



# Students fail to use their voice

- General meeting did not go ahead due to lack of attendees
- All motions will be heard at Union Council on Wednesday Week 2

Rachel Stafford  
News Editor

The General Meeting, held on Monday of Week 1, failed to meet quoracy. The meeting was called in response to the yourvoice campaign regarding the restructuring of the college bars. There were other items added to the agenda, such as a discussion about rent inflation and a motion regarding LUSU's support of the NUS demonstration. 200 members of the student body were required to be in attendance in order for the meeting to take

place, at the final tally there were only 138 attendees.

Ste Smith, LUSU President chaired the meeting

**'200 members of the student body were required to be in attendance in order for the meeting to take place, at the final tally there were only 138 attendees.'**

as Libby Martin, VP Events and Democracy, was unable to attend due to illness.

Mark Swindlehurst, Head of Facilities and Jo Hardman, Director of Commercial Services attended the meeting to support their decision to restructure the managerial system of the bars and as they were unable to discuss the motions due to lack of quoracy they agreed to hold a question and answer session. This was followed by a discussion based around Chris Witter's points regarding rent inflation.

Much animosity was felt with regard to the lack of attendance from JCRs and CCOs. Had all of the JCRs

and CCOs been in attendance the number of attendees would already have been over 150, needing only 50 attendees from the general student body. Smith was asked to comment on this situation and had this to say,

**'Had all of the JCRs and CCOs been in attendance the number of attendees would already have been over 150'**

"I don't think it is accept-

able. Your officers are your elected representatives. Your officers should be at the forefront of that. We say we are all LUSU. These are supposed to be highly engaged individuals. Yes, they should have been in the room, and I will be having a word."

Much frustration was felt by all attendance that these bodies of elected students were not present.

Due to the lack of quoracy at the meeting Smith pledged to take the motions to Union Council, which meets on Wednesday Week 2.

## Hardman denies "burying things in the summer"

Rachel Stafford  
Jack Smith

Mark Swindlehurst, Director of Facilities, and Jo Hardman, Head of Commercial Services, held a question and answer session for the 138 students present at the inquorant general meeting. The main topic of conversation was the changes to the college bars staffing structure. Ste Smith, LUSU President, announced beforehand that questions about individual staff would not be permitted.

Hardman delivered a statement to the attendees, beginning with statistics to show a reduction in turnover of the college bars over the last few years. He also described the "hidden costs"

such as heating and lighting.

He insisted all staff were consulted on the changes along with the relevant trade unions, adding that "due process has been followed - all current staff who want to continue working in the bars will do so". Hardman reiterated that all jobs are also safe for student staff.

The statement also detailed some of the differentiation points that Commercial Services wish to implement in the bars. These include Tapas in Grizedale Bar, a Real Ale focus in Bowland, and creating a "party atmosphere" in Lonsdale.

Hardman also stated: "At the current level of usage [the bars] are not as loved as they need to be."

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Mark Swindlehurst & Jo Hardman  
Image provided by LA1:TV

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## EDITORIAL

Rachel Harvey  
Editor

Freshers week 2012 was probably the best freshers week I have seen in my time at Lancaster University. With new initiatives such as 'give it a go', where everyone was given the chance to try a society before they joined, and the college JCR's holding day events as well as amazing evening events, I have never seen such a buzz of activity round campus. College chants were at their loudest, societies at their

best and student media at its busiest.

The general meeting, as we all know, did not continue this theme. The meeting did not make the quorum of 200 it needed to go ahead but still 138 of you turned up to air your views on the college bars situation. It was made very clear to the university management that, we the students would not take things lying down. This should continue through the year and only become more apparent as time goes on.

As for student media, we have seen a record number of students sign up and attend Media Summit, as more people continue to join and work on media we can ex-

pect to see it grow and become even more a part of campus culture then it already is.

**As forwords of advice for this year, I have many, not all of them useful but a lot from experience.**

Get as involved as you can in everything that interests you. Come to the general meetings, if you see something the university or union is doing that you don't like, don't just post on facebook or twitter about it, tell them. You can make change in your time here.

First years, enjoy it. You will change so much this year in yourself, way of

thinking and interests. You will never have another first time at university.

Second years, make the most of it, join that group you didn't in your first year, don't worry too much about what comes next. You know where you are now so enjoy the comfort.

Third years, yes its hard work, and it can be very stressful, but don't let the stress get you down. Enjoy the breaks you get, work hard and you will do fine. But please have fun! It is better to come out of university with life experience and a 2:2 or 2:1 than leave with a first and an empty photo album and no memories.

## SCAN needs a web editor!

SCAN is looking for a Web Editor to join its team as soon as possible. The role is open for applications now, to all students of Lancaster University.

You will be responsible for the maintenance of SCAN's website, SCANonline (<http://scan.lusu.co.uk/>) and will heavily contribute to the direction of its social media presence via Twitter and Facebook.

Day to day, you will ensure the website always looks up to date in terms of content and photography.

You will also train members of the SCAN editorial team on how to use the website if necessary, develop skills tailored to web-based journalism and use these skills to improve SCAN's online content, arrange the uploading of images to the website with the Photography team, and work with the SCAN Editor and Assistant Editors on the continual improvement and development of the website.

Applications should be motivated, imaginative and have

excellent administrative and communication skills. They should have a good eye for design, knowledge of website maintenance, and an understanding of appropriate formatting for web based journalism.

As SCANonline is powered by Wordpress, familiarity with this content management system is desirable. Familiarity with PHP and MySQL is not required, but would assist you in further developing the functionality of the website.

Experience in SCAN is also desirable, but not required. Applications will be considered from all, and all other relevant experience judged equally.

Applications are open now, and are ongoing. Please submit your application as soon as possible to the SCAN Editor and the SCAN Assistant Editors via email - please find these contact details on the left hand side of the page.

Good luck!

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## NEWS

## "Poorly thought out and poorly executed"



CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

We will put the time and investment into each college having a bar, but, and this is a big but, people need to show that they want that." Swindlehurst added that their two aims were to "make the bars more attractive and enhance the experience" and to make the bars "financially sustainable."

The key message of the question and answer session was one of a lack of communication. A member of Lonsdale JCR commented that they felt "out of the loop" regarding the restructure and this had meant that they "struggled with freshers week". He went on to comment that they "only knew about the restructuring from Twitter."

Angus Wakefield, the President of Furness College, raised the point that he had only discovered his college bar would not be open for Freshers' Week through an article in SCAN. In response to this, Swindlehurst admitted that they "should have declared it wasn't going to be finished earlier. We had to make a call. Last year we deferred the start of the refurb so we could accommodate Freshers' Week. Maybe we would have done better starting earlier. We will hopefully be taking the bar and opening this Friday."

Hardman followed this up by saying that "we need to improve communication." The Lonsdale JCR sug-

gested that members of managerial structure meet with the JCRs "every couple of weeks."

One member of the student body raised the point that "Pendle has no licensee and is one of the worst performing bars" but Hardman felt that this was not a "determining factor". There was a lot of animosity from the floor regarding the restructuring decision. With one member of the student body pointing out how "degrading" it had been to make the bar managers "apply for a demotion of two pay grades". In response to this, Hardman and Swindlehurst admitted that they felt the redeployment of the bar managers had been "poorly thought out and poorly executed."

In response to several of Hardman's answers, one student asked: "What on earth does this have to do with a change to staffing structure?", prompting a round of applause. Hardman answered: "We need people with the right skills at the right level of the structure in the right job. We need to look for a new structure. We need enough people on the front line with the correct skills. This is the structure that we believe is right going forward, and has been discussed with College Principles. There are some lessons to be learned on some things. We didn't get it all right. Where we are now is where we should be. We will take these things on board, and look at a possible better way of handling the process in

the future"

Despite constant reassurances that the changes are not about saving money, Jo Hardman and Mark Swindlehurst have worked out that "it would £3 per student per week to make the bars sustainable."

When asked why he felt the usage of the bars was decreasing, Hardman stated: "This is a long term trend. There are all kinds of factors including people pre-loading from supermarkets. There are a number of students at this University that really love their bars, but the majority don't seem to spend their time there. If it's just about price we're in trouble. It's always going to be cheaper to buy a bottle of vodka in Bargain Booze and sit in your room."

A member of Lonsdale College asked why their bar had closed earlier than the licence allowed during Freshers' Week, suggesting that this might have enabled them to make more money. Hardman responded: "That is a very specific thing. Two reasons: cost saving, but what was agreed with the council and the university was that we would consult. This is a residential area. Rightly or wrongly, the view was that bars should close earlier than 3am with the exception of a couple of nights. Absolutely we could make more money by being later. If we are only seen as somewhere for one off events, they don't work. We don't make money if we rely on a bar

stayng open til 3am five nights a year. We need to make the bars work all day."

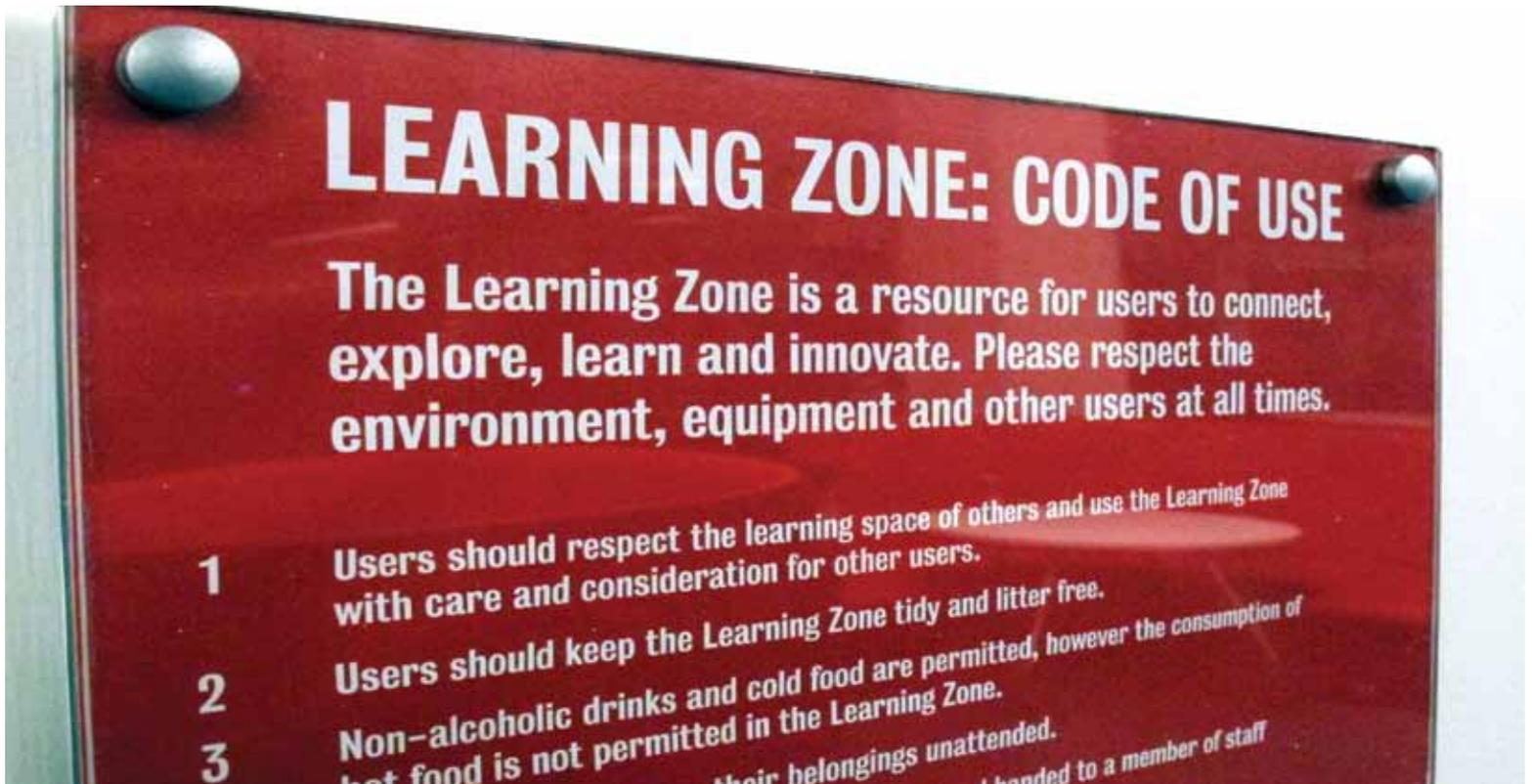
Having heard the responses offered by Hardman and Swindlehurst, one student asked how they intend to carry out the changes described in terms of differentiation points. Hardman confirmed that they had just employed a marketing assistant, and were "five days behind where we want to be on our marketing and promotions."

After Jo Hardman and Mark Swindlehurst had left, along with the majority of students who were there, Ste Smith was asked whether or not he knew about the structural changes, as Swindlehurst had mentioned "consultation" with LUSU. Smith make it very clear that he "knew nothing about the restructuring until it happened" but went on to comment that he did not feel he could comment on the change personally but that it "was not the right way around it."

Rachel Harvey, VP Media and Communications, felt the need to make it clear that this was not the view of the entire LUSU body, just of Smith and that she personally felt that the restructuring was simply "not fair." She accepted that "change needs to happen" but insisted that she was "not happy with what has happened." She also pointed out that LUSU had done what they could by calling the general meeting.

# Learning Zone, not Eating Zone

- Library take over Learning Zone and enforce stricter rules
- Eating will no longer be permitted within certain sections of the Learning Zone



Catherine Chorley  
Investigations Editor

LUSU President Ste Smith is to put forward a motion detailing students' dissatisfaction with University accommodation fee-increases to the forthcoming Union Council as a result of discussions at Monday's General Meeting.

## 'Dissatisfaction with University accommodation fee increases'

Despite the embargo on debating official motions due to an inordinate attendance level, the discussion, which had not been tabled as an official motion, was able to take place. The meeting, chaired by Smith, provided an opportunity for students to air their views and personal experiences of the impact of high rent prices and annual increases which are significantly above the level of inflation.

Introducing the issue was student Chris Witter, who had used official University publications (including minutes of Finance Committee meetings) to collate statistics detailing the trends apparent in

accommodation rents over the last few years. He highlighted the commissioning of the property developer University Partnerships Programme (UPP) to develop campus accommodation as highly culpable for the "damaging" rises in rent tariffs: UPP were contracted on the basis that the University would increase rents each year at 1.5% above inflation.

It was felt by many in attendance that the crux of the matter lay in where financial responsibility for campus development and maintenance ought to lie: with the students, or with the University itself. Questions were raised about the wider picture of the cost of the university experience, with the assertion by some individuals that the University ought to source funding for its projects without relying on increasing students' accommodation payments – particularly in the light of the tuition fee levels being raised to the maximum £9K per year for full-time Home students.

Given the limits to government funding set according to numerous parameters (such as parental income, year of study and previous study undertaken), many students expressed their beliefs that rent was

already a burden, and that in many cases the price of accommodation encompasses more than monetary costs: students choosing to work throughout their studies may face difficulties in balancing their studies, extra-curricular activities and additional employment workload.

## 'The University out to source funding for its projects without relying on increasing students' accommodation payments'

Witter also raised concerns over the disappearance of 'affordable' accommodation on campus, with recent renovations tending towards 'upscale' accommodation facilities and leaving the availability of 'basic-standard' accommodation limited only to Bowland College.

