

scan

Lancaster 2014 application numbers down says Deputy VC

Atherton suggests drop from 2013 is due to University's decision to increase A-level tariffs.

HENRY SAKER-CLARK NEWS EDITOR
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Deputy Vice Chancellor, Andrew Atherton, has admitted that "application numbers are down" for this year, blaming increased A-level tariffs across numerous university courses for the change.

Speaking to SCAN about the University's admissions, Atherton also stated that there had too often been an attitude of "if we don't get enough Home-EU students, we get more international students in" regarding to the new student intake.

Atherton believes that the drop in application numbers is not necessarily a negative but reflects the ambitions of the University. "Application numbers are down. One main reason for this is that, across many courses, we have increased the A-level tariff, and by looking at these high quality students we are therefore looking at a smaller pool of students." He recognised that similar universities have seen this decline in applicants as a "standard characteristic" when they raise the bar regarding entrance requirements.

Last year's overall first year undergraduate intake was more than 3200 students. The Deputy Vice Chancellor admitted that, although this year's figures are yet to be determined, "they might be slightly down, but not significantly."

He explained that "last year was our largest ever year for recruitment, more than 3200 undergraduate intake last year. There is not a significant recruit-

ment problem because over the long-term there have been consistently growing numbers. We don't know how many students we will have yet, as induction is yet to take place, it is just projected that it will be close to last year's figures. It's a very variable market so what we have been seeing recently is very positive when looking at the larger trend of growth. It is clear Lancaster is growing as a University."

Atherton went on to address the large part played by Lancaster's growing international student population with regards to admissions, believing that it had too often been considered secondary to the Home-EU students at the University.

"We need to re-see the way we look at international students because then the difference will start to fade away. If we are a high class establishment we are going to get many students from all over the world. Unfortunately there seemed to be an attitude of 'if we don't get enough Home-EU students, we get more international students in.' This isn't how it should work.

"It's not a trade off between overseas students and Home-EU students, we recognize that overseas students are a big, important part of the intake. The total intake of students is more important than those separate figures. If you look at us compared to other similar unis, our international intake is not quite as high, although we are seeing a lot of international student growth."

Laura Clayson, President of LUSU, has also stressed the huge benefits of international students that need to be more widely ap-



preciated. "It highlights the fact that Lancaster is seen as an institution with increasing global appeal. It is a huge positive because Overseas students are an asset to the student community. Their presence on campus increases cultural exchange within the student body and offers home students the chance to expand their horizons through interacting with people with different perspectives on global issues."

In conversation with SCAN, Atherton also stated the growing importance of recruitment of students through clearing and adjustment. "Clearing and adjustment offer a fantastic range for students so they are using it to 'shop around' to make sure they get the best degree they can."

"This is starting to become a more common feature. You will now see almost every university, except Oxford and Cambridge, with places available in clearing. It's understandable really. Remember when you applied through UCAS. The process started in September/October, you would receive offers around January, have made your decisions by May and

then only find out where you are going in August. You find out which uni you have got into about 11 months after first looking so there is plenty of scope for change over that period."

Clayson, however, sees the negative aspect of recruitment in this manner; "clearing did make up the numbers so there is cause for concern." She went on to say that "I think it is consequential of the amount of competition there is between universities to attract students. From my perspective going to university has become more of a difficult decision to make due to £9000 fees, as well as the increasing cost of living. As a Union this presents a number of challenges, so we must ensure we remain relevant and representative of the student body. As an institution we need to shout louder about all the exciting things we have on offer here."

Atherton agrees that since the introduction of higher fees the attitudes of prospective students has changed when considering applications for university, believing that this has led many

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Planned cuts to the DSA postponed

News Editor Nathalie Farrugia reports on the planned cuts to the DSA, which have been postponed to the next academic year.

Cuts to the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs), which were announced back in April by the former universities and science minister David Willets and were due to be put into place this coming academic year, have recently been postponed until September 2016. The cuts to DSAs, which are non-repayable grants offered to disabled students to support their studies, were originally proposed by Willets to "ensure that the limited public funding available for DSAs is targeted in the best way and to achieve value for money, whilst ensuring those most in need get the help they require."

Each year, students can currently receive up to £5,161 for specialist equipment which can include laptops, digital recorders, screen reading and voice recognition software. They can also receive up to £20,520 for non-medical helpers, for example note-takers, scribes and typists and library support. A further £1,724 is also accessible for general costs, for example travel expenses.

According to a government statement written by David Willets back April this year the key changes being made to the DSA are: the

government will pay for higher specification or higher cost computers where a student needs one solely by virtue of their disability, however, they will no longer pay for standard specification computers or the warranties and insurance associated with them. They will also no longer pay for higher specification and/or higher cost computers simply because of the way in which a course is delivered. Willets also proposed changing the approach to the funding of a number of computer equipment, software and consumable items through DSAs that have become funded as 'standard' to most students. Under the proposal, students with Specific Learning Difficulties will continue to receive support through DSAs where their support needs are considered to be more complex. The government will also fund the most specialist Non-Medical Help.

According to the statement, Higher Education Institutes are expected to consider how they deliver information to students and whether strategies can be put in place to reduce the need for support workers and encourage greater independence and autonomy for their students. The additional costs of

specialist accommodation will no longer be met by DSAs, other than in exceptional circumstances. The statement also said the government are clarifying a number of policy changes. They will define disability in relation to the definition provided by the Equality Act 2010, for the purposes of receiving DSAs and will also introduce a requirement for registration for those providers offering DSA study needs assessments and DSA assistive technology service providers.

The announcement of these cuts has been controversial and has been strongly opposed by the NUS and universities across the country, including Lancaster. CCO (Students with disabilities) David Whitlock said "the cuts will affect all disabled students, but most importantly will make future funding practically unavailable to students with dyslexia, dyspraxia and ADD/ADHD. These are the highest demographics of disabled students at universities, who are now bound to feel that the education system is against them."

Whitlock also said that on top of the stresses of university life, the cuts to the fund "may well lead to



Jay Theis

higher dropout rates and lower NSS scores from the dissatisfaction encountered." The latter, he said, is something the university should take note of "as it directly effects league table results."

In terms of what LUSU are doing to oppose the cuts, VP (Welfare) Mia Scott said "It is our hope that LUSU can lobby government nationally and locally". However, she added that Lancaster's local MP Eric Ollerenshaw has made clear that he is in full support of the proposals. Scott also said she

hopes to "ensure that this discriminatory policy never makes it to parliament. Failing that, it's a case of joining up efforts with the University and ensuring that they are capable and willing to fill any potential funding gaps out of their own resources."

The announcement that the cuts to the DSA have been postponed was made on 12th September by current universities and science minister Greg Clark.

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Atherton: we need to change how we view overseas applicants

continued from front page.
to use clearing and adjustment to its fullest. "There are a lot of very good students in clearing every year. You want to be 100 percent sure you're going to the right place, so people are checking again that they have made the right decision.

"I predict there will be about 5-10 percent of people that will select through clearing. You will get people that are confident enough to wait, knowing there will be plenty of options on offer and then say to the uni's, 'Hi, I've got 3 As.' It's putting much more power in their hands."

Mark Garnett, Senior Lecturer in Politics has seen 2014's admissions period in a largely positive light despite the subject's decreasing Home-EU contingent. "As for Politics and IR, we are down on Home

and EU but up in the 'overseas' category, so that it's a satisfactory picture. University-wide, I'd say that we don't have anything like a crisis of recruitment - rather, applicant numbers tend to fluctuate depending on whether or not we're in the UK's top ten.

"However, compared to previous years Admissions Tutors are now experiencing a very welcome level of support from the centre in terms of recruitment efforts; and, whereas in the recent past government policy tended to encourage us to be a bit too inflexible in the offers we made (ie, concentrating on ABB and above), University House is a lot more realistic now, and, I hope, now see the wisdom of returning to the policy on Admissions which made Lancaster such a successful and diverse institution in the first place."

To ensure Lancaster is recognised for being a successful institution there has been a growing focus on the marketing of the University. The recent change of logo, from a chaplaincy-orientated design to a shield design, as well as changes to the university website are two ways in which the University has been keen to establish this image.

Atherton said of these changes, "we're improving the website, trying to use it to get students to see why Lancaster is great. We have also obviously changed the logo, which we did using a lot of feedback. We looked at universities such as York, Exeter and Warwick and they all had shields. When people looked at the logos ours was noticeably different, and although when you're eighteen you obviously don't focus on the logo, it does impact

someone's image of a university."

Marketing the University and representing it "to show how much we put into providing a positive student experience here at Lancaster" is something Clayson feels is an important factor in attracting ambitious, new students. For new students this year at Lancaster, Clayson feels it is integral to continue this positive student experience.

"It's a great time to become a student at LU because we have lots of plans as a Union for increasing engagement with our members, be that through sport, the societies and clubs we host here on campus or increasing engagement through the democratic structures that exist such as the Colleges and Union Council. Our scoring on the National Student Survey has increased to 72% (71%

in previous years) and we hope that by ensuring we continue to champion the rights of our members and represent them on the issues that most concern them we can remain relevant and sustain, if not improve, upon this scoring.

"Lancaster has a very welcoming community feel to it and I think this allows our members to meet people from a diverse range of backgrounds that they wouldn't necessarily get outside of a University setting. We will demand representation on the issues that affect our membership. If ever students wanted to be part of something big, now is the time to get involved, get politicised, and make their voices heard."

Bowland and Lonsdale College still without principals

Vice Chancellor appoints Roger Gould as Interim Principal of both Lonsdale and Bowland, leaving him in charge of three colleges during the busy time of Freshers' Week. The instatement of Gould was announced without any prior consultation, and has been resisted by both Bowland and Lonsdale.

Bowland College and Lonsdale College are still without principals after repeated failures by the University's search committee to recommend a candidate. The University has appointed Pendle Principal Roger Gould as Interim Principal of both colleges, leaving Gould in charge of three colleges during Intro Week, one of the busiest times of year for college staff. There was no consultation with the two colleges over the appointment, and both colleges have fiercely resisted Gould's instatement.

The appointment of Gould as Interim Principal of both Bowland College and Lonsdale College came in a letter by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Mark E. Smith, to the respective college syndicates, on July 31.

Both college syndicates have passed motions in an attempt to restrict Gould's involvement in their governance. Bowland College's motion, passed on September 18, could have seen former principal Joe Thornberry return as the College's Interim Principal instead of Gould. In Lent Term of the last academic year, the University's search committee refused to recommend Thornberry for a third term as Bowland College Principal, a decision another former Bowland Principal said amounted to "slander," and one which many officers in the college would like to see reversed.

Meanwhile, on September 9 the

Lonsdale College Syndicate voted to transfer all of the Principal's powers and responsibilities to the Vice Principal, Dr. Michael Pickles, with Gould remaining as a largely "figurehead" Principal.

Both colleges are still without permanent principals, after repeated failures by the University to recommend a candidate for either position, a situation believed to be unprecedented in the history of Lancaster University.

The attempted instatement of Gould by the University has been heavily criticised by members of both Bowland and Lonsdale Colleges. Dr. Ian Saunders, a former Principal of Bowland College, said that the appointment of Gould was "totally unacceptable." "There is no reason that a principal should be imposed upon us," Saunders told SCAN. "The College Principal needs to know what is going on in a college and its history. To jump into two different colleges and learn that is impossible."

However, the University's Provost for Student Experiences, Colleges and the Library, Professor Amanda Chetwynd, defended Gould's appointment. "Roger [Gould] is an experienced principal and is able to increase his time commitment to cover the additional duties until a permanent Principal can be found," Chetwynd said.

In the longer term, many students and staff are concerned that the at-

tempted appointment of Gould is an effort by the University to dictate the management of each college and degrade the autonomy of the colleges. This fear has been compounded by the announcement of a "wide ranging review" into the position of the College Principal.

On Tuesday, Week 7, Lent Term 2013-14, the University's search committee failed to recommend any candidate for the positions of Bowland College Principal or Lonsdale College Principal. The search committee, chaired by Chetwynd, was supposed to recommend the candidate it believed best suitable for each position. This decision was then supposed to be passed on to each college syndicate, which was then to make a proposal for its choice of principal. In the end, the search committee refused to recommend any candidate to either position, so the syndicates had nobody to propose.

Three candidates came forward for the position of Bowland College Principal and one candidate came forward for the position of Lonsdale College Principal. None of the candidates were recommended for either position by the University's search committee. Both positions were since re-advertised, but still no candidates were recommended by the search committee.

As SCAN reported at the time, what astonished members of Bowland College the most was the fact that their incumbent Princi-

pal, Joe Thornberry, who was re-running for the position, was not recommended by the search committee. Saunders described the search committee's refusal to propose Thornberry for a third term as "absolutely dumbfounding."

Saunders said that Thornberry was "120% suitable for the job," and that he had the overwhelming support of the college. "Like everyone else in the college, I assumed it would be an absolutely straightforward procedure," Saunders told SCAN. "Unless someone with incalculable stature and ability came forward, Joe [Thornberry] would be reappointed."

"When I heard there was to be no appointment at all, it was absolutely dumbfounding," Saunders said. "It suggested the search committee believed that the current Principal was not up to the job.

"I do not know of anything that has happened to a college officer like this."

On Friday Week 6, Lent Term, Bowland College Management Committee passed a resolution to support Thornberry for a third term of office. This resolution was then passed by the Bowland College Syndicate on Thursday Week 7, Lent Term. Following this agreement to support Thornberry, several Bowland College members, including former principals Saunders and Dr. Louise Banton, wrote to the University's Vice Chanc-

lor, Professor Mark E. Smith, for a personal intervention in the matter. They were sent a "holding response" by way of reply. On Thursday Week 1, Summer Term, Saunders expressed his opinions about the lack of appointment to Chetwynd, only to be told that "procedure had been followed."

Meanwhile, on Week 9, Summer Term, LUSU Council unanimously passed a motion of support for Thornberry. The Chair of Council, Ronnie Rowlands, wrote to Smith and Chetwynd to express the Council's views.

The first formal reply from Smith came on July 31, when in a letter to the Bowland College Syndicate and the Lonsdale College Syndicate he announced the instatement of Gould as Interim Principal of the College. In the letter Smith also revealed that a "wide ranging review" of the role of the College Principal would take place during Michaelmas Term, in order to "ensure that the role attracts excellent candidates who have stronger links with the academic focus of the University."

Many members of both Bowland College and Lonsdale College were outraged at the appointment of Gould, as well as the lack of consultation between the University and the colleges when deciding his instatement. Lonsdale College refused to speak to Gould for over a month after Smith's announcement. In a let-



Sammie Caine



Thornberry's grievance rejected

Former Principal of Bowland College, Joe Thornberry, has had his grievance against Professor Amanda Chetwynd rejected. The grievance against the Provost for Student Experience, Colleges and the Library relates to Thornberry's treatment by the search committee set up to find a new Bowland Principal in the interviews for the position in Week 7, Lent Term 2013-14.

Thornberry was one of three can-

candidates who had put their name forward for the position, none of whom have subsequently been appointed. Many sources have alleged that the procedure by which the committee made its decision featured a range of peculiarities. One such peculiarity was the apparent need for unanimity in decision-making, a rule allegedly introduced by the Chair of the committee, Chetwynd, partway through proceedings. It

is understood that a majority of the search committee favoured the appointment of Thornberry.

However, a member of University Council appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to rule on the grievance has cleared Chetwynd of any wrongdoing.

JACK PERRY EDITOR

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ter to the Vice Chancellor, former Lonsdale Principal Dr. Keith Davidson questioned whether it was possible to be the Principal of three colleges simultaneously. "This interim period [when Gould would be the Interim Principal] will include Intro Week and the first few weeks of term," Davidson said. "There are a large number of social activities planned during these weeks, many of which as College Principal I attended. Several of these events run in parallel with events held in other Colleges.

"With the best will in the world Roger [Gould] cannot be in three places at once."

An emergency meeting of the Lonsdale College syndicate was held on September 9 to discuss their response to Gould's instatement. It was decided that all authority and duties of the Principal would be transferred to the Vice Principal of Lonsdale College, Dr. Michael Pickles. The syndicate also decided that once Pickles' term finished on Tuesday Intro

Week, Davidson would take over the position, with the duties and authorities remaining invested in the position of Vice Principal.

Davidson met Gould on September 10 to discuss the relationship between Lonsdale and its Interim Principal. Davidson told SCAN that he was happy with Gould's approach to the position. "[Gould] will oversee but will not interfere," Davidson told SCAN, emphasising that Gould would play a largely "figurehead" role. However, Davidson suggested that this healthy relationship came with the caveat that the Principal positions would be "re-advertised fairly soon."

On this relationship, Gould told SCAN: "While being at the head of the table, metaphorically, the Principal is actually still only one part of college management, albeit with some particular duties and responsibilities - and of course there is no question of any college losing its unique identities, traditions, or direction!"

Gould said that he intended to make himself "equally available, contribute to existing plans where I can and serve as necessary on those committees and teams that shape the direction each one has independently chosen to take," Gould said.

On September 18 Bowland College Syndicate voted to reject the interim arrangements proposed by Smith, voting instead to retain Thornberry as its Interim Principal. However, an email sent to senior Bowland College members on September 18 by Bowland Vice Principal Simon Corless suggested that the vote to resurrect Thornberry would not be taken into consideration.

"I can confirm that although Roger Gould is our Interim Principal, appointed by the VC, the day to day control still remains squarely with the existing College Management Team whether at Senior or Junior level, albeit, unfortunately, without Joe Thornberry," the email read.

In an email co-signed by Bowland College President Lee Dudding and Lonsdale College President Michael Sutton, President Laura Clayton wrote to Chetwynd raising concerns over the welfare of students in the two colleges. Clayton questioned whether it was possible for one individual to successfully run three colleges, given the range of responsibilities bestowed upon the Principal position. "As the Colleges form part of the top 5 reasons to come to Lancaster in our marketing material, we feel there needs to be more dedication on the part of the University in ensuring their separate identities are protected," Clayton said.

Clayton also asked the University to respect the request of the Lonsdale College Syndicate to invest all Principal responsibilities in the position of Vice Principal. At the time of writing no formal reply from the University had been given on the matter.

Ronnie Rowlands, VP (Campaigns and Communications) and Chair

of Union Council explained the frustration felt by the colleges towards the University. "As far as I'm concerned, the Students' Union and both affected Colleges have collectively and unanimously expressed their displeasure with the arrangements and the situation the Colleges find themselves in," Rowlands said. "You'd think this would serve as good direction on how Senior Management should act in response. Instead, all of these voices have thus far been ignored, with the Provost of Colleges & Student Experience [Chetwynd] basically saying 'you'll be fine.'

The Provost of Colleges & Student Experience has repeatedly insisted that 'procedure has been followed' during the appointment process. It is used as an all deflecting and sacrosanct vindication. "And yet, NO-ONE is able to tell me which procedure permits the Vice-Chancellor to appoint one person to run three Colleges."

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Sammie Caine

Lancaster University adopts new logo

News Editor Henry Saker-Clark talks to Stuart Franklin, Director of Communications and Marketing, about the decision to use a new shield logo instead of the Chaplaincy's "swoosh" logo.



Lancaster University has officially adopted a new university logo, replacing the traditional chaplaincy centre based logo which had been in place since 1985. The new logo is a key part of a rebranding of the University in conjunction with the 50th anniversary celebrations taking place in 2014.

An online poll by SCAN following the unveiling of the new logo revealed dissatisfaction from current students towards the new logo compared with the old "swoosh" design. Stuart Franklin, Director of Communications and Marketing, told SCAN that despite the loyalty of current students towards the old design, numerous consultations with prospective students, and current staff and

students, were largely in favour of adopting a new "shield" logo.

"Whatever you do some people are going to hate it, but we want them to understand the reasons behind the change and this was not something done lightly. We looked into it a lot with prospective students and then in April set up focus groups here, so heard the opinions of at least a hundred students.

"Unsurprisingly they showed a stronger favour of the swoosh than the other samples. They clearly had a loyalty to the University but once we explained to people the reasoning behind the change, they understood it and were happy." The SCAN poll at the end of August resulted in 71% of voters favouring

the old "swoosh" logo. Over a thousand current students registered their votes, with many comment-

"Whatever you do some people are going to hate it, but we want them to understand the reasons behind the change."

ing to explain their reasoning.

Some suggested that the new shield design was less unique and clearly linked to the University, and others felt that the opinions of themselves and other students had not been recognised enough. There was, however, support for the new design, with some stating that the shield design was more reflective of a high class institution than the previous logo.

Franklin stated that the University's previous marketing and branding did not reflect the true

nature of the University. "This is a very good university, looking at the metrics and league tables, but from research we felt that it wasn't widely perceived to be that good.

"We felt that the University really wasn't selling its strengths. It was pretty weak marketing; the biggest selling point often seemed to be the halls of residence which just isn't right.

"We did a series of focus groups with year 13s. We tried out on them what people might think are the best aspects of the university. We found five key things which impressed people about Lancaster and we want to heighten these aspects; it's high position in league tables, employability, impressive results in the National Student Survey, international study and the colleges." Franklin also suggested that there had been some misinformation regarding the creation of the logo. "It wasn't an expensive thing. There

have been big changes to the marketing team but it is still very small. It's half the size of the one when I worked at Exeter University.

"We've all been speaking to people pretty much endlessly. Short of a popular, referendum style

"Short of a popular, referendum style vote we've done everything to gauge opinion."

vote we've done everything to gauge opinion and have constantly been in close contact with the University and students. We can't talk to everyone but used an objective group to get the design.

"In fact some people dug out the comments made when they changed the design in the 80s and people were largely negative about the 'swoosh.'

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LUSU to launch "Go Sugar Free" scheme

This academic year will see the return of the Sugarhouse Card, as LUSU introduces its new "Go Sugar Free" scheme. The deal, which is currently limited to the first 200 customers, will be an electronic addition to the Purple Card, offering free entry into the Sugarhouse, the Union-owned nightclub, for an entire academic year.

The announcement comes at the end of a summer-long review by the Sugarhouse staff and VP (Union Development) Damon Fairley. The provision of value for money has reportedly been one of the main ideas driving the review.

The news will be welcomed by many Lancaster students, who have campaigned for the reintroduction of the Sugarhouse Card. In both the 2012-13 academic year and the 2013-14 academic year a motion was brought to Union Council to reintroduce or assess the feasibility of the Sugarhouse Card. The initiative for this latest plan, however, has largely come from Fair-

ley, who spoke to SCAN about the introduction of the new scheme.

"I've always strongly believed that The Sugarhouse, as the Students' Union Nightclub, should offer students not only a great experience, but also value for money," Fairley said. "Sugar Free" as an initiative was born out of the idea that students should have the option of purchasing an annual pass to Sug-

"I've always strongly believed that The Sugarhouse, as the Students' Union Nightclub, should offer students not only a great experience, but also value for money"

ar, allowing free entry on all standard nights. This offers unparalleled value for money for students who visit The Sugarhouse frequently.

"Sugar Free" is an initiative I've pushed for, due to the value for

money it offers to students."

Over the summer break LUSU had to play down speculation that the Sugarhouse was due to close amid reports of falling attendance and staff redundancies.

Over the summer break LUSU had to play down speculation that the Sugarhouse was due to close amid reports of falling attendance and staff redundancies. The reintroduction of the Sugarhouse Card will be considered both a show of commitment to The Sugarhouse by LUSU, and an attempt to reverse the nightclub's fortunes.

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Sakib Rahman

Part I teaching could be outsourced

Proposals to outsource Part I teaching are under consideration despite an initial rejection from the Senate. News Editor Henry Saker-Clark speaks to Joe O'Neill, LUSU VP (Education) about the proposals and the effect they could have on students.

A proposal to outsource teaching for Part I courses at the University is still under consideration after being put to University Senate at the end of Summer term 2014.

