

News

Toast and Hustle reinvigorate nightlife
Grad Ball - analysis of the costs

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Why does it cost so much to graduate?
Why Ricky Gervais gets my goat

Sport

I am Lancaster - Roses preview
Plain sailing for LUSC

Carolynne

Exclusive interview with Matt Cardle
Lancaster University Katha Project

scan

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS

Uni bin £1.5m BPR

VC calls halt on the Business Process Review

Matthew Power
Editor

Professor Mark E. Smith, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, has written to all staff informing them "no further work" will take place on the Business Process Review (BPR) strands unless agreed by University Management Advisory Group (UMAG), the weekly meeting chaired by the Vice Chancellor.

The news has come in the week a University statement confirmed the

full cost of the project is expected "to be £1.5m."

The decision to cease the current activity of the Business Process Review comes after widespread concern from both academics and students. At the beginning of February, 370 students unanimously rejected the University's plans at the Students' Union's first quorate General Meeting in three years.

These concerns were

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The Business Process Review was officially announced towards the end of last year. Photo by Meher Gupta

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SIXTY SECOND scan

EDITOR'S THOUGHTS

The more observant readers will have noticed a change on our front page for this edition. This is based on feedback from students that they wanted to know more about what was inside the paper.

We hope you like the changes. As always, we would love to hear your feedback - positive or negative. E-mail us at scan@lancaster.ac.uk.

SPORT**I am Lancaster**

Sports Editor Alex Rastall previous Roses 2012, Lancaster's annual sporting contest with York University which takes place over the weekend of the 4th, 5th and 6th May. **Page 17**

NEWS**LA1:TV win award**

Rachel Stafford reports as Lancaster's student TV station's LA1 Show wins 'Highly Commended' in the category of 'Best Factual' in the National Student Television Awards. **Page 6**



© LA1:TV

COMMENT**Graduation grips our pockets**

Joe Henthorn argues against the financial expectations associated with Graduation Ceremonies and Graduation Ball, such as robe hire and photography. **Page 13**



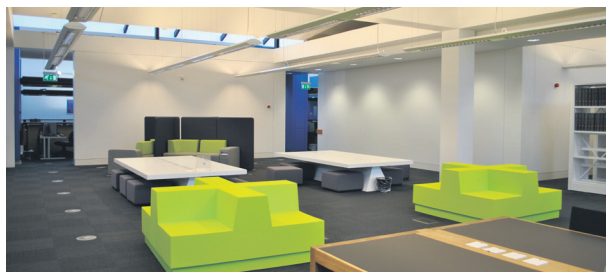
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FEATURES**Shut up and drive?**

Annie Gouk analyses how the excessive cost of insurance and fuel prevent young people from learning to drive, and considers how environmentally-friendly technology might help. **Carolynne - C14**

NEWS**Grad Ball costs analysed**

Assistant Editor Jonnie Critchley investigates concerns over the value-for-money of Graduation Ball 2012, whilst Laura Kay reports on a lineup including Headliners Maximo Park. **Page 4**



© Meher Gupta

NEWS**Library extends opening hours**

Catherine Chorley speaks to Head Librarian Clare Powne as Library opening hours are extended in response to demand from students preparing for upcoming exams. **Page 8**

SPORT**Rugby Union ready for Roses**

Sports Editor Rhys Elias speaks to President TJ McCaw, who says the club are in positive spirits as they look to put a disastrous Roses 2011 and varied fortunes in last season behind them. **Page 20**

LIFESTYLE**Dress smart, be smart**

Sarah Warsaw considers how dressing professionally as we would for work beyond university can benefit our productivity levels before we Graduate. **Carolynne - C2**

COMMENT**Thank you for not recycling**

Lancaster University takes pride in recycling around 30 per-cent of waste produced on campus. However, Harry Bainbridge argues that this is actually negative for the environment. **Page 14**



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CULTURE**Interview: Matt Cardle**

Charli Stevenson caught up with X-Factor winner Matt Cardle ahead of his sell-out UK tour to find out how he's making a name for himself following the show. **Carolynne - C5**

NEWS

LUSU President added to UMAG membership

Matthew Power
Editor

After three months in the post of Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, Professor Mark E. Smith has changed the membership of the University Management Advisory Group. The changes include the Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU) President being added to the group.

The Directors of Finance, Human Resources and Facilities have all been added to the group, as well as the Deans of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies. The Director of Planning Support is no longer included in the membership.

"UMAG acts as a senior forum for discussing all key policy issues"

Discussing the changes, Professor Smith told SCAN he felt after three months he had had "time to observe and consider the operation of University Management Advisory Group." He explained "UMAG acts as a senior forum for discussing all key policy issues and for providing advice to the Vice-Chancellor."

Whilst Professor Smith

believed the group "works well" after his initial observations, he thought it "probably could be even more effective through a slightly different membership."

The inclusion of the Students' Union President on one of the highest University meetings is rare. One of the most notable examples from another university is Warwick University, where the Students' Union President sits on the University's Steering Committee. Warwick University is the previous employer of Professor Smith.

Commenting on his inclusion to the group, the LUSU President, George Gardiner, was delighted with student representation at a high level.

"Although some other universities have student representation on senior management meetings, it is a first for Lancaster" he commented. Gardiner went on to say that "It provides the opportunity for student participation at a significant level and chance to have an input on decisions that will affect people studying at Lancaster. I believe it is a further signal of intent from the new VC, that input from various stakeholders at Lancaster is valued."

Professor Smith echoed Gardiner's comments on the importance of student representation. He stated "student input at all levels of our institution is important so the addition of the President of the Students' Union to UMAG will provide a valuable perspective to our discussions there."



Professor Mark E. Smith chairs UMAG. Photo provided by the University of Warwick

Vice-Chancellor calls off Business Process Review

Continued from page 1

acknowledged with the Vice-Chancellor's letter to staff. Writing on the 20th April, Professor Smith wrote: "it is clear from the review that, regrettably the BPR raised unnecessary anxieties in many of our colleagues which should whenever possible be avoided."

He added that "lessons learnt about how best to communicate with and involve staff have been noted for future reference."

The Business Process Review was announced officially by former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Wellings, in November of last year, labelling it as having an objective to "create a more responsive and consistent model of administration."

The project has been sponsored by Andrew Neal, the University's Chief Operating Officer.

In February of this year, a University statement

affirmed that "the review covers a range of University processes including finance and marketing as well as those processes that directly support students. The finance and marketing projects are on track for key decisions to be made by March."

The message sent to staff from the Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the "Finance and Procurement strand has commenced implementation," and that a small group will be established to monitor the progress of that strand.

Similarly, a group will be established for the admissions process as Professor Smith describes "this as a vital area."

One of the most contentious issues of the Business Process Review related to student administration, particularly as there was great concern that this would lead to redundancies.

Following the General Meeting, LUSU President George Gardiner commented: "this unanimous show of support for our administration staff cements the view that they are an indispensable part of this University. We will continue to show our support for them."

Commenting on the announcement, LUSU Vice-President (Academic) Alex Carlin said: "I welcome the news that the University are serious about listening to our concerns. We must now ensure that the future projects described by the Vice-Chancellor include student representatives so that we are not affected by some of the retrogressive proposals of the original BPR."

Carlin added: "I am certain that were it not for the scrutiny and passionate rejection of this BPR from students, we could not have got the ball rolling towards this announcement."

Grad Ball line-up announced

Laura Kay

Tickets for Grad Ball 2012 have gone on sale, with a number of live acts now confirmed in the line-up.

The ball, which this year centres on the theme of 'Diamonds Are Forever', will feature Maximo Park as the headline act. Set in the Great Hall Complex, popular band The Hoosiers will also grace the stage, whilst a host of other live music acts, including The Sunshine Underground, Jaguar Skills and Kissy Sellout, will also make an appearance.

The Kites, recently described as "the hottest unsigned band in the UK" by Music Week magazine, are also confirmed to perform at the ball. Tweeting to Grad Ball's Twitter account, @GradBall2012, The Kites commented, "We're very much looking forward to meeting you all in June."

Closer-to-home band Soulrigg, who formed at Lancaster University and won Battle of the Bands 2012 on campus, are also set to perform.

Likewise, popular Lancaster quintet Underwater Gunfight, are

confirmed to appear.

On top of the live music, the ball will also see the appearance of DJs Melo, Cawky and Defjax.

Olly Trumble, LUSU Vice President (Events and Democracy), commented: "This year we have tried to deliver a variety of acts for Grad Ball and in response to feedback have invested more into the entertainments package, in order to provide a higher caliber of line-up, and also ensure that the ticket price reflects value for money. It's incredibly exciting to have such a vibrant line-up for the event."

He also added: "Grad ball offers the chance for students to come and share an incredibly special night to commemorate the end of their time at university. It's a night that few forget and this year we have some special touches included in the décor to make the event all the more special - as well as some exciting food vendors and a range of high-caliber acts."

Scheduled for June 25th following the end of exams, this year's ball has given rise to a mixed response from the student population, with var-

ied feedback appearing on the event's Facebook Page. One student, who wished to remain anonymous, expressed that "It's such a shame that [the event] being priced so high has put so many people off going." Adding to this, they also stated: "I think it would be better to have cheaper acts and a cheaper ticket."

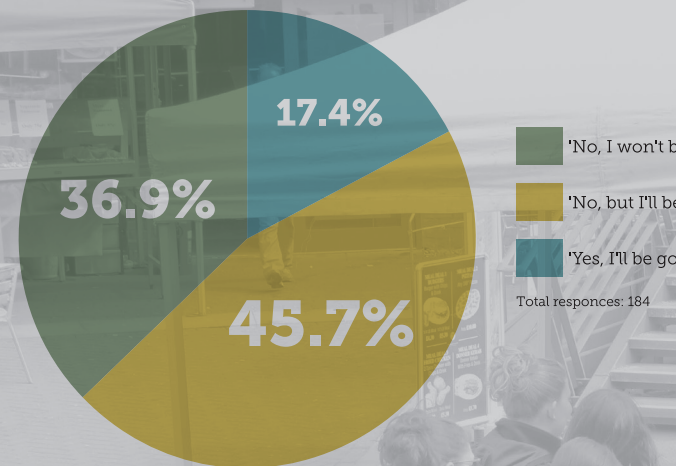
James Beedie, a member of the LUSU Events Crew, presented a view on the opposite end of the spectrum. "I'm very happy how Grad Ball looks so far, especially with the bands in the line-up. I've been to previous Grad Balls and I think this is the best overall line-up I've seen," he said. "I'm going because I think it's something I should go to as a graduating student, something to sign off with that's bigger than just an Extrav."

Trumble was in agreement with this, commenting: "After all the hard work of study, it's a thoroughly enjoyable way to treat yourself and to celebrate with the people you have shared the last few years with."

Tickets are available from the LUSU building Info Desk for £44.50 with a purple card and £54.50 without.

WHAT YOU SAID

At £44.50 a ticket (with Purple Card), does Grad Ball 2012 represent value-for-money?



£53,573

– total income from tickets for Grad Ball 2011 (Source: LUSU Finance)

1400

– capacity of Lancaster's Grad Ball, compared to 4500 tickets usually sold for Leeds University Union's Summer Ball, for which tickets cost £32 (Source: Leeds University Union)

Students queued to purchase their Grad Ball tickets as soon as the

What do you think?

Jonnie Critchley
Assistant Editor

An online poll in Week One suggested dissatisfaction with the £44.50 cost of Grad Ball tickets, so SCAN put the question to students queuing to get theirs shortly after the Monday 10am release. Students were also asked for their thoughts on the line-up.

The first interviewee was enthusiastic about headliners Maximo Park, but concerned about the cost. "It is a bit pricey," she said, questioning "the fact that

you don't get at least a drink.

"Apparently there are burger vans and things, you don't even get a voucher just for like one [burger], so you are basically paying that much money for a just a gig, but you go in really posh dresses and suits."

However, she added that "When they announced Maximo Park as the headliners, that made me want to go more. I'm going regardless of the price because all of your friends go."

The music line-up, announced gradually during Week One, justifies the cost

for many people.

Concern over variety

"I think the price is fine considering that you would pay that much to go to a concert," said one student. "I went last year and the line-up wasn't great but it was still the same price [as this year] so I think it's fine."

Grad Ball tickets are £5 dearer this year than in 2012, but £12.50 cheaper than 2009.

One student expressed

concern over the variety of the event. "I think they've gone for quite a niche," she said.

"Some people don't like live music so I think they could have made more things for other people."

Other students were less than enthusiastic, however. One student who attended last year commented online that "as an event it's not worth the money at all," before adding "however it's worth going as for most people it may be the last chance they get to see some of the people they go to uni with."

Another student said: "Kudos to them for finally getting some half decent names, but how is this a ball?"

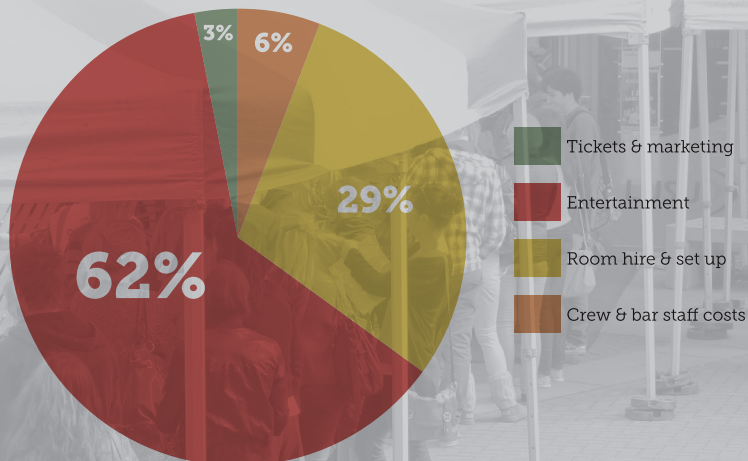
Such sentiment has been common. "I'm only paying £6 more than this to go to the closing ceremony of the Olympics," one student commented the day after tickets were released.

