disorganised, and all thanks to my planner I'm a reformed character." I write down every deadline and label the weeks to avoid confusion. I pencil in reading I have to get done, exercises I have to complete and if I'm lucky my schedule leaves me time for a night out almost reminiscent of my first year days.

## SHOCKED BY SECOND YEAR?

I'm not saying I'm suddenly a first-class swot, showing off that I've done my reading and showing all my seminar group up every week, but if I do manage to not complete the reading, I can be assured that it was out of pure laziness and not poor organisation, for once.

If you actually use your smart phone for more than texting, calling and the occasional tweet, many come with apps or inbuilt features that can help organise your studying. The best thing about using your phone too is that it's always on you and it's easy to key in extra reading your seminar tutor may recommend. It also gives you a great excuse to have your phone out in lectures!

For those of you who refute technology, like me, I prefer a diary-style planner that I can trustily flick through and rest assured that my next essay deadline isn't for another three weeks.

Second year is serious business, and like all serious business when encountered, you always do better when you've done the planning. Be prepared. It works for the Boy Scouts, it might work for us second years too.  
Yasmin Jaunbocus

# THE BEST OF SPORT, NEWS AND



All photographs taken by Jay Theis (unless stated)



## NEWSPEAK

The Bailrigg FM News team is responsible for pumping ten hours of facts, thoughts and opinions out of the Bailrigg antenna each week, with each show in the line-up providing some of the station's very best content.

Newspeak is the News Team's flagship show, condensing all of the news and scandal of the previous week into a high-intensity, high-quality hour of discussion and debate. Headed up by former SCAN Investigations Editor Sam Newsham and a series of regular and guest co-hosts, Newspeak tackles everything from spats at LUSU to spats at the UN. "It's not all about politics though," Newsham told SCAN, "we discuss quite a few political topics but also take in human interest stuff - in the last couple of weeks before term ended we debated the effect of social media on emails and the Leveson inquiry."

The show have also had the pleasure of welcoming a few high-profile political figures on air - "We've had interviews too - we interviewed Clare Short a few weeks ago and played that before debating some of the topics raised," said Newsham. Though in spite of the high-profile guests, the host finds its the students that make the show truly unique - "It gives a student perspective to a lot of national issues - you can hear these things debated on the BBC and other places but you won't hear them being done from a student point of view." Newspeak airs between 6 and 7pm every Monday.

Written by Joe Henthorn (Culture Editor)

## HUMBLE SAM'S TIME TRAVELS

Sunday morning is very probably the time when the Studentius Lancastrius population shows its most divergent range of behaviours. A few hardy souls will have hide out in the dark corners of the library. Some will be eating bacon sandwiches after returning to the nest for the weekend. An unfortunate few will be sprawled across the bathroom floor, covered in their own vomit. However, there's one thing that all of these students should also be doing - listening to Humble Sam's Time Travels on Bailrigg FM.

Hosted by the ever-enigmatic 'Humble Sam' (though there are rumours that he might actually be Beethoven), Time Travels is Bailrigg's only show devoted to classical music in its many forms. Expect to hear everything from banging Baroque party bangers to Renaissance ravers, as well as plenty from Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Vivaldi and Bach. But don't expect to hear any Wagner or Chopin - "Did I mention that I absolutely hate Wagner and Chopin?" Sam told us. Of course, you don't have to be an expert of Humble Sam's calibre to enjoy the music - Sam's patient and intelligent explanations of the histories of the composers and their songs are the nicest introduction to Classical Music that you could hope for. So whatever it is you're doing next Sunday morning - pick up the headphones and take a journey through time with Humble Sam. Humble Sam airs between 11-1 every Sunday.

## HMS RON AND FRIENDS

If you turn your ears - or better still, your web browser - towards Bailrigg HQ on a Wednesday evening, you'll hear a strange, almost unearthly sound... Whatever could it be? Why, it's the sound of HMS Ron and Friends, its engines chugging into life before heading off into murky, unexplored waters with a boat-load of lecturers aboard!

Without a doubt one of Bailrigg's most unique and interesting shows, HMS Ron sees a member of University staff clamber aboard each week to talk with Captain Ronnie Rowlands about their work, their past and their music. "It offers the chance to hear their lecturers out of the formal confines of a lecture theatre, and in a setting where they're highly likely to be open about themselves," said Rowlands, "it puts a personality to the intelligence." The show has drawn some big names throughout its run, with high profile academics and even former Vice-Chancellor Paul Wellings making an appearance.

And whilst hearing their lecturers on air will be a big draw for many, the show is also notable for its music, which is chosen 'Desert Island Discs'-style by the guests. "Musically it stands out because I'm not adhering with an official playlist of the newest (and played to death) music - this is music chosen by people who have lived through many generations of trends," Rowlands told SCAN. HMS Ron and Friends airs between 7 and 8 pm every Thursday.

# OF BAILRIGG AND ALL THE GOSS



Photo by Crystal Dishman

## MATT FREEMAN PERSPECTIVE

Sitting on the Bailrigg FM management committee – or Mancom, as it is affectionately known – is a notoriously big time commitment. So it's all the more impressive that one of the busiest members of the committee, Programme Controller Matt Freeman, manages to put together one of Bailrigg's most professional and popular shows every week.

The Matt Freeman Perspective is an extremely polished entertainment show that plays excellent music and passes comment on the week's most important (and also, most bizarre) news stories. Well, it's either that or some sort of psychoanalytical submarine that lets us see the mysterious depths of the Programme Controller's mind.

As well as playing a fairly eclectic mix of some of the best music coming out of the UK right now – Freeman mentions Metronomy, Elbow and SBTRKT as particular favourites – he'll also occasionally take a leaf from fellow Bailrigg DJ Humble Sam's book and does a bit of time travelling. "There's also a bit where I dip into a classic NOW album to see if the stuff on there's any better than the Jason Derulo-y stuff we have to put up with normally," Freeman said. "It normally is," he added, an audible note of melancholy ringing in his voice.

The Matt Freeman Perspective airs between 5 and 7 pm every Thursday.

## THE SPORTS SHOW

Sports! Sports! Sports! Lancaster's got lots of them, and I'd imagine a decent chunk of SCAN readers play something, at some level; so it's not particularly shocking to learn that this sporting passion as carried over into Bailrigg FM, where the sporting coverage is extremely popular, and of extremely good quality. Whether it's the latest news on the Roses, debate about the state of the Premiership, or gossip from the Cartmel Darts team you're after, the Bailrigg Sports Show always comes up with the goods.

The show is well known for its dynamic discussions and audience interaction, with the audience being invited to send in their thoughts on the latest campus stories at the start of every episode. "The show in essence is a round up of the weeks sporting events. We try and make this as diverse as possible in terms of varying sport, but we do have a soft spot for football which usually becomes the focus of our discussion," host Arik Johnstone said.

The Sports Team are also heavily involved with Bailrigg's relationship with local football team Lancaster City – "In the past we have had interviews with figures involved with Lancaster City, but we also plan to expand this with future interviews with other local athletes and teams", host Arik Johnstone told SCAN. It's this even mix of the campus-based, local and national that has made Bailrigg's sports output so popular.

The Sports Show is broadcast every Tuesday between 7 and 10pm, and every Saturday between 2 and 6pm.

## ANGUS & PHIL'S TEATIME TAKEOVER

When I first meet Angus and Phil (the two heroes of Bailrigg's Tuesday night tea-time slot) it's to take the pictures for this article. Deciding on their picture isn't easy as some of the other shows, but thankfully the two already had a plan. "We're just gonna' jump on each others' backs and go a bit nuts." As you can see, it worked out quite well.

It's these dynamic, spontaneous and somewhat anarchic traits that come across in their show. The Tea Time Takeover (a beacon of alliterative hope if ever there was one) is an eclectic mix of competitions, features, bizarre quizzes and a constant stream of audience interaction. For example, 'Challenge Angus' is a straight-up battle of intellects between Angus and a listener (example question: name a yellow fruit that doesn't start with B), whereas the downright dangerous sounding 'Who Wants to Beat a Philly on the Air?' absolutely isn't on-air animal abuse but another tricky quiz where a listener challenges 'Philly' to a series of questions asked by his co-host. Their music taste is just as odd as the quizzes, but occasionally they'll even leave that to listeners too, playing a game of 'Record Roulette' and having an audience member choose an entirely random record from Bailrigg's preposterously large CD library.

All in all, it's pretty much the perfect combination of man love and insanity for your standard Tuesday tea time.

Angus and Phil are on air every Tuesday between 5 and 6pm.

# COMIN' THIS MONTH

## MUSIC, FILM, GIGS & GAMES



**FINAL FANTASY XIII-2**  
GAME - FRIDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

If the first instalments were the epics, the Iliad or Gilgamesh; and if VI, VII and VIII saw Square figuring out their art and making their Robinson Crusoe, then Final Fantasy XIII was the equivalent of a Sex and the City novel – self-indulgent, devoid of plot and full of incomprehensible proper nouns. With any luck Square have learnt from their mistakes, and this'll be the game they should have made two years ago.



**LANA DEL REY - BORN TO DIE**  
MUSIC - MONDAY 27TH JANUARY

Lana Del Rey! Video Games! That artist and that song were responsible for more buzz than a wasp nest in a vuvuzela factory last year. But with all the TV appearances and interviews focussing on her 'zany' persona, you could be forgiven for forgetting that the song itself was actually very good. Born to Die probably won't be able to sustain the intolerable levels of hype, but this is still an exciting release that promises plenty of melancholy lyrics and Cat Power-esque vocals.



**PULLED APART BY HORSES - TOUGH LOVE**  
MUSIC - MONDAY 20TH JANUARY

'I'LL MAKE YOU DANCE WITH MY BALLS ON FIRE!', 'AWESOME! RADICAL! TOTALLY BODACIOUS!', and 'RARARARAGGGHHH!!!' - Pulled Apart by Horses aren't the most eloquent lyricists around, but they've been putting on the best live show in the country for at least three years now. Their eponymous debut perfectly distilled the chaos of their live show onto record, and there's every reason to think Tough Love will be more of the same, except more radical, and more totally bodacious.



**J. EDGAR**  
FILM - JANUARY

One awards season hopeful this year will be Leonardo DiCaprio who, despite having been nominated three times before, has never taken home the coveted Oscar. DiCaprio takes the title role as the first ever head of the FBI whose personal life constantly threatened his leadership status. J. Edgar is an American legend, it's all about stifled homosexuality, and it's directed by Clint Eastwood and co-stars Judi Dench. Basically, it's Oscar Gold.