The proposal, which is currently undergoing changes before reconsideration would see the University jointly delivering parts of the undergraduate programme with private companies.

Pro-Vice Chancellor, International, Steve Bradley's proposal suggests "the creation of jointly delivered undergraduate programme where the partner is not a university and does not have degree awarding powers." He goes further, suggesting the specific involvement of "education providers or companies with expertise in professional training."

Joe O'Neill, LUSU VP (Education), believes movements by the University to use private teaching resources would be a step in the wrong direction. "I find the issue very concerning and, if it were to continue as presented before Senate in its original guise, I am completely against it."

Outsourced teaching would not be entirely new to the University. Study Group International, a private education provider, already supply the teaching for some international courses, such as numerous international foundation courses.

"I find the issue very concerning and, if it were to continue as presented before Senate in its original guise, I am completely against it."

The proposal highlights Lancaster's familiarity with the outsourcing of Part I study before completion of Part II at the University. "There is in fact a precedent for this arrangement in that Lancaster University, for several years, had an arrangement with Blackburn College of FE under which Blackburn delivered a Part I programme in Law, on successful completion of which, students qualified



Sammie Caine

for admission direct to Part II of the Lancaster LLB Degree."

O'Neill believes that although the intent to allow more people from different backgrounds a university education is admirable the nature in which it is being proposed causes concern.

"The rationale seems to be that it would open up higher education to students from a wider range of backgrounds, say those with BTECs or from otherwise less traditional routes than usual. The teaching, according to the proposal, could be done either here on the Bailrigg campus or practically anywhere else - something that worries me greatly."

The lack of input from the Union is also something that O'Neill found disconcerting about the original proposal. "There was no provision for student representation given in the proposal and no answers as to how LUSU was going to be able to represent these students - or indeed be provided with the additional resources we would need to do so."

However, the Senate's criticisms of the proposal have led to alterations and consultations which may address this issue. "Luckily, the paper was withdrawn and further consultation will take place. A working group has been set up by Professor Steve Bradley and will include LUSU representation in the form of myself. We will be investigating the proposals and working through a number of potential models that this could go forward with before returning to Senate in October.

"The key question that has to be asked is this: If the idea is to provide routes into higher education for students from a wider range of backgrounds, why is Lancaster University incapable of doing this? Why does a private provider need to be brought in to do it? Is this just an exercise in mass-producing Part I education via outsourcing? It certainly looks like that's the case." O'Neill raised the issue of whether Lancaster is incapable of providing this further pathway to education, but it must also be considered that, if it is appropriate for

Study Group International to provide some level of teaching then surely it is qualified to extend that.

The original proposal maintains that Faculty Teaching Committees at the University would have the final say regarding the courses. Specifically the Committee would examine five key areas to ensure its quality: entry requirements, curriculum design, student progression, teacher quality and the facilities.

The proposal goes on to state that it is intending to extend the University's courses rather than supplant them. "There is no intention to displace current departmental activity. Rather the focus is upon generating additional students in very competitive market. Faculty PRCs should be convinced of the business case for the proposed collaboration."

Study Group International and other similar organizations have become more successful in recent years, showing the rise of for-profit higher education in the UK.

O'Neill further stated his griev-

ances with the proposal. "There are also issues surrounding the student experience. Would a student studying a Part I degree in, say, China have the same experience as a student who was studying in Lancaster on our Bailrigg campus? Would they have the same experience of the college system? It all seems a fudged way of privatising our education through the back door in the 'wolf in sheep's clothing' name of widening participation at the expense of a quality student experience.

"I will be pushing to ensure that all Lancaster students who are being taught as Part I students will be taught by Lancaster University and not by a third party private provider. If we are to stand by the quality of our degrees, we must stand by the quality of our teaching and our ability to provide it. That can and should be done here in Bailrigg."

HENRY SAKER-CLARK NEWS EDITOR
Twitter: @HENRYSAKERCLARK

University celebrates 50th anniversary with Community Activities Day

On Saturday September 13, Lancaster University held a Community Activities Day to celebrate the University's 50th anniversary and to provide an insight into life on campus for members of the regional community. This free event included a variety of different activities for all ages and took place in venues across campus.

Vice Chancellor Professor Mark E. Smith said: "This milestone year gives us an opportunity not only to celebrate our world class credentials in teaching and research, but also to celebrate and strengthen our community links closer to home."

Smith also said: "We have always been hugely proud of our roots in Lancaster and, through this event, hope to give the local community a deeper insight into just what goes on here and how

we are working to benefit our local community and beyond."

Some of the many activities that took place over the day included making a film in 45 minutes with The Dukes theatre, watching a demonstration of 3D printing, experiencing Chinese culture through dumpling making, Chinese painting and language classes as well as helping to solve a murder case through forensic linguistics.

There were also talks from expert historians on the First World War and published authors on their experiences of getting into print as

well as a variety of public lectures, some on topical issues such as Ebola. Visitors could enjoy cam-

perience live music and performance, as well as food and drink stalls from the local area.

50th anniversary project manager Alexandra Mounsey said:

"The day genuinely provides something for everyone... and there's plenty for our young visitors too including a teddy bears hospital, Bonington Bear portrait gallery, musical instrument-making classes, and a chance to learn about the environment and skeletons and bones.

the event was great, many families visited and it was a really lively atmosphere. It was really good for people to visit and get a taste of what it's like at Lancaster University Campus."

"This milestone year gives us an opportunity not only to celebrate our world class credentials in teaching and research, but also to celebrate and strengthen our community links closer to

Emery also said: "there were so many different activities and interesting lectures and alumni talks... which were all educational but fun."

NATHALIE FARRUGIA NEWS EDITOR

Twitter: @NATFARRUGIA94

High-profile speakers confirmed for LUSU's Assembly for Change

LUSU has confirmed several high-profile speakers for its upcoming Assembly For Change conference. The conference, which takes place over Saturday and Sunday Week 5, is based around the theme of social change and positive action by young people. The speakers include NUS President Toni Pearce, human right and LGBTQ activist Peter Tatchell and author Owen Jones.

style panel on the afternoon of Sunday Week 5, alongside Pearce, Tatchell and a representative from the Liberal Democrats. The two-day event also features speakers from a range of organisations, including Hope not Hate, The Prisoners Education Trust and Amnesty UK. The speaker from Amnesty UK, Niall Couper, is a Lancaster alumnus and former SCAN News Editor.

LUSU expects an attendance of between 200 and 300 people, mainly university students from across the North West, but also local sixth formers, academics and members of the local community.

The conference is being organised by VP (Education) Joe O'Neill, who told SCAN that he was "really excited about the Assembly for Change. It's been a big undertaking

but now that it's all taking shape I definitely feel it was worth it."

in 2015, it's also about highlighting that democracy isn't putting a cross in a box every five years," O'Neill said. "A proper, vibrant democracy centres around taking an active role in shaping our communities, our countries and the future of our planet."

"Assembly for Change will serve to underline that point - that young people aren't taken seriously in politics but we're getting organised and we're getting active," O'Neill told SCAN.

"In 2015 beyond, my hope is that we show young people are fed up of the status quo and we aren't going to stand by and go through the motions all over again.

"Whilst it's important that we get focussed on the General Election

first-hand activism, you might be a seasoned campaigner; it's about bringing all these people who are passionate about really making a change together and building a movement of young people."

O'Neill said that the line-up of speakers was "really exciting," and said he looked forward to the largest LUSU-organised event for a long time.

"Young people aren't taken seriously in politics but we're getting organised and we're getting active"

"The Students' Union is committed to our core belief that students can and will make a difference, and we hope to inspire our members to do just that," O'Neill said.

JACK PERRY EDITOR

Twitter: @JACKPERRY01

The speakers include NUS President Toni Pearce, human right and LGBTQ activist Peter Tatchell and author Owen Jones.

Other speakers include the Conservative MP for Lancaster and Fleetwood Eric Ollerenshaw, the local Labour candidate for the Lancaster and Fleetwood seat Cat Smith and Green Party leader Natalie Bennett, all of whom will be taking part in a Question-Time



Mark Smith



Jay Theis

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EDITORIAL

In defence of the college system

On page four of this issue, SCAN reports the great confusion and concern among many college officers towards the appointment of Roger Gould as the Bowland and Lonsdale Interim Principal. Gould's instatement is another worrying sign of the University trying to gain greater influence over college matters, and follows a long history of a gradual centralisation of college responsibilities. It may be surprising to many current Lancaster students that the colleges were not always the peripheral entities Bryony Seager suggests they are on page 12 of this issue. Colleges used to be responsible for students' welfare, and were in charge of their own bars. Over the past 15 years the accommodation system and the porters system have also been centralised. The University no doubt takes control over these areas from the colleges with the best of intentions. However, as one source told SCAN, while everyone may agree that improvement is a good thing for the University, the idea that this can only be achieved by giving direct control over them to University House is heavily disputed. We hope that with the upcoming review of College Principals we do not see the colleges' autonomy degraded any more.

More than just a face

The big news over the summer, of course, was the University's decision to change the Lancaster logo. In this issue, we interviewed the marketing director behind it (on page six), and Deputy Vice Chancellor Andrew Atherton also noted the importance of the logo in our interview with him on pages one and three. The decision to change the logo is very much wrapped in Lancaster's "image" as it tries to fulfil its strategic plan, and there will forever be disagreement as to what that "image" should be. However, what appears to have annoyed students the most (besides the fact the shield logo looks a bit like a face) is the lack of consultation with current students and alumni. While Lancaster should no doubt look to the future, it should also respect the views of those who are already part of the Lancaster community. More generally, it is also becoming increasingly apparent that the University needs to take much wider consultation when making such major decisions.

Get involved!

One thing we would say to first-year students as they embark on their next three years is get involved in student and university life as much as possible. At Freshers' Fair you will find a whole range of sports clubs and societies, and we would recommend you join as many as you can. Your time at Lancaster is three years you will never be able to have again, so make sure you enjoy it to the fullest. With that in mind, SCAN is always looking for new contributors. Whether you would like to try your hand as a journalist, or are a budding photographer or really keen writer, SCAN would like to hear from you. Join our members' facebook group, email scan.editor@lusu.co.uk, find us at Freshers' Fair, or join us at our media summit at 6pm on Monday Week 1 in Frankland Lecture Theatre, and you can get writing for our print issues and our website right away!

WWI: Are we celebrating or learning?



RDVRS

Hands up, those who have heard the phrase: "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." That's one, two... everyone. David Cameron surely has, too. In October 2012, however, on the topic of what to expect come the centenary of the first world war, the PM said he wanted a "commemoration," (alright so far), "like the Diamond Jubilee," (not so alright), which "says something about who we are as people". Of the line between celebration and important remembrance, Dave seems to be on the wrong side.

I'm not the first to criticise. Last year Jeremy Paxman responded that the centenary ought to bear no resemblance to the Jubilee, which was "an excuse for a knees up in the rain". So what should the centenary events look like? So far we've seen the news channels' leading headline, informing us of 100 years to the day of our entrance into battle. Cameron, Clegg, Miliband and Salmond lay wreaths at memorials. Later, a 'lights out' across the country was promoted in order to achieve a small sense of 1914, echoing the words of Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey: "The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime." BBC and ITV have aired new wartime dramas. The question rarely asked at this time but one that ought to be is: why are we remembering? Or, rather, what are

we supposed to do with the event?

On such an occasion as this, when one feels compelled to appear somewhat in thought and reverent, it's not surprising that those who aren't sure what to do, feel, or think about the occasion

Does Cameron's 'celebration' reflect the mood of the people?

don't voice these qualms. Some show reverence to family connections involved in the war, some mourn, some re-read their favourite wartime literature, while others attend events simply out of respect. These are laudable and there is of course no single right thing to do. Some, however, can be more helpful than others.

For example, what message does one get when Cameron's 'celebration' rhetoric is used as the soundtrack to the images of trench warfare, violence, and destruction? Few would denounce the heroics of those who fought for Britain by condemning the war and their loss of life altogether, but the point of the events – they ought not to be called 'celebrations' for this very reason – is to show not only gratitude to those who fought for freedom, but arguably more importantly, to learn from the tragedy of the deaths;

every nation as well as Britain.

But does Cameron's 'celebration' reflect the mood of the people? Do we rejoice in our militaristic record? Ultimately a sense of nationalism – or at least patriotism – is needed for a country to be successful. It is necessary that the PM and the government retain a sense of national pride in order to make decisions with the intention of state success. The people, though to varying degrees, also have a need for the country – their country – to improve. Hence Cameron's target for the centenary to say "something about who we are as people": a desire to celebrate British victory. Yet history tells us when leaders adopt jingoism and chauvinism no one fares well in the long run. Hopefully Cameron won't delve deeper into this territory, giving people an excuse to follow. Few reject a sense of British identity, but the Britain of 1914 was a very different country to the one we inhabit today, as is every nation within or without the Great War. A history imbued with nationalism is a selective and inaccurate one. Celebrating our victory in this manner damns the original ideal: 'the war to end all wars'. We didn't learn from history; this year may be a good place to try again.

NSS 2014: Alright for Britain, worse for Lancaster

I've only just finished my first year at Lancaster, but I already know how I'm going to complete my National Student Survey: dishonestly. I am going to give Lancaster top marks for everything. Because whatever I think about the University's lecturers, modules, and notable lack of student democracy, and however many times, in return for days of work, I'm emo-

I already know how I'm going to complete my National Student Survey: dishonestly.

tionally pummelled with a grade so low I can't help but cry "Ow, my future..." However many times, I know that this is my university. It's going to come up in a lot of conversations, it's going to feature heavily on my CV, and it's probably going to nag me for donations and family photos until the day I die. Lancaster remains something of an upstart in the university system – as evidenced by our conspicuous move to a more traditional logo – so my university depends on the satisfaction of every student to retain that top 10 reputation.

I reckon there are more than a few other cold, calculating liars like me out there, which is one of several reasons why the National Student Survey can't be taken at face value. The results of this year's survey show that, on average, student satisfaction has improved in every one of the seven categories covered. Only 7% of students nationwide weren't satisfied with their course in general. In other words, students around the country are more pleased with their courses than anyone could have hoped for. But that just rubs salt in the wound here at Lancaster, where general student satisfaction has decreased by one percentage point. Should we fret over a single, measly percentage point? I think so.

You might think from a 1% drop that some tiny proportion of students was more disgruntled than usual. In actuality, we can only infer that some tiny proportion chose to write that disgruntlement down. There are several reasons for thinking that student satisfaction at Lancaster may be even lower. First, as I mentioned, there are students like me who want their university to ascend the

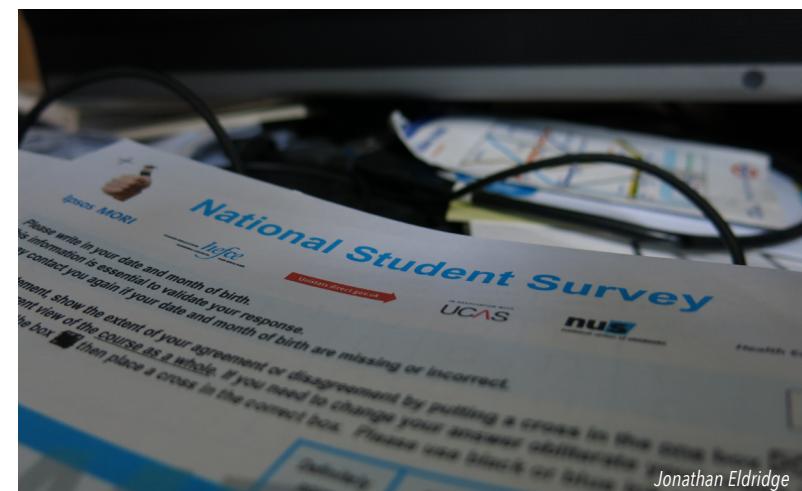
league tables in the hope of a bit more prestige. At a glance, Lancaster depends on the National Student Survey more than most, so our rouse would at least prevent UCL from overtaking us (on this year's more optimistic Guardian tables). You might say I'm being short-termist, as the survey was designed to bring constructive criticism and improvement to universities, but I would say there are faster, louder, and more detailed ways of making a complaint.

Secondly, the survey only asks about your course and students' union. Even then, there's only one question about the students'

This is about as bad as a student survey protest gets.

union and it's not particularly informative. If you want to protest about your accommodation or about your university's ethical & environmental record on the form, you have to be quite inventive.

Thirdly, there are students who realise they won't benefit from any changes prompted by the survey now that they're leaving.



They don't care about what goes on here once they're out. Just consider the number of 'You Said, We Have' leaflets, which outlined LUSU's response to the last survey, left behind in the pigeon holes.

Thirdly, it's the ones who don't care about the University who are most likely not to take the test. If you're raring to be done with the place, you're probably not going to hang around to do LUSU the service of a post-mortem.

Lastly, the National Student Survey goes out long before most students have started their finals.

I understand the reasons for doing this, but nobody can deny that finals are the most traumatic part of any course – the perfect time for the system to fail you. If students were completing these forms after fighting for library resources, rebuilding their timetables, and trying to navigate the graduate job Knowledge Bank, the results might be a bit bleaker. Until that day, going by the numbers, this is about as bad as a student survey protest gets.

DANIEL SNAPE COMMENT EDITOR
@DTCSNAPE

Freshers Week 2014

LUSU

Saturday 27th September

Arrivals day
Bowland, Cartmel, Furness, Graduate and Grizedale

Don't miss
Your College welcome talks where you will meet college officers and staff

Monday 29th Sept

Meet your Union
South West Campus 11am-3pm.
Registration
For colleges that arrived on Sunday in LICA

Meet your major talks
throughout the afternoon

Give it a Go*
German Language Class
Ballroom Dancing Workshop
Taekwondo Session
Chinese Language Class
Sport England Human Table Football in Alex Square
Big Night Out Town & Sugarhouse Bowland, Cartmel and Furness

Tuesday 30th Sept

Activities Showcase
Alexandra Square 11am-4pm.

Part 1 Talks
9am-5pm Find out about your other Part 1 subjects

Give it a Go*
Bellydancing Workshop
Life Drawing Class
Norwegian Language Class
Salsa Dancing Workshop
Sport England Basketball & Miniature Golf in Alex Square

Postgraduate Welcome
PG Welcome & PG Freshers' Fair 7.30pm in the Great Hall
Big Night Out Town & Sugarhouse Fylde and Grizedale, Lonsdale

Sunday 28th September

Arrivals day
County, Fylde, Graduate, Lonsdale & Pendle

Don't miss
College welcome talks where you will meet college officers and staff

Registration
For the colleges that arrived on Saturday in LICA

Wednesday 1st October

Activities Showcase
Alexandra Square 11am-4pm

Part 1 Enrolment

George Fox Building
International Students' Welcome Evening 7.30pm in the Great Hall

Give it a Go*
Living History Session
Photography Class
French Language Class

3G PITCH OPENING &

Sport England Launch

Watch Football and Rugby demos and

take part in Zorb Football

WHOOPS! Wednesday

at the Sugarhouse

Thursday 2nd October

International Students' Orientation 9.15am-1pm in George Fox

Freshers Fair Part 1 From 12-5pm in the Great Hall Complex and LICA, it's your chance to join one or more of our 200 student groups.

Farmers Market on Alexandra Square 10am-4pm

Give it a Go*
Italian Language Class

Hip Hop Dancing Workshop

Pole Fitness Session

Big Night Out Town & Sugarhouse County, Graduate and Pendle

Friday 3rd October

Major Orientation
Spend half a day with your department ready for your course starting.

Freshers Fair Part 2 12-4pm in the Great Hall Complex. There are over 50 local companies for you to meet, who will no doubt have a freebie or two on offer as well as your Students' Union.

Give it a Go*
Games Night (All-Nighter Drop In)

Movie Night 'Fault in our Stars'

Baking Workshop

Archery Session

Farmers Market on Alexandra Square 10am-4pm

Old's Cool at the Sugarhouse

Saturday 4th October

Trafford Centre and IKEA Trip
Tickets available from LUSU

Sugar Saturday at the Sugarhouse

Give it a Go*
Lancaster Country Walk

Sunday 5th October

Lake District Trip
Tickets available from LUSU

Give it a Go*
Sport England - Cycle Lancaster

The Sunday Refresher
Refresh and recharge your batteries before week 1 in the Great Hall Complex from 2-6pm

INTERESTED IN PLAYING SPORT?

Whether you are interested in playing competitively or just for fun, we want you to get active and get involved. Visit our Sport page on lusu.co.uk for a schedule of Team Trials and talks which are taking place throughout Freshers week

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A college is just for Christmas...

We all pick a college when we join Lancaster University, often after weeks of agonising over which one we should choose. Should we pledge our allegiance to the Bowland Lady, the might County Oak, or the Grizedale Hog? Often our choices are tied in with what type of accommodation we desire to fit our needs (and budget). The question is, however, once the excitement of declaring your allegiance and colours is over; does which college you're member of really matter?

Freshers' Week is clearly a highly college-centric event, and you'd be forgiven for mistaking, upon arrival, that your college is going to be the point which your university life revolves around. For the first week of university life, you rarely see anything but your college tutors, reps, advisors and bar staff as the initiation into student life begins. In that week you register with your college, get the all-too-memorable fire safety talk with your college, go out with your college, and get to know your housemates (and those living



in the adjacent flats/buildings).

And then Freshers' Week ends, you start going to lectures and seminars with people from across the University. You join societies and clubs that again break down those college barriers. Of course, when getting to know the hundreds of new people you invariably meet, one of the first questions asked is: "So, what college are you in?" In that sense it gives a form of identity, one that is never lost, but just provides a starting point as to where you fit in within Lancaster University. This belongs

I suppose, does give a form of tribalism – many a quiet night at the University has been broken by outbursts of college songs, some polite, others not so much.

I suppose in first year your college does matter more than in subsequent years, and that's mainly because you're usually living within that college's perimeters. After first year is over though, and you move out into the town with friends, then even that link to the college you initially picked is lost. All you are left with in second year to do with your college, is

the t-shirt you bought in Freshers' Week that is now so grubby with marker pen and other interesting substances that it's fairly difficult to distinguish the original logo.

Again, in third (or fourth) year the link to your college is thrown into relief. You graduate, not with your subject group, but with your college and the people you met all the way back in first year. In that sense it becomes more important as the year goes on, as you're bombarded with emails from the administrator telling you to order your cap and gown before it's too late.

It's the in-between years where the significance is lost, unless you're part of a college sports team or the JCR. For people who are involved in these activities, then yes, your college must be very important as you watch your team either rise or fall in the Carter Shield standings. Outside of this bubble, however, I have found that these events make little impact. Often it's your place within the university as a whole which provides your identity and the main core of the friends you

hang about with, of which your college is just one small slice. One further thing that could be seen as important with regards to the college you choose is that, if you choose to stay at Lancaster University for postgraduate study, some colleges have financial rewards available for alumni. This is the last thing on most people's minds when choosing their college, but it something that can be tapped into if you know where to look and if continued study at Lancaster is something you're interested in.

Of course, there will be people out there for whom their college is the main focus of their university life, but in my experience they are quite small in number. It does, as mentioned provide a sense of identity and belonging, especially when in first year when you're in a strange place with stranger people. Outside of that, however, a college seems to be – for most – a small part of a much larger picture of life at Lancaster University.

BRYONY SEAGER COMMENT EDITOR
@BeingBryony

Unfortunately, Americanisms are here to stay

I'm not a fan of America. It has never struck me as a place I'd like to visit, and I have to admit that I find the accent a bit annoying. Unfortunately, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore the influence that American English is having on British English. The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) centre at Lancaster University, along with Cambridge University Press, are in the process of compiling a British English corpus of spoken conversation in order to see which words are falling out of use and which are becoming more common. The corpus already consists of hours of conversation and is set to be the biggest linguistic body of its kind in over 20 years. From the small pilot already conducted, it is clear that the word "awesome" is replacing "marvellous", and that the most commonly used words now include "email", "smartphone", and "website". Hardly surprising.