"[I] would rather have paid less for a meal and just have a local band and DJ on – more like a ball."

The implausibility of providing full catering for 1500 attendees has been stressed by LUSU.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES*

*breakdown of expenditure for Grad Ball 2011. Total expenditure: £58,706.69. (Source: LUSU Finance).



£58,707

— total expenditure on Grad Ball 2011 (Source: LUSU Finance)

£5,134

— amount covered by LUSU above ticket receipts for Grad Ball 2011 (Source: LUSU Finance)

882

— total tickets sold as of Friday 27th April 1pm (Source: LUSU)

£45

— average Grad Ball ticket price 2007-12 inclusive (Source: SCAN Archive)

went on sale Photo by Jonnie Critchley

Analysis: Grad Ball costs

Jonnie Critchley

In a survey conducted by SCAN, 81% of respondents have suggested that they do not see Graduation Ball 2012 as value for money.

Of the 184 students who responded 45.7% said that the ticket, priced at £44.50, does not represent good value but they would still be attending. A further 36.9% said that the ticket does not represent good value and they would not be attending. 17.4% responded that the event was appropriately priced and that they would be attending.

Due to an oversight the

survey, conducted in the days following the announcement of the line-up including headliners Maximo Park, did not allow responses from those who feel the event to be good value-for-money but who were unable to attend for other reasons.

Responding to the findings, Lancaster University Students' Union Vice President (Events and Democracy) Olly Trumble, the lead officer on Grad Ball said that although the feedback was interesting and valuable, he did not see it as representative.

"I do think that the package that we've provided

is value for money," Trumble said. "I would disagree fundamentally with the poll in that sense [...] particularly because of the calibre of line-up that we've got, we've got a number of big names compared to previous years when we've perhaps one or two."

Trumble said he understands the initial reaction of some students to the ticket price, but encouraged people "to reserve judgement [until] you actually go to it."

"At the same time," he added, "it's a ticket price, and if the perceived value of it isn't at that level, then maybe

there's an issue with the way we're selling it or the way we're explaining it to people."

This corresponds with the lack of transparency implied by the results of SCAN's survey. LUSU have not publicised extensive details beyond a music line-up, although Trumble agreed that this is something which could be considered in future.

By comparison, York University Students' Union's website lists details of exactly what students could expect from their Graduation and Summer Party.

Trumble told SCAN that LUSU perhaps "could have better communicated the finer details", but argued that "it's taken a very long time to secure acts" and that "there's a lot of us waiting around, waiting to [for confirmation]."

Also in relation to marketing, some students have criticised the focus on Grad Ball's music lineup. One individual, speaking to SCAN whilst buying her ticket, said that "some people don't like live music so I think they could have made more things for other people."

Trumble admitted that he "can see why that's the case." However, he contended that feedback on graduation events in the last few years that "actually it's the music that's important and people's perception of the event often comes from the headliner."

One particular criticism aired on the Grad Ball 2012 Facebook event has been that the ticket price does not include food; "I can't believe there's not even a sit down meal," commented one student.

Questioned on this, Trumble said that "that's not what the majority of people want, the majority of people want music, and that's the reason that over the last few years this is how this event has developed in the format that it is."

Trumble also reiterated statements made in response to criticism online that to cater for everyone at Grad Ball would be logistically impossible.

SCAN's research shows that a formal dinner as some people have requested tends to add between £30 and £40 to the cost of a ticket. For instance, a ticket to York's

event - including a meal - costs £65, whereas an 'Early Bird' ticket, not including catering and a champagne reception, costs £30.

Trumble added that "if there's a shift and more and more people move toward [wanting a meal], then it's maybe something to be explored."

Some responses to the cost of Grad Ball have been founded upon comparisons to other universities. However, direct comparisons are difficult to make due to variations in the resources available to students' unions.

"I think making comparison is easy to do in a base way," said Trumble, "but the reality of the situation which is something that people don't immediately think of is why is it that those packages are different?"

"For example, other universities might have much larger venues, which enables them to reduce their ticket price and give them a very similar package to ours but maybe at a slightly lower price."

This is vindicated by the example of Leeds University Union (LUU), which is charging £32 for its Summer Ball. 'Early Bird' tickets are priced at £27.

This relatively low price can be attributed by the fact that Leeds's costs appear to be covered by the 4500 tickets customarily sold for the event by LUU, a capacity three times that of Lancaster's Great Hall complex.

Leeds's event is to be headlined by dubstep singer-songwriter Katy B, alongside recent Sugarhouse performer Labrinth and Radio One's Greg James, who performed at Lancaster's Grad Ball 2011.

Trumble also emphasised that his team's priority has been to provide the best possible package for the lowest possible price.

"It's so important for us to do everything we can, which we have, to drive down costs," he stressed. "It would be wholly wrong to turn around and say 'people are going to go anyway so it doesn't really matter what we charge. That would be the end of Grad Ball to be quite honest, and that's not what we've done.'"

LA1:TV win national award

Rachel Stafford
Deputy News Editor

Lancaster University's television station, LA1:TV, was awarded the title of 'Highly Commended Station' in the 'Best Factual' category at the recent National Student Television Awards.

"Everyone at LA1:TV should feel proud"

Their entry for this category was "a shortened edit of the second episode from 'The LA1 Show', focusing on the Lymphoma Awareness story that [they] ran at the beginning of the year" said station manager Will McDonagh who was "very happy and appreciative" of the award

and feels that it is a "great way" to end his year as station manager, a position he will be stepping down from in Week 23.

The show focused on the story of cancer survivor Blair Ward and was produced by Will McDonagh and presented by Laura Johnson, Josh Dean and Abby Newbery.

Newbery pitched the story idea and met with students across campus to find out what they knew about the subject. She had this to say about the award: "it feels fantastic to know that something I helped work on not only won national recognition, but has also reached a much wider audience than I thought possible. Everyone at LA1:TV should feel proud, and a massive thanks to Blair Ward who was a pleasure to meet."

The award for Highly Commended Station in the 'Best Factual' category was



The LA1:TV team with their award. Photo by Chris Osborn

judged by Nick Shearman (BBC Commissioning Editor for Documentary & Factual) and James Laidler (Senior Producer BBC Breakfast) who commented on the "excellent presenting and interviews."

LA1:TV took 14 members to the award ceremony to represent the 17 categories that they had entered, with the ceremony internet feed raising 7000 views on the night. McDonagh felt that the award ceremony was a

great representation of "how much bigger student TV in general is becoming year on year."

A great way to end the year

He went on to say that his goal as station manager was to "represent LA1:TV successfully across campus,"

which he feels they did, "but also to represent [LA1:TV] nationally, which [they] managed to do this weekend."

He also expressed that, "overall it's made a lot of the stress and hard work over the year worth it, and has made [him] incredibly proud of the LA1:TV team who have all developed so much this year - and hopefully next year they won't come away empty handed and continue to get better and better!"

34 teachers nominated by students in awards

Jonnie Critchley
Assistant Editor

This year's Lancaster Teaching Awards have been won by Dr Christine Shirras (Department of Biomedical and Life Sciences) and Dr Catherine Fritz (Department of Educational Research).

The award, now in its second year, was developed between the University and Lancaster University Students' Union (LUSU) as a way to recognise excellent teaching.

Students were asked to nominate inspiring teachers earlier this year. 158 nominations were received from students for 34 teachers, from which the winners were selected by a panel of staff and students.

The University's Pro-Vice Chancellor for Colleges and the Student Ex-

perience, Professor Amanda Chetwynd, praised the "fantastic response" to the award, reflected in the number of nominations.

Chetwynd extended her thanks to students for their nominations.

One student, nominating Dr Shirras, wrote that "She is always there if we need her and puts lots of effort into her lectures and how she presents things in different ways to help us understand and is always smiling."

"an amazingly talented orator"

Another wrote: "Christine has engaged me in all

the subjects she has taught by taking a bright and hands-on approach in her teaching style. She is incredibly friendly and very approachable and explains things in very clear terms."

Speaking to the University's website, Dr Shirras said that "I am absolutely delighted to have been given this award."

"It means a great deal to me to have been nominated by the students themselves and I am so glad that my teaching techniques have proved effective in engaging and inspiring them."

Dr. Fritz was praised by students for being "an amazingly talented orator," who "never fails to find time for anyone who needs help."

"Catherine's enthusiasm is what inspires me most. Even when teaching things that the class as a whole is finding

difficult, she remains positive and offers a lot of support," said one student.

Another added that "classes are always fun, interactive, helpful and engaging."

"teaching and learning are collaborative processes"

In response, Dr Fritz told the University's website that "We are lucky to have such excellent students - because teaching and learning are collaborative processes - so success in teaching can only occur when the students bring and apply their energies to the process."

In addition, five lecturers were highly commended by the awarding panel. These were Caroline Elliott (Economics), Agata Fikalkowski (Law), Charlie Gere (LICA), Aristotle Kallis (History) and Tony McEnery (English Language and Linguistics).

Professor Chetwynd told the University's website that "we were pleased to receive so many impressive nominations and by the detailed and complimentary comments from students who feel that the teaching at Lancaster is of a very high standard."

In the 2011 National Student Survey (NSS), 84% of Lancaster students said that teachers made their particular subject interesting.

The Teaching Awards 2012 will be awarded as part of degree ceremonies from the 17-20 July.

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Library opening hours extended for exam period

Catherine Chorley

Lancaster University Library has extended its opening hours over the duration of the current exam period.

Commencing from April 21st up to and including the June 23rd, the Library will be open to students for over 100 hours per week. This extension of access is a response to student demand for greater access to library facilities during the period of revision and examination.

The extended opening hours will be as follows: Monday to Friday 08:00-24:00, Saturday 09:00-24:00 and Sunday 10:00-21:00. The staffed services will operate as usual for term-time; 10:00-20:00 on weekdays and 13:00-18:00 at weekends.

Head Librarian, Clare Powne, indicated that students are always welcome to seek help from staff during these times, commenting that "Library staff [members] are very glad to offer any assistance students need with making best use of print and digital information resources during these periods."

Feedback on Library facilities has indicated that students value the Library

more as an environment conducive to revision rather than for the staffed services when undertaking periods of intense study. Outside of staffed service times, students will still have access to self-service facilities as usual.

Powne also indicated that the Library is to closely monitor the student uptake of the extended opening hours this year in order to make an informed decision regarding the planned permanent extension of the library's Saturday opening hours to midnight. In the past, Powne reported, the response has only been moderate, meaning that this particular change, which occurs annually in response to the examination period, has never been made permanent.

However, facility availability is carefully co-ordinated with student demand, as Powne explained: "We monitor all aspects of use of the Library carefully, particularly numbers of people entering the building, and have made a number of changes to opening and service hours over the years in response to changing patterns of use."

Regarding the planned permanent Saturday extension, she added, "Provided



The top floor of the library was recently refurbished. Photo by Meher Gupta

there is more evidence of real demand for this provision from students this year, we are already planning for Saturday opening until midnight to become the term-time norm throughout next academic year."

It is important to stress that the value of the Library as a quiet area in which to focus on conducting productive, quality revision-time is heavily reliant on the co-operation and self-responsibility of the facility's users. The Library's staff members are unable to be on hand

throughout the entirety of its opening hours, meaning the onus is on the students to respect each other's need for quiet. Whilst it goes without saying that this applies the whole year round, it is particularly crucial that Library users show one another respect and consideration in their use of facilities during the exam period.

Powne summarised the importance of students' respectful use of the Library and the Learning Zone with the following statement:

"The library plays a key

role in offering facilities for independent study and research throughout the academic year and together with the Learning Zone provides a variety of study environments to cater for different learning styles and preferences. [...] We are improving the designation of areas in the Library building for this purpose, but need assistance from students in helping to maintain both the library and the Learning Zone as appropriate academic study environments."

Bowland student dies in road accident

Erin O'Reilly
News Editor

A Lancaster University student sadly died on April 4th in a road accident near Deighton, North Yorkshire.

Bowland first-year, Rosie Missett, has been described by Daniel-Sean Huisman, Bowland JCR President, as "an active member of the college" who "will be missed by a lot of people."

"Her death has shocked the whole college" he continued, "especially those within her friendship group, in which she was popular,"

adding that "his thoughts and that of the college go out to her flatmates, friends and family."

"Active member of Bowland college"

The accident "occurred at approximately 8:25 pm Wednesday 4 April 2012," an official statement from the North Yorkshire Police

explained. Rosie "had just got off an Arriva bus which was travelling towards Selby" when she was hit by a Range Rover. Regretfully, she was pronounced dead at the scene.

Rosie's previous school, Boston Spa School, which she attended for seven years, have posted a message on their website where they express "it was [their] privilege to have Rosie as part of [their] school, she was bright and lively and she exhibited a healthy zest for life; her loss will leave an

unimaginable gap in the lives of her family and will also be felt in the lives of so many in our school community, both past and present."

Bowland Principal, Joe Thornberry, has also expressed his condolences, commenting that "we are all shocked and saddened at the news of Rosie's death. She was a popular and well-known student in Bowland and will be missed by all who knew her."

"Staff and students from the college and from Rosie's department attended her funeral in Leeds, and this

mark of respect was greatly appreciated by her parents."

He continued, "we are also looking at the possibility of having a memorial service here on campus but in this we will be guided by the wishes of Rosie's family."

"In the meantime" Thornberry added, "we are working closely with Student Based Services and the Chaplaincy Centre to ensure that Rosie's friends and acquaintances on campus get the support to help them deal with this tragedy."

Lancaster nightlife picks up the Hustle

Emma Nelson
Deputy News Editor

Following the closure of student nights such as Carleton Wednesdays and Cuba, it seems that Lancaster's nightlife is set to expand.