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



**HAYWIRE**  
FILM - JANUARY

Hollywood loves a good punch up, and providing them this time is newcomer Gina Carano accompanied by an all-star cast of Ewan McGregor, Antonio Banderas, Channing Tatum, Michael Fassbender, Michael Douglas and Bill Paxton. It doesn't scream originality, the premise seems like a sort of mash-up between Bourne and Salt, and I wouldn't expect the script to be particularly riveting. It should, however, pack a serious punch.



**SHAME**  
FILM - JANUARY

Michael Fassbender and Carey Mulligan are two stars that Britain has a right to be excited about. This tale of a sex addict whose antics are disturbed when his sister decides to move in indefinitely has only been getting critics even more excited about the talents of the young actors. Anyone who loves great performances and unflinchingly real portrayals of the human spirit should buy a ticket for this one.

# Valentine Special

## JINXED!

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### RELIGHT MY FIRE

Consider Valentine's Day and you are flooded with images of wining and dining, fresh flowers, lingering glances across a candlelit table, cherubs with wings and bows and arrows... Now consider a long term relationship; wining and dining has been replaced by a shared Chinese take away, in your pjs in front of Corrie. So how do you reconcile the two?

In the first flushes of romance, V-Day is the perfect opportunity to woo a potential partner, after all who wouldn't be swooning after a three course meal with 'The way you look tonight' playing in the background? However, after several years with your partner Valentine's becomes a day crammed with many potential relationship landmines.

For instance; book a table at a restaurant and you are instantly infuriated at the extortionate cost (any other meal costs a fraction of the price of a V-Day feast, when greedy establishments often only offer a set menu) and plonked in the middle of what my boyfriend eloquently described as 'cheesy dates touching

noses over the table'. However, risk ignoring the big pink day and you can find yourself pining away for the good old romantic days of yester year and feeling decidedly miserable.

I think the way forward is to eschew the clichés and instead of celebrating Valentine's Day, celebrate your relationship. Instead of sending your girlfriend the done-to-death dozen roses, send her favourite flowers with a hand written note- it's much more personal and will demonstrate just how well you know each other. Why not avoid emptying your bank account in a restaurant and instead recreate your favourite date, be it a picnic or simply a marathon of your favourite films together.

After all, why buy into the commerciality of V-Day when you get to tell that special someone how you feel about them every other day of the year too. So dig deep through your memories and make a day that it true to the both of you and your time together.

It may be becoming apparent through my words that I have an extremely over-active cringe mechanism and that public displays of affection for the sake of the 14th of February give me the heebie jeebies.

If you, dear reader, are horrified by my flippant attitude towards this lovely holiday then please- book yourself in at Casa de Love and enjoy your red bouquet. However, I hope that when the 14th rolls around my boy and I will be in our pjs watching a Lord of the Rings marathon...  
Sophie Taylor

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Map showing Lancaster City, Lancaster, and surrounding areas.

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LUSU



**EAT YOUR HEART OUT:**

Anthony lovingly fed grapes to Cleopatra and nobody can deny the look of pure devotion between Lady and the Tramp over a generous helping of spaghetti and meatballs. It seems that food and love go hand in hand better than anything else I can think of. Be it breakfast in bed, a lavish lunch or a five star dining experience, going through the stomach is definitely the way to both a man and woman's heart. This Valentine's day why not treat your admired from afar, or long time beau to something extra special at the array of places there are to eat in Lancaster. There's a place to suit every partner. Whether you're on a bit of a tight budget, or money is no object, here are



some great places to woo the taste buds off your date.

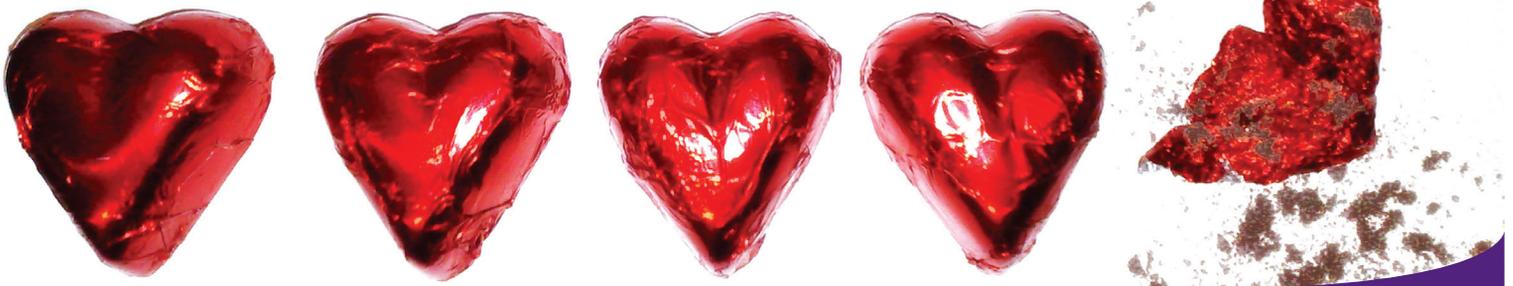
**Pub Grub:** There are tonnes of excellent pubs who serve up lovely and sometimes local food- great for those dates concerned with their carbon footprints  
**Splash Out:** If the pennies are flowing as freely as the love, then The Stork offers tasty pub food as well as some interesting South African daily specials, even including ostrich. The Stork is a little out of the way but is a picturesque B&B with a roaring log fire. What says romance more than that?

**Money doesn't grow on trees:** Bit of a tight budget but still want to make some sort of attempt to wine and dine your date? Well The Borough is a safe bet and adorably light on the pocket. Sugar and spice and everything nice: Fancy a curry to inject some feistiness and bite into the date? Moghul's happy hour is the place to be. Be it a calm and coconutty korma, or a madras with a kick, love is sure to blossom over the pilau.

**Posh and pampered:** If wining and dining are more your thing, why not try The Gatehouse which looks out onto the canal, they do the best deep fried brie ever. Alternately, The Greaves Park Hotel, not only looks impressive, but they also serve up the quite unusual sounding Kopperburg duck.

Even if you decide to make something yourself this Valentine's day to display your undying love, say it through food, like Virginia Woolf said, "One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."  
 Yasmin Jaunbocus

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## THIS ONE'S JUST FOR THE BOYS....

OK lads, it's that classic situation all over again: you've promised that special someone that you'll show them a Valentine's Day to remember. You've both made sure you have the evening free to go out and do something extra special as a couple, and as the gentleman you are, you've promised to organise the whole thing. Then reality hits when you. You remember that sleepy, old Lancaster isn't exactly Paris, London or Venice. Instead of a Gondolier using his 'rèmo' oar to push you both dreamily down a Venetian canal, Lancaster boasts an array of shopping trollies visible in the River Lune at low tide; instead of a Parisian merchant offering a 'flower for the lady' from his fresh bouquet, you get offered an overpriced, cheaply-made, artificial rose in the toilet of a club under the sales-pitch that it will help you pull.

Don't let this contrast put you off from planning a memorable evening with your partner in Lancaster though, as there are a few hidden gems within the small town's cobbled streets. First is the collection of restaurants around the town: we've all been to our fair share through sports or society socials, friends' birthdays or flat evenings out and even the most unsociable Fresher would have heard of a few of the places Lancaster has to offer. Trying one you've heard of or seen before but never been to would be a great shout to make your evening

original and enjoyable. If you think taking them out for a meal is the ultimate Valentine cliché, why not show off your culinary skills in the kitchen by cooking the meal yourself? Be careful with this one though, it can be potentially disastrous resulting in fire engines on campus again, and the rest of the house won't thank you for making them come outside when they may have had other Valentine plans. Alternatively, preparing, cooking and presenting your partner with an original and interesting dish could seal the deal in making it a memorable Valentine's Day.

If you're sick of the usual places in Lancaster, don't be afraid to venture out of the town's one-way system. A walk to the Ashton Memorial in Williamson Park might be one of those places you've seen but never been to, as could a walk to Galgate (there's more than The Plough there!). Believe it or not but Morecambe boasts a few hidden gems itself and is an easily accessible decent day trip (see if you can find the Carleton by day-light too). With buses to Preston and Blackpool also regular in Lancaster, there really are so many opportunities to break free from Lancaster if this article hasn't convinced you of the town's own offers.

But ultimately (and I know it's the cheesiest classic cliché), it genuinely shouldn't matter what you do or where you go but as long as you're together on this lovey-dovey day. (Just remember it's the 14th February though...)  
Matt Haslam

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## GIFTS OF THE HEART:

What are you hoping that special someone will give you this Valentine's? A box of chocolates, perhaps? A bouquet of roses? Or maybe you're just holding out for a card under your room door. Either way, have you ever stopped to think about where these traditions came from?

Valentines itself sprung up all the way back in the Middle Ages, when people believed that February 14th was the day birds started mating. Having come to this conclusion, what better way to celebrate the mating season by sending letters of love to their other half!

Early Valentines cards were beautiful hand-made creations decorated with inks and water colours – there were no last minute stops at the garage to pick up a Hallmark card back in those days! There were plenty of ways to pass on your message of romance, too. Many lovers wrote a poem where the first letter of each line spelt out the recipient's name, and some even created a 'puzzle purse', where the verse was folded in an intricate pattern that had to be unfolded in the right order before it made any sense.

The tradition of sending a bunch of flowers on the big day may seem like something only a man would do but originally, both men and women used to send flowers. Way back in the 18th century, each flower had a specific meaning, and lovers would exchange single flowers by way of having a conversation through petals. Receiving a rose was the height

of romance, as this flower, of course, represented 'I love you'. Everyone would have been desperate to receive a violet in return, symbolising 'I return your love'. However, it wasn't all giddy fun, with flowers such as the gladiolus there to sting the recipient with a not-so-sweet 'you pierce my heart!'

Of course, this time of year also sees the shelves lined with heart-shaped chocolate boxes, and most of us are fond of receiving a sugary treat from those who care about us. This tradition harks back all the way to the Aztecs, who used chocolate for its aphrodisiac qualities. Throughout Central America, women even used melted chocolate as a love potion and 'spiked' their desired men with it!

Here in England, the tradition caught on some considerable years later, but chocolate has always been a hit amongst the lovelorn. During the 1800s, doctors often prescribed chocolate to those suffering from lovesickness to calm their emotions... not an unpleasant cure at all! Of course, it was a certain Richard Cadbury who 'invented' the first Valentine's Day chocolate box in the Victorian times, and we've been sending those gold-wrapped goodies ever since.