The concern is that our British English identity is being sub-

sumed by America, and no-one is taking a particularly united stand against that. It's true that "marvellous" is rarely used anymore purely because of the image that comes to mind: of an aristocratic man with a big moustache declaring "marvellous" in Received Pronunciation. It's no wonder that people today are less than bothered about the decline of such a term – but is "awesome", its apparent alternative, really that much better? Everything about it reminds me of America, and its current usage to describe something good has very little British about it.

All the time we're becoming that bit less "marvellous" and that bit more "awesome"

The spread of distorted English also poses a problem for British dialects, which are again on the decline because of both Americanisms and a more widespread notion of Standard English. I don't have a particularly strong Wigan accent, but even so you'd

probably expect me to be aware of some of the dialect words associated with that area. In truth, more often than not I'm at a loss when someone uses dialect words when speaking to me. In fact, I'm far more familiar with words that are in common use halfway across the planet – words that hold greater prestige in wider society than using "reet" instead of "alright".

When you compare our exposure to dialect or even British English with our exposure to American English, it's easy to see why Americanisms are becoming more common. Our obsession with blockbuster films, box set TV shows, and YouTube videos often means that we're far more used to hearing an American accent and American English on screen than British English. All the time we're becoming that bit less "marvellous" and that bit more "awesome". Even the influence of technology has rushed the introduction of Americanisms into our language, considering that most of the technological giants – Google,

Facebook, Microsoft, YouTube, and Apple – are all American too.

The reality is, no matter what anyone thinks about America, that British English is becoming more Americanised and less formal. Very few consciously decide to stick to long, elaborate and old-fashioned words, and the result of such people's choices can be infuriating. Will Self, a British novelist, has recently done the impossible and clashed

As our generation grows up in a technological world, even the likes of "marmalade" will be left behind

with a dead author, George Orwell, over the use of elaborate words. Self argues that Orwell's plain style is mediocre, and that he would much rather use longer words to bring his writing to life. Self says that he welcomes "living, changing language", but he is actually doing the opposite. British English is changing, beyond a doubt, to become plainer, more

modern, and more Americanised.

My gut instinct is that this change is for the worse, but in my heart of hearts I know that Americanisms are here to stay. The broader, contextual associations that words pick up over time will necessarily lead to the decline of "marvellous" and the increased usage of the cooler, trendier "awesome". As our generation grows up in a technological world, even the likes of "marmalade" will be left behind according to the corpus' current projections. It's a shame that words characteristic of the traditional British image are soon to fall out of use, and it's an even bigger shame that language is becoming less diverse. However, there is very little we can do to stop language changing. Perhaps in another hundred years we'll be nostalgic enough to remember the days when "marvellous" was the best way to describe something amazing.

JULIA MOLLOY
@JRMOLLOY2

Tramway Hotel: The last place a student should live

Most students here know the Tramway Hotel as the unkempt pub just up the road from Sugarhouse. What you might not know is that this modest pile is in fact a protected specimen of 18th century architecture. A property developer is now trying to split the Tramway into 12 self-contained student apartments but, if there are two kinds of people you can't trust with national heritage sites, they're student landlords and students.

The Tramway Hotel was built sometime around 1760, before Lancaster had even a single canal or railway. Though derelict, the Hotel is now a grade II listed building in the heart of the Lancaster Conservation Area. On the one hand, it's nice to hear that something is being done with the place. The front is boarded up, the east side is overgrown, and the west side is slowly turning brown. With a few students inside, at least someone would notice if the ceiling came down. On the other hand, this particular use of the Tramway could be even worse for the building's historical integrity, not to mention a bad deal for the developer and a bad deal for the students who decide to live there.



Sakib Rahman

Firstly, we have to be more honest with ourselves about the hazards of student living. While many students would treat the building with respect, a year is a long time to go without some carousing at home. Just consider the turnaround of furniture on campus. Many a vomit-stained curtain and half-singed cupboard are cast out of student accommodation here every summer. But the furnishings provided by Bowland are hardly inimitable antiques. In the Tramway, students would have to contend with original fireplaces,

vintage balustrades, and a host of other Georgian rarities. That's quite an obstacle course on the two-minute walk back from Sugar-

Secondly, the renovations are a risky investment for the property developer and eventual landlord. Although the Tramway is only grade II listed, the developer has to obtain both listed building consent and conservation area consent from the City Council. They could then place some hefty conditions on the project, like the protection of certain fea-

tures or the use of original materials, although they would be more likely to refuse the project altogether. Moreover, one false move during construction and the Council could make the developer pay to reverse the renovation.

There are a hundred other uses for a listed building with half the potential problems of student housing

utation for neglecting their properties, but even fewer have a reputation for managing heritage sites.

So what sort of student would be living in this 18th century pub? Ultimately, the cost of transforming and maintaining the Tramway would translate into high rents. I'm sure there are students at Lancaster who could make the payments, but what they gain in historical prestige they would almost certainly lose in modern facilities and breathing space.

If the proposed renovations do go ahead, we can take some comfort in the knowledge that the Tramway Hotel won't disintegrate completely. I wouldn't be surprised, however, to find the Tramway lying empty again in four or five years. There are a hundred other uses for a listed building with half the potential problems of student housing – something we may have to bear in mind as Lancashire's universities grow into this stunted city. Yes, we're lucky to live in such an historic area, but it's not ours for the taking.

PATRICK WILSON

Are student rents too high?

The invoices for student rents were sent out a few weeks ago for the coming year, and I couldn't help but let out a small gasp as I saw the price I was going to be paying to live in University managed accommodation; the price seems to go up year on year. I am fortunate in that I receive a large amount of student loan and maintenance due to my economic circumstances. Despite this fact, the amount of rent I am paying this year, and the fact that my overall payment from the government has decreased by over £400, I find that in this first term I have about £500 of capital to live on until I head into my overdraft. I couldn't help but wonder, as I viewed my rent payment figure, if this were the case for me, how would students who were getting far lower payments manage?

In these cases students have a variety of solutions, some have generous relatives who might be willing to help out with part of the cost, others have to get a job, and some



Laura Trotter

have no choice but to live in their overdrafts. Over several years the Student Income and Expenditure Study has been watching these trends and is the main source of information that the government uses to track student debt and outgoings. This study found that between 2007/08 and 2011/12 average income fell by 14% in real terms, with the average total income for full-time students being £10,931 and the average total expenditure (inc. tuition fees) was found to be £13,909. The discrepancy is clear.

There are also other concerns when thinking about the costs students have to pay to live in university accommodation; we are, as in most rented properties private or otherwise, charged a deposit when the contract is signed. The need for this is fairly obvious; it's to ensure that if anything does get broken or damaged, then the university can recover the cost. What is not so clear, however, is that why almost everyone I have asked who

has ever paid a deposit has lost some part of it, in either minor or major charges. Some of these can be as petty as £3.00 for rubbish removal or £0.92 for "lock", whatever that might mean, others can go right up to losing the full amount. Many a student has been bitten by these charges, and I myself have had to fight to get some money back at one point. One way to potentially avoid these charges (unless of course you intend to trash your room) is to ensure you fill out your inventory thoroughly and completely, and take photographs if anything is initially amiss.

Aside from the slightly more negative things to do with accommodation there are of course good things; Lancaster University has just been awarded, for yet another year, the accolade of Best University Halls in the National Student Housing Survey for 2014. The university has won this for five consecutive years now. Alongside this they have achieved the

International Accommodation Quality Mark, awarded when over 90% of students feel highly satisfied with their living quarters. Almost all of the university accommodation is of extremely high standard, and with services such as the senior common room, junior common room and the college porters, it makes for a very enjoyable and comfortable living experience for most people. Rent payments are, excluding tuition fees, the largest outgoing that a student has whilst studying and certainly the one they feel the most in real terms on their pocket. Whilst it is excellent that Lancaster continues to reinvest in improving its accommodation – seen by the refurbishment of Bowland Tower last year – it is also essential that they consider how to keep their costs and prices down, and work with the Students Union to make payments affordable for everybody.

BRYONY SEAGER COMMENT EDITOR
Twitter @BeingBryony

Bobbies on the Tweet

Digital citizenship is a complicated thing. As more and more people decide to spend their waking hours online, spats on social media are received not so much as spats, but more as part of an international cybercrime epidemic. This is particularly true when someone is inciting violence against a minority. Just as a citizen wouldn't stand for this kind of abuse in person, we digital citizens would trust the police to step in online. Unfortunately, you may find that local police are the source of the problem.

In the last five years, Lancashire Constabulary have investigated 43 cases of their own workers making dangerous breaches of internet guidelines. One constable resigned over the force's persistent use of internet banking, auction sites, and social networking during work hours. Complaints to Lancashire police regarding Facebook alone included derogatory remarks about a worker's wife and a photo of one worker dozing on the 999 line. Perhaps worse, forces have also investigated posts online that were considered racist, homophobic, and anti-religious.

Of course, it's very concerning that law enforcement have not only done the crimes they're paid to

stop, but also demonstrated serious prejudices against minority groups. In this sceptical age, such abuses of public trust could be enough to tip police into the bracket of most hated jobs, alongside bankers, politicians, and lawyers not so long ago. But that doesn't mean every worker found to have made an intolerant comment is a danger to society. I think these investigations say more about the nature of the internet than about Lancashire Constabulary.

We read these hurtful comments on Facebook, YouTube, and almost every other site with a comments feature, and we wonder where they come from. Who are these people churning out so much disdain? Very few of us have ever tried, and those who have probably don't let on. So our imaginations have to take over. From a string of badly spelt swear words entirely in caps lock, we picture a 30-year-old man frothing at the mouth as he fights to smash even a fraction of his blinding resentment into a keyboard. Some of the time, we could be right. But I may have a minor insight into the problem, because I've sat and watched people type out some fairly barbaric comments to strangers online. And they weren't even frowning.

I've come to believe that there are two kinds of people behind raging comments. There are the dangerous ones, who truly want to harm perhaps for reasons of jealousy or insecurity, and the not-so-dangerous ones, who consider threats of violence a standard rhetorical device or who just do these things for a laugh. What's more, I think there is a way of quickly distinguishing them.

A lot of people have already figured out that anonymity is to blame for many of the digital citizen's troubles. However, anonymity works a few ways. The target often doesn't know who the perpetrator is, so the perpetrator won't (easily) get into trouble. Similarly, the perpetrator often doesn't know who the target is. Hence, in the same way we have to imagine a 30-year-old sack of frothy evil in the perpetrator's seat, the perpetrator can dehumanise the target and pretend they're not causing real pain. Then there is a third kind of anonymity.

A great deal of today's social media was created by people staring into their laptops at night in complete solitude. Social networks may be the ultimate in publicity, but they are also a very private ritual for



most users. The perpetrators I've watched were always in groups, high-fiving each other about how outrageous they were. The people who write vulgar things by themselves, however, simply couldn't be 'having a laugh'. Rather, they have anonymity from their friends and family, who may be as outraged as the victim.

The reality isn't quite as black-and-white as my humble theory. Some comments do begin as jokes and lead to actual discrimination. Some friends may hold similar

prejudices and enjoy discriminating in groups. But not every hateful commenter is dangerous. Clearly, Lancashire police were right to investigate theirs on a case-by-case basis. There may be members of the Constabulary who should be reminded that, although they are only human, their position rightly demands superhuman standards, but we shouldn't let these investigations tarnish the reputation of the entire force.

DANIEL SNAPE COMMENT EDITOR
✉ @DTCSNAPE

Should we teach sex ed at seven?

We live in a world that is seemingly at odds; never before has everything around us been so overtly sexualized and yet somehow, we hardly ever talk about sex itself. Even before they know exactly what it is, children are taught that it is something they should need and want but only rarely do people explain what this entails. The messages being given out are confusing and the education system currently in place is failing to cope: England has the highest teen birth rate in Western Europe and half of under 16s don't use contraception the first time they have sex. Something must be done and the Liberal Democrats are pledging to bring sex education to every state-funded primary and secondary school in Britain, starting with seven-year-olds, is the necessary start to this process

after a brief outline of the technicalities, proceeded swiftly on to the different stages of pregnancy. I sat through countless PSHE classes that covered, in often painful detail, the various consequences of contracting different STDs. There was a school assembly where an elderly midwife slipped a condom onto a banana whilst years eight and above shifted awkwardly in their seats. Combined, these things left me with a detailed knowledge of anatomy and the need for contraception but not much else.

It wasn't until University that it became okay to talk openly about the realities of sex. University is a place of sexual discovery and freedom; now, what people lack for in theoretical knowledge they can make up for in practice if they so desire. Despite this, though, deficiencies in sex education still show. Things like sexism in the form of slut shaming and the everyday misogyny of lad culture are prevalent, showing ex-

actly what growing up in a world where popular culture teaches us that women are a means to an end and that physical gratification is a way of validating masculinity can do. This mindset can easily be remedied if one starts early enough.

Seven, in fact, is perfect. At twelve, we are already full of pre-conceived notions about sex and, as was the case in my class, mostly much too self-conscious and awkward to discuss the topic properly. At seven, this is not yet a problem. By being taught before they can understand the full implications, children can learn to deal with sex free of prejudice as the completely natural, normal thing that it is. Of course, the important thing is not when we teach, but what we teach. At seven, a basic understanding of the human reproductive system, relationships between the sexes, sex and pregnancy can lay the foundation for all further lessons later on. Children should be taught to ap-

proach the subject openly and frankly, asking questions when and where they feel they need to. Ignorance when it comes to sex is what makes people vulnerable and afraid – by learning this early, children can be confident and prepared right from the start.

Thanks to the Internet, students are free to make up for a disappointing education at school and do so. There are many useful resources: things like Cindy Gallop's Makelovenotporn.com and Laci Green's Sex+ YouTube channel are good places to start. However, things like online porn are not. The average age of people first viewing porn, for example, is a rather alarming 11 years old. Alarming not because porn is necessarily a bad thing, but rather because it is so rarely reflects reality. For someone with little to no sexual experience or knowledge, this easily leads to incorrect assumptions. Any new curriculum should aim to give students a frame of ref-

erence for navigating these sites. STDs, teenage pregnancy and the importance of consent are all serious topics and should be treated in a serious way. But sex? Sex is fun. It should be a mutually pleasurable experience and that, too, is something that needs to be taught. Successful sexual relationships are all about open communication and come in many different shapes and forms, none of which are right or wrong and all of which are up to personal preference. Ultimately, we need an education system that gives young people the confidence to discuss sex openly and make informed decisions on their own terms about when, where, how and with whom to have sex. And the best way to achieve this is by starting sex education as early as possible.

ANNA MENG LIFESTYLE EDITOR
✉ @a11km

The adventure of the perplexing parking

Lancaster University's parking policy has perplexed, and frustrated students for several years. Students who are fortunate enough to have a car, are prohibited from parking on campus, and have little choice but to unsafely park off campus, pay extortionate prices for on campus parking, or leave their cars at home, even though there is an abundance of car parking spaces.

The current policy states that on weekdays, between 8AM and 6PM, students wishing to park their vehicles on campus can only do so if they meet strict criteria. There are thirteen categories, with those students deemed to be most in need of a parking permit given priority. These categories range from students with reduced mobility, those with an ill family member, students with children, and campus residents with regular term time employment. Other exceptions are made when the student is participating in volunteer work, and campus residents who come from outside the UK. If given permission, a fee of £124 must be paid, which is applicable for the whole academic year.

However, the parking policy does not accommodate those who sim-

ply enjoy the freedom that having a car at University brings. As a third year student who has lived on campus without a car, and resided off campus with one, I understand the benefits of personal travel. The ability to effortlessly travel around the county, in addition to exploring Lancaster's surrounding cities, without having to book expensive and restrictive trains, has fundamentally enhanced my University experience. Even being able to pop to Sainsbury's, without the thought of carrying heavy bags home, was a bit of a luxury in my second year! Whilst I understand that having a car is in no way a necessity, with the ample spaces available across campus, you can understand my frustration with Philip Longton's (the Travel and Environment Co-ordinator) response of "No exceptions are made".

At the beginning of the 2013-2014 academic term, I was interested to find out whether the previous parking policy, which had prevented me from parking on campus in my first year, had been altered. Philip Longton however, commented that "permits will only be available to students who meet one of the published criteria in the Student Car Parking Pol-

icy on the University's website", and that although he was "well aware of the large numbers of vacant parking spaces on Alexandra Park. The matter of restricting parking permit eligibility for students is environmentally driven". In fairness to Mr. Longton, I was given another parking option. I could park in the visitor parking facilities, although it would cost £5 per day, which in my eyes, is too expensive for a student.

The University updated the parking policy on the 13th January 2014, and gave permission to people to purchase parking permits due to concern "about the safety of students and other road users arising from student parking on local highways outside of campus, such as Hazelrigg Lane", and recognised "that there are plenty of available parking spaces this year in the Student Parking Zone on Alexandra Park". As you can imagine, I was delighted that I could finally park on campus, and was hoping that this amendment to the parking policy would continue into my third year, especially because the University were "concerned about the safety of students". However, I was left confused when Sandra Fletcher, the Security Day Supervisor at Lancaster University, told

me that I could not park on campus until the University can "collate the numbers that are required by students, staff and contractors who fulfil the University criterion I do not know what available spaces are left. Only then is a decision made." Moreover, I was told that it takes "some students several months to provide the evidence that is required", meaning I cannot purchase a permit until January 2015, and up until then, I and other students will have to park on an unsafe road. This seemed like an about turn from the University. It seems that the gathering of evidence is an inefficient system, but if the University were to speed this up, and have it completed by week two of the Michaelmas term, which is when parking restrictions come into force, it would allow students who do not meet the criteria, to park safely.

Last term, the University admitted that there is ample space for student parking, and decided to put student safety ahead of environmental policy, so why has this changed? The danger and inconvenience of parking on side roads still remains the same. Surely, if the University made people provide evidence as to why they should have a parking permit, as

quickly as they make students pay their parking fines, then there is no reason as to why students should not be able to apply to park on campus at the beginning of Michaelmas term. Therefore, revisions need to be made to the parking policy, and any policy changes would need to be flexible and student friendly. By doing so it would enhance University experiences and be accommodating to students who are paying thousands of pounds to be here.

The easiest way to achieve this would be to continue prioritising students who meet the criteria, and to speed up the process of determining how many people will be parking on campus. If spaces are left, as there has been for the previous two years, then allow students - on a first come first served basis - to buy parking permits, which commence at the start of the Michaelmas term. This would not only improve the safety for students who have to park their cars on roads, but also increase revenues for the University, in addition to satisfying students who just want to be able to securely park their vehicle.

ELLIOT ROSS

Rail fares set to rise



Sakib Rahman

So train fares are potentially going to rise again in the new year. Cue the collective sigh that goes up across the nation at the news. It seems that every time you go looking for a train ticket the price could be anything from completely reasonable (£3.00 from Lancaster to Windermere on one occasion for myself) to totally ridiculous (£123.00 from York to Edinburgh for a single).

On this vein it often seems that rail prices are completely irrelevant to the distance travelled.

It can oftentimes cost more to travel 50 miles than to travel 300, depending on the company who you're travelling with, what time of day it is, and whether you're trying to get up and down the country or across it. It does bring the thought to mind that it might make more sense to charge per mile rather than the seemingly random prices that can be charged at the moment. It would be most absurd if you got into a taxi in Lancaster town centre and they told you it would cost more to take you to Morecambe than

to Glasgow. Why then is it so different when it comes to trains?

Come January train tickets are, on average, due to go up in price by 3.5% – that's one percentage point above inflation. The cause for this is that the railways are getting more expensive to run – especially as they get older – and passengers are being told they need to pick up more of the bill. It's been almost 20 years since the privatisation of the rail networks from British Rail and since then it seems, year on year, prices have risen. On certain networks, such as a single ticket from London to Manchester, prices have gone up 205% since 1995. This is nearly three times the inflation rate in the same period, whereas other journeys such as London to Brighton have only gone up 95%: still above inflation, but significantly less.

These price rises are so much of the pattern that it's with resigna-

tion rather than indignation that the new prices were received. I'm not doubting that a countrywide railway system is exceedingly expensive to run, but some services are so creaky and rattling you do wonder what you're paying for. According to a breakdown on the BBC website, 26% of the ticket fare goes on network rail improvement, 25% on staff costs and 22% on maintaining tracks and trains, with the rest being broken down into other smaller sections. The Labour Party has said that, were it to be elected in May, it would remove the 'flex' element of the train companies' fare prices. This means they won't be able to increase some fares outside of a set formula, so long as they decrease others. In other words they won't be able to put up the prices of commuter services so long as they decrease the price of the Carlisle to Barrow train. In practice, however, I'm not sure it would be that simple.

There are other ways of taking a journey, but those can be much more cumbersome than taking the train. A bus journey to London, while as little as a quarter of the price of a train ticket, can also take about five hours from Leeds. If you've got time to spare then it can be quite pleasant, and the buses are comfortable and fast insofar as coaches go. As long as you're on one of the coaches that are relatively direct and don't stop at 42 pull-ins, then you can lose yourself in the journey. Not that trains can be any less annoying at times. Everyone knows that going up and down the country is doddle compared to getting across it. To get from Lancaster to my home town in North Yorkshire, although only seventy miles as the crow flies, can take up to four hours on public transport – far longer than it would take to get from Lancaster to London!

BRYONY SEAGER COMMENT EDITOR
Twitter @BeingBryony

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RONNIE ROWLANDS: POSTSCRIPT

Bring down those shields!

Who the hell are you? I don't recognise your face around these parts. Were you hiding yourself away for all of last year just to spring up and surprise me like this?

I jest – you are of course a shining representative (and, between you and me, my personal favourite) of our brand new cohort of students. So, let me be the first to say; well done, you made it. You obviously knocked the examiners sideways with a corking set of exam results and now find yourselves hurdling arse-first into the uncertain and shaky waters of higher education. As someone entering their fifth year at the University of Lancaster, I can assuredly impart two pieces of advice: firstly, remember that University is far more than another set of exams to be passed; it is a three year glory period where opportunity nips at your heels and looks up at you with doughy eyes, so make sure you join the societies, be a bit immature, discover your political voice and don't let the man hold you down.

Secondly, and most importantly, set aside a few fortnightly minutes to read Postscript; the spaffer of raw gossip nestling obstinately between the arse-cheeks of the corridors of power. Herein and forthwith, the rest of SCAN and I are here to keep you in the know; indeed, scandal and foolishness lurks in every institution, and Universities are in no way exempt from that.

Allow me to give you an example. If you've made it this far, you probably will have read about the facelift that the University has had over the summer holidays.

The LEGO Dunlop recreation of the University shield, to be adopted as our new logo, is a marvel to behold. There is very little to be said about the appearance of this terrifying voodoo mask that hasn't been said already by 1,350 students in a SCAN poll and many more on Overheard at Lancaster. It looks like something that would multiply and chase you down an endless corridor before you wake up in a cold sweat and start checking under your bed, but there are some far more ideological issues with which it is fraught. The Chaplaincy/Atari/Swoosh logo was first introduced in 1989 as part of an initiative by the then Vice-Chancellor, Harry Hanham, to make us appear like a modern and fast moving institution, unshackled from shallow notions of 'prestige' and 'heritage'. Now, in our 50th year, it has been decided that a University whose oldest building was erected in the mid sixties needs to bang on about prestige and heritage as though it were older than the dawn of time. All of the market research that went into this rebrand reeks of elitist intent and a schizophrenic eagerness to both stand out (the purpose of any branding, you would think) and to look like 'other Universities.' It is a striking rejection of the idea that Lancaster is a glass-plate University with a 'modern ethos' and a breeding ground for 'new ways of thinking', which to many individuals such as myself was a boon and a draw.