As well as the reopening of Toast nightclub over Easter, Lancaster's Hustle recently launched a new student night on Tuesdays.

In light of recent closures, Vice President (Events and Democracy) Olly Trumble told SCAN that the re-launch of Tuesday nights at Hustle as a new student night "is a positive step towards creating a variety of destinations in the city centre," and thinks "that it is positive that the night is being relaunched."

"Social and Events Groups are working hard to support the local nightlife and are keen to

see a variety of destinations in town for students" he added. Trumble also told SCAN that the Union "are also working to support the city centre this term with a variety of exciting offers available in conjunction with Roses 2012."

"Can't wait to get started"

Hustle's General Manager, John Lawrence, also highlighted the diversity that the launch will bring to Lancaster's nightlife, telling SCAN that "we hope this is going to add much more content to the standard night-life which is the same week in and week out, by offering a diverse range of content every Tuesday!"

"We're absolutely delighted at being picked by the students

to run the Tuesday nights and can't wait to get started. There's nothing we love more than theming the venue every week and we hope people will enjoy dressing up for them as much as we do!" he enthused.

The re-launch also seems to be positively received by students, as second year Accounting and Finance student, Danny Myers told SCAN "I'm glad to see some diversity in Lancaster's nightlife."

However, he also questioned the lasting impact of the relaunch. "Will it last?" he asked, "does it mean that Sugar will open on a Tuesday?"

Hustle Tuesday tickets will be available from college JCR Social Secretaries and from the LUSU shop from Week 22 onwards. For more information visit: <http://www.facebook.com/events/342410102489699/>



Photo by Martin Sutton

Toast re-opens under new management



Photo by Martin Sutton

Hattie Webster

Toast has re-opened under new management revitalising Lancaster's nightlife.

Toast's re-launch comes following its closure at the start of Lent Term due to the previous owner's outstanding debt.

The news has been welcomed by many following the closure of the Carleton's student night last term, amid criticism that LUSU are monopolising Lancaster's student scene.

The club is under new ownership and has re-opened temporarily until July for the bank holiday period. Owners Illustrious Lounging intend to close the venue for the month of July while internally refurbishing the bar and giving the club a face lift. This £100,000 renovation is due for its re-launch, under a new name, in August.

The new management own two other nightclubs in Warrington offering two alternative genres: an Indie-music venue, which welcomes live bands to play, and a dance-music orientated club which hosts a night with Ian Austin, Rock FM's DJ and former resident DJ of Blackpool's Syndicate.

Opening night success

Toast offers two student nights at present. Mondays' "Vodka Heaven" which boasts double vodkas at £1.50 with £3 admission, and Wednesdays' "Fuzzy Duck" with £1 entry and selected drinks at £1 too, hoping to fill the Carleton's void. Free entry is offered to those who gain a photo with the

6 ½ foot blue "fuzzy duck" which roams Lancaster's streets.

The opening night, which was over the Easter bank-holiday weekend, was a huge success. The club reached full capacity by 12.30 and had to turn over 300 people away; and similar success has been seen subsequently witnessed.

Darren Reynolds, manager of Illustrious Lounging, appealed to his future clients. The company wants to know what Lancaster wants from its nightlife and urges students to comment on the club's Facebook page with ideas and opinions so that they can create a club which offers exactly what the nightlife of Lancaster wants.

The refurbished venue will remain divided into club and bar sections and the club's future facelift hopes to liven up the venue.

IT'S ALL
ABOUT
YOU

100% OF OUR PROFITS GO BACK IN
TO MAKING THINGS HAPPEN FOR YOU



EST. 2010

CAROLYNNE

STUDENT CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

HELLO
REVISION!

CAROLYNNE WTF?

I'VE JUST SPENT FOUR WEEKS SAT IN MY PYJAMAS WRITING MY DISSERTATION AND NOW I HAVE EIGHT WEEKS OF REVISION TO GET EXCITED ABOUT. IT'S SAFE TO SAY I'M STRUGGLING TO FIND A SILVER LINING ON MY BIG BLACK CLOUD.

BUT THIRD TERM CAN, AND DEFINITELY WILL, BRING MORE THAN A SOLID FEW WEEKS IN THE LIBRARY. WITH ROSES, EXTRAVS AND GRAD BALL TO LOOK FORWARD TO, I'M SURE EVERYONE WILL MANAGE TO FIND THE PERFECT EXCUSE TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR NEXT NINE WEEKS IN LANCASTER.

TO START WITH, CAROLYNNE HAS THE IDEAL DOSE OF STUDENT LIFESTYLE, CULTURE AND TRENDS TO CURE YOUR FINAL TERM FEVER. SPEND TEN MORE MINUTES PROCRASTINATING, GRAB YOUR SIXTH BREW OF THE DAY, READ AND ENJOY!

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DRESS SMART BE SMART?



Smarten up for success? Photo by Rigmorole

LIFESTYLE

The hordes of smartly-dressed men and women that bustle through the city of London every day are a perfect example of dressing smartly to achieve high standards – and also a sign of their office dress codes, of course. Looking around campus, it's clear that students don't have a similar attitude. Hoodies, leggings and joggers are essential items in our wardrobes, but is the way we dress having an effect on our ability to be productive and work well?

On placement this year, dressing in office wear has become normal, and I can say from experience that it does put you in the mood to work. We all wore uniforms for school, and I am sure many of us worked hard then. We also got up and went to class for 9.00am with a lot less complaining than takes place now! So is there some science behind the way we dress and how productive and motivated we are?

CAN THE WAY WE DRESS IMPACT OUR PRODUCTIVITY?

A little research on the web led me to a discussion group about dressing smartly for work, and its effect on productivity. 41% of people believed that by dressing in this way, their productivity was increased. Dressing smartly for interviews is a great way to not only impress the interviewer, but also to give you confidence and increase your chances of being taken seriously. The working environment is very different to

university life; meeting clients, managers and achieving targets are some people's daily routines, and these perhaps are key factors as to why people want to be able to impress in the workplace. Dressing appropriately in your work is vital in showing that you are serious about your job.

FANCY WEARING A SUIT AND TIE FOR THE LIBRARY?

University is a complete contrast to the business environment. The work that we do is purely for ourselves. We aren't trying to meet targets and get a promotion, we're trying to get a degree, which is something that only we can use and benefit from in the future. Our productivity is something that only we can control and dressing smartly to achieve more is probably more of a mental factor, rather than a scientific theory.

My advice is to dress in the way that you feel most comfortable. We haven't entered the business world yet, and I'm sure many of you won't ever have to wear a suit and be in the corporate environment anyway. Here at university we have the chance to be ourselves, dress how we want and organise our time effectively. Dressing so that you, personally, feel productive is a much better way of thinking, although this might well be a shirt and tie. Leggings, hoodies and joggers are just as acceptable – just as long as you get your work done!

Sarah Warsaw

ARE YOU AN APPLE OR A PEAR?

LIFESTYLE

Gok Wan, Trinny and Susannah and even our mums always tell us, "I know it's in fashion, dear, but it just doesn't suit you." And if you're anything like me, you'll most likely start having a sob in a Debenhams changing room wishing you had a model body so that you too could look good in a pair of uber-skinny jeans.

After years of self-loathing, I've found it's actually a lot easier to be fashionable if you actually listen to your mum. Many of us girls don't realise that part of being fashionable is not just following trends like fashion-crazed sheep, but tailoring trends to suit your shape, your style and your personality.

Take, for example, that 'wardrobe essential', the skinny jeans. Put me in a pair and I look like an over-stuffed sausage, because I don't have baguette legs and my hips are wider than I care to divulge. However, put me in a midi-skirt or some high-waisted ankle grazers, or even a pair of straight cuts, and I no longer look twice my size. I'd even go as far as to say I look good.

PUT ME IN A PAIR OF SKINNY JEANS AND I LOOK LIKE AN OVERSTUFFED SAUSAGE

I love the 'Peter Pan' collared dresses seen last season, as they don't make me feel self-conscious about my less than ample chest. But, my big-busted friend hates the fact that when she tries them on, she looks like a matron from the 1950s.

Whatever your shape, there's sure to be a style to suit you, and not only that, there'll be a style to make others envious of you. If you're an apple (bigger on top with legs that go on forever), then try this season's print trends. Match the amazing tropical print jeans currently in River Island with a plain baggy t-shirt and skyscraper heels to make heads turn.

If you're the coveted hourglass shape, what could showcase your curves better than a baroque patterned bodycon as seen in New Look. Team it with a chunky chain to really stand out. Athletic bodies should embrace the glamorised sportswear look of this season with a bandeau or high-waisted tennis skirt, or even tapered, tailored lounge trousers and an open bright

C.3



Photo by Fiorella Rubino

shirt. This look isn't only right on trend, but comfortable too, which makes a nice change.

If you have wider shoulders, avoid too much detail on the neckline as this only emphasises their width. Opt instead for flowing material around the shoulders, or volume around the bottom to balance you out. A bias-cut skirt helps create the illusion of equality between the shoulders and hips. Skater dresses are just the ticket for wider shoulders and you can update last season's look with the Aztec monochrome version they have in New Look.

So, it's just important to realise that yes, although that half-PVC, shiny, cut out, baggy at the elbow, low cut, backless cat-suit looks great on Kate Moss, Miss Moss and I don't possess the same body shape. And though I may still be working out which fashion trends look brilliant on me... there is no doubt in my mind that said cat suit would look absolutely hideous. Yasmin Jaunbocus

TEE-ED OFF!

LIFESTYLE

In three years of studying at Lancaster, with our 'go hard or go home' attitude to nights out and regularly consuming the weight of our library books in drink, Pub golf is a night out we all must (or will) have experienced here. With expectations so high, the organisation has painstakingly cumulated into one of the most highly anticipated nights out you'll ever have.

You've donned the attire – glove, pensioner cardigan, green-tinted visor and what not – and are ready to hit the town. But is the objective of pub golf ever reached? Or in fact, does it even matter when everybody ends up Sugarhouse anyway?

I'm not going to lie, some of the best nights out I have had were pub golf nights. Getting everyone out all wearing the smartest fancy dress theme you can imagine is a great feeling. And once you've come to terms with the potential cost of the night, the pars appear reasonable and you begin the night with a confidence that you'll at least finish under-par, or dare I say, win the competition?

DO YOU GET SCARED OF THE SCORE-CARD?

Hitting the first couple of bars is where you can tell if people are going to commit to the system or not. Complaints of 'A pint costs too much here' or 'I'm not having Sambuca, it's only half past eight!' can regularly occur, so planners – be weary of this situation! Recording your score can sometimes be as much of a challenge as downing your drink if that WKD goes straight to your head. Sticking to the scorecard will be the main challenge, not whether you complete it under-par.

Special mention must be made here to the group spotted in Grizedale Bar in Week Six, whose giant 'Sandwich Board' scorecard with everyone's name and score, carried by one lucky member definitely turned heads that night – incredible! After five or six holes, you can tell some members of the group have eased off the organised itinerary and have just bought an easy drink to see them until Sugarhouse. For the hard-core golfers, they aim to see their mission until the end, a commendable spirit and one that will see them absolutely smashed by the end of the night.

So whichever stance you take towards pub golf, you obviously have your reasons and will undoubtedly have an amazing night. But when you're running round Sugarhouse, drunkenly playing with your Poundland 'Not suitable for children over seven years old' colourful golf set, celebrating like Tiger Woods himself at your poor attempt at hitting a hollow plastic ball, the whole night is definitely worth it. If you have not been lucky enough to sample this theme-to-end-all-themes, it comes highly recommended! Matt Haslam



MATT CARDLE

CULTURE EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

AFTER WINNING THE X FACTOR IN 2010, MATT CARDLE HAS BEEN UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF CRITICS EVERYWHERE JUST WAITING FOR HIM TO BECOME ANOTHER MALE X FACTOR WINNER WITH A FAILED CAREER. HOWEVER, AS SOMEONE WHO HAS DEDICATED MOST OF HIS LIFE TO BECOMING A SINGER/SONGWRITER, CARDLE HAS FOCUSED ON THE SUCCESSES HE HAS GAINED AND THANKED THE X FACTOR FOR SIMPLY OPENING DOORS FOR HIM.

BEFORE KICKING OFF HIS SELL-OUT UK TOUR, CARDLE TOOK TIME OUT TO TALK TO SCAN ABOUT HIS DEBUT ALBUM, LETTERS, FLAMBOYANT YELLOW TROUSERS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HIM MAINTAINING CREATIVE CONTROL IN HIS CAREER.

Was The X Factor your first attempt to gain a record contract?

No, it was like my 231st attempt. I have been working at this since I was 11. I've been in a band and tried to gain a contract that way. The X Factor just offered me that chance to break into the industry and to play to so many people. And to be honest, I would certainly recommend it to someone else if it is what they really wanted to do. They would have to really want it because it is hard work, but it's so hard to break into the industry these days, and you need to start somewhere.

Can you tell us a bit more about your time on the show? What was your favourite song, and what sort of influence did your mentor, Dannii Minogue, have? Were you aware of how popular you were?

One of my favourites was 'Nights in White Satin'; it is one of my favourite songs and was brilliant to sing. There were quite a lot of songs I had a say in, and even enjoyed singing the ones I didn't pick, actually. Dannii had a lot of input; she was always very encouraging and was always on the phone talking through the song choice and what we were going to do each week. She was very supportive and invaluable, you know. And as for popularity, it was only the first week which I came second in the public vote, which was fantastic. They don't let you know your position whilst you are on the show though. You can only go on public reactions in the papers or on things like Twitter.

Do you believe the show had the right winner last year? Have Little Mix have got what it takes?

Yeah, I think that the girls are really, really great. I think they are great girls and that they will do really well. It's taken a while for all the X-Factor winners to make a name for themselves outside the show, but I think the girls will manage it too.

