

VARSITY

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Learning from the lows, looking beyond the highs

Cambridge has a habit of making students forget how bad it can be. When being greeted by friends in the immediate aftermath of a mediocre final exam, cava seemingly washes away the sins inflicted by Easter term. May Week is perfectly placed, both as the motivator throughout the dark library days of the previous six weeks, and to mark the last memories we all hold of the academic year – or, in the case of Finalists, of our time here.

Cambridge is notoriously and unapologetically fast paced. Short terms, with just a few days for each new topic, means a turnover of information that passes too quickly for our brains to fully process. But every eight weeks it's over, and a collective sigh rings out. And we move on to the supervision essay, the next obstacle, the next term, the next year. Short sharp cycles of incredible highs and exhausting lows.

It is not only in the juxtaposition between exams and May Week that real experiences and opportunities for reflection

and rebuilding get lost. Many of the constituent parts of the university have made a habit of entrenching the fast turnover of information that is so prevalent in our academic lives.

This term saw tensions rise among prominent student groups as debate raged over the role of NUS, and Cambridge students went to the polls to decide on CUSU's affiliation to the national body. But in the aftermath of the vote to remain in NUS, it is not enough for CUSU to celebrate its affiliation and not learn from the experiences and voices raised in the referendum process. The new sabbatical team have a duty to all of the Yes to Disaffiliation campaigners to hold the NUS fully accountable for the allegations pressed against them, and to listen to the concerns of the 2,880 students who voted to leave – a figure 1,200 higher than the number that voted for incoming president Amatey Doku.

A clear mandate was given to Doku in his presidential election, but with it comes

an obligation to fully engage with the issues that CUSU has faced and, in some instances, left unresolved this year (see *Comment*, page 17).

This rapid turnover of events and information is reflected in the politics of the modern day, and, regardless of the results of the EU referendum, there are serious democratic questions to be asked of the structure and functioning of the EU (see *Varsity's interview with Chris Bickerton*, page 9). A vote to Remain is not a complete endorsement of the EU, but, as with the NUS, it is a persuasive argument that a seat at the table is worth having – so long as the outcome is not complacency but of reform from within.

To refocus back into the microcosm that is Cambridge, reform is possible, even with the undeniable struggle against institutionally embedded discrimination which a range of minority groups face. It takes dedicated individuals, mobilisation, collective action, and acute self-awareness of others to overcome these challenges. It

is easy to allow May Week to be an indulgent, even restorative time as a Cantab. However, as *Varsity's* investigation (see page 11) shows, this extravagance itself has a considerable cost, which cannot be dismissed simply as a deserved frivolity in the aftermath of exams.

As Cambridge students, we need to challenge ourselves to reflect more upon our experience of our time here – on the university's ability to make us forget about the bad bits – because nothing will change if the largest body of members of the university allow ourselves to be drawn into amnesia by the champagne and fireworks.

By all means, embrace and enjoy the undoubtedly incredible events over the course of this week. However, the journey that has led students to this point deserves to be reflected upon and interrogated. Cambridge is an institution that predates and will outdate us all, but it is ours, and its structures and aims are ours to change.

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NEWS: THE EU REFERENDUM

Is Cambridge in or out?

Varsity reveals the results of its poll, gets the perspective of academics on the referendum, and examines the impact Brexit will have on students (pages 4, 8, 9)



INTERVIEWS: EDDIE IZZARD

'Hope is the fuel of civilisation'

The comedian stresses why we should remain in the EU, discusses his interest in politics and turns the tables on *Varsity* (page 16)



COMMENT: CUSU, THE EU AND EXAMS

'We want everyone to be engaged'

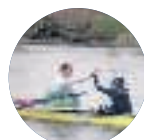
CUSU's incoming President talks about the importance of collaboration and listening to the student body to the organisation's future (page 17)



SPORT: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Final tallies of Oxford vs. Cambridge

Varsity looks at the sporting clashes between Oxford and Cambridge over the past year which have left them neck-and-neck (page 22-23)



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VARSITY



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MAY WEEK 2016

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REVIEWS

CUSU accounts show first deficit in four years

Report reveals £50,000 increase in staff costs and raises questions about who really controls CUSU

HARRY CURTIS SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

CUSU ran a deficit for the first time in four years during the last financial year, according to the student union's latest published accounts.

The accounts, which detail income and expenditure for the financial year ending on 30th June 2015, show that CUSU overspent by £4,498. The figures mean that at the end of June last year CUSU were £32,454 worse off than they were at the end of the 2013/14 financial year, when they recorded a surplus of £27,956.

Overall expenditure rose by 13 per cent in 2014/15, hitting £757,009. One of the areas to see the biggest increases in spending was staffing, with the cost of CUSU's 11 members of staff – which includes sabbatical officers – amounting to £49,894 more than in 2013/14.

Contrary to what the increase might suggest, the number of staff employed by CUSU has only gone up by one in the last year. The substantial increase in staff ing costs reflects the emphasis CUSU has placed on “pay and reward” as an area for development.

In the report accompanying the latest accounts, CUSU General Manager Mark McCormack writes: “the organisation was successful in its grant bid to the university to raise non-manager pay across staff and elected officers, and improve the training and development opportunities available to team members.”

The report notes that the University



CUSU's report shows that they overspent by £4,498 as spending on staff increased

of Cambridge upped its contribution towards salary costs in 2014/15 by almost 26 per cent, from £66,350 to £83,547.

The last time CUSU's end-of-year reports recorded a deficit was 2011, when the student union was over £40,000 in the red. In the 2011 report,

the then CUSU Co-ordinator, Harriet Flower, put the huge deficit down to, among other things, “a dramatic reduction in revenue generated by advertising sales for [*The Cambridge Student*]”. Indeed, revenue generated by TCS fell by nearly £14,000 between 2009/10 and 2010/11, and has

continued to fall year after year ever since, with the exception of 2012/13.

