

Grad Ball moves to Blackpool Tower



- Tickets could cost up to £80 including a meal
- A "middle ground" rather than big name acts

Jack Smith
Assistant Editor

The 2013 Graduation Ball is expected to be held at the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool following a review of the event by LUSU. The event is to be dramatically overhauled, including the option of a sit down meal for the first time in recent memory.

In a presentation given to LUSU Council towards the end of last term, Jason Brindle, LUSU Commercial Services Director, stated that the Union have been looking at historical concerns with the event - specifically the price to students, the cost to the Union, and the entertainment on offer. He said

that, in its current form, the event could be seen as just "a big extrav".

The proposal, which LUSU Council voted to show its backing for, is for the event to take place at Blackpool Tower on Sunday 23rd June. Reasons given by Libby Martin, LUSU Vice President (Events & Democracy), for the move included creating a "wow factor", gaining special status on the University calendar, and enabling a variety of add ons for students to tailor their experience.

It was noted that ticket prices could become more affordable as decorations would no longer be necessary. It is expected that the base ticket price will be in the region of £35 to £40 for Purple

Card holders, with an additional £10 charge for people without the card. However, the ticket price does rise dramatically if students wish to have the sit down meal which will be offered earlier in the evening; SCAN understands this could cost an additional £36 per head. Transport was also quoted as £7 per head. This means that the overall price including ticket, meal, and transport could come to as much as £84 with a Purple Card.

Martin told SCAN: "The decision to move the event from the Great Hall is largely based on feedback from last year and is a conclusion we came to after months of

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Editor

Rachel Harvey
scan@lancaster.ac.uk
@LUSUMedia&Comms
01524 592613

Assistant Editors

Jack Smith
Rachel Stafford
scan.assistanteditor@lusu.co.uk

Carolynne Editor

Stephanie Bell
Joe Henthorn
scan.carolynne@lusu.co.uk

News Editors

Catherine Chorley
Emma Nelson
scan.news@lusu.co.uk
Wednesday 12pm Fylde Bar

Comment Editor

Alex Littleboy
scan.comment@lusu.co.uk
Monday 6pm Pendle Bar

Sports Editors

Laurence Pullan
Will Taylor
scan.sports@lusu.co.uk
Monday 7pm Pendle Bar

Features Editor

Annie Gouk
scan.features@lusu.co.uk
Monday 12:30pm Bowland Bar

Lifestyle Editor

Lydia Warrender
scan.lifestyle@lusu.co.uk
Tuesday 5:30pm Fylde Bar

Culture Editor

Steff Brawn
scan.culture@lusu.co.uk
Thursday 6pm County Bar

Fashion Editor

Laura Dempster
scan.fashion@lusu.co.uk
Tuesday 8pm Bowland Bar

Photography

Jay Theis
Shri Kansal
scan.photography@lusu.co.uk

Marketing & Advertising

Louise Mason
l.mason@lancaster.ac.uk

Designed by Jack Smith and
Rachel Harvey

Printed at The Guardian Print
Centre, Longbridge Road,
Manchester, M17 1SN

EDITORIAL



RACHEL HARVEY
Editor

Pandering to people is something I systematically disagree with. I will not change my standards to make someone happy and I will not play up to a person to help them for fill their need for a good old self satisfying slap on the back.

The same applies to my thoughts on the Panda its self. As cute and lovely as they are they are clearly a species that were not meant to survive. I will agree that man has had some impact on their decline in the way of clearing bamboo forests to make room for settlement. However they do not help them selves. They are anti-social mammals with huge territories for one single bear. The female of the species comes into heat for just a few hours of the year and the only chance they have of mating is if one of them has wandered out of their own patch of land, into the

others and they happen to stumble upon each other in those few hours. And even then their rate of conception is so low that it is unlikely there will be any results from their chance meeting.

not all causes are lost, even if people tell you they are. There is always something worth fighting for.

In my eyes, as heartless as it sounds, Pandas are a lost cause. There are of course people that want to fight for the Panda cause, I am not saying they are wrong to do so I am saying each to their own. People pick different reasons to stand up and fight and generally have 'well let's do something about it' at

titude. This, unlike pandering and self-satisfying, is an attribute in people I admire.

In the last week alone we have seen a group of students come forward and say they want LUSU to support gay marriage. We have seen the counseling service listen to the student voice and do something about the counseling service. At the annual LUSU awards we heard about all the changes and amazing examples of 'Lets do something about this', that students have done. Further to this we also heard the nominations written for these awards and the wonderful things people have written about their friends, co-workers and groups of students around campus. All students that have set out to make a change, not seeking any other reward than to see some change in the way people think or the way things are run. These guys are not trying to cure world hunger or save the Panda Bear but they are making a difference on a level that we can all achieve. My point is, not all causes are lost, even if people tell you they are. There is always something worth fighting for

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The debate of the 21st century: do virtual books such as the Kindle beat the real thing?

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SCAN Sports turn the spotlight on Korfball, who are top of the league after a great start to the season

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NEWS

scan.lusu.co.uk/news

News Editors: Catherine Chorley & Emma Nelson
Meet Wednesday 12pm in Fylde Bar

scan.news@lusu.co.uk

Man attacked in Hustle

- Attack happened on December 21st
- Man punched in face on the dancefloor



**HUSTLE IS A
POPULAR
STUDENT
VENUE**

Photos by Martin Paul

Emma Nelson
News Editor

Police in Lancaster have appealed for witnesses to come forward after a 31 year old man was hit in the face whilst in the nightclub Hustle.

As reported in the Lancaster Guardian, the incident happened at around 1.30am on Friday December 21 when the man was standing at the edge of the dance floor. The victim suffered a swollen eye and a nose bleed, requiring hospital treatment after the attack.

On the issue of safety whilst on a night out, LUSU Vice President (Equality, Welfare & Diversity) Rosalia O'Reilly told SCAN "If you have been the victim of such a case as this I think it's important to go forward to the police and report it so that they can prevent the culprit repeating the attack on another occasion."

O'Reilly also gave some general advice for a night out, "to make sure your friends are looking out for each other, don't walk home alone, if you are going home early make sure you let your friends know, don't pre-drink heavily, avoid mixing drinks, break up your night with soft drinks, never leave drinks unattended, allow yourself time outside for fresh air, respect other peoples' personal space and avoid being unnecessarily inflammatory."

VC says Lancaster remain committed to 94 Group

Jack Smith
Assistant Editor

The Vice Chancellor, Mark E. Smith, has told an audience of LUSU officers this month that Lancaster remain "strongly committed to the 1994 Group."

The group, which aims to bring together research-intensive universities such as Lancaster to ensure their voices are heard on a national level, saw eight member institutions leave in 2012

The most recent of these, the University of Reading, left on the 19th December. In August, Durham, Exeter, York and Queen Mary, University of London left the organisation. These were followed by Bath, St Andrews and Surrey later on in the year. This led the Times Higher Education to write an article entitled: "Will the last university to leave the 1994 Group please turn out the lights?"

Smith said: "My position and the University's position on the 1994 Group at the moment is very clear. Of course the 1994 Group is in flux. At the moment we remain strongly committed to it."

He added: "The 1994 Group played, and still plays in my view, an important role in the discussion over research-intensive universities, to counter balance the view of the Russell Group."

He expressed a concern that if the 1994 Group ceased to exist, there would be no reason for the Government to listen to anyone but the Russell Group, stating: "Having a counter balancing voice in the sector to what the Russell Group believes I think is extremely important."

"At the moment there are sufficient universities of a standing that believe the 1994 Group has a role to play, and I believe we should stick with it for the time being, but that's the view on an ongoing basis."

Green Lancaster win Britain in Bloom award

Catherine Chorley
News Editor

Green Lancaster has been awarded a prestigious Britain in Bloom award by the Royal Horticultural Society for its Organic Orchard and Community Garden sites. The awarded status - termed 'Level 4: Thriving' - recognises the work and dedication the University's team of volunteers

has put into creating and maintaining the botanical havens across the campus. The projects are run in partnership with Lancaster University Facilities Department Landscape Manager, Ian Sturzaker, and Grounds Manager, Gary Atkinson.

This award follows a previous accolade received by Lancaster University, which was awarded a Green Flag award in recogni-

tion of its efforts to create a more eco-friendly campus environment. The Green Lancaster projects are funded by Lancaster University and LUSU, along with a number of smaller grants from Lancashire County Council and the NUS. The Students' Union supports Green Lancaster as one of the RHS's 'It's Your Neighbourhood' community gardening groups.

Grad Ball moves to Blackpool after declining ticket sales

- Last year's Ball lost £15,500 which needed to be financed from other areas of LUSU
- Only 500 people will be able to eat, meaning 1000 people will be unable to have that option
- Other options were considered, including Morecambe Winter Gardens

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

extensive conversations and research, specifically looking at previous Grad Balls that we have held, as well as looking at what happens in other Unions. We decided that people want an amazing, unique experience and unforgettable memories, something I think it's safe to say that it's difficult to get that from spending an evening in the place where you've spent the past few months sitting exams.

She added: "The main differences this year will be the focus on the event being a Ball, rather than a 'gig'. The [entertainment] provision is still very high, so that won't be taken

away from the event, but I felt, after attending Grad Ball last year, that more focus should go on making it a fabulous send off for our graduates that matches the way in which people like to dress for the occasion. The venue we have chosen lends itself perfectly to this kind of event and makes it possible for us to offer the option of a meal, something which has been impossible in the past when using the Great

Hall and something that attendees of previous Grad Balls have expressed huge interest in." The venue can hold around 500 people for a sit down meal. This means that, as 1500 are



expected to attend 1000 people will be unable to dine.

"The main differences this year will be the focus on the event being a Ball, rather than a gig"

Martin explained: "There are only a maximum of 500 eating places so not everyone will be able to eat. The system will work on a first come, first served basis. I'm not sure how many people I'm expecting to choose the food option. Previously, either food has been included in the standard ticket or there hasn't been a provision of food so all I can do is work hard to make sure that the food provision is excellent value for money and give people the option. Only time will tell how many people want to take advantage of this food option."

"The decision to move the event from the Great Hall is

largely based on feedback from last year and is a conclusion we came to after months of extensive conversations and research, specifically looking at previous Grad Balls that we have held, as well as looking at what happens in other Unions. We decided that people want an amazing, unique experience and unforgettable memories, something I think it's safe to say that it's difficult to get that from spending an evening in the place where you've spent the past few months sitting exams.

"The main differences this year will be the focus on the event being a Ball, rather than a 'gig'. The entertainment provision is still very high, so that won't be taken away from the event, but I felt, after attending grad ball last year, that more focus should go on making it a fabulous send off for our graduates that matches the way in which people like to dress for the occasion.

"The venue we have chosen lends itself perfectly to this kind of event and, as you know, makes it possible for us to offer the option of a meal, something which



**THE FAMOUS
TOWER BALLROOM**
Photo by Michael D Beckwith

has been impossible in the past when using the Great Hall and something that attendees of previous Grad Balls have expressed huge interest in.

A concern raised at LUSU Council was the transport duration; a coach journey from the University to Blackpool Tower would take around 45 minutes. It is understood that LUSU are exploring the possibility of entertainment on the coaches to reduce the negative impact of this.

Martin also revealed that there would be a different approach to entertainment at the event this year, stating that there would be focus on "other sorts" of entertainment. James Marenghi, Deputy Activities Manager, added that the plan is to create an event that does not rely on the lineup as heavily. Previously, the Ball saw two stages in the Great Hall Complex; last year's acts included Maximo Park, pictured right, and Jaguar Skills.

A revelation from the presentation was that last year's Ball lost £15,500 that had to be financed

from other areas of LUSU. Ticket sales were the lowest they had been for a number of years.

"The decision to move the event from the Great Hall is largely based on feedback from last year"

Marenghi explained that several options had been looked into before reaching the decision to move to Blackpool. These included using the Great Hall in the form of a revised event and also the possibility of a big top marquee on the sports fields.

It was felt that both of these options would be too expensive for an on campus event, and the Lancaster weather was an important consideration in the latter option.

The Morecambe Winter Gardens, used in the past, was also considered - as was continuing to use the Great Hall in the same way

Student Reaction

"I would prefer it to be back on campus because it loses its University feel"

Joseph, 3rd Year

"A lot of people like it to be on campus because it's a celebration of the last three years you've been at the University... to move it to a different place is quite strange"

James, 2nd Year

"It's a much better idea because I don't think the Great Hall is a great venue for something like that just because it reminds me of the place where you do exams"

Jake, 3rd Year

"It seems a bit more special than the Great Hall. I'm more bothered about what bands and artists there are than where it is"

Mandy, 2nd Year

"Winter balls aren't on campus, so why should Grad Ball?"

Susan, 4th Year

"The venue seems really good, it's something a bit different. I'm a bit worried about the drinks prices though, and the ticket does seem a bit steep"

Ali, 3rd Year

One in, one out: just as Santander move on campus, NatWest leave



THE BRANCH WILL CLOSE IN MARCH

Photos by Jay Theis

Rachel Quin
Deputy Features Editor

The campus branch of NatWest Bank is scheduled for closure from Monday 25th March, 2013.

Students were informed last week that the decision had been taken in response to the 'falling numbers of customers' who make use of the facility. The closure comes after the recent opening of a Santander branch in Alexandra Square.

NatWest has seen sustained popularity over many years for its student account, which offers a flexible overdraft and before 2012 offered a free railcard to students. Once considered to be the best for student accounts, a student website ranked NatWest as the fourth best offer, being beaten by the likes of Santander and the Co-Operative bank.

Official letters from NatWest sent out to customers stated that the 'decision to close the branch hasn't been

an easy one', but it was felt that the time was right, as customers are 'finding different ways to do their banking' and are choosing not to visit the branch.

"The decision to close the branch hasn't been an easy one"

NatWest also indicated that the number of customers using the branch had drastically decreased over the last five years. However, customers were encouraged to try alternate methods of banking in order to lessen the impact of the closure, such as telephone, mobile or online-banking. Customers may also use the nearest branch in the city-centre, on Church Street, if they prefer to bank in person.

Laura Mitchell, of the University's Press Office, stated via email that the University will be holding a meeting with the bank to discuss 'practical arrangements for University banking in light of the closure', suggesting that a new bank may be introduced into Alexandra Square. Currently, there is no further comment from the Press Office as to what they plan to do with the space that will be opened up in the Square once the branch has closed.



Diggles closes



Photo by Jack Smith

Rachel Stafford
Assistant Editor

Returning students may have noticed that the Diggles branch on campus has closed down after the Christmas break.

This closure comes amid several other closures across campus, such as the NatWest branch (see left) announcing its decision to close just before Christmas.

There has also been a great deal of rumour surrounding the possibility of a Subway franchise opening on campus near Bowland Bar, which would provide more competition amongst the current food outlets on campus.

The family-run business was popular among students, selling hot breakfast rolls, sandwiches, coffees, and customised chocolate bar milkshakes.

The Diggles brand has eight outlets across the North-West of England, with three in Lancaster City Centre, so students will still be able to buy the popular Diggles products.

Many students seem to be unhappy about the closure. Alex Jones, a second year student from Grizedale, commented: "As an off campus student, I buy food on campus most days. It seems that the University are forcing the food outlets on campus to leave so that we have to buy food from the outlets and bars that they own. Thankfully, we still have Greggs!"



LUMS WIN BUSINESS SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Lancaster University Management School has won the Times Higher Education Business School of the Year award. It was commended for its “demonstrable, consistent and considerable impact locally, regionally, nationally and internationally”.

Management School Dean Professor Sue Cox OBE said: “I am delighted that the Management School has been recognised in these important awards for its outstanding performance. It’s a tribute to the talent of my colleagues and our students, partners and supporters.”

Applications fall again

Emma Nelson
News Editor

Official figures have revealed that University applications from UK students have decreased for a second consecutive year.

The interim figures, shown below, were collated by UCAS on December 17th 2012, and showed applications from English students to be at their lowest since 2009.

Regarding students in England, applications went down 6.5% from 2012. Applications from Scottish students fell by 3.9%, whereas there was a slight increase in applications in Northern Ireland of 0.5%. The greatest fall in applications came from Welsh

students, where applications were down 11.7%.

Applications to UK universities were at their highest in 2011 but fell by 6.6% last year after tuition fees were increased to £9,000 a year.

However, a government spokeswoman told the BBC: ‘It is too early to form a definitive picture about university applications for the 2013-14 academic year. Traditionally fewer than 50% of applicants have submitted their applications by this point in the cycle’.

In the next issue, SCAN will be looking at the figures for Lancaster University itself, to decipher whether applications have followed the national trend.

Applications by mid December	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total	297,196	335,795	344,064	321,908	303,861
England	227,251	259,567	268,117	245,882	229,932
Northern Ireland	10,696	11,158	11,118	10,480	10,582
Scotland	16,449	17,377	14,729	14,617	14,052
Wales	11,900	12,726	12,944	12,701	11,218

Professor awarded MBE

Jonathon Kennedy

Professor Linda Woodhead has received an MBE (Member of the British Empire) award for her services to Higher Education in the 2013 New Year’s Honour’s list.

Professor Woodhead works within Lancaster University as Professor of Sociology of Religion, and has been with the University for over twenty years. She focuses on power relations within religion, religious diversity, and new forms of religiosity, among other areas. Professor Woodhead, on her faculty page, states, “I am a sociologist of religion. My main interest is in documenting and analysing religious change in modern societies, relating it to wider social changes, and thinking through practical and political implications.”

When asked about her reaction to the MBE award, Professor Woodhead said, “At first I was just taken aback, but then I thought – someone must have gone to the trouble to put me forward for this, and I felt really grateful.”

“Since it was made public in the New Years honours I’ve been amazed and touched by how many people have written to me. Including people I haven’t heard of for years!”

Woodhead plans to carry on with her work as she did before being awarded her MBE, saying, “I take the award as an endorsement for my work (with others) trying to raise the profile of research about religion, and improve the level of public discussion about it, so I will just go on with this. There’s still a long way to go!”

When asked what attracted her to Lancaster University, Woodhead explained, “I’ve always found the University a supportive and friendly place. It’s the best place in the UK for the study of religion. And there’s a lot of easy conversation between people in different departments and subjects, and staff and students, which I like.”

Outside of Lancaster University, Woodhead has taken part in a number of public activities. She chaired and organised the Westminster Faith Debates in 2012, which examined the place of religion in the UK. She has also worked with Tony Blair and former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, taken part in BBC programme ‘The Big Questions’, and contributed to the Guardian on the subjects of Richard Dawkins and the “de-reformation of religion.” She has also written and edited several books and essays on religion.

Winter Ball ticket sales buck the trend

Rachel Stafford
Assistant Editor

Winter Ball is the highlight of the Michaelmas term for the JCR as far as the social calendar is concerned. The planning is extensive and begins before the summer, sometimes as soon as the new JCR yet the ticket sales are never as high as could be expected from this kind of event.

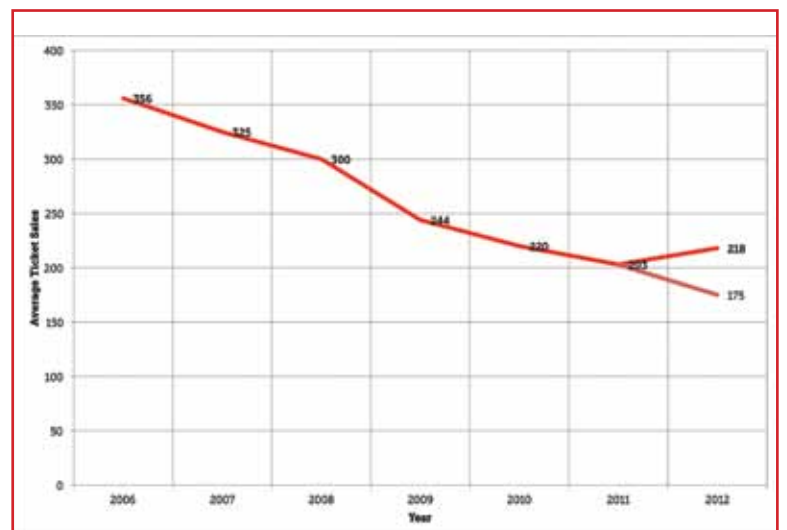
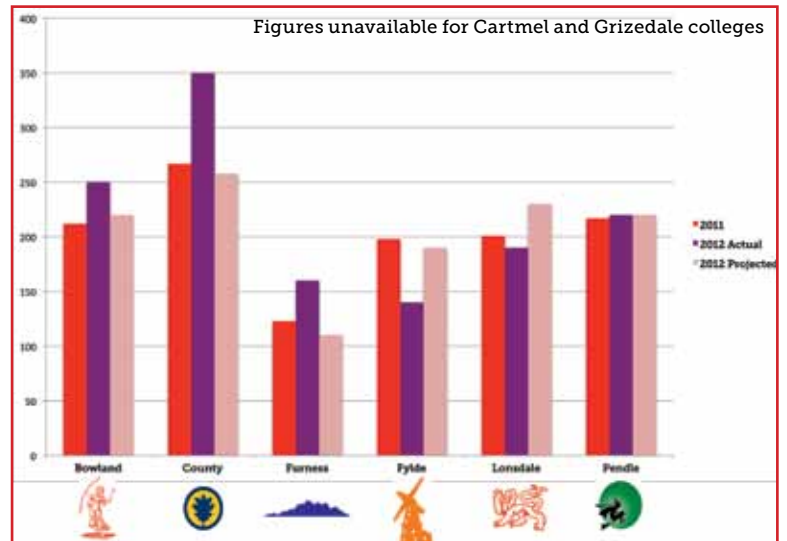
There has been a decline in the ticket sales for winter ball tickets across all colleges in recent years but many of them seem to have bucked the trend. In particular County college who beat their previous years ticket sales by 83 tickets, also beat all other colleges by at least 100 tickets.

It was only Fylde and Lonsdale who did not improve upon their previous ticket sales with Lonsdale slightly under last year but Fylde took a much greater dip selling almost 60 tickets less than did for their Winter Ball in 2011.

