NEW MUSEUMS SITE: An iconic whale skeleton, suspended above the entrance of Cambridge University’s Museum of Zoology for the past 26 years, has been dismantled and put into storage as part of the museum’s £3.67 million refurbishment programme.

Is Oxbridge rule illegal?

The ban on undergraduate students applying to both Oxford and Cambridge could be in breach of EU competition law, warn legal experts

The understanding that exists between Oxford and Cambridge, which prevents prospective undergraduates from applying to both universities, may be an infringement of competition law, according to legal experts.

According to reports in *Times Higher Education*, experts in competition law say privately that the current University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) policy, which asks applicants to decide on a choice of no more than five universities, could also be disputed.

Dennis Farrington, Professor of Law at the South East European University and the co-author of *The Law of Higher Education*, recently commented on the prestige of Oxford and Cambridge and the effect that this may have on potential applicants. Farrington remarked that while he would “not like to stick my neck out and say this is definitely the case, there may be an element of uncompetitive practice here given the pre-eminence of those universities and their domination of the market”.

Neither Oxford nor Cambridge currently allows for any potential undergraduate student to include both institutions when submitting an application through UCAS. Oxford and Cambridge are the only universities in the UK to use this practice, and it means that they will not be forced to compete with one another for students. The rule does not affect any potential candidates applying for an organ scholarship or students either wishing to study for a postgraduate course or a second undergraduate degree.

Sarah Alldina, a third year linguist at St. Catharine’s College, said: “I think that one lot of exams is overwhelming and taking both the exams for Cambridge and Oxford and then sitting the interviews would probably take a toll on your mental health, [but] if people are willing to do both then that’s their choice. Also I think that most people don’t find it difficult to choose between the two – they usually have a preference.”

A spokesman for the University of Cambridge said: “The rule benefits students by accommodating the University’s holistic admissions selection process, which is central to our commitment to fair admissions and enables students from all backgrounds to demonstrate their potential. If the rule were removed, the inevitable increase in applications to Cambridge would mean that we were unable to consider applications at the level of detail which is vital for widening access and which benefits all prospective undergraduate applicants.”

The rule was instigated in the 1980s when both universities were members of the Universities Central Council on Admissions, which was later amalgamated into UCAS.
A not so fresh start?

Given the number of columns inches that have been dedicated to Freshers' Week in the past month, you'd be forgiven for thinking the whole affair must be over by now. In Cambridge, however, change comes at a glacial pace – if at all – and as such it is only now that we've finally reached October and our own version of the, optimistically named, Freshers' Week is getting underway.

With the new term comes all the predictable problems faced by returning students: trying to make watching cricket, its 24/7 all day sound like an exciting way to spend a summer, and the impossible task of finding your new room in the pitch dark at 3am. For Cambridge's newest students there are also a whole range of Cantab idiocysnacies to grapple with, such as why – despite all evidence to the contrary – the University insists on believing that the week starts on a Thursday.

Despite its eccentricities providing no end of entertainment for students and staff alike, there is something soothing in the knowledge that, however fleeting our own university experience may seem, Cambridge will remain long after we have left its halls and courts behind us. The same suppositions, dissertation madness and exam panic will remain, as will the crippling realisation that everybody else is smarter than you that all, but a few, of us suffer through in our first term.

Cambridge's security comes, in a large part, from its financial investments which have been thrust back into the spotlight this week by a new investigation into the colleges' investment portfoilo. An information requests submitted by the CUSU Ethical Affairs Team, and trawled through by Varsity reporters, have revealed the full range of companies in which colleges invest their funds. Some of these companies are naturally innocuous but others raise troubling questions about the way our current investment systems work.

The investigation highlighted that colleges have investments in companies such as Anglo American, GlaxoSmithKline and Rio Tinto which have been criticised for human rights abuses, healthcare fraud and the devastating impact they have on the natural environment respectively.

For Cambridge to be able to maintain the student bursaries, world-class academic instruction and historic city that currently make attending Cambridge such a worthwhile experience it is vital that it continues to be able to raise funds and utilise its investments for maximum financial gain.

Many colleges use indirect investments through a tracking fund to do this, meaning they have no choice over where their money goes. As such, it is hard for them to take action to ensure their investments remain ethically sound.

However, in the long term investments such as these can only damage the University's reputation. Colleges must address the ethical dilemmas involved when investing their funds. Only then will we be able to preserve Cambridge for future generations, safe in the knowledge that we have a clean slate.
Should have gone to the Other Place?
Cambridge languishes in seventh place for the second year running, five place behind Oxford

Martha Elwell
NEWS EDITOR

Cambridge has been named the world’s seventh highest-ranking university by the Times Higher Education University Rankings 2013-2014, holding onto its position from last year.

The California Institute of Technology has been ranked as the world’s leading university for the third year running, followed by Harvard University and Oxford, which hold joint second place.

The Times Higher Education (THE) University Rankings are widely considered to be amongst the most prestigious world university rankings, alongside the QS World University Rankings and the Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU). In judging a university’s place in the rankings, the THE University Rankings give particular weighting to the standards of teaching, research and extent of influence of research. They are the only world university rankings to put arts, humanities and social sciences research on an equal footing with the sciences.

The rankings confirm the UK as the strongest nation in the higher education sector outside the US. They place thirty-one UK universities within the world top 200. The US has seven universities in the top 10 places and seven in the rankings overall.

However, concerns have been raised over an apparent pattern of decline amongst some UK universities. While the ‘golden triangle’ of London, Oxford and Cambridge has made net gains on the table – with London boasting four top-40 universities (more than any other city) and six world top 200 universities – many universities from outside the Southeast have been demoted.

Manchester, Bristol, Edinburgh, Sheffield, Warwick, Southampton, Nottingham and Newcastle universities have all fallen one or more places. Some of these universities have fallen over three consecutive years. The University of Manchester, which was ranked 48th in the world in 2011-12 has now fallen to 58th place. Likewise, Bristol University, ranked 66th in 2011-12, is now in 79th place.

Phil Baty, editor of the Times Higher Education Rankings, said: “While the UK remains stable nationally, this masks significant movement among individual institutions. Our analysts have found that there are clear signs of increasing diversification in the UK system, suggesting that marketisation is driving change and causing greater stratification.”

With a growing North-South divide apparent in other major sectors the shift in higher education quality and research capabilities away from major regions in the UK could have major economic impacts, chief among them a diminished ability to attract and nurture investment. An example of this phenomenon is provided by pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca’s decision earlier this year to relocate its main research facility from Cheshire to Cambridge, citing considerations about proximity to world-class research in the biosciences and access to talented and highly trained researchers.

The trend of concentrating higher education in London and the Southeast is underlined by the growing prevalence of UK universities based outside London setting up London campuses. The University of Liverpool in London and Coventry University are amongst these. Loughborough University has recently announced plans to establish a campus in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London, to be opened in 2015.

From a wider perspective the rankings show a shift towards the dominance of East Asian, as opposed to European, universities. Leading universities in Austria, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Russia, Belgium, Switzerland, and Ireland all fell. ETH Zürich, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, the world number one university outside the US and the UK, slipped two places to 14th. Germany’s University of Munich fell out of the world top 50.

This contrasts with progress for the majority of top East Asian Universities. Leading institutions in China, South Korea, Singapore and Japan made gains. The University of Tokyo maintained its status as Asia’s number one university, gaining four places to become 23rd worldwide.

“The vast majority of continental European leading institutions have slipped, while those leading the East Asian nations have for the most part risen yet again,” said Baty. He said that the changes reflect a long-term pattern. He said, “More Asian institutions are rapping at the heels of the best in the West, increasingly occupying world top 50 places and showing no signs of letting up.”

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**Churchill College will welcome first female Master next year**

Dame Athene Donald, Professor of Physics, is made new head of Churchill College

Chloe Clifford Astbury  
**NEWS CORRESPONDENT**

Churchill college is set to welcome its seventh Master in October 2014. Professor Dame Athene Donald DBE FRS will succeed the current Master, Professor Sir David Wallace CBE FRS. Dame Athene holds a BA in Natural Sciences and a PhD in Physics from Girton College, Cambridge. She undertook postdoctoral work at Cornell University before joining Cambridge’s Cavendish Laboratory in 1983. In 1998, she became Professor of Experimental Physics. She is also a fellow of Robinson College.

"It will be my challenge and privilege to help ensure the College’s continuing success on all fronts”

A Director of WiSETI (the University’s Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Initiative), Dame Athene is also a Fellow of the Royal Society, a member of the Campaign for Science and Engineering’s Advisory Council, and a trustee of the Science Museum Group. She was awarded the L’Oreal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science in 2009, and the UKRC’s Women of Outstanding Achievement’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. She has also been a champion for gender equality in the University.

Jennifer Brook, Bursar of Churchill College, said to *Femtum*: “We are all very excited about the appointment of the first female Master of Churchill College. As the College which was the first in Cambridge to vote for the admission of women as well as men in 1973, it is something we have aspired to for a long time. Dame Athene’s reputation as a scientist is also clearly aligned with the College’s mission.”

However Elaine Zhao, a second year student at Churchill, will be sad to see Sir David Wallace retire. “The old Master was really approachable and friendly, so hopefully our new Master will follow in those footsteps even if her ideas for running the college differ.”

[Wallace] came from working at Loughborough University hence wasn’t so familiar with the Cambridge traditions. He was just such an agreeable old man!”

Speaking about her appointment, Donald said: “It will be my challenge and privilege to help to ensure the College’s continuing success on all fronts and to develop its many strengths in the face of the rapidly changing climate of the UK’s Higher Education sector”. Dame Athene will be one of 10 female Masters at the university with others including Dame Fiona of Emmanuel and Professor Jean Thomas of St. Catherine’s.

The current Churchill Master, Professor Sir David Wallace, was also a physicist having been Director of the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge from 2006 until 2011. He completed his PhD in elementary particle theory under the direction of Sir Peter Higgs before completing postdoctoral work at Princeton University. He was later appointed President of the Institute of Physics and a CBE in 1996 for his contribution to computing.

Cambridge church for atheists opens

Georg Morris  
**NEWS CORRESPONDENT**

Cambridge’s first ‘atheist church’ is set to launch in the city in October. The Sunday Assembly, which has been organised by stand-up comedians Sanderson Jones and Pippa Evans is intended to capture the communal spirit of normal worship, but without any of the beliefs that are fundamental to normal churches.

Sunday Assemblies already take place in London, Brighton, Bristol, Melbourne and New York. The London group has a regular congregation of between 400 and 600 people, who gather to sing, listen to speeches from secular figures, and share tea and cake. Members of the group are also encouraged to get involved in community activities such as litter-picking.

The Assembly is part of a new wave within atheism. Over the past decade ‘New Atheists’ and ‘antitheists’, such as Richard Dawkins, have dominated the public eye.

Recently, however, a new approach has developed, with people like the Cambridge alumnus Alain de Botton arguing that not having a God shouldn’t prevent someone from having a spirituality, or even a church. In his 2012 book, Religion for Atheists, de Botton encouraged non-believers to “steal” the best bits from religion to help them lead a better life.

A free launch event at The Junction on 27th October is planned to be the beginning of this new movement in Cambridge.

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Visiting students threaten Oxbridge reputation

An internal Oxford report has expressed concerns that “associate students” do not meet the University's high academic standards, but does Cambridge have the same problem?

Jess Franklin
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

As UK universities come under increasing financial pressure, more and more are looking overseas for a lucrative source of revenue. The University of Oxford has recently come under fire in relation to its “associate students”, who generally have inferior qualifications to the typical Oxford undergraduate, and pay as much as £13,000 per term.

Although these students are not officially part of the University, senior Oxford academics have claimed that they “pose severe reputational risk” as a result of their “often low” academic ability.

The internal report added: “Although there is some assessment of their GPA [Grade Point Average] scores before they are admitted by each college, the transaction seems to be one of a purely commercial kind.”

At the University of Cambridge, the number of foreign students has also increased: in 2012 overseas students accounted for 22 percent of the intake, compared to 13.4 percent in 2004.

Some colleges also accept “visiting students”, who normally study in Cambridge for one year, and are not official members of the University. The only colleges to accept such students are Robinson, Fitzwilliam, Lucy Cavendish, Pembroke, Homerton, Newnham Magdalene and Peterhouse.

In contrast with the Oxford admissions policy, visiting students who wish to be affiliated with a college have to go through the same applications process as home students who apply through the Board of Graduate Studies. However, visiting students do not have the same status within the University as international undergraduates.

Government subsidies to universities have been cut back radically over the past decade. With UK student fees capped at £9,000 per annum, overseas students are proving to be a lucrative alternative. Tuition fees for overseas students at the UK's top universities are up to four times more expensive than those of domestic students.

Cambridge charges international students a premium of £4,500 per annum for studying most humanities subjects and for Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, the cost rises to four times the standard domestic rate of £9,000.