The latest accounts show the income generated by TCS – which had its print run defunded by CUSU this term – slip yet again, to £32,672, meaning that over the past five years the paper's revenues have diminished

by 38 per cent. However, CUSU's overall income substantially increased during the last financial year, totalling £752,511 – over £55,000 more than the amount raised in the previous year.

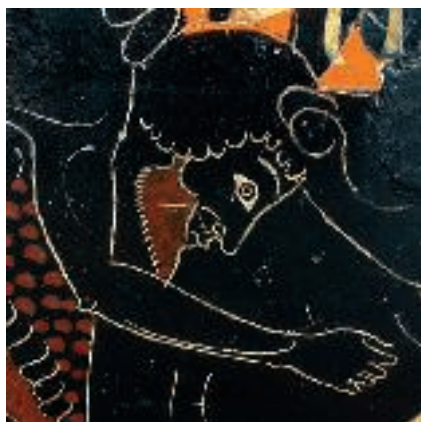
The report also fuels uncertainty about the balance of power within CUSU and whether the elected sabbatical officers are really the ones who are in control. Unusually, CUSU's annual Trustees' Report, which accompanies the income and spending figures, is signed off not by one of the union's trustees, but instead by CUSU's General Manager, Mark McCormack.

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OVERALL EXPENDITURE ROSE BY 13 PER CENT IN 2014/15, HITTING £757,009

This is despite the “Report of the Trustees” – a section of the report distinct from and preceding the Trustees' Annual Report, saying: “The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report”. In previous years, the Trustees' Report, or the Co-ordinator's Report that preceded it, has always been signed off by a trustee of the student union.

Why this isn't the case for the latest report is unclear.



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Fitzwilliam
Museum

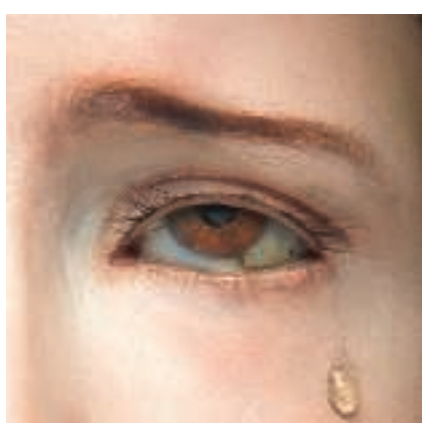
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Daniel Gayne
EU debate
patronises
young voters



Last Monday, I took part in a Channel 4 debate on the EU referendum in Norwich. The evening, overseen by Jon Snow, was a fascinating insight into the making of the televisual sausage. Yet I was left incredibly disillusioned.

The debate was intended to give a voice to younger people, whose opinions are largely overlooked. Instead, it ignored the stated interests and preferences of those young voters whose concerns they claimed to be addressing. In both the initial debate on Facebook, and the following panel discussion, Snow asked the assembled youngsters whether they were more concerned with the issue of immigration or the economy: both times the answer was the latter.

Yet this splash of democracy did not deter a relentless focus on the former topic. There is something deeply ironic about the fact much of a debate addressing the lack of youth voices was dedicated to immigration, a topic which, just before that debate, had been declared to be of less concern. The debate had been moulded not to express the opinions of the young, but to fit the general media narrative.

The division between the Facebook debate and the News at 7 event was also telling, presumably rooted in the demographic difference of the two audiences. While the first comprised a simple debate among the audience, the youths were apparently not considered mature enough to speak to the older Channel 4 audience without the mediation of the panel of 'experts'.

The panel was largely uninteresting and uninformative. One member, Conservative MP Tom Pursglove, seemed to have been invited purely for the novelty of being the youngest Conservative member of the Commons. The superficiality of the panel's pandering was further demonstrated by Darren Grimes, a young Brexit activist, who provoked uproarious laughter when he said that his campaign would engage with young people with "animated graphics, nice shiny things".

The IN campaign have similarly embarrassed themselves recently after their 'ravin, chattin, votin' advert, yet such appeals to our supposedly inane and unengaged generation fell flat. The young audience members, clearly infinitely more self-aware than the apparatchiks onstage, appeared just as informed as the panellists, but seemed far more interested in debating one another than the hacks in the front seats.

Speaking to a few from the crowd at the station afterwards, we all questioned why the panel had even been there; had they contributed anything? They certainly hadn't convinced any of the undecideds.

Much is said of our generation's apathy. It seems on an almost daily basis that we are confronted with some self-important columnist telling us how vacuous and narcissistic we are. Yet it strikes me that it was the gathered young people who wanted nuance, who wanted facts that they could think about, not facts that tell them how to think.

Personally, I can't help thinking that if young people just want to discuss the issue with one another, and not be lectured by members of political parties with vested interests and axes to grind, then that might have been the way to engage them.

Poll: 85% for Remain

Varsity's survey of Cambridge members, which received over 900 responses, shows overwhelming support for Britain's continued membership of the EU

ANNA MENIN SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Over 85 per cent of members of the University of Cambridge want Britain to remain in the European Union, according to a poll conducted by *Varsity*, ahead of the referendum on 23rd June.

The poll, which surveyed 920 students and staff, revealed that only 14 per cent of respondents intend to vote to leave the EU, with one per cent undecided.

Undergraduate students were slightly more likely to support Britain remaining in the EU than graduate students, with 86 per cent of undergraduates supporting a Remain vote, as opposed to 82 per cent of graduate students.

Varsity's poll also revealed a significant gender gap in participants' voting intentions, with male respondents nearly four times more likely to vote to leave the EU.