So, whether you are laden with gifts or get a card signed with a mysterious kiss, remember how it all began, and think of all those people who have puzzled over love in centuries past.  
Lydia Warrender

## MONEY CAN'T BUY ME LOVE?

You can't put a price tag on love...but you can on its accessories, or so it has been said. With Valentine's Day round the corner, out come those wonderful gifts that the shops are desperate for us to buy and for some reason, we do. Gone are the days when Valentine's Day was about spending time with your loved one, now we seem to be more focussed on spending money on them. So why is it that we splash our cash on Valentine's Day? Should our loans be spent on those ridiculous presents we find in shops or stretched further to a gift your loved one actually wants. The dilemma is - get your Valentine's Day gift right and you will be, for a short moment at least, in your other halves very good books. Get it wrong and the consequences could be bad and forever remembered.

Hubpages.com rated chocolate to be in the top 10 most romantic gifts to give on Valentine's Day to a woman, along with roses, diamonds (of course) and dinner. Although these standard gifts are what most would expect on Valentine's Day recent shops have seemed to go that one step further.

Walking into any stockist of valentines gifts in town, there is plenty of heart-shaped stuff to choose from. Heart shaped boxes with chocolates, heart shaped key-rings with 'I love you' written on it, heart shaped balloons and even socks with hearts on them. In Thorn-

ton's they have cutesy kissing birds, or plaques to write your own words on. But does that really say I love you?

Daily Mail's femail section advised women to drop hints on possible Valentine's Day gifts such as asexpensive perfume that we wouldn't buy ourselves, Clinique make-up, a dozen roses and toiletries.

The possible gifts they suggest for males include Dolce and Gabbana scent, Clinique grooming set and a men's essential skin care set. It seems that Valentine's Day is either those useless presents – plushy toys or fancy chocolates which you might expect every year; or for girls, a chance to hint to their loved one for an expensive gift, a chance to get spoilt with useful presents.

So where is the balance? Between the teddies and jewellery? It's been suggested that special and thoughtful personalised gifts, such as cooking a favourite meal or planning a romantic getaway can never be negatively received. But although we might laugh at the ridiculous gifts that shops are promoting in the months coming up to Valentine's Day, these are probably the gifts we'll realistically buy.

Afterall, you can't go wrong with something red and heart shaped, nor can you with a fancy box of chocolates. Both of those will guarantee you to stay in your boyfriend/girlfriends good books for at least a week, and with that, i'd say it's worth it.  
Amy Packham

The Plough, situated close to the university in Galgate, has been a favourite with staff and students for many years and when visiting this week it was clear to see why. A cosy country pub with a fantastic real fire – The Plough offers a warm and inviting escape from the Lancaster weather. Wherever possible The Plough sources their products locally and this can be tasted in the fantastic quality and freshness of the food we were served. A wide and varied main menu, offering gigantic portions, is accompanied by a snack menu offering a selection of sandwiches, baguettes and jacket potatoes for those with a smaller appetite. Traditional pub food, but done excellently. The recent introduction of the stone baked pizzas has been a welcome addition to the menu, already proving to be a firm favourite. If you think you can handle it - the legendary Godfather burger isn't to be missed! Two succulent

steak burgers towered with onion rings, bacon, cheese, shredded iceberg, tomato and mayonnaise served in a warmed sesame seed bun – can you beat the daddy of all burgers & take the Godfather challenge?

The Plough caters to their University audience by offering a series of fantastic Purple card discounts to run alongside their current 'Wristpect' campaign. 'Wristpect' sees the Plough offering different weekly discounts on food and drink to those who have a 'Wristpect' wristband, available from the LUSU Shop or from the bar at the Plough. The discounts offered change on a weekly basis to provide a wide variety of value for money offers to suit all tastes.

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# AS IF BY MAGIC

## CULTURE

Lancaster University's arty endeavours are encompassed in circles - we have a circle of actors, a circle of musicians, a circle of artists, role-players, game nerds, moviegoers and more. In its circle of magic however, stands one first-year student. He has a name, but he conceals it as well as he conceals his secrets, as all good magicians should. He calls himself 'Switch', after his signature trick, and he is worth some attention.

Switch is worth slightly more attention when one considers that, despite growing up with a Grandfather who shared with him a love of Tommy Cooper, he only began learning and honing the craft of confusion two years ago. He took away a valuable rule in magic from a college friend; "don't learn the tricks, master the cards, the rest will come naturally," and hasn't looked back. From there, he has laid out his own maxim on magic - you don't have to understand it, you just have to enjoy it; and that maxim has yet to be flouted by anyone who may have stumbled across Switch in any college bar, which he enters knowing no-one and leaves known to all.

## SWITCH DESERVES YOUR ATTENTION

Like his street based counterparts; Dynamo and David Blaine (whom he aspires to emulate), Switch avoids standing on stage cracking jokes whilst pulling rabbits out of hats. Rather, he brings to any impromptu performance a deceptively absentminded, subtle wisdom and affability, lulling his spectators into a relaxed conversation - all the better for knocking them sideways when he pulls their cards out of his wallet. The art of subversion is what drives this enigmatic illusionist, whose hardest kick out of magic is the gushing 'oh my GOD!' at the end of it; "I will never get over people's reactions... some people take a while to figure it out, and seeing the cogs turning in people's heads while they think about my tricks is brilliant," as he puts it.

To perfect, some tricks take minutes and some take weeks, but if it all goes wrong - as another of his personal rules decree; "Tricks can and will go wrong, and when they do, simply make it into another trick. Never accept defeat." It is this eagerness for a wide eyed reaction that makes the prospect of Switch reaching a nationwide audience all the more tenable. This is not a rookie seeking polite applause, nor a shivering newbie hoping you will humour him - his dexterity with the deck is far beyond his years.

Switch will exhibit his routines to anyone on campus - give him a minute and he'll take an hour, without rendering you eager to leave. To book Switch, for an occasion or simply for a passing visit, write to [switch@switchmagic.co.uk](mailto:switch@switchmagic.co.uk), or follow him on Twitter - @SwitchMagic. If you haven't the drive to do either, then keep 'em peeled - you could be wending your merry way across campus, drinking in a bar, minding your own business. And, as if by magic...

Ronnie Rowlands

C.11

# LIVE AT LICA SPRING ROUND UP



Gameshow - Brian Slater Photo by Nuno Santos

No I do not want to eat less chocolate or drink more water; no I do not want to give up drinking whisky or falling off the stage in the Sugarhouse. Not because I am irresponsible, but because it would be an insult to the very nature of being a student. I do however want to broaden my horizons and explore pastures new, which is why the new spring season at Live At LICA looks so appealing.

Open to all students, staff and members of the public, Live At LICA kicked off the start to the new season last week with the unconventional comedy act New Art Club who were the rightful winners of the 'Edinburgh Spotlight Best Comedy Show 2010.' A truly original force in comedy, the double act offered an edgy experience for all involved.

Keeping things arty and fresh, last week also saw the opening of Patrick Caulfield's exhibition in the Peter Scott Gallery. The exhibition displays a selection of prints which are simple yet effective and highlight the artist's fascination with everyday objects. Luckily for you, you have until Saturday 17th March to see the work of a Turner prize nominee in front of your very own eyes.

## THE NEW SEASON DOES NOT DISAPPOINT

Equally as impressive is The Protein Dance Company with their performance of 'LOL'. Sharing a same understanding of the acronym as my mother, 'Lots of Love' is a critically acclaimed production in which its six dancers seek romance through the internet. Whereas in real life this may lead to the acquisition of a Thai bride or two, this performance is set to conjure a razor-sharp commentary on our Facebook society. If you're as intrigued as I am then come along to the Nuffield Theatre on Tuesday 31st January and all will become clear.

Company Chameleon is also visiting the Nuffield and will be performing their piece 'Gameshow' which combines theatre and dance at 8pm on Wednesday 22nd February. This new work is bedecked with glitz and glamour to reflect the razzle dazzle of celebrity culture. Accessible and witty the team undertake a series of game show tasks and trials all competing for a chance to win fame, power, money and status. However, it's not all fun and games as the contestants encounter moral dilemmas which explore the price of fame and what it costs to win big. Animated and athletic the team have more energy and pazzazz than Usain Bolt after four cans of Red Bull, a definite prescription for a mid-week shake up.

Renowned for their array of more traditional music, Live At LICA presents the arrival of the Apollo Saxophone Quartet. With special works inspired by their favourite film clips, a more sophisticated audience will appreciate the celebrative concert at 7:30pm on Thursday 2nd February. For something with a little more spice Argentinean musicians Silencio are taking to the stage at 7:30pm on Thursday 1st March. Again this is a must see for those of you who are more culturally refined, or an ideal opportunity to convince your unassuming date you are - just keep on the champagne and off the crisps and they will never know you are more Jim Royale than Prince Harry. A flawless plan if ever there was one.

Stephanie Bell

# RIP AND REPAIR YOUR HEARTSTRINGS



Photo by Bernt Rostad

Think Valentine's Day means soppy films, a box of tissues and a loved up couple? Think again. Here's a collection of games and songs that will either get you snuggling up with your loved one or singing to be a singleton...

**Jason Rohrer - Passage:** Jason Rohrer's indie masterpiece has been rightfully hailed by game critics but it's still unknown outside of gaming's notoriously insular inner-circles; a real shame, since it's one of the most succinct and elegant explorations of the most universal themes of all - love and death - in any medium. Packed full of potent symbolism, you'll be left wondering how a game so short and so visually basic can leave you on the verge of tears.

**Broken Social Scene - Anthems for A Seventeen Year Old Girl:** There's no denying that *Your Forgiveness* was one of the best records of the last decade, but even on an album that mesmerising *Anthems* stands out as something truly spectacular; it's a rumination on teenage crushes, lost loves, and the fact that no matter how much emotional turmoil we went through in our teenage years, the saddest part is that we'll never get all that back.

**My Bloody Valentine - Loveless:** Do Hipster porn films exist? 'Oh, Mr Ironically-Moustached Repairman! I'm a sexy Barista and my coffee machine is broken!' is probably an approximate storyline. And in place of all that stereotypical wah-wah softcore funk guitar in the background, you'd have My Bloody Valentine's 'Loveless'. The glistening feedback, the titanic waves of

unearthly guitar-sound, the faintly sexual vocals - this is the album of choice for both indie-lovers and indie lovers.

**Love Will Tear Us Apart:** Ian Curtis' tragic (yet seminal) post-punk wonder - written in the midst of the breakdown of the relationship between him and his wife Deborah - is one of the most beautifully bleak songs rock songs ever written; and it's all the more powerful because we know how Curtis's story ended. And though leaving this world in the way Curtis did probably won't work out well in the long run, this will be the inevitably the song of choice for the more misanthropic single folk amongst us for years to come.