Russell Group Director General Dr Wendy Piatt said in 2011: “The UK must continue to attract the very best students from around the world”, arguing that there is a fierce global market for the best academic talent.

At the University of Cambridge, only 12.7 percent of overseas applicants are offered places, less than half the success rate for applicants from the UK.

However, Daniel Stevens, the NUS international students’ officer, chided British universities for treating overseas students as “cash cows” while a report published by the House of Commons Education and Skills Committee accused universities of being “driven by short-term gains in fee income”.

A spokesman from the University of Oxford said: “Associate members...pay a fee to use college facilities for a term. This is a way for colleges to make their facilities more widely available while earning income. Associate members are not Oxford University students and do not take up student places. They do not receive teaching and do not gain an Oxford qualification. All this is made clear upfront.

“Colleges make very clear both to associate members and to the outside world what associate membership does and does not involve, and have recently adopted a new code of practice to ensure that these differences are clearly and fully understood.”

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BAIN & COMPANY
Female graduates willing to accept second-rate jobs

Katharine Biddle  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

While the male-only days of universities are long gone, with the male-female ratio at Cambridge almost 50:50, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) recently revealed female graduates are more likely to head towards low-paying jobs beneath their skill level following departure from university.

According to the report published by the ONS, 25 per cent of women graduates are entering into “lower-middle” skill jobs, in essence those that do not require degrees, such as teaching assistants, care workers, and office administrators. These jobs are often dominated by women, regardless of whether or not they have a degree.

In stark contrast, the male-graduate representation in these employment sectors is at a mere 12.5 per cent. This is even more surprising when confronted by the fact that women on average obtain better grades during their university years, with 62 per cent holding First or 2:1 degrees compared with the 56 per cent found in their male counterparts.

“The longer you can start to put in place the safety nets for when things don’t go as planned, the better”

Christian Sweeney-Baied  
NEWS EDITOR

The Vice-Chancellor’s court records were recently released, detailing accusations, crimes and punishments from the 16th and 17th centuries.

The archivist of the project, Jackie Cox said of the records: “The papers include allegations, questions for witnesses, personal statements and letters, ...litigants’ voices rising off the page.”

The University once had powers ranging far beyond its modern remit of education. Between the 16th and 19th centuries the University of Cambridge had its own courts to try its members and senior townspeople, such as tailors and stationers who had business ties with the University.

William Corvell, a fellow of Queens’ College, was the subject of a 1595 criminal action in which he is accused of an adulterous affair with a married woman, Bridget Edmunds. Edmunds’ maid saw them “naughte together” with her “bare-legged without anie hosen on and having her perticate not laced.” Corvell is described as being “blustering and blowing verie much and afterwards... verie red in the face.”

Punishments for crimes were decided by the University, with prison and flagging among the sentences meted out for serious offences. Adulterous women were forced through the streets and cheating men spent time in the stocks. Criminals found guilty of lesser offences could face fines, suspension from their degree, and be forced to carry out various forms of public apology.

Many townspeople chose to be dealt with in the University courts as opposed to Church and borough courts as the University was quicker, more efficient and fairer.

Dr. Neil Jones, the University’s Senior Lecturer in Legal History told Ray: “The cataloguing and summarising of these records makes accessible a significant resource for those interested in the history of Cambridge, both town and university, and demonstrates once again the value of court records of all types in developing our understanding of the past.”

University’s criminal past revealed

Interestingly, it is not women in their twenties that face under-representation in top ranked careers. The issue instead comes when women hit their thirties, the period of time when most female graduates start a family.

From the data gathered by the ONS, within the age range 35 to 39, 66 per cent of the top earners are men, and by 45 and above this rises to 74 per cent.

Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer at Facebook accredits this surprising underrepresentation to women selling themselves short by a lack of confidence and an overburdened domestic duties lifestyle. She also believes that women should be willing to be open about their emotions at work and not be scared to show how they feel.

Emma Steward, co-founder of Timewise Foundation, a company that advises women on returning to careers, commented: “Women are continuing to compromise once they become mothers. They choose part-time work and that is the single biggest contributing factor on why they earn less than men.”

Eleanor Vignols, who graduated from Girton College in 1984 with a degree in French and German, was able to run her own business while raising two daughters, one of whom now attends Cambridge.

She said that the most important advice she could give to women aiming to retain a career after motherhood is to be prepared: “The longer in advance you can start to put in place the safety nets for when things don’t go as planned, the better.”

However, Vignols added that the preparation cannot just be the responsibility of women. She went on to say: “I think educating young men and women together about what having children entails would go a lot further to making it possible for women to go back to work than if only women are targeted.”
The millions of college funds held in unethical companies

Arms manufacturers, mining companies and multinationals accused of serious human rights offences are just some of the companies in which Cambridge colleges are found to have shareholdings.

Amy Hawkins  NEWSPAPER EDITOR

This summer, Rally has been working with the CUSU Ethical Affairs Committee on an investigation into the investment practices of Cambridge colleges. This has brought to light some colleges’ethically irresponsible revenue streams, and raises serious questions about the monetary source of the facilities and bursaries which we as students benefit so greatly from.

The University of Cambridge is the wealthiest university in Europe – as of 2011 its endowment is valued at £4.3 billion, of which £2.7 billion is tied directly to the colleges. A large proportion of individual colleges’ funding comes from direct and indirect commercial investments and funds.

The University’s Statement of Investment Responsibility, dated July 2009, states: “The primary... responsibility of the colleges is to maximise [their] financial return.” However, there are circumstances, described in Charity Commission guidance... and founded in judicial decisions, when the University may balance against its primary responsibility considerations of the ethical nature of investments.” This statement is not official policy however, unlike UCL, Oxford and St Andrews, all of which have explicit policies where, regardless of returns, ethical parameters are set on investments.

The colleges are separate legal entities from the University with their own independent charitable status, and most do not have explicit SRI policies. Two colleges which stood out in the investigation were Peterhouse and Trinity, the University’s oldest and richest colleges respectively.

Peterhouse College has no written investment policy, but its Governing Body states: “The College seeks to ensure that investments are not made in companies whose practices it believes to be in conflict with the charitable purposes of the College or likely to alienate a sizeable proportion of the members or beneficiaries of the College. In consequence the College currently excludes the shares of tobacco companies from its discretionary portfolio.”

Despite this, the College has investments in high-profile energy companies such as Surgutneftegaz, Novatek and BHP Billiton, all of which have been accused of complicity in corruption or human rights offences. In 2011, the consultancy firm RepRisk reported that 90 per cent of Pakistani villagers living near BHP’s Zamzama gas plant are living with toxic gases emitted by the plant.

Peterhouse also has over £14,000 invested in Royal Dutch Shell, the world’s largest mining company. In Nigeria, Shell has been accused of being complicit in crimes against humanity and torture. Three lawsuits were brought against Shell for these crimes in 2009, resulting in Shell paying out a $15.5 million settlement, but admitting no liability. The College declined to comment on the issue.

Trinity College has no such embargo on tobacco companies. The College has common stock holdings, a form of direct investment. The vehicle for these investments is a Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) tracker fund created and controlled by Trinity, which invests automatically in major worldwide companies, judged purely on the MSCI index.

By this measure, market performance is the only factor determining investment, meaning ethical concerns are not considered. In 2007 a report published by the charity War on Want accused Anglo American of breaching the human rights of their workers, as well as serious environmental pollution. The report said that the company benefitted from and exacerbated conflicts in areas of civil war such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, and that Anglo American had developed links with a “murderous armed group” in order to facilitate its gold mining operations. This claim was based on a 2005 report by Human Rights Watch.

Trinity also has direct investments in the Australian mining company Rio Tinto, which has been widely criticised for its devastating environmental impact in the country. In 2008, the Norwegian government divested itself of all its Rio Tinto shares, worth $820 million, and banned further investment in the company because of environmental concerns. Only this year, former master of Trinity College Lord Martin Rees delivered a speech at the British Science Festival expressing his concern over global carbon dioxide emissions.

Rory Landman, the Senior Bursar for Trinity College, said: “To common with many investors the College owns these investments through an index tracking fund which invests in all major companies worldwide.”

“The College is an investor of a size where we have our own segregated tracker fund which means that legally we own the underlying shares rather than owning a share of a fund. This has certain cost advantages.”

However, Daniel Macmillen from the CUSU Sustainable and Responsible Investment Committee said: “By abdicating their responsibility to uphold widely-shared moral principles... colleges have allowed their endowments to reap significant profits from environmental devastation and human rights abuses.

Like many organisations, The Church of England has to use investments to protect their assets against inflation. When investing they use a third party because there is no reason for the Church of England to have its own investment team. They therefore outsource this to experienced professionals. The third party (called a mutual fund) invests in several companies in order to reduce losses that may occur. If one company’s share price drops unexpectedly this can be offset by another company’s share price rising. It so happened that one of the companies that the mutual fund had shares in was Wonga. This was highly embarrassing for the Church of England as the Archbishop of Canterbury had previously spoken about how he would try and force Wonga out of business.

A direct investment is when you purchase the right to have some control over the company you are investing in. This control could range from having outright control of the business or part control, depending on the size of your purchase.

An indirect investment involves investing in a third party who will then use your money to invest in a business or several businesses. When undergoing investments of this type, the investor doesn’t have to be directly involved in the management of the business.

A large proportion of the charitable income generated by Cambridge colleges goes directly to the colleges. A large proportion of the charitable income generated by Cambridge colleges goes directly to the colleges. This is summer, Trinity seems to be taking no steps to distance itself from one of the world’s biggest polluters.

“Trinity College is the richest in Cambridge, and as such has its own investment fund.

Trinity College is the richest in Cambridge, and as such has its own investment fund.
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Sir David Frost dies aged 74

The former Varsity editor and popular broadcaster’s career in political journalism and satire made him one of the most respected media figures of his generation.

Amy Hawkins

Senior News Editor

The veteran television broadcaster and writer, Sir David Frost, has died at the age of 74 following a heart attack while aboard a cruise ship.

Frost, who was knighted in 1993, had a career that spanned many decades and genres – he first reached acclaim in the UK for his 1960s satirical programmes That Was the Week That Was and The Frost Report. However he found international fame in 1977 when a series of interviews with Richard Nixon induced the former president of the United States to admit guilt over the Watergate scandal.

In 1978, over three years after he had left the presidential suite, Frost found new success in Britain when he and fellow satirist and co-star Spike Milligan hosted the mockumentary The Two Ronnies.

Frost’s final years were marred by ill health, including cancer treatment, but he continued to work on television, radio, and radio, including a series of interviews with former US President George W. Bush.

He wrote: “Generations of Cambridge graduates will remember the fun and games of the Footlights and the Annual Variety,” Frost said.

In his work, Frost was known for his sharp wit and ability to ask probing questions, earning him the nickname “The Great Debate.”

“I feel absolutely blessed by this opportunity,” Donald Trump, the US President-elect, said in a statement. “I am very proud to have worked with this great man.”

**Picturehouse is threatened with closure after Cineworld takeover**

Nearly 14,000 have signed a petition to stop forced sale of the Cambridge cinema

Katherine Biddle

News Correspondent

Cinema-goers have reacted angrily against the potential sale of the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse, after the provisional results of the Competition Commission were published last month. Campaigners have voiced concerns about the rise in ticket prices due to the loss of competition in the area.

The Cineworld Group plc acquired the Arts Picturehouse last December, directly to the Competition Commission.

In addition to the petition, MP Julian Huppert has also expressed his concerns about the potential closure of the Picturehouse. In a letter to the competition commissioner, Julian Huppert said: “I am very proud to have worked with this great man.”

The Picturehouse serves a key role in Cambridge as the organiser of events, screenings, and services. It is the largest cinema in the city and one of the few to offer independent, foreign, and smaller festivals that are absent in the larger cinematic chains.

“Two of the biggest booths were for Granada and for the Footlights...I was very lucky to be able to do both”

London because we had so many people there, Peter Cook, John Cleese, Graham Chapman”. He also described Terry Wynn, another Cambridge contemporary, as “the greatest director in the world” and said that collaborating with such peers at university was “a sensational preparation for what was to follow in terms of opening up one’s intellectual frontiers.”

He added: “I remember going to the Societies Fair and two of the biggest booths were for Granada, the magazine which was then purely a Cambridge publication, and for the Footlights. I remember thinking then, I’d love to run that and edit that and I was very lucky to be able to do both.”

If you go by train from Ipswich to Liverpool Street you pass over a couple of huge great bridges.

Rауеrn Dуnn wаs mаking thе Wеek Friрdаy nightrаin. Hе hаd аnсhiеmеnt thаt wаs аbоut а lоаl sраkеr before loоking, аnd nоw hе wаs оvеrlооking thе lаrgest h.еаd lеаdеr аnd R.еаdеr аnd еn- joying а rеfrасhing wаsh in thе blаcket.

As he came out and showed his ticket to a disappointed inspector, the train stopped dead ahead and started moving again. The whole train was in a cloud of smoke. No one knew what to do.

Then came the announcement: “From now on, we are on strike.”