Your winner's single was 'When We Collide' (a cover of Biffy Clyro's popular 'Many of Horror'), did you choose to do that song yourself?

It was offered to me. Singles like 'The Climb', which was obviously Joe McElderry's winner's single in 2009, are a bit too cheesy so it was great to get the chance to sing a song as great as 'Many of Horror'. It is something a bit different and a song that suits my style more.

RIGHT NOW IT'S ABOUT MAKING MY MARK

You have a joint record contract with Columbia Records and Syco. What could Columbia Records offer you that you wouldn't get from Syco alone?

Syco is a very poppy company. Columbia is a bit rockier, a bit different. I think Columbia suits my style more, because I like to show my rock side in performances and recordings, but obviously Syco is the company you get signed to after The X Factor.

Your debut album, 'Letters', was released last year. How much input did you have into the writing and production of it? And what do you make of its success?

I co-wrote the entire album except for the leading single 'Run For Your Life' which was written for me by Gary Barlow. It was a great chance to make my own music and have my songs and my lyrics on the album. Oh, and the success is absolutely amazing, especially the fact that it's gone platinum. The fact I get to go perform my songs to people, songs that mean something to me, is just great.

I'VE BEEN WORKING AT THIS SINCE I WAS 11

Do you feel more comfortable releasing your own material from 'Letters', such as 'Starlight' and 'Amazing', than songs written for you?

Yeah, at the end of the day they're my songs, they mean something to me. It is nice to get my writing released. It means more performing songs you have written yourself than something written for you.

Which acts from growing up, and currently recording, are your biggest influences, especially on the making of 'Letters'? Can we expect any collaborations with them in the future?

Influences? Wow, such a long list. Michael Jackson, Paul Weller, David Grey, Peter Gabriel, Pearl Jam. It is a big mix of artists, I couldn't name them all. As for collaborations, I don't know, I'm focusing on releasing my own stuff right now and doing my own thing. If something comes up and gets offered to me I'd love to work with other people. But right now it is about making my mark.

So can we expect to see you put on the yellow trousers and sing Katy Perry again?

Haha! No, absolutely not! I think my yellow trouser days are well and truly over.

Interview by Charli Stevenson

COMIN' THIS MONTH



MAX PAYNE III

GAME - FRIDAY MAY 18TH

"I looked around the dingy hell-hole of the room, spat my cigarette on the blood-stained floor. When you're a cop from NYC, every god forsaken room is a dingy hell-hole. How did I end up here? We have to go back three years. I took a slow motion flight out to São Paulo after the failure of my 2008 film. Grew a beard. That was when the pain started."



BRING UP THE BODIES - HILARY MANTEL

BOOK - THURSDAY MAY 10TH

Bring Up the Bodies is the long-awaited sequel to Mantel's Booker Prize-winning Wolf Hall, which traced the early life of a young Thomas Cromwell from humble blacksmith's son to bestest of buddies with King Henry VIII. But things slowly turn awry for the minister, and Bodies charts the start of his downfall, the death of Anne Boleyn and the King's marriage to Jane Seymour. This is set to be another engrossing work of historical fiction from Mantel.



WE'LL BE THE MOON - FIXERS

ALBUM - MONDAY MAY 21ST

When an album comes along with a title like 'We'll be the Moon', you expect it to sound like someone has just poured a mixture of LSD and sherbet powder down your ear canal. And Fixers aren't set to disappoint! If their run of sun soaked psych-pop singles and EPs is anything to go by, this will be an early-summer highlight.



DIABLO III

GAME - TUESDAY MAY 15TH

Sitting snugly alongside StarCraft and Warcraft in Blizzard's massively popular (and massively profitable) holy trinity of IPs, the Diablo series is one of the true untouchables of gaming. There have been plenty of pre-release fears from protective fans that 'too much has changed!', but the core dungeon-crawling gameplay and gloriously demonic aesthetic look set to keep the fans happy.



WHAT WE SAW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

ALBUM BY REGINA SPEKTOR - TUESDAY MAY 29TH

She may be loved the world over for being the 'most adorable person in pop music', but she started life as an experimental and straight-up weird singer-songwriter. 'Cheap Seats' is a collection of new material and unreleased older songs, so hopefully we can expect less of the sickly-sweet songwriting and over-production that plagued her last album, and more brilliantly bizarre jazz piano freakouts.



RATCHET AND CLANK - HD TRILOGY

GAME - FRIDAY MAY 18TH

Ratchet and Clank was always going to be an obvious candidate for HD remakes of classic PS2 games. And you can guarantee that the HD will not be wasted here, as the original games were some of the most exploder-ific firework-taculars ever to grace a console. Both first-time players and current fans would be wise to pick this up, if only for the ridiculous weapons. Quack-O-Ray, anyone?

All reviews written by
Joe Henthorn (Culture Editor)

LABRINTH ROCKS SUGAR

Do you remember that time a genuinely successful musician came to the Sugarhouse? Despite a few circulating rumours that he would just be playing a DJ set with pre-recorded vocals, and that brief Twitter confusion that he would actually be performing in Blackpool instead, Labrinth managed to turn up in the right place and pleasantly surprised guests with an energetic live performance.

The Sugarhouse was transformed for the occasion. The stage and graphic effects made it look more like a music arena - rather than the sweat-filled club that Lancaster students are used to - and fans packed themselves in, with many practically hung over the barriers near the stage to get a closer glimpse of Labrinth. A series of up-and-coming DJs took to the stage as a support to the main event.

But the surprise of the night came when the man himself took the stage and was handed an acoustic guitar by one of his crew. He proceeded to sing and strum to a positively mellow acoustic version of 'Frisky'; a song by Tinie Tempah, for which Labrinth lent his vocals, writing skills and production expertise. When producing this song, Labrinth dabbled with an old-school 80's keyboard, giving it a trance-like element - so it was an excellent twist when he discarded the guitar and performed 'Frisky' to fans in the way that it was originally intended - with an urban vibe.

QUALITY VOCALS AND A HYPED- UP CROWD

The night continued with another Tinie Tempah favourite, 'Pass Out', as well as Labrinth's debut single 'Let the Sunshine' and, of course, 'Earthquake'. When the opening notes of 'Earthquake' began, the volume and atmosphere of the club exploded, as guests screamed at the singer, and sang along to the well-known hit. It was a guarantee that this would be the song that changed the whole level of the night.

A far cry from the gospel music that Labrinth, real name Timothy McKenzie, grew up with, the music he has produced refuses to conform to any one genre, which is why he has caused such a stir on the hip-hop scene of late. The electronic-sounding vocals and mish-mash of drum & bass, hip-hop and electro were present on the stage at Sugarhouse. Labrinth describes his reasoning for creating his unique sound as "wanting to do his own thing," and it's clearly working.

The music was accompanied by Labrinth throwing himself dangerously around the stage, performing wall handstands and generally getting the crowd well and truly hyped up. And he did a very good job of it. He proved to be one of those artists that has the natural ability to relate to the crowd and ensure they are enjoying themselves. Let's have more artists like this in Lancaster, please!

Amy Hawthorn

C.7

THE CIVIL WARS AT LANCASTER LIBRARY



Photo by Sarah Christian

The Civil Wars' first album 'Barton Hollow' was released late last year, and their sincere, no frills, old world-y music has evidently gone down a treat not only with a fair number of hip trendy youngsters, but also with an older (or perhaps I should say 'less young') crowd, as the audience at their Lancaster Library gig (or 'concert' as the middle-aged music lovers in the audience were undoubtedly calling it) showed.

Since the release of their debut album, they have shot to a medium level of fame, which has culminated in supporting big name acts like Emmylou Harris and Adele, and prestigious appearances on 'The Tonight Show with Jay Leno' and 'Later... With Jools Holland'. The American boy-girl duo still seem charmingly surprised by their sudden acclaim; they were visibly taken aback by the hugely enthusiastic response (that was at the same time oddly formal, like you would hear at a classical concert) they received both upon their arrival on stage at the Library and after every song they played. During the long applause after each song, they usually looked at each other disbelievingly, and occasionally said things like "Wow, they really like us" (as well as the now familiar "We've never played in a library before") in endearing deep south accents.

After a tender opening with 'Poison and Wine' followed by 'Forget Me Not', The Civil Wars surprised with a cover of Portishead's 'Sour Times', an interesting choice for an American folk duo, but one which was unexpected and delightful. This was followed by the truly rocking 'Barton Hollow', a foot-stomper of a song which was something of a shock after the fragility and prettiness of the ones that had preceded it. Still though, it stood out as a highlight of the night, singer Joy Williams dedicating the song to "all the kids who ever got shushed in a library."

The music of The Civil Wars is principally acoustic, gentle, and about love and things (and it might be these folk sensibilities which attract older people), and as such they played to absolute and reverential silence while the audience listened hard, truly savouring the breathtaking (a word which I feel fully justified in using)

duets and simple, finger-plucked guitar, and watched the pair's on stage chemistry - which was an impossible aspect of their performance to miss. Throughout the show they were frequently throwing each other almost theatrically dreamy looks while the other sang - and when they harmonised, they looked into each other's eyes so deeply that it was difficult not to feel slightly embarrassed watching them.

The way they acted suggested that they were either married or acting inappropriately flirtatious - and after some post-gig research it turns out it's the second one, though it's more likely that it's their deep love of the music that causes these amorous-looking glances. Later in the set Williams told the audience (with a seemingly almost tearful joy) that she had just found out that she was pregnant, which certainly added to the emotional investment in the music, so much so that the announcement could have been carefully planned out to produce such a reaction - but probably wasn't.

I hadn't heard of The Civil Wars before attending this show, and since then I've developed a musical relationship with them not unlike finding a new girlfriend. Above all the concert was sincere and genuine, something carried across by the obvious, thorough decency of the pair - they seemed the kind of people who would point it out to you if you had a post-it with an insult stuck to your back, or who would buoy you up with kind words after a tough break-up. It was this feeling of familiarity and friendliness on The Civil Wars' part which lent the night much of its enjoyment, and after an encore of 'Billie Jean', a classic song that anyone can enjoy, the concert ended with another long round of applause.

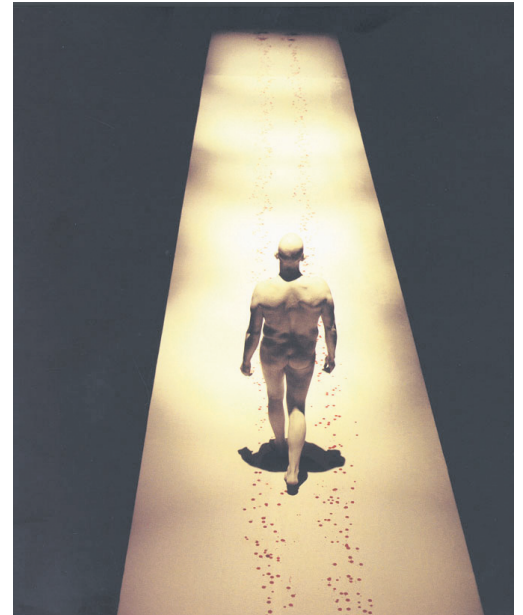
They may not be on the cutting edge of the music scene, but the fact that The Civil Wars exist, to me, is a sign that there is still hope and decency in the world.

Arun Takhar

IT'S SHOW CAMPUS PR



Images provided by LICA and LUTG



CURATE THE CAMPUS

After last year's successful arty goings on, 'Curate the Campus' is back and is bigger than ever. Last year saw the expansion of innovative, outdoor site-based artworks, such as the 'Wheelhouse' performed by Acrojou, who impressed crowds by singing, dancing and acting their way around their homemade wooden wheel house, complete with windows, curtains and other home comforts – you really did have to see it to believe it.

This year the event has expanded even further across campus by making the most of the site's nooks and crannies and increasing their number of events. Consisting of a range of different happenings, some site-specific and some mobile, the event will challenge perceptions of art and performance in a friendly, fun and fascinating manner. Inescapable and easy to directly engage with; a silver whale big enough to challenge Moby Dick, musicians descending from the heavens and a dance routine with office chairs are but some of the encounters the festival has to offer.

Quirky and intriguing, we expect nothing less from Lancaster's art scene so keep a look out across campus between Monday 1st until Friday 11th May and be prepared to embrace the weird and wonderful. For extra details cast your eyes over www.liveatlica.org/curatethecampus or jump on the bandwagon and follow the team on Twitter at #curatethecampus.

Written by Stephanie Bell

THE QUIET VOLUME

By now we are all accustomed to the termly phenomenon of the library invasion occurring in the last few days before deadlines. Symptoms include sweating, nausea and a frenzied panic as you realise you haven't factored the writing of essays into your time management scheme, instead flitting between different states of intoxication. In inane desperation to convince yourself and others that you have it under control, you become a recluse slave to the library and devour books quicker than Matilda. You're doing well; you've typed out the title and haven't looked at Facebook once. This is an achievement and deserves a reward. You glance up and through dazzling sunlight you behold the ultimate library totty. Lacking liquid confidence you tentatively refrain from an approach, pondering what could have been whilst wiping the drool from your keyboard. However – all is not lost.

'The Quiet Volume' is a performance in 'Curate the Campus' festival, set to take place in Lancaster University's library which explores the tension often found in such places. The performance which requires two participants per set offers "the feeling of heightened awareness in which every sound is magnified."