**Bon Iver - For Emma, Forever Ago:** What do you get when you combine the following things: a bearded man, the ruins of a relationship, a case of glandular fever, a cabin in Wisconsin, a poor grasp of French and a few instruments? Bon Iver's debut album 'For Emma, Forever Ago' of course! The album is a suitably basic, rough and stripped down affair from a musical point of view, but the lyrics, the lyrics! Justin Vernon's odes to his failed relationship are some of the most emotionally evocative songs in recent memory and have rightfully won him thousands of fans across the globe. So if you're feeling alone this Valentine's Day, the cure's a simple one - just hitch up to a cabin in the Lake District, take a guitar, grow a beard, catch glandular fever, unlearn your secondary school French and become a rock star. Nothing could be easier.

**Final Fantasy X:** I'll admit it, this was the first game

to make me cry. With full on tears and everything. It's a preposterously good game in its own right, massively subverting the usual video game notion of heroism - white bloke with big sword/gun slays monster/terrorist and saves world - leaving you with a game that doesn't blush in the face of the big questions about love, death, religion, sacrifice and the very nature of reality itself. But the relationship between doomed protagonists Tidus and Yuna, that unfolds wonderfully as all of these themes tangle around it, is a thing of heartbreaking beauty. If you're not left in tears by the end of it then you're almost certainly a heartless husk of a human being.

**Prince of Persia - The Sands of Time:** Those who have played this game may not understand why this game appears here. Non-gamers might not even know what Prince of Persia is - though you may have seen the film, where, despite starring two leads who were extremely aesthetically pleasing, the romance of the game was completely lost. But the first modern installment of the excellent Prince of Persia series was notable for the unique relationship between the eponymous Prince and the brilliantly realised Farah. A few standout examples excluded, *The Sands Of Time* was one of the first video games to successfully portray a romantic relationship, and it did it with some style, mainly as a result of the absolutely fantastic writing. A love story for the ages that easily stands up to anything from the movies. Joe Henthorn (Culture Editor)

# LOST IN LOVE?

If you had of asked me a few months ago whether my long distance relationship was going to work I would have argued whole heartedly that it would until I was blue in the face. A few weeks into my first year at uni however, and reality hit; I was living a Facebook relationship.

When you're in a long-distance relationship you have to make up for a pretty serious lack of one-on-one time. At first this seems easy enough, we aren't living in the dark ages after all, I mean, surely this is what phones and Skype were invented for?

## DOES ABSENCE MAKE THE HEART GROW FICKLE?

That's what I thought anyway, until I actually participated in one of those short lived, hasty, mundane online chats. The truth is, no matter how long you talk online for, hearing about how your boyfriend has been 'pumping iron' in the gym and drinking his own weight in vodka isn't a good enough substitute for his hugs and kisses in bed. Lets not kid ourselves, no matter how much we ring, Skype or Facebook someone, it isn't the same as having someone there to comfort you when you cry or to take you for a quick Nandos fix when you're feeling a bit down. The distance has already created a gaping hole in the relationship, and as time goes by that cheer-up email does as much good as a sticky plaster on a broken leg.

No matter how much you once loved someone, after a certain amount of time apart your relationship starts to feel the strain and soon enough your 'true love' seems like a stranger. With the added stresses and temptations of student life it becomes all too easy to pretend that your other half doesn't exist. Honestly, when it comes down to it, when you've predrank enough to knock out a horse who seems more attractive? Your significant other who lives miles away, or the guy stood right in front of you offering you a free drink and a dance? After time absence makes the heart grow fickle.

## SKYPE IS A COUPLE SAVER

My advice? Don't hold onto something just because it made you feel good once. Look to the future and have fun without worrying about a relationship that isn't real anymore. Successful long-distance relationships are rare, and you're extremely lucky if you manage to make it work, but remember they're the exception, not the rule.  
Leonie Chaudhry

C.13

# TICKED MUCH OFF YOUR TO-DO LIST?

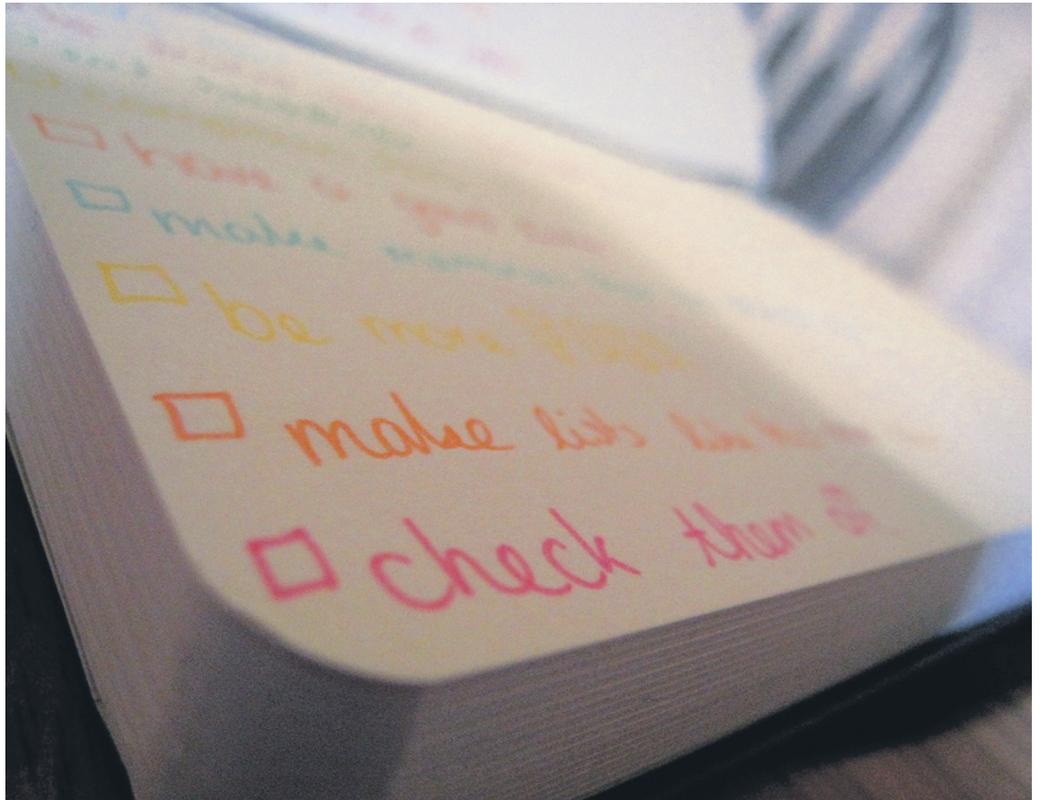


Photo by mt 23

## LIFESTYLE

As the London Eye set the sky alight with a multitude of colours, many cast their minds to deciding on their resolutions for 2012.

An iconic New Year's Resolutions image for me is that of Bridget Jones starting her new journal and making a list of her aims for the coming year. The film then, of course, goes on to show her do the complete opposite breaking all of her resolutions one by one. But it seems Bridget is not alone when it comes to poor willpower and dedication to that to-do list.

Studies show that by the 7th of January, 20% of those who made resolutions fell back into bad habits. But why and where do people go so wrong so quickly? If so many of us are doomed to break our resolutions, why do we bother with them at all?

There's almost a romantic appeal to a New Year; the renewed commitment to a goal and potential achievement. We make resolutions as a means of focusing on something new after Christmas giving us an aim to avoid the 'January blues.' Setting goals allows us an opportunity to reflect on the previous year; what went wrong, our faults and how we can better the next year.

This 'new year, new start' mentality is fuelled by the desire to achieve something worthwhile with the hope that this year will make us feel better about the shortcomings of the preceding one.

But now, over three weeks into 2012 how many of us have maintained our resolutions? 85% of us will have caved in by the end of the month, and come June only 4% of us will have maintained some degree of willpower. Perhaps this is because the proposal of New Year's Resolutions are far more idealistic than their reality, acting as a rebound from the previous year.

## RUINED YOUR RESOLUTIONS ALREADY?

For those who have managed to maintain some determination to uphold your resolutions yet require further motivation, Personal Coach James Lynch uses the following anecdote: "you don't buy a plane ticket without saying where you're leaving." I.e. you need to assess the faults of last year or your current situation in order to decide where you want to go and what you want to change. He adds: "we should commit to something small that is certain to benefit us," such as keeping up-to-date with seminar prep, making more of an effort with old school friends during term-time or go to the gym more often. He suggests keeping lists both for inspiration of resolutions, and to ensure our lasting commitment.

Finally Lynch advocates sharing a resolution with another; keeping a note of goals acts as a reminder but sharing something with someone means you're committed to another and not just yourself.

So with this in mind, what do you want to do this year? What is left undone from the previous? Doing something that you want to do rather than something you feel you should do will help you to resolve the faults and shortcomings of 2011, living up to the true meaning of a resolution to make for a hopefully successful 2012.  
Hattie Webster

# LOVE OR <3?

LIFESTYLE

There I was, sixteen years old, flirting shamelessly with the guy behind the till in the local corner shop (embarrassing I know). However, this being the age of Facebook, texting and instant messaging, where the vast majority of the flirting takes place online; we never met for more than five minutes, and unsurprisingly, nothing happened. Nowadays, this isn't a rare occurrence, with technology becoming an increasingly large part of our social, academic and work lives, it should come as no shock that it also becomes part of our love lives. But has text-speak replaced old fashioned flirting entirely?

Dating websites are becoming more and more common. In 2002, Wired magazine estimated that one in five singles searched for a partner online and with all those stories you hear of couples falling in love computer to computer, it seems that online dating is a good alternative.

## ARE YOU AN OLD-SCHOOL ROMANTIC OR A SERIAL POKER?

On the flip side, a UK divorce website analysed five thousand petitions from 2011 and a third of them cited Facebook as reasons for divorce. The three most common Facebook-related reasons were: inappropriate messages sent to members of the opposite sex, separated spouses posting about each other; Facebook friends reporting spouse's behaviour. So maybe all this online flirting isn't such a good thing after all?

Perhaps texting is replacing old-school flirting instead, after all, texts seem more personal than Facebook messages. I asked some guy friends what they think and one said: "If you share physical proximity with someone you can't solely flirt through text talk." So maybe we should all forget technology and go back to flirting the old fashioned way?

If you're in a relationship at uni, whether it's a long distance thing or they live in the block next door, chances are that at some point, you're going to be spending a long time apart, in term time or in holidays. This means you won't be able to flirt face to face, so maybe we do need some technology, just to stop us forgetting who they are!