Two months later, the strike was over. Everyone was back at work, and the passengers were happy. And the strike leader was newscaster David Frost, who had started the strike in the first place.

**Picturehouse site**

Friday 4th October 2013

**University sports centre under fire from council**

CAMBRIDGE The University has come under fire from local councillors over the high membership costs of its new sports centre.

The council approved the University’s proposals on the basis that the sports centre would be available for use by city residents, however concerns have been raised that the £31 monthly charge for Cambridge locals to use the facilities is prohibitively expensive.

Councillor Rod Cantrill has revealed that it is considering legal action against the University for the way in which it managed the new facilities.

He wrote: “Generations of Cambridge residents and students, including myself, have greatly valued the Picturehouse because it offers independent, art-house and foreign language films that are not often found in the programmes of the larger cinemas. I am a huge fan of the Picturehouse and believe it was a great loss to the city if it were changed or closed.”

**Picturehouse site**

**Year the Regal cinema first opened on Arts**

Toby Miller, one of the petition founders, argued the Picturehouse is the most important cinema in Cambridge, and is the host of the annual film festival as well as the organiser of events, screenings, and smaller festivals that are absent in the larger cinematic chains.

**Sir David Frost dies aged 74**

The former Varsity editor and popular broadcaster’s career in political journalism and satire made him one of the most respected media figures of his generation.

**Picturehouse is threatened with closure after Cineworld takeover**

Nearly 14,000 have signed a petition to stop forced sale of the Cambridge cinema

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University acceptances bounce back for 2013

Number of students going to university have risen this year to levels before rise in tuition fees, despite fears that pupils would turn away from higher education.

Aidan Irwin-Singer
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

New figures released by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) show that the number of university admissions is back at the pre-2011 level. That year, new legislation came into force which altered the way that universities were funded, allowing them to charge up to £9,000 per year to new students on some courses. This led to a dramatic one-off rise in the number of university applications, as students sought to avoid paying an extra £6,000 per year in tuition costs.

The figures published by UCAS show that admissions to British universities from students across the UK and EU stood at 466,000 for 2013, a nine per cent rise on the 2012 figure. There had been a significant drop in the number of applications in 2012, which was thought to be a result of the rise in tuition fees. Indeed, the rise appears to have taken some universities by surprise. The University of York faces a fine of £500,000 to be a result of the rise in tuition fees.

The increase in the number of student applications has been widely hailed by government policy. ‘There had been fears that the tripling of tuition fees would put universities across the UK including Scotland, where the government voted to scrap universities. There are now fears that pupils would turn away from higher education’.

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Students are still eager to experiment. Mollie Wintle, a second-year student at Murray Edwards, was desperate to get a competitive advantage. ‘Some students feel that there should be a test to see whether you’re on the drug or not, because otherwise there’s no way of detecting whether you’re on it. However Wintle pointed out that while she would be annoyed at the idea of unfair advantage, testing would probably be too impractical.

There are no clear disciplinary guidelines for the use of cognitive enhancers at Cambridge. A spokesperson for the University said: ‘The use of prescription drugs without the approval of a qualified medical practitioner is not to be recommended under any circumstance as unforeseen side effects can be serious.’

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A smart drug explosion

Reports suggest there has been dramatic boom in ‘smart drugs’ at top universities

Amy Hawkins
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Students at top universities, including the University of Cambridge, are increasingly using ‘smart drugs’ in order to boost exam performance, Sky News has learned.

Doctors have warned that more and more students are obtaining and using the drug Modafinil to stay alert and focused for long periods of time. Modafinil is a psychostimulant, designed to treat narcolepsy, and is supposed to be available only on prescription. It has also been used in the military to keep soldiers awake during extended periods of combat.

However the internet and student dealers mean that the drug is becoming increasingly commonplace, especially in the world of academia. Students normally pay around £2 a pill; while it is illegal to sell prescription-only drugs, buying them is not. The drug Ritalin, which is prescribed for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, is popular among students for its ability to increase focus.

Professor Sahakian said: “Some students feel when you go into the exam perhaps there should be a test to see whether you’re on the drug or not, because otherwise there’s no way of detecting whether you’re on it. However Wintle pointed out that while she would be annoyed at the idea of unfair advantage, testing would probably be too impractical.

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UK universities maintain their world class reputation, for now

Phil Baty, Rankings Editor at THE, speaks to Varsity about this year’s league table

The most striking trend in this year’s Times Higher Education World University Rankings – released last Wednesday – is a diversification in standards amongst top UK universities, says Phil Baty.

“Whilst the sector as a whole hasn’t moved that much, there’s some quite dramatic movements up and down [the table] among individual institutions, he explains.

The international reputation of higher education in the UK was confirmed by the success of Oxbridge and London: “Oxford and Cambridge have both held on very firmly to their positions. Imperial and UCL have slipped a tiny bit but are very much among the very top in the world. And then if you look at the universities going up [in the rankings] it’s the LSE London, the Queen Mary London, Royal Holloway London.

“And quite a lot of the ones going down are the big cities – Manchester’s gone down, Bristol’s gone down, Warwick’s gone down”. This pattern, Baty argues, ties in closely with a wider national picture.

An economic recovery confined almost exclusively to London and the southeast has made other regions less appealing to the best international students and academics.

“There’s sort of a critical mass when it comes to higher education”, he says. “The top international students want to come into vibrant communities where there are loads of things happening.”

The question now is whether the trend can be reversed: “I think that the tipping-point could accelerate and the regions could become less and less appealing, less and less attractive … it could be a vicious circle.”

The concept of the Golden Triangle of universities, industry and research has long been present in the UK but it is becoming clear that international students and domestic students alike are chasing after London universities and Oxbridge even more fiercely than in previous years.

The issue of a university’s attractiveness to an international community of students and academics is a complex and interesting one. In order for leading East Asian universities – which have generally done very well in this year’s rankings – to “crack the top”, Baty suggests, a greater intake of European and British students could be required.

Many of the top universities in Southeast Asia have in recent years aimed to recruit international students from outside Asia. “You’ve definitely got very active programmes where [East Asian] universities are specifically targeting European and British students”, says Baty.

Although top universities in this part of the world have climbed the table in recent years, they have yet to penetrate the very top of the world rankings. The leading Asian university in the rankings – Tokyo – reached 23rd place this year. Baty suggests that there could be a cultural gap which has tended to act as a barrier to the highest academic excellence in these institutions: “Perhaps the final step is a cultural shift to try and embrace the institutional autonomy and the academic freedom that so characterises the US and UK universities.”

UK universities that were in the top 200

He gives the example of the National University of Singapore: “[It] is an exceptional institution – huge investments, huge resources. But I think they do have to perhaps go that extra step and embrace more academic freedom, more blue-skies research. And we have seen controversy in Singapore around academic freedom and free speech.”

Even when American universities form campuses in Singapore, such as the Yale-NUS campus in the country, there are still restrictions on political protests and the formation of political parties on campus in order to comply with Singaporean law.
MOOCs over Cambridge

Rebecca Murphy
science correspondent

Radhika Ghosal lives in New Delhi, India. Last summer, aged only 14, she completed an undergraduate-level engineering course from MIT on Circuits and Electronics. She is an example of a new type of student, learning in a completely new way. Universities across the world offer MOOCs – Massive Open Online Courses – to anyone with internet access and the time and commitment to complete them.

The recent craze for online learning began two years ago in the USA, when Stanford University announced that three of its most popular computer science courses would be available online for free. The lecturers were stunned when over 160,000 people signed up. Since then, MOOCs have proliferated, with several competing platforms offering online courses. The original Stanford lectures have spawned two start-ups, Udacity and Coursera, both of which specialise in teaching science and engineering. A collaboration between Harvard and MIT has put together EdX, a non-profit provider.

The courses offered by these sites go far beyond more traditional online-learning methods. As well as weekly video lectures, MOOCs contain quizzes and coursework exercises to keep students involved and to evaluate their progress.

Paid for and the free online format is allowing people who would never normally have access to university education the opportunity to learn from some of the best minds in the world.

Furthermore, many students enrolled in traditional courses are also taking advantage of MOOCs offered by their institutions. Sebastian Thrun, former Stanford professor and founder of Udacity, discovered that his students preferred the online experience to a lecture theatre: “They are inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria doesn’t mean however, that treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria doesn’t mean however, that treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria doesn’t mean however, that treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria doesn’t mean however, that treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria doesn’t mean however, that treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad’. Treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria doesn’t mean however, that treating diabetes with insulin produced by bacteria is inherently ‘bad. Treati...”

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Comment

The art of playing it cool

How to win friends and isolate people or, how to convince people you’re a big deal

Harriet Cartledge

The dust from your parents’ car-wheels is settling. You’re alone in your room. For a moment, the air is still. The road noise, the vague shouts of other students; everything is detached, seeping in through the too-thin walls.

But time to get going! After this Freshers’ Week, you will be a whole world away from your geeky home self! That’s right, in these nerdy parts, you too can be cool!

Why would you want to change yourself? After all, being the socially mediocre person you are today has allowed you plenty of time to study and get a place at Cambridge. Surely affecting behaviours other than your own is a futile and indeed damaging endeavour? Enough with these foolish whimperings, undergrad! We need to focus on the important things: getting in with the right people and ignoring the wrong ones.

The absolutely first thing you must remember is that university is exactly like school, so it’s important you size up who the popular kids are. To do this, it usually helps to arrive a few days later than everyone else, so the social groups can form enough for easy cool-identification. Plus, this will inevitably add to the mystery in which you are soon to swath yourself.

Some guides may suggest that simply talking to lots of people (who are just as nervous as you) in a friendly, relaxed manner will allow you to become ‘popular’ in the truest sense of the word, we hope you are not so naïve as to be taken in by these lies. Coolness and popularity have always lain in the ability to isolate and intimidate; of them have come out OK (even the uncool looking ones).

The parking costs will be worth the sheer thrill of revving up to lectures in the next four days. You need all the time you can get to build your image. Again, don’t be a sheep and ride a bicycle like everyone else; the real cool kids ride motorbikes, or Jaguars.

Some guides may suggest that simply eating in College; it pays to feature ice cubes and penguins. If possible, cease all bodily functions for the next four days. You need all the time you can get to build your image. Again, don’t be a sheep and ride a bicycle like everyone else; the real cool kids ride motorbikes, or Jaguars.

If, however, you are forced into conversation, exam results and detailed run-throughs of anything in which you have particularly excelled are always welcome topics. Similarly, interrogations of people’s family and schooling backgrounds are sure-fire hits, both conversationally and as a means of appraising your partner.

If you sleep with someone, don’t tell anyone. Remember, this is exactly like school; we’re not ready to accept that people can happily choose to sleep with whoever they want without fear of repercussion. We may be at one of the most intellectually advanced institutions in the world but there are limits, goddamnit, and one of those limits is slutdom. It most certainly still is a thing, whatever the naysayers say (probably ‘nay’). Besides, at this stage, you can’t trust anybody, even if they seem to be one of those friendly, relaxed sorts.

If all else fails (unlikely), buy your friends with baked goods. Your mum may have suggested that when you were having those painful friendship issues in year 8, she was right, the wily minx.

Good luck out there. You won’t be needing it.

“Maintaining a cool image is especially important. Learn to not sweat in clubs and try to wear clothes that feature ice cubes and penguins.”
A feminist guide to Fresher’s

B eing a feminist in fresher’s week is it being the only one at a party who doesn’t want to dance. In other words, it’s exactly like being a feminist the rest of the time, times 100. We do want to dance, just not to Blurred Lines.

Not always easy, then, when freshers’ week – or fresher’s days, as it is especially individually in Cambridge – is all about having a good time. It’s about welcoming you to the ‘best years of your life’, meeting people just as keen and wide-eyed as you are, realising you are a small fish in a big pond, discovering your beauty of gin and life. But with its baptism-of-fire barrage of swaps and initiations and borderline-offensive/insulting help themes all concentrated into such a short space of time, freshers’ week can be an uncomfortable experience, making obvious what is all too often invisible: that misogyny, the latent kind, internalised and all the more insidious for it.

Despite all these cons, the Conservative government are going at it harder than ever. Theresa May has recently urged the introduction of a £3,000 immigration amnesty for illegal immigrants. Meanwhile immigration is one of the only issues Labour has to make them welcome, they could face a swing too – but a stride of pride.

The wider economy also benefits from an approximately £17bn a year boost from international student spending. Culturally, the country suffers too. International students from rude and violent foreign towns like Cambridge the most cosmopolitan and diverse cities outside of London. Not only this, but the UK’s future international relationships are at risk.

UK degrees hold sway the world over, and foreigners who come to study here are likely to lead successful lives. The goodwill towards the UK of influential people across the world in the future has a potential that should not be underestimated.

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Worried about welfare?