Performances run every 30 mins in Lancaster University's Library between these start and end times:-

Tuesday 8th - Thursday 10th May: 13.00 (first performance) - 19.00 (last performance)

Friday 11th May: 13.00 (first performance) - 18.00 (last performance)

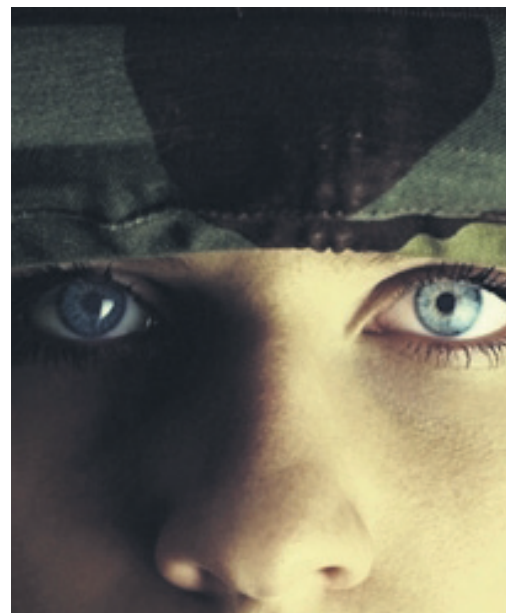
Saturday 12th May: 11.00 (first performance) - 16.00 (last performance).

BECAUSE OF LOVE

To ensure the 'Curate the Campus' event goes out with a bang, Franko B is your go-to guru for everything unconventional, unusual and downright odd. He is your eccentric uncle who evokes attention, intrigue and respect. In his new semi-autobiographical performance piece 'Because of Love' the artist utilises dance, theatre and visual art to cast his net over new audiences. Essentially revolving around the human condition, Franko's latest work is concerned with themes of love, loss and the different stages of life.

Known for his somewhat visceral approaches Franko B recalls past emotions, offering a raw reflexive response of both cultural and personal reminiscences questioning how the past is often viewed through rose – tinted glasses. Sounding pretty normal so far? This is not only an ambitious piece for its scale and complexity but also for the addition of a 'Lost'-style twist as mid performance the artist engages in a dance with a mechanical life – sized polar bear...I rest my case.

If you're as intrigued as I am pop along to the Nuffield Theatre at 7:00pm on Friday 11th May - you may even get a bear hug or two.



LUTG: THE STATION

In a departure from the theatre group's norms, this term the society will be staging an exciting, new piece of work by one of its members.

'Station', by first year English Literature and Creative Writing student Andrew Ainscough (who performed in 'A Little Night Music' and 'He Who Gets Slapped' with the society), follows the trial and tribulation laden past of two middle aged men chancing to run into one another at a train station in the middle of the night, having been out of contact for many years. To both men, this encounter is too eerie and convenient to be a mere coincidence, and their floating memories and ambiguous thoughts are played out on the stage by their younger selves, unravelling the mystery and the motives behind their meeting along the way.

It is the first original LUTG play in almost two years, and the first completed work by the author. It is certainly a risk to put on a brand new piece alongside the other, more established works on offer, but Ainscough isn't worried; "I think people are always intrigued and excited by new theatre... it has an attractive appeal and allure for potential theatre-goers."

'Station' will be performed on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of June at 7:30 at the Nuffield Theatre, and is the first of many steps that LUTG are taking towards a future where young writers might see their seeds blossom more often. Make sure you catch it while it's on - 'Station' will have no delays to apologise for!

LUTG: STAGS AND HENS

The Sugarhouse has its Indy and Mainstream night, its Retro night and its standard ear-bleedingly loud night, but come June, Lancaster University Theatre Group will be spearheading the venue's first ever 70's night.

Willy Russell's 'Stags & Hens', which is quite fittingly set in the male and female toilets of a loud and messy nightclub, follows the stag and hen parties of a soon to be newlywed couple, who are unaware that their do's are taking place in the same venue. Drunken yearnings and regrets boil over when the bride-to-be has doubts about her marriage, especially when an ex-boyfriend shows up and offers her the chance to elope - like the tale of Rapunzel if her tower was a ladies' cubicle.

Like LUTG's other offerings this term, 'Stags and Hens' will be overseen by directorial newcomers - in this case, second year theatre student Mike Collier and newly elected society president Lisa Coleman, both of whom see the endless scope for familiarity that the audience will have with the play; "The kind of conversations that happen in club toilets is something which we're sure a lot of people can relate to... the students will be able to latch on to Willy Russell's wit very quickly."

"We've got an amazing production team who are raring to source all things 70s, including two bathroom sets," says Lisa Coleman who, along with LUTG's usual fine cast of actors, promise you the fullest, funniest 70's experience on offer. "Incidentally," she adds, "has anyone got a spare toilet they're not using?!"

LUTG presents: 'Stags and Hens' takes place at the Sugarhouse on the 10th, 11th and 12th of June. Tickets are £6 for students and £7 for adults.

LUTG: BELONGINGS

Morgan Lloyd Malcolm's 'Belongings' tells the story of Deb, a British soldier returning from the service, and finding that her 'home' is not the dreamlike, heavenly utopia that six months dodging mercenaries and artillery in the humid, volatile streets of Afghanistan would force you to believe.

While he doesn't expect much (if any) of the student body to have served in Afghanistan, debuting first year director James Varney (who you may remember as Henrik Egerman in 'A Little Night Music' and the Oatcake-eater in 'The Wonderful World of Dissocia') is still confident that 'Belongings' will strike many an emotional chord with the audience; "anyone who has returned home after a long period of time must have experienced a similar sense of broken nostalgia, of 'home' not being quite the perfect return to the familiar." To the director the field specific plot of 'Belongings' is, beneath the surface, relative to the simplest facets of everyone's lives; "...the university student will be no stranger to what it is like to leave behind friends, which often, in my experience, leads to a re-evaluation in light of which friendships withstand that sort of thing."

Playing the role of a house and a military sleeping area is the Dukes DT3 theatre, a traverse venue which has never failed to make an insular, psychologically intense production that little bit better. On the 22nd and 23rd of June at 7:30 (with a 2:30 matinée on the 23rd), be there, where a theatre-goer belongs.

For more information on ticket prices and bookings, go to the Dukes theatre website, at <http://www.dukes-lancaster.org/>

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PROCRASTINATION THE STUDENT SIN

FEATURES

If I knew how many days of my life I have wasted scrolling through the Facebook news feed I think I would quite simply cry. Facebook is bad enough as it is in terms of its, quite frankly, soul-destroying capabilities. But when it comes to essay writing and exam revision it truly is the Satan of procrastination. It starts with the innocent scrolling of the news feed, but when that becomes too boring, the force of the refresh button inevitably takes hold of the index finger. Alternatively, Facebook stalking people you haven't spoken to since secondary school seems like the next best option. Conclusively Facebook is addictive, time consuming and intellectually undemanding. Yet, no matter how many negative adjectives you collocate with the word, we simply cannot restrain ourselves.

Facebook is not only a demon in itself, it's also the key to other demonic and addictive areas of the internet including the likes of YouTube, ridiculous meme pages, Facebook apps- come on we've all had a go at Draw my Thing- and, worst of all, Facebook users have introduced me to another utterly pointless past time, Twitter.

Over the Easter holidays I have become endorsed into the wonderful world of tweeting. Hashtag just about anything and spend hours scrolling through comments on the latest UK trends and that's you switched off for most of the afternoon. Some of the comments, even if uttered by a friend in general conversation, I couldn't care less about, yet everybody on Twitter seems intrigued by what complete strangers have to say about ridiculous and inane issues. The list of top UK trends at this very moment in time includes #AskMarcus, #10ThingsI-Hate and #IfIWasBlack. See what I mean? Twitter along with Facebook has become another virtual procrastination station where people talk about anything and everything, and every user probably has the same aim in life, to avoid doing anything else that is more important. Twitter users also update the world with videos and other useless websites that they have productively spent their time on, and from there, their followers suffer as they get enraptured further and further into more futile corners of the World Wide Web.

EVERYTIME SOMEONE BREATHES I GET A NOTIFICATION

We know we do it, but there is nothing we do to help it. You can disconnect the internet, in fact you can flush the damn wire down the toilet. It won't solve the problem. It goes without saying that the majority of people now own a smart phone which, let's face it, exacerbates the situation. Every Facebook notification, every Tweet

C.11

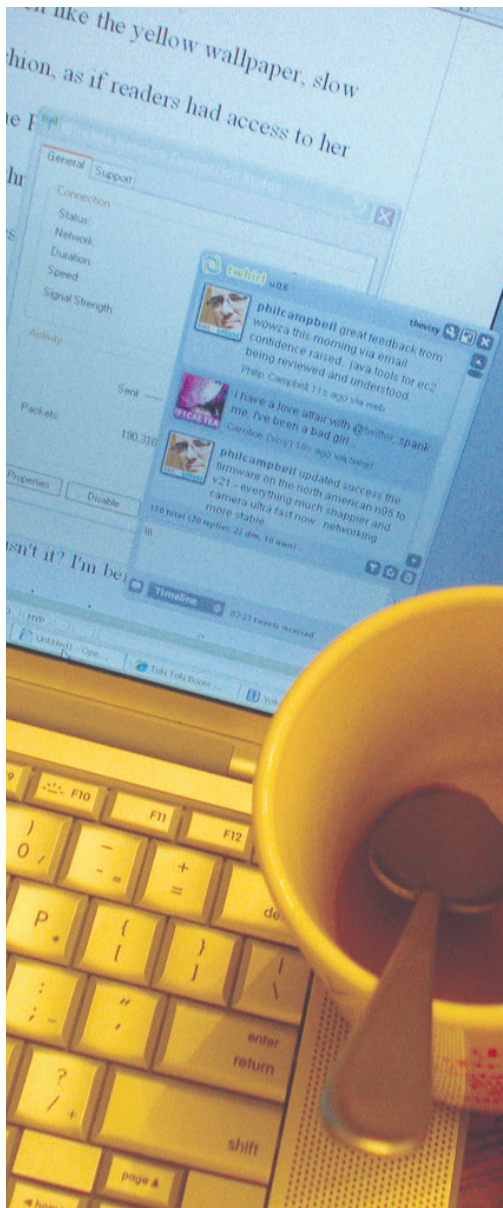


Photo by VixyView

mention, every other form of connection that the rest of the world wants to make with us bombards our mobile phones. We can't win.

Evidently, we're all stuck in a vicious circle of destructive social networking from which we cannot escape no matter how hard we try. Everyone is in the same boat yet we still believe that we should inform the rest of the world.

Deadlines are approaching so the Facebook news feed inevitably gets filled with "I wish these essays would write themselves," "motivation = zero," "most unproductive day ever" all with about 10+ likes and yet more comments from people feeling sorry for themselves. However, I'm not sure whether knowing that everyone is in the same boat triggers a slight sense of comfort and relief in knowing that you and I are not the only ones banging our head against a keyboard, or whether it triggers a slight notion of discomfort in knowing that basically...we're all screwed. Either way I guess one positive is that we are all in this black hole of cyber-space together. Marsha Dowie

WHY THE EX?

LIFESTYLE

The letter "x" is everywhere; a sign of love and affection that's used by us all. I receive countless abuse for not putting enough 'x's at the end of text messages, and so it is ironic that this is the very same letter that we use to refer to someone that we have ended a relationship with.

Whether you can be friends with your ex depends on the circumstance. If you are both fully aware and happy with the situation you are in, if you're just friends, then yes, why can't it work? It seems easier to be friends with an ex when you are with someone else, because your feelings are not for them any more. Or can this ever really be the case? Of course, then there is collision with that fact that your new partner probably isn't happy that you are friends with them, which takes us back to square one.

EXES POP UP ALL OVER THE PLACE!

But what if we don't want to be friends with them? Wouldn't it be great to start a new relationship without having to mention anything about past relationships? But the fact is, when getting to know someone new, you share stories about your life, and it just so happens that the stories that have got you this far probably involve the people who perhaps are no longer a part of your life... enter the ex.

Just like the little letter, exes seem to pop up all over the place and at times you really wish they would just stay away. A romantic night out, and suddenly you're in the middle of conversation about that trip you took and had some of the most hilarious moments of your life... oh and it just happened to be with your ex. Another common reason we find exes recurring is when you try to casually drop into conversation all the things you hated about them just so your new partner knows never to do any of those things. "He was really jealous every time I went out"- loosely translated to- "I don't want round two of this aggro- give me space to go out and have a good time with my friends!"

The ex in sex is a difficult one to deal with. Sleeping with an ex is known to give a certain level of unexplained excitement. But does it really work? Can you sleep with them without feeling anything? There is a cruel reality to sleeping with an ex as it can become a torturous one-sided love affair. I asked a friend if he thought it was a good idea, he said, "Of course not. We know we shouldn't do it, but everyone does it anyway." Is that not like most things in life? Human instinct, we love what is bad for us, want what we can't have, and if someone tells us not to do something we want to do the exact opposite.

The whole "friends with benefits" thing is something that can be left to open to debate. If you're friends with your ex it means you treat them like every other one of your friends. If not, maybe you're kidding yourselves. Remember, denial isn't just a river in Egypt... Rachel Hadley

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CULTURE CLASH

VINYL VS. MP3

The argument has been made many times in the past, and I shall make it again; vinyl records are a better format for music than anything that has come since.

Be it from the sound quality to the almost ritualistic experience of putting on a record, their superiority is evident in every way. This is seemingly a point of view which is held by many record companies and artists of the present day (not only of 30 years ago), many of whom are now releasing many albums as special edition records – just have a look at how many special releases came out on Record Store Day if you need proof.

For starters there's 'the sound'. The famous record hiss really adds a unique warmth to the sound. It's not irritating noise, it's a quality that, when the vast majority of recorded music was "laid down" (technical term right there), it was taken into account and was accepted as part of the mix, and is therefore meant to be there as part of the overall track. The squeaky clean sounds that many modern artists strive for when the record takes away a large part of the more "human" aspect of the recording process, making it sound far too robotic and synthetic.

MP3 MAKES MUSIC SOUND ROBOTIC AND SQUEAKY CLEAN

Then there's the best part – the 'experience'. How do you put on a song as a digital track? You press a button and the song plays. Whereas with a record, you slide the vinyl out of its gate fold sleeve, remove it from the paper cover, lift up the needle, place the record on the turntable, gently put the needle down on the vinyl and suddenly the whole thing comes alive, the slight hiss that you get as the needle winds its way towards the recorded grooves, then that moment where the hiss turns into the music, and from chaos come the sounds that you'd been waiting for. How can merely pressing a play button compare with that?