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WITHOUT A GOOD TURNOUT FROM THE YOUNGER AGE BRACKETS, THERE IS A REAL DANGER OF OUR VOICES BEING MARGINALISED

It also revealed divisions in how students and staff from different colleges intend to vote. Christ's is the most Eurosceptic college, with 29 per cent intending to vote Leave.

Fitzwilliam and Murray Edwards emerged as the most pro-European colleges, with 100 per cent of respondents from those colleges intending to vote Remain.

Speaking to *Varsity* about the results, Damiano Sogaro, Secretary of the Cambridge for Europe Campaign, expressed his pleasure at the results.

"We are happy to see that the

overwhelming majority of students share our view of the importance of EU funding for our research, EU collaboration networks for smooth collaboration with other countries, free movement of peoples for job prospects, and democratising influence in difficult regions of Europe all whilst strengthening environmental safeguards."

However, he stated: "we are increasingly concerned with whether this will translate into votes. Many students will be graduating, or starting internships."

"Voting may seem difficult, or unnecessary because of a belief that the UK will vote to remain regardless. This could not be further from the truth. Without a good turnout from the younger age brackets, there is a real danger [of] our voices being marginalised", he added.

Last month, Universities UK surveyed over 2,000 students, and found that 63 per cent of them were not able to name the date of the referendum as the 23rd, while 54 per cent did not know that the month of the referendum was June.

However, despite these findings, 72 per cent of those surveyed said that they thought the result of the referendum would have a significant impact on students' futures.

Varsity's results are in line with national polling of students' views: last month, graduate career app Debut surveyed 12,000 students, and found that 81 per cent planned to vote to remain in the EU, with 10 per cent intending to vote to leave.

However, there is a clear gap between the views of students and those of the general population, with the most recent national polling suggesting that the referendum result will be extremely close.

A YouGov online poll from 10th June put the Leave campaign on 43 per cent, and Remain on 42 per cent, with 15 cent undecided.

An online Opinium poll from the same day put Remain on 44 per cent, and Leave on 42 per cent, with 13 per cent undecided.



REMAIN 85% LEAVE 14% UNDECIDED 1%



Most pro-EU:

FITZWILLIAM

&

MURRAY EDWARDS

**REMAIN
100%**

Most anti-EU:

CHRIST'S

**LEAVE
29%**



David Runciman

The head of POLIS breaks down the key issues for *Varsity*

Remain

I am in favour of Remain, partly because I have spent most of my adult life attached to the ideal of a more united Europe and I'd be sorry to give up on that, and partly because I think the political risks of leaving outweigh those of staying. But I'm aware these are fairly fragile argu-

ments – one quite wishful and one quite negative – and I certainly don't think there are no serious arguments on the other side. People have good reason to be suspicious of the EU and some of the claims made on its behalf.

European Integration

It's not too late to leave. In fact, you could say that it might be too early – in 5-10 years time some of the basic issues might be starker, particularly in relation to the Euro, which is likely to have passed through another crisis. Likewise with migration, which will force action at some point.

At the moment we don't really know whether Europe is going to change dramatically anyway, and those changes might make the choice clearer for us.

That's one reason to suppose that this referendum may not be the last one on our membership, whatever we decide this time.

A Historic Decision?

I can't believe that in 20 years' time we wouldn't notice the impact, even if we do find that we've voted more than once in that period: a decision to leave has the potential to make a fundamental difference to British and European politics. In economic terms, 20 years is an absurdly long time to try to make any sort of forecast. Whatever the state of the British economy in 2036, it's unlikely we'd be able to trace it back to any single moment of decision, including this one. There are too many contingencies. But politics is different. If the Tory party splits, or Labour splits, or other European countries follow the UK example and quit the EU, or Scotland votes to leave the UK, then I think we might have some idea of what triggered it. This referendum could produce a lot of uncertainty in the short-term, but in 20 years it won't be uncertainty any more. It will be the history of our times.

Students and the EU

The advantages of Europe are the most obvious for people with the greatest educational opportunities, which is why many students are for Remain.

But it's important not just to frame the argument in those terms: if the EU seems like a project for the benefit of the cosmopolitan elite then frustration with it from people who don't share those advantages will just grow.

Ideally, students shouldn't just vote 'as students', though I realise that makes me sound a bit high-minded (people can and do vote in their own interests, as I probably would have done when I was a student).

I'll sound even higher-minded when I say that the most important thing is not how students vote, but simply that they vote at all.

Too many young people who have the vote don't use it.

They should.

Cambridge researcher wins prize for a device helping to fight HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa

DANIEL GAYNE DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

Dr Helen Lee, an inventor in Cambridge University's Department of Haematology, has been honoured for her work on HIV diagnosis, winning the Popular Prize at the 2016 European Inventor Awards.

Fending off 14 other finalists, Dr Lee gained 64 per cent of the 56,700 online public votes in the competition run by the European Patent Office (EPO).

The gong was awarded for a HIV diagnostic device, the SAMBA, which can help fight the virus in less economically developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

"We wanted something that anyone who can cook can use", said Dr Lee. The device delivers an uncomplicated result in the form of one or two easy-to-read lines and resembles a coffee machine with simple cartridges.