Witter asked of the Union: "Why are we paying so much to live? How is that affecting the character of our university? Surely we want education to be something that's inclusive and diverse, not something that's becoming increasingly a privilege for, not even middle class, but very upper middle class students?"

Worried about the future division of college identities along lines of class or wealth rather than community spirit or sporting reputation, Witter challenged the Union to take this issue forward and address the concerns of students who feel that university rent is a very real problem to the student body.

Smith proposed to contact the Head of Colleges and Student Life, Hilary Simmons, in the light of Monday's discussion, and motion the issue at the Union Council.

## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

SCAN are running a competition for budding photographers to get printed in the paper. The only requirement is that your photo is interesting.

Please submit your entries to [scan.photography@lusu.co.uk](mailto:scan.photography@lusu.co.uk)

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# New Student Portal replaces LUVLE

- Many students unaware of change
- Substantial improvements over previous system
- Tutorials offered by ISS, take up low

Rachel Quin

This academic year sees the introduction of Lancaster's new Student Portal and Moodle Virtual Learning Environment. The newly introduced Portal boasts a clean, easy to use interface, boldly decked out in the colours of Lancaster University.

However, this change has occurred relatively unannounced, appearing shortly before the beginning of the new academic year.

Richard Clark, VP Academic, told SCAN that "the reasons behind switching...is simply because the limitations we were finding in LUVLE were becoming unworkable."

One of the benefits of the Moodle space appears to be its interaction with the new library services. As the library introduces more eBooks

to make resources more accessible to students and staff alike, these resources can be linked up to your modules on Moodle. This allows students to access reading materials for seminars and assignments online, as opposed to obtaining a hard copy from the library.

**'Clean, easy to use interface, boldly decked out in the colours of Lancaster University'**

As students have begun to return to lectures this week there have been some problems with the new portal. One third year student of the Management School complained that, "many lecturers don't seem to know how to use Moodle, which has led to confusion in my classes about which

work needs to be done."

Clark addressed this in his statement, pointing out that "one of the main problems this year is the limited interaction that some tutors have with the Moodle spaces assigned to them; leaving them bleak and lacking information".

In order to combat this issue, LUSU are proposing to give tutors incentives to keep their spaces updated, with student-nominated awards for the best Moodle spaces.

Clark did advise that the Student Portal may still face some issues, stating that "obviously when you implement something new there are going to be hiccups so I ask for a level of patience with this new system until we can find the problems and fix them."

However, it seems that the majority of students are happy with the changes thus far. The portal allows students to have everything that they need on the front dashboard screen, enabling access to the library catalogue and their emails from one place.

The general consensus seems to be that the interface is much cleaner and compact, making it easier to find everything you need in one simple space. In addition to this, the ability to view a complete, concise list of their modules will help students to keep track of assignments and announcements posted by tutors; whereas with the LUVLE website, sometimes announcements could.

## Your Rights...What Rights?

Richard Clark  
Vice President (Academic)

With £9000 fees hitting students where it hurts from this year onwards, myself and the education and support team at LUSU felt it should be made clearer to students what academic rights they have here at Lancaster University. Expecting to find that there would be a university produced document clearly and concisely outlining your academic rights was, I now know, naive of me. Instead, we found several points sprawled across many loose documents and old papers that could easily be ignored or overlooked as unimportant, hardly recognizable as rights at all. It would appear that there is no such well publicised information freely available to students.

I have found no mention of your right to free and constant access to the materials on your reading lists. No clarity of the term 'contact time', and whether that is 'active contact time' or sitting you in a lecture theatre to watch a film for 2 hours, has been published by the university.

This is not acceptable.

**"I have found no mention of your right to free and constant access to the materials on your reading lists. No clarity of the term 'contact time'"**

There should be a clear, understandable list of student rights that anyone of you can fall upon at any time.

To put these words into action, LUSU's Academic Officers are holding a campaign in Alex Square on Wednesday, the 17th October. We will be asking you, the students, to tell us about the academic injustices you have faced through out your degree.

By highlighting these failings we can form a solid list of rights, and insist that the university publishes them all in one place, to ensure that students are getting the full provision to be expected from the £9000 fees, you are paying, and understand exactly what your rights are. Come and support our cause in Alexandra Square, on the 17th of October.

### Academic rights in brief

- Staff to student ratio should not exceed 15:1 in seminars.
- Coursework should be returned with a mark within a maximum of four weeks (excluding university closure days). This does not include dissertations.
- All examinations should be marked with student anonymity.
- Where anonymous marking exists in coursework this should be indicated in course/module handbooks.
- A student who fails any non final year module will be allowed to undertake a reassessment for that module. The student must take this reassessment.
- If your final year average is a degree class above your overall average and 75% of your marks in final year fall in that degree class you should normally be awarded that higher degree class.
- To experience a variety of effective approaches to learning, teaching and assessment.
- Timely provision of accurate and up-to-date information about all aspects of teaching, learning and assessment, including your chosen programme of study.
- Access to effective and timely student feedback mechanisms, including student representation, which enable you to be involved in the management and development of your programme of study.

## Sugarhouse issue apology for event name

Rachel Stafford  
News Editor

The Sugarhouse has issued an apology regarding their use of the term 'slutdroppers' in the title of an event in freshers week. The event was heavily advertised, around campus and on facebook and took place on the Wednesday night of freshers week.

Following an article in The Independent which specifically named the Sugarhouse event 'Slutdroppers vs. Mosher's' with a link to the Sugarhouse website an apology was issued by the Sugarhouse.

It stated that they, "regret that the name of a recent even may have caused some people offence, this was not our intention." They also wished to clear up the meaning behind the word, stating that they used the term to "refer to a style of dancing and we were unaware of any more sinister connotations associated with this term."

## Do it for the penguins

Paul Enguin  
Artic Reporter

LUSU Involve are amidst a year long campaign to get students saving energy. On Wednesday Week 1 they spent the day handing out free ice cream and sets of playing cards. The idea of this campaign is to encourage students to engage in activities which do not involve electricity encouraging a "behavioural change."

Each year the University spends approximately £5million on energy, that is why the environmentally active side of LUSU Involve, Green Lancaster has decided to take action regarding saving energy.

Louise Turner, spoke on behalf of the campaign, stating that, "I think this behavioural change is very important for the world."

Next Wednesday LUSU Involve will be holding a 'Capture the Flag' cross-campus event. The event will be based over twitter with locations of the penguin ('flag') tweeted with the hash tag #doitforthepenguins.



## All change for PGSA

Rachel Harvey  
Editor

In an attempt to get postgraduate students more involved in union politics, the structure of the Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA) has changed. It has now been renamed the Post Graduate Board, and will now be made up of 11 officers. The board is now elected at the start of Michealmas term in a forum. Rather than representing the college, eight of these officers will represent faculties. This comprises two for each faculty, one postgraduate taught student and one postgraduate research student for each. There will also be three elected reps: a Sports rep, a Chair and a Residency rep.

Postgraduates are typically one of the hardest groups of students to engage in union activity. This could be due to the fact that most postgraduates are only at university for a year while studying their Masters degree and so there is not enough time for them to become active within student politics or activities. It could also be because a large amount of postgrads at the university have already been at Lancaster for three years studying their undergraduate degree in their undergraduate college, which they

become attached to. The PGSA was a group of elected students, voted for at the end of Michaelmas term at the same time as college JCR execs, chosen to represent the views and needs of the post graduate students and to organise and hold events for the college and represent its students on Union Council. The major flaw in this that the PGSA officers were voted for and ran for the same term as the undergraduate college JCR execs. With most graduate student term times running from September to September it often meant that the officers had graduated before their time in office was over, meaning that there were no PGSA officers to see out the Michealmas term, leaving postgraduates unrepresented.

Nominations for the three reps are currently open until Thursday 18th October and the others will be elected in a forum that will be held that night in Bowland Seminar room 10 at 6pm. Any postgraduate student can run for these positions; the only restriction is that the residency officer must live on campus and you must be part of the faculty you wish to represent.

For more information visit [lusu.co.uk/postgraduateboard](http://lusu.co.uk/postgraduateboard)

Scan this for tutorial on Moodle



# University Challenge

- Lancaster on show for first time in seven years
- Lose to Pembroke College by 60 points



Emma Nelson  
News Editor

On October 1st, BBC 2 aired the latest episode of University Challenge, which saw Lancaster competing against Pembroke College Cambridge.

Accompanied by the Sugarmouse mascot, Lancaster's team comprised of Iain Dickson (MSc Ecology and the Environment), Alan Webster (MSc Resource and Environmental Management), Ann Kretzschmar (PhD Environmental Science) and Team Captain George Pinkerton (History, Philosophy, and Politics). This was the first team from Lancaster University to reach the televised rounds in seven years.

Pembroke College were runners up of the series title last year, setting the bar for this year's team, which consisted of Robert Scanes (Natural Sciences), Emily Maw (Mathematics), Jemima Hodkinson (Natural Sciences) and Captain Tom Foxhall (Classics).

Lancaster's Webster gave Lancaster the initial lead, where they gained a further 10 points in their bonus questions, setting the score at 20-0.

Captain Foxhall then put Pembroke back in the game, where they matched Lancaster's score of 20 after their bonus questions. Pembroke then extended this lead further, and correctly answered all of their bonus questions on recreational maths, leaving the score at 45-20.

Lancaster fought back though, and gained an additional 10 points in their bonus round on Roman Empires, so that they trailed by only 5 points at 45-40.

Pembroke took the picture round on famous buildings and architecture, extending their lead to 65-40. Despite Lancaster then bringing the score to 65-55, Pembroke stormed further ahead as they took the next two rounds and answered the majority of their bonus questions correctly. The score at this stage was 105-55.

## 'Lancaster proved worthy contenders as they won the next two rounds'

Lancaster challenged Pembroke's lead in the following two rounds, closing the gap to 105-95. However, Pembroke shot to the lead with an impressive four round win, as well as gaining several bonus points in their various rounds. The score at this stage reached 170-95.

Lancaster proved worthy contenders as they won the next two rounds and brought the score to 170-125. However, Pembroke edged closer to victory as Hodkinson and Scane helped them to hit the 200 mark. Lancaster did not let this down

hearten them, however, and gained a final 15 points in the last round, setting the final score at 200-140.

## 'Accompanied by the Sugarmouse mascot'

Presenter Jeremy Paxman reassured Lancaster that they were up against a "very strong team" and suggested that 140 points may be enough to bring them back as the highest scoring losers.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for colleges and the student experience, Professor Amanda Chetwynd, also told SCAN that she thought "the Lancaster team performed really well and I hope they did well enough to go through as the 'highest scoring losers'. The team also did very well beating York in the newly introduced University Challenge at Roses this last May."

# Deposit Advice for Landlords

Rachel Stafford  
News Editor

The National Landlords Association is "reminding university landlords to protect their tenants' deposits as students embark on the new academic year." By law, "all landlords taking a deposit on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy must by law protect it within a government-authorised tenancy protection scheme."

With many second and third year students entering into rent agreements with private landlords in Lancaster it is important that they check that their deposits are being correctly protected. The law states that "landlords have 30 days in which they must protect the deposit and pass the proof of protection to the tenant. Failure to do so could lead to a fine of up to three times the deposit value."

Students need to be aware of their rights regarding deposits and David Salusbury, Chairman of the National Landlords Association insists that "tenants who are unsure should ask their landlord for details of where their deposit has been protected if they haven't received it within this period."

The website, [www.mydeposits.co.uk](http://www.mydeposits.co.uk) can be used to check whether or not your deposit is being protected. The website also has lots of advice for landlords and tenants alike.

## In Carolynne...

- How to live life on a budget at University
- Essential fashion tips
- Is a 'healthy student' the world's biggest oxymoron?
- SCAN Culture takes a look at the Mercury Music Prize nominees
- Review of The Dave Matthews Band

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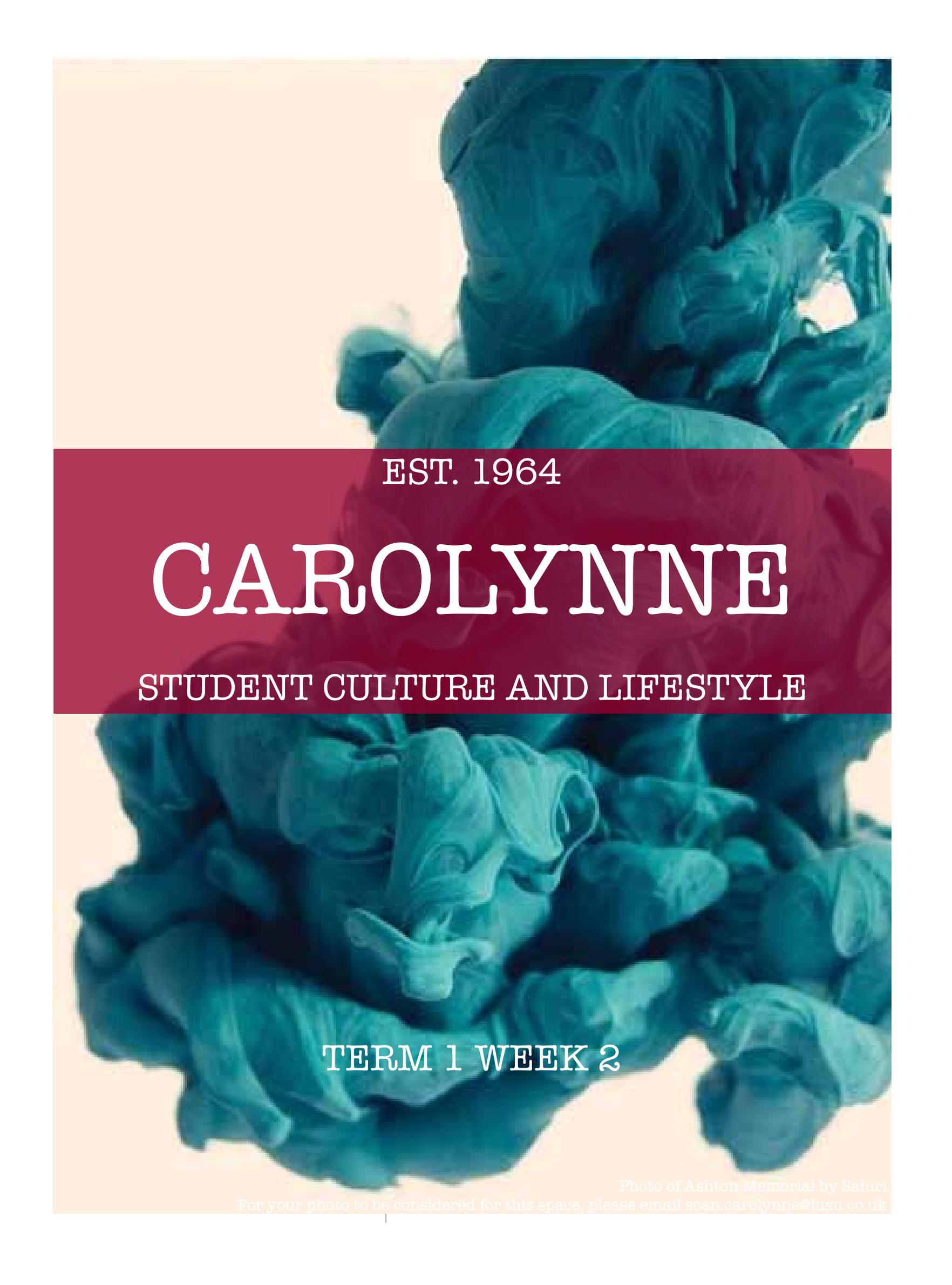


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EST. 1964

# CAROLYNNE

STUDENT CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE

TERM 1 WEEK 2

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## Freshers' Bleak?