The fact that the records are so large means that you get a lot more out of them besides the music. One is able to look at the cover images that someone, somewhere put hours of work into, to take in their every nuance and detail. This also means that more information than a mere song title can be printed on the sleeve easily, lyrics can be read off, which is great for all the hairbrush divas out there.

Sure, I may need a huge amount of space to store relatively few records, and they're not exactly portable. But when I'm at home, I'd much rather the comfort and ceremony that goes with a vinyl over compressed, tinny computer files any day.

Nick Webb

C.13



Photo by suesviews

Picture the scene. It's the 1960s, and you fancy some new music. You go into town and head to what's known as the 'record shop'. It's a dark, dingy place, and all you can see are mindless drones standing in front of shelves full of thin, square bits of coloured cardboard. They are flicking through them at a rate of thirty-three records per minute, with a hand movement that will inevitably lead to RSI. You join them, silently working your way across the shelf. After half an hour, you finally find the album you've been looking for. After paying for it at the counter and heading home, you sit down next to your turntable and carefully remove the pizza-sized black disc from its sleeve. After dusting down the needle and inspecting the vinyl for scratches, you lower the stylus onto the disc. After a crackle and a hiss, music begins to fill the room... but only for one minute, until a horrible clunk cuts the music short. You realise that a fatally deep scratch has rendered the rest of the record unplayable. Best take it back tomorrow...

Fortunately, we no longer live like this anymore. The age of vinyl is over, and MP3 is king. We don't even have to leave our chairs in order to buy music, as the Internet offers millions of tracks that can be downloaded at the click of a button. If you told someone from the 1960s that this was the future of music, they wouldn't believe you. Searching for hours – often fruitlessly – in the record shop, for discs that become unusable after a speck of dust lands on them, music being interrupted by what sounds like a boa constrictor: these were all part and parcel of the vinyl experience, and have since been obliterated by the digital revolution.

DIGITAL MUSIC IS HERE TO STAY

Some say that vinyl offers better audio quality than MP3, but this is surely more down to dodgy headphones or space-saving compression techniques that can easily be remedied with a bit of audio know-how. Others point to the importance of the album cover, which has since been demoted to a thumbnail on your iPod screen. It's hard to say that a decent bit of artwork on the cover isn't appreciated, but it's also difficult to argue with the assertion that we don't buy an album to look at its cover, but to listen to it.

I'll happily concede that thanks to vinyl, we could own music for the first time, paving the way for what we enjoy today. But the question has to be raised – why do people insist on sticking with vinyl, when other media, like the tape cassette, have died a swift and uncelebrated death? It can only be because of a sense of nostalgia, which, as far as I'm concerned, should be left to the music itself as opposed to the medium on which we play it.

Digital music is here to stay, so take off those rose-tinted glasses, stick your vinyl collection in the loft and embrace the portability, quality and convenience of MP3.

Roy Alderton

SHUT UP AND DRIVE?

LIFESTYLE

The immediate effect of the recent threat of a strike by fuel tanker drivers was panic buying and a rise in prices. It has since been revealed by the AA that some families are actually having to spend more on their fuel than their weekly shopping. What has been highlighted by this whole business is the true cost of driving. In the current state of affairs, how likely is it that students and recent graduates are going to be able to afford to drive?

The price of a car itself is no longer the biggest worry of those who want a set of wheels. The cost of fuel has been steadily rising, and in the last year alone the average price of unleaded petrol has gone up by 3.5ppl (pence per litre). This rise means that filling up a 50-litre car will cost around £70, and even if your car is fuel efficient, that's a lot of money.

But the costs don't stop there. The price of car insurance for young people is astronomically high. At the moment, the highest cost of insurance is £5,530 a year for a male driver between the age of 17 to 20 living in the Manchester area. For a woman the cost is much lower, the highest being £3,181 a year if she lives in East London. But gender and location aside, younger drivers have to pay the most on average. It hardly looks promising for those living off a student loan of around £3,000.

HYBRID CARS THE ANSWER?

As well as this, even if you manage to afford a car and insurance, there are expenses other than fuel that will drain your wallet. There's the cost of parking, fines for parking in the wrong place, the cost of maintaining your car, tolls and congestion charges. The list goes on. Realistically, it seems that students these days are going to struggle to afford a car (unless they get a little help from the bank of mum and dad).

Of course, this great looming cloud of un-affordability may just have a silver lining. A tiny sliver of one, but a silver lining nonetheless. Chances are, future technology may allow for driving on a student budget. Already on the market are hybrid cars, which have significantly lower fuel costs and can lead to lower insurance with some policies. However, the cost of the car will set you back quite a bit, with the newest Toyota Prius costing at least £21,100. Not exactly a student-friendly price. Along with different technology used in cars, alternative fuels are also being looked into. Already there are several promises of cars that run on water. However, these new fuels seem a long way off so it's unlikely they'll come in to use while we're still poor students or recent graduates.

As it stands, and until these low-cost dreams become a reality, it seems unlikely that most of us can afford a car for a long time to come. For those that already own one, you lucky things, don't expect the cost of keeping it to get any lower. For the rest of us, it looks like it's public transport for now – or as my friend charmingly puts it, the peasant wagon. Annie Gouk – Deputy Features Editor

TRANSLATING STORIES CHANGING LIVES



Photo provided by Tom Ley

FEATURES

Despite a tendency to frequently assure ourselves and everyone around us that we are in fact insanely busy, it's no secret that students have free time. Enough, that is, to at least join a couple of societies or take part in some kind of vaguely useful activity that doesn't involve beer bongs and shame. The question becomes, how do you turn empty time between lectures into time well spent? How do you do something good?

Around this time last year, I started getting that 'I should probably do something worthwhile' feeling and began looking despairingly around for something that might make the slightest bit of difference. Happily I happened upon the LUSU Involve International Opportunities program, which was organising volunteering trips to India and Malaysia. So off I popped to Delhi in September. Needless to say it was an incredible three weeks. But three weeks flew by, and soon enough I was back in the UK wondering how to keep that feeling of having done some tiny fragment of good in the world going. Thankfully this project did not end overseas, but followed us back to home soil in the form of a new society.

Among the various activities our group in India took part in was working in schools, such as the Katha school, located in a Delhi slum. Katha is an Indian publishing house that works to promote social change in Delhi's slum communities through literature; their slogan is 'translating stories, changing lives.' There's some great work being done there, so great in fact that when we left India a group of us decided to do what we could to help and promote Katha in the UK. This has taken the form of the newly set-up Katha society.

This project has already come a long way from me being called up and enthusiastically told, "right, we're nearly up and running, you're treasurer! Hang on, you're rubbish with numbers. You're publicity officer!"

We now have several projects which are getting up and running this term. There's a mentoring program, in which Lancaster students can communicate with Katha's students in India in order to help them improve their English and become more globally connected. There's a women's empowerment project, working to improve awareness of women's rights in the slums in Delhi by, for example, producing advice leaflets informing them of their entitlement to ration cards which have not been being distributed properly. We are also going to be visiting local Lancashire schools, creating reading circles and staging culture days to increase pupils' cultural awareness and expose them to the Indian stories in some of the books published by Katha.

There's something gratifying about working on something small enough to feel personally connected to it, and to be sure of where your efforts are going. I'm not going to lie to you. This sort of thing requires sacrificing some of your precious procrastination time. You might not be able to try and beat your Draw Something high score and you might not manage to finish building that fort you were making out of Carlsberg cans. But I promise you, it is worthwhile, it does make you feel good, and it does make a difference.

If any of this has interested you, search 'Lancaster University Katha Project' for more information on how you can get involved. Tom Ley

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

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

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SUDOKU - HARD

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

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COMMENT



This is what Sugar looks like without a queue. Photo by Amie Slater

Why Ricky Gervais gets my goat

Ronnie Rowlands

After the smashing success of 'Life's Too Short', a comedy which enlightened the viewer to the unpleasant treatment towards midgets through scenes in which a midget suffers treatment so unpleasant that it was totally unrealistic, Ricky Gervais and the 'edgy' Channel Four have given us the pilot episode of 'Derek', a 'sensitive' 'comedy-drama' in which a mentally handicapped man suffers unpleasant treatment.

Both types of positive response to this show must have led anybody with half a brain cell anywhere in their body to stuff cotton wool in their ears in an attempt to block it all out. Tweets on Twitter with the #Derek hashtag have told us one thing; half of Ricky Gervais' fawning, idiotic fanbase saw 'Derek' and thought; "HAHA LOOK AT THE FUNNY MONG #Derek", the other thought; "Crying at #Derek. So heart warming".

It is interesting to note that responses of the latter type were the ones championed

by Gervais, to justify himself. But really, the only thing 'sensitive' about this show was the incidental soft piano music and the cute lines uttered by the eponymous character, used to deflect from the fact that the star was effectively employing his mong face (as he himself describes it) for comic effect. All that 'Derek' entailed was a mentally handicapped man having awful things happen to him; the 'sensitivity' of this comedy-drama is cancelled out by the fact that the 'comedy' arose from people's disdain towards Derek.

Gervais has a history of showing what little empathy he has with those who aren't as bright as he is – he either refused or was unable to see the folly in using the word 'mong' as an insult on Twitter, responding to vast intellectual criticisms with a poorly realised etymological defence. Many are also not aware of the fact that Gervais debuted this character almost 11 years ago in a short film produced for the Edinburgh Comedy Festival, where Derek is an aspiring

stand-up comedian who lives with his grandmother. The funniest moment in this sweet, sugary short was definitely the bit where the titular character tells us of his experiences with a neighbour who pretended to be his grandfather, oblivious to the sexual abuse he was being subjected to. How heart warming.

However much Ricky Gervais tries to deny that his creation is mentally retarded, and that the show is about 'ordinary lives', there is no ignoring the hallmark stereotypical elements that he has imbued the character with to make up for his lack of acting talent; the big green mac, the juttied out jaw, the greasy hair, the simpleton nature and the naive understandings all point to same interpretation. He may as well have played the part from a wheelchair.

This show will almost certainly be made into a TV series, in keeping with Channel Four's dedication to edginess. When this pilot gets its series and its exposure, there is no doubt in my mind that Derek Noakes will become the Joey Deacon of this generation.

Non-exec involvement makes Extravs extra special

Matt Haslam

I sit here writing as a has-been final year student, reminiscing about three years of partying uncontrollably, particularly at our infamous Extravanzas that celebrate the end of the academic year. The 'getting right royally intoxicated' element of them aside, has anyone else noticed the increasing democratisation of the events? The choosing of the theme, involvement of non-JCR members and allocation of tickets have all become increasingly engaging with college members, who, it would be fair to say, now enjoy an increased democratic prerogative.

The release of Extrav themes are the most anticipated announcements around the University. Sitting in the sweltering Library pretending to revise, you are disturbed by people shouting across "Fylde's is circus-themed!" as the topic takes over our discussions for the next few days. Because of this, so much care is taken by each college to ensure theirs' trumps all others. It was interesting to see Cartmel College use an online opinion poll to see what their college members would prefer as their Extrav. Although the result is kept secret, Cartmel President Joel Pullan says the idea came from the desire to see how engaged Cartmelians are with their Extrav theme and to look at the possibility of next year's theme being solely decided by a majority vote. Whatever the result, such hands-on

and direct representation is great to see.

This is not the first move away from the traditional JCR-dominated organisation for an Extrav. In 2011, Lonsdale's Extrav Committee included two interviewed applicants from the college. Ex-President Rachel Essex said this decision came from the previous year's feedback that college members wanted more of a say in its organisation: especially the choice of bands. Essex described the decision as "valuable as they put forward a different perspective" as part of the initiative to make the JCR less 'cliquey' within the college. Such a move was interestingly timed alongside the discussions to raise tuition fees (was it THAT long ago?) as it seems that organisers are to be much more accountable and College members much more involved than previously. Likewise, County College - and indeed many other colleges - elected a small group of students to join the Extrav Committee; a move that ensured that the biggest party of the year remained representative of the larger student body.

Given the increased emphasis on representation and hearing the voices of the Colleges maybe one college could give their Extrav the fitting theme of 'Democracy' this year. Wouldn't it be grand to see a flock Aristotle or John Locke dancing away to LMFAO's 'Sexy and I know It' with a two-pint of Snakebite in hand, mincing furiously as the night wears on?



Photo provided by the Lancaster University Press Office

Graduation grips our pockets

Questioning the cost of graduation

Joe Henthorn

Hark, fellow student, for it's that time of year again! That's right, not only have LUSU decided to throw us what they are describing as 'a Ball', but our benevolent overlords in University House have also decreed us worthy to attend a lavish hat-throwing circle-jerk/Harry Potter cosplay convention in celebration of our imminent replacement by a bunch of poor suckers who'll be handing over three times as much cash as we do! And it's awfully important that you attend both of them. University, lest you forget, has been scientifically proven to be 'the time of your life'. And as these two monumental events are nothing if not the highlights of the academic year, it becomes logically impossible to deny this graduation bonanza will be anything less than the TIME OF THE TIME OF YOUR FREAKING LIFE. You simply can't afford to miss them!