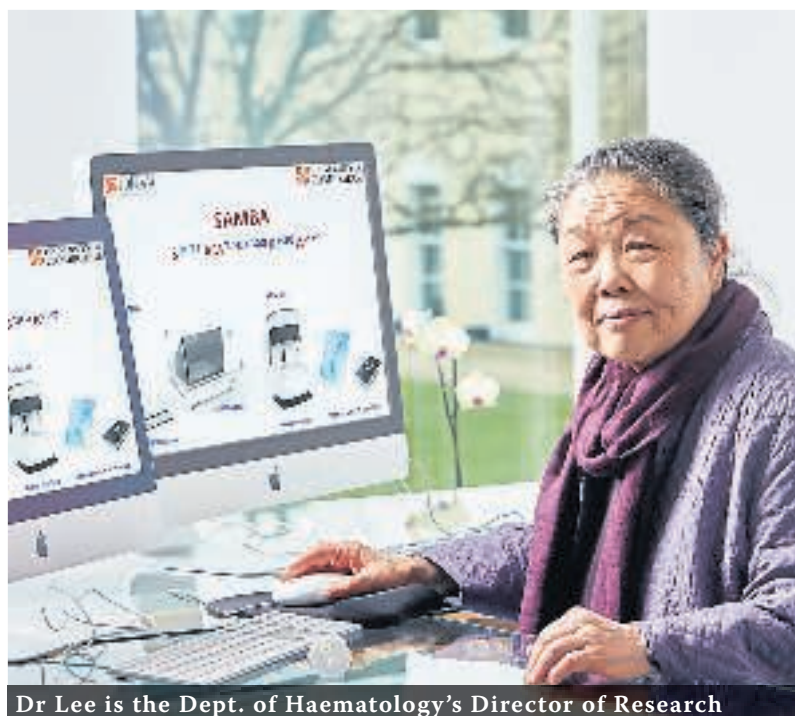
Her company, Diagnostics for the Real World, created the SAMBA diagnostic test in 2011, retaining at most 15 per cent of the profits it generates.

The device has been used to test over 40,000 patients for HIV in Malawi and Uganda, and may prove of use to the 20 million people thought to carry the HIV virus in sub-Saharan Africa.

"I think the most important thing is to be useful in your life", said Dr Lee.

"When I see that our immediate results made a difference in their lives, then you really look at the effort, and you say yes, that was worth it."

Benoit Battistelli, President of the EPO, said: "The years of work



Dr Lee is the Dept. of Haematology's Director of Research

Helen Lee has devoted to developing easy-to-use rapid tests for infectious diseases such as AIDS and Hepatitis B have been overwhelmingly recognised by the public.

"The clear vote is proof of the important role played by point-of-care diagnostics in regions without comprehensive medical care.

"Lee has made a major contribution towards the early detection of infections and their treatment in areas most in need".

Dr Lee has previously worked at a major US healthcare firm, Abbott Laboratories, and notes that she couldn't have invented her diagnostic equipment if she had remained.

"If I'd still been at Abbott I would have been fired a long time ago", she noted. "In fact, I would have fired myself because you can't do this in two to three years".

"People think you have to be clever to invent. But I think it's the persistence, the perseverance".

News in Brief

DECAPITATED DUCKLING

Lucy Cavendish boaties behead duckling

Bumps week saw the untimely death of a duckling that was decapitated in front of the watching crowd.

The family, composed of one mother duck and ten chicks, was brutalised as the eight-strong crew from Lucy Cavendish made their way to the start line to take part in the traditional rowing race.

According to local resident Lee Culley, this is not the first time this has happened. He claims that at least two ducklings had been killed in another race he saw.

NETFLIX AND CHILL IS A LIE

Cam statistician opines on lack of sex

Cambridge statistician David Spiegelhalter has told an audience at the Hay Festival that sex rates are on the decline, and that he blames box set television for the fall in friskiness.

"People are having less sex. Sexually active couples between 16 and 64 were asked and the median was five times in the last month in 1990, then four times in 2000 and three times in 2010," he said.

Spiegelhalter noted that "at this rate by 2030 couples are not going to be having any sex at all".

ROGUE COW

Cow takes issue with women

A Cambridge cow, which resides near the Mill Pond, has been reported to the police for aggressive behaviour towards women. Reports of the cow chasing members of the public have revived concerns about the dangers of livestock not being "taken seriously".

General manager of The Mill, Lauren Hodges, confessed that they "stampeded a bit" but that they weren't "ferocious beasts".



PAMELA

MEE and I

ASIAN TAPAS & NOODLE BAR

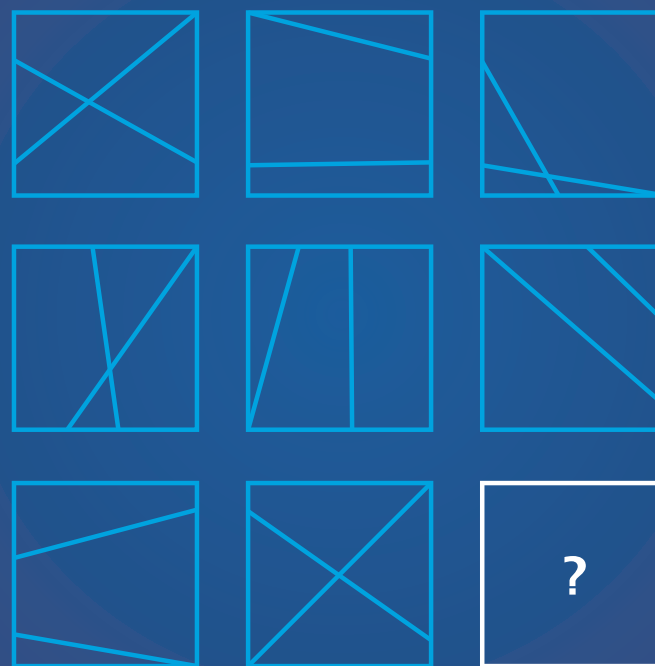
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CUCA's Women's Officer criticises group's 'aggressive sexism'

Varsity News Team

The outgoing Women's Officer of the Cambridge University Conservative Association (CUCA), Eleanor Costello, has condemned the group for its "aggressive sexism" and claims that she "faced open ridicule" in her role.

Speaking to *Varsity*, Costello argued that there "was a significant barrier to making any change within the association" and that there was a "pervasive idea that actively encouraging diversity [within CUCA] was somehow left-wing and discriminatory".