Chris Allon, Bowland Social Sec-



retary, was pleased with the success of the event but felt that LUSU could have done more for the college. He stated, "LUSU rejected our original budget based on the previous years' sales. But we proved the projections wrong by exceeding even our own sales expectations. The event was a huge success; the bands were a massive hit and the stilt walkers and magician went down really well with college members."



A declining trend - average ticket sales

The figures show that, for the first time since 2006, average ticket sales for Winter Balls have increased. The projection for 2012 was for a further decrease, to 175.



Lancaster pioneer new 3D technology

Jack Smith
Assistant Editor

In collaboration with Nokia Research and Bristol University, researchers from Lancaster have built a prototype 3D display which tilts depending on the shape of objects on the screen.

"The pioneering technology could represent the future of 3D TV"

The pioneering technology could represent the future of 3D TV, as well as offering exciting possibilities for future methods of interacting with touch-screen devices.

Dr Jason Alexander, who helped build the prototype, said: "To me, this is where touch screen technology is going. There is nothing tactile about our current screens, they are flat and uniform which means you have to look at the screen in order to interact with it.

"Tilt displays are a completely new area of human computer in-

teraction, perhaps we won't see products in the shops for another 20 years but one of the reasons we are doing this research is to explore and demonstrate the potential these screens have and to explain to material scientists why it would be worth investing time and money in this area.

"Tilt displays are a completely new area of human computer interaction"

"Ultimately you can imagine the kind of effect you would get if each pixel of the screen on your mobile phone, tablet or television was a small square which could move independently of the pixels around it. Maps would come to life in 3D, buttons could appear at your fingertips, characters could rise up from the screen and even photographs would become more like the 3D objects they depict in real life.

"The potential applications are numerous, these examples are just the tip of the iceberg."

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LUSU 

The LUSU logo consists of the word 'LUSU' in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a graphic element of three curved lines that sweep upwards and to the right, resembling a stylized arrow or a wing.

Taster day for future medics held at the Medical School

Catherine Chorley
News Editor

The end of the Michaelmas term saw over thirty students from local schools attend a taster-day at Lancaster Medical School.

The event, which took place on December 12th, was to encourage interest in towards undertaking a degree in medical sciences, as well as to showcase the Lancaster University facilities, at which students have been able to study Medicine since 2006.

The schools involved included Ashton Sixth Form College, Barrow Sixth Form College, Central Lancaster High School, Heysham High School, Loreto College in Manchester, Our Ladies Catholic College, Settle College, and

St Christopher's C of E High School in Accrington.

'The Medical School is one of the University's newest departments'

The Medical School is one of the University's newest departments, having been delivering the Medicine MBChB degree scheme, accredited by Liverpool University, on campus here at Lancaster since 2006. In November last year the School was granted full degree-awarding status by the General Medical Council.

The taster day was geared towards giving college and sixth-form students insight into

what the study of undergraduate medicine at Lancaster Medical School would be like. Attendees were able to discuss the course with current undergraduates and teaching staff, and also had the opportunity to try problem-based learning, to learn a clinical skill and to experience anatomy teaching within the School.

The event was organised by Dr Karen Grant, the Director of Admissions to the MBChB programme, who said: "Lancaster Medical School was pleased to welcome so many enthusiastic young people from local schools"

The feedback from the year 12 students was positive, with the hands on clinical skills teaching session being especially popular."

Lancaster City FC oppose student flat proposal

Christian Killoughery

Lancaster City Council has approved a planning application to build a 22-bed student accommodation on the site of Lancaster City Football Club's Social Club, The Dolly Blue Tavern.

The application was submitted by the owners of the freehold, Prospect Estates, on the 25th October last year and decided by the Council's Regeneration and Policy Development Management Committee on the 7th January.

"The covenant law on the land still remains... The land still, by law, has to be used to serve the club".

The Social Club has been leased to LCFC for the past seven years from Prospect Estates but has recently become vacant due to financial reasons. The Club, who are opposed to the plans, said they could not comment on the planning permission approval at this time but restated their initial objection that "The covenant law on the [Dolly Blue Tavern] land still remains... The land still, by law, has to be used to serve the club".

The Council has advised that this objection by the club is a legal matter that needs to be resolved outside of the planning application process and will now be discussed further by the owners and the Council.

Furthermore, the Council's report dismissed other objections held over restricted parking access allocated to the property, concluding that most student accommodation does not have a similar arrangement for car parking and therefore would be a negligible factor in deciding the application.

Asked to comment on the Council's decision, a spokesperson for Property Estates said "We are delighted that Lancaster Council have backed our proposals for a change of use of the vacant Dolly Blue Tavern. We have had strong interest and support for our proposals which is affirmation of the proven high demand for quality off campus student accommodation in Lancaster".

LUSU Awards recognise success

Jack Smith
Assistant Editor

Socials Cross Campus Officer Laurence Pullan won the Sir Christian Bonington Outstanding Achievement Award at the third LUSU Awards on Thursday 10th January.

The awards ceremony was held at the Globe Arena, home of Morecambe FC, and was attended by University staff including Mark E. Smith, Vice Chancellor, and Andrew Atherton, the new Deputy Vice Chancellor.

Sir Christian Bonington, the Chancellor of the University, was also in attendance and spoke to the audience.

Pullan told SCAN: "It was a great honour that people had considered me worthy enough of winning the award; I wasn't expecting it. I spent the last year doing things I love in my college and the Union, so it was a great feeling to think that people have appreciated the effort I've put in"

LUSU President Ste Smith gave a long list of achievements of the previous year's college JCR Executives, before presenting Cartmel College with the new JCR Executive of the Year award.

Daniel-Sean Huisman, formerly President of Bowland College, won the Student Officer Initiative of the Year award for the JCR's successful charity auction. Levina Master-



LAURENCE PULLAN RECEIVES HIS AWARD
Photo by Louise Mason

son, who was president of County College, won Student Campaign of the Year for the Safer Sex Ball held last academic year.

Lizzie Houghton won Student Staff Member of the Year, while James Marengi, Deputy Activities Manager, won LUSU Staff Member of the Year.

Other winners included

Curtis Kennington, who was highly commended in the Sir Christian Bonington Outstanding Achievement Award, Alice Callaghan, who won LUSU Involve Volunteer of the Year, and Paul Hodges, winning Student Innovator of the Year for his successful Sausage making business venture The Grand Old Duke of Pork.

From the SCAN Archives

Taking a step back in the SCAN time machine...

June 2003

Sugarhouse gets new look for next year

The Sugarhouse will undergo a makeover this summer, completely changing the dynamic of the club. The most significant change will be to the back room, where the curved bar exists at present. This bar will run straight across in front of the double doors to the main room when the changes have been made. This means that the back room bar will be almost the same size as the bar in the main room. The entrance will also undergo a change, with the ticket bar going straight across, and clubgoers coming in and straight to the right through another new door. The curved shelf that cuts into the dancefloor in the back room will be removed and the dance space extended. This will enable smaller live gigs to be played in the back room, without having to have the whole venue open. The changes will cost around £60,000.

Societies Revolt

Proposals to reform the funding structure of societies has met with a hostile response from society executive members. The reform involves changing the way in which societies bank, and in effect, the way in which they recruit members. As the proposals currently stand, all societies must close their external bank accounts, and, in future, bank with the Students' Union. Also, every person joining a society must pay a £5 membership fee to the Students' Union before they can join a society. The main concern raised over these proposals is the lack of consultation with students in the decision making process. This is a fault which the Union has criticised the University for on many occasions. One Societies Management Committee member commented: "I was appalled and disgusted at the lack of consultation."

Popscene to go?

The alternative popular music night, Popscene, held at the Sugarhouse on Thursday nights could be in danger after repeated incidents and safety problems. There are two sides to the problem. Certain tracks attract and induce people to start 'moshing'. This is itself is not a problem. However, when people are pushed over, fall or are caught up in the melee and subsequently suffer injury, the Sugarhouse is at risk of being sued, and the Students' Union venue wants to provide an arena where all its patrons can feel safe. 'Moshers' argue that the venue should be tolerant of them and allow them to carry on as they wish, as clubs like Jilly's Rock World would. The Sugarhouse realises that the majority of the audience enjoy it when heavier music is played, but do not wish to be involved in the dancefloor scum.

Number 1
this week:

Evanescence
"Bring Me To
Life"

Social provisions in south west campus

Liam Danby
LUSU President

The process of deciding the mix of social facilities in the new development in south west campus is drawing to a close. A few weeks ago I sat down and worked on designs known as the 'LUSU Option' for south west campus. In a dramatic shift from previous attempts to influence the University, it looks like my ideas have been taken on board and the prospects for the facilities down in the new development are looking



better than they did just a couple of weeks ago.

Each new college is really starting to look like a college, rather than just a relocated conference centre and the amount of space on offer is getting much closer to what colleges have been asking for. The two new colleges will have their own bar, porters lodge, offices and laundry etc.

I think it's fair to say that lots of effort has now gone into ensuring students get the best out of these facilities - on behalf of the University, JCRs, LUSU and College Syndicates. The University is spending £4 million in south west campus social provision, and I think it's starting to look like money well spent - although it would be nice if they would spend more.

Do not get off the train in Lancaster

Virgin Trains introduced a new timetable on May 18th and downgraded Lancaster by withdrawing the stop at Lancaster on eight trains. This change will damage the economy of Lancaster and Morecambe at a time when a great deal of effort is being put into job creation and regeneration. Councillor John Whitelegg said: "I have never heard anything so stupid in all my life. This really is the pits and Virgin deserve to be the laughing stock of the world's railway systems."

Going bald for a good cause

Rachel Harvey
Editor

In December, Liz Ashworth and Symi Jackson took the decision to shave their hair off for charity. Symi choose to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and Liz the Motor Neurone Disease Association - a cause close to both her own and her family's heart.

'Over several weeks leading up to the night, Liz and Symi raised £3700 and on the night itself managed to raise an extra £330 by auctioning off the last few shaves'

Over several weeks leading up to the night, Liz and Symi raised £3700 and on the night itself managed to raise an extra £330

by auctioning off the last few shaves of their heads to the highest bidder. The Law Society generously gave £60 for the privilege. Furness Bar was full to the brim as over 350 people piled in to show their support, cheering the girls on and emptying their pockets to give what they could.

Before the shaving began, Liz and Symi both gave an interview to LA1:TV's Josh Dean.

Both girls were visibly nervous and sat hand in hand as they spoke about what lead them to shave their hair off for these causes.

On-lookers where surprised to find tears in their own eyes as the head shaving began and Liz and Symi, still hand in hand sat op-



posite each other, watched their combined 34 inches of hair fall to the ground.

The girls both maintained composure as the crowd cheered them on and donations poured into the bucket; it wasn't until the girls saw the final result that the reality kicked in.

Symi's mother, who attended the event, said: "It looks good but I am glad it is over!" The event was a huge success, with £4020 raised by the girls.

It raised the profile of charity events across campus; since then, charity campaigns have appeared across campus.

Events such as SOC Swap have shown new innovative ways of getting societies to work together to raise money and inspired many more events to happen.

Have your say in the surveys

Amanda Chetwynd
Pro-Vice Chancellor

All first and second year Undergraduates and all Postgraduates will soon receive an email link to the online Lancaster Student Experience Survey; final year students are being sent a link to the National Student Survey.

The survey is run every two years and helps shape the way the University works. In the past results have helped to design the Learning Zone, the new Sports Centre and Careers provision. This year the University will be making decisions about the Library, IT provisions, Catering and Retail and College Facilities. Your thoughts will be essential to the projects.

The survey is completely anonymous and completed entries will be entered into a prize draw for Blackwell's book tokens, Sports Centre membership and a meal for 6 at The Mill. Visit: <https://qmp.lancs.ac.uk/em5/lancs/stuexp.asp>

Eve Ensler visits Lancaster

Catherine Chorley
News Editor

On Sunday, February 3rd, Lancaster University will be welcoming Eve Ensler, author of *The Vagina Monologues*, to the city-centre as part of the international celebrations taking place to mark the production's fifteenth anniversary.

Later in February, Valentine's Day marks fifteen years of the powerful and provocative show, which is now performed in all but fourteen countries across the globe. This year, the focus of the performance is on empowerment for women and men alike, who are urged to participate in One Billion Rising, a global event hoping to orchestrate a united display of solidarity through members of the public standing up and speaking out against violence against women.

In anticipation of the Rising campaign, Lancaster's own *Monologues* cast and production team are coordinating an afternoon of activities on February 3rd in order to raise awareness of the issues surrounding violence against women. Beginning at 1.00pm, the cast will be performing an official One Billion Rising dance routine

in a city-centre flash-mob, which will be followed by performances, poetry readings and the chance to meet Eve Ensler at Lancaster Library.

Ensler's visit was arranged by Lancaster University's *Monologues* team following a tweet sent by Head Director Sam Aldridge, who had seen that Ensler was scheduled to appear in London on February 4th as part of her global promotional tour. Aldridge said that Ensler and her Managing Director were so impressed with the fundraising conducted through Lancaster's student production that they decided to spend the day with them.

Aldridge stated: 'The whole cast are thrilled to have Eve Ensler visiting Lancaster and taking an interest in such a small performance as well as the larger events such as London and Paris. Eve is an inspiration to many of the cast and her visit has created a real buzz for the cast and our supporters.'

All funds raised by the *Vagina Monologues* will go towards charitable causes, with ten per cent going to the global V-Day campaign and the rest to a local charity, Lancaster & District Women's Aid, which supports women and girls affected by violence.



Postgraduate Visit Day

Wednesday 13th February 2013

2.00pm to 4.30pm in the Charles Carter Building



If you're considering postgraduate study at Lancaster, our event will be a great way to:

- discuss your study options with academic staff
- talk to current postgraduate students in an informal and friendly atmosphere
- find out about the funding and finance opportunities available to you
- receive advice and guidance about how to apply from our award postgraduate admissions team

Book online at:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/postgraduate

LUSU Living move home



**LUSU LIVING'S
NEW PREMISES**
Photo by Jay Theis

Rachel Armstrong

Students returning to the university this week may have noticed that LUSU Living has now moved. Their new offices are located next to Venue café on the spine, moving from their previous spot on Edward Roberts court.

"The aim of the move was to provide a more customer focused and modern environment"

Matthew Ward, manager of the LUSU Living branch, stated that "the aim of the move was to provide a more customer focused and modern environment... through a large space and a more open plan layout".

The new office will be retaining the same opening hours as they did last year, which will be Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm, and they will be open 50 weeks a year to assist students who already have accommodation with LUSU or who

are hoping to get advice. The new office also includes a meeting room which Ward hopes will "provide customers with more privacy when dealing with issues of a private nature".

Ward also stated that they aim to further enhance their services by opening a city centre office at China Street Halls, and whilst "promoting greater access" for their clients, they also aim to provide a Common Room for tenants, which will come equipped with free broadband and access to drinks and confectionery.

Ward added that "from our city centre office, tenants will be able to arrange viewings, report repairs, seek advice on general management issues and arrange for parcels/recorded delivery letters to be collected through a new postal service collection". This office however, will be open during term time only.

Students can contact LUSU Living on their email lusu.living@lancaster.ac.uk, and also via their usual phone number, which is 01524 592150.

Student led teaching awards to be improved

Rachel Harvey Editor

This year Vice President (Academic) Richard Clark hopes to see an increase in the amount of students nominating and voting in the Student Led Teaching awards with a few changes to the way they work. The awards offer students the chance to nominate the teacher or lecturer they feel has made the most influence in their learning over the year, but not many students actually make nominations.

"Since the awards' inception two years ago we have awarded teachers a student led teaching award"

Clark told SCAN: "The recent changes to the Lancaster teaching awards start at the very beginning, [with] the awards themselves. Since the awards' inception two years ago we have

awarded teachers a student led teaching award for best teacher. It has been well received but a low turnout of 150 is something to improve on."

This year Clark hopes to encourage more student engagement by increasing the amount of awards that can be won. Rather than having the one award Clark has decided to break it down into categories. He described the seven new categories that have been introduced, which are: outstanding undergraduate teaching award, outstanding post graduate teaching award, best feedback award, best academic advisor, best college advisor, best Moodle space, and best dissertation supervisor.

A second change to the awards has been made in the form of the structure. Students now have much more of an input in what the criteria for winning should be; the awards will then be given based on these new criteria. You can nominate your teacher now at: <http://lusu.co.uk/lancaster-teaching-awards>

**THIS'S TERM, SCAN WILL BE RELEASED ON:
WEEKS 2, 4, 7 AND 9**



WIND TURBINE FIGURES RELEASED

Figures have been released to show the performance of the University's new wind turbine. Between 23 November 2012 and 2 January 2013 the turbine was operational for 700 hours and generated 361940Kw hrs. This is a saving of £40,899 on the University's energy bill and has saved 192 tonnes of carbon emissions.

InterVol Society looking for Uganda volunteers

Rachel Quin

Lancaster University InterVol Society (LUIS) is currently recruiting volunteers to take part in a "fantastic grass-roots development project" in Uganda, run by the charity Little Big Africa.

The project aims to aid the people of Uganda by protecting the natural water sources, teaching better hygiene practices, and establishing better sanitation facilities. A further aim is to teach people the valuable skill of building energy efficient, fuel saving stoves.

The Society states that "some 6,000 children in the world die every day from diseases associated with a lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene." The Society urges students to get involved, and pledges to assist in "organising flights, getting to know the other volunteers and fundraising."

The Lancaster's society is part of the national InterVol organisation, and the Lancaster branch was established in 2011. Though a relatively new organisation in Lancaster, InterVol itself strives to bring

together information and advice on volunteering overseas, stating that the experience should have "positive outcomes for both volunteers and local communities", and that choosing to volunteer for projects such as Little Big Africa is both fulfilling and affordable.

"At the time, it just seemed like a whim that blew away in the wind, yet here I am in 2013, fronting a society which sends students from Lancaster to do just that," Poskitt said of the Society's background.

With regard to the potential benefits for the volunteers, Poskitt added, "It's a terrible cliché, but it shows you really can achieve anything if you put your mind to it." Having worked on the project himself, he said of his experience: "The project really opened my eyes, not to the poverty and inequality in the world, but to how people can still keep positive in the face of poverty and a lack of opportunity".

The project will run for eight weeks, from June until August. LUIS will have a stall at Re-freshers fair on the 22nd January, and asks that those who are interested speak to them at the fair, which runs from 4pm to 7pm in the Great Hall.

Language Courses at Lancaster University

Enrol on Campus Tuesday 22nd January 1.30 - 3pm

- Lancashire Adult Learning (LAL) courses are open to university staff and students over 19yrs old
- Courses take place on campus in Bowland North Seminar Rooms
- Courses run for 6 weeks
- Fees: £66 (non-EU fee £75.60) per course

Code	Course Title	Day	Start	End	Start Date	Wks	Room
2MC316XA	French Intermediate	Wed	6:30 PM	8:30 PM	30/01/13	6	SR14
2MC317XA	German Intermediate	Wed	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	30/01/13	6	SR16
2MC318XA	Japanese Beginners Stage 1	Wed	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	30/01/13	6	SR16
2MC315XA	Russian Beginners Stage 2	Tue	6:30 PM	8:30 PM	29/01/13	6	SR 9
2MC319XA	Spanish Intermediate	Tue	6:30 PM	8:30 PM	29/01/13	6	SR22

LAL staff will be taking enrolments in FASS Reception Tuesday 22nd January 1.30 - 3pm

outside of this time please call
0845 600 1331
to enrol

Lancashire
County Council

www.lancashire.gov.uk/adultlearning

Lancaster collaborate on new free online higher education courses

- “Futurelearn” is majority-owned by the Open University
- The courses will include videos and interactive activities

Julia Molloy
Deputy Comment Editor

The Open University has launched a new company, Futurelearn, to deliver free online higher education courses. The company will work with 11 major UK universities, including Lancaster, King's College London, Warwick, Leeds and St Andrews, to give students better access to higher education through a shared online platform, both in the UK and worldwide.

Futurelearn, an independent company that is majority-owned by the Open University, will give the public access to courses from computer, smartphone or tablet. The courses will cover a wide range of subjects and will include videos and interactive activities, as well as social-networking communities for students. Courses are to be available from this year, and there are to be no formal entry requirements. The individual universities will decide on the content and quality of the courses, in addition to how the students will be examined and awarded their qualifications.

The Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, Professor Mark E. Smith, has welcomed the company, saying: “I believe that Massive Open Online Courses have the potential to make a transformational impact on global higher education

and Lancaster University has been following their rapid development by leading US universities with interest. We welcome this initiative spearheaded by the Open University, and we look forward to examining in detail what role Lancaster might play in the coming months.”

The UK's university admissions service, UCAS, recently announced a drop of 54,000 in the number of students who took up higher education courses in 2012 compared to 2011, coinciding with the raising of tuition fees to £9000. The increased accessibility of higher education courses at far lower costs enabled by Futurelearn has received a largely positive reaction, despite online higher education being a relatively new concept.

The move has also been supported by the Government. The Minister for Universities and Science, David Willetts, said that Futurelearn could “revolutionise conventional models of formal education.” He pushed the idea of the UK looking to place itself at the forefront of new developments in the delivery of higher education. The UK has so far been out-played by the US, which dominates the online higher education market. However, the launching of Futurelearn is a big step towards boosting the UK's involvement, and it is hoped that it will provide entrepreneurs with

innovative opportunities to change the way in which higher education is accessed by the general public.

The details of the courses themselves are soon to be announced. The Chief Executive of Futurelearn, Simon Nelson, made clear when questioned by the BBC that the courses offered by Futurelearn will not constitute full degrees. He emphasised the quality of learning that students would receive, saying that the courses “will be very high

quality student experiences that will combine the best teaching from those universities with the benefits of the Internet.”

The exact kind of accreditation that students would receive from these courses, however, remains unclear. When questioned, Nelson failed to specify the exact qualification that would be offered, instead choosing to focus on the benefits that Futurelearn will hopefully bring to higher education.

Analysis

Futurelearn: The definitive future of learning?

Catherine Chorley
News Editor

Lancaster's involvement in an online-learning platform launched by the Open University this year draws further attention to the contention surrounding the shift towards Internet-based learning.