Joe Henthorn

Carolynne Editor

So, did you have fun? Because that was your very last chance, you know! That was the greatest week of your life! Over the course of Freshers' Week you should have pushed your Facebook friend count well over nine thousand, imbibed frankly inhuman amounts of alcohol, poked your genitals into orgies so depraved that they'd make Bataille avert his eyes, and, to top it off, maybe found the time to join Canoe Fencing Society, or something. So if you've had anything short of the absolute Time of Your Life™, then there is definitely something seriously, seriously wrong with you.

Or so the general Freshers' Week rhetoric goes. But with a just a teensy bit of hindsight (I'm a post-grad now, and I have hindsight aplenty) it becomes obvious that the first week of University, in all its maddeningly intense, socially overwhelming glory, is actually kind of naff. The sheer amount of highly organised, strictly timetabled fun that the average student is exposed to in that first week.

Don't fret if you didn't think Freshers' week lived up to the ridiculous expectations heaped on it. Chances are that most people agree with you - they just won't admit it whilst the Freshers' Reps are still loitering in the kitchen. Things will calm down from here! And you'll get the chance to make friends, join societies and dabble in exciting varieties of sexual intercourse at your own pace!

Of course, being thrown in head first has its charms; you may well find your future housemates in that bucket load of friends you've made, and joining Canoe Fencing Society might be the best decision you ever make..

## Lose pounds and save £££



### Lifestyle

Becky Cutler

It's easy to be motivated to get fit if you can afford the shiny equipment that builds amazing, equally shiny abs. However, not everyone can enjoy the luxury of having a gym membership which insists on taking at least a couple of hundred from you each year - especially those of us reliant on our student loans. But do not despair! There are other ways to maintain trim fitness without breaking the bank and burning your pockets (which is just plain messy).

Let us start with the cheapest and best cardio workout around: running! You can do it anywhere. Okay, maybe not on the motorway, but it is pretty much an all-environment friendly exercise which is actually better for you when done off the treadmill. With your headphones in it can easily become an outdoors routine. Whether you live in town or on campus there is plenty of grass and pavement to pummel with your trainers.

University societies are another excellent budget way to keep fit. There are societies for Athletics, Running, Dance, Rowing, Trampolining and Cheerleading (to name just a few), all with membership costs at a tiny fraction of what a usual gym membership would be.

There are numerous sports teams for each college which are definitely worth trying out for, such as football, rugby and hockey, which have enough practice sessions and games to keep you in excellent shape. Joining also helps fund these groups, which rely on student involvement and enthusiasm. What better way to support them than getting involved yourself?

Ways of keeping up your fitness on a day-to-day basis can include walking to Sainsbury's and getting hench while dragging home bags of alcohol, or simply walking to get washing if you live on campus. If you share a flat with a few friends it may be worth investing in a bike to share, which would split the costs and, like running, you can choose when and where you cycle. Also, volunteering or getting a part-time job in town or on campus encourages you to be more active as you have to have at least a degree of dedication in getting to and from specific destinations.

Finally, don't discount the usefulness of walking to the university from town, or vice versa, depending on where you live. The route is pretty straightforward and takes approximately an hour. Leave yourself a bit of extra time the first few times to test how long you personally take and it can help you meet the sixty minutes of exercise adults are encouraged to take every day - without breaking the bank at all.

## Lighting up the facts on social smoking

### Lifestyle

Kirsty Lee

One Time Social Smoker

It is a common scenario - on a night out or when you are with a group of friends who smoke, it is easy to get caught up in the moment and have a quick puff of a friend's cigarette. We all know that one friend who claims to be just a "social smoker". But is this really such a bad thing? Do all people who smoke socially end up becoming a 20-a-day smoker?

The definition of a social smoker is someone who smokes less than one cigarette a day; they don't smoke every day, and then only in certain social situations. But this can extend into addiction. We are all well aware that nicotine is addictive, yet some peo-

ple are more susceptible to it than others. Most people who start off as social smokers or occasional smokers will eventually become a regular smoker, which could range from a 20-a-day to 60-a-day habit.

You may not believe me, and you may be adamant that this will not be you, but you can not disbelieve science! Professor Robert West, leading smoking researcher at University College London, undertook a study of occasional/social smokers in 1995 (yes, you may think this data is old but it is still staggering) and found that about 80 per cent of occasional smokers find they cannot stop when they try.

The risks that are associated with smoking are exactly the same as the risks for social smokers. You may think that smoking a small amount will reduce the likelihood of certain risks; this is true for cancer, as the risk of cancer is proportional to the amount smoked. However, for heart disease and other major side-effects you increase your risk every time you smoke. I won't bore you with a list of potential risks,

as I'm sure they have been drummed into you at every available opportunity by parents and teachers alike, but just remember those risks every time you light up.

However, if you have decided you want to give up smoking, or need to give up because you can't afford it on a student budget, then there is help out there. As of the 1st October, thousands of people across England are taking part in Stoptober, a 28-day challenge to stop smoking. This challenge is designed to help you live a smoke free life because if you stop for 28 days, you are five times more likely to give up for good.

If you have to smoke, it is better to smoke a little rather than a lot. You know your own body and you are well aware of the dangers, so it is completely up to you. Personally, when I tried a cigarette and never wanted to go near one again. Oh, and as a final interesting fact, smoking can make your legs fall off. Smoking leads to bad circulation and the leading cause of leg amputation is smoking. Take heed, smokers. It's not just drinking that can leave you legless.

# This month's top films

## Culture

### Grace Copeland

Autumn is here, dark nights are upon us and the warmth of summer has faded away to leave us cold, wet and downright miserable. But fear not, if you're as reluctant as we are to brave the weather, then why not huddle up in the cinema and immerse yourself in the action, romance, sci-fi and drama that's on offer. Here's a run down of our top films in cinemas this autumn...

### The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Director: Stephen Chbosky

Writer-director Stephen Chbosky has adapted his critically acclaimed 1999 novel which tells the story of the quiet and somewhat troubled Charlie (Logan Lerman) who gets mercilessly bullied at school until he falls in with flamboyantly gay Patrick (Ezra Miller) and his 'dangerous' step-sister Sam (Emma Watson). Navigating the exhilarating highs and crushing lows of growing up, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* approaches mental illness, drug use and sexual identity amongst the background of love, loss, fear and hope.

### Skyfall

Director: Sam Mendes

Britain's love for all things Bond has been at fever pitch since his sensational appearance with *Her Majesty* at the Olympics this summer and now, finally, we're just weeks away from the franchise's return. Daniel Craig is welcomed back for his third performance as 007, who becomes torn between his dedication to the agency and his superior, M (Judi Dench), when her past comes back to haunt her. Directed by Sam Mendes and featuring Javier Bardem, Ralph Fiennes and Ben Whishaw, one can only hope that 'Skyfall' will live up to the hype.

### Beasts of the Southern Wild

Director: Ben Zeitlin



Photo by Barbara Doduk

A bold, beautiful and magical film that wowed audiences at last year's Sundance Festival and scooped the Grand Jury Prize. Set in a post-apocalyptic American South, the film follows Hushpuppy, an intrepid 6 year old, who lives with her father. When her father contracts a mysterious

illness, nature flies out of whack, temperatures rise, and the ice caps melt, unleashing an army of prehistoric creatures called aurochs. With the waters rising, the aurochs coming, and her father's health fading, Hushpuppy goes in search of her lost mother and a new home.

### To Rome With Love

Director: Woody Allen

Following the success of *Midnight in Paris*, Woody Allen returns with his next masterpiece, set in the romantic city of Rome. The film follows the intertwining stories of a worker who wakes up to find himself a celebrity, an architect who takes a trip back to the street he lived on as a student, a young couple on their honeymoon, and a frustrated opera



Photo by edavidove

director with a gift for discovering talented singers. The critical reception hasn't quite matched up to that of *Midnight in Paris*, but it's certainly worth a watch, as Allen's unique style never fails to charm.

### Rust and Bone

Director: Jacques Audiard

Receiving critical acclaim, being tipped for awards and merited as 'an utterly absorbing love story', don't be put off by the seemingly bizarre plot. Starring Marion Cotillard and newcomer Matthias Schoenaerts, the film follows the lives of Stephanie (Cotillard), a young woman who works in an amusement park training whales to do tricks for the crowd and a struggling single father, Ali (Schoenaerts), who works as a bouncer and is involved in bare-knuckle fighting. When Stephanie suffers a horrible accident, their lives cross paths and an unlikely friendship is formed...

### The Imposter

Director: Bart Layton

If you missed this jaw dropping documentary at the cinema, then don't miss the opportunity to see it at *The Dukes*. Blending real-life testimony and dramatic re-enactments, *The Imposter* documents the 1994 disappearance of 13-year-old Nicholas Barclay. When Nicholas turns up in Spain three years later, he is accepted by his family and the media, despite look-

ing different, sounding different and appearing to be much older than 16. When an investigator starts to ask questions, the revelations that follow are nothing but astonishing. Showing between Saturday 20th Oct - Monday 22nd October.

### The Shining (Extended Cut)

Director: Stanley Kubrick

Don't feel like dressing up this Halloween? Why not celebrate with this extended cut (never before released in the UK!) of Kubrick's terrifying masterpiece. 'The Shining' tells the tale of Jack Torrance (Jack Nicholson) who takes his family to an isolated hotel for the winter where an evil and spiritual presence influences him into violence, while his psychic son sees horrific forebodings from the past and of the future. Showing at *The Dukes* on Wednesday 31st Oct, with tickets from £4.50.

### Argo

Director: Ben Affleck

Based on real events, the dramatic thriller 'Argo' chronicles the life-or-death covert operation to rescue six Americans, which unfolded behind the scenes of the Iran hostage crisis, and focuses on the little-known role that the CIA and Hollywood played until classified information was released many years after the event. Starring Ben Affleck, John Goodman and Bryan Cranston, this is a white-knuckle ride from start to finish.

### Shut Up and Play the Hits

Director: Dylan Southern, Will Lovelace

*Shut Up and Play the Hits* - the highly anticipated documentary based around LCD Soundsystem's final live show - finally gets an outing in Lancaster thanks to *The Dukes*. The film follows front-man James Murphy around New York for 48 hours, and promises an incredible mix of documentary, disco balls and dancing. And Murphy's one hell of an articulate



Photo by joshc

# Hidden Gems: **The Vintage Boudoir**

**Collette Corcoran** discusses swapping her VW campervan, teaching career and life's savings for running one of Lancaster's most successful vintage shops, **The Vintage Boudoir**. Keep up to date with the Boudoir by visiting the Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/thevintageboudoir>

## Culture

**Stephanie Bell**  
Culture Editor

### Firstly - where did your interest in vintage clothing come from?

I have loved vintage clothing from an early age, I remember customising my clothes from as young as eleven; I would spend any money I had at the haberdashery stall and adorn my jeans with flowers and ribbons and would tie dye, embellish and re-work anything I could get my hands on.

When I went to high school, I embraced being 'different'. I would buy vintage clothes from charity shops in Liverpool and spend my Saturdays in Affleck Palace in Manchester. By the age of seventeen I had fallen in love with Vivienne Westwood. On a Politics trip to the Houses of Parliament I stole away at lunch to take a look at 430 Kings Road the famous site of Westwood's shop that has changed names many times over the years - I bought a BOY t-shirt on the same day - which I still have!

### What is it about vintage clothing which separates it from high street shops?

Difference- I love how you buy something vintage and NOBODY else will have it, yet you can follow fashions in vintage clothes, as well as being avant garde but NEVER look the same as anyone else. I love that.

### How did you come to own a vintage shop?

I followed my dreams. I teach Yoga so I tell everybody day in, day out to live their life and to never miss a minute. Having spent the whole of my life being very ambitious in the field of education spending eleven years teaching English in schools in Lancashire and Cumbria, I decided that it was time to change my career. I made a vision board five years ago of what I would love to do the most and now I'm doing them.

### What sacrifices have you made along the way?

I've had to sell my VW camper van and give up a career I was very successful in, along with a healthy salary and all of my savings - all a small price to pay for happiness!

### How do you view Lancaster's fashion scene?

When I moved here from Liverpool I was shocked, people seemed to be quite conservative - everyone seemed to wear understated clothes when I had been used to the flamboyancy of clubbing where fashion was crucial to a night out!

Lancaster seemed to catch on to fashions much later. I think that has to do with the fact that Lancaster's High Street does not have the shops that it should! Often, people play it 'safe' in Lancaster, they stick to Topshop and River Island as it's easy to have clothes already styled for you - what other options are there? I would love to see a variety of independent shops - people here need more alternatives!

### Do you think The Vintage Boudoir has changed it?

The students bring a fresh fashion wave every year and last year the indie/band influence was very strong- I'm hoping this year with the rekindled love of 90's fashion we will see the students embracing the return of grunge; leather, knits, plaids and checks. Girls looking like they borrowed their boyfriends clothes and boys spending hours trying to look unkempt - how exciting!

I LOVE the fact that all generations of Lancastrians are embracing vintage clothes in my shop. I have had my eyes opened by the amount of people who don't really know what vintage is about and with support and guidance they embrace it and keep returning.

The Vintage Boudoir will change the fashion scene in Lancaster; hopefully our female Lancastrians will continue to embrace clothes that are unique and special. In towns where there are lots of vintage shops real fashion gives birth to the fashionistas of the next generation - maybe we can birth a few too!

### Any future plans or new business ventures?

Oh yes! First of all The Vintage Boudoir will be adding men's fashion in 2013 and I am setting up a local Vintage Network 'VINTAGE LANCASTER'- so we can run fairs and events for ourselves; I hope to have quite a big impact on Lancaster! Watch this space.



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**LUSU**

## 'A healthy student' - the world's biggest oxymoron?

### Features

**Annie Gouk**

Features Editor

The cliché of the stereotypical student is not a very pretty picture. Living off beans on toast and noodles, the student in its natural habitat will aim to sleep in as late as possible, due to having consumed its own weight in alcohol the night before. The stereotypical student, quite simply, does not take very good care of themselves.

So this year, I plan to go on a health kick – taking vitamins, eating plenty of fruit and vegetables, going to the gym as often as possible and quitting smoking. Why am I subjecting myself to such torture, you ask? For me, it's not necessarily a question of losing weight (although that's an added bonus). My issue is that I am so terribly, terribly weak and out of shape. I'm fed up of struggling with heavy doors and having my housemates open jars for me. I want to be able to run for a bus without feeling like I'm going to collapse, and carry my Asda delivery upstairs without my arms turning to jelly. In short, I want to be able to function like a normal human being and not some malnourished child, and most of all I want to feel good.