It’s often easy to feel a little overwhelmed when arriving at University for the first time, but there are ways to cope when the stress gets too much, as our CUSU Welfare and Rights Officer explains

Helen Hoogewerf-McComb

Whether you’ve been planning it for months or years, starting at Cambridge probably feels like a big moment. Freshers’ Week will have been sold to you as the vital start of a new journey, an incredible opportunity that can’t be wasted. So is it true? Is it make or break?

This year marks my fifth Freshers’ Week at Cambridge. The first, a long while back, didn’t go exactly as planned. I slept through my first two lectures, got so lost in the city that it took me three hours to find my way home, and, bizarrely, spent several days trying to bribe people into friendship with a bright pink birthday cake. I signed up to a baffling range of societies and promptly ignored all their emails. My department provided me with a helpful graph depicting exactly how behind I would be if I didn’t start working straight away. Time ran away from me and, when the end of term finally came eight weeks later, I found I hadn’t even unpacked properly. Barely-touched boxes got loaded back into my parents’ car and I wondered if that meant I had got it wrong.

Think about what you have planned for this week. Maybe you want to go wild, step away from your parents’ rules. Maybe you want to focus on work, prepare yourself totally for the term ahead. Perhaps this will be a chance for reinvention where you hope to shed your old life and become someone new, someone better. Maybe you just want to meet a few good people and start to feel settled.

Odds are, it won’t be quite what you expect. Not better or worse, but somehow different from all those grand plans. Even the busiest schedule will leave you with long, quiet moments alone in your room. You will forget people’s names, sometimes well beyond the point where it feels socially acceptable to tell them that you have no idea who they are. You might set off a fire alarm that wakes your entire building or drunkenly insult a potential t’jatial friend. You will feel awkward. You will feel embarrassed. Hopefully you will have a lot of fun along the way.

For all the hype that exists around Freshers’ Week, it is often these experiences that everyone shares. No one gets it quite right and it’s rare for someone to find their perfect fit straight away. That’s why, right now, there are teams across the University working to make things a little easier for the new batch of students. They organise events and resources to help with the transition and provide a listening ear for those who do find they are struggling. From the Freshers’ Rep taking students to their first Cambridge club to the Welfare Officer offering tea and biscuits, or from the DoS giving out study tips to the Tutor checking in on how their students are coping, they are all here to make sure everyone gets the most out of their time at Cambridge.

The most important message is that there is always somewhere to turn. Feeling homesick? Think about having a chat with your Welfare Officer about tactics that can help. Finding it hard to adjust to University work? Look up the University’s study skills resources. Procrastination getting the better of you? Try a workshop with the Counselling Service. Not sure which of these sources of help are right for you? Talk to the Student Advice Service who can fill you in on everything on offer and help you figure out which suits you best.

This week hundreds of new students will access these and many other sources of support. Just like finding the right societies and the right group of friends, finding out about the support available is a really important thing for a new student to do during Freshers’ Week. Whether they feel they are struggling, want to be as prepared as possible for the term ahead, or just want to take advantage of the amazing free resources on offer at this University, students have a range of reasons why they might access these services.

So, how does it all pan out years down the line? The truth is, I don’t remember my Freshers’ Week at all that much. I made a couple of amazing friends and in turn that most of the best people came months later and my favourite memories are nothing to do with that one strange week in October. I do remember the next year’s though, where I got involved in my college, organised events and provided support for the new students coming in. I even ventured back to the Societies Fair and finally signed up for some groups that genuinely interested me. Turns out you don’t just get one go at this thing. Freshers’ Week comes every year and there is always something new to get out of it.

The Oxbridge obsession

Sam Matthew

The British press carefully perpetuates a caricature of modern Oxford and Cambridge. It is a diverse in omnia world awash with fluffy posh hair, tweed and bright red trousers. This depiction is not just inaccurate; it is damaging. The decision of certain sections of the press to continue to represent Oxford and Cambridge in this way speaks of the personal agendas of certain editors, and of a journalistic culture in which news requires scandal.

In a time of rising concerns over social mobility and a widening gap between rich and poor, the term “Oxbridge” is increasingly associated with the privileged, wealthy and entitled elitist students from non-traditional backgrounds. Oxbridge has a dedicated “Oxbridge and Elitism” column. The cabinet and shadow cabinet are lambasted for being filled with “Oxbridge types” (69 per cent and 47 per cent respectively). Interviews with noted graduates rarely pass without a reference to their alma mater. However, equating the Universities’ social exclusivity with today’s institutions is a false parallel.

Over the past thirty years, both institutions have undergone changes. They are more open to applicants from a wide variety of backgrounds than ever before. 63 per cent of entrants at Cambridge and 58 per cent of entrants at Oxford are state educated. Cambridge runs a £2.7 million a year outreach program to attract students from non-traditional backgrounds. Cambridge and Oxford still admit a disproportionate number of privileged students. However, this is as much the result of variation in the quality of education at secondary level, as it is a policy of discrimination by the Universities.

Although incidents of Brideshead Revisited caricature still occur, they are in the minority. The Oxford Bullingdon Club’s 2011 trip to Africa saw a group of 12 students, drinking champagne in the South African veldt. The trip harked back to an age in which masculinity, birth and wealth determined success. However, the Bullingdon club only serves for the new batch of students. Oxford and Cambridge, as fi gureheads of the University and the student body believe in equal opportunity.

For the privileged there exists a sense they have not deserved their place. For everyone else they are just another tick in the box for the government’s quotas. Some students respond by emphasizing their deprived roots. Others play up their privilege.

The misrepresentation of Oxbridge damages the perception of higher education in Britain. Thanks to the scale of the coverage, the social and academic prestige of other good universities is diminished in the eyes of employers and students. The terms “Russell Group” and “Golden Triangle” (comprised of Oxford, Cambridge, UCL and Imperial) have half the number of online hits as “Oxbridge”. This is unfair as Oxbridge’s academic dominance is no longer assured. In the latest influential QS World university rankings Oxford, came 6th, behind both UCL (5th) and Imperial (4th) (Cambridge was 3rd).

Inside the institutions, continual negative reporting devalues the achievements of the students. For the privileged there exists a sense they have not deserved their place. For everyone else they are just another tick in the box for the government’s quotas. Some students respond by emphasizing their deprived roots. Others play up their privilege.

The misrepresentation of both the University and the student body becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. On the one hand, the perception of the Universities’ students as elitist toffs deters prospective students. On the other hand, the coverage encourages those who live up to the caricatured image. As long as the press perpetuates this image of Oxbridge, it will strengthen the very barriers to social mobility it claims to revile.

Oxbridge’s exceptionally negative coverage can largely be explained by the press’s anti-establishment race to the bottom. Rupert Murdoch’s News Corporation (owners of The Sun and The Times) and The Daily Mail, under editor Paul Dacre, have prospered relative to their more traditional rivals by taking a more critical and sensationalist line against traditional institutions. While such an approach has merits, Oxford and Cambridge, as figureheads of the establishment, make for irresistible targets to create content to fill a paper on slow news days.

Sidgwick Says

What did freshers’ week mean to you?

It was the first time I moved out of home. It was important to go out and meet people; my whole Uni experience, which has been really enjoyable, took off in Freshers’ Week.

I was lucky on the first night, which set the tone for the rest of my Freshers’ Week.

Fresher’s week isn’t a time – it’s a state of mind. It begins with your first uni friendships, and ends when you come to your senses and ditch at least half of them.

My first week consisted mainly of in depth conversations getting to know the other freshers, then going on facebook to find out their names.

Tom MML

Shyam Economics

Harvey Economics

EDD HPS
In one month, maybe two or three, you will be gazing proudly over your matriculation photo and, eventually, your finger will hover over an unfamiliar face. Suddenly, you will be struck by a thought we have all shared; a Cambridge conundrum; a thought that has haunted academia for centuries: "I swear I have never seen that person in my life."

More legends exist about these mysterious disappearances than pretty much anything else in Cambridge, even the elusive Nightclimbers. Whether it's a vortex in the college archives, a Compuda Triangle, or alien abductions from the shady corners of the West Room, tales abound of men and women, frail with age, emerging from the UL revolving doors and blinking in the sunlight, with more letters after their names than you can type in an average essay-crisis minute.

Habits:
The secrets to success that take most of us three years to accumulate? It takes them a single term: colour-coded agendas; the Cambridge app; best libraries to work in; and eduroam successfully installed on their laptop. Where most of us play the familiar ostrich-head-sand routine when anyone brings up the words "future" or "job", the DS has not only signed up to the CamCareers e-mail alerts but has also been to the office to pick up brochures and discuss 'options'. Wow.

If music be the food of love, I wouldn't bother dining with Musos. That is, unless you share a mutual love of Britten, The Met or, in the case of choral scholars, themselves. As a weekend socialite myself, I must take particular pride at the hours we can dedicate to "extracurricular activities" and still boast of fully-functional livers. Our most talented musician freshers will need no introduction to CUChO, CUMS, (best not to Google that acronym) or CUOS – the musical equivalents of a hardcore exercise regime, made worse only by the self-important whining of actual prima donnas.

Every Cantab has something to offer musically – and I'm not just talking Mozart through Mahler, either. Getting a group together – band, close harmony, cheeky girl impersonators – to audition for May Balls is the easiest way to a free ticket besides sleeping with the Committee President.

If you're anything like, well, everyone who comes up to Cambridge, you will be nervous about meeting the other Freshers, fitting in and making friends. In anticipation perhaps you've been practising your self-introduction (bathroom mirror style) and one quite hilarious ice-breaker. But what if no one finds it funny? What if no one there is like you?

So what's the worst case scenario: a bunch of posh-boys and human calculators? No. Don't be ridiculous. Cambridge has come a long way since the 1990s and now represents a wealth of different demographics. Six, to be precise.

Obviously, no one actually conforms to the Cambridge cliché and hopefully you will be able to recognise many, if not all, of these characters as different sides to your beautiful, multi-faceted personality. There are many opportunities in Cambridge to get stuck into, so do it! Otherwise you might regret it when you're staring down the barrel of finals (guilty, as charged).
Ah, the blissful days of youth! By now a kaleidoscope of green and timid Freshers will have come up to college, matriculated, and mingled awkwardly among themselves. What I find myself wondering is what is the social glue that turns limp, noncommittal handshakes and instantly forgotten names into bear hugs and inside jokes? I think I have found the secret to long-lasting and loving friendships, as embodied most naturally by the happily isolationist cliques of Medics and Natscis: Drinking.

Social customs and lexicon:

"Down it, Fresher": A self-explanatory command which is to be obeyed blindly (in some cases this may become literal).

"Cindies/Fez/Lola’s/Life/(most terrifyingly)Spoons": Yes. Cambridge is so lacking in reputable night-life that we sometimes resort to clubbing…in a Wetherspoons.

"Swaps": A group of gentlemen and a group of ladies (usually of a sporting or drinking collective) dine with each other, followed by light alcoholic refreshment.

Street fights, vomming, public sex acts and all manner of general merriment ensues.

THE POLITICAL ACTIVIST/ACTIVE POLITICIST

These political animals are two sides of the same ambitious coin. You could make a joke about one using his head and the other being up his own tail, but let’s leave the inevitable mud-slinging to the clashes either side of the Union front door. Outside the door – well, shouting on the street – is the Political Activist: a shouting, self-assured creature, half of starry-eyed idealism and vitriolic rage. They provide the more opinionated of our columns – well, writing is just like megaphone-rallying but to more people, isn’t it? Meanwhile the Active Politicist stands inside; a voluntary steward (in a flatteringly hi-viz jacket) at the Thursday night debate, with all of the faux-clerical vigour of Chris from BBC’s Young, Bright and on the Right. As our future overlords, the APs are always keen to make friends (in the right places). Even if you don’t become a Union member, these schmoozers are likely to become the charismatic Presidents and Secretaries of every aspect of college life, from drinking societies to the May Ball committee.

Habitat: The AP will rarely stray from its comfortably bellowed halls of the Union or CUSU, only doing so to thrash other APs in National Debating Competitions or to shadow Lord Terry Blydull. The PA is always front-row-centre of every march, strike and boycott regardless of distance.

THE LAD SCIENTIST

Ah, the blissful days of youth! By now a kaleidoscope of green and timid Freshers will have come up to college, matriculated, and mingled awkwardly among themselves. What I find myself wondering is what is the social glue that turns limp, noncommittal handshakes and instantly forgotten names into bear hugs and inside jokes? I think I have found the secret to long-lasting and loving friendships, as embodied most naturally by the happily isolationist cliques of Medics and Natscis: Drinking.

It’s no coincidence that these groups are most commonly spotted lounging around your college bar, tearing up the Cindies’ dancefloor and have access to industrial amounts of ethanol in their labs. Whether or not these friendships are built upon pillars of mutual distrust; each petrified of the other spilling in-vino-veritas moments of embarrassing self-revelation to others, is still up for speculation.

Social customs and lexicon:

“Down it, Fresher”: A self-explanatory command which is to be obeyed blindly (in some cases this may become literal).