Futurelearn has obvious grounds on which to advocate its services: free courses to be completed from the student's own home are inevitably appealing in this era of austerity and increased living- and learning-costs.

However, online-learning faces criticism from those whose main concern centres on the potential for academic misconduct if, as is the aim of the Open University (OU) with its digital courses, assessment is conducted away from the strictly-regulated conditions of the exam hall. Yet, supporters may well argue that those who wish to cheat do so under the status quo, invigilators or not. Coursework now also has to be fed through purpose-built algorithms designed to flag up potential instances of plagiarism. The BBC recently reported that one proposition under consideration by the OU to enable learners to complete their courses entirely from home is to use webcams or key-stroke reading software to monitor candidates as they sit exams.

The benefits of teaching that makes use of the advances in tech-

nology are considerable. Moodle, and its predecessor LUVLE, provides an interface through which to communicate with staff and other students, as well as access to key resources that supplement timetabled contact-time. Office hours and tutorials are no longer sufficient: students now demand access to the PowerPoint slides for future reference, expect podcasts or downloadable PDFs of that week's reading, and instant email responses from our tutors. It may be that the 9K tuition-fee debacle has accelerated this process, as students want now more than ever to receive their money's worth.

Some members of Lancaster's teaching staff have expressed concerns that if all lecture resources are available outside the lecture theatre then many students may not bother to turn up for timetabled teaching. For some, the idea of a cyber-lecture is an uncomfortable one which reduces the university ethos to a mere exchanging of words, rather than a communal experience of the exploration of ideas.

The Futurelearn programme is not yet a way of attaining a full degree qualification. Perhaps the potential technological pitfalls need first to be ironed out before that follows as a natural progression of online distance-learning. Online-learning for those based at their institution is, at present, an invaluable supplement rather than replacement.



**THE COURSES
WILL BE HIGHLY
INTERACTIVE**
Photo by Sakib Rahman

Counselling service to gain extra staff after successful campaign

Catherine Chorley
News Editor

Following last term's campaign by Students' Union Vice President (Equality, Welfare and Diversity) Rosalia O'Reilly, the Counseling Service is to gain an extra member of staff to augment its current team of counselors. A further member of staff is also due to return from a period of official leave.

This additional provision is to function as an interim solution to the concerns voiced by students via O'Reilly's campaign last term, which focused on the inadequacy of the building facilities as well as the deficient numbers of staff members and appointments available to both students and staff. The need for an intervention, pending further investigation and improvement, was explicated during a meeting between O'Reilly and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for colleges and the student experience, Amanda Chetwynd, following the closure of the Service's online referral system. Chetwynd apologised for this closure and made assurances to "give the whole service a review," according to O'Reilly.

As part of this interim solution, 25 more counselling sessions per

week are to be made available to students and staff this term.

Meanwhile, a new Student Wellbeing Services Manager is to conduct a review, due in February this year, of the service with a view to future improvement and expansion. Fay Sherrington began her work in this newly-established role in November last year, and is responsible for overseeing student-oriented support services, including finance and funding, wellbeing, counselling, mental health, and disability support.

Looking ahead to the outcome of the review, O'Reilly anticipated a positive response from the University and its commitment to student welfare provision:

"I think we're going to be happy with the results: the University seems really keen to improve the service, and seems serious about wanting to get more staff and volunteers on board."

On the success of her proactive stance on student- and staff welfare issues, O'Reilly added:

"I think that we can definitely take some pride in this achievement. The Counselling Service is an incredible asset to our students and I'm happy that the University has managed to create more

sessions, and that they are having an in-depth look into how the service can be developed and improved."

"I think that we can definitely take some pride in this achievement"

Nightline also offers resources to students with welfare needs, and is run entirely by student volunteers. An issue currently being championed by O'Reilly is the difficulty the

Nightline service is having in moving into its new office space, which was supposed to be made available by the University as of the Wednesday before the commencement of the Lent term. Unable to move and be ready for the new term, Nightline has been forced to temporarily suspend its services. O'Reilly, aided by LUSU President Ste Smith, is working to see the problem rectified: "Ste and I are writing to Tom Finnigan and Mark Swindelhurst to request that they get the people managing the move to hurry up."



THE COUNSELLING SERVICE IS LOCATED IN THE BASE
Photo by Jay Theis

Lancaster invest in multi-million pound Business Growth Hub

Catherine Chorley
News Editor

Lancaster University has, along with other partners, invested in a multi-million pound scheme which aims to boost the local economy and which, according to the Lancaster Guardian, will enable businesses to create "more than 1,200 jobs by 2015" whilst also safeguarding other jobs. This proposal is estimated to boost the Lancashire economy by around £20 million. The Hub plans to stimulate economic growth by prioritising firms which show high growth potential to receive specialist advice, coaching and mentoring from profes-

sionals, thereby giving them access to a "world-class programme of management and leadership development through leading business and academic thinkers".

Other partners funding the project include Lancashire County Council and the University of Central Lancashire. Stephen Axon, of the Lancaster County Council, stated that the Lancashire Business Hub project is also "part-financed by the North West European Regional Development Fund Programme", which was established in 2007 and embodies the main goals of promoting growth and offering guidance to improve the workforce where possible. The Programme has

a core commitment to developing potentially "high-value new enterprises".

Dennis Mendoros, a member of the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership Board and North West ERDF Local Management Committee, stated that the priority of the Business Growth Hub is to support local businesses and create local jobs, providing a "boost to the local economy".

County Councillor Michael Green furthered this intention, stating that the Business Growth Hub will "bring together a package that will enable ambitious local companies to fulfil their potential". Green added that the addition of

the Business Growth Hub is part of "a range of initiatives that Lancashire County Council is delivering that mean Lancashire really is open for business".

The official Business Growth Hub website describes Lancaster University as "a world player in research and teaching". Furthermore, the website states that Lancaster has an "outstanding reputation for their collaborations with regional business, in particular for the work with small and medium sized enterprises".

Thus, by offering financial and practical support, the University will continue to nurture its connections with the local community.

CAROLYNNE

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NEW YEAR, SAME OLD YOU?

LEONIE CHAUDHRY ON NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. PAGE 35

CAROLYNNE

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WELCOME TO CAROLYNNE

I am the proud owner of two adorable feline familiars, and I am going to tell you about them. One is a tiny ball of black fluff in which a pair of eyes will occasionally appear – he is called Mario. The other is a squishable, huggable, still-hasn't-quite-mastered-the-art-of-burying-her-poo-able bundle of ginger joy – and she goes by the name of Matilda. Mario is named after the virtual plumber. The other is named after the 12th Century English noblewoman.

They are the best of friends. They play together, they nap together, they eat and eat and eat together. They spend entire days chasing around a little plastic elephant on a string, and it will be the best day of their lives, and then they'll do it again the next day, and it'll be the best day of their lives all over again! They need never go hungry! They will never be sad! Everything is all good in the world of the cat!

It is also a world that we humans will probably never be able to emulate, and because of that I am plunged into the most profound sadness.

Make like the cat, that's the motto from this week's Carolynne column written by a young man who is well and truly at the end of his rope. Channel the cat. Be the cat. Make detailed studies of the cat's behaviour and then emulate it

action for action. (And here comes the tenuous link to this week's content) Set up cool shit for fun, just because, like the new Live at the Oak live music night that's happening in County. Go to things just because you're curious about them – try out some wacky experimental dance at LICA. You know cats would do that, if they could appreciate avant-garde theatre. Or, if you own a cat, why not take it to the theatre with you?

And that's cat. In other jolly student media news, there's been a bit of switcheroo round at the nuclear bunker SCAN calls its home. Everyone's favourite artistically-blessed, raven-haired, puzzle-faced wunderkind Stephanie Bell has stepped up to the dinner plate labelled 'joint Carolynne Editor'. She'll be helping out with SCAN's ongoing effort to guzzle up all of the tasty morsels of Culture, meaty chunks of Lifestyle, delectable cutlets of Features and sugary Fashion treats that fall onto our giant journalistic dinner tables. Steff Brawn has replaced Bell as Culture Editor. A large procession down the Spine to celebrate their appointment to these new positions will take place on the Friday 25th, and will involve at least six elephants and a decommissioned Soviet ICBM, so make sure to come along!

TWEET OF THE WEEK

JESS OLIVER - THERE GOES MY STUDENT LOAN #JANUARY SALES



CULTURE CLASH - KINDLE VS. BOOKS

STEFF BRAWN
CULTURE EDITOR

When the Kindle came into the world, I, like most people out there could clearly see its advantages. It's highly portable, making it a lot easier to carry around what would be an extremely heavy collection of books. It's convenient, particularly if you have the 3G version where you can access any book you like any time you like. It's simple to use and allows you to make notes and erase them without permanently defacing a book, which I'm not keen on doing. All these swanky features aside, I have never been tempted to purchase a Kindle, because no matter how glossy this product continues to get, it will never live up to the joy that is reading and possessing a book in its original physical form.

The same words are in a Kindle version of a book as are in an original paper copy, so why is it any different I hear you ask? Personally, I find that reading off a screen is extremely unfulfilling in comparison to actually holding a book. It would help if the Kindle actually represented the physical features of a book in some way, but because it looks nothing like one, reading a Kindle book feels rather unnatural and whether the writing is exquisite or not, part of the enjoyment is being able to feel the roughness of the pages and the weight of knowledge and thought that has gone into the work.

In a lot of cases I often believe that the more-glossy and clever something appears, the more soulless it becomes. A harsh claim you might think, but think about how you feel when you get to the end of a huge novel that's taken you months to read; a sense of achievement. Think about how you feel when you walk into a library, with the walls and shelves plastered with years of writing from all kinds of minds; astonished.

Think about how you feel when you see your own shelves filled with books that you've read from start to finish; enriched. When I read off a screen and have to press a button to turn a page, I think it's pretty clever and polished, but no real emotion fills me. It might be a space saver user-friendly but this really takes away the true meaning of reading

One final question I'd love to ask is what was wrong with books in the first place? They have provided us with endless information, creativity and hour's worth of enjoyment for centuries without going near technology and I'm confident that this will continue for years to come.

There is something special about the experience of reading a physical book that no shiny new machine will ever be able to match. Amazon Kindle inventors; don't try and fix something if it's not broken in the first place.



SOPHIE BARRETT

As an English student I am all for the physical book, but books are impractical; carrying around anthologies in your bag is more of a workout than an academic keenness. When considering the average student's reading list, it is nonsensical to restrict yourself to the physical book – a heavy and costly item.

Technological advancement has dominated the 21st century; 2001 saw the invention of the iPod and 2007 was the year of the iPhone and the literary baby – the Kindle. Such technology is considered necessary by most of us. Life without mobile phones would appear alien to us, as will life without a Kindle soon. You wouldn't watch a videocassette in favour of a DVD, – such things have died out. Similarly, fewer books are being printed – the leather bound novel has reached its peak. So why pick up a book instead of a Kindle?

The authenticity of a novel cannot be measured by the age of the paper. The novel is about words, whether these are printed onto paper or shown electronically. The text itself is the 'soul' of the novel. Pretentious snobbery does not save the novel!

Lightweight and slim, the Kindle is easy to carry. It is user-friendly to the elderly, who may not have the strength to lift and hold a book whilst the adjustable print-size means that those with weak eyesight can view the text.

The Kindle has also saved literature's role in the lives of children. New technologies such as the flat screen TV have encouraged a want for visual entertainment in young people. The invention of the Kindle was critical in placing literature in this context; it adopts the perks of immediacy that are expected in today's culture. People like impressive technology; they respond well to devices that can boast technical greatness. This makes the Kindle very desirable.

A huge book of 'War and Peace' is extremely threatening; most youths have never read it because its physical appearance is foreboding. On a Kindle, where is the intimidation? It has evaporated – the book's immense weight has been transported onto a light device and it has become accessible to the masses. It's discreetness allows you to read whatever you want without being judged.

The Kindle is the student must-have in terms of its cost. Great British Classics are free as downloads, whereas in Waterstones they can reach prices of up to £15. In a time of economic difficulty, let alone student budgeting, why choose a book over the Kindle?

Newspapers, and prose can be read on one device. You can read it wherever you like. You can adjust the screen brightness and look up meanings of words and make notes. The list is endless! To carry a library in your pocket is to have the entire world at your fingertips. Embrace the Kindle.

INTERVIEW: EVIE SWEETIE MANNEQUINS

CAROLYNNE EDITOR **STEPHANIE BELL** TALKS TO EVIE SWEETIE ABOUT HER PASSION FOR MANNEQUINS

STEPHANIE BELL
CAROLYNNE EDITOR

Eve Sweeney, shares her passion for bespoke mannequins created with love for boutiques, retail outlets and the sheer joy of innovation. Creator of Evie Sweetie Mannequins, she offers advice to aspiring creatives on how to make it on your own. Visit her website www.eviesweetie.co.uk and like her on Facebook for more information at www.facebook.com/EvieSweetieMannequins.



HOW HAS THE CREATIVE PROCESS LED YOU TO MAKING MANNEQUINS?

I worked as a visual merchandiser in retail and often thought about painting the ugly, chipped

mannequins I was surrounded by into beautiful ladies which I had loved in the old photographs. It wasn't until years later I thought about giving it a go and creating something different by putting my painting skills to use - from there on it has all taken off!.

WHICH ARTISTS DO YOU ADMIRE THE MOST AND WHY?

I love Gustav Klimt - his work is very inspiring to me with his use of patterns and colours as I am a huge fan of anything Art Deco and Art Nouveau. I also adore 1920s black and white photographs of Hollywood actresses; these really inform the bulk of my work as well as Romani gypsies and anything with bohemian styling.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE STUCK FOR INSPIRATION?

I browse the Internet like crazy, look at old books, old movies or anything to give me a creative boost then once I start I'm addicted! I love www.pinterest.com and look to it for my daily inspiration.

HAVE YOU FOUND BEING SELF-EMPLOYED CHALLENGING?

The accounts and dealing with every aspect of business myself has been challenging, you have to stay positive, motivated and work when ill to keep to deadlines. But I love being my own boss and getting paid to be creative is the best job I could ever want.

ARE YOU A POSITIVE PERSON AND HOW DO YOU HANDLE STRESS?

Yes, I'm very motivated and have my down days like everyone but it's about knowing how to use those feelings in a creative way - sometimes when painting, changing the use of colour or style helps.

You never know, you might find something that works to your advantage!

When stressed, I go for a walk or to the gym, but living near The Lakes is a lovely place to relax or get some inspiration.!

IS IT IMPORTANT TO LOVE WHAT YOU DO?



Yes if you truly want to go far you then you must believe in yourself and what you're doing - passion always comes through strongly in a person and their work which is such an admirable trait!

ANY ADVICE FOR THOSE HOPING TO GO INTO THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY?

The advice I'd give to any one is to keep going - you will reach what it is you want to achieve with hard work, persistence and passion. I find meeting and talking with other creative people stimulating - it's all about networking! Look into getting a Facebook business page and take advantage of the free advertising of your work.

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LIVE AT LICA: WHAT'S IN STORE THIS SPRING?

CULTURE EDITOR **STEFF BRAWN** LOOKS AT THE LICA PROGRAMME FOR THIS TERM



IMITATING THE DOG: THE ZERO HOUR



CHROMA



DANCE CUTS SHOWCASE



BEATS & PIECES BIG BAND

STEFF BRAWN
CULTURE EDITOR

All the festivities are over and the January blues is now upon us with an undoubtedly busy and stressful second term ahead. However in the world of the arts here at Lancaster University there are many delights making an appearance in the Live at LICA programme this Lent Term to keep your spirits up. The Autumn line up of brilliantly talented and accomplished musicians, actors and dancers that we were so lucky to have here in our Great Hall and Nuffield Theatre brought in and dazzled audiences across the university and beyond and caused some pretty competitive ticket sales. The canvases, sculptures and wonderful colour that lined the Peter Scott Gallery as well equally had people in awe and it's safe to say that LICA is now an important home of professional contemporary art. The Spring season of the academic year is looking even more tasty, so here's what's in store over the next few months.

'PHENOMENAL SOLOISTS INCLUDING PIANIST GABIRELA MONTERO AND TRUMPETER TINETHING HELSETH AS WELL AS LANCASHIRE SINFONIETTA

From richly colourful orchestral and choir performances to powerful big bands and virtuosic solo artists, the Great Hall always welcomes a fabulous array of musicians, with Thursday evenings being the regular time for music. Spring 2013's debut performance comes from string ensemble "Chroma" on 24th January. A contemporary eight piece group who thoroughly entertained crowds here last year have an excellent programme lined up that promises to be quite experimental and enlightening so make sure you're there for some real character to start the season. Following this February sees the "Beats and Pieces Big Band" take to the stage to stun us with the contagious energy that live big bands always deliver before March plays host to some phenomenal soloists including pianist Gabriela Montero and trumpeter Tinething Helseth with a homely treat from the Lancashire Sinfonietta on the 14th March. A truly indescribable programme in store which springs two words to mind; play on.

'GRAB YOUR SEAT FOR THE BEST FOR THE BEST INNOVATIVE THEATRE AROUND'

In the Nuffield Theatre this Spring Lancaster succeeds again in setting out a juicy programme. Highlights include "Imitating the Dog: The Zero Hour" at the end of January written and directed by our very own head of LICA Andrew Quick who Scan writer Sophie Barrett will be interviewing about the ideas behind this breath-taking play. Also lined up is the intriguing performance of Michael Pinchbeck's "The Beginning" which explores the beginnings of important life experiences for us all including careers and relationships. In Dance, the unmissable 2013 Dance Cuts Showcase will be taking place on 2nd March involving all sorts of new dance works from across the North West to please all audiences wherever your dance enthusiasm lies. There's something for everyone in our little black box this Spring so grab your seat for the best innovative theatre around.

'A THOUGHT PROVOKING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL'



LICA LANCASTER INSTITUTE FOR THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Last but certainly not least the Peter Scott Gallery will be introducing two exhibitions this term; Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard's "Jumpers" and "In Residence". The former is a newly commissioned video installation by the British artists which documents a live experiment in manipulation and compliance which should be a thought provoking experience for all. The latter is one exhibition of a series of events which will display residency-generated material leading smoothly into the Curate the Campus programme of next term.

'AN IMPORTANT HOME OF CONTEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL ART'

As you can see this action packed season of art here at Lancaster is not to be missed so go ahead and indulge yourselves in some awesome creativity that's waiting for you on your doorstep! You can also find out more about performances by going to www.liveatlica.org/whats-on

BRUNO MARS: UNORTHODOX JUKEBOX

AMANDA MASON

This album surprised me; not for the quality but how different it was from Mars' last album "Doo-wops & Hooligans". Mars himself stated he had much more creative freedom and input into this album and it certainly shows throughout. There is a 1980's element in the majority of the album, which is either a love it or hate it kind of thing. There are heavy synthesizers in most of the songs and heavy rhythmic beats which makes idyllic pop music.

The album is filled with dramatic lyrics, either about girls, drugs or rock and roll. Bruno Mars really gets to the heart of things with raw explicit lyrics in 'Gorilla', where he talks about his time of being caught with drugs. And then in the piano ballad 'When I was your Man' he has raw emotion in his vocals and cutting lyrics which would make anyone with a heart tear up a little, as Mars croons about an old flame. 'Natalie', which is also about the pain he goes through with another girl, which has echoing and daunting drum beats that make the music sound serious and quite melancholy.

'GREAT SOULFUL VOCALS'

It's refreshing to hear a lot of reggae in songs such as the upbeat 'Locked out of Heaven' and 'Show Me', which you don't hear much of today. Like the majority of artists today Mars' incorporates lots of synthesizers but differently puts an 80's twist on songs such as 'Money Make her Smile', 'Moonshine' and 'Treasure'. The use of guitar to create rhythms in 'If I Knew' sounds like revived old-school R&B, and the use of funk in the bass in 'Treasure' brings elements of rock and old-school alive in the album. No other current pop star but Mars, with his great soulful vocals, could pull off using such a varied array of music. The mix of slow ballads and floor-fillers are great, but I would say the majority of the music on the album would be for chilling out to.

There is no way you could put this album into one genre; the eclectic mix of styles is so varied that you have to give credit to Bruno Mars for his creativity and making it so different from the majority of what is in today's market of music. The 80's style I wasn't so keen on but overall the darker lyrics of this album and the variety of reggae, rock, 80's, soul and R&B is something you will rarely hear on one album today. The tunes 'Locked out of Heaven' and 'Treasure' are personal favourites for their upbeat tones and their funky beats; it's a nice change from the monotonous electronic music pop artists of today make. I wasn't keen on this pop experimental album when I first heard it but when you re-listen to the lyrics and appreciate the different types of music he has going on it is a good easy listening album.

DJANGO UNCHAINED



THE 'D' IS SILENT...

Photo by unloveablesteve

GRACE COPELAND

I was lucky enough to get a sneak peak of Tarantino's latest masterpiece in London last week, *Django Unchained*, which releases nationwide on January 18th. Violence and gore expected, the laugh out loud comedy wasn't!

TARANTINO HAS CREATED A BRUTAL, SICK, AND MEANLY FUNNY SAGA

Taking his inspiration from the dark underbelly of spaghetti westerns, Tarantino has created a brutal, sick, and meanly funny saga depicting the lustful revenge of Django (Jamie Foxx), a slave whose brutal history with his former owners lands him face-to-face with German born bounty hunter Dr. King Schultz (Christoph Waltz). Schultz buys Django's freedom, but at a price. Django must help Schultz find the murderous Brittle brothers, his previous owners. Ironically, Schultz begins to feel responsible for the man whose freedom he bought, helping Django learn how to kill, 'dress', and read and eventually promising to help Django find his lost wife 'Broomhilda' (Kerry Washington). Their search leads them to the moustache twirling Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio), the proprietor of the infamous 'Candyland' plantation where Bloomhilder is a house slave. Exploring the compound under false pretenses, Django and Schultz arouse the suspicion of Stephen (the barely recognizable Samuel L. Jackson), who is Candie's trusted house slave and thinks of himself as a 'pale face'.