Hopefully my tone is sug-

gesting is that I have reservations. The two events seem to have such a strangely holy air about them that makes the prospect of non-attendance utterly unthinkable. Want to silence a room in a matter of seconds? Tell them that you're not going to either of them. "Oh, what, but, but, why?" confused friends have stuttered. Well, the first problem's an obvious one; whilst it may well be the case that 'you can't afford to miss!' them, chances are you won't actually be able to afford to attend the things either. At Graduation we're being charged £40 to wear a bed sheet for a couple of hours, robes that must be worn in order to attend the ceremony. Sure, it's a relatively small amount of money, but coming as it does at the end of what has been the absolute financial nadir of our lives so far makes it seem more than a little insulting. It's a cost that's compounded further by the deliriously large selection of extras that you can purchase as a memento of your 'spe-

cial day'. Photographs start at £35, and 'professionally produced' films are a completely justifiable £37 - your own video cameras, incidentally, are banned. Most bizarrely of all, you can purchase postal stamps emblazoned with your gurning, graduating face for a measly £20; perfect for sending off those dole forms you'll be needing very soon! At a whopping £45 Grad Ball is similarly terrible value for money, and with the additional food, beer and suit charges it quickly gets deliriously expensive. Is there a single good reason for wearing fancy clothes to Grad Ball anyway? Please consider the constituent parts of Grad Ball - an indie rock gig and some sort of krautdub-doomfolk-dancejazz DJ set (I'll be honest, I haven't got a clue what a 'Jaguar Skill' is). You wouldn't wear a suit to either of those events, because that would just be a monumentally stupid idea. But everyone will do it anyway.

OK, so the suit thing might

only feel compulsory because of social pressure, but the graduation robes are compulsory. And when you press the University Ceremonies department on the additional robe charge, they reply with the exact same argument that the Daily Mail uses to justify everything from conker fights to lynchings - it's 'tradition', don't you know! But no, this so-called 'tradition' is a mere invention (as is the case with most 'traditions'), fabricated in the sixties to mimic those of longer standing institutions in what is little more than an attempt to impress your long-suffering parents. The University want to put on a good, pompous show for you so you'll continue to supply them with money as an alumni, and they want to impress your family so they'll have a better chance of squeezing nine grand a year out of any younger siblings you may have.

The worst part is that neither of them are worth it. If graduation was actually

Harry Potter convention I'd be more inclined to part with the cash. But alas, that's not to be; we will gorge ourselves on Butterbeer and Chocolate Frogs. Nope, instead we'll be subjected to unbearable heat, inane speeches and made to clap so much that it'll make the crowds in Triumph of the Will look unenthusiastic. And as for Grad Ball, it's just a regular night out, but this one's in an unsuitable venue, and the 'indie anthems' are being played live instead of by a clueless DJ. What have Maximo Park and the Hoosiers got to do with your time at University, anyway? How are two bands that soundtracked the end of your GCSE's even remotely related to commemorating a period of your life that took place between 2009 and 2012? In the end, you're paying a lot of money for a profoundly underwhelming experience that you won't look back on favourably in three years time. Sounds a lot like University in general, actually...

Why China cannot rise peacefully

Rapid industrialisation has it on a collision course

Chris Mandella

In the back of every world leader's mind lays the question: how should China's seemingly unstoppable rise be handled? The world's superpowers and the West have spent the past decade distracted, pursuing a costly war on terror to little or no avail while the dragon in the east has continued to rise. The nature of the international realm coupled with the size and rapid development of China are the reason its rise is feared and unwelcome, leading to the high chance of conflict in the future.

However these efforts will remain completely in vain. A common historical pattern shows that power transitions

come with international conflicts, and the rise of a superpower is not going to be welcomed by an existing one. What nation would turn down the opportunity to be the most powerful and thus not fear those it shares its borders with? These are precisely the conditions which America enjoys, with its neighbours Canada and Mexico much weaker than itself and consequently posing no threat. On this basis, it is perfectly feasible that China will attempt to replicate America's feat in the Western hemisphere and try to become the hegemon of Asia. Secondly, superpowers will prevent any other nation replicating its achievement in other regions. This is where China will run into problems

as its power grows.

Evidence of this can be found by taking a quick look at the last two centuries. America has intervened across the world to prevent each nation's run at hegemony since it became a global power; Imperial Germany, Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Now it has achieved primacy, it has no plans to lose it. Following the end of the Cold War, leaked documents from Washington in 1992 stated clearly the intention of the United States to prevent the emergence of any future global competitor. This is a policy line which has been reiterated by every American president since. Ultimately, the U.S. does not accept challengers.

America is aware that China continues to decrease the gap in their power, with Goldman Sachs predicting the Chinese economy will supersede the America's by 2027. militarily, while the U.S. defence budget continues to dwarf the rest of the world's, China is not to be overlooked; it has doubled its spending on defence every six years and recently announced that the People's Liberation Army will receive a generous \$106 billion this year. This increased power has given Beijing a chance to be more assertive internationally, and old claims such as the one to Taiwan and grievances with Japan are likely to re-emerge in its domestic discourse.

China and the U.S. are

unlikely to go head to head in the traditional sense for a number of reasons. They are each other's second biggest trade partners, the economic gains from peaceful cooperation are massive and finally each power's weapons can induce devastating damage. Yet there will one day be conflict, history suggests nothing else and the American-Sino relationship will be scarred by a number of proxy wars. America will look to contain China and will continue to exert its influence around the globe, particularly in Asia where it has a large vested interest. Will Washington finally lose patience with competition from Beijing or vice versa? Either way I must pessimistically conclude that war is on the horizon.

Thank you for not recycling

In light of the recent Earth Day, is recycling the right move?

Harry Bainbridge

The recycling movement has permeated our society like no other. Nearly every British home recycles at least partially, with Lancaster University being no exception – we 'proudly' recycle over 30% of all waste produced on campus. Chances are, you recycle. Please don't, it's bad for the environment. No, really.

Recycling in the UK is largely paid for by the taxpayer and organised by local authorities. One of the arguments for recycling is that, due to its efficiency, recycling waste saves vast amounts of money. It simply doesn't. Councils now pay double the amount for rubbish disposal than they did in 2003 due to recycling, topping £4.2 billion. The excessive delivery, sorting, cleaning and manufacturing of new recycled products far outweighs the costs of

making new materials and is wildly inefficient compared to making these products from scratch. The simple truth is that taking waste and disposing it in landfill is far less costly than the many procedures needed to turn our rubbish into new pens, tyres and toilet seats.

"The idea that recycling saves trees is completely the opposite of what's true"

Recycling also creates more environmental damage than disposing of

waste in landfill sites. Just think about the fumes and sludge created by recycling paper, for instance. When you put an old newspaper into a recycling bin, that newspaper has to be delivered (often hundreds of miles away from the bin you put it in), destroyed, bleached, pressed and re-dyed. All this creates incredible damage to the environment, compared with the relatively simple procedure of taking your waste and putting it in landfill. I'm not saying that landfill sites don't damage the environment at all, but the effects are minimal compared to recycling. Regulations on landfill sites include metre-deep layers of clay to prevent damage to the soil underneath and the capturing of methane gas from decomposing rubbish can power thousands of homes. The waste can be buried, layer upon layer, and when the

site is full, soil can be put on top and trees can be planted. There are parks in California made on top of old landfill sites, and it's as if all that junk was never even there.

The idea that recycling saves trees is completely the opposite of what's true. If anything, it stops trees from growing. Most paper comes from tree farms, where trees are produced all the time to make paper. If you buy and waste more paper, the companies plant more trees to meet the growing demand for paper (they are a renewable resource). By recycling paper, not only are you harming the environment in the bleaching and manufacturing process, but you're spending less money buying new paper, so there are fewer tree farms grown. The idea that trees are 'running out' is pure myth created by recycling plants to increase their government funding – there are

three times as many trees now as there were in 1920, and deforestation is largely contained in problem areas such as South America, and is not due to making paper.

The only really useful recycling is of aluminium cans. In this case, the high costs and negative environmental impact is reduced by recycling, but most other forms are completely inefficient and cost us a grave amount of money. Remember, if recycling was efficient and profitable, there would be private recycling businesses that would pay us for our waste, but nearly every recycling business relies on government subsidies for it to stay open.

International Mother Earth Day was this month so treat her right and think twice before recycling in future, your good intentions threaten both our environment and our bank balances.

LETTERS

Editorial

The award-winning Lancaster student media

Matthew Power
Editor

LA1:TV returned from the National Student Television Awards last weekend clutching their first ever award. Receiving 'Highly Commended' for Best Factual Show for their 'LA1 Show' is a phenomenal achievement that the whole of Lancaster University should be proud of.

After a name change, a re-branding, and a whole new schedule of programmes this year, they have achieved more than anyone ever imagined and the future looks very bright.

And it's not just our fantastic television station that deserves a shout out.

"Roseslive is the one-stop shop for anything Roses related"

Bailrigg FM are busy putting plans in place for the Bailrigg FM Festival that will take place in Week 9. The

event plans to showcase the best of campus music, as well as introducing some up and coming acts. It's going to be a brilliant event and a great way to the end this term.

Without a doubt, the most eagerly anticipated event for student media is next weekend at Roses 2012. The Students' Union is putting time, effort, money and resources to ensuring our media coverage excels.

If something is happening over the weekend, we want you to be able to read about it, listen to it, and see it. That's why we've spent so long developing

www.roseslive.co.uk.

The website will be the one-stop shop for anything Roses related over the 3-day event. Official scores, history of the competition and a whole host of information will be available.

But perhaps the most exciting feature will be the live feeds. Bailrigg FM will be providing live commentary from many of the main events. LA1:TV will have various streams across the tournament and you will be able to catch many of the games live. And SCAN will be producing a live feed that covers every goal, important moment, or final scores in

every competition across the weekend.

In fact, re-reading this Editorial, it would appear everything seems quite good. There doesn't seem to be any calls for a change. There doesn't seem to be sufficient evidence that things could be done a lot better. So we'd better begin a Process Review of the entire student media, starting from today, wasting months of staff time and resources. We'll get cracking on it and let you know when we're done... Oh, but we'll need one million quid if anyone's got one spare?

'Alex Lap' Complaint

On March 11th, accompanied by a tiger and a surgeon, I attended a fancy dress charity run hosted by the Running Club – the 'Alex Lap'. "This year's chosen charity is Macmillan and every penny will go to them" the Facebook group assured. After coughing up my £4 entry fee and pinning on my running number I joined the others at the starting line. I counted twenty two of us, and using the power of arithmetic muttered to a fellow competitor (incidentally dressed as a banana) that we must have raised £88. It turned out he and some others had only paid £3, £4 was the fee for those paying on the day. "Damn it" I nearly said, before reassuring myself the extra pound had gone to paying a nurse to care for a cancer sufferer or comfort a bereav-

ing widow. Or so I thought.

After the race, £130 in cash prizes was distributed to the first, second and third places – all presumably seasoned runners of the running society. If this wasn't odd enough, we were then all told we would be able to collect 'goody bags' at a later date. The guy in the banana costume was given a £10 voucher. Astounded, I shuffled home.

Four days later I posted on the Facebook group, 'Just out of interest, how much money did you raise for the charity run the other day?', and was told 'dont know to be honest, any sort of total hasnt been confirmed yet'. My further enquiries have this far been ignored.

Not only did my donation to Macmillan presumably go into the pockets of the club's finest athletes, but rather puzzlingly, the event must have run up a deficit of at least £42. Perhaps Jordon Shandley (incidentally Chair of Lancashire Conservative Future) would

like to use this newspaper as a public platform to finally explain to me the mystic inner workings of this charity run.

P.S. You can keep my goody bag.

Harry Stone, Bowland College

Lancaster Uni Clay Pigeon Shooting Club

Editor note:

In the last edition of SCAN we ran an article on this club. We would like to correct the following mistakes:

1. The article stated the club had beaten the "formidable Royal Agricultural College".

Whilst they did beat one of their teams, they fielded numerous so this was incorrect to say they beat the entire college.

2. The article referred to Andrew Brown as the treasurer. This should have read "Treasurer Gwinnett".

3. The link to their Facebook page should have read 'facebook.com/lucpsc'.

SCAN apologies for these errors.

#Love Lancaster Tweets

"Gorgeous weather in Lancaster today! Praying for something remotely like this for #founders2012! #Love-Lancaster"

@Jaykay91

"So I am officially here in Lancaster for another year,

just been accepted onto a masters course #lovelancaster #masters"

@danjamker

"Big congrats to ULMS, LUTG and LuDans for winning the £500 idea for a huge musical showcase!! #lovelancaster #Activities2012"

@alorollo

"Today is my first day back. I was meant to be healthy eating, doing work and not drinking. I'm in the pub for tea. #LoveLancaster"

@JamesCKing

"good hustle #Activities2012. been a right craic. lots of plans for the next year, best of luck to all the groups! #LoveLancaster"

@2hasmat

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

ROSES 2012



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SPORT

Editorial

I am Lancaster!

Alex Rastall
Sport Editor

With sports teams sweating it out in training sessions and the university making the final preparations before the arrival of our Yorkshire counterparts, it can only mean one thing... Roses 2012.

Against the University of York, the annual Roses tournament is the most important event in Lancaster's sporting calendar and this year we have the home advantage.

It is the most important event in Lancaster's sporting calendar

The event began back in 1965 and is now in its 48th year of running. The overall results of the tournament have remained close over the years with York edging ahead by 24 total victories to Lancaster's 22.

Last year, York won back the Carter-James trophy by a 61 point margin after losing on Lancaster's home ground the previous year by 52 points.

For this year's tournament, the total points tally has been set at 308, meaning that 156 points are needed for a win.

There remain to be three undefeated teams in the event and those fortunately lie in the hands of Lancas-

ter. All playing on Saturday 5th May, the Men's Hockey Thirds (Astro 1, 9.30), the trampolining society (Sports Centre Hall 2, 12.30) and the Lancaster Bomber's American Football team (Rugby League Pitch, 13.00) have yet to lose to their York opposition and certainly plan on maintaining such feats.

Lancaster's netball teams will be looking for across the board victories as well this year. The Seconds were the only team out of the three to not win in 2011 and so following their success in winning the BUCS Northern 4A League this season they undoubtedly hope to beat their opposition in Roses 2012.