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THE PLAYER

Think of the subjects Cambridge is famous for – Natural Sciences, Engineering, Maths – and you’d be forgiven for thinking that we must be a bunch of agoraphobics, more at home making models than making friends. And yet, you see, we’re actually quite funny. Oxbridge alumni in politics and business have long become impervious to accusations of nepotism, but I honestly think we need to start taking a long, hard, serious look at comedy. It seems a stretch to call John Cleese, David Mitchell, Ben Miller, Sandi Toksvig, Emma Thompson, Stephen Fry and half the Inbetweeners a coincidence (what a Charity Reunion Show that would be…). But, then again, maybe it’s quite natural when you consider that aged, dark, smoky underbelly of the ADC: Footlights.

Related Species: Improvised comedy is at the strongest it’s been for years, so why not infiltrate the ranks of the mustachioed-logomarked Improunts? Of course, we don’t all have that nagging desire to make people laugh. Some people can feel too liked (I know that feeling) and all that effortless popularity can really weigh a person down. Solution? Play a heartless Machiavellian villain in any number of tragic productions at the ADC or Corpus Playroom. Just be discerning enough to work out what kind of tragic it is first, because the real heartless bastards at the press don’t pull their punches.

Words by Sabina Dewfield
Illustrations by June Tong
Fitzbillies
52A Trumpington Street

A Cambridge institution in its own right – famous for its sickeningly sticky Chelsea buns – it has also started offering up dinner of late. Be aware: with great status, comes greater belief in your own importance and Fitzbillies has been known to think quite highly of itself (and not just with regards to its prices). Service has known to be a little abrupt if you look set to dawdle and they certainly won't take kindly to you and your chums setting up camp in a corner. It's potentially more enjoyable when patronised alongside those who don't object to spending three quid on what is essentially golden syrup in pastry form, but as much of a Cambridge tradition as punting – although arguably as over-hyped.

Aromi
1 Bene’t St

New to the Cambridge scene, this authentic Sicilian joint gives you more than just coffee and cake for your money. The owners previously ran the Caffe Cipriani in Aciacale, Sicily, which has been in the same family since 1957. Housed in a mouth-watering pizza slices topped with prosciutto luscious, and the arancini – fried rice balls – are a speciality well worth trying. Delicious homemade pastries include fruit tarts and cannoli (not to be confused with cannelloni), while the pistachio latte will give you your caffeine kick. Don't be put off if it looks full: there's extra seating downstairs.

Benet’s
21 King’s Parade

The nearest coffee shop to King’s and the Senate House, the downstairs of Benet’s often fills up. Hidden away upstairs however, there is ample seating leaving you free to take in the view. Once there gorge yourself on freshly cooked pancakes, with a range of fillings to suit every taste. Or, if the Indian summer lasts, pop in for one of their ice creams, wander along King’s Parade and pretend it’s May Week.

Savino’s
3 Emmanuel Street

The only place to go for proper Italian coffee, you’ll find it packed by businessmen and students each morning alike, as justly for a real shot of caffeine. There’s also an unchallenged selection of paninis, baguettes and ciabattas – all stuffed with melting mozzarella and the like. Worth dragging yourself out of bed for: hungover lectures are not to be tackled without a supply of strong espresso and bacon rolls.

Trockel, Ulman & Freunde
13 Pembroke Street

Known by some, more colloquially – if slightly incorrectly – the German Cafe, Trockel, Ulman and Freunde might be a mouthful but their major selling point is simplicity. A soup or two a day, served with warm wedges of bread, and large glasses of fresh juice make for ideal brain food. They might be small, but what they lack in size, they make up for with a plethora of fairy lights and walls in a jolly rainbow of colours. As for their cakes, lots of scrumptious fruit-based baking, whose lack of icing makes them seem all the more wholesome. Make sure you get there early if you want to pick up a baguette, as their choices go down considerably as the day progresses. Located between New Museums and Lensfield Road, it’s the perfect stop off point for Nat Sci dashing between lectures every morning. Just make sure you get somebody to save you a seat.

Indigo
8 St Edward’s Passage

A tiny cafe tucked away off King’s Parade, Indigo has perfected the art of cramming their customers in to as small a space as possible. What it lacks in size however, Indigo more than makes up for elsewhere providing the perfect coffee hang-out with an arty vibe. Smoked salmon and cream cheese bagels make an easy lunch. Chai lattes cater for the hipster crowd. Conversations about the merits of Zen Buddhism are to be expected. So if you want an easy ‘Overheard in Cambridge’ quote then grab yourself a table, if you can, and make yourself at home.

Stickybeaks
42 Hobson Street

Always hearing so attempt to get a seat at your peril on weekends, but otherwise Cambridge’s coffee shops don't get more sleek than this. Distinctly sophisticated and forgiving the shabby student-chic that others have capitalised on, Stickybeaks is all glass and over-sized ceramic tea cups. Its salad bar is the closest thing you’re going to get to Ottolenghi this side of Islington, while the mind-boggling library of herbal teas and deceptively inventive spread of cakes should satisfy the sweeter tooth. Though covering amazing higher price ranges, there’s no better place for a fix of squash and spinach frittata guaranteed to make you feel grown up.

Lifestyle Editor
Heléna Pike

Perfect for that first post lecture cappuccino!

Magdalen Hoyt
LIFESTYLE CONTRIBUTOR

“Maybe we could just get together and eat a bunch of caramels”.

The title character of the 1997 film Good Will Hunting has clearly missed the point. Caramels? Who declines the offer of coffee and invites someone out to chew caramels? Surely the main purpose behind asking someone for a drink is a social one and well, at 8am, it’s probably best not to be thinking of drinking anything stronger (at least not until May Week). What about offering someone tea? Typically sipped with your grandmother, it’s never really going to hint at your romantic motives, but how have coffee shops become the home of first dates anyway?

Maybe Will is on to something. Taking away the buzz and the cultural phenomenon that drinking and enjoying coffee in cafes has welcomed, why coffee in the first place? After all, as he says, caramels are really just as arbitrary as an invitation to drink coffee. Surely consuming caffeine is not really arbitrary. It’s addictive to say the least. It might be the reason I went over my overdraft not once, but four times. Yet if I just wanted the caffeine hit, popping Pro-Plus or even enduring the horror that is cheap instant coffee could have given me that buzz.

So what, I like good coffee. But what I really like is the freedom one gets in a good coffee shop: both physically and mentally. Yes, you can drink coffee (and often good coffee) anywhere. Finding a good cafe? A different and often difficult feat.

Coffee? Cafe seems to have cracked the code for a good coffee shop. Based in the South West, it was awarded the title of Best UK Coffee Chain four years running. The allure of this place is centered on two factors. Superb coffee, but most of all, space. Half antique library and half retro grandmother’s sitting room, but on a gigantic scale. A certain amount of space is needed for a coffee shop to thrive economically. But why so much? This chain has a buzz factor: its visitors could easily stay for the day and never have to be ‘politely’ asked if they have ‘finished’ (Benet’s in Cambridge could learn a thing or two from this).

The beauty of this space? For one hour or for an afternoon, the coffee shop becomes an extension of your sitting room – an escape, I confess. I’m a coffee shop addict. I crave a place where I can collect my thoughts, where there’s no clutter or a bed to ‘nap’ on a few metres away (we’ve all been there) and there’s the promise of good coffee and a definite seat. Sometimes I worry about how much excitement this gives me. Sitting in a library, squirming over the silent stress from other students around me, has never been my style. Whether it’s a cutely independent coffee shop, like Indigo Cafe off King’s Parade, or – hipster coffee shop addicts beware – the Starbucks on Christ’s Lane, I stumble towards them like a fresher to Cindies.

I’m not a coffee shop snob, I love Starbucks, because it works for me. It’s a popular chain and to some, the coffee can be pretty crummy but you have to know what to ask for. You can always try to hint at your romantic motives, but how have coffee shops become the home of first dates anyway?
**CINDIES vs FEZ**

The Great Debate

Step inside Cindies and be overwhelmed by the unavoidable sight of post swap passion, the scent of stale curry, and some seriously cheesy music. So, on paper Cindies might not have much going for it. But look beyond this façade and it’s easy to understand why Cindies has become Cambridge’s biggest nightlife institution. Let’s face it, Cindies takes you on a trip back through the nineties and naughties, with the kind of chemistry with dubstep that you just can’t get to Teenage Dirtbag. You just can’t get enough.

**blue (n.)**

Pronunciation: /blaɪ/

1. highest level of sporting colours for University of Cambridge
2. person who has achieved sporting colours, often in possession of sense of self-importance and inflated ego

*“the Queen’s bop proved to be a rustrus affair“*

*Synonyms:* ents, bar extension

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**bop (n.)**

Pronunciation: /bɒp/

1. traditional name given to collegiate school-style discos; usually accompanied by spirits and shambolic activity, always in fancy dress

*“the Queen’s bop proved to be a rustrus affair“*

*Synonyms:* ents, bar extension

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**Lucy’s Cookbook**

*The definitive guide to the Cambridge language.*

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**INGREDIENTS**

For 4 people, you will need:

- 400g spaghetti or linguini (a bit more if you are feeding boys, and a lot more if you are feeding rowers!)
- 8-10 cloves of garlic
- Chilli flakes (or about 2 small dried chillis)
- Lasagnes of decent olive oil (not Sainsbury’s own brand, I beg you!)
- 8-12 bacon rashers, smoked or unsmoked as you prefer

*For the garnorts, some fresh parsley to sprinkle at the end.*

**LUCY’S TIP**

If you crush garlic cloves slightly with the flat of a large knife the skins come off as easily. Just put your palm on top and lean on it (using your body weight, not your arm muscles).

**Buon appetito!**

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**Lesson learned #1:** You shall never go out on a Saturday night again.

**Lesson learned #2:** You will never bother to unsubscribe from email lists. So don’t sign up unless you really do care about endless banter about lost socks, policy meetings and AGMs.

**Lesson learned #3:** People will do anything to get the books first. So you will have to play them at their own game. This means war.

**Lesson learned #4:** It’s 8am, and you are seriously regretting drinking the college bar out of tequila last night: today, your college library to get the books you need for your first essay. Wishing you had more attention in the library induction, only to find that someone else got there first, and you now have to trek somewhere else to find the books you need.

**Lesson learned #5:** People will do anything to get the books first. So you will have to play them at their own game. This means war.

**Lesson learned #6:** What happens at Freshers’ Week doesn’t stay in Freshers’ Week. Even if you manage to keep your secrets during a year of study, you can’t keep them. So, never have I seen news travels fast, and you’ll probably end up writing about it in a student newspaper column anyway.
Life gives you few chances to reinvent yourself but university is one of them. You’ve been told you are an adult now, responsible for purchasing your own milk and carving out your own future so you have no excuse to slack on student style.

As an independent adult priorities have to be formed. First on the list is your new image. Supposedly, no one should judge a book by its cover, but why take the risk — fashion is a perfect way to express yourself. Back up your charming personalities and opinions with the right image. You need to shrug off any previous stereotypes you have been saddled with and what better way to do this than with a new wardrobe?
Studying style. Even though fashion may not be a priority for many at Cambridge, there is no doubt that you will bump into someone who has perfected the preppy student look. Picture shirts, patterned jumpers, oversized coats, and shiny leather briefcases.

Sports stash. There is no escaping Cambridge stash with sports teams adorning themselves in hoodies and trackies throughout term. Hockey players and boaties alike are equally keen to show team solidarity in their style. Either that, or they have found clothes that are as comfortable as pyjamas but are socially acceptable to wear to Cambridge lectures.
Interview: Claire Tomalin

Ella Griffiths speaks to the acclaimed biographer about her own remarkable story

**What on earth can I tell you about life? I know nothing about life,** insists Claire Tomalin as we begin our interview. Coming from a woman whose profession rests on exploring the lives of others, this is hard to believe. As the celebrated biographer of Dickens, Pepys, Hardy, Shelley, Mansfield and Austen, Tomalin has resurrected some of Britain's most famous authors. Why? “I think it was Thomas Hardy who said that real life is far more surprising than novels, and I have been interested in reading about human lives.”

Tomalin's life warrants a biography of its own. Born in 1933, she was educated in Cambridge and studied English at Newnham College. “It felt extraordi- nary to get into Cambridge in the 1950s because there were ten male undergraduates to every female. It was like a dream, Cambridge seizes you by the heart and you never forget it.”

After Cambridge, she did the “mud-dled things that women of the time did”, training as a secretary before marrying journalist Nick Tomalin. This struggle to balance motherhood and a career was described in her article on Sylvia Plath: “I had wanted to do something with my life – I thought I had some capacities, and here they were going down the plughole.”

Married and working for Tomalin though. Her third child, a boy, died in infancy and her marriage was deteriorating badly. In search of a promising career, Tomalin became the assistant literary editor of the New Statesman, until her fifth child, Tom, was born in 1970.