Set in the deep south just before the civil war, Tarantino makes a point of pushing the savagery of slavery to the forefront. There are several horrific and upsetting scenes, the N word getting a heavy outing throughout, and the story

unravels to the tune of a commendable hip-hop soundtrack with the likes of Rick Ross, James Brown and 2pac featuring in the mix. Naturally, the film is controversial and has indeed ruffled some feathers within the industry, but whether Tarantino's irreverent take on slavery offends you or not, the genius of it cannot be escaped or denied.

Perhaps the most surprising element of *Django Unchained* is its comedy. Amongst the action, violence and sensitive subject matter, Tarantino manages to deliver some seriously cool and seriously silly comedic moments; much of which stems from Tarantino's love of pithy language, which has not escaped him in *Django Unchained*. The film is also a visual feast of period set designs and incredible costumes, with Jamie Foxx wearing a certain blue velvet number that is sure to steal hearts and start a trend! Naturally the performances are note-perfect (Samuel L Jackson will certainly make a few draws drop) but the episodic, anecdotal and 'talky' structure could be considered to be a little indulgent as the film is rather long at 180 minutes.

However, the constant injection of weighty material with so many jocular, startling and unexpected touches will keep you entertained and distracted from the fact that you need the bathroom, particularly within the last 20 minutes.

Receiving critical acclaim and being nominated for five Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor (Christoph Waltz) and Best Original Screenplay (Quentin Tarantino), this really is a blazing return to form for Tarantino.

If you think westerns aren't your thing, think again. If you think the film may offend you, it probably won't, but it's worth finding out. Whatever the outcome of your viewing experience, it is impossible to leave the cinema without being in awe at what you have just seen. It is, indeed, a masterpiece.

THE SCAN ROUND UP: SIX OF THE BEST OF 2012



BLUR

UNDER THE WESTWAY

JACK SMITH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

In 2012, Blur released their first (proper) single as a four piece in twelve years - and it was certainly worth the wait. Described by the band as “a hymn” about London, it is almost stereotypically Blur that they are able to write a song name-checking a motorway flyover (West London’s Westway),

‘PREDICTABLY, #BLUR INSTANTLY BECAME THE NUMBER ONE TRENDING TOPIC WORLDWIDE’

The song appeared from nowhere. A few days before Blur received the Outstanding Contribution to Music award at the Brits, Albarn and guitarist Graham Coxon unexpectedly played a stripped back version of the song at a small warm up gig. Months later, on a rainy day in London, Blur appeared on the rooftop of Albarn’s studio (with the Westway visible in the background, of course) with a live stream of the full song on Twitter. Predictably, #blur instantly became the number one trending topic worldwide.

Albarn’s fragile vocal and haunting piano lament a world where “men in yellow jackets put adverts inside my dreams” and “the money always comes first.” It’s hardly a feel-good Olympic celebration, but Blur have produced a rousing anthem that sums up the state of London in 2012 better than anyone else could. Similarities to The Beatles’ Let It Be are evident from the chord progression - but unlike the full stop that song proved to be, Under The Westway gives the impression there is a lot more to come from Blur.



SPEC OPS: THE LINE

YAGER DEVELOPMENT

JOE HENTHORN
CAROLYNNE EDITOR

It’s a rare AAA game that’s actually about something significant and for that reason alone Spec Ops: The Line has to go down as one of the games of the year. It works because it advances an excellent story by using excellent design. It’s the small things, really, like the way moral decision making is encoded in game play, rather than presented as a series of binary dialogue options, or the way the game world starts to warp and crumble as you progress, resulting in terrifying hallucinations and moments of déjà vu.

‘TERRIFYING HALLUCINATIONS AND MOMENTS OF DEJA VU’

Sure, the ‘graphics aren’t amazing’, the ‘gameplay’ is pretty dull by any traditional metric, and it’s only 10 or so hours long. But to complain there’s nothing particularly new in terms of the gunplay here is like complaining about the lack of electric guitar in Beethoven’s Fifth.

Making a game that shared many superficial similarities with the thousands of Modern Warfare clones on the market is what makes Spec Ops so effective as a critique, but it has, unfortunately, also been its downfall in the eyes of Metacritic.

This is a game that asks so many big questions, and then forces you to look in the mirror to find the answer. Is there ever such a thing as ‘choice’ in games - or in life for that matter? And most importantly, why do we think that ‘Killing For Entertainment is Harmless’?



THE HOBBIT:

AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

KIRSTY LEE

When I first heard that The Hobbit was being made into a film, I was beyond excited, that was until I found out that they were making it three films, to be released a year apart from each other! However, my annoyance was soon put to rest as I watched the first installment.

‘VENTURE OUT OF HOBBITON WITH BILBO INTO THE BIG WIDE WORLD OF MIDDLE EARTH’

The book was brought to life and looked fantastic on the big screen. We ventured out of Hobbiton with Bilbo into the big wide world of Middle Earth, riddled with things that Hobbits had only ever read about in books.

Martin Freeman seemed the perfect choice to play the role of Bilbo Baggins. Despite his slight hesitance, he was witty and stood up for himself when required.

The film showed us Bilbo’s adventures and how he came to gain the ring and the other treasures that he gives to Frodo in “The Fellowship Of The Ring”. As usual the sound track was phenomenal, once again given to us by Howard Shore.

The most intriguing part of this film was that you never got to see much of Smaug, only glimpses and then one final shot at the end of the film that saw his eye open. You’re going to have to wait a while for “The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug”, but it will be well worth the wait.



DISNEY PIXAR BRAVE

CHARLI STEVENSON

2012 saw Pixar return with their latest animation, Brave, a full on Scottish adventure complete with gifted archer Merida (voiced by Kelly Macdonald) and a host of Scottish accents from Billy Connolly to Robbie Coltrane.

Brave originally seems like a new Disney Princess fairy-tale to be targeted at the female market and full of soppy love songs but that is not the case. Feisty Merida makes it clear from the very start she would be no ordinary Disney Princess as she sets out to avoid marrying any of the suitors placed before her and defy her parents in order to gain her independence.

Brave becomes a story about the bond between Mother and Daughter but provides some comedy highlights from Merida's three younger brothers. The ultimate highlight of the film is the Celtic inspired music alongside the beautiful scenic animation that shows off the Scottish Highlands wonderfully.

'CELTIC INSPIRED MUSIC ALONGSIDE THE BEAUTIFUL SCENIC ANIMATION'

Although Brave does not equal the success of Up in terms of story, characters and overall feel of a film, it does show that Pixar have some original stories left to work with and there is potential. It is a great deal better than Cars and certainly worth a watch!



EA CANADA - FIFA 13

**JOE HENTHORN
CAROLYNNE EDITOR**

It's hard to say exactly what it was that did it, but it feels like FIFA reached a strange sort of critical tipping point this year – FIFA now seems more like football than football does. EA's team in Canada (of all places) have honed their game to a truly incredible level, to the point where it can be held up as an example of a top-tier e-sport along with the likes of Street Fighter and Starcraft.

'AN IMPORTANT STEP FOR SPORTS IN GENERAL'

Most enthusiasts are keen to point to game as an emerging art form, but it's important to realise that we have a totally new way of engaging with traditional sports here as well.

It also feels like an important step for sports, in general. Over the last twenty years the way we perceived the game has been transformed into something resembling the 'sports entertainment' of professional wrestling. Football isn't just about 90 minutes on a Saturday afternoon anymore. It's about the endless drama being pumped out by Sky Sports News: the pointless transfer gossip, the rumours of manager-player relationships gone sour, the big money backers from mysterious eastern countries. Basically, the modern game is about anything but the game. And at the moment, it's FIFA that captures the real essence of football, the purity of play, and the beauty of the game, not the Premier League.



MUSE SURVIVAL

**JACK SMITH
ASSISTANT EDITOR**

I have no doubt that the inclusion of this track will raise a few eyebrows.

Muse's Survival is an interesting beast. In fact, Muse themselves are an interesting beast. The band were never known for being understated, but somehow over the past five years they have managed to take their famous bombast to levels that couldn't possibly have been imagined back when they released Plug In Baby in 2001.

Yes, the opening sounds a bit like Take That, the lyrics sound like they were written by a five year old ("Race, life's a race, and I'm gonna win, yes I'm gonna win"), and the choir chanting "SUR-VIVE, SUR-VIVE" throughout turns the song into some quasi-Masonic death march – but this is exactly what makes it so hilariously brilliant.

'YES, THE OPENING SOUNDS A BIT LIKE TAKE THAT, THE LYRICS SOUND LIKE THEY WERE WRITTEN BY A FIVE YEAR OLD, BUT...'

Plus, this was the official song of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Just think about that for a minute.

Muse are far beyond their days of producing relatively sane songs; they are ridiculous and they know it. It's time to stop the chin-stroking and navel-gazing and accept this track for what

BEHIND THE SCENES AT COUNTY - LIVE AT THE OAK

CAROLYNNE EDITOR JOE HENTHORN INTERVIEWS THE BRAINS BEHIND COUNTY'S LATEST LIVE EVENT



Photo by Jordan Finneran

The stress per brain levels at County Bar Diner must always rank amongst the highest on campus (if not all of Northern England). Lecturer after lecturer from the PPR department files through the back door, looking to pick up their slice of morning toast before going off to try and teach Hobbes to undergraduates who haven't done the reading. Lonely essay writers sit hunched over their overheating laptops, their tears splashing softly into their sixth cup of very reasonably priced coffee. And today, two more of these unfortunate stressed out souls find themselves slumped in County Bar. They are Jonathan Doyle and Conor Scrivener, and they do the best they can to split their time between their physics degrees, their band and their newest venture – Live at The Oak.

Driven by campus' glorious musical past and the current dearth of live music on campus, Live at the Oak is an attempt by Scrivener and Doyle to bring Lancaster back to prominence as a touring city for major bands. It also comes as another part in what seems to mini-renaissance Lancaster's music scene is undergoing right now, with dependable venues in town like The Yorkshire House and the Robert Gillow upping their game, and new venues like The Hall (the new coffee shop recently opened by Atkinsons) starting to put on gigs of their own.

SO FIRST OF ALL... HOW DO YOU COPE?

JD: Haha, we don't! I've lost a lot of degree hours to this...

CS: I'm in University 9-5 today, tomorrow, and every day... I do enjoy it though – mainly because over the past three years we've seen an overall decline of gigs on campus, but it's strange because when there are gigs they're always of good quality and are well attended, like the Battle of the Bands. I love it quite

frankly... it's hard work but once everything is set up, you can have a pint, enjoy the music and say 'we have done all of this' and it's an amazing feeling.

YOU RESEARCH AND BOOK THE BANDS YOURSELVES - HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT DECIDING WHO WILL BE PLAYING?

JD: We'll try and cater for everyone, because we've found that certain kinds of music somehow don't work on campus. So we try to mix up the genres – if we have a pop punk band then we'll just have one pop punk band, and then we'll try and get an indie rock band or a straight up rock band, and then play some heavier stuff to separate them.

You've mentioned before that you see yourselves as helping to carry on the great tradition that campus has for live music (dating back to the huge Great Hall gigs in the 70s and 80s). That scene has all but disappeared now though, why do you think that is?

CS: Bands started to play bigger venues, and so Lancaster's Great Hall, which is a relatively good venue but quite mid-sized, got forgotten about as gigs moved to Manchester, Preston and Liverpool. I don't think University management in the past have helped either – I heard a story from an old member of staff that The Rolling Stones offered to play the Great Hall in the 1980s, but they were turned down because the tour was in the middle of the exam period! It'd be great if gigs were put on in the Great Hall again, and that's the dream, that's the ambition, to put on gigs that big.

You're very heavy on rock content. I imagine this is to do with the kind of music you guys like, as well as your contacts, but do you think

you could open up LatO to other genres?

JD: Exactly, it's kind of how it fell, really, simply because of our contacts and because we find rock music is generally a really dependable genre when it comes to drawing people in.

CS: I want to put on a folk night, but it's a bit more difficult to find a folk band that will be good live, that people can get involved with. We would definitely be open to exploring more niche genres, and again, we would mix up the genres on a certain night. It's just difficult to know what sort of genres will get a very good reception amongst a more general audience.

DO YOU SEE THIS EXPANDING IN THE FUTURE?

I don't think that it's something that would expand into other colleges, and not something we would necessarily want to expand across campus. Every bar needs something unique that it can call its own, and it's nice to have this just being a real County event. Although we want bigger bands for the event itself – at the moment it is mostly bands from the North West, but the dream is to get some established nationwide acts up here.

CS: We also want to create a team here, a committed team that will be able to carry this on after we've left University. We have learned a lot from doing this too, practically speaking. We want to help people who want to learn about the music industry, how to promote and put on gigs, and this is a way to do that. Ultimately, we're doing it for everyone here. It's grown from our own selfish needs for live music! But we want to share it because we feel like it's something Lancaster is missing, on campus. Who doesn't like free live music and cheap beer?

THE MUSICAL EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME?

RACHEL STAFFORD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

There has been much anticipation surrounding the release of Tom Hooper's adaptation of Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil's stage show, *Les Misérables*. The film has been nominated for 4 BAFTAs and 7 Oscars, gaining critical accolades yet there has still been much scepticism from ardent fans of the stage show.

Fans of the stage musical will be pleased to hear that the general plot and songs are in keeping with the stage show version. The only possible downside is that the producers have decided to focus on the vocals rather than the orchestration meaning that the orchestration sometimes gets lost in the background and has none of the power that it should.

Hugh Jackman's performance as Jean Val Jean is incredible and he is thoroughly deserving of his Oscar nomination, up until the moment when he murders Jean Val Jean's key solo, 'Bring Him Home'. His acting is impeccable throughout and he is especially captivating as the convict at the beginning.

The casting of Russell Crowe as Javert has been widely described as a mistake. His toneless and flat renditions of key solos 'Stars' and 'Javert's Suicide' should be key, heart wrenching moments of the film and instead were awkward to watch. Not only is his singing not up

to scratch, his acting is incredibly wooden and he has none of the screen presence or intuitive facial expression of Jackman.

"RUSSELL CROWE'S SINGING IS TONELESS AND FLAT"

The film is just losing all hope a'd direction with Javert and Jean Val Jean when it jumps forward to 1832 and the French revolution. At this point we see the young revolutionaries planning their attack headed by Marius and Enjolras. The scenes with these characters redeem the film. Eddie Redmayne as Marius is incredible, his delivery of 'Empty Chairs at Empty Tables' is beautiful and tear-jerking. The majority of the actors who play the students come from theatrical backgrounds and this can clearly be seen through their performances. Aaron Tveit is impressive as Enjolras, his Broadway background can clearly be seen through his vocals and he is strong on screen presence. These two combined with Samantha Barks as Eponine and 12 year - old Daniel Huttlestone as Gavroche make the barricade scenes the best in the film. In a heart wrenching, draining tale, the characters of Madame and Master Thenardier provide the only light

hearted relief with their song 'Master of the House'. Memorable performances of this song have been given by Alun Armstrong (at the 10th Anniversary Concert) and Matt Lucas (at the 25th Anniversary Concert). Yet this was one scene where the director and producers did not capture the true *Les Misérables* spirit. It was not uplifting in anyway, Sascha Baren Cohen paled into insignificance, spending the first half of the song trying to decide which accent he wanted to fake before adding a bit of Borat into the mix and completely ruining it. He was kept aloft only by Helena Bonham Carter who was not strong enough vocally to drag this scene out of the mire. On stage these two characters get the largest applause yet in the film they were not even memorable.

Anne Hathaway may only be onscreen for 15-20 minutes of this 3 hour epic but she gives an incredibly memorable performance and is thoroughly deserving of her BAFTA and Oscar, best supporting actress nominations.

The film is a good adaptation, which would have been better if the producers had focused more on having professional stage performers rather than choosing 'big name' actors who could not handle the vocal aspect.

I would implore anyone who has not seen the show on the stage to do so as the film does not live up to this.

87.7 Bailrigg FM Schedule						
MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
GML 8am	GML 8am	GML 8am	GML 8am	GML 8am	Holley's History	News on Sunday
Down with Music 11am	Charlie and Lewis Have Brunch 10am	Radio Nowhere 12pm	NML 1pm	NML 1pm	12pm	political discussion with special guests and debates
Red Cups 12pm	Genre 61 Revisited 12pm	NML every weekday we bring to you the best, new music 1pm	The Adam Bond Show 2pm	Loose Blokes 2pm	Ron and Arthur present Anything Goes 1pm	10am
NML 1pm	NML 1pm	The Phil and Dan Show 2pm	Taking the Michael 4pm	Thank F it's Friday 3pm	The Saturday Hangover 2pm	Talk of the Devil 1pm
Sophie Marshall Show 2pm	Screen Team 3pm	The Vinyl Hour 5pm	Have you heard the news? 5pm	Man Feelings 4pm	The Saturday Sports Show 3pm	Unlimited Enthusiasm 2pm
De-stress, Re-chill 3pm	TransEurope Express 4pm	Campus Correspondent 6pm	HMS Ron and Friends 6pm	Bailrigg Football Weekly 5pm	The Saturday Sports Show 3pm	An Idiot's Guide to Video Games 3pm
Humble Sam's Invisible Friends 4pm	Bez and Tom's Late Afternoon Tea 5pm	Highlights, Pebbles and Palms 7pm	Line Sessions live music and chat with your favourite campus acts 7pm	Newspeak 6pm	Chart Show the week's chart countdown: who will get the number one spot? 7pm	Film Spiel 4pm
Tell Me Why 5pm	Curtis and Rachel Show 6pm	Nostalgia Hour 8pm	A Thousand Apologies 9pm	Aktiv8 sessions get ready for Sugar with Aktiv8: a live DJ set on air every week 7pm	The Academy 8.30pm	Sunday Night Mosh 5pm
Newspeak our bi-weekly debate show on current affairs 6pm	Tuesday Night Sport Show stay update on the week's sport news 7pm	There's no F in Ekoku 10pm	Trycolour 10pm	Cool Beans 9pm	Jiggle Me In 6pm	Cringe 7pm
Now for Something Completely Awesome 7pm	Brooksy and Townsend 11pm	Acceptable in the 90s 10pm	Bangin' & Mash 11pm		Late Night Literature 8pm	Driven by Steam 9pm

IT'S NOT A NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTION

MARSHA DOWIE

Before we know it Christmas is over for another year and January passes in the blink of an eye. Like every other year, we list our New Year's resolutions in our new notebooks and diaries we got for Christmas, determined to make this year better than the last. The generic hopes of losing weight, joining the gym, 'trying something new' (whatever that means) spring to mind, and as we write down each resolution we smile at ourselves with a glow of self-satisfaction. However, it seems that the determination to change and become a better person is often very much short-lived, as many studies show that around 75-85% of people who make New Year's resolutions fail to keep them. So why do we bother? And what are we doing wrong?

New Year has always carried this added pressure to turn over a new leaf. Even without the New Year we are under pressure to look good, eat healthy and have the perfect lifestyle, although most of the time we just choose to ignore it. Yet for some reason when the 1st January arrives, we genuinely believe that we can make those much needed improvements to our lives. So we fill the shopping trolley with salad and Nicorette patches, join a gym and make the effort to call the parents every day all because we are getting into the spirit of the 'New Year, new

you' fallacy. We bother with it because we genuinely do want to lead better lives, but obviously there is still something that we're doing wrong.

A recent article from The Independent revealed the top 10 New Year's resolutions for 2013. Among them included: 'save more money' at the top of the list; 'lose weight/get fit' was at number 3, 'quit smoking' and 'give up alcohol' were at numbers 5 and 6, and the most unfeasible of them all- 'give up chocolate' at number 9. They are all pretty generic. However, it is highly likely that the reason that so many people fail to keep these resolutions is that they are simply too

ambitious! Consider, for example, 'give up alcohol', 'give up chocolate', and 'quit smoking'. The human body can only take so much 'giving up'; a better phrase to use could be 'cut down'. Who, in their right mind would completely give up alcohol and chocolate anyway? We need a treat now and again! As with 'save money' and 'get fit', that's all very well and good but you need to work out how you intend to do it. Give yourself small goals to reach for like doing a certain amount of exercise per week or resisting that coffee from Greggs every so often to save a bit of money. It's all the little things that will help.

By putting too much pressure on ourselves to achieve the (almost) impossible, we won't get anywhere. By the time you read this I highly doubt that many of your resolutions are still being kept, you've probably had a glass of wine, eaten cake for a friend's birthday and been to the gym...twice. It's still January though so you still have time to rectify the problems and instead aim for smaller and more feasible goals. With dissertation and coursework deadlines looming, volunteer placements on the go and perhaps job interviews for next year in full flow, we can't be too hard on ourselves. So consider what you want to achieve this year, not what the rest of the world is doing. But, most of all just enjoy the opportunities that 2013 happens to throw in your direction!



FAD-DIETS

HARRIET WEBSTER

It's not news that the marketing department of shops deliberately organise their products and layouts based on the time of year, playing on the weaknesses of the public looking for any excuse to indulge. Valentine's sees flowers, chocolates, jewellery; Easter encourages the consumption of incredible amounts of chocolate; and Christmas is no different. Presents, cards, chocolates, booze, you name it, the shops have it (and you want it).

Once the Christmas binge (which it has now inevitably become) is over, however, the shops become a little different in their targeting. Wherever you go at the moment I can guarantee you will see something or other linked to losing weight, getting fit and achieving that body image you have always dreamed of, advertising ways to shed those unwanted pounds we piled on over the festive period. Book stores fill the front desks with Dukan Diet, Weight Watchers and the like; every other advert on the TV is some-

how related to a weight loss society; magazines are filled with slogans such as "EAT THIS and change your body forever" (on Glamour's front cover this month.)

It's the same in the run up to summer too; "how to get your beach body in 5 days" and the like. But why? What is the need? These miracle diets which profess will change your life, won't. Eating grapefruit and eggs for four days, living on smoothies filled with vile spices and ingredients, or following a 3 day diet plan is only going to get your hopes and shopping bill high, and is anything but healthy.