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A COMMITTEE MEMBER HAD PUBLICLY DENOUNCED MY ROLE AS POINTLESS

Varsity previously reported on the introduction of a Women's Officer, which was unanimously approved in March 2016 after then Chairman, Samuel Carr, received "complaints about the society's openness to women".

Costello, who was elected to the

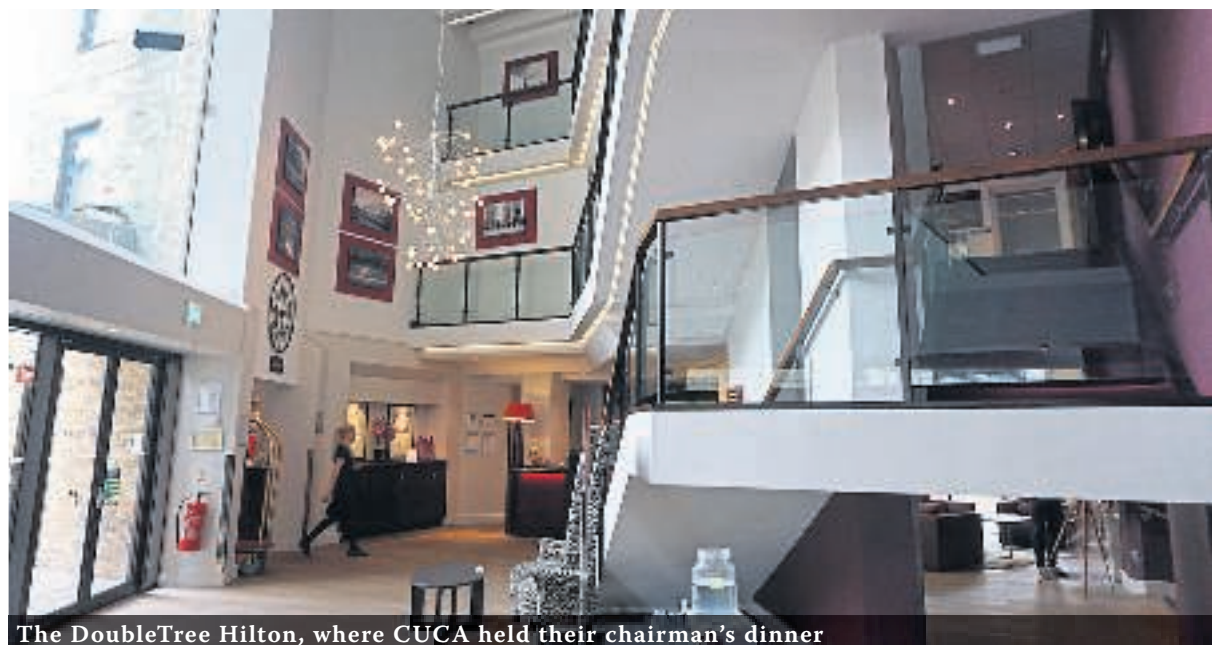
position at the beginning of Easter Term told *Varsity* that she was initially optimistic because the "situation was so bad that things could only improve".

However, she outlined that the role of 'Women's Officer' was never properly instituted by CUCA: "The constitution was not changed. I wasn't actually a 'Women's Officer'...I couldn't vote on any decisions in meetings. I couldn't even vote for my own proposals."

CUCA told *Varsity* that part of the Women's Officer's role was to "inform us of any complaints she received so that we could more promptly act on them", adding that "no formal representations were ever made by the Women's Officer during her term on committee."

At the termly general meeting at which Costello was appointed, she claimed that her suggestion that CUCA members bring female friends to events "faced open ridicule". She added: "It reached me later that a committee member had publicly denounced my role as pointless". When Costello sought redress against the "member in question [...] I was told that this was simply not possible".

CUCA, speaking to *Varsity*, stated that opposition to the role "was largely aimed at the creation of a fully elected position" due to "concern that female



The DoubleTree Hilton, where CUCA held their chairman's dinner

members would feel pigeonholed into this position". Additionally, an anonymous CUCA member, speaking to *Varsity*, said: "As far as I am aware the committee member in question has renounced those views in numerous conversations. However, this is an opinion that still holds some prevalence and remains an issue CUCA

needs to deal with."

Costello also told *Varsity* of the exclusion she experienced: "I was consistently ignored by the majority of male attendees at events", she says. "In fact, there are several committee members whom I have never spoken to... they politely but firmly pretended that I was not there."

Costello further alleged that, during a discussion of whether to appoint a female Vice-President, a committee member stated that it would be "nothing but tokenism and appointing a female for the sake of it, which serves no meaningful purpose".

Varsity contacted former Communications and Publicity Officer Sarah Cooper-Lesadd, who added: "From the moment I was elected, I feel that I have been undermined and in committee meetings I have been constantly talked over by men. I have been actively ignored by a number of members."

"At a committee dinner last term, the two women were sat on their own at the end of the table. There was another dinner that one of the committee held at Churchill; I was the only elected member who wasn't invited."

Responding to these allegations, CUCA claimed that "at no point was any formal complaint made to the Chairman or Senior Treasurer", and called for "further details" to investigate the issue. They added that CUCA's new committee had "recently approved a formal Complaints Procedure" to create "channels for complaint" that are "clear".

For Costello, the "final straw" was at last week's Chairman's dinner. Costello told *Varsity* the atmosphere at the event was "shockingly raucous" and that "there was shouting, glasses were smashed and there was a lot of loud thumping on the tables."

She added that: "A large group stood to sing the national anthem, followed by 'Jerusalem' and then 'I Vow to Thee, My Country'. The sound was deafening and many people in the room were visibly cringing."