It seems that there's still a place for traditional flirting, even in today's technology-centric world, but like in most aspects of life, we need a balance; someone who flirts with you solely through texts or social networking is unlikely to be genuinely interested in you, and any relationship won't survive long periods of time apart without a text or two. But someone who flirts face-to-face, then sends you sweet little messages from time to time is definitely someone worth being with. So keep hold of them, text thumbs and all.  
Becky Cook

# TIME TO BACK AWAY FROM THE BARGAINS?



Photo by a shadow of my future self

FEATURES

The start of the shopping year for 2012 has begun like any other – uncomfortably busy public transport, shops so crowded you can barely move, and queues for the till that stretch for miles. That's right everyone, it's January sales. While it took place in the wrong month, this post-Christmas shopping bonanza was exemplified in the boxing day sales. Rather than spend time with their families, 2,000 people queued outside Selfridges in London. In Birmingham's Bullring, people began gathering at 2am. Madness? No. This is sales. This is the tremendous power the words 'up to 50% off!' hold on us.

The question is, when we spend the rest of the year penny-pinching, why do we now rush to buy things we don't need (or really want) with money we don't really have? It might be understandable in cases of big, one-off purchases, like a fridge or a sofa from one of the many DFS sales. But the majority of our sale-buys are simply tat.

Drawn into the illusion that we're 'saving' money in a sale, we allow ourselves to let loose and indulge in some retail therapy. But in reality, while the things we are buying are cheaper at this time, we're still spending money and not saving it. Plus we have to go through the horrors (oh, the horrors) of the high-street in sale time.

One way to escape the trauma of shopping in January is to buy things online, from the safety of your own home. However, this simply avoids the problem of crowds, and really January sales seem to be a part of a wider issue of spending. Supposedly, our spending lots of money will help boost the economy.

I'm no economist, but I can wrap my head around this idea. But it also seems to me that this form of consumerism, encouraging people to buy things they can't afford (most noticeably in the case of houses) is why the economy needs a boost in the first place. This aspect of capitalism seems to get everyone in debt, and while some are smart enough to manage it, many get out of their depth with money problems. While we once reaped the benefits of consumerism, things have gone wrong and we're suffering for it.

But knowing there's a problem and doing something about it are two very different things. Again, I'm

no expert, but it seems there would have to be a huge overhaul on the way things are done politically, economically, and socially before any positive change can happen. One of the main obstacles in the way of change is the fact that we like to have nice things.

## I'LL BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT I HAVE MORE CLOTHES THAN I NEED

I'll be the first to admit I have more clothes than are actually necessary to my life, and I'm pretty restrained compared to many. And one of the criticisms aimed at members of the 'Occupy' movement was that they were protesting against capitalism, but many of them are from privileged backgrounds and often tweeted or Facebooked about the protests via iPhones.

We've got used to having things that make our lives easier, that we don't need but only want. If the rules of the game change then we might not be able to afford these luxuries.

If we want a world free from January sales madness, one where we are not constantly bombarded with adverts, and encouraged to get ourselves into debt for things we don't need, there needs to be a change of attitude within ourselves. The long-term love affair with consumerism has turned sour (yet again), and maybe it's finally time to say 'it's not you, it's me...'

Annie Gouk

# CULTURE CLASH

# SHERLOCK HOLMES

## CULTURE

Sherlock Holmes, one of the greatest fictional detectives of all time, up there with Poirot, Miss Marple and of course Ace Ventura. With the new film, 'A Game of Shadows', taking \$39.6 million in its first weekend and the second TV series attracting 10 million viewers a week it seems Sherlock Holmes is becoming increasingly popular. But where is it better, on film or TV?

Robert Downey Jr. is perfect for the lead role; he portrays Holmes's antisocial, over confident behaviour with precision, solidifying the notion that he is on the thin line between insanity and genius. Downey's facial expressions accentuating every tiny emotion, in conjunction with his adept ability to control his body language, enables him to slip into Sherlock's many creative disguises with ease, so much so that on multiple occasions I was left wondering whether it was in fact Holmes on the screen, or a new side character. While I don't doubt that Benedict Cumberbatch is an accomplished actor and portrays Holmes rather well, but he just doesn't have that bravado, that exuberance and that subtle humour that emanates so freely from Robert Downey Jr. But that is Sherlock Holmes; they may only be small points, perhaps insignificant to most, but as Sherlock Holmes states "...in fact, the little details are by far the most important."

## THE FILMS ARE A SMOOTHER PRODUCTION

The films, set in 1891 according to Doyle's original works, allow Guy Richie to expand the original vision and put his own archaic spin on it. Gatiss and Moffat's attempt at trying to completely modernise it is a promising notion, but seriously, Dr. Watson blogging? Do you really think that Sir Arthur would have lowered one of his most beloved characters to participating in such 'teenage' behaviour? I think not. Another point worth noting is that the 'Hound of the Baskervilles' story was defiled by 90 minutes of conspiracy theories and that cheesy fog every time it was meant to be a scary. It was all very Scooby Doo.

Both the films and TV series have very different perspectives on how Holmes analyses the fine detail. Both are effective, with the TV series making use of on-screen text indicating a smudge of make-up here or some dog hair there, but on occasion there has been too much text to take in and as a result was missed. In contrast, the films employ the use of soliloquies, often in conjunction with slow motion footage. This enables the audience to easily understand the situation and also opens a window to Holmes's methodical mind.

Don't get me wrong, the TV series is a great way to end the weekend, but the films are wonderfully imaginative with that dark Guy Richie twist. They are two of the most enjoyable films I have watched in a long time. Oh and did I mention that the soundtrack is just fantastic?  
Jonathan Doyle



©BBC

If you're after a swashbuckling adventure film then sure, watch the Sherlock Holmes movies. Although I fell asleep in the first one, as is my unfortunate tendency with action films, they do seem like a good laugh. Just watch the trailer for the Game of Shadows; it all seems jolly good fun. Explosions, drama, and look, there he is dressed as a woman! Oh Sherlock, what are you like?!

As fun as the films are though, they are just not Sherlock Holmes. Hollywood has negated the Conan-Doyle stories to some sort of action-packed buddy comedy. Everything is so fast-paced and dramatic, little room has been left for the sheer brilliance of the original stories.

Sherlock, in contrast, has it all. Wit, intrigue, depth of character, and clever nods to the original tales all combine to make unmissable Sunday night television. Despite being set in modern day Britain, the BBC drama captures the true essence of Sherlock Holmes, and provides the 'ooh' and 'ahh' factor without the loud bangs and ridiculous disguises of Hollywood's more historical version.

## CLEVER AND COMPLEX PLOTS SHINE ON TV

Just like in the books, the plots in each show are fantastic. The way in which clues are dropped throughout the programme before being pieced together in Sherlock's big reveal never fails to amaze. And, as clever and complex the plots are, there's always the odd solvable clue along the way. This means that every now and again the average viewer has the pleasure of getting there just before our favourite detective. Last week's episode, for instance, saw me shouting 'It's her measurements Sherlock! The code is her measurements!' at the television set like some maniac, before subjecting my entire family to a smug smile as it transpired I was right.

As well as a fantastic script, the depth of the characters sets Sherlock miles above its Hollywood equivalent. Cumberbatch's Sherlock captures the cool arrogance of the detective down to a tee, and manages to combine an infallibility of judgement with hints of vulnerability. When it comes to portraying the relationship between Holmes and Watson, Martin Freeman gets the balance just right; one part admiration, one part dependability, and one part resentment.

Freeman manages to provide the warm and fuzzy contrast to Cumberbatch's Sherlock without falling into the trap of becoming the bumbling, old man Watson who features so often in earlier dramatisations. Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law, in comparison, provide only over-stated caricatures.

So if you fancy a Victorian-lads-on-tour adventure, by all means go and see Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows, I am sure it will not disappoint. If you want to see the detective done properly, however, settle in for the next instalment of Sherlock.  
Helen Percival

# FORGET ABOUT THE MONEY MONEY MONEY?

## FEATURES

If you were to go for a stroll around a town at this time of year, it would be hard to miss the heart-embazoned windows of Clintons Cards or the giant 'I love you' teddy bears grinning through shop windows as couples and singletons alike walk past. However, the commercialism of a holiday that did not even begin as a day dedicated to romance, could seem like just another way to make money, and so the question 'is love exploited at this time?' has to be asked.

Valentine's Day originally began like any other Saint's day, but became associated with romantic love in the 14th century by Chaucer, as he poetically connected it to such love in his writing. On this fact alone, Valentine's Day may seem like a great celebration, as we are not only displaying affection, but celebrating the work of one of Britain's most famous literary icons. Therefore, suggestions that Valentine's Day is an 'Americanised' idea could perhaps be quashed, but the associated merchandise and the fact that we buy such items on the day does suggest an exploitation in order to make some money. After all, we have many other similar special days of the year, for example St George's Day in order to celebrate being English, but we simply celebrate the day rather than spend money on gifts and cards. So why is Valentine's Day so different? Love is just far easier to exploit and is relevant the world over. Sorry St. George, but when it comes to capitalism, love is far more marketable.

The exploitation of love can be seen in the items



Photo by Danakochan

associated with Valentine's Day. The idea of sending a card to a loved one was first thought of by those racy Victorians, but the thought of mass producing them originally came from factory owners with the space and money to do so.

These days, the suggestion that if you do not receive a Valentine's Day card, you are simply not as loved as others, ensures most people receive and purchase cards, making Hallmark and other card companies alike, a nice tidy sum, and in the process making the people who do not receive a card miserable, forcing them to

stay in their rooms and listen to Mariah Carey whilst drinking melted Ben and Jerry's, so I've heard. This is exploitation at its worst; making money from the public's fear of being unwanted.

But then again, is it really so bad to exploit love if it means that for one day a year, couples can feel special and connected? Despite my dislike of the unashamed exploitation that occurs, come Valentine's Day morning I will charge downstairs like I have on every other Valentine's Day since 1998 to find my one, special card. And hopefully this year, it might not even be from my Dad.  
Clare-Louise Hazel

# PUZZLES GET YOUR THINK ON

## SUDOKU - EASY

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

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## SUDOKU - MEDIUM

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

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## SUDOKU - HARD

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

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# COMMENT



Photo by Aaron Sholl

## Give referees the benefit of the doubt

**Jon Wilby**

Universally recognised as the hardest job in football, the difficulty of refereeing football matches, whether it be grass roots or the top flight of the game, can not be underestimated. Referees earn their living making impartial, split-second decisions and do so with a vast knowledge of the game and years of experience. In every division it is the referee's job to enforce the laws of the game to the best of their ability.