This is all very admirable, but somehow I think it will not be so easy to achieve in reality. There's a reason this particular stereotype of students is thriving, and mainly that's because a lot of it is true. When you're budgeting on the pittance of your loan that's left after your rent, it's hard not to go for the cheaper option of noodles or other processed food. Fortunately, fruit and veg are relatively cheap, especially if you pick them up at the market, so as long as you have any basic cooking skills you should be OK.

It's also true that students do consume copious amounts of alcohol. Not only containing a large number of calories in itself (which you nonetheless might burn off again on the dance floor), this tends to lead to some late-night forays into dodgy fast food shops. When in my first year and on campus, the convenient location of Sultans as right on my doorstep led to my friends and I becoming regulars. Hopefully now that I'm back in halls for my final year I can resist the temptation.

But there are other demands of university life that make it difficult to get healthy. There is the already-mentioned issue of students typically being low on funds. While the price of gym membership is relatively cheap for what you're getting (compared to cost of other newly built sports centres), it's still pretty costly for a poor student. Already knowing I wanted to join, I saved up money from my part-time job over summer to purchase membership. However, those of you who feel they don't have enough money to join, check out the Lifestyle section's guide to getting fit on a budget.

For many, especially those in their final year, simply finding the time to exercise can be difficult. If you're up to your eyeballs in coursework, along with taking part in any societies or other extra-curricular activities, you might think a workout is the last thing you can be bothered to do. But from my experience, exercising helps to get rid of stress, and leaves you feeling more prepared for busy days. So while I can't give you an easy out, or some magical advice to combat all the problems students face in trying to be healthy, I can say this – if you chose to get fit, it might take some self-control and extra effort, but the benefits of feeling good in your own body are definitely worth it.

### Fashion

## Pick up a Parka!

**Yasmin Jaunbocus**

Lancaster has been torrential the last few days. Rain has literally been falling in buckets, cats and dogs and in floods. You don't have to be outside a minute to be completely soaking wet after spending the best part of the afternoon getting ready for a night out. That's why the parka coat fashion staple is going to be your absolute best friend this autumn. The parka coat is not only deliciously warm and cosy, it has a hood and this season's picks have divine little details to make your parka stand out from the crowd.

Details include gold studs which go so well with the traditional khaki models, leather panels, elbow patches, pockets and fur trimming.

The parka coat originates from the Arctic and was originally designed to fend off freezing temperatures. They were usually knee length and fur lined. The 1950's saw the return of the Parka as we know it today as they were issued as part of military uniform in America.

If braving the Lancaster winds have you worried then getting a parka is not only a great investment but will have you toasty all though winter too. Zara do a great model with brown leather elbow patches, drawstring details and a detachable fleecy inside for when it's not quite cold enough to be fully furred up for £100. M&S have a fur trimmed version, available in traditional sage green as well as maroon for £79. However, if those pennies are already pinching after fresher's week then Tesco and Primark also do bargain options for £35 and £26 respectively, in khaki and black.

So there's no excuse to be shivering and wet walking to your lectures! Pick up a parka and stay dry and stylish.



Photo by Claire Sutton



Photo from US National Archive

# Michaelmas key trends

Sarah Warsaw picks out the trends set to dominate the Spine this winter

## Fashion

Sarah Warsaw

### Peeping Collars

What's really great about a simple shirt is that the pattern, cut or an embellishment of the collar can make it really unique and interesting. Although the shirts featured in magazines such as Elle and Vogue are mega expensive, it doesn't mean that an alternative can't be found. What I love about embellished collars is that having them peeping out of a jumper neckline often makes your outfit rather than hinder it. Plus, realistically, not wearing a jumper or cardigan in Lancaster is a bit silly. This gorgeous black, sleeveless, embellished blouse by Missguided has got the perfect studded collar for wearing underneath a jumper on a chilly Lancaster day!

brands. Not only are there great ranges across the high street, Nike and Converse also give you the opportunity to design your own trainers. Although this is a little more expensive, it's a great idea for a Christmas present. They're a good investment for the future, because as much as trainer styles may come and go, a great coloured pair of hi-tops will always stay in style. Converse has been rocking the trainer market for over 100 years and they are still timeless!

### Biker Babes



Photos by PRshots

Leather comes in all sorts of shades this season, from cranberry red to standard black. In fact, when it comes to a taking on the biker look, a black leather jacket is exactly what you need. This is another timeless piece that can be worked



Photos by adsoto87

into many outfits and styles. During this odd season when it's sunny all day followed by sporadic torrential rain, a biker jacket may be your closest friend. It will not protect you from the downpour but it will however toughen up a summery

dress and keep the chill away. Great with jeans, or as a quick cover up for the brisk walk home from Sugarhouse, this a great lasting piece to purchase this season.



Photos by PRshots

### Funky Trainers

While the Olympics are still fresh in our minds, the inspiration and dedication is having a lasting effect. It is also impacting our style too. Trainers with dresses, jeans or tights look quirky and cool. They're comfy, colourful and come in a whole range of different styles and

# Baroque and roll

## The latest Baroque fashion trends

## Fashion

Laura Dempster

Stemming from the eye watering floral prints we saw all summer long, Baroque is very much the party print this winter. We were first introduced to the makings of the trend with the scarf prints of summer which patterned everything from body con dresses to bikinis.

Baroque has progressed from the tacky yellow swirls adorning vintage Versace and has been given more of a tasteful restoration in 2012. Although, that's not to say we have completely turned our backs on the likes of attention seeking, red leopard print bomber jackets covered in gold chain print, available from Primark if you dare.

River Island is probably your best high street bet for affordable Baroque style clothing and accessories. They have really warmed to the trend, supplying you with everything from Baroque print umbrellas to Baroque print lurex socks.

Traditionally Baroque is used to describe a particular artistic movement of the seventeenth century, characterised by exuberance and opulence. In modern terms (and in terms of fashion) it generally means clothing with excessive ornamentation or embellishment, taking inspiration from the artistic works and

architecture of the seventeenth century movement.

The gold accents that are used on almost every item really lend themselves to the party season. Pair Baroque with sensuous velvets in colours such as forest green, deep purple and

burgundy red to make yourself feel like royalty.

However if the thought of gold metallic jacquard intimidates you, that's not to say you can't still rock Baroque (excuse the rhyme) with accessories. A LBD with a gold jewel encrusted clutch bag still makes a classy statement, giving a nod to the trend without fully embracing it.



Photos by PRshots



# SIX OF THE BEST: MER



Photo by kmeron



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Photo by darkmavis

## LIANNE LA HAVAS - IS YOUR LOVE BIG ENOUGH?

Jensen Toldt

A nomination for this year's prestigious Barclaycard Mercury Prize for best album could only have made Lianne La Havas' birthday an unforgettable one. Yet this songstress is making waves across the popular music scene with her fellow nominee, Ben Howard, who performed exactly a year ago at Latitude Festival's Word Arena stage where last summer, she and her band announced the release of her album the next day and consequently her debut album peaked at an impressive top four.

"Is Your Love Big Enough?" cannot be bought on the gravitas of its title track alone although it was enough to shift her into the mainstream from a persevered artist whose two years in the industry releasing critically acclaimed EPs and selling out tours cultivate a career highlight to perform at BBC's Later with Jools Holland. Surely this would be enough for her to garner the ultimate British prize for best album in place of the Brits? This native Londoner is certainly up against some strong nominees, some less renowned but nevertheless inherently British, talented and musically apt.

The likes of Django Django, Michael Kiwanuka and Jessie Ware could provide some stiff competition for La Havas, as each have an incredibly new and distinct sound. Nevertheless, to win or not to win, she and her fellow nominees all exemplify the kind of credible British artists offering a rescue to an otherwise troubled industry on the other side of the Atlantic. Something tells me Lianne La Havas is doing well with or without the award after she affirms a rumour about collaboration with the legendary musician, Prince.

## MICHAEL KIWANUKA - HOME AGAIN

Jeremy Reed

Michael Kiwanuka's debut, 'Home Again' is something of an anomaly on the Mercury Prize list. There are no comments on the state of the nation here, à la Plan B's offering 'Ill Manors' or last year's winner PJ Harvey's 'Let England Shake.' There's no electronic innovation or indie 'quirkiness' found elsewhere on the list, just sincere, sumptuous soul. 'Home Again,' doesn't reinvent the wheel, but it doesn't need to. The soul-folk formula is tried and tested and the main thing that shines through on the album is Kiwanuka's overwhelming talent. Often compared to Otis Redding, his voice is softer and cleaner than Redding's and his songs, rather than soul belters, are folksy ballads – more Nick Drake than Sam Cooke.

A large portion of this year's Mercury Prize nominees performed at Bestival, which I was lucky enough to attend. Admittedly, out of all of them I only managed to see Kiwanuka, but I was hugely glad I did. A stand-out moment of the set was a cover of Jimi Hendrix's 'May This Be Love' in which I (a lifelong Hendrix fan) conceded that his voice is arguably better than Jimi's was. It was at this moment that I realised what a talent Michael Kiwanuka is, and the modest-sized crowd seemed to agree. It is for this reason I believe he should win the Mercury Prize – talent. In this cultural climate of the X-Factor I believe the true meaning of the word has been lost, and it's up to artists like Kiwanuka who haven't won any talent shows but have been brought to the public's attention through sheer ability (and maybe a bit of Youtube) to remind people what it really means. Also, if interviews and his performance at Bestival are anything to go by, he's a thoroughly nice bloke and that has to count for something.

## THE MACCABEES - GIVEN TO THE WILD

Kirsty Lee

In my opinion, one of the most worthy Mercury Prize nominees this year is The Maccabees, with their third album 'Given to the Wild'. With an indie-folk-rock guitar music sound they are beginning to appeal to more and more people, with this album reaching a massive top five spot in the album charts, the highest position the band has ever seen. Along with this, the band headlined the NME music stage at Reading and Leeds Festival earlier this year, and is currently touring around America with Florence + The Machine with a tour around Europe closely following with the Black Keys. Touring with such massive names demonstrates how well loved the Maccabees are and they will definitely prove to be a worthy support act – and naturally a headline tour should follow.

For this little band from south London, this is amazing news and although the band aren't award orientated, (they don't make their music to win prizes)- it is just an added bonus if they do, as they have also been nominated for Best Album at this year's Q awards.

If you have never heard of the Maccabees, you should definitely try them out, especially if you are a fan of bands such as Mumford and Sons. With the bands inventive lyrical music it is hard to find a track on this album that someone doesn't like. My favourites are Pelican and Went Away, which are well worth a listen. This band have been around since 2004, and now they are finally getting the recognition they deserve. Although they aren't the bookies favourite, I really believe they have what it takes to win.

# CURY PRIZE NOMINEES



Photo by aktivioslo

## JESSIE WARE - DEVOTION

Marili Vosmi

Sophisticated, elegant and unique - these are the words that come to mind whilst trying to describe *Devotion*, Jessie Ware's debut album. Her songs are truly honest pieces, each of them exploring everyday themes which everyone can relate to. In one of her interviews she says that she is not a complicated person, that she feels what she sings and hopes that it's enough. It's a refreshingly sincere attitude.

In a recent Pitchfork interview, Ware says that there's a lot of fantasy and embellishment in *Devotion*. Perhaps this isn't a surprise on an album about relationships, but she also stated she definitely wanted it to feel as effeminate and romantic as possible without becoming saccharine. While the topic of the album is pretty straight forward the music itself offers massive variation. Although it's a straight up soul album, I think the influence of previously singing on dance songs can still be felt and makes the album edgy; she definitely has her own niche and a distinguishable voice.

When listening to this album for the first time, it might seem as if most of it is too laid back; and indeed, it doesn't exactly scream for the listeners attention. However it soon becomes obvious that some of the songs have great amounts of depth to them, and they quickly get stuck in your head - you'll find yourself happily listening to them over and over again.

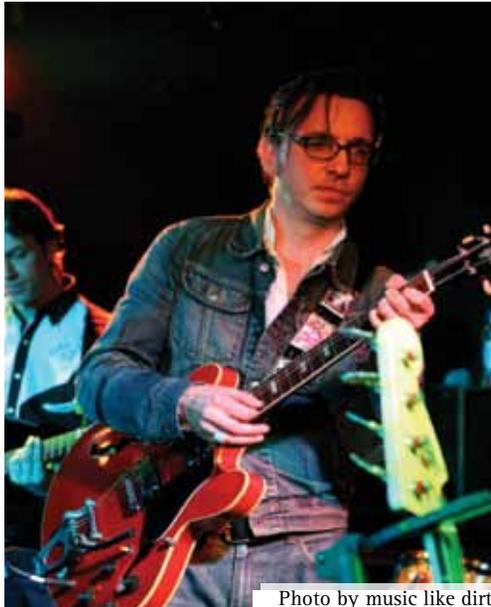


Photo by music like dirt

## RICHARD HAWLEY - STANDING AT THE SKY'S EDGE

Daisy Wood

My Mum loves Richard Hawley - she has all of his albums, a laminated picture of him up in the living room and she's even been to see him twice. His soulful, melancholic wailings are the backdrop to a night in at home and now I've started to love him too. Hawley is like a modern-day Johnny Cash but from Sheffield. First nominated for the Mercury back in 2006, he lost to the Arctic Monkeys; Alex Turner proclaiming even then; "Someone call 999, Richard Hawley's been robbed!" Although it's not just the Arctics that are in awe of Hawley's gentle charm - his steady release of solidly great albums have been causing a stir in those who are a bit too old for NME, yet who still want to remain on the pulse of things.

'Standing at the Sky's Edge' is the album nominated; the title track, heavier than usual, sets the tone for a large part, with 'Seek It' and 'Don't Stare at the Sun' providing dreamy relief - it's perfectly balanced, infused with touches of psychedelic, impressive guitar solos. Hawley seems more content and - dare I say it - hippy-ish, in his latest efforts. It's one of those that is a grower; nice to have on in the background, until your ears really start to sit up and listen - then it's great.

Tipped to be the bookie's favourite, alongside Plan B, Hawley is certainly in with a good chance this year. Seven albums in a long, long career (a guitarist in Pulp, member of Britpop legends Longpigs), and he's still on top of his game. Rarely can you find something so lovely that is so listenable all the way through. It's an album to be treasured, one that can be turned to in times of introspection, with a cup of tea in hand. What more could you want?

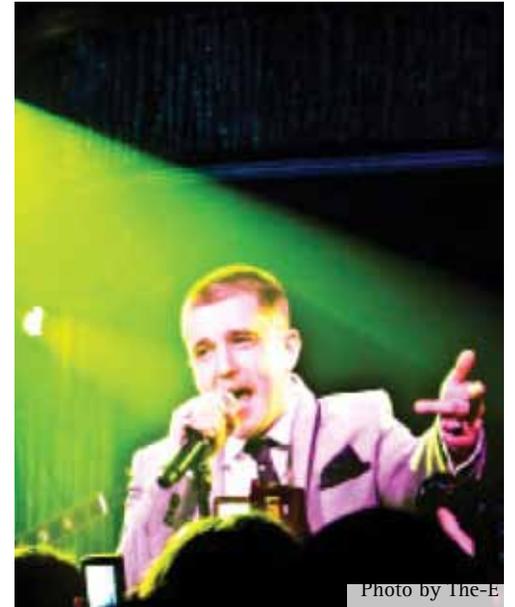


Photo by The-E

## PLAN B - ILL MANORS

Jack Smith

It is perhaps ironic that modern, popular music is no longer as political and rebellious as it was in previous decades whilst we are in extremely highly charged times. There is strong feeling amongst people young and old across the political spectrum towards austerity, public spending cuts, exorbitant wealth and opportunities available to the youth - yet, remarkably, this is barely reflected in today's music.