What I don't understand is why we're so obsessed with it. If the shops didn't play on the idea of festive "needs" (what family of four really needs two tins of Quality Street?) the public wouldn't be so obsessed on shedding those excess pounds and working out to try and eradicate that extra tyre. It's not just the shops the media are just as bad (though this is an argument which is all too familiar.)

As a girl (the primary target of such weight loss obsession) I can see the effects this has and

I'm not excluded. Why do we want to follow an unhealthy plan of obscure amounts of bizarre food just to lose half a stone in a matter of days, and why do we think it will work and be maintained? Companies such as Weight Watchers and Slimming World aren't as successful as they are for no reason. They encourage healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle, and have plenty of successful stories as evidence.

'WHAT IF WE DIDN'T CARE AS MUCH?'

It's got me thinking, what if we didn't care as much? If we obsessed over it less, the effects would be much more welcomed and we'd feel a much better sense of achievement instead of constantly battling with ourselves by weighing-in daily to see if the 1kg of celery is having any effect. It's basic really: eat less, exercise more and accept that in reality we can't all look like Jessica Alba or Cheryl Cole. If we didn't have that extra mince pie, you wouldn't have a period of trying to squeeze into the jeans that were already a little bit tight.

Don't eat yourself up and you won't beat yourself up.

HOMOSEXUALITY AND THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

FEATURES EDITOR **ANNIE GOUK** ON RECENT PROBLEMS REGARDING GAY MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY

Recently, the Church of England announced that it would allow gay members of the clergy to become bishops, re-opening one of the fiercest debates about homosexuality within the Anglican Church. However, gay clergy members can only become bishops if they remain celibate. Many campaigners for gay rights and equality say that what is being portrayed as progress is in fact nothing more than a publicity stunt that has little bearing upon homosexual members of the clergy's status. The fact that these members of the clergy, but not heterosexual male members, must remain celibate shows the Church's deep-set prejudice against homosexual relationships.

Following the recent press regarding the failure to appoint female bishops, this most recent Church action has created much controversy and a hot talking point; with what many are regarding as a 'fine-print issue' at the centre, the reception of this new order has been mixed at best. It is the view of equal rights activists, as well as many bloggers and columnists online, that enforcing celibacy in some and not others shows a remaining deep-set prejudice towards those in same-sex relationships.

Gay bishops would be subject to questioning about the nature of their homosexuality and celibacy, which would undoubtedly prompt uncomfortable feelings and a sense of the invasion of privacy. This aspect of the new evangelical order prompts the question: Is it fair to treat people differently because of sexual orientation? Businesses and companies are subject to equality laws in terms of both gender and sexuality, but the church is exempt on religious grounds. It has been voiced by many, in both the clergy and through individual citizens, that the Christian community feel they should not have to compromise their belief system; but in such a tolerant and open world, it is seen by many - specifically those concerned with equality - as restrictive and stubborn rather than strong and stoic to reinforce this division of people.

Given that key aspects of the Christian faith are love and faithfulness, should the Church be more open to committed homosexual relationships? Civil partnerships are the limit as the Church will not allow homosexual marriage, so should it not be seen in the same light?

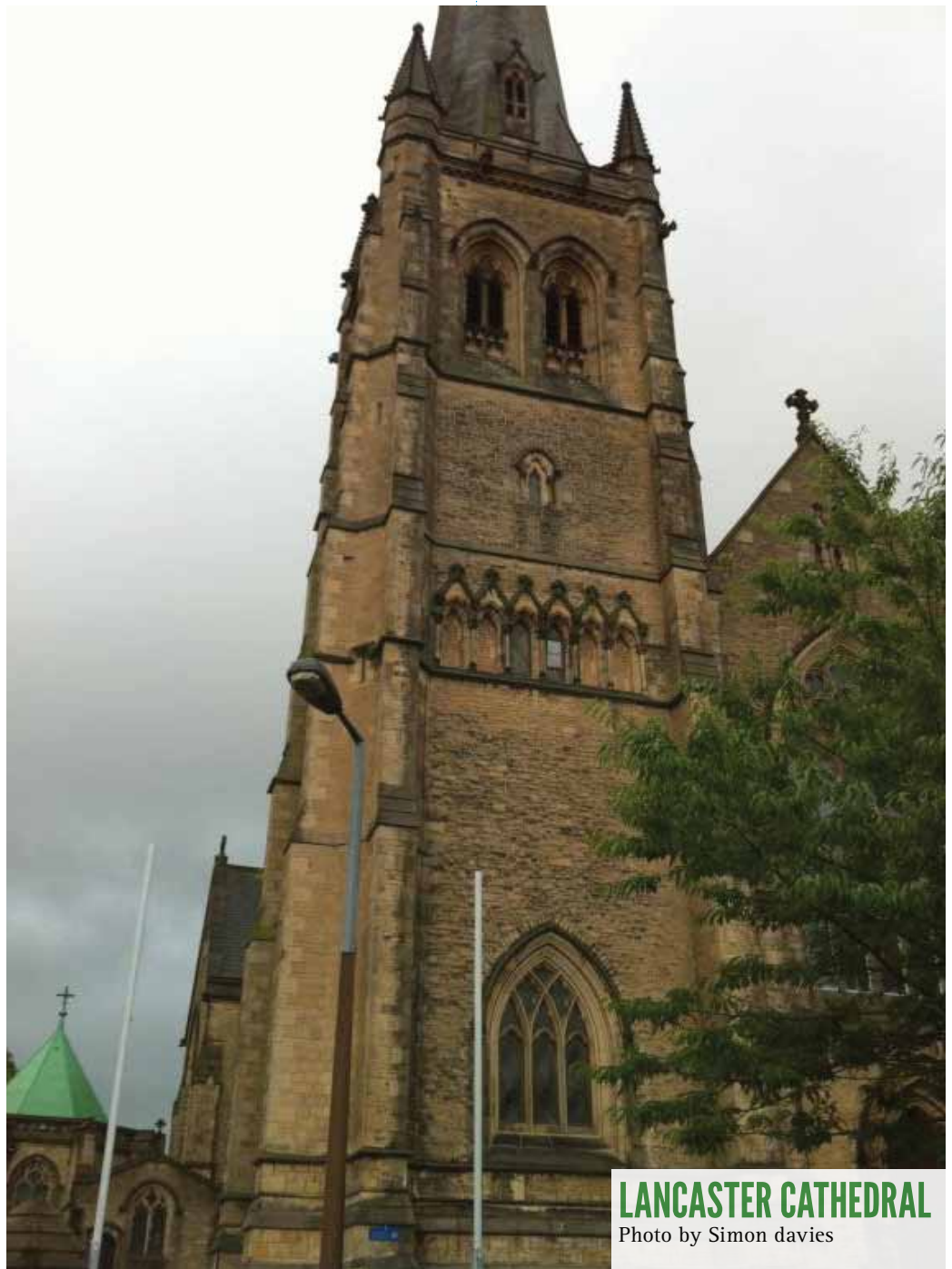
If Christian teachings, understood by the Church of England, specify that homosexuality is sinful, it begs clarification as to why gay men were allowed into the clergy in the first instance. Specifically sexual acts with a member of the same sex are construed as sinful, explaining the distinction; in the view of the Church, then, being in a civil partnership is not a hindrance to rising through the ranks to Bishop-hood. This new tolerance and, arguably, acceptance of civil partnerships as legitimate forms of commitment, surely this is a positive step for the Church of England. Embracing love and faithfulness, no matter the form, surely reinforces Christian values of compassion - however, not all response has been positive, even from within the faith.

Public opinion is mixed which shows dissatisfaction with the deci-

sion. Numbers of regular church-goers have dwindled over the past half century with the rise of science and technology, so can the Church afford to alienate faithful Christians who have been taught that homosexuality is a sin?

It has been a hot topic in the British media, furthered by their decision to reject the petition for women bishops. If the Church is unwilling to provide equality in gender then surely the equality of sexuality is still a long way from being gained fully. One strong opinion voiced in the public sector is that gender equality should have precedent over sexual, given that the struggle for women's rights has been strong for nearly a century.

Some Church-goers feel it is at least a step in the right direction as it shows a willingness to embrace a wider spectrum of modern lifestyles - that the Church is observing the changing world rather than being stuck in the dark ages, showing progress - an admirable sentiment on a world pressuring Christianity to uphold modern, rather than traditional, values. A lingering doubt, however, remains in the minds of many; does the celibacy restriction show a glaring hole in their conviction? The jury's still out, but the story will certainly remain unresolved and at the forefront of the social mind for some time to come.



LANCASTER CATHEDRAL

Photo by Simon davies

PHOTO OF THE WEEK





Photo by Zachary Fritze

FEATURES

THE END OF THE WORLD WAS NIGH



THE END OF THE WORLD MIGHT HAVE LOOKED LIKE THIS. MAYBE.

Photo by kam83500

LEONIE CHAUDRY

A couple of weeks ago I was at work consoling one of my colleagues. Nothing had happened – yet. The date was the 20th December 2012, and she had worked herself to tears, convinced that the world was going to end the following day. She wasn't the only one though, thousands of other people across the world were preparing for the worst. I felt like I was alone in a world full of people gone mad, but even I had a nagging feeling at the back of my mind – what if?

This supposed 'apocalypse' had its roots in the Mayans; according to some, the end of their long count calendar marks the end of days. Whilst there were no apocalyptic predictions made by the Mayans themselves regarding the end of their calendar the 'end of times' rumour spread around the world. No one could quite agree on how the end of the world was going to come about; extreme solar flares, tsunamis, disease – It looked like we were in for a tough few days.

Unsurprisingly the day passed without anything particularly noticeable happening. People died and people were born, and the Mayans had nothing to do with it. The 21st of December wasn't the first apocalypse that's been predicted in the past few hundred years

though. On 31st December 1999 people waited with bated breath to see if Nostradamus' end of the world prediction for the new millennium became a reality.

'IN RUSSIA PEOPLE HAD STARTED TO STOCKPILE CANDLES, SALT AND TORCHES'

There has always been a big interest in these supposed apocalypses but this was the first time a prophecy has gained so much worldwide attention, it had turned into a global phenomenon. With the rise of social media it's not surprising that apocalyptic rumours spread wide and fast. A rumour can start in America and be a talking point in England minutes later.

With social networking abuzz with the rumours it seemed like latching on to the idea of the apocalypse had become nothing more than a trend to follow. Helped along by social media, people started to buy into the idea of the upcoming apocalypse. Across the world people were getting ready for the worst; for example in Russia people had started to stockpile can-

dles, salt and torches. The sale of 'end of the world' bunkers in America went through the roof. In Irine in Turkey, hotels were booked out amid rumours that it was one of the only places to be left standing. End of the world parties sold out across the globe. The end of the world had become commercialised.

Why is it that we latch onto these rumours so willingly? People not only believe in them, but they buy into them as well. When we look at the portrayal of apocalypses in the media they rarely seem overly scary or dangerous, if anything they look exciting.

Could it be possible that the end of the world has become 'cool'? Apocalyptic discussions among friends are the norm nowadays; it's amazing how fast a boring lecture can go once you start discussing the best route to take from Lancaster to save both of your families. It seems like what people want from the apocalypse is not the end of the world as we know it, but the adventure of living through it and coming out of the other side unscathed.

Regardless of why or how we want the end of the world to come about, it is always going to be something that people buy into and without a doubt another apocalypse rumour will be ready to rear its head within a couple of months.

shop & central

A SELECTION OF GREAT OFFERS FOR TERM 2 WEEK 2 - 5



**£1
EACH**

160g Varieties as stocked

Available LUSU Shop & Central



**£1
EACH**

500ml

Available LUSU Shop & Central



**2 for
£1**

410g

Available LUSU Central



**3 for
£1**

37g

Available LUSU Shop & Central



**2 for
£4**

8x100g Varieties as stocked

Available LUSU Central



**3 for
£5**

568ml

Available LUSU Central

50p

Any hot drink



Week 2

Available LUSU Shop & Central



ALL OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.
ALL PRICES/OFFERS ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING.
SUBJECT TO ERRORS AND OTHER OMISSIONS,
BUT MAY VARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Outstanding Value Every Day



RESTAURANT REVIEW

QUITE SIMPLY DELICIOUS

CLAIRE KEIY REVIEWS LANCASTER'S FRENCH RESTAURANT
QUITE SIMPLY FRENCH



SIMPLY FRENCH
Photo by Jay Theis

You might not have heard of this little gem, Quite Simply French, but tucked by the river on the X1 bus route, it is a fabulous little find. QSF has character by the bucket-load; it has a small dining room, filled with wooden tables and low lighting, which combined with every table being full on both occasions I have visited, creates a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere. The staff are friendly and enthusiastic about the food they serve, and you can hear the chef shout "oui!" when service is required, giving you the peace of mind that there is some real French connection.

The food here is absolutely to die for. My boyfriend and I couldn't choose between the array of starters so decided to share the mushroom

and bacon risotto and goat's cheese tart. Both of these did not disappoint, and while the risotto was fantastic and the waitress told us it was "very popular" that evening, it was the goat's cheese tart that stole both our hearts and taste buds. The cheese was oozing from the tart and it wasn't sour as goats cheese can sometimes be, and accompanied by a tomato relish, I was certainly pained to hand over the tart after eating my half.

'LOVELY CUTS OF MEAT, SUCCULENT AND MELTED IN THE MOUTH, A TESTAMENT TO A CHEF WHO KNOWS HOW TO COOK A GOOD STEAK'

On a Wednesday evening QSF do a "steak or mussels for £11.99" evening, so both of us ordered one of the steaks on offer. I'm a little picky when it comes to ordering steak in restaurants as I'm a stickler for top quality meat, however QSF does not disappoint. Both the Rump and Onglet were lovely cuts of meat, succulent and melted in the mouth, and a testament to a chef who knows how to cook a good steak and choose a good quality meat butcher.

I accompanied mine with the peppercorn sauce which was rich and creamy and complemented the French-style cooked steak perfectly, and all steaks come with a lovely fresh leaf salad, and most importantly home-cooked chunky chips, which are worth a visit for in their own right.

This is the ideal place to impress your parents, especially if they're paying, but QSF have some excellent pocket-friendly deals for the student budget too, and their website is worth a visit as they do a deal most nights of the week.

'IDEAL PLACE TO IMPRESS YOUR PARENTS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE PLAYING'

They also do an early bird menu which sees many items (including the goat's cheese tart) at half price, an excellent way to treat yourself to a luxury meal for a fraction of the price. So if you have a special occasion coming up or just fancy seeing for yourself how amazing this place really is I'd definitely recommend booking a table without delay.

WET, SOAP, WASH, RINSE, DRY

SARAH WARSAW

Washing hands should be simple, but apparently people in the UK have an issue with this "simple" idea. Having read an article online on the BBC website I was mortified to find out that faecal bacteria (yes, faeces), is present on the hands of 26% of the UK. That's more than a quarter of the people in our country... pretty shocking, don't you agree? This article really got me thinking of all those communal things that we touch every single day: so many door handles, money and all those library computers that have been touched and typed on by hundreds of people before us, so there is definitely some of that dreaded bacteria around our campus.

By not washing your hands you can pass around the flu, MRSE and diarrhoea, infections and diseases that no-one wants to experience. By washing your hands more frequently, you can reduce the number of these bacteria and diseases and stop them spreading around.

Although the NHS has run campaigns trying to encourage people to wash their hands, many people lie about it. In a recent UK-wide study, 99% of people interviewed at motorway service stations toilets claimed they had washed their hands after going to the toilet. Electronic recording devices revealed only 32% of men and 64% of women actually did.

Unfortunately, germs are getting everywhere, and it's not just all over our hands, it's on things and in places that we don't really consider. Kitchen sinks, washing machines, chopping boards and even handbags. Yes, girls, handbags have up to 10,000 bacteria in each square inch! Thinking about the state of my kitchen in my second year, there was no doubt thousands of germs lurking on pots and pans in the kitchen - no wonder we all get freshers' flu!

So, what's to be done? The answer is pretty simple. Washing your hands regularly, before handling food, after using the toilet and after coughing and sneezing. Carrying anti-bacterial hand-gel to use in-between these times can reduce the number of germs on your hands as well. Ensure chopping boards and sinks are kept clean and try to avoid things getting mouldy in the kitchen!

Another tactic which has worked in parts of the UK is the idea of shaming people into washing their hands, especially after the toilet. A study conducted showed that more people washed their hands when signs were put up asking: "Is the person next to you washing their hands?" This shows the power of embarrassment and social pressure, especially in the toilet. One sign spotted in some US toilets said 'no poo poo fingers' - a phrase which I (and I hope you do too) think we should all remember!

THE CRUELTY OF BEAUTY

LIFESTYLE EDITOR **LYDIA WARRENDER** ANIMAL TESTING WITHIN THE COSMETICS INDUSTRY

You've heard of animal testing. You know that it's used in the cosmetics industry. You know what it has taken to get that pot of foundation into your make-up bag. Right? Ninety-day force-feeding experiments on mice. Reproductive toxicity tests which dose pregnant rabbits to see what malformations will be caused to the babies who are born. Forcing high doses of cosmetics into small animals to see if they develop cancer.

Suddenly, that pot of foundation isn't looking so appealing.

Why, in a day and age where humane alternatives are not only viable, but often cheaper and quicker, are we still testing on animals locked in tiny cages, all for a face mask? This is the story so far.

In 1976, the 'Cosmetics Directive' came into play. This defined cosmetics as a product which comes into contact with external parts of the human body to "clean, perfume, protect, keep in good condition, change appearance or correct body odours", and was brought in to help regulate the standards of products. It also led to increased awareness of animal testing for vanity products – products that aren't a necessity but a luxury. Throughout the 80s and 90s, there was a push for reform, and in 1993 the govern-

ment listened.

They made a ban on testing on any cosmetic ingredient or product. Aware that this was a huge overhaul for many big companies, the new ban gave cosmetics groups five years to adapt. However, these big businesses campaigned for a delay, and succeeded. The ban was pushed back until 2000. Then, when that year came, it was delayed again, until 2002. And then – you guessed it – the date was pushed back yet again.

In 2009, the first half of the legislation finally came to pass. "Acute" tests such as deliberately lethal injections were made illegal, but ingredients and products could still be tested on live creatures. That half of the law was pushed back until 2013.

Twenty years since the ban was created, we are facing yet another delay. If they are successful, the anti-ban cosmetics companies will have until 2023 to change. That's another ten years of unnecessary suffering. With organisations such as the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT), PETA and Ceetox currently creating and improving a vast array of cruelty-free alternatives for the cosmetics industry, the UK must finally decide whether it can condone the current methods, or whether it will join countries such as the recently reformed Israel in creating

beauty without cruelty.

So where do you come in? You have buying power. You can convert your whole bathroom cupboard to ethically sound scrubs and body butters. Supporting these companies not only gives you peace of mind, but often provides funds for campaigns and further research into humane testing alternatives.

Exercise your power to say no. Animals have waited too long – are you going to make them wait another ten years for their freedom?

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

On these issues and where you can buy products which are not tested on animals:

<http://nottested.co.uk>

<http://www.nocruelcosmetics.org/>

Follow the fight so far: <http://www.fightin-animaltesting.com/>

For this issue and others like it: <http://www.hsi.org/>

NEW YEAR, SAME OLD YOU

LEONIE CHAUDRY

'New year, new me'. It's a sentiment we hear much too often after the ecstasy of Christmas has dissipated and the January blues start to creep their way in. Losing weight, saving money, improving your love life – these are all resolutions we hear time and time again from our friends and family. But how many of them actually stick to their promises? This time last year I resolved to exercise regularly and to be more pro-active in looking for a bearded man who enjoyed playing with my hair while I watched 'Game of Thrones'.

Twelve months on and I've still never actually got round to using those new running trainers, and watching 'Lord of the Rings' on my own in bed with a massive tube of pringles is still a weekly occurrence. I'll admit that there are a select few who decide to make a change and are highly motivated to stick to it, but most resolutions go unfulfilled, forgotten until it's time for the new year to come around again.

The main reason these resolutions appear to fail seems to be because of the timing. Is the 1st of January really the best time to be trying to have an overhaul on your lifestyle choices? I don't know about you, but New Year's Day is a painful morning for me. The hangover aside, trying to piece together your often embarrassing New Year's Eve night is enough to reduce anyone to craving a big fry-up and a fag.

Logically it seems like the best time

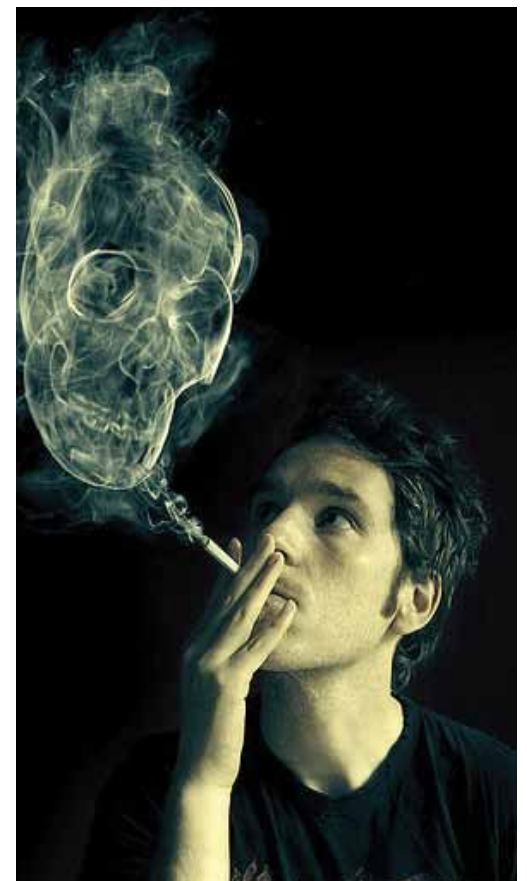
to kick-start a change in your life, because the new year signifies to many a fresh slate, wiped from the year before – but honestly, big promises about diets and a healthy lifestyle just don't stand up to a killer hangover.

When it comes to making a significant lifestyle change you should be ready to commit one hundred percent whenever or wherever. It seems that new year's resolutions have become more of a fashionable trend to partake in, with people grasping at straws to find a resolution that seems like a morally sound aim for the year.