However when officials get it wrong, or people perceive some of the decisions they make as wrong, the backlash from players, managers and fans can be ferocious. I play inter College football most weeks here in Lancaster and I'll be the first to admit I've disagreed with a referee's decision and often made that known to everybody. But I follow the example that I see on television; professional players and managers in the Premier League are role models, and if they do not respect the of-

ficials then it's going to have a trickle-down effect. Every time a top flight manager says "the ref's ruined the game" after a defeat, referees lose more credibility. Moreover, when managers like Arsene Wenger and Sir Alex Ferguson openly criticise the referee after a game, they are looking to shift the blame from their players and use the referee as a scapegoat. This is just not acceptable. Football is such a subjective game to interpret, one man's penalty is another man's dive. The managers must accept and respect the position of the referee and keep their opinions positive.

In leagues all around the world, players gesture imaginary cards to the referee in a hope that an opposition player will be sent off, and seeing a swarm of players descend upon the referee and assistant referees to plead that they may change their decision is a horrible sight seen far too often. While all of this may seem like nothing more than handbags on a football field, fans can make

referees' jobs, and even their lives, difficult beyond calling them a name that rhymes with 'banker'. Having a stadium of thousands of people hurling verbal abuse can damage the most impervious of souls. It has only been a few months since the attempted suicide of German official Babak Rafati. While this may well be an isolated case, it's a slippery slope to just pass this incident off as down to purely personal and unique circumstances. We ignore this kind of case at a huge risk. In the end, it's not much to ask of the footballing community. At the current time the 'Respect Campaign' has been successful in only superficial ways. The logo's appearance on shirts and advertising boards is all well and good, but if players and fans are still abusing the referees, and managers are relentless in their post-match critiques of every decision that goes against them, then the respect campaign is not only pointless but yet another dent in the integrity of FIFA and its bumbling oaf of a president.

## Romney is a backwards choice

**Matt Hayes**

In his New Hampshire primary victory speech, Mitt Romney described this year's presidential election as "a choice between two very different destinies." He argued that it was a choice between Obama, who supposedly "wants to 'fundamentally transform' America" and Romney, and his super-awesome vision of a 'restored America,' re-introducing "the founding principles that made this country great." This conservative vision of America evoked a rapturous applause. Granted, his audience was his fans – a declaration about his indifference to cauliflower would have evoked a similar reaction.

This reaction highlights a certain counter-progressive attitude in American society.

The USA is ruled by a codified constitution that was made in 1787. From this text, America developed its complex federal governmental system, with three branches of political power all acting as a check on each other, often leaving the state politically deadlocked on contentious issues, such as health care. In addition to this, the nation's federal law is centered around the Constitution's supreme laws, thus protecting the values of the founding fathers; to protect the legacy of America's origins as the City upon a Hill.

On first glance, this seems to be a good way of protecting positive moral values; however, when one considers that only 27 amendments

have been made to the US Constitution in over 200 years, and how the world has changed since the founding fathers drew up the Constitution in 1787 it seems such a conservative attitude may be stunting progression.

To break away from traditions is a step into the unknown, and whilst there is a risk that the result of trying something new may not be as satisfactory as doing things the traditional way, but in taking this risk, great things may be accomplished that would never have been possible before. Benjamin Franklin – one of the founding fathers of the United States – kept a diary, in which he had a list of 13 "virtues", and in a quest for self-improvement, he would make note of which virtues his day's activities had displayed. Surely, considering the value they place on the deeds of the founding fathers, the American electorate would want a leader to improve their society?

Something needs to fundamentally change; troglodyte Romney's vision of a 'restored America', promoting old-school laissez faire ideas about a small state and big independent enterprise may, if made reality, may do more harm than good. It already appears that Mitt is the alternative to Obama's presidency. If Romney gets into power, what does it mean for the western world? What would that say about the American people? What would that say about the stagnant mire that is American politics? .



Photo provided by World Economic Forum

# Integrity is needed in our honours

## National awards should be reserved for heroes

**Yasmin Jaunbocus**

President Nicolas Sarkozy hasn't always been known for his seriousness but instead is associated with a sense of humour, even if it's considered a questionable one, and an aura of fun. However, he may have taken a step too far this time according to the French public, causing outrage and anger with his recent nominations for the French knighthoods.

The Knight of the Legion of Honour, a highly prestigious award usually awarded to individuals often risking their lives for France or having contributed significantly to the country, was established by the former Emperor Napoleon in 1802 "to reward the men and women who have devoted themselves, sometimes to the death, to the nation." Among the bewildering nominees this year however,

the likes of Salma Hayek, currently voicing the character Kitty in spin-off movie from Shrek, Puss in Boots, and pop duo from the 60s, Eric Charden and Annie "Stone" Gautrat featured in the list as well as the more credible and respected Henri Torre, 78, the minister of Sarkozy's ruling UMP party.

Torre, however, refused the award, claiming that the honour had lost its meaning and validity as it had been given to too many unworthy people and added that Sarkozy had made a "mockery of the high honour". L'Expresse, one French newspaper, wrote that "Napoleon would be turning in his grave" and members of the public commented that Sarkozy may as well award Tintin with the honour for his services to France rather than Salma Hayek.

Sarkozy claims that Hayek was nominated for the

award for her philanthropic services which she had been active in for 23 years and also her skills as a director and producer. Although this seems honourable enough, the charity part anyway, it can't go unnoticed that Hayek's husband and business tycoon Francois-Henri Pinault, owner of Yves Saint Laurent, is very close friends with the President and Hayek's father in law had also been awarded with an honour previously.

Many suggested that the honours were used by Sarkozy as another chance to have fun, while others suggested it was a desperate attempt to buy popularity before the upcoming elections. Whatever the story may be, things don't look that much different this side of the channel. David Cameron was recently attacked when Tory party donor and convicted fraudster Gerald

Ronson, who was part of the Guinness shares scandal, was also rewarded with a similar award in the UK.

**"Among the bewildering nominees this year however, is the voice of Kitty from Puss in Boots"**

All this said, the OBEs this year contain a fantastic list of people from communities around the nation providing invaluable services to

the public. The list includes the likes of life guards, charity workers and researchers trying to cure cancer, as well as a couple of indispensable Lancaster University staff. To me, those are some of the real services a person could provide for their community and are also the ones who are most worthy of recognition for their work. Looking pretty on camera, being married to a tycoon, and being in the Prime Minister's pocket certainly don't qualify. Let's find the real heroes instead of glorifying celebs all the time. They may have money and influence, which most definitely will help in many cases, but it's the fact that normals like me and you manage to make a difference without all this influence which make their achievements much more poignant and deserving and a lot more fitting of an award called an 'honour'.

# Occupy are not the enemy

## How demonisation has warped our idea of the movement

Adam Harrison-Henshall

Too often in 2011 we saw protesters abroad hailed as heroes, while those of us angry at our own system have been painted as extremists. Granted, it is far easier to see the plight of those living under totalitarian regimes; nevertheless, this alone does not mean we have no problems of our own. In my eyes, those people within our society who are willing to give up their time to protest for the rights of the most vulnerable should be attributed some respect, rather than be subject to demonization by the media.

To many, Occupy Lancaster, as well as the rest of the Occupy movement worldwide, represents subversive

extremism. Apparently, these Occupiers intend to overthrow capitalism and replace it with some utopian ideal which will never work. These Occupiers are too naive and simplistic; they see the world as black and white, with no space for the reality of grey. In fact these anti-Occupy sentiments have gone further than this. Depending on the source, Occupiers tend to be "sponging off the taxpayer", "criminals", "anarchists," or "hippies"; whatever buzzwords will rile up the intended audience.

First of all, Occupy does not necessarily intend to overthrow capitalism. Many within the movement may see that as a good goal; but it is not, first and foremost, the intended aim. To see the

issue as being purely anti-capitalist is to be too simplistic; there are various ways of employing a capitalist system within a society, and calling for a more responsible capitalism which safeguards ordinary people is no extreme suggestion. What many Occupiers are calling for is debate. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall many commentators have pointed to the repositioning whereby capitalism as an ideology has transcended politics, and has cemented its reputation as the neutral setting of society.

This has stifled debate within the political sphere, and has led to the appropriation of policies which are damaging to society under the banner of economic necessity. Occupy protests have

re-engaged that discussion, and hopefully will continue to. Political protests in a time of contentious government decision-making is a sign of a healthy society, one in which citizens not only have autonomy, but are willing to use it. Moreover, Occupy is not a negative demonstration; these protests seek to create community space and invigorate individuals to utilise their democratic right.

Whatever your feelings on the financial crisis and the subsequent government cuts, it is surely quite clear that the poorest in society are suffering the effects, while the richest have continued to profit. Thankfully, someone is attempting to question this logic. The problem lies not in the individual policy deci-

sions of the government, but in our approach to capitalism as a whole; hence, this discourse could not come from the political parties currently representing us, and must come from outside the neo-liberal paradigm so prevalent in Westminster.

Occupy is there to remind us that we can stand up and be noticed. Occupy is about putting the needs of the people first, and encouraging those in power to seek to shape the economic infrastructure around what society needs. When ordinary people are being evicted from their homes yet Vodafone et. al. are being let off unpaid tax bills worth billions, surely we too should be asking whether the Government's priorities are in order.

# Protests do not capture reality

## Why the majority should not be pre-Occupied with Occupy

Leighton Hughes

Greedy bankers, a discredited political establishment, and a widening equality gulf (with the top 10% having incomes 12 times greater than the bottom 10%); just a few reasons Occupy London attaches to its hard sneer at the status quo. All undesirable certainly, yet also leads to the inevitable trap of being embarrassingly sensationalistic about society as a whole. Patrick Butler of The Guardian goes as far to brand our current state of affairs as a "neo-Victorian dystopia," echoing something of Dickens. Hmm, probably not. We should return to an age of responsibility! We're tired of our politicians' broken promises! We want quick-fixes now!

But, ignoring exaggeration, it is far too easy to be quixotic. Popular capitalism is the most

effective structure for generating income and wealth, the price mechanism being a pure system for satisfying both agents in any deal. They deliver more efficient outcomes than alternatives, and they increase prosperity for society at large. "Just work hard, be industrious, and you'll probably do fine" is the motto – and there's an enormously generous welfare-state to ease the burden of those 'unfortunates'. So what do the people think of Occupy?

For all regulatory adjustment unequivocally required in the banking-sector, it is clear this is hardly 1917 or 1968. Instead it is a bourgeois protest, full of anachronisms, clamouring simply for something more. Middle-class, middle-income 'hipster' opportunists in tents (with Starbucks aplenty) are the exponents of this cause: forget

bespectacled Trotskyites, obstreperous romantics, and others wholly sincere to a clear cause. These protesters are devoid of inspiration: just a Tea Party of the Left, without the jingoism, with the hyperbole, and much, much lazier.