While I certainly don't agree with his entire message, the fact that Plan B - real name Ben Drew - has a message at all should put him in contention for the Mercury Music Prize this year. It also helps that he delivers his message with wit on top of finely crafted music.

The album enables Drew to tell short stories of youth exposed to violence, drugs, and the nastier side of inner-city living. On "Lost My Way", he laments the prospects of youths that "hang with thugs and sell drugs", concluding that "these kids ain't got no hope".

It's not all negative, however. The album does - albeit, briefly - take an aspirational and hopeful tone in the form of the Kano featuring "Live Once", but this does not prevent the album being an angry call to arms for the youth of Britain. There is little subtlety in Drew's lyrics, but with the charts thoroughly cleansed of any political message, this is clearly a deliberate move.

In this album, Plan B has once again shown his remarkable talent for production and rap, having dabbled in soul music and film. Such talent is more than deserving of the Mercury Music Prize. It remains to be seen where on earth Drew decides to go next.

## Why I love Hockney (and you should too!)

Culture Editor Stephanie Bell takes a look back at the work of seminal British artist David Hockney, and looks forward to the new exhibition of some of his early work at the Peter Scott Gallery.

### Stephanie Bell

Culture Editor

Sausage dog owner and bespectacled gent aren't necessarily the first traits conjured when the face of Great British art springs to mind. More recently the general public may reel off any number of the YBAs, especially with the recent success of Damien Hirst's Retrospective featured in the Tate this year, but for me there is little else David Hockney could do to capture my heart as one of Britain's, if not all of art's, real treasures.

Where Hirst is grittier, edgier and can easily be imagined sloshing a pint, eating pork scratchings whilst starting an argument with; "at the end of the day" - Hockney is the more refined Yorkshire gentleman, who now at seventy five is like a wise grandfather; interesting, respectable and likely to carry Werther's Originals at all times.

Unlike my grandfather, however, Hockney a) possesses all of his own teeth, and b) is a renowned embracer of technology - his suits especially tailored to accommodate his iPad, his newest means of working. Friends of Hockney regularly wake to an electronically drawn bunch of flowers or the view from his window; now if that isn't an innovative way to get art to the people I don't know what is.

If all this is sounding terribly twee then don't be

fooled. In his heyday Hockney, a bohemian and fun loving homosexual was like any artist in the sixties; skint, stylish and looking to make a break. As art became another aspect of culture it, in turn, offered a plurality of media, styles and technique which Hockney embraced using different codes and languages.

At the time, abstraction in all its glory was the reigning force (think Pollock), its dominance bullying artists and viewers into believing this was the way painting had to go. Even Hockney admits to being manipulated by abstraction, despite trying to "reject it in action" in theory he couldn't reject it at all. After trying and failing to imitate the work of his adversaries' large Abstract Expressionist pieces, a young Hockney followed suit.

It took a lot of growth as an artist to realise this was not how it should be. For Hockney it was important that there was recognizable imagery within his pieces, "as a means of engaging the viewer's interest" whilst demonstrating "the awareness of the issues of modern art."

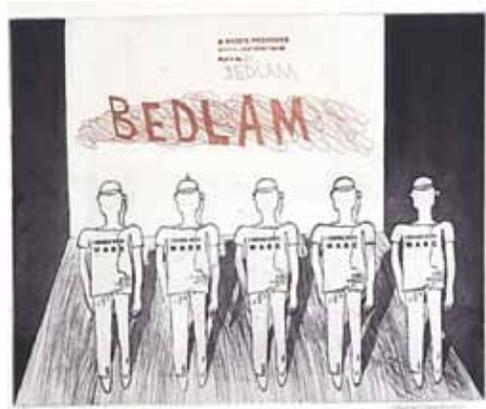
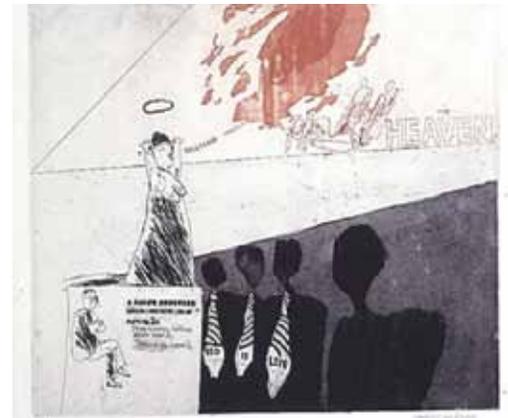
Hockney had now come to terms with his rejection of abstract Formalism, but this left the artist with a conflict of interest; he wanted to depict the figure and yet he shied away from traditional figurative art, conscious instead of the need to produce work which evoked the spirit of the times. Still lacking the confidence to depict a real figure Hockney began to use doodles, scribbles and mere suggestions of the form

combined with a use of text in some of his paintings, to try and denote the subject matter of each piece.

This early illustrative style of Hockney's can be seen in A Rake's Progress (on display in the Peter Scott Gallery on campus from 1st October - 14th December), which is an adaptation of William Hogarth's original series of engravings of 1725. The series tells of protagonist Tom Rakewell and his gradual decline from wealth to poverty to insanity - much like my experience as an undergraduate!

Hockney's version loosely echoes Hogarth's narrative but adds a modern twist with the use of bold linear marks, limited colour palette and an absence of background and depth of field, allowing the viewer the intellect to imagine what isn't there whilst reflecting the mental state of the semi - autobiographical character within the work.

Ambiguous, interesting and created with the naivety of youth this series shows the early stages of one of the most established draughtsmen and biggest contributors to the contemporary art scene, produced in response to his first visit to the USA. If following Hockney's advice that; "an artist should be judged by what he does rather than by what he says," it is only just that you go and see for yourself.



Images by David Hockney

# How British are *you*?

Is knowing your pasties more British than a knowing your past?

## Features

### Nick O'Dowd

Do you know who composed Rule Britannia? Do you know the English translation of the "Magna Carta", or at least why it's deemed to be historically significant? If you don't then you've failed David Lettman's British Citizenship Test, you lose your status of an UK/EU student and the university now has an excuse to set your tuition fees to that of international students, which I'm sure you know is quite a bit more than £9,000. If you did get these questions wrong, however, you're not alone. Prime Minister David Cameron, who graduated with a 1st class degree in PPE from Oxford, also failed these questions.

The media made something of a furore about Cameron "not knowing" his British history, when in fact he was able to explain the partition of Ireland, as well as state when and where the Magna Carta was signed and explain why it's a milestone in the development of liberal democracy. In fact, Cameron probably knows quite a bit more about British history than your bog standard Brit, who is probably more capable of naming eleven Manchester United players than eleven English monarchs.

What lies behind this effort to make a mountain out of a mole-hill is the perfectly sound presumption that the prime minister should be knowledgeable about this country's history – but should we be really be surprised that he didn't know who composed Rule Britannia? After all, who does know who composed that song? Classical music enthusiasts perhaps, but I certainly wouldn't expect Cameron have known. He probably should have known what Magna Carta meant in English, but he demonstrated that he knew what it was all about. However, the other presumption behind this mountain-making exercise is the less than sound notion that we should know the answer to these sorts of questions to vindicate our British citizenship.

The questions Cameron was asked were very similar to the kinds found in British Citizenship tests. Like for instance 'in which century did England begin to impose laws on Wales?' 'Was the Glorious Revolution peaceful or violent?' and 'what proportion of the British population died from the Black Death?'. If you know the answer to these questions, then great, you'd have passed the British Citizenship Test. It's obviously desirable that we should know such things, not just about national history but history in general, so that we understand how the world came to be what it is today. But why must immigrants answer such questions when many native Britons don't know the answer themselves? It implies that in order to be a British citizen you should know British history, and therefore if you don't have any knowledge of this subject you're "less British" than someone who is knowledgeable. It means the person next to you might be more or less British than you are, and that a history student is probably more British than an engineering student. And, if you're not a UK student, would having a sound knowledge of British history make you somehow more British than a British student?



Image by the British Library



Photo by The CBI

It is obviously absurd defining the legitimacy of possessing a national identity based on how much of that nation's history you can recall. Rather, I feel that national identities are formed by simply experiencing life in that country. In Britain, it's things like being familiar with Tesco's or Greggs, sitting through GCSE examinations, putting up with the erratic weather, being fluent in English and knowing the accents and local dialect. It's why when I'm talking to maths and science students I don't feel like I'm talking to foreigners, because we have that common knowledge which comes from being raised in early 21st century Britain. Therefore we shouldn't be worried about Cameron not knowing what Magna Carta means, but rather we should be more worried about the country being run by privileged, Eton educated Oxbridge graduates who wouldn't know a Greggs pasty if it hit them in the face.

## Money matters

### Lifestyle

### Sarah Warsaw

As fees go up and the cost of living increases, it's never been more important to budget. Unfortunately, I'm terrible at budgeting. Which begs the question: why am I even writing this article? I figured if I needed some advice I could potentially help a few other bad budgeters out there in the Lancaster student population...

My budgeting system tends to go through 3 phases...

Phase one - "Going to be good this month"; really good at sticking to the budget; making sandwiches for uni; not going mental on nights out.

Phase two - "It's only money"; the 'may as well enjoy myself' phase; going shopping and buying as many sandwiches from Gregg's as I want.

Phase three - "Oops, now I've got no money left"; very careful to spend a little money as possible after phase two.

And so the cycle continues. So how can we

try and stick to budget through fresher's week and beyond? Here are some tips to keep spending under control (at least for the first few weeks...)

1. Plan how much money you're allowed each week. This way you can allocate amounts for food, drinks and going out, and at least try and stick to them! Noting down your spends might help keep track of when you overspend.

2. If you live in a house or have a shared kitchen on campus, get together some kitty money for shared items like loo roll, washing-up liquid and kitchen roll. This way one or two people don't always spend their money on menial items.

3. Make the most of student discounts with your purple card - check the weekly purple card offers, especially for places like hairdressers!

4. The first few weeks always mean expensive new textbooks for courses. Look out for students selling second-hand books which won't use up your two week budget in one go. Sometimes they even

have handy notes written inside too! There are often posters on campus or adverts on Facebook.

5. Make the most of the Lancaster market. The fruit and veg is so cheap and if you love reading, there's a great second hand book stall full of all sorts of fiction priced from £1!

6. Don't draw out more than you should - if you can't afford more than £10 for a night out, be strict, take £10. That way you can't spend more. It's hard to budget during fresher's, but if you want to remember what a good time you had, it's probably best you don't drink loads anyway, so you can save your memory!

It's never easy to stick to a budget, but give it a try, rather than blowing your student loan in the first two weeks. Hopefully by following these tips you can improve the contents of your bank account for the whole term, yet still have fun! Good luck... you're stripped of your Fresher Rep responsibilities.

# Sleep like a baby

Claire Kelly gives us some absolute top of the range facts on everyone's favourite recurring state of reduced consciousness.



It's the new you! - Photo by stewickie

## Lifestyle

### Claire Kelly

Getting a good night's sleep? Having the recommended number of hours sleep a night? Maintaining a good sleep pattern of going to bed at the same time each morning followed by a consistent time in the evening?

With partying, endless nights out and living your student life to the full, is this possible? If you are pondering these questions in your head and realising that 'no' is the answer to most (if not all) of them, follow these helpful tips for a good night's sleep.

#### 1- Get Outdoors

Always try to spend some time outside during the day. It is important to get enough light exposure during the day, so go outside during seminar and lecture breaks. Vitamin D is proven to help you get some rest.

#### 2- Get Active

Exercising a little during the day will help you sleep at night - see Becky Cutler's article in this issue for tips on exercising on a student budget.

#### 3- Consider the Teabag

Avoid heavy meals in the evening or eat earlier - ensure that there is a gap of at least three hours or more between eating your evening meal and bedtime. If you like to snack, keep

it light and eat no later than one hour before going to bed. Have a warm, soothing drink before bedtime - camomile tea is recommended!

#### 4- Late Night Yoga Hour

Wind down a couple of hours before bedtime with some gentle exercise such as yoga. It is medically proven to help insomnia, so get into a routine and your body will realise that it's time for bed.

#### 5- De-stress by Making Lists

If you are worrying over upcoming assignments or exams, or you are thinking over the day's activities, briefly write it all down in a to-do list or de-stress list to avoid worrying about it during your sleep.

#### 6- Turn off the Modern World

Switch off your television and computers at night. Read a book or magazine and listen to some soft music instead. If you wake up during the night and can't go back to sleep after twenty minutes, read a book or magazine for a while and then try and fall back to sleep again. It breaks the cycle of tossing and turning, which only works you up.

#### 7 - And finally... WAKE UP

Try not to have a long lie in. I know that it's easier said than done, but try to wake up as near to your usual time in the morning as possible. It is better for your body to do this and then have a nap in the afternoon if you're tired.

## The year abroad

### Features

#### Harriet Webster

On Thursday, disaster struck in France. When I say disaster struck in France, I need to be more specific: all hell broke loose at L'Université de Lyon 3, Jean Moulin.

Remember the stir that was caused by the continuous delaying of the underpass being opened? (Which news along the grape vine suggests has now actually happened!) Or the time Alexander Square was shut because it was "structurally unsafe?" This happened, only French-style: The University had a power-cut.

This wouldn't happen in good old Lancaster. If it were to happen a generator would kick in so that no one knew and life could resume. Of course, this is beyond the realms of possibility in Lyon. When the power-cut struck at lunch time, a torrent of complete and utter chaos was to follow for the remaining of the afternoon.

This power-cut decided to happen just when I was attempting to confirm my enrolment and timetable (4 weeks into term.) I had finally mustered up the courage to visit yet another secretary to discuss classes once more. Cue lights, computers and every other form of electrical item to cut out, ensued by complete mayhem. Secretly, I was delighted at being able to avoid any further patronising conversation with a French woman who thinks I'm a deranged person who is speaking in a language that resembles Klingon. I made way for the library where pandemonium continued and escalated.

A sea of pretty infuriated Frenchies came piling out of the library due to them being asked to leave. That's right, they were EVACUATED. They were even more annoyed because EVERYONE had to have their bags searched individually to check no one had stolen one of the 5 books inside. No one knew what was going on - cue hundreds of people smoking and annoyed standing around waiting for the verdict of the chaos.

After debating whether or not my tutorial would be on or not, I made way to double check. I had no idea how big a challenge this would be: I had to climb 3 flights of stairs in the pitch black, combating people fleeing the building and every third screaming "SAVE YOURSELVES." Determined not to give up on my mission, I found my way. The lesson just began and someone barged in "excuse me Sir, we have to evacuate the university." Yes, the WHOLE UNIVERSITY was evacuated. Lessons were cancelled. The gates were LOCKED. I mean, I know the French love a day off (even though they have them all the time and essentially half the day off for lunch), but I couldn't help but think this was a slight over-reaction.