An anonymous committee member told *Varsity* that these members "were very loud, intimidating and made people uncomfortable. I feel people were put off CUCA as a society because of it. I don't feel that these individuals represent CUCA as a whole, but they do represent a powerful contingent within it."

"I feel bad for the Chairman who worked so hard for this event and who was clearly upset because it was spoiled by them." Another attendee anonymously told *Varsity*: "It got very out of hand very quickly because people just got way too drunk... I know

there were many people who were really overwhelmed and upset by what happened. I certainly hope CUCA can help itself and change for the better."

Costello also said that after the dinner a former committee member made sexist and derogatory remarks directly towards her that left her "in tears", and "no one stepped in, or said anything as I left." Responding to this incident, CUCA told *Varsity*: "CUCA cannot and will not tolerate any abusive behaviour against any member at events which are designed to be enjoyed by everybody."

"These comments were made by a private individual in a private capacity and do not reflect on CUCA as any

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CUCA 'REFUTE' CLAIMS OF BEING OPPOSED TO DIVERSITY 'WHOLEHEARTEDLY'

way. The member in question has been banned from attending future events as a result of this conduct."

When this response was presented to Costello by *Varsity*, she said that CUCA had not responded to her directly concerning her complaint. Costello was clear as to how she thought the alleged problem could be tackled, telling *Varsity*: "It has been made clear to me that the only way to confront aggressive sexism is with aggressive change."

She added that there was a need for a properly elected Women's Officer with real powers and for "openly sexist" members to be "expelled from the organisation".

"It is not acceptable for women, in 2016, to face this treatment. To be frank, I do not care about tokenism, or 'having a woman for the sake of it'. I care about making women feel like people. I have failed in my role as Women's Officer. This term I was on a committee of nine men and five women. I leave to a committee of eight men and two women."

Responding to Costello's claims, the Cambridge University Conservative Association told *Varsity* that they "refute" claims of being opposed to diversity "wholeheartedly" and that "we have recently offered Vice Presidencies to two female politicians of stature [and their] first two preferences for new Senior Treasurer were both female." They added: "The Easter Committee was the most diverse in recent CUCA history, with 42 per cent of the committee being women."

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Zero Carbon slates Working Group 'failure to engage'

AMY GEE

The Cambridge Zero Carbon Society has criticised the university's Working Group for investment for a "lack of focus on climate change and sustainability".

The Advisory Committee on Benefactions and External and Legal Affairs (ACBELA) Working Group has a remit to evaluate "how the Investment Board integrates environmental, social, and governance considerations" into the university's investment practice.

It is set to consider the university's "mission and core values" in relation to its "potential investment approaches", focusing in particular on its stated "concern for sustainability and its relationship with the environment".

The Cambridge Zero Carbon Society have expressed doubt that the Working Group will wholly recommend divestment from fossil fuels, and may instead only "recommend greater incorporation of environmental and ethical factors into investment decisions".

In a statement, Zero Carbon described its own aims to call on the university to "divest its multi-billion pound endowment from fossil fuels, as part of a global effort to stigmatise the fossil fuel industry and force governments to legislate for renewables, in order to comply with the 2°C global warming limit agreed upon by 193 countries at the Paris Climate Summit in December."

The society has also collaborated with Positive Investment Cambridge (PIC) in a joint letter which criticises a

"lack of transparency" of the Working Group's report.

In the letter PIC state that "the lack of student involvement in this process has been unfair". Zero Carbon revealed that they had submitted a 75-page report to the Working Group but had not been permitted to present it.

They were told that there was "[not] much to be gained" from it, despite it being "substantial, well-referenced and with contributions by professional economists, as well as being fundamentally related to the Working Group's remit."

The society also criticised the Working Group for not allowing the two student Socially Responsible Investment Officers appointed to the Working Group "to share its progress with fellow students", and for holding the student consultation stage over the summer of 2015, a time they called "inconvenient and not well publicised".

“
THE LACK OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN UNFAIR

Zero Carbon have expressed concerns that the Working Group has been "prioritising money-making" over ethics, and reported that, in a meeting with the Chair of the Working Group in November, the Chair "cast doubt on



Zero Carbon protest emphasises their 'red lines' on the climate

the universally acknowledged imperative to keep global temperature rises below 2°C, and was from the outset intensely sceptical of divestment."

The society also condemned the Group's "fundamental failure to consult with the Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU)", which they say "should surely have been the first port of call". In November, CUSU Council had voted 33-1 in support of divestment, and Zero Carbon's petition on divestment has gained just under 2,200 signatures.

Zero Carbon also took issue with the lack of a formal method for making

submissions or presenting their report to the Group, and stated that contact with members of the Working Group via email has been repeatedly ignored.

Zero Carbon have commented that "By all accounts this is not how a respectful, efficient, engaged university should be functioning."

A spokesperson for Zero Carbon said that they would propose a motion in October to Regent House, a governing body of approximately 4,000 academics and administrators.

The society has stated: "We are confident we will win a vote among fellows

at Regent House in October if it comes to it... there is no future in fossil fuels. Cambridge can either cut and run, or be a part of the crash."

Angus Satow, Zero Carbon Campaigns Officer, called the procedure of the working group a "fundamental issue of fairness". He said that the Working Group "has failed to engage" in both the university's "moral duty to improve the world" and its duty to include students in decision making processes. Satow added: "we are sure that the academics of Cambridge will recognise the overwhelming case for fossil fuel divestment."

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Should we stay or should

Dissecting Brexit: what would it mean for students?

DANIEL GAYNE DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

In a campaign which has centred on the two key issues of immigration and the economy, *Varsity* looks what Brexit would look like in the context of issues close to the hearts of students.

According to a recent survey conducted by online discount site MyVoucherCodes – which surveyed over 2,500 students – concerns about travelling, studying, and gaining work in Europe were the first, second and fifth most significant for students.