Couple this, then, with our grade entry requirements. Your much reviled author was accepted into the University of Lancaster in 2010, on the proviso that he at-

tained ABB at A-Level. Now, in 2014, in order that we might appear to be a prestigious and exclusive University, our prospectuses are asking for AAA-AAB in more subjects than ever before, a move which last year coincided with a thousand foot drop in applications – as an aside, the figures aren't much better this year. To be personal and soppy for just a moment, and it is my hope that you'll excuse it while I get to the point; before University I went to state school, and of around 60 in my sixth form, I was one of three to go to a top ten University – the other three chose Lancaster too. Why? Because the idea that a top ten University seemed willing to accept someone whose socio-economic background meant that they were statistically less likely to achieve top A-Level grades was exciting at my end and honourable at the University's end.

Throw in to the schizophrenia the fact that the University still actually accepts you if you get ABB or slightly lower once you've applied, and our Access Agreement, which as usual expresses our eagerness to take in as many students from lower socio-economic backgrounds as possible, and what you're left with is a University that is missing a looming disaster because it's too busy deciding what to wear.

As you'll have read, Lancaster is eager to take on 3500 students this year. The prospect of a pretty incredible master plan to achieve this ought to be baiting breath right across campus.

Yr. Pal, Ron.

And another thing...

At a meeting of the Senate last week, the idea of January exams for Michaelmas term half modules was floated to the management by both LUSU and academic members. If you're a second or third year you might well be familiar with the frustrating distance between your final lecture and your first exam on half-modules, a gulf of time which keeps the module from being fresh in your head and adds to the clutter of summer exams. Perhaps a

few places to look. Since 2005, an underground email newsletter written by a small collective of staff known as 'subtext' has been in circulation. Log on to www.lancs.ac.uk/subtext to subscribe to this fortnightly publication.

- As I mentioned in the big chunk of my column (stop giggling at the back), University is three years to be used wisely yet indiscriminately. There's a political voice inside all of us. For some, that is

more spacious examination period would be conducive to lower stress levels and possibly even greater academic success? The Vice-Chancellor has expressed a willingness to explore the idea and weigh up the pros and cons. I shall of course keep readers up to date on any decisions that are taken.

- If you've a hankering for information and news that is only half satiated by this publication, then never fear - there are oth-

'Computer Says No'

SCAN has done some rather excellent coverage on the situation in Bowland and Lonsdale Colleges. Let's put things into perspective, here: in the red corner, you have the entirety of LUSU Council, Bowland College Syndicate, Lonsdale College Syndicate, the LUSU President, two College Presidents and scattered individual College members saying that they want Joe Thornberry to resume his Principalship of Bowland College and for Lonsdale College to have the same post re-advertised as soon as possible. And in the blue corner, you have the Provost of Colleges & Student Experience Amanda Chetwynd and the Vice-Chancellor responding; 'computer says no.'

The situation with Joe Thornberry is a particularly disgraceful one: for a man who has given so much to the Collegiate system at Lancaster and attained so much respect and appreciation across the board, it is sickening to see a man in whom so much faith is invested being knocked back by the University without so much as a thank-you for everything he has delivered.

The blue corner, one of whom is supposedly the primary conduit and advocate of Colleges & students yet seems perfectly contented in openly ignoring the requests of the very people she represents, is stressing that as the 'correct procedure' was followed during the failed appointments process, nothing can be done. And yet, no one can tell me how that stacks up against the VC's total violation of procedure in appointing one man to run three Colleg-

es – a resolution that has been summarily REJECTED by both Lonsdale and Bowland Colleges.

Another way in which the Provost is attempting to placate people is by pointing to an upcoming 'College Review', which aims to take on a wide array of feedback on the future of the Colleges and Implement Change. Well, given that some pretty significant feedback on the current situation has been offered, and those who offered it were basically told to shove it, why should there be any faith whatsoever in this upcoming review turning out to be anything other than an echo chamber full of sycophants nodding along to everything the management suggests?

These are truly dire days for the Collegiate system that this University professes to cherish, and on all corners there really isn't room for giving up and letting them do whatever they want. It will only be another act of centralisation that will have us yearning for better days.

I ask the Provost, for what feels like (but probably is) the fiftieth time: how much longer will you continue to ignore and disengage from the requests of the people you represent?

where it should stay, but if you feel you've a real belligerent skill for advocacy then look into involving yourselves with your College JCR Executive - a collective of elected student representatives. Elections run in week seven across all Colleges. Remember, also, that every demographic needs a strong voice, and students are no exception. Young people have often been the ones to lag behind when it comes to voter turnout, but the General Election just around the corner gives US the chance to turn a corner. The way to register to vote has now changed, but thankfully for the better - you don't even have to get out of bed to do it. To register to vote, log on to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You only have to look at the situation in Scotland to see just how terrified our politicians get when people seize their democratic voice. We can do that in England too, you know - let's do this!



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Pictured: StudentUniverse member Victoria Volosnik in Paris, France

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & PUZZLES

If you have a letter to the editor, please email it to scan.editor@lusu.co.uk. In the meantime, here is a sudoku:

Sudoku Puzzle - Hard								
				9		2	7	
3	8			2				1
	5				4			
9		6						3
	4	5						
8		7	2			6		
	4				7			
			8	2				
			6					

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Sudoku Solution - Hard								
5	7	8	9	6	4	3	1	2
1	6	3	7	8	2	5	9	4
2	9	4	3	5	1	7	8	6
8	3	7	2	4	9	1	6	5
6	4	5	1	3	8	9	2	7
9	2	1	6	7	5	8	4	3
7	5	2	8	1	6	4	3	9
3	8	9	4	2	7	6	5	1
4	1	6	5	9	3	2	7	8

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK
BY ANNA MENG

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



LANCASTER ARTS CITY - *a deserved title*

"I'm off to Lancaster." "Cool, what's the town like there?" "Alright! It's good if you're the sort of person who prefers going to pubs."

What about if you like going to the theatre? Taking in an art gallery? Watching a comedian, or a band? It's rare that people ask what the arts scene is like at a university town, including prospective students. For some reason it isn't a priority when choosing where you're going to study, but to any freshers reading this, rest assured: you now live in a cultural hotspot.

'Lancaster Arts City' is an umbrella label for some of the biggest organisations in the district which cover the entire spectrum of art forms, intended to unify Lancaster as a cultural capital rather than having venues directly competing against each other. There's lots to look out for, but here's five to be getting on with:

Live at LICA

From classical music to contemporary art galleries, the Lancaster Institute for Contemporary Arts

really does have it all, and it's right here on campus. With a large student involvement and regular appearances from big names, you could technically never leave campus to get your cultural fix (especially if you live in County as it's about 100 steps away). Shows are £8 per student, but this year there's also an 'Under 26' pass which not only gives you entry all year, but a free tea or coffee every day! Only £26 if you cough up before Wednesday, week 1.

More Music

A music and education charity based at the Hothouse in Morecambe, 20 minutes out of Lancaster, but well worth the bus journey – they put on a range of alternative artists in a friendly but intimate setting. They have good links with the university, so if you're musical yourself and fancy getting involved, they'd be worth getting in touch with.

The Dukes

A gorgeous building with three theatres (plus a gallery) which puts on a range of plays, live music, indie films,

comedy, dance performances and other exciting events. The prices are great and they only put on stuff they think will go down well. Look out for our review of the first UK stage adaption of Hemmingway's A Farewell to Arms which runs through weeks 1 to 3 (or just book yourself a ticket – you probably won't be disappointed).

Lancaster Grand

More of a commercial theatre than the Dukes, the Grand is host to big name comedians, pantomimes and the occasional Elvis impersonator. There's often some niche events there too; check out our website for a preview of the 'Reel Rock Tour' – a rock climbing film festival on Wednesday, week 3. Two shows that are looking hot at the moment are the Nutcracker Ballet on Wednesday, week 4 and Al Murray on Friday, week 6.

LUDUS Dance

A touring dance charity which offers a wide range of classes in Lancaster as well as supporting professionals. They oversee high quality dance

projects in Lancaster and the North West of England, working together with community groups, schools, colleges and the university to spread the ethos that 'dance is for everyone' ...even that guy at the Sugarhouse who thinks he can twerk.

Then there's the festivals which deserve a whole booklet to themselves (and if you go to Lancaster's Visitor Information Centre, you'll probably find one). Lancaster Music Festival occupies an extended weekend between weeks 1 and 2, where around 40 Lancaster venues (some of which are on campus) will host a range of musical talent, from local artists to bigger names from overseas. Then the following weekend there's Litfest, which will run a variety of workshops, readings, open-mic nights and other ways to celebrate modern short fiction. 'Light Up Lancaster' arrives on the Friday and Saturday of week 5, which sees music, dance, theatre and art events bring the streets to life in anticipation of the spectacular firework display launched from Lancaster Castle, which will be visible across the whole city. To brush over these in

one paragraph feels wrong, but you'll be able to discover them for yourself over the coming weeks.

Lancaster has the best arts offering in the North West after Manchester and Liverpool – and it's probably cheaper than both of them, less hassle and with a greater chance of running into your mates. I would strongly suggest downloading the free Lancaster Arts City app to see what's going on, and visiting the websites of the organisations that you like the look of – I could make recommendations until I'm blue in the face, but only you know what appeals to you. If you're interested in regularly attending and reviewing the events that are happening on our doorstep each and every day, my email is at the front of the paper. If you prefer to just absorb your arts without analysing them, we'll probably see you there. Either way, unless you're a soulless husk who gets his/her entertainment from revising, you're in the right place.

SIMON JAMES ARTS & ENTS EDITOR
✉ @SJames

- Stay Cultured -



The Friday of fresher's week (October 3rd) will see Daniel Bye create a topical performance at the Storey Institute regarding that day's headlines, called The Nine O'Clock News. Daniel wants his audience to 'laugh, cry, gasp and change the world', so if you're all burnt out from drinking (or you're not starting until later), this would be an engaging night out with your fellow freshers. For more information, visit liveatlica.org



An exhibition of Henri Matisse's cut-out art has proven the most successful exhibition at the Tate Modern in history, having attracted over half a million people. The Tate has also announced plans to tour some of their key works around the country, including Tracey Emin's controversial 'My Bed' which features an unmade bed and a floor littered with vodka bottles, cigarette butts and used condoms.



Lancaster Music Festival is almost here! With 43 venues taking part, from restaurants to campus bars to Lancaster Castle, there's going to be no escaping it. And why should there be? A hot venue looks to be the Yorkshire House, which will see a performance from Lancaster breakthrough pop band the Lovely Eggs on the Friday night. There's going to be music for all tastes, so head to lancastermusicfestival.com and see what you fancy.



U2's new album, Songs of Innocence, was released as a free gift to all iTunes users, which to those with 'automatic downloads' switched on, meant it would appear on people's iPhones without them knowing. Not only have many customers complained about the lack of consent involved with this 'gift', but it has been criticised a lot by the music press for promoting the idea that music is free.

FILM REVIEW

SIN CITY: A DAME TO KILL FOR

James Hyde reviews the follow-up to 2005's critically successful neo-noir action thriller, and puts himself in the shoes of the producers.



Sin City was a delicious treat - a sexy, sordid, stylish series of tales, packed full of strippers, sickos and psychopaths. But it's been nine years since Sin City. Since then, two prominent cast members have passed away, others have been replaced for varying reasons and, unfortunately, Jessica Alba is still present. There's also the alarming but intrinsic fact that what was so unique about the first film isn't as new or surprising the second time round. Sure, it still looks absolutely gorgeous (especially for those who enjoy a perma-naked Eva Green) and that colour scheme is still chic as hell, but that isn't enough to allow A Dame to Kill For for-giveness for its, well... sins.

I will explore these sins via some questions the producers should have asked, and some of the answers they must have received if they did:

1. (To Eva Green) I know nudity is one of the main things you look for in a role (see The Dreamers, 300: Rise of an Empire, etc. – ed.) but for A Dame to Kill For (deep breath)... you might occasionally... have to wear clothes. Is that something you're prepared to do?

2. Considering we made an unnecessarily big deal about Nancy Callaghan spending loads of time at the shooting range, practicing WITH A GUN so she is prepared for when she eventually gets the chance to kill the man who ruined her life, why would she then end up raiding his house WITH A FUCKING CROSS-BOW? And a magically reloading crossbow at that?

3. If a grieving father was to put a picture of his dead son up on his wall, would it be A. a picture of him when he was smiling and looking relaxed? Or B. a picture of him after he's had his penis shot off, when he's bright yellow, looking ominous, and crossing his arms in a pose best described as 'murderous'?

Assistant producer: Option A seems much more realistic.

Producer: But wait, if we go with option A, maybe the audience, who obviously can't work anything out for themselves and have the memory of a Alzheimer's-suffering-goldfish, won't know who he is!

4. Should we decide whether this is a prequel or a sequel? Or if it's just a series of unrelated vignettes happening in an arbitrary chronological order, should we make that explicit to the viewers? Because (SPOILER ALERT- ed.) Marv was executed in the first film but he's still here - therefore, this can't be a sequel. So it's a prequel? Well, no, because Hartigan also died in the first film and he's still dead here. So when is this set exactly?

Producer 2: Oh, who cares.

5. Why have we decided to rehire Jessica Alba?

Assistant Producer: [Silence]

A quick appraisal of the four tales of Sin City: A Dame To Kill For...

'Just Another Saturday Night'

Marv messes up a bunch of frat kids. Forgettable.

'The Long Bad Night'

A dark and handsome stranger decides to take on the most powerful man in the state at his own game, playing with stakes that are out of his league. The best story of the film by a distance, though with a curiously unsatisfying denouement.

'A Dame To Kill For'

Ava Lord asks her former flame to help her escape an abusive relationship, but is everything as it seems? Predictable, yet far-fetched.

'Nancy's Last Dance'

Nancy Callaghan wants to avenge the man she loved. The most powerful man in the state and all of his hired muscle are bested by a stripper with a crossbow. Ludicrous.

I suppose I should take a quick look at the acting. Here's a brief guide to the performances you'll see in A Dame To Kill For:

Joseph Gordon-Levitt: Best thing about the film by a mile. Cool and charismatic.

Julia Garner: Keeps up with JGL, which is impressive.

Powers Boothe: Imagine a sinister Richard from Friends.

Mickey Rourke: Excellent at looking hard.

Josh Brolin: Not as good as Clive Owen.

Bruce Willis: Yawn.

Eva Green: Bit of a regression from Vesper Lynd.

Dennis Haysbert: Passable impression of Michael Clarke Duncan.

Lady Gaga: WHY!?

Jessica Alba: Still hot. Still wooden.

But the acting was never great in Sin City. Hell, the first one had Alba AND Michael Madsen in it. It's a graphic novel adaptation after all - the dialogue is supposed to be expositional and snappy. The cast do their best, and they're not the problem. The problem is simply that this doesn't have the element of surprise that its predecessor possessed. It's as aesthetically beautiful, distinctively hip, and casually brutal as the original... but what's new? A Dame to Kill For is not a film to die for like we were all hoping it would be.

Rise of the YouTube celebrity



Zoe 'Zoella' Snugg

Youtube is not only home to parody, prank and funny cat videos. The British Youtube 'scene' has emerged in recent years, and a British 'crew' have seen a massive rise in subscribers, with millions of views worldwide. This clique of young adults have become celebrities in their own right, with thousands of social media followers and dedicated fans who scream and shout for their favourite Youtubers after queuing for hours at Youtube conventions to meet them.

Zoe Sugg, 24, known online as 'Zoella', has a channel dedicated to hair, beauty, fashion and lifestyle videos. She has amassed almost 6 million subscribers, a huge jump

The British Youtube 'scene' has emerged in recent years, and a British 'crew' have seen a massive rise in subscribers, with millions of views worldwide

from half a million in January 2013. Other Youtubers have also seen a massive increase in subscribers over the last year or so as YouTube's popularity has grown. In the last year, Zoe has been interviewed on This

Morning & Loose Women, has become an ambassador for skincare brand Simple, and is planning to release her first novel with Penguin in November entitled Girl Online, to be followed by her own 'Zoella' beauty line soon after.

Though she continues to organically cultivate her following using the viral nature of social media in a world of smartphones and online addiction, Zoe is also managed by talent agency Gleam Futures who look after 'social talent'. They schedule their clients' appearances at various VIP events and red carpet premieres and secure them sponsorship deals with companies such as Asda, Audible and Naturebox, who are keen to latch on to the influence of these young people over their fans.

Many of you will know Dan Howell and Phil Lester from their show on Radio 1, but others will know them as AmazingPhil and Danisnotonfire. Dan and Phil currently have around 6 million subscribers between their two channels, so it's easy to see why the BBC brought the two of them in to help lower the average age of Radio 1 listeners. Last month it was announced that their show would move to a new Monday night slot, and will not only be available to watch live like a live YouTube video, but will feature the duo's fellow Youtuber cohort as guest presenters,

including the aforementioned Zoella.

All of these successes just go to show that the influence of these young adults cannot be underestimated and that their careers are still only burgeoning. Their life looks like a dream; be your own boss, choose

Though she continues to organically cultivate her following using the viral nature of social media in a world of smartphones and online addiction, Zoe is also managed by talent agency Gleam

when and how much you work, great apartment and clothes, jetsetting lifestyle. Of course, a daily vlog does paint an idyllic picture because they can choose what to show their audience, but it's usually an enviable ten minutes.

Despite this, I find they're usually stars who remain refreshing in their modesty and know just how lucky they are. Zoella often addresses her struggle with anxiety which affects a large number of young people, some who may not even know that that is what they are suffering with. In a video entitled 'Sometimes It All Gets a Bit Too Much',

where she admits pressure is making her upset. Though some of her viewers sympathise, a large number of the comments are angry at her being 'attention-seeking', that she has it easy as a Youtuber, uploading videos for a job instead of working long hours for minimum wage. Comment sections on videos are rarely full of deep insight (or sufficient grammar), but it surely starts a debate about whether these people are doing what they should be with their platform and whether they deserve the income and perks they receive.

Not all members of the Youtube community use it for creating entertainment, information or making the world a better place. For example, Nash Grier, who has 3.5 million subscribers, and is also managed by a PR company, is paid to promote brands and even has a movie deal. However he has been accused of being racist, sexist and homophobic on a number of occasions, including a video in September 2013 where he seemingly mocks Asian names. Yet someone

Not all members of the Youtube community use it for creating entertainment, information or making the world a better place

with this attitude amounts to 1m views per video. This doesn't mean all these viewers share his opinions, but this much exposure to 'light-hearted' prejudice is never a good thing.

Youtubers rely on their fanbase to maintain their power and presence online, a fanbase which stems from a generation with incredibly short attention spans, and who can very easily click on another video – something the 'celebrities' have to be mindful of when keeping their channels consistent. It seems easy enough to start a channel, film a few videos and try to emulate the success of this group of rising stars, but their popularity has also led to a saturation of content where not everyone can stand out. Some have resorted to creating apps so that viewers are alerted to uploads. There are a number of methods to make a video engaging such as quick cutting, moving between frames and shorter, high energy videos... but soon even this will become commonplace, and the fight for prominence will continue with the hunt for new ideas. Think you've got a good one? It's free.

BECCA PARKINSON

If you had to compile an Essential Sage Francis cash-in album, which tracks would absolutely have to be on there?

Well, I could cherry pick the most popular songs which would be a mix of the material with the highest sales, most views on YouTube, or the material that kills live. The top choices in that regard, not counting anything off of Copper Gone as it's brand new, would probably be 'Escape Artist', 'Makeshift Patriot', 'Sea Lion', 'Crack Pipes', 'Broken Wings', 'Damage' and 'Best of Times'. Since a lot of those songs were released on different labels, it would be impossible to put out an official compilation like that without it being a major legal headache. At some point I should put together a compilation called Missed Essentials though.

What album have you got on repeat at the moment?

I haven't been listening to any albums as of late. Currently I'm on a duduk kick – an archaic Armenian wind instrument. Incredibly difficult to play, but it has such a unique, sad sound. There's not a lot of duduk music out there, so I search for the best songs and make playlists for myself. I've mainly been listening to that lately when I need to sleep or I want to have music playing in the background.

Rare for a rapper, your entire catalogue is filled with literary references as well as the more usual nods to pop culture, from 'Oliver Twisted' to 'Vonnegut Busy'. Which authors and books would you say have had the most influence on you and your music?

Currently I've been reading a lot of Tom Robbins which is influencing me to pay more attention during my travels so that I can draw greater stories from my surroundings. But I'm not much of a storyteller really; I just appreciate stories. I'm not sure if any author has had a direct influence on my song writing. I get my inspiration from all sorts of places: books, pop culture, politics, relationships, music, cleaning dishes, you know... life stuff. I'm not so sure about influence though.

You have a powerful command of language and are an indelible component of the spoken word move-

ment; it will be of no surprise to our readers that you pioneered the grand slam poetry team for your hometown, Providence, Rhode Island. Do you think you would have had a career involving poetry if you hadn't made it down the musical route as an emcee? What other paths might you have followed?

I might have pursued a career in spoken word if that ended up being my only option. However, to be completely honest, I don't think I could have tolerated being involved with that scene for any longer than a few years. It was good to participate on a part time basis, but if I were to go full time... nah. That would be like restricting myself to just doing battle raps. Couldn't do it. And I have a difficult time getting along with people who make these things their whole artistic existence. I incorporate spoken word into what I do, but it's just a piece of the whole. That's not to say I wouldn't be interested in focusing on a spoken word project at some point, but I'm glad that I wasn't ever restricted by that one option. Had music not worked out, I may have pursued journalism. Maybe comedy or acting. Maybe kickboxing. Always wanted to be a ninja. It was either a ninja or rapper. Those were my two main options growing up.

How's the tour been so far? Who are the support acts for the UK/Europe tour?

The UK/Euro tour doesn't start until October 4th, but the US tour was awesome. I expect to remind people how thrilling a verbal punch to the chest can be. That's my goal. I'm not bringing any support acts with me, but I'll have a special guest at the UK shows.

You are sometimes described as a 'political' or 'conscious' rapper, probably due to 'Makeshift Patriot' (a critical look at the media coverage of 9/11, released just after the bombings) being your breakthrough track. Thankfully your music has never been that one-dimensional, but what is your opinion of the so-called 'conscious' rappers, in particular their focus on illuminati theory and other conspiracies?

Are you suggesting that there were bombings on 9/11? You conspiracy nut! As for the conspiracy rappers, I think it's not only cheap to make that your schtick but they're just



INTERVIEW: SAGE FRANCIS

Lucy Lamb and Beau Nafyde spoke with the American hip-hop artist ahead of his gig at Gorilla in Manchester on Thursday, week 2. Keep an eye on SCAN's website for a review of the gig.

contributing to the distractions that take us away from problems that are in plain sight.

In light of the homogeneity of politics ("Republicrat/Democan one party system"), how would you describe your political stance? Is politics still important for you?

You can't avoid politics. On a certain level, everything is political. I do my best to pay attention and untangle the political mess that's presented to me every day, but I have no political affiliations. I am not left wing or right wing. I am, for all intents and purposes, the middle finger.

Your last album Li(f)e was backed with indie rock musicians but your new album Copper Gone sees a return to hip-hop beats reminiscent of those you used in your previous albums Personal Journals and Human the Death Dance. Are there any other genres you'd like to see combined with hip-hop and if so in what way?

I'm fairly certain that I've heard hip-hop mixed with every genre. That's the beauty of hip-hop. It draws from everything, reprocesses it and re-imagines it. It doesn't always work, but it's always worth the effort.