If I played a resolution drinking game with my Facebook newsfeed – a shot for every new year's buzzword (diet, weight, exercise, relationship, alcohol ... you get the idea) I wouldn't even make it out to the Sugarhouse.

People tend to go for the clichés, the resolutions that are suggested in articles with step-by-step guides on how to stick to them. If you have no desire to aim for these particular goals midway through the year then you probably aren't that motivated to follow through with it when it comes to January, even if you convince yourself otherwise.

All in all resolutions generally tend to be a pointless endeavour, partaken in with a lack of real enthusiasm or motivation. So this year why not resolve to make no new year resolutions – stop trying to change one aspect of yourself and if you really want to 'improve' yourself, try and be the best you can be, regardless of the time of the year.



POW-POP ART PUNCH

SOPHIE GRACE BARRETT

Vogue's December Tim Walker shoot, glazed with kaleidoscopic infusions of colour, set the bar for 2013's pop culture revival. The dreamy haze of unrealistic saturated colour literally popped from the page in a way that romanticised popular culture.

From 1952-5, the movement investigated mass and consumer culture in order to re-evaluate modernism. Art, technology, product design and popular culture became mutually important in the coming of the Second Machine Age: a contemporary era of high technology that directly encouraged the rise of mass-market advertising and consumerism. The boom in manufacturing inevitably increased distribution; fashion accelerated the process of replacement so that the 'I want, I want' attitude was maintained. People bought disposable goods, fashion was short lasting, and there was focus on the constant spending of money on consumer goods.

Culture was fixated with, and arguably dependent upon immediacy – aligned with consumerism and immediate satisfaction. Pop art reflected this idea of utility and functionality. Warhol's quickly re-produced images harkened back to factory machinery, as he famously stated: 'The reason I'm painting this way is because I want to be a machine.' His works were not unique, or ranging, but mass-produced and iconic, which represented the notion that everybody bought the same goods, wore the same fashion and celebrated the same music. Warhol's soup can depicts the graphic codes of an image as would appear on an advertisement, thus epitomising consumer culture.

Warhol's iconic imagery translated to literally disposable fashion in his "super dress" – a

piece of fashion made entirely from paper. The dresses created were throwaways, satirizing the accelerative and short-lived utility of consumer goods, constantly replaced by something better.

Richard Hamilton's pop art collages pasted together the gimmicky, glamorous, sexy and provocative. Pointing a 'pop' penis and women's breasts at one another across a domestic technologically saturated space within 'Just what is it that makes today's homes so different, so appealing?' (Collage on paper, 1956) alluded to the pleasure associated with consumerism. Fashion also became provocative, not because it was revealing, but because the bright neons and fluorescents associated with success and wealth were loud, visually challenging and 'out-there.'

'KALEIDOSCOPIC INFUSIONS'

Why the revival of this consumerist celebration, particularly in a climate of economic downturn? Invading fashion and art, which had previously been elite, pop art was dangerous, inescapable and entirely new. Karl Lagerfeld has described it as 'the only art and fashion movement that is not too intellectual.' Art and fashion did not need a justification: for once, their only purpose was to celebrate consumerism. Perhaps this was the beginning of non-elite artwork, leading eventually to the likes of Damian Hurst and Tracy Emin (lets save opinions on this pair for another article). Modernization within the art world is arguably something to be celebrated – there is a freedom of expression and liberalism that increases daily. The roaring return to pop art fashion may simply be a celebration of the movement's success in pushing artistic liberalism forward and flushing away the

artistic rulebook. Either that, or pop art's return is fashionable due to its vintage-quality, in the same way that people are wearing embellished collars in order to harken back to romanticism and Gothicism.

We cannot necessarily deem pop art romantic, but its unfailing popularity and pertinence may simply be because it is cool, colourful, fun and sexy. It makes people think of pastel ice-cream shades, bright pink and red lipstick, back-combed hair, Roy Lichtenstein's comic-book prints splashed like tabloids over clothes, the Sex Pistols, Twiggy, Marilyn, Coca-Cola and 60s mod. The era seems, to our generation, to be crazy, fun, kaleidoscopic and extremely desirable. Perhaps Britain is in love with the 50s and 60s – pop art's culmination.

Every so often, fashion seems to return to this era: to the affordability, simplicity and brightness of pop. Bright colours are paired with neutral tin-foil silvers – such as spacey jackets and bags. Colour is used as a means of self-expression and celebration, so decide what shades suit you. Within Tim Walker's 'Like Dreams Do' photo-shoot, outfits have a random quality that does not look planned, but effortless and quirky.

Topshop have created a selection of slogan prints shouting out the words that splashed over Hamilton's collages and Lichtenstein's comic strips. For acidic neons and fluorescents, see River Island's coloured jeans, now reduced to only £15. If you do not feel brave enough to dress head to toe in colour, then either tone it down with pop art's more conservative icy-pastel shades, or combine colour with leather. This makes the two trends more wearable – toning down leather's provocative quality with warmth of colour. Dare to wear, and become a popular culture icon.

CLOTHES TIE-DYE FOR

DAMIAN GRAY

It's a trend that has seeped into all aspects of men's fashion over the past few months and is getting even bigger as we head into the New Year. Last summer the men ahead of the game brought back the tie-dye tee and it quickly caught on. Topman are now full to the brim with 'tie-dye' printed tees (around £16-18). I have purchased one myself but be warned, they are very popular. This meaning the chances of seeing it on someone else's back during a night out is high. However if you like a bargain and can get over the fact that every other Tom, Dick and Harry own one (much like Topman's bird-print shirt) then the high street is where you need to go. Plus, wearing a tee better than the other guy is quite the ego boost.

If you're looking to be a little more individual with this trend then there are many independent

companies out there. Like with any purchase, to get the best deal you really have to shop around especially if you're trying to stay away from the high street. Some of the big dogs in the online game, such as Dope Chef can be pricey (£35) but you are guaranteed a quality product.

"LAST SUMMER THE MEN AHEAD OF THE GAME BROUGHT BACK THE TIE-DYE TEE AND IT QUICKLY CAUGHT ON."

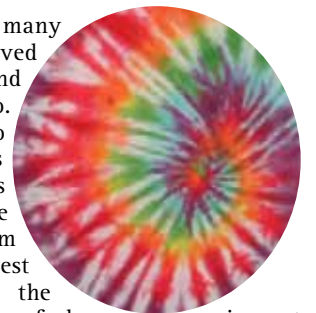
Another great way of staying on trend, with no chance of anyone wearing the same, is to DIY tie-dye. It's refreshing to see a trend that everyone can have a go at. And many are doing so! After watching a few tutorials on YouTube, a couple of purchases from Wilkinson's (fabric

dye, rubber bands) and a plain white tee, creating your own t-shirt without breaking the bank really is easy.

There are so many ways to get involved with this look, and it's evolving too. As we head into the colder months tie-dye sweatshirts are becoming quite the must-have item with Ragged Priest (£50-55) leading the way. And, for those feel-

more adventurous, there are tie-dye jeans and shorts from ASOS (£20-40) available in abundance.

It's fair to say that tie-dye is showing no signs of fading away.



SALE LOVE Vs SALE HATE

SARAH WARSAW

I think love is a strong word when it comes to sales. I like the sales. There are certain shops that are great for a bargain, but some tend to bring out all sorts of rubbish. However, despite this problem it is actually possible to find some really great items in the sales without feeling 'sale pain'. I know it's busy, messy and hot, but follow these tips and you might find a bargain without the pain.

THERE ARE CERTAIN SHOPS THAT ARE GREAT FOR A BARGAIN, BUT SOME TEND TO BRING OUT ALL SORTS OF RUBBISH.

1) Pick the right shops. Sometimes sales are the perfect way to get an item that you usually wouldn't want to pay a fortune for, at a much better price. More expensive shops such as Whistles and FCUK often sell clothing that is timeless and therefore justified as an investment. Sales are the perfect opportunity to spend in normally expensive shops.

2) Don't forget a standard of quality; buying clothing cheap in the sale because a button has fallen off is not ideal. Not only will the other buttons probably follow suit and drop off at a later date, the item will end up looking tatty and no doubt you'll regret the purchase.

3) Think outside the box. When the sales are coming to an end, often there will be further reductions for example Accessorize start with offering 50% off- this always gets down to 70% after a week or two. Visit shops you wouldn't usually frequent and consider their target market. M&S is aimed predominantly at the middle-aged but something that hasn't sold in the sale could mean that it simply doesn't match up to a middle aged taste and could be something we might wear.

I KNOW IT'S BUSY, MESSY AND HOT, BUT FOLLOW THESE TIPS AND YOU MIGHT FIND A BARGAIN WITHOUT THE PAIN.

4) Be strategic and buy items that you know would have wanted to buy full price. It's great to find a bargain, but it's only a bargain if you plan to actually wear it!

5) Finally, make the most of the non-clothes stores! Sale talk is very focussed around clothes and fashion shopping; don't forget that you can get bargains elsewhere too!



KELLY WALDEN

As someone who shops online daily and can't resist a day out shopping, you might find it hard to believe that in January I avoid the shops like the plague. One word... SALES. I can't think of anything worse than rugby scrumming my way through the disorganised, chaotic rails of colourful items, with people shoving and barging into you just to see if there's anything decent left in a size 10.

SALES. I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING WORSE THAN RUGBY SCRUMMING MY WAY THROUGH THE DISORGANISED, CHAOTIC RAILS OF COLOURFUL ITEMS

Whilst it is true that you may find a "bargain" in the sale, if you were being honest with yourself it was an item you would never have bought at full price and only really bought it because it was so cheap. What's more, most of the so called sale items are shipped in from a dingy warehouse and have never seen the light of a shop floor in the first place. If it's not that, clothes are often so broken and stained that if you bought the item it'd need a major overhaul before you could even contemplate wearing it.

MOST OF THE SO CALLED SALE ITEMS ARE SHIPPED IN FROM A DINGY WAREHOUSE AND HAVE NEVER SEEN THE LIGHT OF A SHOP FLOOR IN THE FIRST PLACE.

My previous escapades into the depths of the sale rails have left me cold and upset: that dress I bought for £70 and as yet, have only worn once, is now £10? Are my eyes deceiving me? No sadly, they are not. After this realisation I can't help but question- does everyone think it's hideous? Or am I a unique fashion trailblazer who can wear the item like no other? For me, shopping is all about the experience; spotting that must have item, planning in your head what it'll go with, and the rush you get when you decide to buy.

Seeing the items in a clear, orderly display around the store is the essence of this process. Rummaging is just not for me, and that said, neither are sales, or TK Maxx.

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FASHION IN FICTION

LAURA DEMPSTER

FASHION EDITOR

THE GREAT GATSBY

"I wish I'd done everything on earth with you." Instant goosebumps. This hotly anticipated film showcases the epitome of 1920s decadence. Flapper dresses, embellishment and headbands galore are incorporated in the costumes by Catherine Martin, teasing us in the trailer released last May. Daisy (Carey Mulligan) literally drips with jewels forming a textural contrast to the slinky dresses and swathes of fur draped over her porcelain shoulders.

The trailer emphasises the post-war freedom, flirtation and fun of the 1920s. Groups of young people cavort in convertible cars, luxury metallic fabric and fringing flick against their bodies to emphasise movement- an important part of the dancing partying culture of the time.

Later the trailer cuts to a raucous party scene- a sea of daringly rebellious short hair, drop waists and backless dresses with a heavy sprinkling of sparkling jewellery and embellishment. This intricate beading and those drop waist dresses were scattered throughout last year's spring runway collections. Gucci in particular showed geometric designs and art-deco buttons, instantly drawing comparisons to the 20s glamour in *The Great Gatsby*.

During the 1970s Ralph Lauren designed the costumes for an earlier film version of 'The Great Gatsby,' which quick fired his career to create the much lusted after brand. He made the decision to recreate the 20s again last summer, taking inspiration from the notorious flapper dresses of this era. However he also gave the androgyny of this time a twist, sending tailored pin stripe suits down the catwalk.

The dashing Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio) is finely clad in the sharpest of suits throughout, donning bow ties and pocket squares, the embodiment of classic male style. Of course, the addition of braces was essential to maintain part of the well-known fashion of the 20s. Cream pin stripe suits and fedora hats were some slightly more unusual costume choices, but mirrored the changes in female fashion of the time, creating a bold statement synonymous with the daring storyline of the film.

If this small taster is any indication of the extravagance to come, a treat is in store for all viewers of *The Great Gatsby*, out May 10th 2013.



SOPHIE GRACE BARRATT

DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Great Expectations' wallowing Miss Havisham feasts upon melodramatic self-absorption. She seeks to revenge upon mankind having been jilted at the altar. Her dining room is a shrine to the wedding that was to be: her self-pity has culminated into madness, as she never touches the room since that fateful day. It is now home to rats, spiders, roaches, cobwebs, and the infamous mould-ridden wedding cake.

She is similar to Tennyson's wandering and depressive Marianna, who retreats into herself and bathes in misery in a way that is frighteningly self-indulgent and pleasurable. Miss Havisham, with only one shoe upon her foot, wanders in her wedding dress, and never appears to see sunlight, wash, or eat. Her wax-work-esque, ghostly and withered appearance is surreal.

In all, her character is foreboding, manipulative and entirely damaged due to self-interest. Her costume, however, within the recent 2012 film adaptation, starring Helena Bonham-Carter, is impressive.

Gothicism is personified through the sweeping ancient chiffon, which wraps around her body in swathes, and appears to have more life than the woman herself. Her costume confines and consumes her, it is an emblem of tragedy, and of refusal to see past tragedy - by never taking the dress off, she has become the dress. It dominates her, as an expression of her stubbornness to never allow herself to recover, forgive or experience normality.

Dressed as a bride, but also dressed in her funeral clothes, as she chillingly speaks of her wish to die and be lain upon her dining table, as though she is a literal piece of meat to be consumed, having been forever ruined by mankind. The dress, which she wears for eternity, is a funereal garment that ought to have been a celebratory garment - an omen for misfortune and immortal suffering. She burns to death and yet she is strangely immortalized - I believe that she is personified through the haunted house, whose state of cryptic preservation expresses her self-indulgence in the depressive and piteous.

The dress physically catches fire - the very garment that she obsesses over kills Miss Havisham. Perhaps this is a warning against such insane preservation and the inability to forgive.



make it happen  re;freshers'

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COMMENT

scan.lusu.co.uk/commentComment Editor: Alex Littleboy
Meet Monday 6pm in Pendle Barscan.comment@lusu.co.uk

The lack of working class boys in higher education

Sam Mace

The decline of white working class boys in higher education is not surprising, however this particular trend of a lack of white working class boys in education is nothing new. In 2008 only 15% of the white working class boys who took GCSE's managed to attain five good passes including English and maths which is a standard requirement for attaining a college place. While pass rates have gone up marginally this year 25% of white working class boys got five good GCSE grades, they are still the second worst performing group in the secondary education system. Indeed the problems of white working class boys being so under-represented at university has led David Willets to make various pronouncements such as "There is no reason why they cannot be targeted in the same way for other disadvantaged groups by the office of fair access".

The problems facing this group are not only down to the tuition fee rise which many lament, indeed the rhetoric about the tuition fees has been far more damaging than the initial policy with a drop of 22,000 applications from boys has shown that this policy and in my view mainly the talk about it has led many down the path of refusing higher education. After all how many times have we heard the line "I can't afford to pay £27,000 for my education" this type of misunderstanding is extremely damaging to people who can scarcely imagine that kind of money. Student unions and the Labour party have been extremely irresponsible in the way they have campaigned on the tuition fees and now an effect is being seen.

In an article for the telegraph Ed West believed that it was people's lifestyles which had something to do with the gross under-



performance. "The poorest fifth in Britain have noticeably different lifestyles to the rest, whether it's their propensity to live in two-parent families, reading levels or even things like regular bedtimes. Trying to narrow the gap in some of these lifestyle differences would probably make far more difference to educational outcomes, but politically it would be disastrous, and in practise how much can the government do, apart from employing people to go around reading stories to children? (Maybe I shouldn't even suggest that.)" Indeed I believe Mr West has a point especially as most of the problems are within the secondary school area attainment. However for the government to try and change people's lifestyles in this manner it would have to change its slash and burn policy on benefits which many working class families rely on. Cutting away housing benefit which Ian Duncan Smith was gleeful to do, add the benefit rise cap at below inflation and refusing

to enshrine a living wage and you have a toxic mix making working class families far poorer and harder up to support their children. While Willets talks a good talk he must acknowledge that the government he is in is making it harder for working class families to live and thus white working class boys to go forward in education.

'We have to change the status quo'

Dr Piatt director of the Russell Group of universities doesn't believe the answers lie with the universities but with schools and college advisors, she stated in a recent article "The root causes of the under-representation of students from disadvantaged backgrounds are under-achievement at school and poor advice on the best choices of A-level subjects and university degree course." I myself didn't receive any advice for my A level subjects, after school it was a simple pat on the back well done and off

you go, no wonder kids are struggling especially with the difference in standard between GCSE and A level work more support needs to be put in place. Along with these problems the cut in EMA has been another body blow to working class students which will harm their chances of going to college instead of finding quick employment.

While we can search around for answers all we know is that we have to change the status quo, the current divide between rich and poor is growing and our social mobility is only ahead of Americas in the western world. The solution is most likely a combination of reinstating EMA, further investment in poorer areas, implementing a living wage and giving kids more stimulating lessons with better advice or just some advice of what to do at college. Without drastic changes the lack of white working class boys in higher education will continue and even escalate which is something we cannot afford to allow to happen.

Modern day consumerism reflects badly on our society

Alex Chau

Consumerism has been taken to ridiculous levels in our everyday lives

I was, for the first time in my life, buying toilet paper in bulk yesterday. This should be a simple 'shop fast and go home' procedure; instead, I was met with a predicament equal in complexity to my winter exam. Upon arriving at the loo roll aisle, I counted five brands of toilet paper. Then within each brand there were a further three sub-categories. There I was, faced with a plethora of textures, colours and flavours. How does one decide between 'velvet touch' and 'aloe vera essence'? It was only then that I realised that consumerism has been taken to entirely ridiculous levels.

Behold the Big Mac. Some say it is the ultimate balance: a reasonably priced and well-sized delicious pick up meal. How did we survive without it all these years? What did we smother our artificial meat in before they created the world famous Big Mac sauce? Human beings were healthy once. In fact, we were perfectly satisfied with, remember these, 'hamburgers'. The unhealthiest aspect of Western society lies in the assortment of needless, unnecessary, money-grabbing goods. With cancer on the rise, obesity at its highest high, is it not safe to say that things are getting out of hand?

We love to tell ourselves that we're immune to advertising. But anyone, myself included, who owns a Dyson, a 3D tv or a pair of speakers that have an outage of over 70 watts is a victim of swindle. In fact, before any of these items were made known to people, they were not at all necessary in their life. We were quite happy with Henry Hoovers before Dysons were made available. The problem that I have with the way in which consumerism has mutated is not the way people now use products as a means of judging socioeconomic status. The most serious implication of our consumerist obsession is that us frail humans are suffering indefinitely as a result.

We are now well accustomed to having brands shoved down our gullets at every bus stop. What is undeniably overlooked by us all however are the effects these products have. The revelation 40 years ago that cigarettes can cause perhaps one of the most deadly and



Photo by Vermin Inc.

widespread illnesses, lung cancer, should have been a wake-up call. Yet we continue to poison our diets and lives with imaginary consumables. In developing countries carcinogenic preserved foods are believed to be a major cause of liver, stomach and oesophagus cancers. In Western society we struggle more with cancers of the colon, rectum, breast and prostate, usually caused by obesity, lack of exercise and diet. Heart disease also remains the biggest cause of death worldwide despite it being easily avoided via a healthy diet.

'We are now well accustomed to having brands shoved down our gullets at every bus stop. What is undeniably overlooked by us all however are the effects these products have'

Imaginary consumables. It's a stupid phrase I made up once to describe the millions of products that have been invented for no reason other than to make cash. Why do Skittles exist? Seriously. Before they were invented we would never have Skittle cravings. It is downright difficult to resist new foods or products that are put before us. Especially when we know they're fun, sexy or have sugar in them. When a new Coke appears,

it has to be tried. A new 'Call of Duty'? Sign us up. We in the UK live in a world where it is easier to live unhealthily than vice versa because the guys in charge of our diets discovered what we liked to eat and fed us more of it. The race to find a new food fad, drug or any other addictive product is the most competitive struggle. It is the reason we now have 'Fanta: fruit twist', or 'Honey Jack Daniels'.

I myself am no saint. I've ingested more 'Glenn's vodka' than I have water at my time at University but I'm willing to change everything. I'm willing to throw out the totally useless remote-control T-rex gathering dust in my London bedroom and even to stop wasting so much time on FIFA 13. It's crazy how much of ourselves we give to these imaginary consumables. If our beloved Skittles were to reconstruct their ingredients to be all natural, it would probably taste terrible. Instead, it's imperative for them to keep finding weird new breeds of even healthier Skittle to keep us hooked on the brand. The only way this whole 'stop relying on imaginary consumables' thing works is if everyone ceases eating processed, carcinogenic rubbish in general. It would require not just for people to give up their daily bag of Skittles but to boycott sweets for good. It would require for people to stop buying stupid needless things and start living life free from the objects that are starting to own us. The first step though is simple: just go eat a sandwich next time you feel like a Big Mac.

Why we still need Feminism

'Lad' culture is no defence for the way society portrays women

Leonie Chaudhry

Feminism. Once a glittering movement uniting hundreds upon thousands of people under a common cause of equality and liberation - now a forgotten, seemingly irrelevant ideology of times gone by. Some say that all the major battles have been won, we've got the vote, we're entitled to equal pay and maternity leave and we achieved sexual liberation and the freedom to do what we want with our bodies. We're all equal now, right? Wrong. The battles may have been won but the war for equality is still in its infancy, and we have a long way to go yet.