While nursing him at home, she wrote her first acclaimed biography of Mary Wollstonecraft. “She was my first subject and it was so extraordinary to find this woman in the late 18th century living in London, working on a magazine and having a difficult time as a mother, which was exactly what I was doing”. Just before the book was due for publication, Nick was killed while reporting on the Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur War in 1973. She received the Whitbread Book Award the following year with mixed feelings: “I was very lucky and very unlucky.”

After returning to the New Statesman as literary editor, Tomalin began an exciting period of her life: “You had to make sure that there's something in those literary pages every week that everybody in London wants to read. That sort of excitement, that adrenaline, was terrific.” She commissioned writers such as Clive James and Paul Theroux, while her assistants included Julian Barnes and Martin Amis.

Latter, Tomalin entered an “extremely lonely” profession as a full-time biog- rapher, before marrying playwright Michael Frayn in 1993. “I wonder if I were lucky and very unlucky”.

“It felt extraordinarily to get into Cambridge in the 1950s because there were ten male undergraduates to every female. It was like a dream.”

On her subjects: “I've lived in those minds, those worlds”.

**Let's all go to art school**

The Junction University comes to town, bringing clowns and everyday art to life

Bethan Kitchen

**How can an architect help you to re-imagine your home?** How about a clown that can show you how human it is to be laughed at? Or a collector that shows you just how dingy we all are? Junction University is a new project run by the Cambridge Junction, encouraging the public to explore the intersection of art and life through short artist-led courses, workshops and experiences.

Initiatives like this are crucial to Cambridge’s cultural scene as all too often as students we only experience culture in a primarily student setting. Kettle’s Yard was designed for and devoted to the University’s students, and you’ll rarely be part of a ‘public’ majority attending an LDOC that most of the spectators will have student friends in the shows. So it’s often difficult to know exactly what goes on culturally in the lives on the city’s non-student citizens. I think it’s brilliant that so many young people are continu- ally part of the city’s cultural landscape, both as creators and audience, I have to admit that I do find it refreshing to sit down in the Picturehouse with people from what I call ‘the real world’, (even if most of the time they tend to come from one very narrow segment of reality that could and should certainly be widened).

This is where the new Junction University comes into play, aimed at the public and students alike. The workshops will be led by a diverse set of artists, all asking their audience to find new perspectives on the world through their special medium.

One such artist is Dan Canham, who will be leading a workshop called ‘How To Dance Stories’. In his three hour session he aims to show his students what he considers “important for good performance” - a performance that responds to real places and people and often uses dance to bring the poetic out of the everyday.

While the Junction may be better known as a music venue, it is fast becom- ing a unique performance space that benefits audiences and artists alike. You might just have to venture a little outside the Cambridge bubble to get there.

The series runs throughout October and November. For a full programme of classes and courses visit www.junction.co.uk

**On her subjects:** “I've lived in those minds, those worlds”

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Top picks for the culture vulture

Art, drama, film, music and literature: let *Varsity* introduce you to the best Cambridge has to offer

**PLACES TO SEE ART**

The staple of any art lover’s diet in Cambridge has to be *The Fitzwilliam Museum*. It houses a collection that ranges from Titian to Monet, while big exhibitions rival those at the London galleries. A Vermeer exhibition back in 2011 brought in more than 130,000 visitors. Currently on show are the ‘Origins of the Afro Comb’ and ‘The Night of Longing’, featuring Japanese art.

*Kettle’s Yard* was home of former Tate Gallery curator, Jim Ede, who died in 1999. The house remains as he left it, with work by sculptor Henri Gaudier-Brzeska and painter Alfred Wallis. Although building work means that part of the house is currently closed, the cottages are still open to the public – make sure you ring the bell to enter.

**PLACES TO DRAMA**

The ADC theatre is the University’s most popular hot spot for anyone wanting to act, direct, design, or simply enjoy. At least two shows are put on each week, all featuring student companies. Two “Freshers’ Shows” this season provide great opportunities for anyone new to the University who wants to take to the stage.

The smaller sister theatre to the ADC is Corpus Playroom on St. Edward’s Passage is the. Be prepared to get up close and personal with the actors as you sit a foot away from the stage: this is the place to go if you’re after a more intimate affair. It’s a gem of a theatrical space.

**PLACES TO MUSIC**

Cambridge Arts Theatre is one of the city’s only theatre spaces not belonging to the University. This public theatre has a programme spanning from the experimental to the pantomime. Watch out for the triennial Cambridge Greek play later this month, and productions by big touring companies like the RSC and Kneehigh.

**PLACES TO FILMS**

From Spanish experimental to new releases, Cambridge Picturehouse has it all. Re-runs of cult classics such as *E.T.* and Q&A sessions with directors make it a cinephile’s dream.

Want to make a film but have no idea how? Get involved with Cinecam, a student society, network, and community. Whether you need to use their equipment, or just need a kick-start with your project, give them a shout and they’ll see what they can do to help.

Watersprite, the Cambridge International Student Film Festival, brings big names from the British film world to the city in March, with last year’s line-up featuring Eddie Redmayne and Olivia Coleman, as well as offering opportunity for anyone to get involved. If you have a film ready and waiting, why not enter it into their annual short film competition?

**PLACES TO READ**

What the University Library lacks in aesthetics it more than makes up for in its staggering large collection. The UL is the perfect place to get lost in a cultural adventure. With books, journals, maps, microfilms, photographs and sound recordings, there’s no reason not to go to the UL at least once during your time at Cambridge (that includes you Natural Scientists).

Heffers has been around for nearly 140 years, and is the perfect spot for book magpies. Down in the basement is a second-hand section where you can leaf through the annotated books of past Cambridge students.

**Kettle’s Yard artwork up for grabs**

Let’s face it, student rooms aren’t known for their imaginative decor. Whether you’re in a basement box near Parker’s Piece, or a three room set overlooking Trinity’s Great Court, the chances are you’ll have an empty wall — or several — that need filling. Assuming you’ll want to make the effort to bring some warmth and cheer to your room, and not are not one of these people who, heaven forbid, simply leave the walls untouched, then traditionally there has only been one path available to you. Let the blue-tac war with housekeeping commence, as you quickly but up your posters and cards as quickly as your bedder takes them down.

However, if that sounds a bit like hard work, there is another — less commonly adopted — option. Kettle’s Yard will be running their annual picture loan scheme next week where, for a tiny fee, you can rent an artists print from the gallery to hang in your room all year long.

**Kettle’s Yard artwork up for grabs**

**When:** Monday 14th October from 12-2pm

**Where:** Murray Edwards

**Cost:** £10 (with £25 deposit)

**Arrive:** Early as possible to avoid prints running out. Remember to take student ID.
**Spotlight on the ADC**

The Junior Treasurer of the CUADC speaks to Wen Li Toh about this term’s ADC offerings and being part of Cambridge’s thriving drama scene.

Oli Rei, Junior Treasurer of the Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club (CUADC), tells me that this term’s ADC lineup will be “the most varied programme we’ve had in a long time.”

Indeed, plays like *The Magic Flute*, a rare ADC staging of opera, and *Bach*, a dubstep physical theatre spin on a Euripides play, promise to be colourful additions to the standard ADC fare of Shakespeare, Footlights and West End hits.

“There’s opera, musical theatre, pantomime, Greek tragedy... It’s going to be an exciting season,” says Oli, a fourth-year chemical engineer at Pembroke whose Cambridge theatre experience spans over 20 productions.

The CUADC, founded in 1855, is the resident company and owner of the ADC Theatre, and the oldest student dramatic society in the UK. As Junior Treasurer, Oli oversees CUADC show budgets and helps decide which shows the ADC should fund. Every term, he and a selection panel of four representatives from the ADC Theatre, CUADC and The Fletcher Players review applications to run shows sent in by student directors and producers. Out of over 100 shows that were pitched to the ADC for this term, around 40 will be staged.

While factors such as passion, experience, and the quality and feasibility of individual shows are taken into ac-count, Oli stresses that “it’s not about putting on the best shows, but producing the best season”—ideally, a balanced and diverse mix of shows.

The programme is shaped and constrained by the applications which come in. Referring to the choice of main shows this term, he said: “People might say we’ve been quite commercial, with *Frost/Nixon* and *The History Boys*. But this is a direct result of the shows that people have applied with.”

Besides, shows like *The History Boys* are “guaranteed sell-out shows and we need to at least break even every year.” Oli relishes being part of the Cambridge theatre world. As well as being Junior Treasurer of the ADC, he is also a committee member of the Pembroke Players and the Cambridge University Musical Theatre Society (CUMTS). One of the things he likes most about Cambridge drama is the “incredible variety of everything going on, and the high standard,” although Oli admits that physical theatre is something that the ADC could do more of.

“There’s opera, musical theatre, pantomime, Greek tragedy... It’s going to be an exciting season!”

Nevertheless, Cambridge theatre has already evolved greatly over his three years here. Oli describes the process of applying to put on new shows as “fairer and much easier” than before.

“There’s also more musical theatre, more experimentation, and the number of shows going to the Fringe is always increasing... Four years ago, if someone asked whether a show like *Jerusalem* would be selected, the answer would be ‘no’, because it is quite demanding in terms of set.”

He attributes all this to how the ADC has grown more daring and ambitious over the years. “The mindset has changed.”

While this may be the case, there are still people who accuse the ADC of being exclusive. Oli, who scaled the ADC ladder from the bottom by starting out with smaller plays, finds this accusation unfair.

Referring to the problem of nepotism in theatre, he continued: “In some cases, that is true, it’s down to the directors. But elsewhere in Cambridge, nepotism is just as bad... it happens in life everywhere.”

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**The Fringe**

**ADRIENNE TRUSCOTT’S Asking For It**

Wearing a blonde wig, and naked from the waist down, Adrienne Truscott dances her way back to the stage. We’re in a very intimate venue that seats 30 people, and there’s no looking away. Throughout the show, Truscott takes swigs of several gin and tonics, points and winks at audience members flirtatiously, and the way she has choreographed the performance forces us to fully confront her body as well as her act.

This is a comedy show about rape and rape jokes, and the timing for such a show is ripe. After all, “it’s been a big year for rape,” as Truscott tells us, alluding—among other things—to the recent gang-rape case in Mumbai, as well as the controversy surrounding Daniel Tosh, who made comments about rape to a female audience member at a comedy show last year. As Truscott surveys the plethora of comedians who joke about rape, we are prompted to ponder: when, if ever, is it okay to make jokes about this topic?

Weighty though these questions are, the show is emphatically about entertainment. It is filled with cheeky caba-aret gags that include teasingly off-wog one at a time and projecting male faces onto the wall, which get hilariously bearded with Truscott’s props. She also delves into surrealist fantasies that highlight how ludicrous it is to rely on a whistle to deter rapists. In a particularly memorable bit of satire, she whimsically muses about how nice it would be if she was dead—all the while it is to be funny—would “gang-joke” her into laughing to the point of orgasm, instead of making rape threats at comedy gigs.

I was lucky enough to catch Truscott speaking at a live chat show during the Fringe, where she described the genesis of her show. When she was a university student, on the first day of a seminar for a women and gender studies course, the (male) professor opened by saying that one in four women have been sexually assaulted in their lives. Addressing the women in the room, he then went on to say that based on the statistics, several of them must be rape victims. Truscott’s response, on the other hand, was to turn to the men in the room and say, “Well, by that logic, at least one of you have raped a woman in your lives—so, which one of you is a rapist?”

This is a point that Truscott makes brilliantly in her show: why are people always so fixated on the victim? The very premise of the show (I direct your attention here to the title) is that Truscott is “asking for it” in all the possible ways, from the way she is (un)dressed, to her act, to Greek tragedy... It’s going to be an exciting season!

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**How to Get Involved**

First-years can get involved in新鲜ers’ plays such as Alan Ayckbourn’s *Confusions* and an adaptation of Margaret Atwood’s *The Penelopiad*, both at the ADC.

Steven Berkoff’s *Greek*, another theatre society will be on at the Corpus Playroom. “It’s a smaller show, and a great opportunity for people to get involved without the pressure of being in the ADC,” says Oli.
10 questions: David Rattigan

Varsity speaks to the director of Corpus Playroom Week 0 main show The Ruffian on the Stair

David Rattigan, a third-year historian at Robinson College, made his Cambridge theatre debut as a performer in Mint and Marc’s Shot in the Dark last March. Since then he has gone on to assume directorial roles in shows as diverse as Woody Allen’s Riverside Drive and the experimental play KNG’53, which he also performed in. Currently, he is directing Joe Orton’s The Ruffian on the Stair, a darkly-comic play set in post-war Britain.

Which three words best describe The Ruffian on the Stair?

Assassin, ex-prostitute and hairdresser, the play’s three disparate protagonists. They shouldn’t be sharing a stage, but they are, which makes for interesting drama when they rub shoulders. It’s like I’m a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here, but hopefully better.

What first attracted you to The Ruffian on the Stair as a play?