There's a recurring theme of introspection and personal struggle in a lot of your tracks, ('Best of Times', 'Inherited Scars', 'Make Em Purr', 'Water Line') which cover subjects so many people can relate to: loneliness, resentment, regret, responsibility, motivation etc. Having said that, it feels like we are listening to what you personally want to say, rather than overused, banal sentiments that fit with popular culture. Would you say your music is purely your own thoughts, or are you trying to give people a voice?

Hmmm. Haha. Well, I'd like to think that they're my thoughts but who's to say if they're actually pure or not. I like to communicate the full human experience.

Not just the pretty parts, not just the angry parts, but everything. The task is to do that in as classy and crafty of a way as possible. It's something I find increasingly more difficult, challenging and interesting as time goes on.

What have we got to look forward to from other artists on your label, SFR, over the next year?

The Metermaids will be releasing an album called We Brought Knives before year's end. It's powerful stuff. Also, B. Dolan has been working on an album for the bulk of four years which is hard as hell. When he goes in he goes big, so expect your bell to get rung by early 2015. He'll be touring the UK in November.

Sage, you must be tired of being asked the same questions - what's the best question you've never been asked?

How did I get so handsome?

Post-Gangnam: What's happening with

The world of K-Pop can seem bizarre or overwhelming for those who haven't previously encountered it, or have only experienced it in passing. When 'Gangnam Style' invaded the charts back in 2012, it was predicted to herald the assimilation of K-pop into the western mainstream. That never quite happened, but there have been efforts made. So, for those of you who aren't in the know about the musical movement, here is a summary of what K-pop has thrown our way in the last few months.

New artists to watch out for

This summer has been filled with new artists (known as rookies) bursting onto the K-pop landscape. Red Velvet, a five-piece girl group, made an upbeat song entitled 'Happiness', which struck a chord with the

This summer has been filled with new artists (known as rookies) bursting onto the K-pop landscape.

Korean public and breached the top ten of the Gaon chart (the official chart of Korea) upon its release in September. Controversial publicity stunts aside, it is obvious these girls have serious talent and more releases from them are seriously anticipated.

Another group which have been impactful in a short amount of time is the boy band WINNER (yes, in capitals) which has wreaked havoc in the charts recently. When



WINNER

their album 2014 S/S was unleashed in mid-August, six of their songs charted within the Gaon's top 20, including the lead song 'Empty' which hit the top spot. Their song 'Color Ring' also deserves praise, as it is an example of a ballad done well. The combination of the group's harmonies with a dramatic, piano-led R'n'B backing is sublime, and is definitely not to be missed.

There are many similarities between the Korean music industry and that of the western world. For example, you may find individual members of groups are granted the



Taemin

privilege to have solo releases: their own songs, dance routines and videos without sharing the limelight. This summer's breakout solo star was Taemin, one of the most recognisable faces of popular boy band SHINee (pronounced 'shiny'). His debut mini-album Ace features the incredibly seductive single 'Danger', a funky hybrid of electronic pop and urban dance. Think of Michael Jackson's 80s vibe fused with euphoric, auto-tuned hooks and dense waves of synths, and you'll finish with this corker.



Sistar

It's a shame the rest of the album was pretty lame.

Delectable visuals

Aside from producing amazing songs, K-pop is a cultural movement which places a heavy emphasis upon visuals - costumes, videos, make-up and stage design are all integral aspects to the branding of each group. So, it's worth mentioning recent tracks which have pushed the boundaries of the music video medium.

The first video to look at is Orange Caramel's fantastic video for 'My Copycat'. Aside from the girl group's trademark bright, pastel colour schemes combined with quirky outfits, this video allows viewers to play along with a game of spot-the-difference by

mirroring scenes with a split-screen. They are dotted with subtle changes, including monkeys, shadows and hands sticking out of mirrors - it all adds up to an entertaining watch, sprinkled with Orange Caramel's trademark saccharine sweetness.

Another video which blasts viewers with incredible imagery is Hyuna's 'Red'. The vibrant red which penetrates the video in the set pieces, Hyuna's fashion choices, and the spiral of backup dancers links the bizarre scenes in a bold style. Also, if you were wondering why there are monkeys and bananas dotted around, the lyrics and melody of the chorus are taken directly from a Korean kid's chant, where they claim "the monkey's butt is red". As Hyuna proclaims to be "red", she is linking the monkey butt to herself in this song. Who said K-pop is weird?



Orange Caramel

Grand and gorgeous girl groups

This has been a great summer for fans of girl groups in K-pop, but a few releases have stuck out in particular. First, f(x) released the incredibly solid album Red Light in July, jam-packed with catchy and quirky

Aside from producing amazing songs, K-pop is a cultural movement which places a heavy emphasis upon visuals - costumes, videos, make-up and stage design are all integral aspects to the branding of each group.

electro-pop tracks. The title track grabbed attention for its frenetic straddling of dance genres, moving effortlessly between trap builds and electro-house releases. But the highlight of the album is 'Dracula', a track reminiscent of early 2000s Max Martin productions mangled with cheesy screams and other horror tropes.

Another girl group which did not disappoint was Sistar, whose next release is out this year. The first song 'Touch My Body' fronted a consistent mini-album Touch and Move and resulted in their fifth number one in a row on the Gaon chart. Being a truly formidable girl group, they have something special which distinguishes themselves from other groups and this can be found in lead singer Hyolyn's incredibly powerful voice - her distinctive vocals carry the group through this summery dance-pop number

This has been a great summer for fans of girl groups in K-pop, but a few releases have stuck out in particular.

with aplomb. But it didn't stop there for Sistar's chart domination, for within five weeks, they released another great summer anthem in the guise of 'I Swear', which reached number 2 in the Gaon chart. If you're seeking solid pop productions fronted by incredible vocals, then look no further.

It isn't just the top-tier groups like Sistar who release great songs. Five member girl group EXID released the bizarrely infectious 'Up & Down' towards the end of August. With a clash of rap beats and brassy pop production, this cross-genre track shows the assimilation of rapping talent and strong vocals. Just be warned, the video for this song is... peculiar, even for K-pop standards.



Hyuna

Working in a similar vein to EXID is Lipservice, a hip-hop oriented girl group who released their song 'Too Fancy' in August. They work within the rap domain and push away from typical pop melodies to create a

K-Pop?

more urban sound, and it is refreshing to have strong female rappers as a collective. Their humour and individual vocal personalities are also distinctive, and will hopefully push them closer into the Korean mainstream.

Tragedy strikes

Unfortunately, like each entertainment industry, K-pop places a major strain upon the artists and workers involved. For this industry in particular, many of the idols (as the multi-talented singers are often named) have incredibly busy schedules, with little chance for breaks between the hectic promotion cycles. Within many groups, the heavy workload causes exhaustion, which can lead to detrimental health effects, such



F(x)

as relying on IV drops backstage before performances (which is disgustingly common in this musical realm) and falling ill. It isn't just their health that is harmed by their workloads, but the singers are also subject to dangerous journeys between performance destinations. The drives between venues can occur at all times of day and night, and road accidents happen frequently. Members from popular groups (such as Soyeon of T-ara and Super Junior's Kyuhyun) have been seriously injured before, but a crash involving up-and-coming group Ladies' Code on 3rd of September was fatal for two of its' members.

This truly shocking incident highlights that the idols and agencies' staff are being worked far too hard. It was reported that their vehicle crashed at approximately

1:20am during a rainstorm when the group and other staff were travelling from one performance to another event. Travelling at this time of night is notoriously dangerous, but when coupled with the fact that the group were being transported during terrible weather conditions, questions need to be asked. If the agencies, which are re-

Within many groups, the heavy workload causes exhaustion, which can lead to detrimental health effects, such as relying on IV drops backstage

sponsible for the idols' welfare and schedules, didn't pressure the artists and their managers into pursuing such frantic timetables, then maybe the death of Ladies' Code



Red Velvet

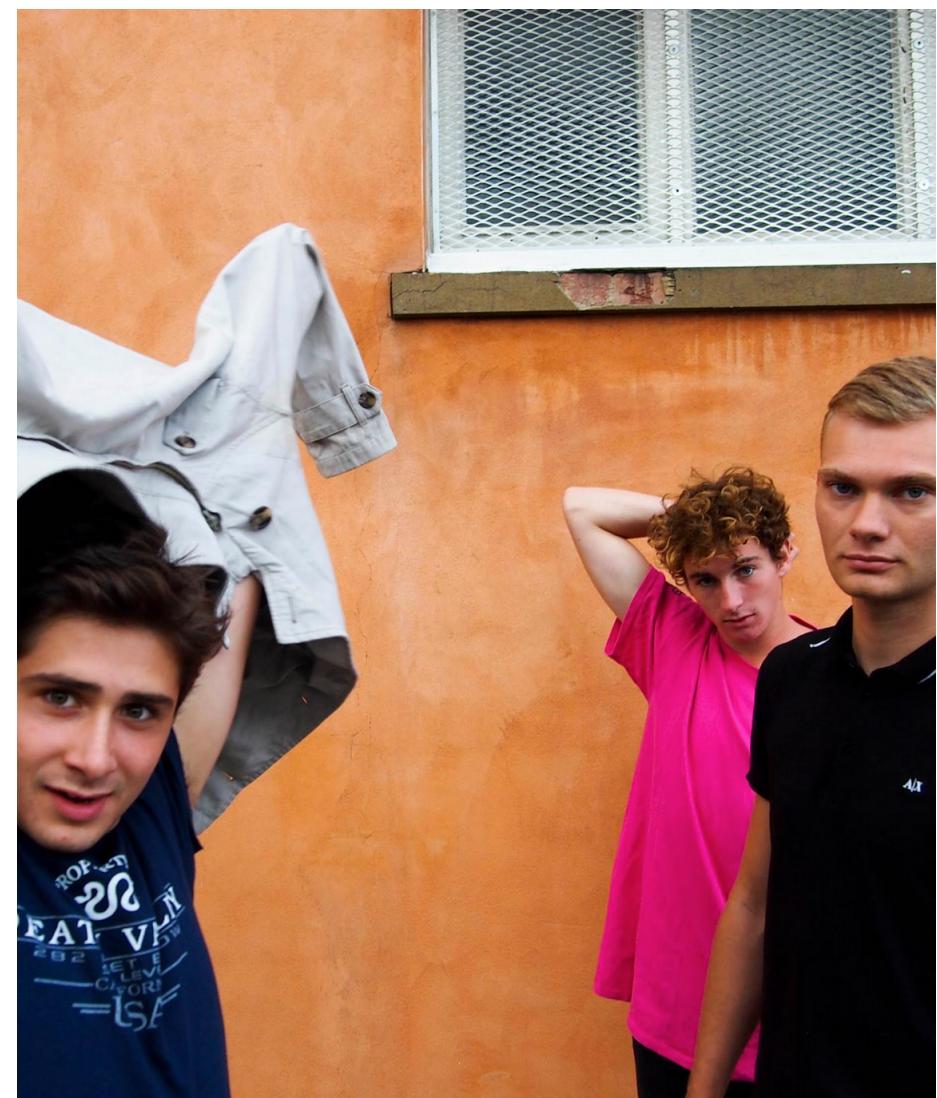
members EunB and RiSe could have been avoided. It is hoped that this high-profile incident will bring about some degree of change regarding workers' rights in Korea, and to put the welfare of entertainers before the amount of profit they can generate.

ANDREW GODDARD

Unfortunately, like each entertainment industry, K-pop places a major strain upon the artists and workers involved.

YOU NEED TO KNOW:

FEBUEDER



Summer 2012 saw the release of arguably one of the most original and inspiring albums to ever hit the indie and alternative scene: Alt-J's debut LP, *An Awesome Wave*, was so incredibly well-crafted that it bagged them the Mercury Prize and album of the year at the Ivor Novella awards on their first attempt. More importantly though it brought experimental, avant-garde, art rock/pop (or whatever else you want to attempt to label it as) to the attention of the masses. The band went from being practically a secret to media-frenzy-fodder in a matter of months, with their music being used for adverts, TV shows and even films. September saw the release of *This Is All Yours*, their highly anticipated second album. Since Alt-J's breakout, people seem to have developed a taste for this unique styling and that's where Febueder step in.

Febueder are incredibly similar in sound to the aforementioned pioneers, creating music as quirky and left-field as their name suggests (for anyone still struggling, I'm told 'Febueder' is pronounced similarly to 'Bermuda'). As well as Alt-J, Febueder are often compared with psychedelic rockers Animal

Collective. This supposed juxtaposition of Alt-J's sophisticated intricacy and the chaotic brashness synonymous with Animal Collective is a contradiction that the band has found to be 'heart-warming', but undeniably is a lot to live up to.

Last November Febueder released their debut EP, *Soap Carv* – a collection of four tracks that proved there was substance to the hype around them. It embraces the freedom, playfulness and identity formation of a debut release, giving listeners a chance to embrace their material without any preconceptions (which was apparently the reason behind the nonsensical name). They create a busy and attention grabbing soundscape screaming originality and excitement – a deep, high-energy banquet for the ears. EP number two, *Lilac Lane*, is out this month and if the lead single 'Owing' is anything to go by, then we're in for more of the gorgeous bass lines, syncopated percussion and wailing vocals that married so well together on *Soap Carv*.

ANDREW SHARP

FEATURES

Which societies to join THIS FRESHER'S FAIR

PotterSoc



PotterSoc is a society for anyone who loves Harry Potter. If you enjoy getting 'stupefied' on nights out as well as other Harry Potter related puns and fun this is the society for you. If you want to get involved in HP twists on classic goings on, such as 'Pub Quidditch' and 'Horcrux Hunts', or if you just enjoy the magic atmosphere then come along. We cater for casual fans of the film series as well as hard-core Potterheads that have lost count of how many times they've read the books.

The society offers a variety of socials ranging from fancy dress bar crawls to quizzes, film screenings, scavenger hunts and the highlight of the year, our annual Yule Ball! Despite the Lancaster weather we have also introduced 'Muggle Quidditch', a craze amongst American universities (that have their own league and World Cup), resulting in many English universities starting teams. Our aim is to ensure that everyone's university experience is truly magical and what better way is there to do that than reliving the cultural phenomenon that made our childhoods so awesome.

We have many exciting socials planned this year, hopefully including a trip to the Warner Bros Studio Tour in London where you can achieve your childhood dream and walk on the actual sets that were used in the films. After a fantastic first year with the society I decided to run for General Secretary and here I am! PotterSoc has definitely injected some magic into my university experience. I've met some amazing friends for life and the friendly atmosphere guaranteed that I was excited for each week's social.

Societies at Lancaster are all about meeting like-minded people who share your interests and hopefully that's what we achieve. If you want to join a fun, friendly society that doesn't take itself too seriously (sorry!) then PotterSoc is for you! See you at Freshers'

KATIE WEBSTER

LU GleeC



I know what you're thinking when you hear Glee Club. Your mind is immediately drawn to the cheesy American series, and believe me we have had people ask us if we are an appreciation society, but I'll stop you right there, we are not!

At LuGleec we get together every week to try out different songs, ranging from pop songs, indie, rock and a few mash ups – Timber and Wrecking ball anyone? Believe us it works! Absolutely anyone is welcome no matter if you've had any experience singing or just love to belt out something in the shower, as long as you love to sing than this society is the place for you! You can volunteer for solos and have your chance to show off or find your place amongst the altos and sopranos in our show stopping group numbers.

It isn't all fun, friendly group sessions though. We make sure that all of LuGleec are friends with everyone and we have frequent socials throughout the term to suit everyone's taste and make sure all of you are included. Our favourite one to date has to be our 'Song Titles' night out social, and yes someone did actually turn up with 99 Red Balloons taped to them.

Throughout the year we have lots of performances lined up; from the bustling Christmas market to the hugely anticipated Campus Fest that takes place every year. The society has an exec that organises these events to ensure that LuGleec deliver our best performance, but all members contribute towards this. At our weekly rehearsals we have a suggestion box where people can tell the exec what songs they would like to do and we do our best to accommodate your choices.

LuGleec is inviting, exciting and full of laughter so look out for us at Freshers' Fair!

PHILLIPA HAWLEY

Law Society



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
LAW SOCIETY

Lancaster University Law Society is a student-run society for anyone who has an interest in Law or the legal profession. We aim to give you the experiences, information and skills necessary to successfully forge a career in one of the most competitive professions. We are one of the biggest Societies on campus, and have grown massively over the last few years, with both an increase in members and in the variety of events that we organise.

We want to take this opportunity to stress that we are a Society for anyone who has an interest in Law and membership is open to everyone, not just Law students. Around fifty per cent of those practicing in the profession have studied non-law degrees, and many law firms actively seek non-law degree students due to the different experiences and skills they can bring to a career in the legal profession.

We host a number of competitions throughout the year including Mooting and Negotiation, various careers events including a formal careers dinner with representatives with some of the largest law firms in the world, and a wide range of Pro Bono projects including working with local schools, prisons and youth offenders institutes. Furthermore, we have an exciting social calendar: we organise a trip abroad every year, regular socials and our famous Law Ball at the end of the Lent term.

If you are interested in our Society and the fantastic opportunities we provide for our members then more information can be found on our website: www.lulawsociety.co.uk. You can also keep up to date with the Society by liking our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/LancasterUniversityLawSociety>) and following us on Twitter (@lancslawsoc).

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate contact us!

SKYE KING

20 Minute



The 20 Minutes Society is a relatively new society – just now entering its third year. It may well be the only society you can make a profit by joining! The idea is we send out a weekly text on a different day and at a different time each week – the text will include a location on campus and, possibly a challenge. You then have 20 Minutes to get to that place, first to arrive gets twenty points, 2nd gets nineteen points etc. as long as you get there within 20 minutes then you will definitely get some points. The person with the most points at the end of term wins £50.

Every week, there will be a new event at each location, from a quiz to maybe a barbecue. The benefit is that not only does it never get boring but the time commitment is seriously flexible!

Membership costs £2 and you can either sign up at Freshers' Fair or come find us on Facebook. We hope to see you soon!

CAITLIN BISHOP

Fresher's Week sexism



Lucy Lamb

Freshers' week is a daunting experience for many people, as they leave home and start to forge their own identities as adults out in the big wide world; to get an understanding of their self-worth and maybe begin to see where it comes from. It's also a time to come together to form a collective identity as part of a new social group, a college, a university. Unfortunately, in many cases for women it is the time when the messages confronting them are ones that emphasise exactly how society will see them; where their appearance and their sexual readiness are what matter and what they will be judged by, held in esteem for or ridiculed for. Often these messages are presented as "just a joke", but they can have a lasting effect on women and on what behaviour is deemed acceptable.

We see this in various instances – from comparatively subtle comments and jokes, to women experiencing harassment or sexual assault during a week that can already be tough for the majority of people.

The Everyday Sexism Project was set up to demonstrate the im-

Jokes that stereotype groups of people can lead to violence and crime against those groups being excused.

pact of these kind of comments and behaviours on the women involved, proving that seemingly casual instances of sexism have a much wider impact. More seriously, jokes that stereotype groups of people can lead to violence and

crime against those groups being excused. A topical example of this is recent events in Ferguson, where the racist profiling of a black man meant he was unjustly killed. But this is often the case in crimes against women too, where rapes are excused due to the perceived characteristics of a woman. The events of the last year at Lancaster demonstrate the detrimental impact sexism during freshers' week can have for women and on their enjoyment and engagement with university life as a whole.

Just over a year ago, as I was nervously awaiting my freshers' week at Lancaster, LUSU passed a Zero Tolerance policy and a motion on everyday sexism, making clear their stance that sexism in any of its forms would not be accepted. But then, only weeks later, freshers' week arrived and the policies seemed to be forgotten. I was one of many new students to experience sexist posters and "slut shaming" chants. The response when challenged? "It's just a joke". Within this context, a rape was committed during one of the freshers' nights. The blame for this does of course lie firmly with the perpetrator and nobody else, but suddenly the messages being fed to us over that week weren't so funny anymore. Many involved learned from their mistakes but the damage had been done in terms of creating an environment where it was acceptable to judge women on their sexual availability. The events at Lancaster last year are a clear example of rape culture – a culture where rape, sexual assault and harassment is normalised, trivialised or excused.

When LUSU elections came around, the situation didn't improve, as comments about the appearance of women candidates (and worse) had to be stopped. Many women candidates had stories to tell about having to field similar comments – and ones about their relationship-status and sexual histories and preferences – while out campaigning. One woman stated that the comments were so hurtful and frightening that she did not feel able to campaign on her own. Other women, who could have run but chose not to, expressed this as one of the reasons why. It is hardly surprising then that the number

of men candidates massively outweighed the number of women in all LUSU elections last year. Clearly if we are serious about equality, this underlying culture needs addressing – and not just through passing a policy but through a change in attitudes.

So how do we achieve that? Well, progress has certainly been made since this time last year. LUSU ran a white ribbon campaign encouraging men to sign-up to a pledge against violence towards women and the culture that encourages it. Lancaster University Feminist Society ran Consent Week in response to rape culture in Lancaster and beyond. A Women's Liberation Officer was established (alongside other liberation officers) demonstrating a real commitment to engaging with students who face oppression. And, a group of Lancaster University women set up the Women in Leadership Group in order to make further positive changes. Laura Clayton became only the sixth woman in LUSU's history to be elected Students' Union President; the first in 8 years.

This doesn't mean we can slack off. It remains to be seen whether these positive changes will make a difference to the level of sexism during this year's freshers' week, but with the past year proving that this behaviour, if tolerated, can continue to have a profound impact on women's experience of university as a whole, it is crucial to allow the gains made in the past year to develop further. Furthermore, individual instances of

sexism during freshers' week need to be challenged wherever possible, by freshers themselves and by those in charge.

If you hear someone making "jokes" or "having a bit of fun" in a way that perpetuates this culture, don't laugh along. If you feel safe, explain that this isn't funny; it's degrading. Most importantly: think about the comments you make yourself. If you're a woman don't feel that you are exempt from making sexist remarks that contribute to this. Any of us who have grown up in this culture that sexualises and objectifies women is capable of perpetuating the inequalities; it's not just the men. Thankfully we're all capable of challenging them too. Some women may say they are okay with those jokes – after all that is how society has told them they are valued – but are they really okay with the culture those jokes create?

Any of us who have grown up in this culture that sexualises and objectifies women is capable of perpetuating the inequalities.

LUSU doesn't support events which break the Zero Tolerance policy but there are still plenty of them out there. So before you attend a club night that encourages wet t-shirt contests or has women dancing on the bar as "entertainment", think about the messages they are giving about how they view women, and don't support that with your custom. Changing a culture isn't easy, but with every person who chooses not to participate in a sexist comment or to challenge those who do, rape culture is eroded just a little bit more.

CAITLIN SHENTALL

FEATURES

Where to be this Fresher's Week

Freshers' week is upon us and it's time to decide where to be and when. College spirit is at the heart of every student's first year - with accommodation on campus you end up living it, breathing it, and it becomes you for those first few days and weeks.

It might be your final year at university, but that doesn't mean you can't pretend you're starting again. After all, who doesn't want to be back in their first year where grades don't count and nobody know how weird you really are (yet)?

Each college will put on a myriad of events so that they can claim the limelight and spend the rest of the year arguing about whose freshers' week was best.

Bowland's 'prefounders' Freshers' Week Social (Friday)

There is only one true rivalry on campus, everyone knows this. That is, of course, between the founding colleges of Bowland and Lonsdale. Every year during the summer an epic rivalry ensues, a climactic end to the year filled with many different sports, from Dominoes to Football – there are only two things ever-present, college spirit and copious amounts of alcohol. To honour this Bowland and Lonsdale tradition, a 'prefounders' Freshers Week social has been planned between the colleges on the Friday of freshers to raise the hype to a new level and to make sure people know what to expect when summer rolls around.