There are numerous feminist theories and ideals, exceedingly different movements in all but name, but for simplicity the movement has been split into three different 'waves'. What first started as a rapidly rising tide was soon followed by a tsunami of epic pro-

portions, a tsunami that aimed to destroy the landscape of misogyny and drown out the voices of the patriarchy under a foamy cataclysm of liberal ideologies. Since the eighties though, it seems that the waters have calmed and the battle for equal rights is now nothing more than a rolling tide, occasionally coming close enough to lap at your toes. This is mostly down to the fact that feminism is seen as irrelevant now, reserved for man hating, bra burning lesbians who refuse to invest in a razor.

In the past few years the rise of so called 'lad' culture has led to misogynistic undertones in every day student life. While I would love to say that the majority of 'uniLADs' I've met at Lancaster only spout harmless banter it's a statement that's far from the truth - rape jokes appear to have become the norm and objecting to any statement which devalues women is usually met with a 'get back to the kitchen' joke. The truth is that this culture is a reflection of the way modern culture portrays women,

as little more than an object. The increased sexualisation of women for the apparent benefits of 'female liberation' has only helped in separating the person from the object. A quick flick through ladbible.com, 'the biggest lad community in the world', and your eyes are assaulted with pictures of scantily clad girls, littered with comments of what the users would 'do to them'. These users do not see a girl, but an object with no real value apart from sex, to be ridiculed for her imperfect body and mocked for being a slag. How can we ever be expected to be taken seriously when this is how we're perceived?

If you still need convincing here's some statistics for you: one in four women are reported to have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime; 5% of the female population has experienced rape; on average, two women a week are killed as a result of domestic violence; overall, women in Britain are paid an average of 18% less than men; women hold less than a third of Britain's most influential jobs;

and only 42% of women in Britain identify themselves as a feminist. So, what exactly is it about feminism that you don't agree with? Is it equality in general you object to? Or are you just scared of the negative stereotypes associated with the f-word?

It's these stereotypes - which are even more ingrained in our public consciousness through negative portrayals in the media - that make being a feminist a shameful and embarrassing thing to do. Upon uttering the dreaded taboo 'I am a feminist', you can expect a variety of reactions, most of them bad. At best you will probably be met with a bemused expression and an 'oh... why?', at worst outright derision. It is seen as a spectacularly unsexy identity to take on, but it is now more than ever that the movement needs to be re-kindled and embraced by men and women alike. It's only then that we can overcome this equality myth which we've been brought up with and get down to the nitty gritty of making equality a reality.

re;freshers'

1. feel good, 2. take part, 3. make it happen

what's on

23rd January - 9.30am

Primary Schools Volunteering Day
(LUSU Involve)

23rd January - 4pm

Teach First Workshop,
Charles Carter A19

23rd January - 6pm

Overseas Programme Intro Talk,
Faraday LT

23rd January

Big Night Out in Colour

24th January - 6pm

Volunteering Intro Talk, Frankland LT

24th January - 6.30pm

LUSU Language Exchange Café,
Fylde Common Room

28th January - 6pm

Connect! Fylde Common Room

11th - 15th February

National Student money week

11th, 12th, 14th February

Vagina Monologues,
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11PM INFOLAB | 11.30PM UNDERPASS

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RONNIE ROWLANDS

Postscript

Is important decision making not part of the 'Student Experience'?

Lancaster is a university that prides itself on the quality of its 'Student Experience', which is the brand name for drinking and being employable. We have a Pro-Vice Chancellor to oversee it, we boast about our high standing in the National Student Survey, dish out Lancaster awards to the students with the best CV's, and LUSU holds an annual awards ceremony open to anybody who serves them well.

And yet, Lancaster seems to get ever so sniffy over students having too much of a say in its governance outside surveys that are repeatedly emailed to us with tenacious insistence upon their completion. Student outcry was ignored during the restructuring of the college bars, and the consultation was limited to asking a small group of LUSU officers whether or not they felt that "something had to change." There was stubbornness aplenty about doing anything whatsoever about the counseling service, a number of students have found themselves disallowed from booking room space for political purposes that don't follow through all the correct channels, and so on and so forth. Put simply, the University doesn't like us to take TOO many liberties.

Recently, student presence on the Senate has begun to face reduction in light of proposed changes to its makeup. Senate currently hosts 97 members - 11 of these members are students, and 18 are senior members of the colleges.

The university is looking to reduce the size of senate from 97 to 59, and what do you know, student and college representation

are suffering the worst from it. Ideally, they would like six students and nine college representatives, the latter being cut directly in half. Senior Management, I am pleased to report, comes out of the shrinkage unscathed. Funny, that.

There is no doubt that the university will try and argue that the proportion of our presence is largely the same, but this suggests that our current 10% proportion is of any use whatsoever. On the contrary, 10 out of 97 or 6 out of 59 is effectively obsolescence in numerical form - not nearly enough for student votes to have any kind of meaningful sway. You would think, given that students are the salt of this university, and as colleges are great providers to our experience, that they would be granted some reciprocation?

Well, the initial increase of the senate membership a few years ago, which came in the form of too many faculty deans, was made with the intention of diluting the traditionally noisy influence of the colleges and the students. Why let debate get in the way of a quick decision?

While the restructuring of senate is currently a pipe dream, there are much more interesting things going on around University Council.

Last Thursday's meeting of the senate saw an amendment to the university charter, which now dictates that the City Council representative to University Council (getting confused yet?) may not also be a student or a member of staff. This was proposed in retaliation to Councillor Paul Aitchison's appointment to University Council last year, a gross anomaly that is totally worth altering the university charter for. I'm being sarcastic. In her pro-

posal, the University Secretary said that the prevention of student councillors being appointed is a way of ensuring that we have a 'top class' University Council. Well thanks very much for that.

Just to be absolutely clear - before last week, City Council had the right to appoint its representative to University Council without interference.

There was much debate on the matter, with strong opposition from all of the student representatives, Bowland Principal Joe Thornberry and Head of Sociology Bronislaw Szerszynski. Questions as to why we shouldn't embrace the benefits of a candidate with a working knowledge of the university were met with cloth eared hand wringing from senior management over the 'confusion' that could arise from having a student representing the city.

The proposal also allows the university's nominations committee to reject City Council's appointment.

According to senior management, this is a precautionary measure to prevent any reputational damage that could arise from City Council selecting a candidate who, for example, is a member of the BNP; a viable stance that shows much good faith in the sanity of our local government. I'm being sarcastic again.

No, this came about solely in response to a student councillor being appointed, and to take away this opportunity cannot do anything for this 'Student Experience' thing that Lancaster is apparently so good at providing.

Wetherfyldes

Fylde Bar, henceforth referred to as 'Wetherfyldes', now serves more bar fare, such as burger and pizzas, and opens later.

To their credit, said burgers and pizzas are well prepared, and hold regular custom at the bar in good stead. Unless you're a vegetarian, in which case, you have a choice of toast, a vegetarian chilli burrito

or a spicy bean burger. All soup, salad and nacho offerings have been removed from the menu on the basis that they weren't selling well enough, so it doesn't say much for the standards of the new cooking setup when you consider just how renowned Wetherfyldes was for its healthy options.

'Unless you're a vegetarian, in which case, you have a choice of toast, a vegetarian chilli burrito or a spicy bean burger.'

Were the vegetarian options reduced for not selling?

Diggles

It would appear that the small, Lancashire based chain Diggles has found itself unable to cope with the competition from Greggs, and the rent hikes imposed upon non-University run food outlets.

The presence of Greggs, along with the branch of Subway soon to be opened right by Bowland Bar (which has recently invested a lot of money into a new, successful food operation. Seriously, is someone high in University House?) can only make bad news for smaller, family run businesses on campus a foregone conclusion. One fears for what will become of County Diner, Wibbly Wobbly Burger Bar, and even the College bars, if the university continues in its callous, dollar-sign eyed slaver-ing for faceless, rich national franchises.

Do we really want campus to turn into some kind of grotesque Arndale Centre, or is someone going to show a bit of fire for the the humble little establishments that have served us so well for all these years? And where, good GOD WHERE, is yours truly going to find a hangover cure better than Diggles' bacon and egg rolls?

take part



re;freshers'

Argentina will never reclaim the falklands

De Kirchner needs to recognise the opinions of the islanders

Julia Molloy
Deputy Comment Editor

The dispute over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands erupts again after the Argentinian president, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, wrote a stinging letter to David Cameron demanding that the UK returns the Falkland Islands to Argentinian rule. Kirchner argues that Argentina was 'forcibly stripped' of the Islands, in a 'blatant exercise of 19th-century colonialism.' Cameron, however, held firm in the face of such a public attack, declaring that he will 'do everything to protect the interests of the islanders' – something that Kirchner has completely ignored. Instead of exposing and embarrassing the UK's supposed lack of adherence to the United Nations' resolution in 1960 to bring to 'an end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations', all Kirchner has managed to do is make herself look like a selfish

child throwing a tantrum.

The letter has exposed the very reason why the Falklands should never be returned to Argentina. Kirchner did not mention the islanders' interests at all in the letter but focused on Argentina's misfortune at the hands of the British. She is under the impression that the Falkland islanders cannot think for themselves. Surely the Falklanders have the right to self-determine how the islands are governed; after all, the question of sovereignty is going to affect them the most.

The Falklanders have appeared to be the missing party in the whole dispute despite the argument being about their islands, but Kirchner's letter, published in various UK newspapers, has unsurprisingly provoked an angry response. The @falklands_utd Twitter account tweeted: 'through our right to self-determination we choose to maintain our relationship with Great Britain... Kirchner can write as many letters as she wishes. They carry less weight than the paper they were written on.' Nothing

could have picked more holes in Kirchner's letter. For one thing, her view that the Falklands are still a colony of the UK is unfounded, due to the islanders choosing to have UK sovereignty. The tweet also confirms just how selfishly Kirchner has acted, thinking only about the concerns of the Argentinian people. The Falklanders have a voice in this democratic world, and they will certainly use it. A referendum on the issue is due to be held in March, giving the islanders a deserved right to decide how they want to be governed. I would put money on them choosing to remain under British sovereignty.

Why would the islanders choose to become Argentinian again? Most of us don't like change if we're happy how we are, and surely coming under Argentinian sovereignty would change the Islands massively. The only official language of the Falkland Islands is English, whereas the official language of Argentina is Spanish. A change of sovereignty, and subsequently a change in how the island is governed,

would probably mean a change in language use, which would surely cause problems for a predominantly English-speaking country. For Kirchner, with her clear opposition to UK influence in the Falklands, changing the political language of the Falklands would surely be one of the things that she would want to change, regardless of the islanders' feelings on the matter.

Fore-fronting the Falkland dispute has only made Kirchner's situation in Argentina worse, with many arguing that she has only drawn attention to the matter to deflect her political situation at home. She is losing political support, and there are more pressing concerns for the Argentinian people, such as economic difficulties, than deciding on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. Kirchner is clearly fighting a losing battle. Nothing can be implemented concerning the Islands without support, which Kirchner has very little of. Let the Falklanders decide in March, and then we can all finally put this drawn-out debate to rest.

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Why we still need Feminism

'Lad' culture is no defence for the way society portrays women

Leonie Chaudhry

Feminism. Once a glittering movement uniting hundreds upon thousands of people under a common cause of equality and liberation - now a forgotten, seemingly irrelevant ideology of times gone by. Some say that all the major battles have been won, we've got the vote, we're entitled to equal pay and maternity leave and we achieved sexual liberation and the freedom to do what we want with our bodies. We're all equal now, right? Wrong. The battles may have been won but the war for equality is still in its infancy, and we have a long way to go yet.

There are numerous feminist theories and ideals, exceedingly different movements in all but name, but for simplicity the movement has been split into three different 'waves'. What first started as a rapidly rising tide was soon followed by a tsunami of epic pro-

portions, a tsunami that aimed to destroy the landscape of misogyny and drown out the voices of the patriarchy under a foamy cataclysm of liberal ideologies. Since the eighties though, it seems that the waters have calmed and the battle for equal rights is now nothing more than a rolling tide, occasionally coming close enough to lap at your toes. This is mostly down to the fact that feminism is seen as irrelevant now, reserved for man hating, bra burning lesbians who refuse to invest in a razor.

In the past few years the rise of so called 'lad' culture has led to misogynistic undertones in every day student life. While I would love to say that the majority of 'uniLADs' I've met at Lancaster only spout harmless banter it's a statement that's far from the truth - rape jokes appear to have become the norm and objecting to any statement which devalues women is usually met with a 'get back to the kitchen' joke. The truth is that this culture is a reflection of the way modern culture portrays women,

as little more than an object. The increased sexualisation of women for the apparent benefits of 'female liberation' has only helped in separating the person from the object. A quick flick through ladbible.com, 'the biggest lad community in the world', and your eyes are assaulted with pictures of scantily clad girls, littered with comments of what the users would 'do to them'. These users do not see a girl, but an object with no real value apart from sex, to be ridiculed for her imperfect body and mocked for being a slag. How can we ever be expected to be taken seriously when this is how we're perceived?

If you still need convincing here's some statistics for you: one in four women are reported to have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime; 5% of the female population has experienced rape; on average, two women a week are killed as a result of domestic violence; overall, women in Britain are paid an average of 18% less than men; women hold less than a third of Britain's most influential jobs;

and only 42% of women in Britain identify themselves as a feminist. So, what exactly is it about feminism that you don't agree with? Is it equality in general you object to? Or are you just scared of the negative stereotypes associated with the f-word?

It's these stereotypes - which are even more ingrained in our public consciousness through negative portrayals in the media - that make being a feminist a shameful and embarrassing thing to do. Upon uttering the dreaded taboo 'I am a feminist', you can expect a variety of reactions, most of them bad. At best you will probably be met with a bemused expression and an 'oh... why?', at worst outright derision. It is seen as a spectacularly unsexy identity to take on, but it is now more than ever that the movement needs to be re-kindled and embraced by men and women alike. It's only then that we can overcome this equality myth which we've been brought up with and get down to the nitty gritty of making equality a reality.

re;freshers'

1. feel good, 2. take part, 3. make it happen

what's on

23rd January - 9.30am

Primary Schools Volunteering Day
(LUSU Involve)

23rd January - 4pm

Teach First Workshop,
Charles Carter A19

23rd January - 6pm

Overseas Programme Intro Talk,
Faraday LT

23rd January

Big Night Out in Colour

24th January - 6pm

Volunteering Intro Talk, Frankland LT

24th January - 6.30pm

LUSU Language Exchange Café,
Fylde Common Room

28th January - 6pm

Connect! Fylde Common Room

11th - 15th February

National Student money week

11th, 12th, 14th February

Vagina Monologues,
Sugarhouse

Qualified Solicitor is available every Thursday during term time to offer FREE, legal advice - 1pm, LUSU

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Head to Head

Is the government's new welfare bill fair?

YES

Alex Littleboy
Comment Editor

The government has recently announced a new benefit package that would drastically reduce eligibility for benefits throughout the UK, and will only increase the amount paid in benefits by 1% per year between now and 2015. The argument has been portrayed as a fight between 'strivers and skivers', although this analogy does not do the complex situation justice. However, I feel that, despite the damage that this bill may do, it is needed right now in this complex economic climate.

In an ideal world, this benefit package would not be necessary. There would be sufficient money in the budget to cover all manner of benefits in order to improve the situation of the British citizen. However, we do not live in an ideal world, and are currently in the middle of a financial crisis. These austerity measures are needed in order to bring our budget back in line. In a sense, we need to make these cuts to benefits in order to restabilize our economy – once that is done, it will be possible to reinstate the benefit system as it is.

It is a time of great economic uncertainty right now, and, unfortunately, desperate times call for desperate measures. While it brings me no happiness to cut benefits in a time when so many people are relying on the state in order to survive, this contribution needs to be made in order to reduce our deficit and help to breathe new life into our struggling economy.

In a time in which savings must be made, welfare will inevitably be targeted – it makes up 30% of government spending, an incredibly large proportion, and therefore should not be singled out as a single part of government spending that must be kept. One cannot simply expect the

burden to rest on other branches of government, and eventually welfare has to be examined in order to find possible savings. Every branch of government must bear the weight of financial reform in order to combat the deficit equally.

About 9.5 million households will be affected by these new welfare measures – about half of the working age households in Britain. Working households will likely lose roughly £75 per year, as a result of the cut in child benefit. On the other hand, the 2.5 million non-working households will be worse affected, losing around £215 per year instead. This is the area in which the government's framing of the argument in the terms of 'strivers vs skivers' is visible – why should working households have to pay benefits for those who do not work?

Although the situation is more complex than this, at its core one needs to consider the extent to which these different people are contributing to the state and society in general.

Therefore, I do believe that these cuts are a necessary evil in today's situation. We cannot afford to call anything sacred in deciding where benefit cuts must be made. The great amount that the UK pays towards benefits do need to be considered, and savings need to be made across the board. In this way, much as the idea of cutting benefits is not one that I would like to agree with, I feel that this is something that is now required as austerity measures are introduced in all other sectors of society. Every area of government needs to do its bit in order to save money and bring the UK's deficit under control.

However, once the current financial state is addressed, the financial crisis passes and the deficit is under control, there is nothing to stop the reintroduction of this welfare system, which is the ideal situation.

NO

Rachel Quin
Deputy Features Editor

This month, the government has managed to leap the first hurdle in introducing a series of cuts which would lead to restrictions on benefits and those claiming job seekers' allowance. 2012 already saw the introduction of legislation which would mean that families earning more than £50,000 a year would have their benefits cut, and the Guardian claims that "Britain's poorest households will be hit hardest by government plans", as they find themselves losing out on money that they could well desperately need. Furthermore, the government is being perfectly honest about how these limits may affect the poorest, as the Department for Work and Pensions has admitted those "further down the income distribution" would be the ones to suffer the most income-wise.

In his Autumn Statement, George Osborne said that these measures were about "being fair to the person who leaves home every morning to go out to work and sees their neighbour still asleep, living a life on benefits". It is wrong to assume that those on benefits are misusing their payments, or are perhaps less deserving of the money, John Harris points out that "to be one of the economy's losers isn't about being a victim of forces beyond your control, but character failings". Although it is true that there are a significant amount of so-called 'benefits scroungers' out there, who use their benefits inappropriately and seem to have no desire to find work, there are also probably thousands of people who are constantly searching for employment and unfortunately, are having no luck. The Guardian mentions that the Labour party "branded the plan a "strivers' tax" as 68% of households caught by the below inflation rise

in benefits were in work", which is true to some extent. People who work in part-time employment whilst looking for full-time work, and thus hardly make enough money as it is, may rely on benefits in order to feed themselves and their families. It is undeniable that these families are just as hard-working as "the person who leaves home very morning", and it seems unfair that they have to struggle just because they haven't been awarded the luxury of full-time employment and a regular wage.

Harris also mentions an idea put forward by Westminster council which suggested that due to the increasing use of smart cards when it comes to accessing leisure facilities, councils could easily gather usage information, and therefore perhaps it would be beneficial for councils to make those living off benefits to make use of these facilities to "reward or incentivise residents". Ideas like this are controversial as it's simply another way for the government to waste money on things that are not entirely necessary. Cash cards as a mean of distributing benefits could be a way to tackle inappropriate spending of benefits, allowing those receiving benefits to spend the money where it is really needed, such as on food or clothing. But again, is it not a basic luxury to be able to have a glass of wine in front of the television?

It is difficult to dictate how the benefits system should be managed, it is no secret that Britain's economy is suffering and there are far too many notorious 'benefit cheats' who are taking money from hard-working taxpayers with no real intention of finding work and repaying this generosity. A re-structuring of the benefits system would not only avoid wasting ridiculous amounts of money that would improve Britain's economy, but it would also need to find a way to protect the rights of those unfortunate few who truly deserve some aid.



ROSALIA O'REILLY
LUSU VP (EWD)

Lancaster has been incredibly honored by Eve Ensler, author of 'The Vagina Monologues', agreeing to come and visit us to give a talk on her new campaign 'One Billion Rising'. "One billion women are raped or beaten, this is an atrocity - one billion women dancing to defy this is a revolution"; 'One Billion Rising' is the dance revolution that is hoped to be expanded across the world. By focusing on a positive action to create awareness and change rather than just focusing on the negative implication of the statistic, Ensler has once again struck a balance between the serious informative face of feminist struggle, and the proactive feeling of being part of a worldwide community of women working together to create equality.

What I love about 'Vagina Monologues' is this balance: there are funny monologues, day-to-day problem monologues that many women could find easy to identify

with, and then the serious monologues addressing dreadful breaches of human rights in the female world.

The message of the campaign is one that can be appreciated by everyone, and that is why I think it's definitely a play everyone should see at least once in their lifetime.

Eve Ensler coming to Lancaster on the 3rd February is an incredible opportunity for our students and the general community of Lancaster to become engaged in the One Billion Rising campaign. I'm still awed at fact our director, Sam Aldridge, has managed to secure her attendance! Eve has only confirmed two locations to speak at about 'One Billion Rising': Lancaster and London, and to me this makes an indication of just how big a deal this is for Lancaster.

The day will involve a flash mob of the official dance at Market Square in the City at 1pm followed by a reception in the City Library adjacent to get the opportunity to

hear Ensler talk about her campaign, and ask her questions about how she came to be an international advocate of women's rights. There will then be an open mic session encouraging people to present their poetry, music, and monologues to Ensler and the attendance.

The Vagina Monologues are more than just an awareness raising campaign, the fundraising element is an incredible help to the local community, as all proceeds go to a women's charity from our community.

It's easy for us, living in a modern liberal society to ignore the struggle of women, it's not something that is necessarily seen as a modern issue, however the statistics indicate that in the UK 1 in 4 female students will be subject to sexual assault in her time at University. Campaigns like the Vagina Monologues need to be supported by everyone to try and make this statistic history.

Such opportunities are few and far between, I'm incredibly excited to meet her, and I hope that everyone reading this will try to attend, and come to see 'The Vagina Monologues' when they are performed in week 5, tickets are now on sale from the LUSU Info Desk!

LETTERS

Please send any letters to scan.assistanteditor@lusu.co.uk, along with your name and college. If you would like your letter to be printed anonymously, let us know. SCAN reserves the right to edit letters for publication.