**"middle-income 'hipster' opportunists in tents are the exponents of this cause"**

And in this ever interconnected country and world, Twitter and other social media have naturally had a role to play; present-

ing a forum for discussion – much like the Arab Spring, you'd think. Though, importantly, unlike in Egypt and Tunisia, social media has concentrated discussion to woe-ful generalisation, something studded on Twitter's 'trending' list – particularly at the beginning of the Occupation of St. Paul's. The Twitterverse is not an accurate representation of the populace at large; and, herein, is a clear magnification of what is, actually, a relatively small 'faithful'.

Nowadays, "Yeah, don't like them bankers..." seems to be an almost default response after the banking crisis, and its necessitation of substantial governmental bail-outs. Yet, for all the bankers' distasteful quaffing and gorging of swan's blood and nightingale (and their attainment of hefty bonuses), the depth of the public's views about the

system as a whole has been grossly distorted. The overwhelming majority of us, here in the UK, are enjoying the benefits of capitalism, plain and simple. We just don't like to see the undeserving architects of the crisis like Sir Fred Goodwin, former CEO of Royal Bank of Scotland, getting away scot-free.

So, is this really a paradigm-shifting event; a process with such encompassing, widespread appeal? There are certainly foibles with the system we have, but the overwhelming majority are enjoying the indefatigable fruits of that system at this very moment! I'm not a member of The FatCat Corporation, but, for all Occupy's visual achievements, their proposal of a complete overhaul of the status quo is one few would – and do – subscribe to.

# LETTERS

## Editorial

# The University has to realise face-to-face interaction is invaluable

## Why the Business Process Review sets alarm bells ringing

**Matthew Power**  
Editor

A potential collaboration between Lancaster and Liverpool grabbed the headlines last term and as a new year begins, the stories aren't going anywhere fast. With a brand new paper finally released attempting to summarise the next steps for collaboration, it appears to be just the beginning of a partnership.

Whilst University Management and Council deliberate over the aforementioned paper, there is a new process that will undoubtedly rival 'LLU' for column space in this term's newspapers. The Business Process Review, overseen

by Andrew Neal (Chief Operating Officer), has been established to identify areas of administration that are not currently running as efficiently and effectively as they could. The University also want to eliminate unnecessary duplication and clarify administrative roles and responsibilities.

**"There is no doubt that this has an aim to save money"**

Various University meet-

ings and a presentation to LUSU Council have set alarm bells ringing. There is no doubt that this process has an aim to save money within departmental administration. This can be glossed over with terms such as 'efficiency', 'effectiveness' and 'consistency', all of which students would want to see, but not at the cost of personal, human interactions.

If students have a real problem with their department, they don't want to read about solutions on a generic FAQ list on a website. One can only speculate as to how far they will go with technology replacements. Will students suddenly find

themselves chatting to an automated computerised chat programme? Or perhaps even worse, speaking to a student member of a staff in a call centre, who has no expertise knowledge in the department the complainant is ringing about?

**"LUVLE is about as reliable as a chocolate fireguard"**

Then there is submission online and detailed marking

and assessment through an online format. Fair enough if the University had a proven track record with their online systems, but LUVLE is about as reliable as a chocolate fireguard. No-one wants to spend weeks on an essay to log in to an error-ridden website.

If the University seriously want to improve their systems, they need to stop spending money on consultancy firms and spend their money and time on talking to the people who use their services – the students. Only then will they be able to provide an effective, efficient and consistent service that is tailored to the students who use it.

## Cartmel article

Dear Editor,

As a member of the 'international' Graduate College which recently lost one of its students to a hate crime, as a semi-British, semi-international student, and as a PhD student working partly on discourses of racism, xenophobia and discrimination, I was appalled at the article recently published in SCAN by a Cartmel undergraduate.

**Tim Corbett**  
Graduate College

**Editor:** Tim has written a response to this article and it is now available to view on SCAN Online - visit [scan.lusu.co.uk](http://scan.lusu.co.uk).

## Computer complaint

Dear Editor,

I have decided to write into SCAN about an issue which has been annoying me and some of my friends about Lancaster University Library. Why is it that a top 10 university cannot even provide a decent amount of computers for its students? I have spent a large portion of my time in the Library over the past two and half years, wandering aimlessly around the library attempting to find a computer so I can actually do the work required for my degree. Even on the days when I have decided to carry my laptop all the way up to the top of campus from Lonsdale or lugging it onto the

bus from town, I have discovered that finding a plug is nearly impossible. I find it difficult to comprehend why the library has yet to address this issue. When returning back to University this year after the summer, I was delighted to hear that the Library had created a new section on C Floor. But my delight lasted all of a few seconds when I realised this area, yet again, didn't provide any actual computers. Okay, so there is a few more plug sockets, but what about off-campus students, who physically cannot carry a laptop around all day, that need a computer to do work on during the day? This problem is particularly magnified towards the end of the terms when essay deadlines are imminent, when finding a computer is like winning the lottery. I just feel that the

money, which the University decides to pour into endless new Management School buildings, and huge fancy sports centres, could be spent on providing students with basic equipment such as more computers, and perhaps a help with printing budgets? It seems that the University once again, does not have its priorities right.

**Anonymous**

## #Love Lancaster Tweets

"First night back at @TheSugarhouse with everyone tonight!! #LoveLancaster"

@SimonClarke168

"Excited to go back to uni today, but it's going to be so much effort to take all of my stuff back! #lovelancaster #hatepacking"

@emilyglover

"MY BUS PASS HAS BEEN HANDED IN! What brilliant students there are @LancasterUni! #LoveLancaster"

@Jaykay91

"I #LoveLancaster but it would be infinitely better if @Nandos\_Official were to open up here..."

@tgrogan8

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

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# SPORT

## Triathlon

# Triathletes impress at BUCS duathlon

**Nathan Keir**

The promising performance of Lancaster Triathletes in 2011 continued with commanding displays at the BUCS Duathlon Championships in Castle Combe, Wiltshire.

Consisting of a two-mile run either side of a ten-mile cycle, the competition was split into two waves. With four competitors in the first wave and eight in the second, Lancaster was well represented in a field containing top GB Triathletes.

There was a slight feeling of apprehension before the race due to the relative inexperience of the Lancaster team, but as the first wave got underway any nerves quickly vanished as Beth Watson and Rachel Hayes set off in determined fashion with Greg Slann and Sarah Barr not far behind.

Although it did not take long for the top female athletes to gain an imposing lead, all put in a solid performance and approached the finish of the first run on course for personal best times.

The transition proved somewhat more challenging as a combination of inexperience and the sheer number of competitors created a scramble, leaving helmets displaced and bikes dislodged from the racking.

This proved to have little bearing on actual race positions however, as the Lancaster four went off strongly in the opening stages of the cycle section. With Watson and Hayes continuing to lead the Lancaster athletes, Barr and Slann were closing fast.

What speed they lost due to the differentials in bike technology with other competitors, they made up with

their spirited determination as they negotiated the customary five laps of the track.

The Castle Combe race circuit could in places be treacherous, with one of the female competitors sliding off on the chicane corner and sustaining head injuries as a result. Fortunately, the Lancaster athletes managed to finish the bike section without accident.

By the final run section, Slann had managed to build a slight lead over the girls, yet a slight breakdown early on in his run let the girls through to beat him convincingly.

In the end, Watson finished 258th in a time of 59.36, Hayes 262nd in 1:00.02, Barr 294th in 1:03.31, and Slann 296th in 1:03.47. It was a very good day for the four Lancaster athletes in the first wave, and each should be proud of their efforts.

The second wave did not start until the first wave was near completing the bike section. Joe Beech immediately lined up near the front of the wave followed closely by Nathan Keir, while Matthew Barnes, Sterling Austin, Fernando Ortiz-Canavate, Sean Exley, Paul Steven and Andrew Weston held back in order to conserve energy for the bike.

**“It was a very good day for the Lancaster athletes”**

Nevertheless, both Beech and Keir persevered through a frantic transition and stormed into the bike section with astonishing



**Joe Beech and Matthew Barnes battle it out.** Photo provided by sportysnaps

speed, overtaking a number of other competitors in the process. Exley and Barnes entered the transition slightly ahead of Ortiz-Canavate and Austin with Weston and Steven just a short way behind.

Impressively, it took Barnes just three laps of the circuit to catch Keir and close in on Beech, which meant there was little to separate Lancaster's top three duathletes as they approached the second transition.

Negotiating the transition with much more ease, there was only twenty metres separating Lancaster's top three a mile into the last run. With Keir closing on Barnes and Beech fading slightly

in front, the conclusion of the race was primed for an exhilarating finish.

What came to pass was one of the most enthralling battles in the club's history. Although Keir's attempts to track down Barnes were unsuccessful, with only a few strides to go, Barnes overtook Beech only for Beech to dig deep and pip Barnes to the line.

Beech finished 50th in a time of 48.34, with Barnes finishing 51st and only one second behind in 48.35. Within sight of the epic duel ahead of him, Keir finished 60th in 48.57. Exley came a very commendable 104th in 51.24, Austin 143rd in 52.57,

Weston 230th in 58.10, Steven 256th in 59.34, and Ortiz-Canavate 268th in 1:00.16.

After the race, club President Sterling Austin gave an insight into the impressive displays of his triathletes. 'We've had some excellent training sessions this term and the new-comers to the team have added to the competitive nature of the club. Overall, it's fantastic to have seen the club go from strength to strength'.

With four more scheduled competitions next year including the BUCS Sprint Triathlon in April, there is surely much more to come from the Lancaster University Triathlon team.

## Team in the Spotlight

## Lancaster ladies look for victory

Sophie Gibson

On paper it is clear to see that Lancaster Women's Hockey Firsts have launched themselves into an extremely successful season. They currently lie top of the league in the Lancashire Central Division One, are second to Liverpool in their BUCS league, and undefeated in the Knock-Out Northern Conference Cup.

Their first game of the season, a 2-1 victory against Preston Thirds showed the glimpses of promise the team possessed. The victory paved the way for a stream of successes; eight more wins and only one loss in their division games meaning that they are set for promotion, provided they maintain their high standard.

Captain Ali Counce commented: "Promotion in the Saturday league is something I would love the team to achieve this season.

If we keep playing how we have been then I don't see why we can't go up."

Aside from the Central Division One, the BUCS League is potentially the most difficult test to the team, as President Faye Garland outlines: "In BUCS we face our biggest challenge of beating Liverpool to top the league, they beat us 5-1 last time so it will be a big struggle, but an amazing effort if we can."

The success of the team has been aided by the addition of members of the Men's Hockey team (LUMHC) in training sessions. Garland states: "The boys are brilliant volunteering to coach and their influence is evident in the success of all the teams this year and from the girls' responses."