I then met up with the Lancaster girls. Cue celebration. We treated ourselves to a trip to the local Epicerie, and ate some delicious French patisserie taking full advantage of our newfound free time. We sat comparing the situation to Lancaster; "can you imagine if this had happened in Lancaster?" Answers: SCAN would be having a field-day, Whistle-blower would be trying to make out that SCAN can't keep up, and protests and petitions would be rife in attempts to try and claim some money back for the afternoon missed when secretly everyone piled into Fylde and County bar for a pint.

What can I say? "C'est la vie."

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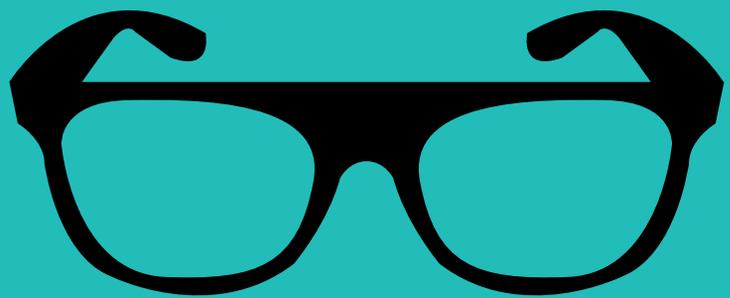
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# Review: The Dave Matthews Band

Steff Brawn gives us her opinion on the latest album from the legendary US rockers, *Away From the World*

## Culture

### Steff Brawn

#### Deputy Culture Editor

It's been three years since the release of Matthew's "Big Whiskey and the GrooGux King" and it could be said that a lot was expected of him and his crew when the long awaited "Away from the World" finally hit the record stores. The 2009 album brought to us a pile of feel good, lively tracks that showed the full and heavy sound that the many layers of the Dave Matthews Band can put out there. The question was; can they mix that up with more subtle tracks and still deliver? The answer is, yes, they certainly can.

*"There are laid back acoustic and heavier rock sounds, reflecting the mixture of emotions that love sickness brings."*

Saxophones and trumpets, violins and guitars, the Dave Matthews Band has an extremely colorful blend of instruments and one of the most impressive features of the "Away from the World" is how the full potential of all these instruments is explored both on their own and as a group. In tracks such as "Belly Belly Nice", one of the tighter and funkier tracks, we

can appreciate the powerful sound that this little big band are able to produce at the same time as hearing the talents of the individuals such as Coffin and Tinsley's improvisation skills on sax and violin. The whole album continues in this manner, mixing up so many styles but maintaining a stunning sound.

*"Lyrically and musically, this is a fantastic work by Matthews"*

"If Only", "Rooftop" and "Belly Full" are three love sick tracks that follow each other, but despite a similar topic being explored lyrically they totally contrast musically, the theme actually never gets boring. We are taken through Dave's lonely state of mind within both laid back acoustic sounds and heavier rock sounds, reflecting the mixture of emotions that love sickness brings. It's not just the music in which Matthew's has delivered though; the lyrics as usual have not failed to impress.

As well as giving us a fair few love themed tracks which always appeal to a crowd, themes such as the world's inequality are explored with iconic lyrics that almost become anthem like. In songs such as "Gaucho" the repeated line; "We gotta go much more than believe if we really wanna change things" is simple yet incredibly meaningful, waking us up to the mess of the world, but that we "could do anything under the stars" if we really tried. This follows the equally inspiring lyrics of "Mercy" which again reminds us that

we have the power to change things that are wrong.

Lyrical and musically, this is a fantastic work by Matthews, he really expresses the spectrum of genres there are to draw us in. The range and texture of all the instruments that make up the Dave Matthews Band have been much more engaged with and the talents of Rashawn Ross, Jeff Coffin and Boyd Tinsley come to light across various improvised solos that give the album a spark of talented insanity. A particularly iconic track that highlights each and every individual instrumentalist is the final track "Drunken Soldier" which has a long instrumental section before any lyrics come in. Here we can appreciate the all the talents including the work of bassist Stefan Lessard and guitarist Tim Reynolds and of course Dave himself, who stuns us on his guitar as well as in his vocal ability. Let's not forget Carter Beauford of course, exquisitely keeping the album moving with some flawlessly tight drumming.

It's hard to say where the Dave Matthews band could take us next after this immaculate work, but what I think what we can say is that we'll eagerly be on the edge of our seats waiting for yet another pile of surprises, hopefully as impressive as "Away from the World".



Photo by Danny Clinch for RCA Mu-

# Stay sexy, stay safe

## Lifestyle

**Leonie Chaudhry**

Most people's idea of university is a Skins-esque, alcohol-induced sex-fest littered with endless parties and general debauchery. Obviously that's not the reality (at least not for most people) but it cannot be denied that there is a reasonable amount of bed-hopping, whether it's after two bottles of discount vodka or after a romantic date into town. I'm not here to tell you not to have sex; everyone here is an adult and knows what they are doing - most of the time. But there are a few rules I'm going to lay down for you if you're going to be getting hot under the sheets.

### 1. Stay safe!

Condoms aren't everyone's idea of fun, but unless you're in a long-term and committed relationship they're the quickest and easiest type of contraception. You can get them from your college officers; it might seem embarrassing to ask but they've heard (and probably done) a lot worse. You can get them from the LUSU info desk or from the medical centre on campus. Condoms don't protect against everything though, including everyone's favourite: genital warts... So make sure you go for -regular check-ups to keep your bits in tip-top condition.

### 2. Tequila? Leave it!

It would be naïve to think that the sexual encounters that occur in freshers aren't alcohol induced, because many are. Alcohol gives you self-confidence you wouldn't otherwise have, and while something

may seem like an amazing idea at the time, it can leave you cringing the day after. If you're seeing double, it's probably not the best time to be hooking up with someone you've just met. If you can't remember their name, it's probably best to forget about it.

### 3. No means no!

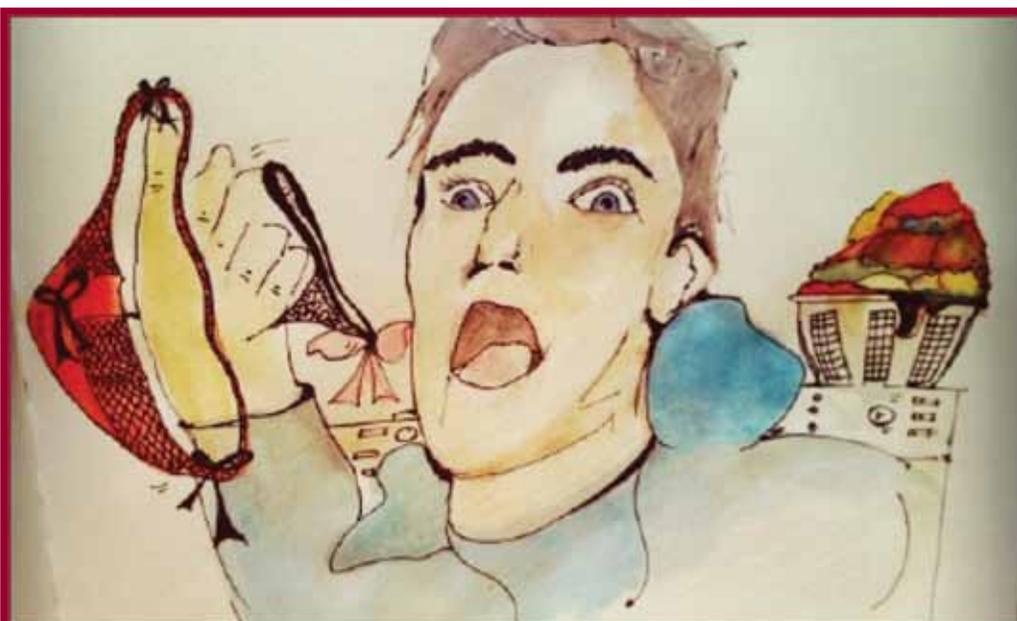
You should never feel pressured into doing anything you don't want to do. Maybe you've sobered up, you're feeling sick or they're just not as attractive as the dark rooms in Sugar led you to believe. Either way, you are one hundred per cent within your rights to stop at any time. Going back to someone's flat isn't a direct invitation into your pants, plain and simple.

### 4. Watch for sharks

There is something about first term that turns Sugar into a cattle market and it isn't just freshers. Second and third years are out in force, looking for the best 'fresh meat'. These are the ones you need to stay away from. Yes, they're probably very charming and funny, but these are the one night stands which will go on to tell all their friends, quite literally, your ins and outs.

### 5. And finally...

If you're looking for love, Sugar is not the place to do it. We all know at least one couple that met on a night out and really hit it off, but this is the exception, not the rule. For most of us, a pick-up on a night out is just that. If you're looking for something a bit more meaningful take them for dinner. That way no hearts are broken because of a drunken mistake.



## Jess Oliver's Tweet of the Week

Err these aren't mine?! #laundrettedilema

## Litfest Preview

### Culture

**Yasmin Jay**

Book worms, poetry fans and authors to be, come out of the cold this autumn and come and enjoy the many literary talents which will descend on Lancaster this autumn to delight you with an eclectic and exciting selection of events.

Litfest itself will begin with a mystery launch event on 17th October organised by guest curator Emma Rucastle, coming to a close on 21st October.

If you like something a bit different, say poetry or performance, then come on along to see comic poet John Hegley or Litfest fave Dominic Kelly. Another highlight includes an archive film screening with an exclusive poetry soundtrack provided by Paul Mills.

**This year, there is also much more of a focus on events for younger people and students**

Deborah Levy, author of novel *Swimming Home* which was long listed for the Man Booker Prize and featured on Radio 4's *Book at Bedtime*, will be reading at a prose seminar event led by *And Other Stories* who pioneer and unusual method of employing readers in the publishing process.

This year, there is also much more of a focus on events for younger people and students with events such as the *Live Story Walk* set in the spellbinding location of Williamson Park. There are opportunities to meet authors or even take part in a Gothic discussion panel, specifically aimed at young adults with Dr Catherine Spooner

Events such as the *All Day Poetry and Prose Events* will be happening on campus at the LICA building where acclaimed poets and writers Robert Crawford, Geraldine Monk, Rodge Glass, Jo baker and Zoe Lambert will all be performing readings.

If you're not around on campus, the streets of Lancaster town will also be alive with Literature and you may just find yourself stumbling across a literary flash mob organised by Cover and Litflash.

If you're lucky enough to be under 26, there's also the all in one festival style ticket for just £26 which allows entry into every event happening during Litfest

The majority of events will be taking place at The Dukes, The LICA Building or Lancaster Library. To book tickets, visit: [www.dukes-lancaaster.org](http://www.dukes-lancaaster.org) or call 01524 598500. To download a full copy of the festival brochure, visit [www.litfest.org](http://www.litfest.org).

# pocket

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# Motion to discuss campus rent inflation

- Discussion will take place at Union Council on Wednesday Week 2
- Rent increases each year at 1.5% above inflation

Catherine Chorley  
Investigations Editor

LUSU President Ste Smith is to put forward a motion detailing students' dissatisfaction with university accommodation fee-increases to the forthcoming Union Council as a result of discussions at Monday's General Meeting.

Despite the embargo on debating official motions due to a sub-quorate attendance level, the discussion, which had not been tabled as an official motion, was able to take place. The meeting, chaired by Smith, provided an opportunity for students to air their views and personal experiences of the impact of high rent prices and annual increases which are significantly above the level of inflation.

Introducing the issue was student Chris Witter, who had used official University publications (including minutes of Finance Committee meetings) to collate statistics detailing

the trends apparent in accommodation rents over the last few years. He highlighted the commissioning of the property developer University Partnerships Programme (UPP) to develop campus accommodation as highly culpable for the "damaging" rises in rent tariffs: UPP were contracted on the basis that the University would increase rents each year at 1.5% above inflation.

It was felt by many in attendance that the crux of the matter lay in where financial responsibility for campus development and maintenance ought to lie: with the students, or with the University itself. Questions were raised about the wider picture of the cost of the university experience, with the assertion by some individuals that the University ought to source funding for its projects without relying on increasing students' accommodation payments – particularly in the light of the tuition fee levels being raised to the maximum £9K per year for

full-time Home students.

Given the limits to government funding set according to numerous parameters (such as parental income, year of study and previous study undertaken), many students expressed their beliefs that rent was already a burden, and that in many cases the price of accommodation encompasses more than monetary costs: students choosing to work throughout their studies may face difficulties in balancing their studies, extra-curricular activities and additional employment workload.

## 'Student dissatisfaction with University accommodation fee-increases'

Witter also raised concerns over the disappearance of 'affordable' accommodation on campus, with recent renovations tending towards 'upscale' accommodation facilities and leaving the availability

of 'basic-standard' accommodation limited only to Bowland College.

Witter asked of the Union: "Why are we paying so much to live? How is that affecting the character of our university? Surely we want education to be inclusive and diverse, not something that's becoming increasingly a privilege for, not even middle class, but very upper middle class students?"

Worried about the future division of college identities along lines of class or wealth rather than community spirit or sporting reputation, Witter challenged the Union to take this issue forward and address the concerns of students who feel that university rent is a very real problem to the student body.

Smith proposed to contact the Head of Colleges and Student Life, Hilary Simmons, in the light of Monday's discussion, and motion the issue at the Union Council.

# Lost Playboy night abandoned

- Official LUSU Monday night cancelled
- Nightclub used Playboy theme without consulting Union

Catherine Chorley  
Investigations Editor

A controversial 'playboy' themed night for an official student night affiliated with Lancaster's Students' Union has been scrapped, it emerged last Friday.

Following a successful pitch to the Social and Events group last year, Lost nightclub won the right to host the official LUSU student night on Mondays from October 8th.

The nightclub then made a unilateral decision regarding the weekly event's theme – despite securing the remit under the proviso of close collaboration with LUSU and college JCRs in order to determine the nights' themes.

LUSU Vice President for Equality, Welfare and Diversity,

Rosalia O'Reilly, has assured SCAN that she will personally monitor the themes proposed for future student nights hosted by Lost under the label of Lancaster's Students' Union, aiming thereby to ensure that "[these venues] aren't misrepresenting Lancaster University Students' Union." O'Reilly highlighted Lost's negligence towards the attitude of LUSU and its student representatives in saying, "the first I personally heard about it...was literally when I picked up a 'lost in the playboy mansion' flyer a week or so back."

Serious concerns were raised over the suitability of the Playboy theme, with its encouragement of female students to dress up as "bunny girls" for free entry to the nightclub. Following conversations between O'Reilly and the VP (Events and Democracy) Libby Martin, along with the consultation of LUSU's communications team, the decision was made to withdraw the theme and help Lost facilitate the promotion of a last-minute change to proposed proceedings.

Lost has retained the right to host the official LUSU Monday Student Night, and Martin said that the



Union was happy to continue working with Lost in the future, should the opportunity arise. Promotion for the club's two student nights, on Mondays and Wednesdays, now focus on the drinks offers available and does not make reference to any specific dress-theme.

Formerly known as Toast, the refurbished and rebrand-

ed club launched its new image mid-September, promising an innovative blend of student-friendly drinks deals and 'the safest, most enjoyable and most extravagant VIP experience around'.

SCAN contacted Lost Lancaster's general Manager, Mr Leigh Sweetman, but received no response.