The characters, because they’re so interesting and strange. But I also like the historical setting. The play was written in the 1960s, and whilst Orton never specifically references a date, it’s wrapped up in the issues of that time. I don’t think you can easily divorce it from the decade, which is why we’ve set it back when Orton was writing. Although I suppose you could set it in the future, if you wanted: The Robot on the Stair.

What’s the best thing about Cambridge theatre?

The auditions are my favourite. I like to throw mad improvisation scenarios at people when they’re trying to enter the room—“pretend you’re a firefighter but your hose keeps squirting out custard” “pretend you’re being chased by a 1950’s work dog.” Everybody seems to enjoy it.

What’s the worst thing about Cambridge theatre?

It’s very busy. It can be very stressful.

Which director do you most admire and why?

I really like Quentin Tarantino. Inglourious Basterds and Django Unchained are two of my favourite movies for their satirical distortion of history, which is sort of what we’re doing with The Ruffian on the Stair.

Which play would you most like to direct?

I think a theatrical adaptation of Back to the Future would be fun. It could be a musical. I mean, if Shrek the Musical got funding, why not something actually good, eh?

What’s your guiltiest pleasure?

I keep listening to Romania’s Eurovision entry, a song called I I My Life. I’m not sure if I’m guilty about that, actually. It’s fantastic. It should be the Romanian national anthem. Maybe even the British national anthem—why not?

What is your dream job?

I’d really like to be an astronaut. I was thinking how I can’t wait for us all to move to Mars or the moon or wherever because at least there are no flies there. I hate flies. But I’d be a terrible astronaut. I’m scared of heights for one, and the really fast take-off would freak me out—what if the G-force ripped my face off or something?

What inspires you?

Recently I’ve been watching a lot of Breaking Bad and playing a lot of Grand Theft Auto V. Both are excellent, and I’ve felt really energised and excited after spending time on them. Worryingly, they’re also both about criminals. I don’t know what that says about me. Maybe if my career in space doesn’t work out, I could become a bank robber.

What is the nicest thing someone has said to you?

A stranger once said I look like Joseph Gordon-Levitt. They were about to have their eyes tested at an optician’s, though, so I don’t trust their judgement.

The Ruffian on the Stair is on at the Corpus Playroom from 8th – 12th October.

Is the keyboard mightier than the press?

Andrew Haydon talks to Chloe Clifford Astbury about the merits of online criticism

The theatre review is a familiar form to even the most casual of newspaper readers: headed by a headline, generously stuffed with “stars”, accompanied by several paragraphs of prose with a mixture of praise and critique. But is this the best way to provide a review?

The reviews posted on Andrew Haydon’s blog Postcards from the Gods, however, are a different animal altogether.

Haydon’s reviews in The Guardian, claims he more or less invented the short review, have a particular interest in it. “I don’t know if Professional reviews are also limited by their length. ’Time Out’ used to commission pieces that were 250 words long, but now word counts are getting slashed to maybe half that... The review just becomes a justification of the star rating,” said Andrew, who nonetheless acknowledges that short reviews are useful because they appeal to a wider readership rather than rather than a small group of theatre enthusiasts.

When Haydon began writing for The Guardian in 2007, the newspaper was focusing on increasing its online content, and a relatively large budget was set aside for more in-depth pieces on theatre. While Haydon conceded that The Guardian’s theatre blog from that period might interest a theatre devotee, the public felt it was “too niche for them to bother with.”

“The fact that people feel like that about theatre is partly to do with audience numbers. It takes a big West End show to rack up the same audience numbers as something no one remembers watching on Channel 5.”

Haydon’s reviews in Postcards from the Gods are lengthier and more analytical than his newspaper ones, and as a result attract a different audience. He admits, “My blog is not particularly public-facing, I know I write for people who already care about theatre, people who are...inside the business or who have a particular interest in it.”

Haydon believes that the succinct nature of the average theatre review speaks to a wider culture: “We want information fast, and that’s true of other things, not just theatre.” In spite of this, he feels longer reviews have an important place in criticism. “I don’t know who took the decision that no one has an attention span anymore. I’m not sure it’s true. But you’d be a monster to say

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MAD ABOUT MUSEUMS

LUCY MEEKLEY

The Fitzwilliam is the most resounding of Cambridge’s museums – it’s free to visit; it’s a gift to see on any freshers’ to-do list. It opened in 1848 following Richard Wornall’s bequest of his extensive art collection and library to the University in 1816. The objects were housed in various temporary locations until the Founders’ building, designed by George Basevi, was completed.

The building itself is a stunning piece of architecture. The grandeur of the portico is offset by the tasteful contemporary sculpture decorating the grounds. Inside the entrance hall, a series of pillars direct the eye towards the incredible glass ceiling. I suggest you begin with the ancient history section in the museum’s underbelly, starting a stronger sense of progression and refinement across time periods. Here you will find objects from across the ancient world. Some highlights include the elaborately decorated Egyptian coffins, the statuette of Athena and a collection of coins from the Roman Empire depicting various emperors, animals and architecture. My favourite objects though, are a collection of charming and amusing animal figures in and around Egypt to symbolise various gods.

We then move upstairs to the paintings, drawing and prints. The Fitzwilliam has a broad collection spanning from the fourteenth century to modern day. This room is decorated to give the impressionism room, filled with the likes of Renoir and Monet, particularly modern day. Other notable artists across the collection include Rembrandt, William Blake, Vincent Van Gogh and Rodin. Inside the museum has an extensive literary heritage section. Although not on display, the museum was supposedly made, drinking punch from its extravagent depths.

The museum also has a wealth of applied arts, such as pottery, glass, furniture and metalwork. These objects though, are a collection of charming and amusing animal figures in and around Egypt to symbolise various gods. The museum also has a wealth of applied arts, such as pottery, glass, furniture and metalwork. These objects though, are a collection of charming and amusing animal figures in and around Egypt to symbolise various gods.

Over the course of two days, office worker Kris (Amy Seimetz) remortgages her home, empties her bank account and stops showing up for work. We know she has been drugged into a suggestive state by a petty thieve, but she doesn’t. She goes to, destitute and jobless, and can do nothing but start again. She connects with Jeff (Shane Carruth), an intense and secretive financial consultant, who has also experienced the way solid things like reputation and capital can melt into air. She begins a precariously life together – “I’m lucky to have this job,” each of them says – but they are haunted by the past.

Extraordinarily, Carruth not only directed the film while acting in every second scene, he also wrote, edited and scored it. But the story is such a gothic thing, it’s so difficult to make it work perfectly any other way. It’s no so much an auteur/weltschmuck issue as an extreme technical challenge. Swills of brief dialogue and visual clues are anchored by the charisma of the two leads and the mesmeric soundtrack. The result is a genuinely moving sci-fi thriller rather than a speculative mess. The obscure origins of the drug with which Kris is brainwashed – genetically-engineered pigs? Stolen orchids? – hint at bigger concerns about the human drive to tinker with the order of this world. But Carruth uncannily manages to exploit the chaos that ensues.

Deduct one star, for Jeff’s boomy wooing style. You protective, I say controlling. But the couple’s dynamic – cagy, twice-bitten, driven to connect nonetheless – is a story worth telling. It would have worked if the entire sci-fi apparatus were just a container for that delicate, bruised romance.

As well as the permanent collection, there are an ever-changing temporary exhibition space. And, although not on display, the museum has a collection of original manuscripts, early printed books, scores by composers such as Handel and Elgar, and a host of first editions and original manuscripts of literary classics.

Although smaller, The Fitzwilliam achieves the variety and brilliance you would expect from a big, national museum. It runs a series of free weekly lectures and object handling sessions, making this a warm and vibrant place to visit.

VULTURE / REVIEWS

Friday 4th October 2013

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Black Chalk is a thriller in every sense. Six friends gather in a college room to play an elaborate game based on the completion of escalating dares. There is money at stake, but far more important is the maintenance of the delicate balance of power between them. As an exploration of college life, the relationships between young adults and their attitudes to rules, both formal and informal, Black Chalk excels. Yates is brutal in his dissection of the self-image of his bright young things. His protagonists badge themselves off into a group, imagining that everyone in it wants to be a part of it and delighting in their exclusivity. However, as the game progresses, this emphasis on external social positioning is dropped. The walls close in, the group gets tighter, the consequences sharper and any sense of wider perspective is lost. It’s all about the game.

Scale, both in terms of physical space and time is hugely important in this novel. The smallness of the circles in which the six move—from the pub to the college bar to their own rooms—and a small cast of recurring supporting characters create an oppressive claustrophobia. That one of the characters, Chad, has only a year at the college adds a countdown that simmers in the background, pressing in on the action. The gradually souring friendship group is rushing towards an end. They do not realise quite how serious that end will be.

Black Chalk provides an unflinchingly examination of the intense and unpleasant relationships that form in such a tight friendship circle. There is a particularly brilliant passage in which the six all try to outdo one another in the underprivileged stakes; a little bit like the “Four Yorkshiremen” but so blisteringly adept because it keeps just on the right side of preposterous. It’s exactly the kind of skin-crawlingly embarrassing competition you can imagine happening late one night between new friends as they seek to work out the hierarchy of their social circle. This is just one in a series of absolutely bang-on the money observations about students and how they think. This is not an ideal picture of crass, smug Oxbridge hedonism. It’s insubordinate, a little awkward, and so much more realistic. Yates has a delicate hand—he uses losemanship, not the words in a preferrer, a forceful. He hints gently at what is about to happen, perhaps only a page or a few lines before it does, in a way that is consistently exciting. The reader feels as though they wander through the novel picking up clues and scent lines. Perhaps not one to read just before you meet your new flat mates…

Go to varsity.co.uk for a Q&A with the author.

Jilly Luke

Richard Dawkins is like marmite—Oxford educated, militant atheist marmite. If the purpose of his autobiography was to woo his enemies and charm his critics, then it has failed to do so. A characteristic disdain of religion runs throughout the work, even when recounting his early childhood, and locked within the pages are the same philosophies and ideologies for which he is famed.

What makes this work unique amongst its vast back catalogue is that this is an autobiography and so he is, in essence, exposing his life to the world. The problem is that this isn’t quite the case; the book feels restricted. For instance, three pages are dedicated to discussing the Cornish language but he neglects to give his first wife a major mention until he recalls their marriage. The flip side of this is that his description of how he lost his virginity is thankfully rather brief. The cynic may also take comfort in knowing that it takes Dawkins only 9 lines to compare himself to Charles Darwin: they share the same initials, you see.

So what’s the story? Clinton Richard Dawkins was born in colonial Africa in 1941 and after several years travelling around Africa, went through prep and private school. Never feeling a true biologist, despite input to the contrary from many (including a certain Mr David Attenborough), he somehow gets into Balliol College, alma-mater of many of his scientific forebears, and discovers his passion for biology. Gaining his doctorate with a group working in animal behaviour, he briefly moves to America before returning and taking up a lectureship at New College, Oxford.

There are moments of genuine charm laced throughout this book, when Dawkins recounts a teacher, colleague, or even a historical figure it is with contemptuous enthusiasm and his description of science is eloquent. He quotes heavily from earlier works and the work which usually works in his favour. The opening chapters contain such frivolities as a half page on how he would play with his toy truck, or a page and a bit of the songs and poems he would make up and sing to himself. Whilst these may be of great interest to the author they appear little more than disjointing fillers and it is a shame that these were favoured over further descriptions of his time at Oxford.

The book works as a whole though it is in many ways disproportionate and the philosophical or ideological extracts often feel somewhat forced. To paraphrase Dawkins himself, this feels like a life story parodied to his own purpose.

Nathan Smith
AMERICAN FOOTBALL

New but competitive, the Cambridge Pythons have managed to climb to 12th place in the UK national rankings after only two seasons.

Twice a week, one match a week during term time.
Under £20/season, kit provided by the club.
Email the President gay@pythons.org.uk

ARCHERY

The Cambridge University Bowmen provide all necessary equipment and run a beginners course with structured coaching.