Varsity spoke to the Professor of EU law and Employment Law at Trinity College, Catherine Barnard, to find out what would be in store for students in the event of a Brexit vote.

Fundamentally, it comes down to what kind of relationship the UK negotiates with the EU afterwards. An exit from the EU would be handled under Article 50 of the Treaty on the European Union. This does not specify what kind of relationship the EU has with the leaving party, or even that they must have a relationship at all.

A House of Lords Select Committee recently announced that this was the only route for Britain to leave the EU.

This considered, there are three major possibilities for a future relationship with Europe. The first is the so-called 'Norwegian model', which would entail joining the European Economic Area (EEA).

Barnard calls this option 'EU lite'. This deal would undercut many of the

reclamations of sovereignty touted by the Leave campaign.

While the UK would get exclusions from agriculture and fisheries policies, many EU regulations would remain, as would the free movement of labour. This means that UK students would likely have visa-free travel and the ability to work where they want in Europe.

“

IT COMES DOWN TO WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP THE UK NEGOTIATES WITH THE EU AFTERWARDS

The alternative is either the 'Canadian model', where the UK would negotiate a trade deal with the EU, or the 'Swiss model', where the UK would establish a series of bilateral agreements with EU nations.

In both instances, visa control is officially delegated to the member states, but increasingly there are directives regulating third country nationals at the EU level.

Barnard suggested that attempts by the UK to limit visas to specific countries could potentially trigger a Europe-wide response. She also noted that the EU would be strongly against

the UK attempting to follow the Swiss route.

Another concern listed by students was workers' rights. We asked Catherine Barnard if the Remain campaign was scaremongering with its argument of working protections, and she said that "it's more complicated than both sides paint it".

To a certain extent, changes to workers' rights depends on the constitutional question of what happens to EU law after a Brexit vote.

Asked if leaving the EU would mean the current catalogue of EU laws and regulations being struck off the books, Barnard said: "we don't know the answer", but that pragmatically, they would probably remain at first.

Barnard also explained the precise situation in relation to EU protections of workers' rights.

The UK has had protections against discrimination since the 1970s, but the EU has extended these protections to cover religion, age, and sexuality. In Barnard's words, "EU law supplements domestic law".

The EU has also introduced some 'floor of rights' legislation, for example the Working Time Directive.

This addresses an area in which, historically, Britain has had weak protections, but the previous coalition government raised British standards above the EU 'floor'.

On the other hand, minimum wages, strike law, and tribunals are all currently domestic matters.



In or out? Cambridge experts give their view on the EU



Professor Dame Athene Donald,
Master of
Churchill - **IN**

Professor Dame Athene Donald has, since 2013, been a member of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC), which is a public body for the funding of scientific research conducted within the European Union.

How does the ERC make decisions, and do they benefit the UK?

Decisions are not made by [the] council to benefit any particular country. However, because of the UK's research strengths, the UK does well out of the different funding schemes.

How drastic would the consequences to UK science be if we were to leave the EU?

You only have to look at the figures to realise that loss of access to the ERC funding would have a very significant negative effect on UK science. The UK hosts the highest number (22 per cent of the total) of ERC [meetings].



Professor David Abulafia,
Chairman of
Historians for
Britain - **OUT**

What needs to change for the EU to be right for the UK?

The idea of a European Economic Community, a trading zone that is not built on the presumption of [an] 'ever close union', has appeal. Unfortunately, that is not on offer. The EU is fundamentally undemocratic. To say that is not to say that it can reach out to its citizens. It is too big and cumbersome. However, reform of the decision-making process is long overdue. Respect needs to be shown for different legal systems. All this suggests that truly radical reform is urgently required.

What do you think a revival in negative attitudes towards Europe shows about the self-understanding of the British people's identity?

It's more a question of rejecting excessive interference by the EU than a rejection of Europe as such, with which we need to maintain a relationship, but of a different sort. I don't think there has been a surge in nationalism in the UK, consisting as we do of four nations.



Dr Julian Huppert,
Cambridge's
former MP - **IN**

Are we better off in the EU?

We are far better off staying in Europe – we're better off financially, it provides us with opportunities to travel and work overseas, and it's promoted peace around a once war-torn continent.

It makes us safer and more secure, and makes us better able to tackle environmental challenges. It would be absurd to throw that all away, especially when we have no idea what out looks like.

Why should students vote to remain in the EU?

Students in particular are better off in. You're more likely to get a job, in the UK or in the rest of the EU if we stay in, and the opportunity to live and work and study elsewhere is hugely beneficial.

All the evidence [shows] that students in particular are strongly pro-EU, but are sadly less likely to vote than older people.



Professor Mary Beard,
fellow of
Newnham College
- **IN**

What do you think a revival in negative attitudes towards the European Union shows about how Britons perceive themselves?

Blimey. One has to be careful about drawing too many conclusions too quickly. But the sight of xenophobia being whipped up is not pretty.

How does the EU compare with the Roman Empire?

The Roman Empire was not ruled by a united class of Romans, but – by the second century AD at least – by those of diverse origins and backgrounds, sharing Roman citizenship. Much closer to the EU, in fact.

Would Brexit have a large impact on the Faculty of Classics at the university?

Classics is a very European subject. It is hard to predict the effect but it certainly won't make it easier to foster its European-ness.

we go?



Interview: Chris Bickerton

Cameron is either 'the most reckless PM in history, or he's lying'

Jack Higgins speaks to the EU expert to discuss the PM's scaremongering and why students should consider voting **OUT**

On June 23rd, Britons will make what has been endlessly dubbed as the biggest political decision in a generation. The seemingly perpetual debate continues to drag on, producing a cacophony of noise that can make it difficult to sift fact from fiction. It may be of little surprise, then, that almost a fifth of voters are yet to make up their minds.