So what exactly is there to expect? Well, of course there will be the usual college chants from both sides and it would be a sin not to at some point consume a pint of marvelous snakebite, not forgetting the sort of atmosphere that was present at this year's world cup. However mostly it's about community; there's no college with a better sense of community than Bowland, this is very apparent during Founders – so why not get the ball rolling early on in the year? To finish it all off there's even a night out to Dalton Rooms afterwards where the venue will be covered in red and blue to commemorate the college colours, it has all of the makings to be one of the best nights of freshers.

CHRIS GREEN

Lonsdale's Blackout Rave (Saturday)

Famous for being the party college at Lancaster, Lonsdale we always make sure we treat our students to the best events possible, to ensure they have the best university experience. Throughout the year we will be holding a variety of events guaranteed to appeal to every member of our college, as well as the general student population, and nothing demonstrates this better than our Freshers week plans.

Our Freshers will experience Lancaster's nightlife to the fullest, with events being held in Lonsdale Bar and various clubs in Lancaster town centre throughout the week. Yet in true Lonsdale fashion, we will be ending the week with a bang. Our Blackout Rave on Saturday 4th October promises to be the most exciting event of Freshers 2014, as we cover the windows of Lonsdale Bar, black out the lights and host some of the best DJ's Lancaster has to offer. With

a full stage and lighting set-up, expect a night like no other. Lonsdale's Blackout Rave will begin at 9pm and the students of the best college on campus will party into the early hours of the morning.

Bring your friends. Bring your flatmates. Bring your ultra-violet paint. But most importantly, bring yourselves down to Lonsdale Bar to finish the best week of your lives in the best atmosphere, as the party college does what it does best.

MICHAEL SUTTON

County Fest (Wednesday)

The biggest college on campus is presenting you with one of the most exciting Freshers' events yet - County Fest! On Wednesday the 1st of October prepare yourselves for one of the best day AND night events our campus has ever seen! You'll be in store for an impressive range of performances from different societies and musical acts from 3pm until 11pm! Acts include the amazing hip-hop and breakdance society and live music from County's very own, The Marties! You can also look forward to performances from Howden-Jones and Jerramiah Ferrari!

Along with the mega event that is County-Fest, County's Fresher's week offers a wide variety of events taking place day and night to welcome each and every Fresher into the best college on campus. From a huge inflatable pool table by the townhouses, afternoon tea with the sports captains and treasure hunt, to our Zoo Project night in Revs, foam party in Elements and film marathon, our days and nights are packed full to show you what County College has to offer! Make sure to look out for our Bar Sports night, which will prove that The Northern Oak is the place to be for table tennis, darts, and pool; our bar has it covered! In County College, there really is something for everyone, so come and get involved to make sure you have the best Fresher's week you could possibly have imagined!

SAL RAHMANI

Furness's Paint Party (Monday) 'Trevaoke' (Friday)

For Furness, this year's Freshers Week promises to be one of the best yet, with eight days of jam-packed events awaiting, including some of the college's favourites. Back by popular demand, Furness Paint Party is something Furnessians are proud to have and is something for the other colleges to envy! This is followed by Monday's 'Big Night Out' off campus – a great opportunity to mingle with other colleges and explore the bars of Lancaster.

There's an overriding sense of college pride throughout the week, making Furnessians proud to be a part of their college, and what better way to get a glimpse of this immense college spirit and rivalry than with a 'Patriots' themed night and silent disco with Cartmel College. Drinker or non-drinker, there's an activity for you, including the col-

lege sports team tasters for netball, football and bar sports (giving you plenty of time to prepare for this year's Patriots competition).

The final weekend will begin with a salsa themed 'Trevaoke' on Friday night – so grab your sombreros, warm up your vocal chords and get ready for a fiesta! To celebrate the final night of the week there is a fabulous Furness Party, but don't miss out on a final day of fun with a boat trip and BBQ on Lake Windermere and a pub quiz in Trev.

Furnessians, make sure to get involved and don't miss out!

SAMMIE CAINE

Cartmel's Pre-Patriots night: Cartmel vs. Furness (Tuesday)

Pre Patriots: Cartmel vs Furness: Furness College's Freshers week clearly isn't up to scratch as they've felt the need to tag along with Cartmel! One of the bigger nights of the week sees us descending on Dalton Rooms alongside Furness to reignite the most heated college rivalry on campus. Patriots is easily the biggest event in the Cartmel calendar. Every year we take to the sports pitches and bars to prove that the Griffin is mightier than the Mountain. Since its inception, Cartmel have utterly dominated Patriots with an impressive 3 wins, whilst the two Furness victories were consistently plagued by cheating, deception and foul play. Patriots isn't all about the sports; it's about proving which college is the best, which college has the most pride. But most important, which college knows how to have the most fun. After losing by one point last year, we have something to prove. Cartmelians will be out in force, dressed head to toe in burgundy, making themselves heard for the glory of the Griffin! Expect rivalry, revelry, and a few amazing explosive surprises throughout the night! It's going to be one to remember! RIDE THE GRIFFIN.

TOM STAPLETON

Fylde's Holi Festival and Thai Full Moon Party (Saturday)

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to Fylde Airlines, this is your Captain speaking. You will be left in the care of the wonderful Fylde Airlines attendants after a few words! We are excited to take you on a high-flying trip around the world for your Fresher's week - taking our much anticipated stop in Asia on Saturday, where the attendants have lined up both a Holi Festival and a Thai Full Moon party.

The Holi Festival is a paint powder event during the day and the Thai Full Moon party will be a UV paint party throughout the night. Special t-shirts will be provided for this event with your inflight packs. We also have many other stops on our trip, with an Australian BBQ, a South American Rio Carnival and a savannah safari being some highlights of the week! We trust that you will have a pleasurable experience

Stressful times call for de-stressful measures

and we are all pleased that you have chosen Fylde Airlines!!

JAMES BRIDGES

Grizedale's Casino Night

Since 2009 Grizedale has garnered a reputation as the social college on campus. Following on from the extremely successful Space-Rave Extrav, Grizedale hopes to continue its ongoing trend for exciting and unique events both throughout freshers week and beyond. This year, along with the usual bar-crawls and joint college club nights, Grizedale, for the third year running will be holding a formal casino night, at the fantastic, newly refurbished Lancaster Revolution. With unique decorations, dresses, tuxedo's and cocktail's galore, we hope that the night will be a true reflection on the year ahead for our college, continuing with consistently brilliant events and in-keeping with the cosmopolitan vibe of our bar and student body.

Following on from freshers week the college hopes to provide a varied array of events throughout the term, including open deck nights, bar crawls, nights out in other cities, and a couple of surprises along the way. Our events are welcome to those from all over campus and we hope to encourage continued engagement with the Lancaster social scene as we move into the new year.

JAMES HARRISON

Pendle's Live Event (Sunday)

When asked what Freshers Week event best described our college's personality, it wasn't very difficult to come up with an answer. Two words. Pendle Live - the most original live music event on campus. This is an event that has carved itself deep into Pendle tradition and for good reason too. Not only is it a great place to hear the biggest and best music acts on campus, but previous acts that have graced the stage include Kidnap Kid and even The Crookes! The cosy settings of Pendle bar allow for musicians to give intimate performances you'd get nowhere else on campus, and the permanent stage at the front gives the feel of a real gig happening right in front of your eyes.

For the crowds that flock (even from other colleges) it is an opportunity to sit, chill and relax in the bar. With everyone enjoying themselves, you soon get hold of what the Pendle College 'community vibe' actually is. There's no better way to end the best week of your life than with the BEST music event on campus. Acoustic sets, Rock music...there's definitely something for everyone, and the best part is that it happens EVERY WEEK! Add to that a few surprises and you're surely onto a winner! Heck, they don't call us the music college for nothing!

DALE COOPER



Sakib Rahman

University is one of the best times of your life, you will meet amazing people, do amazing things and make memories that will last a lifetime. However you will also encounter stressful situations that will also seem to last forever. As well as meeting new people, learning new things and being thrown head first into a sea of newness, there is also the dreaded 'D' word, dissertation. Even for final year students, it seems like it is an age away and some lucky munchkins won't have to do one but, dissertation or no dissertation, we all need to let ourselves relax once in a while.

There Is More To Uni Than Your Degree

Yes, your focus and unfortunately, vast amounts of money, aims at getting you a good degree. But trust me when I say you will never look back and say I had a great time locked away in my rooms studying alone every night. You need to study but you also need to have something else in your life, something you enjoy that gets you out of the rut of degree work. Join a club, society or team, get on the JCR, write for SCAN. Do something you love, not only will you gain valuable future skills, and who doesn't love those, but you can use some of that energy to transfer to the deadline. Or that's what you can tell your parents at least.

Have A Social Life

When you have a deadline looming, taking a break to see your friends, have a drink or generally doing something that isn't sitting at the computer panicking, seems like a terrible idea. But a few hours away will in fact do you the world of good and can act as a great incentive to meet smaller targets and deadlines. A word of warning: having a few drinks is fine, having a few bottles is probably not, wasting a day on throwing up and googling quick fix hangover cures won't do anyone any good.

There Is A Time And Place For Work

Don't let non-students convince you that certain hours

are off limits for work and like the sun, you must avoid it all costs at certain times of the day. Everyone is different when it comes to productivity, some people can shut their life off for 5 hours at a time to work. Some people, yours truly included, would see a five-year old lasting longer before Grumpy Cat's latest adventure must be watched. The trick is not setting goals for how long you must work for, but knowing how you work. If you need a break every hour that's fine, schedule your day so you can still have as many productive working hours as those who can work through the day without needing a regular YouTube fix.

Wine!... Uhm, I Mean ... Rewards?

Wine is the best invention in the world ever, it provides comfort, joy and will never let you down. Although I could happily write an article on the joy of wine, the actual point is it is okay to treat yourself. If you have a deadline certain things become okay. It is okay not to go to the gym for the last-minute 1000 word writing rush, it's okay to have dominoes twice, both in a day and a week, it actually tastes better leftover. Denying yourself makes things worse, but little treats and pick-me-ups provide a much-needed motivation boost. And let's face it, deadline or not, is it really worth living if you can't have wine.

Deadlines suck (dissertation or otherwise) and there is no magical solution to working productively and getting it in on time without becoming a walking corpse. However, see your friends, have a few drinks and carry on with your social activity, there is no shame in enjoying life (and wine) alongside the stress of deadlines, after all we know what happened to Jack with all work and no play!

EMILY-JAYNE NICHOLLS

Dear Freshers: Where you could

As a fresher taking your first steps into University life, 3 years seems a long way off. Maybe you don't want to think about it? It is a daunting prospect and students that never want to integrate with the 'real world' are becoming more common than ever. But it's really not as scary as it first seems.

Here's a bit of honesty: the expectations you have for the future are likely to change as you make your way through your course. The things that you love may change, and the things that you hate you may come to enjoy. It leaves many people in a muddle about what to do with their time at university in order to get to where they want to be. Luckily, however, the truth is that in most cases it all works out in the end.

I caught up with a few of our recent graduates to see where they are now, and hopefully inspire some of our students with the realisation that as great as university is, life goes on afterwards.

ABIGAIL DAVIES FEATURES EDITOR
@AbigailDavies_



MELANIE CRATHORNE

Mel has just finished her Msc in Management with Project Management, after achieving a first in English Literature.

Did you enjoy studying for a masters?

Generally I've really enjoyed it. It was fun doing something much more practical than all theory-based, particularly doing projects and consultancy reports for companies made it feel a lot more relevant. Because I still didn't know exactly what job I wanted to do after my undergrad, it gave me a chance to study a really different degree without having to do the whole three years again.

I met some great people along the way that I wouldn't usually have ever come across; it was a very international course. I'm not going to lie it was hard at times, doing so much group work with people who weren't native-English speakers takes a lot of energy! But I don't know when else I will ever be able to work with such a diverse mix of people.

How does working towards a masters compare from your undergraduate study? Was it a big step up?

It was an entirely different experience for me, just because it was a completely differ-

ent degree in a completely different department. By the end of the three years I had learnt what I needed to do in English Lit to get consistent grades for each assignment, but moving from a very independent and creative course to a much more objective and group-orientated one was different to what I was used to.

It was a lot more intense in terms of contact hours and workload, which in a sense was a step up, but academically I didn't feel it was harder than my undergrad. It was more about learning to adjust to a differ-

Because I still didn't know exactly what job I wanted to do after my undergrad, it gave me a chance to study a really different degree without having to do the whole three years again.

ent subject area, and studying something much more practical than what I had become used to. The English department was always very laid back and I did feel left to my own devices in a good way, but the Management school has felt a bit more competitive and exciting working with and against people. Doing presentations is a big thing in LUMS, dressing up in suits and having flashy powerpoints, I felt a bit like I was on The Apprentice.

Did you find it hard seeing other people getting jobs or going travelling whilst you continued studying?

I wouldn't say I ever found it hard. I was a "normal" amount of jealous, but not because I was studying. In my eyes doing the masters would help me to do all those

It's not that I felt that English Lit was useless to get you a job, it just occurred to me that as much as I'd enjoyed studying it, I didn't want a career in that area.

things too – and I wouldn't have been confident saying the same after graduating from my English Lit degree.

It's not that I felt that English Lit was useless to get you a job, it just occurred to me that as much as I'd enjoyed studying it, I didn't want a career in that area. I just want-

ed to see how well I could cope in a more business subject area.

What's your favourite memory from your time at Lancaster University?

I don't think I could ever put it down to one memory! The only thing I could say single-handedly is the friends I have met here is what has made it special. I have to say I'll always have fond memories of The Sugarhouse after working there for 4 years, and the Furness 15 hour bar crawls have been weird and wonderful every time.

What are your plans for the future?

I've moved back home and I'm planning on looking for grad jobs. I'd always been against moving to London for that because I didn't see why it was so attractive to everyone. I now see the appeal though.

I'm pretty happy to let a job take me anywhere, and as for travelling I'd like to go and do it properly for a year after training in a graduate scheme - when I've got some money to come home to as well as use around the world!

I'm pretty happy to let a job take me anywhere, and as for travelling I'd like to go and do it properly for a year after training in a graduate scheme.

What advice would you give to current Lancaster students?

Don't let it take you until your final term in third year to realise that the library is brilliant for studying! It might not be for everyone but promise me you will at least try it. Don't stay in your comfort zone, get involved in everything you can. If you already know what you want to do when you graduate, use uni for all that you can to get what you need for it; uni offers you pretty much anything you need to pursue what you want, or it can at least point you in the right direction of how to get there yourself. If you don't know what you want to do then that's cool too, but use uni to work out what your interests and hobbies are and have fun with them.

Just enjoy it and don't let yourself leave with regrets.

be in 3 year's time



SARAH WARSAW

Sarah works in Software Marketing at IBM after achieving a 2:1 in Marketing Management

Tell us about what you are doing now.

Currently I work in Software Marketing at IBM. My key responsibility for one of the software brands is to run their social media channels. I really enjoy the role as I have a fantastic team to work with and I am learning a lot.

What kind of tasks do you complete?

My role includes:

- Managing the IBM Big Data brand twitter account for UK, creating and curating content that is relevant for our business audience.
- Work on IBM / 3rd party events whereby we can target existing and potential clients with our solution offerings.
- Manage our software brand's relationship with Gartner analyst to ensure we are update with market findings / trends / analysis.
- Pull together internal communications to ensure the Big Data sales team is update with marketing activities and have all the correct assets to support their client relationships.

Has getting a job given you more freedom and independence?

Absolutely, it's brilliant to be able to manage projects yourself and have the responsibility for things that really make a difference. There is more pressure in comparison to Uni, as there it only really makes a difference to you, whereas now what I do can affect real business success.

What made you decide to get a job and not go traveling or pursue further education?

I had originally planned to go travelling but

I was given the opportunity to return back to IBM for a marketing role. I took it as I knew I would still be able to take the opportunity to travel later on in my career having earned some more money and gained some great experiences at work too.

How have you found going from university life to a 9-5 style job?

I didn't find the transition too hard as I had done a placement year prior to my graduate role. However it is tough, completely changing your lifestyle but you get used to it. As a group of friends we still go out and have fun, but on week days it's usually straight after work and the last tube rather than big nights out (most of the time anyway).

What are you plans for the future?

It's hard to plan too far in advance as when you're working in a large company as opportunities pop up when you don't expect them to. However in the short term I am planning to learn as much as I possibly can about social media and marketing at IBM in my current role and then in the next 6 months or so I will look for a job following my graduate scheme. In the distant future I'd love to have my own business!

What is your favourite memory of Lancaster University?

I have so many brilliant memories of Lancaster – in particular I had a fantastic time getting involved with my college JCR and being voted in as the Publicity Officer during my first year. In my final year I worked at the Sugarhouse and made so many great friends there – so much fun!

What advice would you give current Lancaster students?

Make the most of your time at Lancaster and the opportunities that are given to you there. It's a really competitive market when it comes to graduate jobs, however as I had taken part in loads of activities at uni, I had loads of transferable skills that can be used at work. In particular communication skills, both written and verbal – these are essential in the workplace, so make sure you are top notch at this. If you can get work experience for a year or over the summer, it's really useful as it gives you a little insight into working life and the kind of opportunities you may want to pursue after Lancaster. For now though, make the most of the uni lifestyle, trust me you'll miss it!



DOUGLASS MELKLE

After achieving a 2:1 in Economics, Douglass decided to go travelling around Europe. He then took a job with Ernst and Young and is studying to become a chartered accountant.

What did you do straight after graduating?

I went travelling around eastern Europe for 3 weeks. The main cities I visited were Prague, Krakow, Budapest, Split with smaller cities in between within these countries. The best thing I saw was Plitvice lakes in North Croatia, a national park with incredible lakes and waterfalls. I travelled on my

I've just started my second year working for Ernst & Young training to become a chartered accountant.

own, but definitely didn't get lonely as I always met people in the hostels who were travelling to my next city or wanted to do something together during the day.

What are you doing now? Are you enjoying it?

I've just started my second year working for Ernst & Young training to become a chartered accountant. So far I've really enjoyed working for the firm, and enjoying the work I'm being given. I mainly audit other

company's financial information, which involves going out to the client and testing/checking the accuracy of their financial results. I've always enjoyed having a routine so I enjoy the 9-5 lifestyle, and it enables you to appreciate evenings and weekends

I've always enjoyed having a routine so I enjoy the 9-5 lifestyle, and it enables you to appreciate evenings and weekends more.

more. The only downside is the very difficult exams I'm having to study for to qualify.

Have you made many friends at work?

The great thing was that I was joined the firm with 25 other graduates so we immediately became a close friendship group. The department I work in are quite young and often host social events together.

What made you decide to get a job and not go traveling or pursue further education?

I've always wanted to get my qualification as soon as possible, with the idea that I can then take a year out once I'm 24/25 to go travelling safe in the knowledge I have the

I've always wanted to get my qualification as soon as possible, with the idea that I can then take a year out.

relevant qualifications/experience to find a job when I return.

What are you plans for the future?

Once I have qualified, I'm not sure what I will want to do, at the moment I am quite interested in financial consultancy.

What advice would you give current Lancaster students?

If you have an idea where you want to be in a few years, definitely stick to your goals as it can be very rewarding as I have found. But if you don't know what you do then take your time and don't jump into a job that you might regret.



Gabriela Pinto



Wardrobe essentials for Lancaster students

Fashion at your fingertips

Online shopping used to be a treat every now and again but these days a cheeky impulse buy online is the only thing that will get us through long afternoons in the learning zone or when you're bored on a train journey. With the infinite choice of dresses on ASOS there is absolutely no need to rummage through endless aisles anymore. Here, I've devised a list of some of my must-have fashion sites at the moment to get on top of the trends in a few clicks.

Mallzee.com

The next best thing after Tinder, Mallzee.com is perfect for helping you narrow down your favourite items after a few swipes. You swipe right if you 'like' the dress and left if it doesn't take your fancy so at the end you know that you have outfits you really like. With many high street faves such as Topshop, Uniqlo and French Connection, this site has fast become my new addiction.

Depop.com

This site is a great replica of Instagram and can be used to sell unwanted clobber without all the hassle of ebay. You can use your phone to take a picture of the item you want to sell and then share it with your mates on Facebook.

Style-yard.com

This site only launched a couple of weeks ago and lets you send all your old clothing free of charge, then they'll post it online and you'll get all the cash they make. It's definitely worth a gander with vintage clothes and high-street clothes at half the original price.

Fitbay.com

It's simple, try on an outfit and then take a selfie. Then share your picture on Fitbay with a mini review to help fellow shoppers who have a similar body type know how certain brands will fit them.

JASMINE CLARKE *FASHION EDITOR*

Twitter: @HAZMANAAA

A Decent Coat

Ignore that little part of you that still wants to rebel against your parents, the part that thinks coats are boring and a waste of money. A decent coat really is essential in Lancaster if you want to stay dry. That doesn't have to mean a boring waterproof parka though, this season duster coats are bang on trend and because of their length keep you protected from the wind.

Umbrella

Luckily, the majority of the spine is under cover. But eventually the spine comes to an end and so if you live at either of the furthest points on campus, in County or Cartmel, an umbrella is a must for that last dash to your room!

Boots

Just as a coat protects your body from the rain, a good pair of boots protects your feet from the cold, wet campus ground too. In my first few weeks of university I often made the mistake of wearing my Topshop ballet pumps to lectures, only to realise too late that they don't provide protection against puddles! Despite being on the expensive side, boots are one of the best investments you can make and with a little luck and care might even last you your entire degree.

An 'everything fits' bag

Compulsory reading for your course never comes in the form of a small lightweight book, but rather a nine-hundred page anthology that will be required for every seminar and lecture but in fact only used once. Thus, a bag or satchel big enough for this plus your notepad and laptop is an essential to ensure you're always organised.

Converses

Not only do you need to learn to survive the weather in Lancaster but also the bars and clubs, where one in particular is known for both its sickly sweet shots and sticky floors. Within minutes of entering Hustle for the first time, you will quickly understand why wearing delicate sandals was a mistake. Too often I have woken up the morning after a night in Hustle to find my shoes in an

unrecognisable state. But that is where good ol' conversations come in, made from canvas they can be thrown in the washing machine with the rest of your laundry and later removed in an almost box fresh condition.

Layers

Despite the weather outside, in the first two weeks of term last year the biology lecture theatre (where all my lectures were held) was unbearably hot because of this I found myself walking to lectures in both a coat and scarf only to undress on arrival. When different rooms seem to have different climates then, layering vests, jumpers, scarves and coats can be a real life-saver.

A Lancaster Hoodie

You will quickly realise at Lancaster that almost every other week there is some sort of university or college sporting event. Whether you're on a team yourself or watching a friend play, a Lancaster university hoodie, t-shirt or even comfy joggers is the perfect way to cheer them on whilst simultaneously keeping you warm!

Pyjamas

Whether you prefer cosy jogger bottoms or a onesie, a warm pair of pyjamas is a must for mornings after a big night out when sat in the kitchen with housemates, nursing a hangover and bacon sandwich.

Fancy Dress

Whether it's a toga or a hula skirt and matching lei, a fall back fancy dress outfit is a must. With Sugarhouse offering free entry for students in fancy dress throughout the term, you will have several occasions to whip the fancy dress out again even after fresher's week. In the hope that each of your new flatmates also brings along at least one fancy dress outfit, before you know it you'll have a whole selection of fancy dress to swap and share!

GEORGIA SHEPHEARD *DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR*

Twitter: @G_Shepherd

SPINE SPOTTER

With each new academic year comes a new editorial team with new ideas and this year we would like to introduce you to 'Spine Spotter', a fortnightly piece featuring you! Students here at Lancaster each have their own unique style and we want to give a page each fortnight to admire those who not only look on point, but have also made a real effort to stand out. We'll be looking out for you so don't panic if you get a tap on your shoulder and a photo request; I promise it's a compliment! Not only will we feature you in the paper but also on our Facebook and Instagram page, so get busy and get following. For this years first edition lets start by introducing ourselves...