Nonetheless, current setbacks due to injury could affect their chances. Counce believes that, "the dynamics of the squad might change a bit." However, she remained



Roses 2011. Photo by Tom Skarbek-Wazynski

unfazed by the change-up and looked to overcome the situation with "tough training sessions."

The team has dramatically improved since this time last year when they were bottom of Lancashire Central Division One and were second to bottom in their BUCS league.

The success of the team can be attributed to both the drive demonstrated by a new training regime and continual passionate input from the squad. The results speak for themselves, and they will certainly be a team to watch to see how things fare in the second half of the season.

## New era of sport?

Marc Handley

Vice President (Activities)

Yet again I am sitting here writing another article for SCAN with a vital piece of sporting infrastructure unavailable for our teams to use. With the outdoor netball courts near the old Sports Centre now out of use for the foreseeable future due to the floodlights being removed our college and University Netball teams and Women's Rugby Club have yet again got to do without training and in some cases matches for the second year in a row.

**"There was a significant issue with the floodlights"**

The courts were resurfaced last year and yet it would seem that there was a significant issue with the floodlights that was either never picked up, or never dealt with, leaving us in the situation we are in now. I am certainly not blaming this issue on one person or part of University management but surely these kind of issues must have been looked at during the works last year? This issue began when one light was downed due to the high winds at the end of last term but only now is it starting to be looked at which is crippling our chances of strong performances in those relevant sports. Quite a few people this year, myself included I'll admit, have been talking about about the "dawn of a new era of sport" here at Lancaster, but so far our teams are experiencing what can only be described as a "muggy morning", and not getting the chance to do what they do best- play, and win.

## Indoor Rowing

## Promising display for Indoor Rowers

Danny Gallagher

Last November saw Chester University play host to the annual UK National Indoor Rowing Championships. A large proportion of the Lancaster University novice squad competed for the honours alongside some of the most talented seniors to provide both motivation and a high quality example.

The event began with novice heats of 500m sprints to determine both competitor split-times and current level of ability. From this, races of 1000m were categorised into finals ranging from group A (of highest ability) through to C.

The Lancaster novices were soon to fully appreciate the ability and dedication of the competing universities as incredible scores such as 1m16s were being set over

the 500m. The bar was most certainly being raised extremely high, and with this being the first race of any kind for the Lancaster novices, it came as no surprise that the majority ended up being placed in group C of the 1000m finals. This however was not due to lack of trying, but rather merely the need to acclimatise into the highly competitive environment of rowing tournaments.

The novices did claim some scalps however with Zach Robson beating off rival university competitors to gain a place in the group A 1000m finals along with some of the nation's finest. The success didn't stop at this qualification alone with Robson going on to achieve a fantastic split-time, pushing through the pain barrier and finishing a more-than-respectable eighth out of twenty fellow athletes.

The female novices were not to be outdone however with Lancaster's Jessica Oliver gaining a bronze medal and podium finish in her group A 1000m final, much to the delight of the rest of the supportive crew.

In the senior races, Lancaster's Jess Brough cruised to a first place finish in the lightweight female 2000m, taking an immediate lead from the start and not letting off the intensity for the duration of the race.

Similarly, the senior men's 2000m final was equally as promising for the Lancaster University rowing team as both Jamie Edgecombe and Adam Moncrieff-Macmillan lined up alongside captain Alex King despite only being novices themselves. The trio all got off to incredible starts and remained alongside the head of the pack throughout the entirety of the race. Novice cap-

tain Alex King finished in seventh place achieving an all-time personal best. However, special appraisal was to go to both Edgecombe and Moncrieff-Macmillan who each only finished mere places behind the club captain in eighth and thirteenth place respectively.

The tournament came to a climax with a series of male and female relay races which saw the Lancaster Rowing club's women again take to the podium to collect third places medals for their thoroughly deserved effort. They narrowly beat Keele University in a nail biting neck and neck race to receive the bronze.

The University can certainly take both pride and a huge amount of optimism away from the day's racing and be quietly confident of success in the months to come.

## College Pool League

# Fylde edge closer to B league pool title

Nick O'Malley

Lonsdale.....1  
Fylde ..... 8

The match began with just six points separating the top two teams in the league; Fylde leading on 59, Lonsdale 2nd with 53 and Grad just a further three points off in third. The match was to have a huge bearing upon the final destination of the league title, a potential Fylde win would see them open up at least a nine point lead with just seven games of the season remaining.

The first game of the night saw James Muir of Lonsdale face Ben Wright of Fylde. Muir was unfortunate to snooker himself as he attempted a clearance. In spite of escaping the snooker, he left a fairly simple clearance on for his opponent. Wright left the black over the corner pocket giving Muir one final opportunity. However, the opportunity was not taken, and Wright calmly rolled the

black in to send Fylde 1-0 up. The second game saw Jamie Rodgers defeat Matt Wood of Lonsdale in a tense encounter to send Fylde 2-0 up. Rodgers finished the game off with a fine cut under pressure to the corner pocket with Wood having just one colour remaining.

Lloyd Meeks of Fylde followed up Rodgers' performance with a win of his own against Nico Nicolaides, potting the black at the second attempt from a difficult position.

## The fifth game saw the battle of the captains

The fourth game of the night was an extremely tactical encounter between Tom Saxton of Fylde and Rob



Lonsdale were B league champions in 2010. Photo by Ferdinand Doepel

Culshaw of Lonsdale, with Saxton controlling the frame from the outset. Culshaw fought back bravely, but missed the black at the end of what would have been an impressive clearance. Saxton pounced and ignoring any distractions, rolled the black calmly into the middle pocket to send Fylde 4-0 up.

The fifth game of the night saw the battle of the captains, with James Ferris of Fylde nominating himself in an attempt to seal the nine-game match there and then, before Lonsdale's Captain Dan Brown responded in kind. Ferris dominated another

tactical encounter, pouncing on the foul snooker that Brown had left, potting the final two balls to secure the overall win for Fylde at 5-0.

Jonny Ainscow rubbed salt into the wounds as he defeated Max Sanders in a tight game, sneaking the black in behind Sanders' yellow into the corner making the scoreline 6-0.

Tom Marsden of Lonsdale wasted no time in a no nonsense victory in the 7th game of the night with a cool clearance.

Andrew Kelday of Fylde won the 8th game of the night against Mike Warner in

comprehensive fashion, in one of the most composed performances of the night.

The final game saw Fylde's Darts Captain Chris Bell take on Arran Sneddon of Lonsdale. Chris Bell, contrary to his nickname 'bottlejob', seemed relaxed throughout and finished the game with aplomb to make the final score 8-1.

Fylde Captain Ferris had this to say, "The scoreline wasn't really a fair reflection of the game and I must give credit to Dan and his boys." The result looks to have put Fylde within touching distance of the title.

## Sports Editorial

# Lancaster's teams look for success

Alex Rastall  
Sports Editor

With Roses preparations already impressing upon us, a handful of teams within reach of claiming victory in their British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) league competitions, alongside the race for inter-college titles – this term is undoubtedly set to be packed full of sporting coverage and opportunity.

At a glance, the BUCS teams currently lying top of their tables are the Men's Basketball firsts, Netball seconds, Men's Rugby League firsts and Women's Rugby Union firsts. All of these teams will certainly

look to this term as a consolidation effort to ensure that they remain at the very top of their game and maintain their hard-earned positions.

Nonetheless, the Women's Basketball firsts, Women's Hockey firsts, Netball firsts and the Men's Firsts squash team are all lying in prime second places of their respective leagues meaning that this term is certainly their opportunity to begin their attack and make their opportunistic moves on the top spots.

Inter-college sport is turning up the heat this term as Cartmel, Pendle and County battle it out to win the Football A League,



Red Rose victory in 2010. Photo by Tom Skarbek-Wazynski

whilst Furness seek to upset Fylde's winning campaign in the Netball equivalent. Now, more than ever, is the time to get behind your college and show your support to those who are representing you!

If you want to become more involved in sport this term, whether it is to meet

new friends, try something new or in a bid to maintain your healthy new year's resolutions – there is still ample opportunity to do so. Refresher's Fair is set to be held on Tuesday 24th January from 4pm until 7pm, where societies will be welcoming you with open

arms to get you signed up.

Now really is the time to get involved in sport because with a home Roses 2012 looming ever closer, Lancaster certainly need as much participation and enthusiasm to bring the James Carter trophy back to where it belongs!

# SPORT



County in action against Fylde. Photo by Jay Theis

## Inter college title race hots up

### It's a three horse race between Cartmel, Pendle and County

**Tom Belger**

The Lent term will see the crowning of the Inter-College Football A League Champions. At the current stage, three colleges are in with a good chance of clinching the title.

This season has been one of the most unpredictable in years. No single team has dominated the league whilst there has not been a weak side either. Furness managed a shock victory over Fylde whilst then-bottom of the table Lonsdale managed to pick up a point against then-table toppers Pendle, showing how competitive the league has been.

Cartmel currently sit top of the table on goal

difference. Very much unfancied at the start of the season, they have surprised many with their form. Their 3-2 victory over Fylde has been their stand out result and one which has made many sit up and take notice of them as potential title challengers. Having already played Pendle, Cartmel face County in the first fixture of the new term. If they can get something out of that game, they will be firm favourites for the title as they face bottom-of-the-table Furness in their final fixture.

Pendle are currently second but level on points with Cartmel. Their stand-out result was a 1-0 win against County which put them in the driving seat for the title back in November.

However, a disappointing 2-2 draw against Lonsdale allowed the others to catch up. Their biggest weakness has to be their style of play.

**“Cartmel currently sit top of the table”**

The team are very industrial and hardworking but simply don't score many goals and tend to struggle against the weaker teams. Their biggest test to come will be against Fylde on the 8th of February. If they can win that fixture, they will surely fancy their chances

against Bowland in their final game.

County are only a point behind Pendle and Cartmel. So far, they have had a mixed season including a number of missed chances to secure top spot. They started the season well beating Lonsdale and Bowland, but their chances were dealt a blow when they lost 1-0 to Pendle. The team recovered by thrashing Furness 7-0 which then put them top of the table. The following week they suffered another setback to their title hopes as Fylde snatched a late equaliser which knocked them off the top of the table and down to third place. They seem to be struggling against the big

teams and if they fail to beat Cartmel, their chances could be over.

**“No single team has dominated the league”**

The next few weeks of the college football season are shaping up to be very interesting with some big fixtures in store. As we have already seen in this league, there are no easy fixtures. Anything can happen with all three sides facing difficult final games setting up for what will undoubtedly be a tight finish.