The men's football teams have had tough season this year, finishing bottom of their respective leagues. However, the men's firsts beat York in 2011 1-0 and they will be hoping to maintain a psychological edge. Their female counterparts will be looking to retain victory having beaten York in last year's 2-1 encounter.

Media coverage has a massive role to play over the weekend and the bar is being set increasingly higher year-upon-year.

SCAN will be producing a live feed at a large number of the events, on-the-day match reports and a special edition of the paper dedicated to Roses. For live video, commentary and blog feeds and more importantly the score, visit www.roseslive.co.uk. But don't just sit at home pressing refresh for the result, get out to the pitches and the sports centre to support our teams. I am Lancaster, are you?



Trampolining society at Campus Festival 2012. Photo by Tom Wells

The sky's the limit for trampoliners

Catherine Chorley

On Saturday, May 5th 2012, the Lancaster University Trampolining Society will once again be hoping to bounce their way to victory over their York competitors. Never beaten throughout the history of the Roses tournament, the Tramps are preparing to put every effort in to upholding their unblemished record.

Last year, despite two injuries within the squad, the team ploughed on in true Lancastrian spirit and still emerged victorious. This year, despite the natural trepidation felt by almost anyone facing a historic contest, the team is excited about the prospect and keen to see how their Yorkshire counterparts have progressed over the last year.

Speaking on behalf of his team-mates, the Society's Publicity Officer, Paul Todd,

said, "I am sure I speak for the whole Exec when I say we are all very excited for the upcoming competition."

Never beaten throughout the history of Roses

This year, the majority of competitors will be entering in the Novice and Intermediate levels, though two team-members will be performing at the Elite levels. There are also hopes for a synchronised competition, should there be enough time left following the completion of the main events.

Preparations for Roses are ongoing in the intervening years between competi-

tions; over this last year the Trampoliners have been hard at work in their regular training sessions, as well as testing out their mettle against other universities including the UCLAN, Manchester and Liverpool. They have also competed in the Irish Student Trampolining Open (ISTO) as well as Campus Festival 2012, which they found "both enjoyable and interesting."

Regarding the team's chances in this year's Roses, Todd said, "We will always go in there and give it our best shot. Whatever the outcome, we will still have fun and enjoy our sport."

The competitors for the Roses tournament this year are; Paul Todd (Novice); Kat Halliday, Emma Dootson, Naomi Obawole, Lizzi Spence, Fiona Salisbury (Intermediate); Gemma Sargent, Emma Forrest (Intervanced); Joe Pauline (Elite).

Waterpolo

Waterpolo teams look for double Roses victory

Rhys Elias
Sport Editor

Roses 2011 saw contrasting results for Lancaster's waterpolo teams. A 12-1 victory in the women's waterpolo saw the eight points for the men's and women's events shared with the men's team finding themselves ousted by a single point, the result finishing 7-6 to York.

With Roses 2012 close upon us, Scan speaks to men's polo captain James Place about Lancaster's prospects in the upcoming matches.

How successful has this year's league season been for the club and how has this helped Roses preparation?

Both teams began with small numbers at the start of the year, but managed to recruit a lot of new people. The men's team have had a very successful Upolo league, winning all their matches

and gaining promotion for next year. The amount of matches we've played has really helped the new players get to grips with the game and significantly improve their skills. Each team now has a core of experienced players ready for Roses.

What are the club doing to prepare for Roses?

The teams have been training hard with some intensive sessions before term started and added fitness and tactics sessions to make sure we are as prepared as possible.

How did the club perform at last year's tournament?

The women's team absolutely dominated York last year, winning by a significant amount. The men's was a lot closer, losing by just one goal in the final minutes of the game.



Waterpolo men in action. Photo by Paul Steven

How do the club expect to perform at Roses?

Both teams will have tough matches to play and the results will be close, but in our home pool, which is a lot bigger than York's, we will have the advantage leading to a win.

The evening of the Saturday 5th of May will see the sides meet once more in what is sure to be a fascinating encounter. The event will also be a fantastic opportunity to showcase Lancaster's new 25 metre swimming pool complete with a floating bottom which makes it ideal for waterpolo matches.

Come on the Red Rose

Marc Handley
Vice President (Activities)

So after eight months of planning and preparation, the time has come for the biggest sporting event in the calendar of Lancaster University. Roses 2012 is set to be the biggest event we have ever seen of its kind and I hope it is as good as we in the Activities Office intend it to be.

For most of the groups taking part, this weekend will be the biggest matches of their University lives and for some of the participants, their last ever chance to represent the Red Rose in a competition, so expect to see some hard fought battles with the red of Lancaster rising once again.

There's so much hype around York at the minute that it's a bit embarrassing to be honest. They're expecting us to just roll over and let them walk to victory - bit of a shame that that's not going to happen really. I can't wait for the weekend to begin in earnest on the Friday with so many opportunities to get out there and see our teams and societies showcasing their sporting talent.

Over the course of the weekend we have 308 points on offer with over half of these being fought for on the Saturday. Get onto roseslive.co.uk to see up to date scores and reports from the weekend, and if you're on Twitter, come join us on the #Roses2012 hashtag!

I'd like to thank every single member of every group participating for their effort levels leading up to this, but now's the time to focus and absolutely smash the black and gold of York into smithereens. We've got so much to look forward to with Roses 2012 from a players, spectators, or student media point of view, so I wish the very best of luck to everyone involved. Most of all though, enjoy it!

Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate 'Fish' for success

Ben Gray

Lancaster University's Ultimate Frisbee team (The Fish), were in action at nationals last weekend. Held in Manchester, the 32 best university teams in Britain competed for BUCS points.

The tournament was split into two divisions, Lancaster played in the 2nd division after finishing 4th at the Northern Regionals Tournament in Newcastle last term.

The first day saw games against Strathclyde, Birmingham and Plymouth. A tight game against Strathclyde ended in a sudden death loss for Lancaster, and a key player injured, but they vowed to come out strong against Birmingham.

Although the Fish started well, Birmingham soon

recovered, and returned to equalise 10 all. With sudden death again, Lancaster were able to score this time when it counted, and took the game 11 - 10.

This victory was followed by another against Plymouth which saw Lancaster use their endurance late in the day to establish a convincing win. This result saw them qualify from the group stages, booking a quarter-final spot against Exeter the following morning.

The day started with heavy rain and winds which dictated much of the play, however both teams performed in a manner worthy of the national's stage. There were few turnovers of possession from either side, despite the difficult conditions. As the pitch turned to mud, Lan-

caster players continually put their bodies on the line going to ground to catch the disc and keep possession for the team. Even a late surge, including a pitch length throw from Vice Captain Mat Francis to Captain Will Doole for a score could not match an impressive Exeter performance.

The Fish took all six points at Roses 2011

With BUCS points now unavailable, Lancaster faced a strong St Andrews side. A poor start saw the Fish adjust tactics by working hard to mark out the opposition's key

players. After a close game, St Andrews held on with a narrow two point margin setting up a Lancaster - Bangor game.

The balance of the game swung but a couple of late points took the game beyond Lancaster's grasp. This placed Lancaster a respectable 8th in the division and 24th overall in the UK and Ireland.

The team will want to take this success into Roses 2012 where they are the reigning champions after taking all 6 points last year in a whitewash of victories including a 13-0 routing in the Open Outdoors division. The Fish will be competing for 8 Roses points starting on Friday 4th at 17:30 in the sports centre and continuing the day after on the college football pitches at 13:30.

Sailing

LUSC hope for plain sailing at Roses

Sam Robinson

This April saw Lancaster Sailing Club Race Team take on 30 other English University teams and one Irish team at the annual BUSA/BUCS Team Racing finals for the first time in Lancaster history.

The team of six qualified for the event after two week-ends of racing earlier on in the year. The team consisted of Morgan Bromhead, James Dawson, Matt Jackson, Hannah Mitchell, Ben Monks and Captain Sam Robinson.

The event was hosted by Liverpool University and West Kirby sailing club, with three days of close racing. The conditions were near perfect leading to over 300 races being sailed altogether.

Day one saw the team look a little rusty from a few weeks off and led to an overnight race win percentage of just 20%. The day had seen plenty of tight racing meaning there were lots of positives leading into day two with a great opportunity

to win more races and climb up the rankings.

Day two saw the team start well with three wins out of three in the morning in a steady 10 knots of breeze. By the afternoon, the team had climbed the table to find themselves racing the better half of the teams which although challenging and slightly less successful, gave an excellent opportunity for practice.

LUSC make Team racing finals for first time in their history

The team finished the day on six wins and a league position of 26 out of 32. With



Photo provided by LUSC

a ranking of 29th coming into the event, the team could be more than happy with their overnight position on day two.

The final day saw an opportunity to record the last few race wins before the event format switched to the quarter finals. However, the conditions for the final day were not as forecasted which meant that not all of the rounds could be completed leading to an early change from the league format to the

finals. As the top eight teams moved on to finals, Lancaster was given the chance to relax and watch the final races.

They hope to retain their Roses title

The finals saw Southampton (1) win

overall with Oxford (2) in second, Ireland in third and Southampton (3) in fourth.

Lancaster's performance in the event has built a solid foundation to move on next year and hopefully break the top eight and qualify for the quarter finals. A finishing position of 27th out of 32 in the club's first ever BUSA final, is higher than the starting ranking and should push the club on to retain their Roses title.

Cricket

Cricket season sets up road to Morecambe

Hannah Sibley

The Roses in the county cricketing world is one of the fiercest domestic rivalries in the sport. It's no great surprise then, that the upcoming tournament between the universities either side of the Pennines will also include a battle on the cricket field, a battle which is heating up to be a fascinatingly entertaining contest.

With the side having got off to a good start in their BUCS League, beating Liverpool John Moores University by 58 runs, Lancaster University's 1st XI will be looking to avenge the 5-wicket defeat inflicted upon them in the

Roses held in York last year. One player to watch will be Peter Barnes, ironically from York, who scored an unbeaten century on his Lancaster debut. They will be hoping that the weather does not intervene as they look to bring the four points to Lancaster.

The side have got off to a good start in their BUCS League

Lancaster's 2nd XI are also once again in Roses action. Last year they beat York 2nds by three wickets and captain Adam Heayns is hoping to graduate this year with two out of two Roses victories under his captaincy belt. The side began their season on Wednesday where, on a disintegrating pitch thanks to the April weather, Ollie Caswell took 7-18, including a hat-trick, to help see Leeds Trinity 2nds to 105 all out. Michael Gladstone score 31 not out in reply to help the side gain a five wicket victory. The squad demonstrated that its a solid unit, with all the players equally capable of rising to

the challenge and performing on the big day.

'The lads are keen and fired up already.'

On the 2nd team's chances of Roses victory Heayns said, "We came out winners [in Roses 2011] with a team arguably a little weaker than what we have this year. But combined with a little bit more Roses experience, the team just gets better and better. The

lads are keen and fired up already. I certainly see a team that can not only win, but a team that really does want to win."

Both sides are playing their matches at Morecambe Cricket Club, located on Woodhill Lane in Morecambe. The second XI plays on the Thursday 3rd May with a 12:00 start, whilst the first XI plays on the Friday 4th May also with a 12:00 start. Both teams will be hoping for as much support as possible in their quest to bring the points and the glory to the Red Rose.

Prior to Roses, the first XI have two matches against Keele and Edge Hill.

SPORT



Photo by Jay Theis

Reborn rugby club ready for Roses

Rugby teams look to bury the hatchet of Roses 2011

Rhys Elias
Sport Editor

It's fair to say that Roses 2011 was nothing short of a disaster for the Lancaster men's Rugby Union club. Defeat in every single fixture was compounded by a series of off the field antics which led to the club facing a potential year long ban for the 2011/12 season. A successful appeal saw the ban overturned and the club reinstated. Now with Roses 2012 just around the corner, there can be no doubt that the decision to overturn the ban was most certainly justified with the club looking stronger and more committed than ever before.

The Firsts will go into Roses having been relegated from the Northern 1A league, a

league which saw a staggering thirteen losses for the Cats and only one victory.

The club's looking stronger than ever before

Fortunately, the team have a lot to take into the tournament considering the fact that their sole victory came in a 17-10 home win over Roses rivals York in January. The victory was the first time Lancaster had beaten the White Rose since the clubs previous league meeting in

October which finished in a 29-13 defeat to York. Last year's Roses match saw York triumph with a 30-8 victory in front of a crowd of over 2,000 at Huntingdon stadium in York. Despite the score line, the determination of the team was never called into question with a half time scoreline of 8-8 only being undone by York's superior attack. After a fantastic defensive display by Lancaster in the January meeting, the team must be hugely optimistic about their chances of gaining the four points on offer.

The Seconds and Thirds have experienced hugely varied performances during the league season. The Second's finished an extremely successful league season being crowned league cham-

pions whilst the Third's have endured a torrid time finishing rock bottom of the league with nine losses and only a single league victory to their name. Last year's Roses tournament saw defeat for the second's in a close match that finished 19-11 to the White Rose. Meanwhile, the Third's were sunk by a 17-6 defeat.

When asked about the clubs preparation for the tournament, President TJ McCaw had this to say to SCAN; "The 1st XV have many players returning from injury and following the success of the previous encounter coupled with an intense Easter training schedule, will enter into the tournament with a very positive mind frame. The 2nd XV are carrying huge momentum from a league winning

season and are expecting a very close encounter with a side one league above. As for the 3rd XV, after a difficult season, the players are looking to put the league behind them and have really concentrated on this one game. The LURUFC as a club are looking towards the Roses clash in a positive light expecting results."

A total of nine points are up for grabs in men's Rugby Union matches which also includes two points for men's Rugby Sevens. Victory in every game will mark a fantastic contribution by the club to Lancaster's Roses chances. Considering recent performances, the club are sure to perform well and put the ghosts of Roses 2011 well and truly to bed.