# LOST.

*The Official*  
**LUSU**  
*Monday*  
*Student Night*

Every drink behind the bar  
half price with purple card  
**Double Smirnoff NRG £2**  
**Bottles From £1.50**  
**Shots From £1.00**

**All Cocktails Half Price**

**£1000 Balloon Drop 8th Oct**

**Win £500 Cash 8th Oct**

**DJ Mark Freejack**  
 **97.4 rockfm**

Open Till 4AM  
£4 & £5 Entry



**DJ Joe Soprano**

**LOST.**

# Girl in hospital after nitrogen cocktail

Emma Nelson  
News Editor

A local girl was rushed to hospital on October 4th after drinking liquid nitrogen on a night out in Lancaster. It has been reported that Gaby Scanlon, who was celebrating her 18th birthday, began to feel breathless and suffer from severe stomach pain after drinking a cocktail in Oscar's wine bar.

After being taken to Lancaster Royal Infirmary, it has been reported that Miss Scanlon was diagnosed with a perforated stomach and had to undergo emergency surgery to remove it.

Lancashire Police have since announced that Miss Scanlon remains in a "serious but stable condition."

Liquid nitrogen can be used to flash-freeze substances, and some bars often use it to freeze ingredients or chill glasses to create a grey vapour effect.

As reported in the Telegraph, a police spokesperson stated that "the premises involved have fully cooperated with all agencies and have suspended the serving of drinks involving liquid nitrogen."



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YOUR UNION

YOUR UNIVERSITY

YOUR FUTURE

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LUSU 

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**No need to worry about bills,** our deal includes gas, electricity, water, broadband, TV licence & contents insurance. We even provide a regular cleaning service.

Our undergraduate **leases are for 45, 46 or 48 weeks** so you don't have to pay for weeks you are unlikely to use.

We are **Lancaster's largest landlord,** accommodating over 1000 students in over 250 properties, so offering more choice than anyone else.

All our houses are located in **student friendly locations** and are supported by our **comprehensive management, repairs service and 24/7 homecare cover.**

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**Making us one of the best deals in town!**

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**LUSU** 

## COMMENT

## The University are hiding marketisation in modernism

Are some of the university's recent changes hiding something?

Chris Witter

According to the holy doctrine of neoliberal economics, market competition encourages efficiency, innovation and increased quality of service for consumers. Given the marketisation of UK universities in recent years, and particularly following the withdrawal of higher education funding in 2009/10, we are presented with another opportunity to test this article of faith.

Indeed, it is in these terms that many of the recent developments at Lancaster University, appear to us. A momentous shift has taken place in the whole texture of the University: concrete flags have been replaced with granite; new signs and red-cladding mark out and encase this space; the Learning Zone glares away into the night, replete with 'relaxed work spaces' that appear to have been imported from Silicon Valley. As a third bank and plans for another junk-food outlet are unveiled, the college bars are being transformed into themed 'venues', and the Students' Union into a branded corporation administering a portfolio of student-orientated businesses. Over the now-retro 1960s modernist vision of the university, we are seeing another very different modernist image being imposed.

This 'old' modern vision was rooted in the progressive

promise of postwar welfare-capitalism, instituted by a Labour government buoyed into power on the swell of class-antagonism following the war. If the rapid postwar expansion of higher education was chiefly about meeting changing economic needs, it also contained a promise of a different, more equal society. As well as training workers for this new economic environment, they also instilled ways of thinking, being and belonging - i.e. the ideology - necessary to discipline and adapt these workers to these new work patterns. But, a side effect of all this was that in doing so universities became a mechanism for social mobility. The new economic needs opened higher education up to working class people, and in the process gave these young people the opportunity to come together, to learn and to pick up subversive attitudes as they challenged and altered the hierarchical structures of the universities they were attending - and general society.

I tell you, you could smell this in those old flag stones of Alexandra Square. That's why the dug them up and put down all that granite. There's nothing neutral about aesthetics. The new façade says: this is a place of efficiency, of innovation, of customer satisfaction. The whole University has been made over in this image. In restructuring the University the managers have merged the shopping mall with entrepreneurial hub; the spectacle of 'modern' technology and 'smart' professionalism has been synthesised with the package holiday village, or the out-of-town retail

park. Education is readily becoming a seamless 'interactive experience' that we must passively contemplate. More, the University is ceasing - has ceased - to be a counter cultural space infused with the legacy of postwar progressivism. Every sign I pass now speaks a neoliberal agenda.

This new image is intimately connected with the marketisation of higher education, for in a sense it is a temporary 'solution' to an intractable problem. That problem is that, in this new environment, the university must compete with other universities. Its very survival is pinned upon being able to generate competitive levels of profit and to attract sufficient investment.

**'Every sign I pass now speaks a neo-liberal agenda.'**

There are several ways of doing this. One is to intensify the exploitation of workers and, in line with this, lecturers face a continuing pay freeze and cuts to their pensions, whilst being asked to take on more work than ever before. Meanwhile, cheap postgraduate Teaching Assistants are being paid peanuts to cover the gaping discrepancy between teaching hours and teaching budgets, with many being asked this year to teach second and third year modules, whilst class sizes grow year on year. The Library staff has also been decimated, whilst many admin staff have also disappeared, despite campaigns against admin redundancies by students and staff last year. In

order for all this to appear acceptable, it must be called 'efficiency'.

Another method is to find new opportunities for profit accumulation. We are seeing this too. Thus we heard last week that the Vice-Chancellor has approved the opening of another 'Lancaster' campus in Ghana, in partnership with private investment company CMA Investment Holdings, despite 'concern' in the senate that this development has not followed democratic due-process and that it constitutes 'a business venture, with no long-standing commitment to Ghana' which could consequently 'result in damage to the reputation of Lancaster University'. This novel form of neo-colonialism appears to be a major part of Lancaster University Business Strategy, with Lancaster now having partnerships with institutions in India, Malaysia, Kazakhstan, Brazil, Jordan and Pakistan. The controversy of the Ghana partnership also calls to mind the equally contentious decision to buy-up neoliberal think-tank the Work Foundation - although, whether this generates any profit is uncertain. One way or another, all of this - the circumvention of democratic processes, partnerships with dubious investment firms and international profit-farming - is called 'innovation'.

A third method is simply to make more money out of students whilst offering them less. A problem here, however, is that brazen austerity would not be tolerated by staff or students. Thus, whilst tuition-fees have doubled and trebled

and research-based modules and less lucrative courses are scrapped, swish new catering facilities are opened, bars are refurbished, a flashy new gym is installed. These new 'services' simultaneously project an image of prosperity that conceals the increasing paucity of our education, whilst also providing new means of extorting profit from students. Likewise, accommodation has been 'upgraded': now 65% of rooms on campus are ensuite, whilst 'town houses' provide 'futuristic' living solutions. One can shit in one's own bedroom, providing one can pay for the pleasure. The University promotes this as 'high-quality' student accommodation, but at the same time it charges almost double the rents available in the city. Improvements in 'quality' translate directly into increases in profitability. Beyond this, the fragile promise of social mobility has evaporated as the University pushes grades up to AAA and focuses on overseas recruitments in order to attract an upper-middle class contingent with money to burn. All of this is called improving 'quality' and increasing 'customer satisfaction' - or the 'student experience', as it is also known.

The true content, then, of these terms - efficiency, innovation, quality - is the escalating need of the University to find new ways of exploiting students and staff. With this realisation we find that everything in this new environment appears to us upside down. Consequently, we see that everything must be overturned.

# The Counselling Service is not fit for purpose

## The Counselling Service is not fit for purpose

Rosalia O'Reilly  
Vice President  
Equality, Welfare & Diversity

Over summer I have been looking into the current provision for counselling. I watched with great interest as 'The Base' was refurbished with the knowledge that the new consultation rooms for the counselling service were going to be in there. When I ran for the role of Equality, Welfare and Diversity officer one of my main goals was to see significant improvements made to the service.

The refurbishment of 'The Base' has given the Counselling Service two consultation rooms, when we consider the fact there are three

counsellors on pay roll this seems like and under provision, it also seems like a clear signal that there is no intention in the Universities current plans to increase the number of counsellors or attempt to restructure or improve the service, so I feel it is up to the students to show them exactly what they need to change and improve on.

There is also an issue in 'The Base' in that the rooms themselves are, in my opinion, not fit for purpose. They have glass walls, and while they are partially frosted I don't think this is appropriate. The decor, not to be too picky, is also ghastly white walls with bright danger-red carpets and soulless IKEA furniture.

I would personally much prefer to go back to an arrangement where the coun-

sellors have their own consultation rooms with a more comfortable setting, more relaxed, less business like. In all honesty, I just want to see the whole service become less brisk business, and more fluffy. All the talk of waiting lists, figures, numbers of sessions available and funding crisis' makes a service put in place for the welfare of our students sound like a production line.

Coming to University is, for many students, a completely revolutionary transition where they find themselves under pressures put on them through academic, social and financial factors. One in four people will have a mental health problem at some point in their life, and it is my belief that the pressures of university can exacerbate

mental health problems.

I have been doing some research into people's experiences with the service this summer, and the feedback in some instances has been shocking. The service has been described as "not fit for purpose", "awful, impersonal, pushed for time and somewhat abrasive". This is clearly not the best reception from students.

**"There is also an issue in 'The Base' in that the rooms themselves are, in my opinion, not fit for purpose. They have glass walls, and while they are partially frosted I don't think this is appropriate."**

There is also the issue of

self-referral which essentially means you have to fill in a form describing what's 'wrong' with you. This impersonal system is yet another barrier put between students and consultation.

I am bringing a motion to LUSU council on Wednesday the 17th, and if it passes I will be lobbying the University for an Increased Number of counseling staff, appropriate consultation spaces, a student friendly and personal referral system, and an independent quality review of the service seeking to identify ways in which it should be improved.

I hope I can count on the support of the student body to support this campaign, and the students who are being negatively affected by the poor standard of counseling at Lancaster University.

# The Right Way will not be right for the American people

Jim Tracey

I honestly believe that Barack Obama's presidency will be regarded in history as one of the biggest failures of any US president. Unlike his predecessors, and most political leaders for that matter, who are often remembered for a particular policy decision (or indecision as the case may be), Obama will be judged for having failed to meet such huge expectations. No president in recent American political history has come to power on such a wave of hope and promise as Obama did back in 2008. And this wasn't merely because he was the first black President, one of the over-cited reasons for his victory, nor for the fact that he was replacing a thoroughly

unpopular, ineffective Republican administration that put restrictions on civil liberties that would make even George Orwell blush – not to mention totally abandoning the people of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina struck.

Time will tell with regards to Obama's legacy, and it is almost a fruitless exercise trying to second guess how he will be viewed by the children of our generation. Indeed, should Obama be given a mandate by the US electorate for another four years, then he may (and hopefully will) prove me wrong. However, the American people will be given an opportunity to change their government on the 6th of November. It would, in my estimation, be one of the stupidest and most ill-informed judgments any electorate would ever have made should they decide to elect the Republican Party under the leadership of Mitt Romney.

The man has an unbelievable lack of substance, has led a campaign which has been farcical and offensive enough to insult half the country, and remains insistent on adhering to political dogma so out of touch in the 21st century.

**"Romney lacks the principles and convictions necessary to win majorities"**

People are repetitively referring to the importance of the 'debates' that have been going on, and it is true that Obama's weak and shallow performance in the first (there are more to come, remember) of these may be considered a turning point in the election. However, most people aren't fixed voters, and only pay attention to the parts of debates which concern issues of interest to them –

i.e. green energy, and tax breaks for poorer families. Thus, the delivery in these debates matters less than what is actually being said. It is because of this that Mr Romney, for all his charm and careful delivery, will not convince the American people of the suitability of his candidacy and indeed his party.

Romney lacks the principles and convictions necessary to win majorities – his outdated right-wing approach was most apparent in his 'acceptance speech' at the end of August, in which he manipulatively outlined his desire to allow the ruling classes of a country in its worst economic downturn since the 1930s to intensify attacks on the working classes. Romney, with an estimated wealth of \$200million, condescendingly spoke of his pretended concern for high levels of poverty and record unemployment. Mr Rom-

ney has more than merely 'flirted' with the extreme right in order to bolster his support amongst wealthy party donors, his allegiance to the political Right is beyond question. This was aptly characterised by his cynical belief in a 'school choice' programme which would result inevitably in further privatisation of public education. Romney has simply stated that he will 'cut the deficits and put America back on the path of a balanced budget'. I've heard that one before; perhaps Romney is modelling himself on David Cameron and his promises of a balanced budget and reduced deficit back in 2010.

The point is a simple one. The American people have a difficult but vitally important decision to make about their future. Even if Obama has not met the expectations he set himself, Romney's woeful campaign and his demonstrable ignorance of social strife and

## Stricter gun control is needed to prevent tragedies

Alex Rhodes

Here in the UK we've had a pretty good summer, from Olympic glory to naked Royals, it's been pretty eventful to say the least. However it seems that the only news to cross the Atlantic from our American cousins seems to either be about the upcoming Presidential elections or yet another shooting tragedy. Whilst I'm sure this has a lot to do with our own media coverage it would be foolish to pretend there isn't a problem. And with the debate on whether or not to arm UK police of-

ficers emerging once again following the deaths of Officers Fiona Bone and Nicola Hughes, it may soon be an issue that affects us as well.

Despite the spate of incidents this summer a significant amount of people in America refuse to acknowledge any issue with their laws on gun control. When yet another one of these horrendous events occur they often cite the perpetrator as a "lone nut" and suggest that perhaps things would have turned out differently if only the victims themselves had been armed. Never mind that some of the incidents this summer occurred in a Sikh temple, a college campus and one of the busiest streets in New York. Perhaps the most infamous incident this summer

(and it speaks volumes that there's such a plethora to choose from) is the shooting that occurred at a screening of the holidays biggest blockbuster, the Dark Knight Rises. In July at a midnight showing of the film, PhD student James Holmes killed 12 people and wounded 58 with weapons (including a semi-automatic rifle) all of which he bought legally. However instead of discussing gun control in the wake of this event many of those in favour of possession insist to do so at this time would be "disrespectful to the families of the victims". Some even went as far as to turn the debate towards violence in films choosing simply to pave over the real issue.

Yet as awful as this incident is it is just another in

a long line of shootings, just Google "mass shootings US" and you'll see there's a lot more than just the international headline grabbers Columbine and Virginia Tech.

**'Does anyone really need a semi-automatic rifle?'**

The arguments for stricter gun control are vast and have been made countless times by far better writers than me and the fact is there are always going to be privately owned guns in the US and many people can and do own them responsibly. But does anyone really need a semi-automatic rifle? They certainly aren't weapons intended for self defence and if you need to use one to go hunting then frankly you're

not very good at it. These weapons just allow psychopaths to fire indiscriminately into crowds and inflict as much damage as possible.

Despite what gun lobbies like the NRA would have their members believe President Obama has done next to nothing to change gun laws in his first term and has only vaguely hinted at addressing the issue if he gets re-elected this November. Yet unless something significant is done to change the situation in the US these tragedies are just going to keep happening. Banning ownership of semi-automatics is not going to stop the problem overnight but surely it's a step in the right direction.