GEORGIA SHEPHEARD JASMINE CLARKE

English Literature, Second Year



Style Icons

Alexa Chung, Cara Delevigne, Olivia Palermo

Alexa Chung, Emma Watson, everyone and everything

Favourite Piece

Leather jacket, white shirt, and almost anything black!

Patterned blouse, blazer, Long-champ bag

Favourite High Street Store

Topshop, Urban Outfitters, Zara

Zara, Topshop, Miss Selfridge

Wish List Item

A Mulberry bag please!

Vivienne Westwood Melissa pumps

Favourite Thing About Lancaster

All the awesome events that the university organises for us students; Roses weekend proving my favourite last year!

How friendly people are and how easy it is to make friends all the time

What the *folk*

Fashion finds inspiration in unpredictable sources: art, life and history. There are absolutely no boundaries and folk fashion is the perfect example of this. Folk is often associated with a certain type of traditional music, which was mostly played during the 19th century. Folkwear fashion pays tribute to that era by showcasing traditional types of clothing that is much more eccentric and over-the-top than modern day looks. Inspired by Alexander McQueen and Dolce and Gabanna it is totally 2014.

Beautiful clothing, kimonos, tassels and jersey tops are staples when it comes to Folk. Dig out last autumn's cardis and blouses to nail this trend like a pro. It is a tasteful combo of either traditional costume or contemporary fashion with influences from ethnic techniques, silhouettes and details. This rustic and carefree clothing is enough to make anyone feel harmonic and at one with nature. A beautiful assortment of pattern options for fall 2014 includes rich tapestry and abstract print mixing. Invest in laid-back dresses to wear with knee-high boots, and hooded overcoats to pair with

fringed leather skirts and ankle strap heels, for the ultimate take on autumnal sophistication. Other ideas include baroque swirls and abstract ethnic prints. Channel your inner boho goddess by picking out super-short silhouettes to wear with anything in between a pair of pointy toe flats or a knee-high pair of boots. Go minimal with makeup and whack your hair up into a pony tail. Statement heels such as a pair of high-heeled suede or leather boots with gold detailing will add some folk spirit to your outfits, while an embroidered handbag will surely serve as the perfect finishing touch to any outfit.

70s Bohemian with folk fashion stands for innovation. Its beginnings intertwine with history, world-wide traditions and customs that are completely timeless. This style is defined by effortless elegance and will help you create your own twenty first century fairy tale.

JASMINE CLARKE FASHION EDITOR

@HAZMANAAA

A FRESH TASTE OF

LANCASTER



Anna Meng

Eating and Drinking

The Water Witch

A delightful canal side pub only a few moments walk from the town centre, the Water Witch is great place to go for a nice pub meal. It is slightly more expensive than somewhere like Wetherspoons but the food is a much better quality! They also have unique ales and beers as well as a range of other drinks. On a Thursday night at 9PM the pub also hosts the ever popular Pub Quiz where your team can attempt to win a gallon of ale or a cash prize.

1725

If you've got a slightly larger than average student budget, an awesome place to go is 1725 right in the centre of town. Its' Spanish food and modern ambience make for a lovely meal out. From more standard tapas, such as Patatas Bravas and Tortilla Espanola, to dishes for the more adventurous such as Kebab de Gambas y Chorizo (chorizo and tiger king prawns in chilli and tomato marinade) there is something for everyone. If you don't fancy going all out, they do have plenty of offers on: from 2-4-1 on a Monday night to 20% off your food bill if you produce a cinema or theatre ticket from that day when paying.

Walks and Places To Go

The Lancaster Canal

Lancaster has a lot of waterways, what with having the river, the canal and the coast all within spitting distance, but the canal-side walk is one that is to be enjoyed in all seasons. Walking away from the town you can either go on a short walk admiring the boat houses and the surrounding fields, or turn away to walk up to the village of Aldcliffe. In autumn the trees by the water turn fantastic colours, whilst in spring the fields are full of lambs from the local farmers.

Ashton Memorial

If you fancy walking up a rather steep hill to the Ashton Memorial I can promise you that it will be worth it. The view over the city and up to the Lake District on a clear day is so beautiful you almost forget that you're in a city. Walking to the Ashton Memorial is something that usually sits on most students 'to do' lists for as long as they're students but I urge you to do it. The wooded area around it is lovely, the butterfly house is worth a visit and the grassy hills overlooking town are excellent for a picnic.

To Do

The Dukes

This local theatre and cinema complex is a gem in town that is not to be missed! Within the first month of being in Lancaster the venue boasts events/showings such as Billy Elliot The Musical: Live (Film), Around The World In 80 Days (Theatre), Some Like It Hot (Film) and a film quiz night. They frequently have screenings of NT Live which are well worth it if you can't afford the cost of seeing it in the flesh down in London. The venue also has a small restaurant and bar in case you arrive early before a production.

Vintage Shopping

Lancaster boasts lots of small streets off the high street, each with small shops and vintage stores to discover. They are well worth a browse around before you go to the main stores of Topshop and River Island which grace the main thoroughfare. There is also a wealth of charity shops if you fancy getting your bargain head on and finding some cool items buried deep in the back of the clothes rack!

BRYONY SEAGER *COMMENT EDITOR*

 @BeingBryony

CAROLYNNE TRAVEL FLORENCE



Jon Rawlinson

Most of you will lament this article now that summer is over and you're confined to dreary autumnal Lancaster for the next ten weeks (trips home aside), but a bit of wanderlust never hurt anyone and it's never too early to start planning for next year, right?

This summer I was lucky enough to do quite a lot of travelling and one of the places that I most enjoyed was Florence. Located in the Italian province of Tuscany, Florence is a city famed for its' history; it is widely acknowledged as the birthplace of Renaissance and was once at the center of medieval trade. Packed with culture and historical artifacts, the place is a history student's dream, but I'm no history student and I definitely don't plan my holiday des-

Florence is a city famed for its' history; it is widely acknowledged as the birthplace of Renaissance and was once at the center of medieval trade.

tinations based on where I could get the best essay content. I loved Florence for the food, drink and general atmosphere - the history was a nice bonus.

Travelling on a student budget (read: a small one) is never an easy task and Florence isn't renowned for being particularly cheap. Thankfully, when you know where to look there are some real

bargains to be had and I was travelling with some serious Florentine experts. Rather than splurging on a swanky hotel, we stayed on Campsite Michelangelo in the hills just south of the surprisingly small center. A three bed tent (yes, actual beds) set us back as little as £7 per night, which was well worth the pain of having to use shared toilets and showers. As well as being a great deal, the campsite had a lovely outdoor bar with some really amazing views over the city and an awful lot of cheap beer.

Our campsite was only a short walk from the Piazzale Michelangelo, a square atop the hill famed for its amazing views over the city. Watching the sunset over Florence from there was truly magical and something I would recommend to anyone visiting the city. If you don't fancy braving the walk up the hill to the top there's a really easy bus route and a ticket valid for 90 minutes will only set you back just over 1€.

In the city centre, exploration is key; every street has its own amazing historical features and discoveries to be made. The Ponte Vecchio is a definite must-see: literally translated as "Old Bridge" it spans the river Arno at its' narrowest point and features some ancient and pretty precarious looking shops across its' length. While it's definitely worth crossing and browsing, the area is a bit of a tourist trap so it might be worth saving your Euros to spend elsewhere.

Even in the most popular tourist spots, the city never feels busy like some others do - there's always a nice sense of people milling about and everything feels very relaxed. It's this that makes visiting Florence a real delight: it always feels like a holiday, no part of it is even remotely stressful.

While exploring the city I happened upon a wealth of restaurants and cafés but my favourite has to be I Ghibellini, a traditional Tuscan restaurant hidden in

Even in the most popular tourist spots, the city never feels busy like some others do.

a square a few minutes from the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence's largest cathedral. The food in Florence was generally brilliant, but I Ghibellini in particular took relatively simple dishes and made them mind-blowingly delicious with some really fresh ingredients and brilliant cooking.

When in Italy, don't be afraid to order simply - it can really pay off.

So, would I recommend travelling to Florence? Absolutely - for a little weekend break, while Interrailing or as a whole holiday, Florence is a great place to spend some time. It's packed with culture, the atmosphere is amazing and you can definitely get by on a tight budget.

ELLIE VOWLES CAROLYNNE EDITOR
✉ @ellievowles

School to university: An easier transition

So you've finally made it to university – or “the best years of your life” as everyone likes to call them. Having left school or college as well as your home for the first time in your life, it's perfectly normal to feel excit-

It's easy to feel lost during Freshers Week, so the important thing to remember is: don't be afraid to ask for

ed, anxious and worried all at the same time. So how can you make the transition easier?

It's easy to feel lost during Freshers Week, so the important thing to remember is: don't be afraid to ask for help. Freshers Week can be overwhelming, but that's exactly why you have your freshers' reps with you every step of the way. They are there to be questioned! Equally, when it's time for lectures and seminars, your tutors are there to support you and have office hours specifically set aside to help students with any concerns they may have. It can be daunting that everything is now down to you to sort out, but there are so many support networks on campus that you are never truly alone.

In order to make the most of your academic life at university, though, you have to attend as many lectures and seminars as possible. At school you would never have dreamed of regularly missing classes (right?), but with no-one at university to monitor your attendance particularly closely it can be difficult to motivate yourself. Yes, it is only first year and yes, you do only have to pass – but first year is also the time where you gain the basic knowledge in your subject area

which will be developed upon later. I've lost count of the number of people who can't go to bed before four in the morning and never make a 9AM! Practising now will definitely stand you in good stead during years two and three when every 9AM counts.

That's not to say don't go out and enjoy yourself, but equally don't feel obliged to go out every night of the week! The temptation is to say yes to everything to feel sociable but everyone has their limits (and everyone contracts freshers' flu as you'll discover when your lectures are accompanied by the sound of coughing). It's perfectly OK to want a quiet night in from time to time – and you'll be financially better off for it too!

If going out to clubs every night isn't your idea of fun, then get involved with the many societies on campus instead. For the first time in your life you won't have that good network of friends that you've known for years around you, so getting involved in so-

University is the chance to make the most of your free time and make it as varied as possible.

cieties is the best way to meet new people. It's also the most rewarding aspect of university and everyone will find something to suit them – from Harry Potter to knitting! Whereas school and college were almost exclusively focused on exams and academia, university is the chance to make the most of your free time and make it as varied as possible. Be yourself, discover what it is that you enjoy, and you'll soon stop missing school and college.

JULIA MOLLOY PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
✉ @JRMolloj2

HUMANS OF LANCASTER:



What's something that made you smile today?

Today I'm smiling because I'm in London with a friend that I haven't seen for quite a long time. Angie and her family normally come round for Christmas dinner amongst other going-ons, all of which are sufficiently bizarre and filled with laughter. She's moved to London this year after graduating so we don't get to see her as often. It's sad but I'm here now and kind of excited to be in Camden Market for the first time. I mean, I don't think I'd find many parrots to sit on my shoulder in Lancaster...

Abigail Davies Features Editor



Do you remember the happiest you've ever been?

Nope. I honestly can't remember. I could pick out any old heart-warming story from the back of my mind, but that would be lying. You might think that's a shame. Happy memories are great. They're the foundation of every decent deathbed, so your happiest memory should be something you hold onto for dear life. In a way, though, I'm glad I don't remember mine. You wouldn't want a thought like that at this age, overshadowing everything you do. The memories I'm making now may just turn out a bit happier.

Daniel Snape Comment Editor



What's the most frightened you've ever been?

One time I do remember is when I lost my grandad when we were visiting Fountain's Abbey together. I was about nine or ten and refused to go through a dark tunnel to get to a walk we wanted to do. I tried to climb up the adjacent hill but failed and as a result lost him. I didn't find him again for forty minutes and every evil thought from him falling to not being able to fine me entered my head. Thankfully a lovely couple helped me reunite with him - he seemed wholly unconcerned that I'd been missing whereas I was in a right mither!

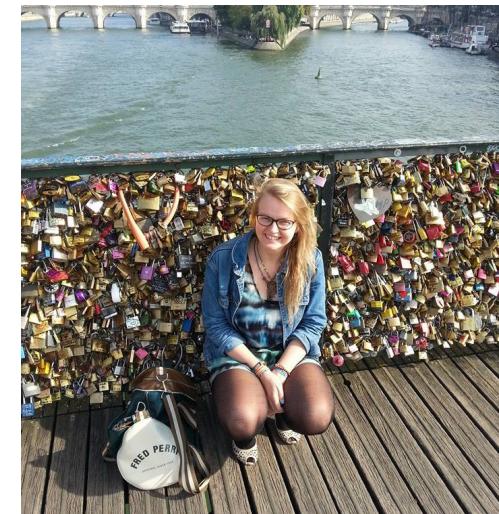
Bryony Seager Comment Editor



Who's somebody that's had a big influence on you?

My A-level English teachers, Mrs Kirkham and Miss Henderson. For years I dismissed the possibility of university as an option because to me it meant growing up and deciding what to do with my life. It was only when I chose to study English Literature and English Language at A-level I was persuaded otherwise. My teachers taught me that I was good enough and more than capable of attending university. Without them I wouldn't be here at Lancaster and wouldn't be studying a subject which I can honestly say I love.

Georgia Shepheard Deputy Fashion Editor



If you could give one piece of advice to a large group of people what would it be?

One of my favourite quotes is: 'the world is our playground and we will always be home.' I've just got back from my Erasmus year in Paris and Barcelona, it was full of highs and lows but overall an incredible and unforgettable experience. The best piece I could give someone is to travel often. You encounter places, people and cultures you never knew existed and it really makes you step back and think about the world. It fundamentally transforms you and will teach you things you never knew about yourself! It's given me so much motivation and perspective to go see more places.

Jasmine Clarke Fashion Editor



If you could give one piece of advice to a large group of people what would it be?

I think advice I'd give to anybody would be to make the most of any opportunities you're given. I try to encourage myself to try new things whenever possible, sometimes even though they might be outside of my comfort zone. I know that any regrets I ever get in life always stem from missed opportunities and times where I wish I'd done things differently. Just being here at a University like Lancaster opens a realm of possibilities, and I for one want to take advantage of that as much as possible.

Erik Apter Assistant Editor

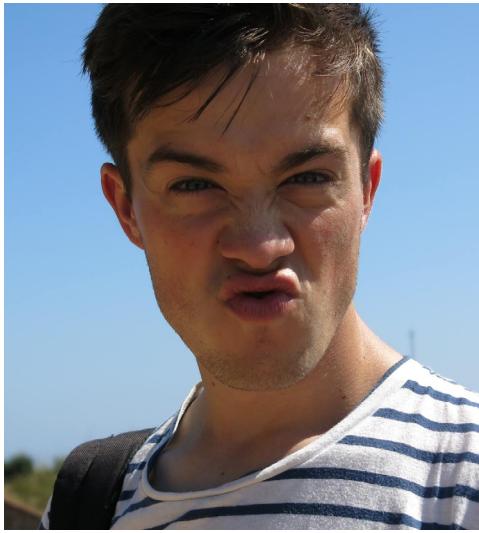


What's something you're grateful for?

I am grateful, probably most, for my family. I come from quite a fortunate background, which is something I'll have no end of appreciation for, because I've been really lucky with what I've been able to do and the things I've been able to see. We've always kind of travelled a lot of places together, and we're really close. Family's the most important thing. It's the foundation you build everything on. You can't really be more grateful than having something as important as that.

Anna Trogstad Deputy Web & Mobile

EDITORIAL TEAM



What's your largest remaining goal in life?

As a writer (I like to think of myself as one), I'd love to get something published: a set of poems; a collection of short stories; a novel. That seems like a pretty large goal amongst all the miniature ones that may or may not comprise my future. Unlike some of the racier, more libertine-esque artistic pursuits, writing appears to offer a constant chance of success - William Burroughs only managed to publish his first novel at the age of thirty-nine. I suspect this will be my largest remaining goal for a long while.



What's something you're grateful for?

I have always been grateful for living in two fantastic places - Lancaster during term time and my home island of Guernsey during the holidays. Lancaster offers so many opportunities and challenges, and being part of a University such as Lancaster offers so much more than just an education. But after term is finished, being able to go home and sail to other islands or party with my friends on the beach is something I will always be grateful for.

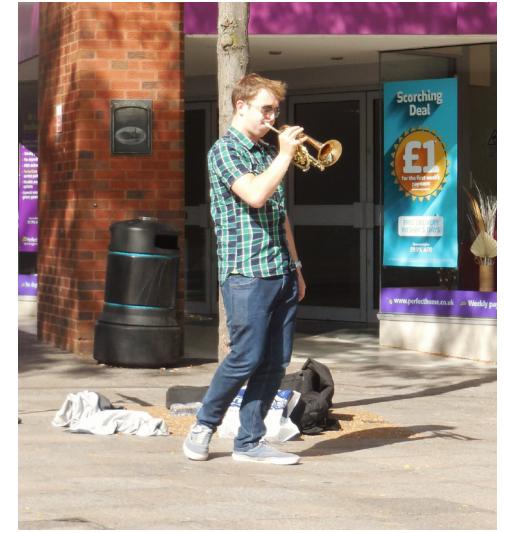
Ollie Orton *Sport Editor*



What's the happiest you've ever been?

The happiest I've ever been was when I was really young, around four or five. Early on Saturday mornings, when my parents were still asleep, I used to sneak into my brother's room (who is about six years older than me) because he had a PlayStation. We would sit for hours playing games together. The most memorable occasion was when we were playing Final Fantasy IX (which is still my favourite game to date). We usually argued loads, but on those mornings we didn't - probably because our parents were asleep!

Sian Bradley *Spine Editor*



What's something you're struggling with right now?

I am struggling to get Pharrell Williams's 'Happy' out of my head. After a summer of busking as one half of a brass duet, it's probably not too much of an exaggeration to say I've blown through it a thousand times, dancing around town like a performing monkey because that's the one song people of all ages seemed to like. It always feels like an injustice when decent tunes don't get enough exposure, until one finally makes it to number one, is overplayed and becomes irritating. Woe is the vicious circle.

Simon James *Arts & Ents Editor*



If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?

I think this is a tough question - but I think I would change my inability to make decisions and stick by them. Growing up, I wanted to try everything and never made the decision to stick with one thing. I was so lucky that whatever sparked my interest as a child my Mum did her best to provide for me, so I had lessons in viola, piano and ballet - to name a few. But after only a few years tuition (usually) my mind would wander and I'd find the next thing so incredibly interesting that I would lose focus on what I had previously been learning. Sometimes I wonder how different my life would be if I had focused on Violin and really excelled at it.



What's the most frightened you've ever been?

The other day I decided to venture up onto a golf course to try get a good view of the sunset and take some photos, but got a bit carried away and didn't notice how quickly it was starting to get dark. Needless to say I ended up lost in the dark in the middle of a golf course I didn't know my way around. I tend to panic a lot, and the thought of not knowing where I was was terrifying at the time.

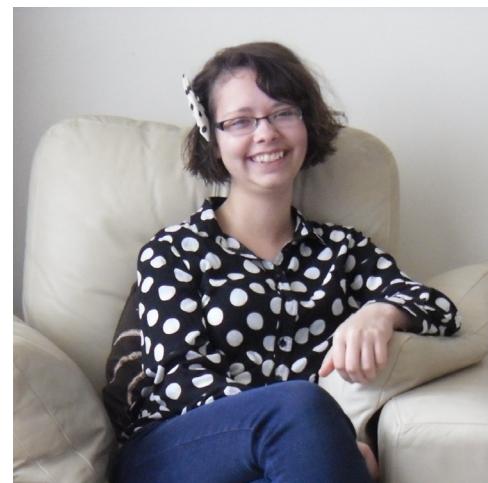
Sammie Caine *Head of Photography*



What's something you're struggling with?

I think the main thing I'm struggling with right now is the future. I just turned 20 and I didn't enjoy it at all. I've always been good at being a teenager and the idea of being an adult terrifies me. I listen to a lot of pop punk and dress like a 15 year old boy (but probably with more skirts) most of the time - I am definitely not ready to apply for graduate jobs and start drinking coffee and do grown up stuff.

Ellie Vowles *Carolynne Editor*



What's the nicest thing someone's ever done for you?

My year six teacher at primary school once read a long story I had written out of school to the class because she wanted to encourage me to keep writing. She had to read it in instalments as it was quite long! It was embarrassing at the time, but now I look back and realise just how kind she was to give up class time to encourage me. I still keep in touch with her now, and thinking about that time motivates me whenever I'm struggling to write! I've also kept the story that I wrote, but it's a bit cringey to read now.

Julia Molloy *Production Assistant*

Rachel Hughes *Production Assistant*

FOOD ON A BUDGET

Step away from the frozen pizza, put down the take-out menu and forget all the nasty things you've heard about food at university. With a bit of time, effort and savvy shopping, there's no need to sacrifice all things healthy and fresh in favour of junk food! Here's how to make the most of your money:

Know your options

Ordering food online is fast, cheap and convenient. Sites like mysupermarket.com let you compare prices and you can halve your delivery costs by ordering with a friend. If you prefer to see your food before you buy it, head into town. There's a free weekly Sainsbury's bus from campus and a farmer's market with cheap fresh produce twice a week.

Set a weekly limit

Set aside a fixed sum of money for groceries every week. Split this into two – e.g. £20 and another £5 in case you run out of milk halfway through. This will make you think twice about buying things you don't really need and doing a big weekly shop instead of smaller ones throughout will save you lots of money in the long run.

Prioritise your foods

I love avocados and fresh raspberries as much as the next person but there's no denying that they are expensive. So when it comes to putting together a shopping list, treat yourself to a few of these items every so often, but for the most part focus on the many other equally healthy but cheaper options out there like apples or bananas.

Go meat free

Replacing meat with alternative sources of protein (think chickpeas, lentils etc.) just two to three times a week can already significantly decrease your food expenditures. It's better for your health and the environment too.

Buy frozen

Frozen fruit and vegetables are always in season and packed full of nutrients. They often come in bigger batches, keep much longer and are cheaper too – so if you do have to buy those berries, buy them frozen.

Cook double and freeze

Yes, that ready-meal might be cheaper than buying all the ingredients and cooking-from-scratch, but it's a price difference that quickly disappears when you cook in large batches. Freeze leftovers in meal-sized portions for later in the week.

ANNA MENG *LIFESTYLE EDITOR*
✉ @a1km

RECIPES

ONE-POT CURRY



This one-pot dish has become one of my favourite meals lately and it's surprisingly easy to cook. On top of that, it's also a great meal to share with your flat mates! All you need is an ovenproof pot or large pan with a lid and a few cheap, easy-to-find ingredients. This serves 4, but you can easily adapt the quantities for more or less people without worrying about being too precise.

Ingredients

900g chicken breast fillets (approximately)
1 chopped onion
2 cloves of garlic
2 tablespoons of curry powder
1 tablespoon of olive oil
300g basmati rice
750ml chicken stock (stock cubes are the easiest option)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C.
2. Cut the chicken into large chunks (halves or quarters should do), then mix together the chicken and curry powder in a large bowl, making sure to evenly coat the chicken with the curry.
3. Place the pot/large pan over a medium heat, add the oil and cook the chicken until browned and sealed. Once you've done this, remove the chicken and put it on a plate.
4. Next, cook the onion and garlic on a low heat in the same pot until the onion is soft and golden. Add the rice and keep stirring for 2 minutes whilst it cooks.
5. Return the chicken to the pot by layering it on top of the rice, then gently pour in the chicken stock.
6. Cover the pot with a lid and place it in the oven for around 45 minutes. (Yes, it takes a bit of time to cook, but it's something you can make when you get back from lectures. You can carry on with something else whilst letting it cook without having to keep an eye on it.)
7. After about 45 minutes the rice should be nice and tender and the chicken should be cooked through. You can have this by itself or with some salad and mango chutney.