Beginners 2-4h/week, experienced archers +10h/week.
£40/year, equipment £10/term, extras cost for competitions.
Taster sessions (£2): 10.30-12:00 and 12:30-13:30 on 13/10 and 20/10 at the Sports Centre.
@ jve34

ATHLETICS

Benefits of joining include use of facilities at Wilberforce Rd, coaching, and a legendary post-Varsity party.
Two full club training sessions, one squad session and a circuits session, all lasting around 2h.
£50/year.
Taster session at 13:00 on 12/10 and 19/10 at the track.
M - zbh22, F - akd43

BADMINTON

Men’s, women’s and mixed teams are formed to compete in the BUCS and local leagues, as well as against Oxford in the Varsity match.
6h training over 2-3 sessions, BUCS matches mid-week.
£150 membership, includes professional coaching.
F - 12.00, F - 14.00, on 12/10 at the Sports Centre.
M - klyt2, F - jmnk2

CRICKET

The Cricket Club’s training culminates in the Varsity Match at Lords.
M - Mitch: 3h session at the end of term; Lent: twice weekly; Summer: training weekly, F - one open session (all levels), one squad session (county level players)
Subs/term: £80 M, £50 F
E-mail captains
M - te252, F - nr338

CYCLING

CUCC is the most successful cycling club in the UK. Having won BUCS last year, they still cater for everyone.
Group road rides Saturday pm and Sunday am, indoor turbo sessions during the week through the winter months.
£33/year, plus equipment cost.
10km Freshers’ race 12/10.
eb511

FOOTBALL

To make it to the first team, you need to have played a high level of football prior to university.
5h/week, 2h football session, 1h fitness session, Wed matches.
£60/term, covers travel and training expenses.
12/10 (e-mail captains).
M - ac722, F - mlb44

GLIDING

For those who fancy escaping Cambridge and heading for the clouds.
Flights at weekends, typical day involves 3-4 short flights or one long flight.
£30 for trial flights, £30 for a typical day’s flight, £100 yearly subs.
Run through the year, dates TBA on the website.
mem48

GOLF

The Golf Club represents the perfect meeting point for those interested in the sport, making it easier and cheaper to play in Cambridge.
6-8h of training/week, matches at weekends.
Petrol costs for travelling to matches.
Can be arranged informally or will be on Tuesday 15/10 in the afternoon (e-mail first).
car67 or cj719

HOCKEY

A full blue sport, hockey is played at a high level in Cambridge.
Three 2h training sessions every week (both men and women), Saturday fixtures, an extra 1h fitness session for the men’s side.
£165/year, plus kit (around £165).
10.00 - 13.10 at the Wilberforce Road Sports Ground.

ICE HOCKEY

Ice hockey at Cambridge goes back to 1885. Both the men and the women’s teams are an international mix of people and are looking for more players.
Three sessions a week (4-6h each), one match a week.
Under £200/year.
13/10, Peterborough – kit available for those who need it. E-mail for more details.
M - jmg201, F - xzjy2

JUDO

The Judo Club provides a great way to let off some steam. The club includes everyone from total beginners to Black belts, with experienced coaches.
7h/week split over three sessions, plus a fitness session.
Mat fees £35/term, one-off £20 BJA fee.
Demonstration session; 14:00-19:00, 12/10, Sports Centre.
jb861

KARATE

The Karate Club welcomes members of all experiences, but squad members need 3 or 4 years of experience.
Most people 4h/week, committed pet-6, squad 10-12.
£30 subs, £40 training fees/term, kit £30, grading £20.
E-mail Jerome Singh (below).
@ jje979

LACROSSE

The Lacrosse Club has three teams: men’s, women’s and mixed.
2h/week for men, 4.5h for women, plus matches once or twice a week.
Subs around £80-120 (reimbursed by most colleges).
M: 7.30pm, 14/10 at Cambridge University Press Astroturf; F: rolling basis.
@ jad65, F - la341

NETBALL

The Netball Club is one of the largest sports clubs. Most players have played at club or higher level.
Two 2h training sessions (Mon, Thu), 1h fitness (Sun), matches (Wed).
£200 kit, £150 subs.
10:30, 12/10, Downing College Netball Courts.
hg317

ROWING

CUABC is open to all abilities.
Dev Squad train twice a week, Blues team train six times a week.
£15 for 3 week trial period, £80/year if chosen for Dev Squad, £150 Blues (can be offset by sports grant).
Three week trial period – 3 training sessions of 1.5h/week.
20/10 at the Sports Centre.
@ t182

SQUASH

CUFC is currently the top university fencing club in the country. They cater to all fencers, of all levels.
Beginners 2h/week, advance - up to 10h/week.
£40/year (first 2 sessions free).
Taster sessions: Beginners 14/00, 10/10, 13/10, 11/10.
Advanced: 18:00, 8/10; all at the Sports Centre.
khs26

SQUEEZE

The newly-founded university club is looking for anyone passionate about handball, regardless of experience.
Join them if you too want to play Europe’s second most played sport.
hourly – 9pm Tuesdays.
£3/session, subs cost TBA.
9pm on 15/10, Chesterton Sports Centre.
handball@cuscam.ac.uk

HANDBALL

The university canoe club is suitable for all, from complete beginners to Black belts, but you hit the ball with your lexibilities.
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A university canoe club is suitable for all, from complete beginners to Black belts, but you hit the ball with your lexibilities.
**POLO**
The Club offers the cheapest student polo in Europe. The only prerequisite for joining is to be able to ride.

*$20* Student taught lessons; $25 professionally coached lessons, $35 subs/term

Taster session on 12/10 – e-mail captain for information

@ jm717

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**ROWING**
Highly competitive, the university squads (men, women, lightweights) are looking for experienced rowers with an excellent level of fitness.

Between 25-40th/week

£400 - £150/year, subject to sponsorship

Ongoing, e-mail

president@culrc.org.uk

president@cuwbc.org.uk

@ president@culrc.org.uk

@ president@cuwbc.org.uk

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**modern pentathlon**
The Club runs all five sports: running, swimming, showjumping, air pistol shooting and fencing.

Sessions scheduled every day, no minimum hours required

£120/year or £80/term

Running: 11:30, 12/10 Jesus Green; Fencing: 8:30, 13/10, Sports Centre; Shooting: 18:00, 14/10 Queen Elizabeth way range.

@ M - am2128, F - acs83

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**RUGBY**
Those who make the 1st men’s team play in the Varsity match at Twickenham.

M: 1st team 2-3h, 5 days a week, other teams twice a week plus strength training; W: 4h/week

Subs £75 M; £60 F

M: 17:30 - 10/10, F: develop. session 13/10, Grange Road

M - ian.minto@crufc.com F - lkb475

@ rugby@cuwbc.org.uk

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**RUGBY FIVES**
Rugby Fives is best described as ‘squash with both hands and no racket’. The Cambridge club has now three top quality courts in the new Sports Centre and welcomes players of all abilities (male and female).

One or two 2h training sessions a week

£20/year

Details at the freshers’ fair

@ jm824

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**sailing**
If interested, have a go at sailing and windsurfing at the Club’s ‘Mega Weekend’ on 12/13 Oct - contact jf446 for details!

Wednesday’s and weekends at the Grahame sailing club

£50/year; entry to events £30-40, plus transport to events and training

19/20th October, e-mail captain for information

@ sh679

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**ski and snowboarding**
The Club has three sections: racing, freestyle and beginners. Members train at the Milton Keynes.

Race team – two 2h sessions, one fitness session; freestylers – one 2h session; beginners – once a week.

Membership: £20/year, training session around £20.

E-mail captain (below)

jc32

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**small bore**
The Cambridge club practice with 22” smallbore rifles. All equipment is provided, full coaching both for novices and more experienced shots.

Between 2-12h/week

£30 membership, £50 box ammunition

2-6pm on 11th, 14th, 18th Oct at the Queen Elizabeth Way Range

@ jwp54

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**squash**
Those looking to join the Squash Rackets Club should have a reasonable amount of experience. The first team is county/regional level, and the lower teams are still competitive.

First team – 5-6h/week, lower teams 2-3h/week, plus matches once or twice a week.

£30 Annual subs

M: 11:00, F: 14:00; 19/10 at Fitzwilliam College Courts

@ M - jac54, F - rp405

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**swimming**
The year for the swimming club is divided into two sessions, from January (usually in Spain), and culminates with the Varsity match.

6-9h/week

£300/year, £500 for training camp abroad (optional)

15:00, 13/10, Leys Pool. Newcomers should be at regional or national standard.

@ aw594

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**Lawn tennis**
The Cambridge Club is one of the oldest in the world.

First team: 6-8h tennis training, two matches, 3h fitness; second team: 4-6h tennis training, one match, 2h fitness

£80 - 1st and 2nd team; £60 - 3rd team; £40 - social tennis

12/10, must sign up at the Freshers’ Fair first

@ cam216

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**table tennis**
The University Table Tennis Club provides the opportunity for enthusiastic players of all levels to practise and play competitive table tennis.

3h coaching sessions for all standards, 3h advanced sessions for experienced players

£40 Annual membership

13:00, 13/10, Sports Centre

@ ms2082

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**TRAMPOLINE**
This sport involves performing various acrobatic tricks on a trampoline. The Club has excellent equipment, including Olympic standard trampolines.

Up to 9h during term time, 6h out of term

£85 annual subs

No tryouts, anyone can join.

Freshers’ sessions 15:00 - 13/10, 19:00 - 16/10, Sports Centre

@ M - aj445, F - mgc37

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**TrIathlon**
Cambridge Triathlon Club offers its members training for the three triathlon disciplines.

Two 2h swimming sessions, two 1-2h cycling sessions, two 1-2h running sessions, one 2-2h brick sessions (optional)

£25 Membership, kit costs, £15.0-2 per swimming session.

Sign up at Freshers’ Fair

@ mj365

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**Volleyball**
The Volleyball Club (men and women) is split into Blues and UCC players. Blues are expected to have some competitive experience (regional to national).

4-5h training, plus matches

£160 Blues subs, UCC the

M: 15:00, 12/10; F: 20:00, 10/10, Sports Centre

@ M - rk471; F - as543

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**Money Worries?**
If you are interested in playing a sport at university level but are worried about the costs involved, there are funding resources available:

- Hawks’ Charitable Trust: intended for current students whose sports activities are financially constrained.
- Eric Evans Trust Fund: intended for students who wish to improve their sporting performance beyond University level, as well as those who wish to gain coaching qualifications.
- Opeys: for Cambridge sportswomen. Some colleges offer sports grants to cover costs related to competing at a high level in the University.
A new era for Cambridge sport?

The long-awaited University Sports Centre has opened its doors, but its location and membership costs raise questions as to its future popularity among students.

Roxy Antohi
SPORTS EDITOR

The new, eagerly anticipated University Sports Centre at West Cambridge opened its doors in August 2013. Its state of the art facilities include a fitness, strength and conditioning suite, as well as a vast sports hall.

The centre marks a new era of sport in the city for both students and locals. But, as impressive as it is, the Centre has received mixed reactions from some of the students. The membership rates – ranging from £19 to £43 per month – have made some wish that Fenner’s gym, which up until recently could be used for only £45 per year, was still available.

This week I sat down with the Director of Sport at Cambridge, Tony Lemons, to discuss the issues surrounding the opening of the Centre.

Lemons says that Fenner’s was “so cheap it was almost free” but argues that the building was too small and increasingly unreliable. The floor in the weights room had gone through to the basement several times in recent years. The Centre, on the other hand, “is a different ball game” says Lemons. “Until you’ve seen it, you don’t have a clue what you’re getting for the money.”

Having seen it, I have to agree with him. As gyms go, this one does its best to perform at world class standards. It is made up of two training areas. The first one, the fitness suite, displays an extensive range of cardiovascular machines, including treadmills, cross-trainers and bikes, as well as Concept II rowers, skiing ergometers, Jacobs Ladders and Watt Bikes. In addition to this, there is an extensive range of stack loaded, cable and free-weights.

As impressive as it is, the Centre has received mixed reactions from some the students. The prices have made some wish that Fenner’s was still available.

Lemons admits that there might still be some students who used to go to Fenner’s that will choose to train elsewhere, but he believes that the Sports Centre has a number of cards up its sleeve that will attract a much larger number of individuals. Apart from the sheer size of the whole complex, the sports hall at its heart will be used by hundreds of students who were hiring sports halls elsewhere at extortionate rates. The hall has courts marked for basketball, netball, badminton, volleyball, five-a-side football and futsal, and it can also accommodate trampolining, boxing, short tennis, gymnastics and archery.

This is complimented by a multi-purpose room which caters for martial arts, fencing, dancing and exercise classes including circuits, zumba and yoga. Lemons thinks that the classes will be particularly popular, especially considering the low price the students will have to pay for them.

This is due to a deal the Sports Centre has struck with all the colleges. Every year, the colleges pay £10 for each of their students to have a basic membership which entitles them to book classes and sports facilities (other than the gym) at very low rates.

This deal was accepted by the colleges in favour of another one, which involved them paying £28 per student every year, but which offered full use of all the facilities, including the gym. The colleges could choose to charge the students in order to make up for the costs. For example, Trinity, the only one to take up on this offer, now charges its students £30 per year if they wish to make use of the sports centre gym, a price still much lower than the one other students at other colleges have to pay for their monthly membership.

Lemons thinks it was a shame that more colleges did not take up the initial offer. “I think some of the students will be very angry to find out about this,” he says. “The colleges were supposed to discuss the matter with the students.”

Other than the costs, the issue of location has also been raised: the West Cambridge site, or the Wild West, as some call it, is a place where few undergraduates usually venture. This could potentially represent a turn-off for those not already worried by the costs involved. Lemons argues that taking into account the fact that Great St Mary’s Church is technically considered to be the centre of the University, the Sports Centre is actually closer to the centre than Fenner’s.

It remains to be seen whether the students will agree. The facilities are indeed impressive, but there is a possibility that many won’t be willing to venture out and see for themselves.