## Russian free speech cannot be stifled

### There are growing protests in Russia against Putin

Alex Littleboy  
Comment Editor

This summer in Russia saw growing protests against the current government, in particular criticism of Russian president Vladimir Putin. One particular case that has received a large amount of coverage in British media is the case of the feminist punk band, Pussy Riot, of which three members are currently serving sentences for "premeditated hooliganism performed by an organized group of people motivated by religious hatred or hostility". In the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow, the band performed a protest song against Putin and Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church, who is a strong supporter of Putin. Subsequently, three band members' identities were revealed, and they were imprisoned, although

they will soon be appearing before an appeal hearing.

This has been criticised by governments and organisations across the western world, for example Amnesty International, who claimed that the conviction was "a bitter blow for freedom of expression". Although one can understand the reaction of many ordinary Russians, who see the protest as an attack on their beliefs, it is very difficult to see the trial as anything other than politically motivated.

**'Laws have been introduced increasing fines for participating in unofficial demonstrations, defamation has become a criminal offence, and the internet is being restricted.'**

This verdict comes at a time when president Putin has been seen as presiding over a clampdown on dissent. Laws have been introduced increasing fines for

participating in unofficial demonstrations, defamation has become a criminal offence, and the internet is being restricted. Furthermore, the houses of opposition politicians have been searched by police, and some have been put under investigation by the police. This seems all too reminiscent of the tactics used by the USSR, in which dissidents would be arrested and sent to forced labour camps.

The jailing of Pussy Riot for this is, in my opinion, clearly a breach of freedom of speech. Pussy Riot were simply exercising one of our most important rights, to express oneself in popular protest. In jailing the band for this, Putin's government is proving itself to be one that does not believe in freedom of expression for those who will not follow the official government line. In a way, it feels as though things remain unchanged from the days of the old Soviet Union.

Issues of Freedom of Speech can be clouded, however, when matters of religion or race get involved.

It is hard to have your most firmly held beliefs attacked, and freedom of speech can seem a poor defence, one often used by those whose intention is just to offend. I understand these concerns, but this brings another issue, as if you decide to block this freedom of expression, no matter how horrible it may be, you are simply deciding that one group deserves freedom of speech and another doesn't, and allowing freedom of religious expression while silencing critics. Freedom of speech is universal, and one cannot decide what is "good speech" or "bad speech".

It is very probable that the jailing of Nadezha Tolokonnikova, Maria Alyokhina and Yekaterina Samutsevich will not be the end of Russia's protests, in the same way that dissent would occur throughout the existence of the Soviet Union. No matter how much a government clamps down on dissent, it will always continue. I believe that the protest by Pussy Riot was entirely justifiable, a protest attack-

ing a politically-minded Patriarch and an authoritarian President trying to stifle dissent in his own country.

**'I believe that the protest by Pussy Riot was entirely justifiable, a protest attacking a politically-minded Patriarch and an authoritarian President trying to stifle dissent in his own country.'**

However, even if I disagreed with their cause, I would defend their right to this sort of protest – in the words of Voltaire, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it". Authoritarian clampdowns on free speech will never stop racism or defamation of a religion. The only answer to these problematic elements of allowing free speech to all is good speech, directly addressing them rather than stifling them.

# THE POSTGRADUATE BOARD

## KEY DATES

**Nominations Open:** 5th-18th Online

**Campaigning:** 18th-25th October

### Voting Opens:

4pm on 23rd-25th October, Online

### PGR Forum Meeting:

6pm on 25th October in Bowland North SR 10

### PGT Forum Meeting

6pm 25th October in Bowland North SR 10



## POSTGRADUATE BOARD

**Chair** (Elected by all PGs)

**Grad College Resident** (elected by Grad College residents only)

**Sports Rep** (Elected by all PGs)

**4 Faculty PGR Reps** (restricted votes out of forums)

**4 Faculty PGT Reps** (restricted votes out of forums)

### PGT FORUM

Open to all PGT students, focusing on taught Postgraduate issues

### PROJECT GROUPS

Open to all. Meet to address specific issues and feedback to the PG Board. E.g. rights of GTAs, PG families etc.

### PGR FORUM

Open to all PGR students focusing on Postgraduate Research issues

### OPEN-SOURCE DEMOCRATIC, ENGAGEMENT

We will use digital technologies to reach out to and map the views of Postgraduate from a wide range of groups.

[yourvoice.lusu.co.uk](http://yourvoice.lusu.co.uk)

This style of engagement would mean that Postgraduates would be able to express their opinions online.

Information gathered from Open Source Democracy would be used to inform the actions of project groups and the PG Board.

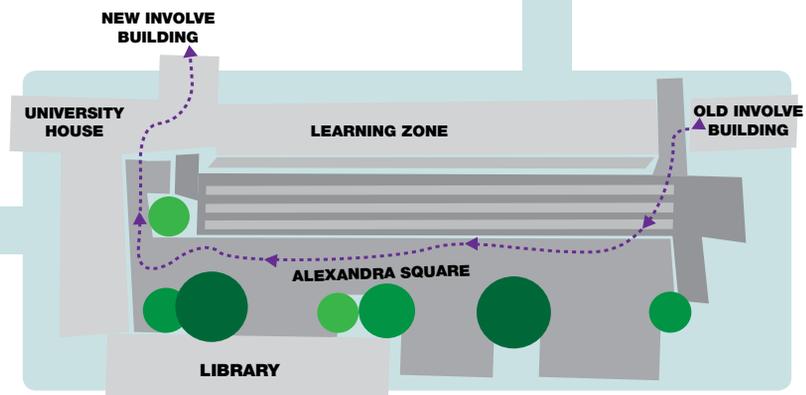
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# Yellow Doors are easy pickings

Rachel Harvey  
Editor

Doors painted bright yellow could be magnets to burglars

Yellow Door Lets are a housing company offering 'quality and value' housing for the students of Lancaster. Regardless of housing quality there appears to be an issue of safety and security surrounding the marketing strategy of the company. The company branding of 'Yellow Door' is physically transferred as they paint all the doors of their houses bright yellow, a really great marketing strategy, but not such a clever idea in terms of safety. The city of Lancaster is far from a hot-bed of crime; in the independent 'Complete University Guide'

Lancaster was listed as the third safest student city in the UK. While we have a low student related crime rate when a marketing strategy is clearly based around openly showing passers by the location of student households you have to wonder if this particular company have considered the student-safety angle.

**"The company branding of 'Yellow Door' is physically transferred as they paint all the doors of their houses bright yellow"**

Not only are the houses marked out with their distinctive yellow doors, the companies having a full list of their properties on the official website would make it very easy for potential robbers to find out where these students are living. This is essentially marketing the fact that the houses are empty in non-term time, and that during term time on weekend nights there will probably be an empty house containing laptops, ipods, mp3 players, TV's, ipads and so on, only unlike a non-student house hold, it will almost definitely contain at least four of each – easy pickings!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please send any letters to the Editor at scan@lancaster.ac.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 all letters for publication.

### Management money

Dear Editor,

The amount of money that the Management School have to spend on stupid things is quite frankly ridiculous. Whilst other departments are making cuts left, right and centre the Management School now boasts a Costa amongst all its other attractions! Its students get much better opportunities while students in the music department can't even take performance anymore. Lancaster University needs to get its priorities sorted out, especially with the £9000 fees and stop being so obviously biased.

Yours,  
John Barnes, Lonsdale College

### Using their voice

Dear Editor,

The General Meeting, held on Monday

of Week 1, failed to meet quoracy. The meeting was called in response to the yourvoice campaign regarding the restructuring of the college bars. There were other items added to the agenda, such as a discussion about rent inflation and a motion regarding LUSU's support of the NUS demonstration. 200 members of the student body were required to be in attendance in order for the meeting to take place, at the final tally there were only 138 attendees.

Ste Smith, LUSU President chaired the meeting as Libby Martin, VP Events and Democracy, was unable to attend due to illness. Mark Swindlehurst, Head of Facilities and Jo Hardman, Director of Commercial Services attended the meeting to support their decision to restructure the managerial system of the bars and as they were unable to discuss the motions due to lack of quoracy they agreed to hold a question and answer session. This was followed by a discussion based around Chris Witter's points regarding rent inflation.

Much animosity was felt with regard to the lack of attendance from JCRs and CCOs. Had all of the JCRs and CCOs been in attendance the number of attendees would already have been over 150, needing only 50 attendees from the general student body. Smith was asked to comment on this situation and had this to say, "I don't think it is acceptable. Your officers are your elected representatives. Your officers should be at the forefront

of that. We say we are all LUSU. These are supposed to be highly engaged individuals. Yes, they should have been in the room, and I will be having a word." Much frustration was felt by all attendance that these bodies of elected students were not present.

Due to the lack of quoracy at the meeting Smith pledged to take the motions to Union Council, which meets on Wednesday Week 3.

Yours,  
Bryan Hughes, Cartmel College

### JCRs let down

Dear Editor,

I attended the General Meeting in Week 1 and was disgusted to find that all the members of my JCR were not present. The meeting did not meet quoracy and therefore the students views were not heard. I elected these members to represent me and they can't even turn up to a general meeting to discuss the future of the manager of their bar. Disgusting behaviour, where were you?

Yours,  
Danny Mills, Grizedale College

# scan

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### CORRECTIONS

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.

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## SPORT

# College rivalry kick-started

## Previewing the new inter-college sporting season

Laurence Pullan  
Sports Editor

The start of the academic year marks a brand new season of rivalry for college sports. Where the Carter Shield is for students who take a more laid-back approach to competing on an inter-college level, there remains fierce contention for the George Wyatt Cup which comprises six events: Men's A's and B's darts and pool, Women's Pool and Darts, and mixed dominoes, as well as the netball and football leagues.

Pendle College are the current holders of the George Wyatt Cup after coming first in Men's Darts and second in Men's A Pool, where Cartmel won the Football League on goal difference against Pendle, and Fylde romped to victory in the Netball League after an undefeated season. Fylde netball captain Emma Heron had high aspirations for the coming season: "we were unbelievable last year and look to push on. We are known as the sporting college and want to uphold our reputation with another undefeated season. Fingers crossed we can retain our status as the best netballing college." Jen Stelfox, Pendle netball captain, took a dissimilar view to the upcoming season, after Pendle's indifferent overall perfor-

mance last year: "we had a slow start, we didn't win our first six games and we ended up finishing 7<sup>th</sup> but all things considered we did finish fairly strongly. We've lost a few quality players, notably our captain last year, Ruth Taylor, but the intake of freshers looks promising this year. We want to build on last season and we could be dark horses this year, you never know!"

The last academic year saw the closest finish in the college football league in years, as Cartmel snatched overall victory from Pendle on goal difference. It was a strong season that ultimately ended in disappointment for Pendle as they also lost the Summer Cup, a separate football tournament, against Bowland. Pendle striker Niall Peaker spoke of his feelings of the upcoming season: "college rivalry always peaks when the football season starts. We were desperately unlucky last season not to win any silverware, I unfortunately injured my toe in the Summer Cup last year so had to be substituted and we ultimately lost. This season is about progression, we are desperate to win something and we are confident in our ability."

The bar sports always prove to be a popular social evening activity, with Pendle winning the overall George Wyatt

cup. Each individual bar sport is competed at the highest level, with Lonsdale and Graduate both finishing strongly last year too. Phil Cottrill, Men's A team pool player for Lonsdale, explained his optimism for the upcoming season: "we came third last year in the pool league after disappointingly falling down from first at Christmas. I think we'll do better this year as Graduate have lost sporting stalwart Nick O'Malley, so I am very optimistic we can catch up with Pendle. It should be a two horse race. Bar sports get people involved in college rivalry and gets them inside the bars. It's a win-win situation."

Women's bar sports are by no means less competitive than the men's leagues, as Lonsdale and Bowland fought out the lion's share of the points in darts and pool. Rachel Hadley, who plays darts and pool for Bowland Ladies, was full of excitement for the coming year: "there are new faces and we are very excited for the year. Hopefully we can have another strong season". Bowland and Lonsdale look set to dominate the women's bar sports again this season, while County and Grizedale could be outside chances for finishing strongly after confident mid-table performances from them both last year.

Dominoes is always an interesting and hard to predict bar sport. There are elements of skill involved but there is also a huge amount of luck, so the winner of the Dominoes League this year could realistically be any of the competing colleges.

The inter-college football league kicks off 17 October, 2pm next Wednesday, on the college pitches where Lonsdale play Cartmel, Fylde face County and Furness line up against Bowland. Men's A darts start Monday 15 October, whereas the Men's and Women's Pool begins on Tuesday 16 October. The netball league starts on the Tuesday 23 October when Fylde look to start brightly against County, and Grizedale face Furness.

This bright new season of college rivalry looks to feature one of the most intense and close set of competitions yet. Games are often not as well attended as they should be and there is extra focus on college backing and support of their teams. Netball is starting a week earlier, in week 2, to enable a more comfortable window of opportunity to play fixtures if bad weather forces the matches to be postponed, and such measures should ensure higher levels of support from college bases

## Societies: SCAN needs you!

Will Taylor  
Sports Editor

The opening few weeks of term are a great time for the Universities clubs and societies. Not only do new and returning students gain the chance to partake in the fantastic range of activities we offer, but the clubs themselves gain the publicity and revenue that will support them throughout the academic year. The longevity of a society or club at Lancaster is dependent on this intake of new members. There will be individuals signing up this week, who in two years time will be chairing weekly exec meetings as President of that club. It is a really gratifying process that the University should be very proud of.

But once fresher's week dies down, and the number of posters slowly diminishes across campus, where can public-

ity be found? Of course, you can always make more posters. Word of mouth is also a great tool, one need only to start a rumour in South West Campus on Friday evening, and can be almost guaranteed it reaching County College by Monday morning! Facebook, and Twitter, have proved to be fantastic resources for clubs, and are perhaps the linchpin that holds inter-club communication together with such apparent ease.

There is however, another way to guarantee publicity. And this is through the networks of student media across campus. Through SCAN, Bailrigg, and LA1:TV, a club can really push for campus-wide publicity and recognition. Many students will testify that it is the little reminders in the background, such as an article in a paper, an announcement on a radio, or a poster on a pillar, that trigger our interest, and it is one of

the main contributors to interest in the various societies and clubs.

Lancaster University has many things to be proud of, but to my mind, the two most prominent (especially after the success of Roses 2012) are its sports teams, and the teams of journalists, editors, crewman and producers that support them. They rely on one another for their success, and I urge everyone at the University to support them, through whichever way you want. Because there is so much variety, whatever way you want is bound to be out there.

This term, SCAN Sports are encouraging as many Publicity Officers from all the sporting clubs across campus to get involved with our plans. If there is an important event coming up in your clubs calendar, or if there is a particularly worthy match report that needs to be read by all, then it is important for

Publicity Officers to get in touch with us, so that we as a student paper can support our student teams. If you play a particular sport but also wish to write about it as well, then don't feel like you can do just one or the other. Some of our writers spend their Wednesday afternoons slogging around in cold Lancashire mud, and their evenings writing up about their teams exploits on the pitch. It is these personal touches that can turn a good article, into a fantastic one. Our weekly meetings are at 7PM in Pendle Bar, and any requests for coverage or articles can be made via our email address on the inside front cover. The support of the sports teams through our media coverage has never been more important, and with an away year at York in Roses 2013, a strong Red Rose media team could make all the difference.