SAMMIE CAINE *HEAD OF PHOTOGRAPHY*
✉ @sammiephoto

FALAFEL



Falafel is one of those foods that taste so good I can hardly believe how healthy it is. And, because it is so many miles away from the standard jar of Tikka Masala with a bit of chicken I assumed it would be complex to make and far too difficult for a cook-in-training like me to even think about making. But I decided to challenge myself and I can safely say that it paid off. It was delicious and surprisingly simple – the first time I made mine I ate them all on the spot. They're so delicious and guilt-free - how can you say no?

Ingredients

2 tsp oil
2 small onions
2 garlic cloves
2 cans of chickpeas (400g)
2 tsp ground cumin
2 tsp ground coriander
2 handfuls of fresh parsley
1 egg

Method

1. Prepare the onion by chopping it finely and crush the garlic cloves.
2. Heat the oil in a large pan and fry the garlic and onion on a low heat for five minutes.
3. Wash and drain the chickpeas and mix them in a bowl with the garlic, onion, cumin and coriander. Mash the mixture with a fork until all the chickpeas are completely broken down. Stir in the parsley.
4. Beat the egg in a separate bowl before adding it to the mix and squishing it together with your hands.
5. Mould the mix into twelve balls and then flatten them into patties.
6. With the oil left in the pan fry the falafel on a medium heat for 5 minutes on each side. Do not flip them too regularly as they will begin to crumble.
7. Wait until they are firm and golden brown.
8. Serve with pita bread, salad and hummus.

ABIGAIL DAVIES *FEATURES EDITOR*
✉ @AbigailDavies_

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Lancaster's sporting people

To explain why sport is such an important part of Lancaster life, SCAN Sports Editors Ollie Orton and Ben Ingham spoke to various members of the University's sporting community and discussed their experiences with them.

JONATHAN SPICER

Social Secretary of Lancaster University Fencing Club

What is your Lancaster sporting experience?

Having fenced at school, I became involved with the fencing club at Lancaster in Freshers Week last year. I could see immediately that sport means a lot to people in Lancaster and that sport here would mean a lot to me.

Everyone at the fencing club was warm, friendly and made me feel welcome at training, qualities which were matched with incredible passion and camaraderie displayed when our teams were competing.

I could see immediately that sport means a lot to people in Lancaster and that sport here would mean a lot to me.

Our year culminated with promotion to the Northern Premier division and an emphatic win at Roses. By that time sport at Lancaster had become a huge part of my university life.

Why is sport so important at Lancaster?

Sport means a lot all over campus, not just to me and not just to the fencers here. A lot of the teams here socialise and train together. They recognise that they can benefit each other.

Sport means a lot all over campus, not just to me and the fencers.

This is most apparent at Roses, where the entire university turns



out to support every single sports team, including ones they might not usually follow or be interested in. The sense of community over Roses weekend has really stuck

with me over the summer, as it was something I had not previously experienced.

Nothing will sum up what sport at Lancaster means for me more

than our club president hugging me after winning our Roses match and I hope to do the same next year.

ANYA RASAIAH

Member of Lancaster University Women's Basketball Team

It can be daunting turning up for trials at a society. How was it for you?

When I first went to trials in my first year, I remember being quite nervous, especially considering I hadn't played for several years. But my fears quickly vanished.

Everyone worked hard to make sure I felt comfortable, and hopefully this year I can help our new intake of students feel as relaxed as I did.

ble, and hopefully this year I can help our new intake of students feel as relaxed as I did after my trials.

There's a great variety of experience on the team and it's so internationally diverse – you get to meet so many different people. We don't just recruit based on talent; potential is a big factor too, so don't doubt yourself and go and try out!

We don't just recruit based on talent; potential is a big factor too.

What's the proudest moment you've had as part of your society?

If you're passionate, enthusiastic and ready to learn, it's a great place to start. Everyone worked hard to make sure I felt comforta-



Jay Theis

In the last few years we've gone from strength to strength. We've been the highest achieving sports team at the University, and have been awarded LUSU's Team of the Year two years in a row! We've topped the league, conference

cup and won our Roses matches consistently.

The feeling when the sports hall erupted and our team secured the Roses 2014 victory was something else; the game was being live

streamed all over the world and it rounded off an amazing season. It felt like the whole university was there supporting us, and the atmosphere in the sports hall was beyond anything I've been a part of.

ERIK APTER**Sports Editor of SCAN 2013 - 2014**

Why should you get involved with sport at Lancaster?

I think anybody who has been at Lancaster for more than a year will realise just how huge sport is at this university. It goes without saying that being part of a team or club will bring friendship, nights out and quality competition, but the support given to teams may catch some people by surprise. It's not uncommon to see sporting events accompanied by encouraging spectators, shouting their support to whoever they're watching.

It goes without saying that being part of a team or club will bring friendship.

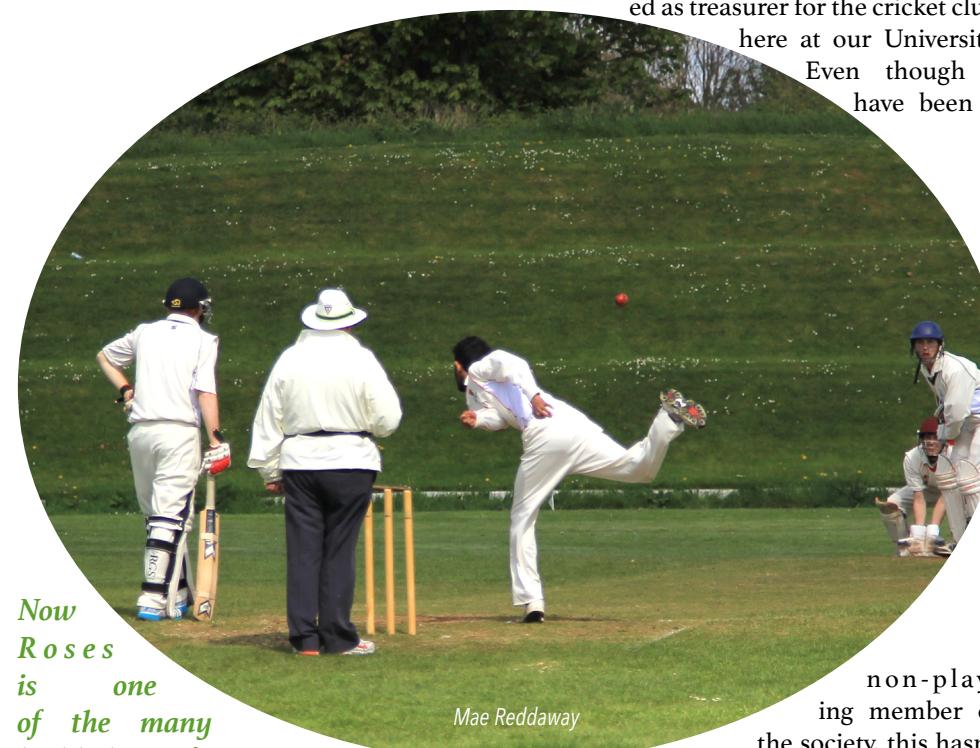
What is your sporting highlight of the year?

Nothing epitomises the huge support at Lancaster like Roses, as even the most apathetic and unenthused sportspeople will tell you. Whether it's at Lancaster or York, streams of red shirts, banners and faces shout their support for the Red Rose, as Lancaster, for a weekend at least, goes sporting mad.

There's no better time to be had at Lancas-

ter than soaking in the Roses atmosphere surrounded by your friends, enjoying a few drinks and watching us beat York. I didn't even know what Roses was before I came here. Now it's one of the many highlights of every academic year.

*Now
Roses
is one
of the many
highlights of every
academic year.*



Mae Reddaway

throughout my life, it's a place where I have found a lot of happiness at Lancaster. While the club spends a lot of time training and playing matches, to be one of the guys and to be elected to a position of the exec shows that the club welcomes everyone.

What are you looking forward to this year?

While I am a great lover of cricket, I have never possessed great cricketing ability. But this year I hope to take part in the third team Roses match, as well as going on tour towards the end of the academic year. This year we have an away Roses match (the club has many adopted Lancastrians from Yorkshire – including myself) and with our first team narrowly losing to York last year, everyone at the club is ready for some revenge.

Both first and second teams can challenge for promotion as well, so there's so much to look forward to, and hopefully we can emulate my home county of Yorkshire and win the league!

***The club is a great place to meet friends.
I've found a lot of happiness here.***

Societies of Lancaster: Korfball

One of the most successful sport clubs here at the University is our korfball club. Last year the first and second teams each finished top of their divisions; the first team didn't even drop a single point in the entire season. But what is korfball? Hopefully this will try to answer that question, but it will also tell you why you should try korfball out this year.

Originating in Holland, korfball is a mixed team sport played across the world in over 50 countries. It is a court-based ball sport in which teams of men and women compete to shoot a ball through a bottomless basket, otherwise known as a "korf", which sits upon a post reaching 3.5 metres high. There are two posts on the court, sitting at either end, acting as goals to attack and defend.

There are two teams made up of eight players, who are split into two "divisions" of four players –

two men and two women. The court in korfball is split into two halves, sometimes called zones. Once both teams have decided on their formation, they are sent to each half of the court to either attack or defend. Once the game is underway and two goals have been scored, the divisions on both teams swap ends of the court, giving everyone a chance to play in both defensive and offensive roles.

There are no set positions in korfball which means movement on the court is almost unrestricted, giving the game a great level of fluidity. This fluidity leads to some fast and exciting action. An important factor is that a player can only mark someone of the same gender. This neutralises any potential imbalances through gender differences.

Whether you're looking for a competitive sport that you can throw yourself into, or just sim-



Salman Rukshar

ply something to try after a long week of lectures and seminars, the University's korfball club is for you. It doesn't matter if you've never played a sport before, or you have represented your country at an international sporting level, we welcome anyone and everyone. As a club member I can say that

the team are really friendly and welcoming, with the more experienced players willing to offer advice about things on or off the court.

Joining a sporting team isn't just about the sporting activity itself; you're joining a family, and a community with people from all

backgrounds being brought together through playing korfball. Korfball is a sport anybody can play. Everyone should at least have a go at trying it out. Give the sport a chance this year – you won't regret it.

BEN CLAY

Should there be a 39th Premier League game?

YES

The recent proposals by Premier League Chief Executive Richard Scudamore have brought a considerable amount of scrutiny, but I do think that there is some value in the suggestion.

After he initially proposed the 39th game concept in 2008, many thought that it had disappeared, yet Scudamore believes there is genuine merit in the idea. It may not appeal to those with a romantic view of the English game, but for those driven by financial results, it makes a great deal of sense to bring in a 39th game.

It may not appeal to those with a romantic view of the English game, but for those driven by financial results, it makes a great deal of sense to bring in a 39th game.

One of the main arguments for the 39th game is the success of recent trips to the USA. When Liverpool played Manchester City in a recent friendly at Yankee Stadium in New York, 49,653 supporters packed into the ground. To put this into perspective, the highest attendance for any Yankees game last season was 48,572.

Game 39 would allow all teams an equal share of a potentially enormous new income.

The World Cup also drew audiences like never before with cities across the USA being packed out with new football supporters and viewing figures across the country at record levels. Not only does this prove that an appetite would be there for overseas matches, it also demonstrates a market that could be potentially tapped into by the Premier League, bringing in new revenue streams and a whole new generation of fans.

West Ham co-chairman David Gold also believes that each team playing in a 39th game would result in a fairer distribution of wealth often created when teams travel abroad during pre-season friendlies. This pre-season, Manchester United played five high-profile games in the USA, whereas Hull stayed at home and played teams such as Harrogate and

York City – respectable teams, but not bringing in anywhere near the same amount of revenue as game 39 would. Game 39 would allow all teams an equal share of a potentially enormous new income.

As many English NFL teams will testify, there was a fair amount of opposition to holding an American Foot-



ball game away from the States at Wembley stadium. However, the success of the NFL at Wembley is undisputed.

The financial benefits are again clear for all to see.

With 84,000 fans packing Wembley each time a game is held, and TV figures up 35% thanks to the game (according to NFL England), the financial benefits are again clear for all to see.

OLLIE ORTON SPORTS EDITOR

NO

In no way would I describe myself as a prescriptive football fan. In fact, there are plenty aspects of modern football that I fully embrace. The improvement in the science of the game has seen a more technical, quicker and safer sport develop over the course of the last 30 years. I enjoy the constant media coverage, the obsession with tactics and even (whisper

In the majority of cases, ticket prices are obscenely expensive at the top of English football and overpriced at the bottom. Fans are neglected for corporate suits in big matches and so the modern game-going fan suffers.

Scudamore's recent comments that he still supports the idea of a 39th overseas game in the Premier League (despite the lashing it got back when it was proposed in 2008) outlines the emphasis placed on turning a profit in today's game. The fact the Chief Executive of the Premier League supports this proposal isn't surprising, but it is disappointing; an integral member of the league should want to protect its integrity over making a profit. It's a horrible idea that will not only deface the league, but gives a big middle finger to all hardworking supporters who spend their cash on supporting their team.

The idea stems from the various NFL games that have been held at Wembley since 2007 and the positive reception that has been generated towards the NFL in this country ever since.

The idea is that a similar Premier League venture could be done in various stadiums across the world, with venues bidding against each other for the chance to host the matches, and clubs pocketing around five million for the game.

Let's not also forget the huge logistical problems of hosting a 39th game. Playing one team three times is a recipe for disaster.

Once again the cusp of the issue comes to finance. Top flight sports teams in America are called franchises: essentially businesses, not clubs.

Let's not also forget the huge logistical problems of hosting a 39th game. Playing one team three times is a recipe for disaster. Relegation and titles are decided by less than three points on a regular basis; playing an extra game will favour some teams and inhibit others at both ends of the table.

There are still a whole host of issues that the Premier League needs to address and a 39th game is certainly not one of them.

ERIK APTER ASSISTANT EDITOR
@EAPTER93

WANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY? TWEET US AT @SCANLU WITH YOUR THOUGHTS.

How 2014 became Rory McIlroy's year



Kevin Boyes from Press Eye

Every sport has one or two players who seem to perform above everyone else or whose talent seems to shine through. These individuals are the reason people watch the sport and kids often emulate these icons in their back gardens – Lionel Messi in football; Ronnie O’Sullivan in his prime, who was untouchable on a snooker table; Shane Warne who, at his best, had an ability to change a game of cricket that few have ever possessed.

Following a big sponsorship deal with Nike in 2013, the man from Northern Ireland struggled during the year to find the form that propelled him to world number one, and when his engagement to tennis star Caroline Wozniacki fell through, he could have taken some time off and fallen away from the sport.

You've got to be born with the ability to go beyond what normal people are capable of.

When documentaries are shown of McIlroy’s career in the future, however, they might view that break-up as the catalyst for a golden period for McIlroy. The day after they announced their split, he won his first event on either tour for 18 months in the form of the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth. McIlroy may have just started to step into those big shoes this year.

McIlroy found his game invigor-

ated, going on to dominate and win the Open Championship. Not since Woods had a player won both the Silver Medal (awarded to the leading amateur) and the Gold Medal (awarded to the winner) in their career. He became the first European to win three different majors, and joined Woods and Jack Nicklaus as one of three who had won three different majors before the age of 26.

If his season had stopped there, it would have marked a return to form for one of the truly great golfers in the world today. But truly great players aren’t content with victories if they come and go, and McIlroy is a truly great player. After returning to the top of the world rankings with his win at the Bridgestone Invitational, he went and did what top players do; he won another major, adding the PGA Championship to his list of trophies for the year. He narrowly lost out on topping the Fedex money list, but when you consider he hadn’t won a

tour event for 18 months before he won at Wentworth, the year has been extraordinary. Leading the world golf rankings by almost 200 points, winning two majors, and being named PGA of America and the Vardon Trophy player of the year show just how amazing a year it has been.

There’s also a very good chance he could win PGA Tour Player of the year in October, but 2014 isn’t over yet. Scotland will once again be under the glare of the media as the Ryder Cup is hosted at Gleneagles. The European team will be confident on their own turf, and when you can boast the best player in the world, they have reason to be.

I remember watching McIlroy fall apart at Augusta in 2010, blowing a four-shot lead going in to the final day of the Masters. I remember thinking: how could anyone come back from something as horrifying as that? But later that year he obliterated the field at the US Open and won his first major,

breaking records in the process.

McIlroy has the ability to take charge against the opposition in the Ryder Cup.

While he will have his eyes firmly on the Masters next year, right now the young man from Moneyreagh will be focused on another Ryder Cup win. The US team will be out for revenge after they collapsed at Medinah two years ago, and McIlroy has the ability and the form to take charge against opposition who have been hurting and are eyeing an upset.

McIlroy really has the potential to carry golf into a new era, and like all the greats before him, the only thing that can stop him now is himself.

BEN INGHAM SPORTS EDITOR
@DUKEOFBENINGHAM

EDITORIAL

Get involved with SCAN Sports

Sports Editor Ollie Orton welcomes you to a new academic year of sport at Lancaster, and tells you how you can get involved in SCAN's sports coverage.



George Allard

Hello and welcome to the beginning of SCAN's sports coverage for the upcoming academic year. In particular I extend a welcome to all first year students that are beginning their time at Lancaster – I hope you all love it here.

One of the things that makes Lancaster so unique is the way sports and competitions are structured. To name just a handful of events

that will be occurring over the year, we have the Patriots Cup and Founders, two of the many inter-college sporting competitions. This term also sees the beginning of the exceptionally popular Bar Sports – you can read more about the wonderful world of Lancaster Bar Sports in this issue. The strength in depth and variety of sport at Lancaster is also superb; last year, Lancaster

had 47 different teams entered in the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) league programme.

The absolute highlight of the sporting calendar, as many of you will already know, is Roses, the annual battle between the red rose of Lancaster and the white of York. Each and every sport on campus gets a chance to battle their Yorkshire counterparts, culminating in the biggest inter-varsity competition in the whole of Europe. Having gloriously triumphed on home soil in May 2014, we travel to York in 2015 in an attempt to win away for the first time since 1985.

Throughout the year we also present match reports and analysis of major campus sporting events.

If you are lucky enough to be a

competitor in Roses 2015, SCAN will be there to report on it with, we hope, the largest Lancaster student media team ever to report on a York-based Roses. If you have any interest in sport, I would encourage you to get involved with SCAN Sports throughout the upcoming academic year. Last year, we had a team of sports reporters at almost every event at Roses, live-blogging and reporting on all the key events. This coverage brought nation-wide acclaim, and is something we hope to replicate this year.

Throughout the year we also present match reports, analysis of major campus sporting events and national and international sports coverage in the newspaper and online (www.scan.lusu.co.uk/section/sport/). Crucially, you do not need to be an experienced journalist to write for us, indeed far from it. Most people who write in this paper had never attempted anything like it before coming

to university. It truly is a case of if you want to get involved and be part of the team, please get in contact. We are not going to dictate what people write about either – if you want to write anything about sport, we have the platform for you to get your opinions published.

Training is available for any new writers, and there will be weekly meetings to discuss ideas for upcoming issues of the paper. You can write as many or as few articles you like – there is no obligation or pressure to regularly churn out articles. If this seems like something you're interested in, come and find us at the Freshers' Fair, join the Facebook group by searching SCAN Sports 2014-15, email us at scan.sports@lusu.co.uk or add me, or Ben Ingham, the other Sport Editor on Facebook.

Best of luck for the year ahead!

OLLIE ORTON SPORTS EDITOR

JUST PLAY

If you would like to get involved in sport and would like the opportunity to be active while at University, then thanks to Sport England, LUSU along with the University, are now able to offer a variety of none committal low cost activities for everyone.

All sessions are £1. Please wear suitable clothing (Sports trainers and shorts or tracksuit bottoms). Bring a bottle of water and sweat towel. Sessions commence Monday 6th October and run throughout term time.



SESSION	DAY	TIME	VENUE
Basketball	Monday	9-11am	Sports Centre
Trampolining	Monday	10am-12pm	Sports Centre
Beginners Running	Monday	6-7pm	TBC
Fencing	Tuesday	3.30-5.30pm	Sports Centre
Table Tennis	Tuesday	6-8pm	TBC
Volleyball	Wednesday	9-11am	Sports Centre
Athletics	Wednesday	TBC	TBC
Swimming	Wednesday	8.15-10pm	Sports Centre
Archery	Thursday	9-11am	Sports Centre
Basketball	Thursday	3-5pm	Sports Centre
Touch Rugby	Thursday	3.30-5.30pm	3G Pitch
Indoor Climbing*	Thursday	8-9.30pm	Sports Centre
Futsal	Friday	10-12pm	Sports Centre
Squash	Friday	5.20-6.40pm	Sports Centre
Wheelchair Basketball	Friday	7-8pm	Salt Ayre**
Netball	Saturday	10.30-12.30pm	Outdoor Netball Court
Touch Rugby	Saturday	12.30-2.30pm	3G Pitch
Cycling*	Saturday	TBC	TBC
Badminton	Sunday	TBC	TBC
Tennis	Sunday	11am-1pm	Outdoor Tennis Courts
Swimfit	Sunday	1.30-2.30pm	Sports Centre

This timetable will be regularly updated. For the latest version please visit lusu.co.uk/sport

*Booking required please email r.barnes@lancaster.ac.uk

** If transport is required please contact r.barnes@lancaster.ac.uk



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Thomas Sabo
STERLING SILVER
GLAM & SOUL

Lancaster University: The home of bar sports



Jay Theis

There are many things that you may come to associate with the University: our amazing campus, the great rivalry we have with York at Roses, or even our collegiate system.

However, what you might not know is that we also have a thriving bar sports community. Thanks to our collegiate system, the University has grown and nurtured a unique environment in which those old pub sports of pool, darts and dominoes have grown in prominence year in, year out.

What you might not know is that we also have a thriving bar sports community.

Each of our colleges has their own men's and a woman's darts

team in addition to several pool teams for men and women. The shining light of them all, though, is each college's dominoes team – which pretty much everyone enjoys! Starting a sport which you've never tried before is daunting, but you'd be amazed how many members of these teams had never played before.

You'd be amazed how many members of these teams had never played before.

You don't need any level of ability before joining these teams and the initial try-outs are always brimming with a mix of experienced sportspeople and those new to bar sports. In addition to the college

leagues, we also have University teams for those who want to go up to the "elite" level (sadly, we have not formed a dominoes society yet but surely it will be on the horizon soon).

I can honestly say that playing bar sports was the most fun I've ever had whilst I've been here.

During most of my undergraduate time at Lancaster, I played both darts and dominoes for my college (spending most of my time in the college bars) and I can honestly say it was the most fun I've ever had whilst I've been here.

The amount of friends you make and the laughs you have are what

truly make the atmosphere of the Monday and Tuesday evening games against other colleges. It's not unnatural for some of the games to draw large crowds, and the darts clashes at Roses are always some of the most popular matches at the event.

Each college will be advertising try outs during or after Freshers' Week and you should really give it a go.

Each college will be advertising try outs during or after Freshers' Week for all of these activities and you should really give it a go. Even if you're only interested in trying out darts, or you fancy yourself at a bit of pool, most people will start with one and try the others out as

they go along! I don't think anyone starts out wanting to play dominoes, but by the end of first term, applications for the college dominoes captaincy for the following year are already being discussed!

Take advantage of the facilities your college has to offer and get involved.

So take advantage of the facilities your college has to offer, go down to your local college bar, put a 50p coin in the pool table, or get some darts or the dominoes set from the bar, and get involved. I assure you, you won't regret it!

PATRICK SOMERVELL

IN THIS ISSUE, FIND OUT ABOUT MORE OF LANCASTER'S SPORTS AS WE TALK TO SOME OF THE UNIVERSITY'S SPORTING PEOPLE ON PAGES 42-43.