Dear SCAN,

One of the best parts of the latest LUSU democracy restructuring (SCAN's passim) is the introduction of LUSU Councilors. Six officers, without the prejudice or vested interest of an Executive responsibility, engaging in debates and holding our Officers to account during Union Council. I was particularly impressed with Dan-Sean Huisman and Ronnie Rowlands' comments during Friday's meeting, making bold and unique comments that prove what an insightful addition they are to this body.

Charlie Edwards

Dear SCAN,

Upon reading your last issue, I was left wondering why Alex Chau had felt it necessary to share his anti-feminist 'insights' with us (in the article titled: 'Gender Equality needs to include Men', also published elsewhere as 'The Folly of Feminism'; see Moon Project blog).

The reason I ask this is that - well, it's obvious, no? - Alex is not a woman. How, therefore, does he expect to understand - nay, to have a special insight into - the form taken by women's struggle against men?

Needless to say, he completely fails to understand the contemporary situation of women, feminism and the relations between men and women in his comment piece. Indeed, when he writes

'romantically, we still follow

a medieval format', I'm inclined to think that he only demonstrates the 'medieval format' of his own very narrow outlook.

What is even more unfortunate is that he then goes onto display an equally deep ignorance about the Civil Rights and Black Power movements of the 1960s. I do wonder why Chau felt it necessary to attack two of the most important and successful social movements of the 20th Century (Black Power and Feminism)?

Beyond the necessity and urgency of feminism today, one thing is certain: since patriarchy is the system by which women are oppressed by men, feminist struggle must be organised of, by and for women.

Chris Witter

scan

STUDENT COMMENT AND NEWS
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SCAN endeavours to be accurate at all times. However, sometimes mistakes do slip through the net. If you notice one, please contact the Editor or Assistant Editors and we will aim to rectify the issue as soon as possible.

Editor

Rachel Harvey
scan@lancaster.ac.uk
@LUSUMedia&Comms
01524 592613

Assistant Editors

Jack Smith &
Rachel Stafford
scan.assistanteditor@lusu.co.uk

Carolynne Editors

Stephanie Bell &
Joe Henthorn
scan.carolynne@lusu.co.uk

SPORT

scan.lusu.co.uk/sports

Sports Editors: Laurence Pullan & Will Taylor
Meet Monday 7pm in Pendle Bar

scan.sports@lusu.co.uk

Team Spotlight: Korfball

Korfball's promising start

The team are currently sitting top of the league

Laurence Pullan
Sports Editor

The previous two years have seen the Lancaster University Korfball club facing the difficult task of rebuilding itself to the high standard of the league winning side of 2010. Under the watchful eye of President Jonathan Parton and his Captain Jay Patel the club has undergone a regeneration phase and continued to grow to become a technically competent and generally formidable team that it is today; with both a first and second team. With Parton and Patel graduating last year it promised to be a very interesting year to see what direction the club would continue to take under the leadership of current President Adam Luto and Captain Becca McKenny.

The Michaelmas Term has witnessed a promising start to the season for both of Lancaster's Korfball teams in the North West regional Korfball league. The second team in particular, in only their second year of playing in the North West Korfball league, currently find themselves sitting pretty at the top of the league; with an 80% win ratio, having beat 5 out of their last 6 opponents so far this season.

The first team have had an equally fruitful start to the season, dropping only three points so far, currently in second place. The club's improvements are starting to reap the rewards, and the promising starts in the league are making both teams'

dreams of winning the league a more realisable reality.

Luto and McKenny have sought to push the club forward by developing both new players and existing members of the squad, and these efforts have proved beneficial.

'The club has undergone a regeneration phase'

Freshers to the sport, such as Liam Hampton and Hannah Darwin, have quickly developed fundamental attacking and defensive skills which have been essential to their rapid progression to the first team. The likes of Adam Bell and Kerry Bray, both in their second year, have become accomplished players and, in recent weeks, have put in impressive performances against more senior players from other clubs. Final years, such as Mary Lee and Dan Wood, have continued being indispensable members of the first team.

With both the teams having such a promising run in the league, it was inevitable both teams would be handed very difficult draws in the North West Cup. The first team were pitted against the Manchester Warriors, who currently hold second place in the Central England Regional League, two divisions above Lancaster. The second team were also handed a tough draw against the Manchester Hawks, who are currently top of the division above.

Both Lancaster teams played their

hearts out putting everything they had learnt over the Michaelmas term to good use. This troubled both the Manchester based teams but ultimately the vast experience of both the Warriors and Hawks proved too much for Lancaster to cope with; and the first team game eventually

finished 16-3, with the the second team also incurring defeat, the game ending 13-1. The prospect of winning the North West Cup was dashed for both teams but Luto and McKenny have since picked up the team spirit and have them well prepared and focused, ready for the New Year.



make it happen



re;freshers'

Hibernation is over...

Get outside this spring!

Will Taylot
Sports Editor

You might not believe it as you look out of your Lancaster window, but spring is beginning to peek over the horizon. Before long, there will be lambs prancing in the meadows and daffodils and bluebells sprouting up over campus. Then of course, students begin to emerge from their winter hibernation, and everyone gets a little bit excited.

If you are familiar with Disney's 'Bambi', you will know what I mean when I say that more than a few of us are going to become 'twitter-paited' over the next few months, whether it is a full blown relationship that blossoms from a friendship, or something that develops after a lengthy snog on the Sugarhouse bus. Considering all this, it is clearly no coincidence that this is also the season for getting healthy, fit and active. The amount of "New Year, new me!" status' on Facebook may have been slightly annoying after a while, but they are testimony to the attitudes of people at this time of year.

'Everyone gets a little bit excited'

So how does one get fit? Well, the obvious choice would be to join a gym! The University gym is excellent, and the membership prices are very good value on a student budget. But it is true to say that some people just don't like it. You might instead choose to go running, the campus and surrounding area presenting a number of different runs of various levels of intensity. There is the other option to join one of the numerous sports teams on campus. However, one option that might go slightly overlooked, is that of joining one of the numerous outdoor activity clubs that the University

funds.

As the weather gets better (theoretically), you might fancy spending a bit more time out of doors this term? These societies are ideal, if that is your way of thinking. Most of them also offer the chance to escape the Lancaster bubble, and explore further afield. If you are an international student, and really want the chance to get off the beaten path, then these societies are well worth considering.

In the eyes of an outdoor enthusiast, our university is situated in a fantastic spot. We are merely a short hop up the M6 from the Lake

place on the minibus costing little more than £9. For anyone who is even vaguely aware of how much trains cost in this day and age, that is unquestionably good value.

In addition to this, the club also offers a few weekend trips further afield. This term, there are no less than three trips to the Scottish Highlands. I myself was lucky enough to go on a trip to Glencoe, near Fort William, in my second year. The whole experience was fantastic, though the whisky fuelled hangover on the Sunday was less welcome. The weekend trips themselves vary in cost, but

get to go to the pub afterwards, not to mention meet lots of new people and making new friends."

Of course, Hiking is just one of the clubs you could join. For those of you who prefer it a bit wetter, there is the sailing and canoeing clubs, whilst the mountaineering club offers those with a love for heights their fix. Hannah Mitchell of Lancaster's sailing club was full of enthusiasm; "The sailing club is great because it gives each of its members a chance to get outside every week. We go down to Bolton sailing club most Wednesdays and Saturdays, in the hope that the weather will be fair and we will all have a chance to enjoy some lovely conditions. One of the great parts of the sailing club is that it takes you away from campus, it is the perfect opportunity to clear your head and refocus, especially if work is getting you down. We have fun on and off the water with themed socials bi-weekly where we all get a chance to have some fun."

The simple fact is your time at university is actually incredibly short. If you want to come away with the satisfaction of knowing that you participated in everything you possibly could do in that time, then societies and clubs like this are definitely for you. Winter is for inside. This spring, get outside.



GLENCOE, SCOTLAND
Photos Will Taylor

District. Go north a few more hours and you hit Scotland, opening up the options of the Southern Uplands, the Galloway Hills, and the Highlands and Islands of the utmost north. We are only a few hours from Snowdonia in North Wales, and the Peak District and Yorkshire Dales are equally accessible. Lancaster University Hiking Club (LUHC) for example, really utilise out location to suit their needs. LUHC offer trips every Sunday, usually to the Lake District or Yorkshire Dales, with a

they are still fantastic value considering how far away you can get from Lancaster.

And on top of it all, you get to see some of the best scenery in the entire country. Simon Clarke, President of Fylde College, who is also the Social Secretary for the club, had this to say; "You get out in the open air, climb mountains, and have loads of fun. You get away from the university for the day which is also nice, especially when you have loads of work! And you



feel good  re;freshers'



LIZ ASHWORTH
LUSU VP (Activities)

Refreshers Fair is on in the Great Hall on Tuesday 22nd January from 4-7pm. If you have made a new year's resolution to get fit, make new friends, find a new hobby or add something new to your C.V., then you should pop along. There will be 65 of Lancaster's activity groups with 10 new additions which have been affiliated since Freshers' Fair. All of the staff have been working really hard towards this event, driven by our Enterprise Inter, Natasha Farnworth. Look out for the colourful T-shirts and mug.

The event Connect is on the 28th January in Fylde common room at 6pm. It gives the opportunity for students to come together who are looking to start a project, group or society and would like help brain storming. There is of course free pizza!

Campus festival is on Saturday-16th of Marsh. I'm already hugely excited about this and hope others are too. The stage are is going to be bigger and better this year and I'm looking forward to seeing what our different groups are going to show.

'Connect is on the 28th January. It gives the opportunity for students to come together who are looking to start a project, group or society

In WOC week, new sports representatives and old, with the addition of the inter-college sports officers and the new Activities' cross

campus officer, came together to talk about the year ahead. I was really thrilled to hear all of their enthusiasm and ideas for the coming terms. One exercise saw them discuss and plan the inter-college competitions, Founders, Legends and Patriots. All are open to collaborative events across the colleges and with BUCS University teams.

If you are looking to get involved with any activity groups this year, be it for you college or University, please get in touch with myself or your college reps. County College women's darts team are looking for more players. I know this because Tuesday night was my first ever match. I think I'll be going next week so if you'd like to get involved, please let us know.

I was approached by a number of students about starting an inter-mural rugby tournament. Due to saturation of the pitch availability, this is something I propose to start in the third term, once BUCS teams are no longer training.

In the first week back, there was one BUCS entry which saw Tennis defeat [smash] UClan. Well done and keep up the good work.

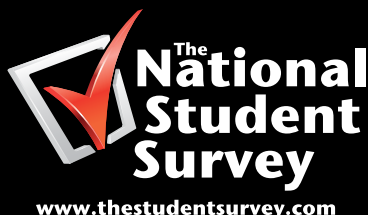
Carter Shield

1		33 PTS
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7		19 PTS
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9	LUGRAD	9 PTS

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LUBDS to stage charity event



Emily-Jane Nicholles

Lancaster University Ballroom Dance Society set to stage dancing event for charity.

On the 1st February 2013, LUBDS will host their annual Charity Showcase in aid of Cancer Research, featuring a host of performances including the much-anticipated Strictly Come Dancing event. The upcoming event will see well known faces around campus; including members of the Full Time Officer Team, sports captains and college Presidents, battle

it out in the ultimate dance-off to be crowned Strictly Champions of 2013.

Member of the LUBDS, Emily-Jayne Nicholls, who is partnering LUSU President Ste Smith, was full of enthusiasm for the upcoming competition: "none of the 'celebrities' have danced before so it's exciting. I'm sure they will be getting out their most jubilant jives and terrific tangos to ensure a thoroughly entertaining competition in more ways than one."

Last year's Showcase was a complete sell out, raising over £1500 for the worthy cause of Cancer Re-

search. "Last year was an incredible success and we're hoping to raise even more money this year. We've got some brilliant contestants in Strictly as well as some fantastic guests performing with us; it really is a night everyone will enjoy," says LUBDS Charity Officer, Andrew Pickup.

Guest performers throughout the night include the extremely popular, and award winning, LuDans and a variety of foot-tapping numbers from the talented University of Lancaster Music Society (ULMS). LUBDS themselves are performing a variety of spectacular dances including a lively Elton John Medley, a seductive Argentine Tango and a romantic waltz.

"We're really stepping our game up this year," says LUBDS President Alice Burrow. "We've really been working really hard to create a diverse and entertaining program. Last year's event was brilliant but we are confident this year can be even more successful."

Last year's Showcase was a truly memorable occasion with an enthralling atmosphere from start to finish with highlights including Strictly Winner Sarah Taylor's sensational samba and runners

up Matt Power and Olly Trumble bringing the house down with their Rock and Ell and Charleston.

"There's some amazing talent in all the societies and everyone is so excited to perform, especially after the success of last year. The fact that it's for such a good cause only strengthens how fantastic the event is," continued Burrow. Like last year, LUBDS will be collaborating with ULMS and for the first time ever with Lancaster University Theatre Group (LUTG) on an exciting Chitty Chitty Bang Bang medley; including the much loved 'Old Bamboo' and hilarious 'Chui Chui Face' complete with the Baron's elaborate murder plot.

Tickets will be on sale from LUBDS Exec members, through Facebook as well as on the door and around Campus. It's set to be a truly fantastic night with a range of exciting and entertaining acts from the best of Lancaster University's Performing Arts Society's and the Strictly competition is certainly not to be missed.

The event takes place in the Great Hall on the 1st of February and is an event not to be missed. It has the promise of being a Strictly Fabulous event.

LANCASTER TEACHING AWARDS

2012

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- Academic Advisor Award
- College Advisor Award

Six Nations Preview

Too close to call...



Will Taylot
Sports Editor

The Six Nations is one of the most anticipated events in the rugby calendar. It is a volatile and dramatic tournament, spread out over two months, with the title and European bragging rights at stake. This year's tournament promises to be nothing short of nail biting.

With the British and Irish Lions tour looming in the summer, and the 2015 World Cup already on coach's minds, players will have the added pressure of knowing that their performances in the coming weeks will go on to shape their future careers, more so than any other year. In addition to this, the tournament is wide open. Normally a stand out candidate raises their hand, or at least one would get a hunch over who would claim first place. But this year, one would be forgiven for being well and truly stumped.

Most critics would agree that four teams are in with a shout of winning this year – England, France, Ireland and Wales. With the competition so tight, only the bravest or most ardent fan would predict a Grand Slam. It is the general opinion of pundits that this year's tournament will come down to the wire, and most likely be settled by point difference. Looking at the match schedule, there are going to be some real nerve racking encounters.

The Six Nations is a fantastic event, pitching neighbour against neighbour. Each game means something to someone, and the atmosphere in pub or stadium will be worth the visit. I encourage any who have not experienced it before to take part, and to all you old supporters, good luck. From a Lancaster University point of view, Swing Low Sweet Chariot!



The Games to Watch

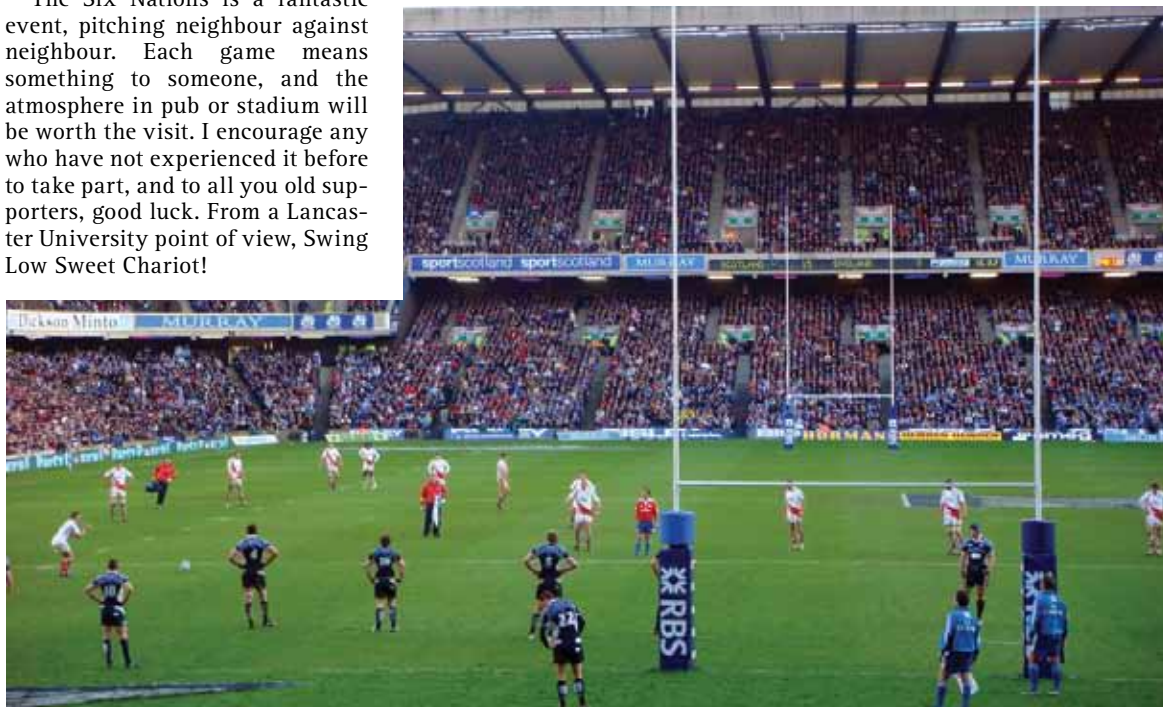
With all of the RBS Six Nations being broadcast on BBC 1, the accessibility of the tournament is fantastic for students. Wales' home game against Ireland looks to be the major clash of WEEK ONE, and will be a telling test as to how Wales will answer the criticism that was heaped on them over the autumn. In WEEK TWO, much will be expected of England as they travel away to Ireland, and it could be a chance for the Irish to notch two wins on the bounce against tough opposition. WEEK THREE's key clash is undoubtedly France's visit to Twickenham, and depending on previous results, this could be one of the deciding matches of the tournament, as could WEEK FOUR's match between Ireland and France. Super Saturday's highlight will undoubtedly be when Wales host England. For both English and Welsh, this is the highlight (albeit a stressful one) of the tournament, and on the last day of the competition, it could even potentially be a decider.

The Players to Watch.

After the autumn, youth is the name of the game. For England fans, Joe Launchbury and Freddie Burns are my stand out candidates. If Burns can get the game time, I believe he is the future long term option at fly half. Osprey's fly half Dan Biggar is surely the first option for Wales, judging from his domestic form. For Ireland, Jonny Sexton is the man to watch, as he looks to cement his place as Lions flyhalf. Alongside him, Cian Healey will be looking to cement his place in the Lions front row. For Scotland, Richie Gray stands out. He is likely to be one of few attracting the eye of Lions selectors. For our continental supporters, I would keep my eye of Frederick Michalak and Sergio Perrisse (France and Italy respectively). If both carry on their form, then they will provide entertainment aplenty come tournament time.

The Teams to Watch

The Autumn Internationals have made this one very hard to call. England, despite losses to both Australia and South Africa, inflicted a record breaking defeat against New Zealand. They have to be my second favourites. However, I think home advantage favours the Irish. If they can overcome their jinxes against the French, then the Six Nations title is theirs for the taking. Ireland are the team to watch.



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Sports Editors: Laurence Pullan & Will Taylor
Meet Monday 7pm in Pendle Bar

scan.sports@lusu.co.uk

Carter Shield Preview

Looking ahead to Lent Term's fixtures

Laurence Pullan
Sports Editor

The second term of the Carter Shield begins on Sunday week 12, and promises to carry with it the intensity, rivalry and ambition shown by the competing colleges from last term. The event, handball, which commences in the Sports Hall at 13.00 will see the most tightly contested Carter Shield leagues in recent years resume.

The Carter Shield is a shining example of a LUSU initiative that offers rewards correlating to the amount of effort you put in. For those colleges that have constantly fielded teams, they see themselves at the top of the table whereas colleges that have frequently not managed to field a team see themselves rooted at the foot of the table. The Carter Shield offers an opportunity to meet new people in a relaxed and entertaining environment so it is a great mystery why some colleges struggle to field teams.

CCO for Inter-College Sports, Lexi Lingwood, expressed her delight at the Carter Shield resuming: "I'm really looking forward to Carter Shield this term with competition as fierce as ever and some great sports lined up. It should be an exciting one! A

big welcome to the new sports reps and officers, too."

'The Carter Shield is a shining example of a LUSU initiative that offers rewards correlating to the amount of effort you put in'

It is no secret that there has been surprise to see Pendle and Bowland lead the table, as many had expected Fylde to continue their dominance of the Shield league, having been clear winners for the last decade. It remains to be seen whether Pendle and Bowland can continue their form, or whether other competing colleges, including Fylde, will be able to challenge for the overall victory.

At the foot of the table, there has been a disappointing showing from Lonsdale and Graduate so far and both colleges will be looking to mount serious challenges this term to chase the pack ahead. Cartmel, Grizedale and Furness are deceptively close to Fylde in 3rd place, so there could be a very intriguing and exciting fight for a podium position between the four colleges.



"The Carter Shield events in the new year are sure to be exciting this term. With Pendle at the top of the table, Fylde will be attempting to pull out all the stops as last year's winners"

CCO for Inter-College Sports Cartriona Hay had an interesting philosophy about the upcoming term: "The Carter Shield events in the new year are sure to be exciting this term. With Pendle at the top of the table, Fylde will be attempting to pull out all the stops as last year's winners. But I think beyond that, pride will be up for grabs. Many of the colleges also use Carter Shield as a warm up event to prepare themselves and scope out the competition

for Legends, Patriots or Founders. It's definitely going to be an interesting term!"

"It's definitely going to be an interesting term!"

The first event, handball, endorses the Carter Shield's reputation as being an opportunity for any college member to try their hand at unusual sports and activities.

Beyond that, week 14 will see indoor ultimate frisbee, followed by men's and women's basketball in week 16, and volleyball in week 18.

The diversity of sports on offer makes the league unpredictable as to which college will top the table by the end of this term, with the Summer term Carter Shield events comprising rounders, tag rugby and a sports day themed event, including tug of war.