One man seeking to cut through this "mud-slinging" is Chris Bickerton, author of the new book *The European Union: A Citizen's Guide*, which aims to demystify the EU by casting aside the "impenetrable" jargon. And Bickerton is far from undecided: when the 23rd comes, he'll be voting out.

"For me, it's ultimately about democracy," he says as he sits across from me in a comfy armchair in his Queens' College office. Bickerton's essential stance is that, unlike liberals, he could "never trade the democratic process for the EU". For him, this is simply a "really bad way of thinking."

When I ask whether he believes that we must look to national governments to tackle political problems, his response is enthusiastic: "absolutely, that's right" he says, adding that the "only way to resolve problems is to work through the representative democratic process."

class looking to the EU and saying 'this is Brussels' fault' when trouble arises. Brexit, therefore, could strengthen our democracy if British politicians are "[forced] to take responsibility".

But Bickerton's concerns aren't purely domestic. Despite the freedom of movement, he thinks that the EU has not "at all" fostered a European society: "The EU was not set up to allow for a public sphere, so it's no surprise that one doesn't exist", he explains. Equally, he concurs with the popular perception of the EU as "shadowy", telling me that it was designed to be "shielded from national politics" and that you have to "really dig around" to understand it.

The sad thing for me, I tell him, is that the national debate concerning Brexit has failed to do any real digging. He agrees, arguing that he "thinks the debate's been very bad."

"It's not really been about the EU to be honest. The Remain campaign has talked about the economy, the Leave campaign has talked about immigration – that's it... And I think people have found that extremely frustrating."

Why has the debate been so poor? Bickerton's answer is that the Remain campaign's focus groups revealed widespread fears of economic uncertainty, and "therefore they have refused to campaign on anything else."

"A guy from the Remain campaign told me", he continues, "that there are no votes in talking about the EU, so we don't talk about it. And this is in a campaign about the UK's membership of the EU."

On immigration and the economy, Bickerton opposes the crude narratives spun by either campaign. When I mention Farage's argument that immigration isn't practically sustainable, he rejects it in his characteristically soft-spoken manner: "I don't agree with that at all [...] The things that people like Farage describe as 'natural limits' – that there's only so many people we can have on this island – are really 'social', they're created."

For him, the immigration debate merely exposes the "deep cuts" in public services and the "chronic housing shortage" facing the country. "These are social problems; they're nothing to do with the numbers of people coming in", he adds.

When it comes to Brexit's economic risks – which Cameron has rehearsed ad nauseam – Bickerton is reasonably optimistic, arguing that the British economy's "capacity to adapt is quite high."

"I think the government has clearly decided it wants to win at any cost", he continues, viewing the Treasury "signing off" on Cameron's economic arguments as "political judgements they've made, rather than being any neutral position."

And in spite of the economic dangers, Bickerton argues assertively that it's hard to imagine that large corporations couldn't find a way into the single



CHRIS BICKERTON/FOCUS

market. "These are the things people don't talk about because they're so politically committed to showing that Brexit is going to be a catastrophe," he continues, "but if Brexit did happen, then very quickly solutions would emerge."

Does this mean Cameron is scaremongering? "Well, if the risk of Brexit is as bad as he says and could lead to 'global conflict'... then he's basically telling us is that he is the most reckless Prime Minister that the country has ever had, or he's lying."

"He is probably pretty reckless, but in this case I think he's probably lying."

Even if Cameron's lying, it seems to be working. Bickerton concedes as much, agreeing with me that we'll probably revert to the status quo. The EU, he says, does have a record of "sighing with relief, and then pretending something never happened."

“THE GOVERNMENT HAS CLEARLY DECIDED IT WANTS TO WIN AT ANY COST”

However, even if Britain remains, Bickerton is sceptical about the Eurozone's viability. He says he can readily foresee a major player such as Germany – whose citizens are losing out to the tune of €200bn due to Eurozone policies – eventually saying: "this is not for us." And as attempts to strengthen the economic union are, he believes, "just not going to happen", a different solution must be sought.

For the Cambridge academic, the best option is an "orderly dismantling of the Eurozone". But this isn't an easy way out because economists just "can't work out how to do it."

With less than two weeks to go, a partially puzzled population, and a national debate severed from the EU itself, one can only hope that the British population can 'work out' their relationship with the EU.

Listening to what Chris Bickerton has to say would be a good start.

Professor Brendan Simms, fellow of Peterhouse and author of *Britain's Europe: A Thousand Years of Conflict and Cooperation* – IN



'Leave' or 'Remain'?

I strongly favour a Remain vote on 23rd June, because Brexit

will damage the EU as a whole. It will increase separatist tendencies and dispirit elites and populations across the continent.

Does the EU need Britain more than Britain needs the EU? And is the lack of a true political union in Europe a result of a weak European identity?

Undoubtedly. The UK is large and strong enough to survive without EU... That said, if Britain leaves the EU, damages it and it slides into further disorder then that will also damage the UK... And European identity is much stronger than you think – witness the determination of most of continental Europe to stick with the EU, the Euro and the rest of it.

In any case, unions are made not with those we automatically agree

with but those with whom we have profound differences but an overriding common interest as well, as with the 1707 Union.

“LEAVING WOULD INCREASE SEPARATIST TENDENCIES AND DISPIRIT POPULATIONS ACROSS THE CONTINENT.”

What issues have been ignored in the EU referendum debate?

The issue that I think is too little considered is what both sides, but especially the Brexit side, wants to happen in mainland Europe.

Simply recommending breakup is not acceptable.

The optic is wrong. One must start not with Anglo-European relations, but with the entire continent of Europe itself.

“PROBLEMS STUDENTS THINK ABOUT MOST ARE PROBLEMS UNRELATED TO THE EU”

And it is in relation to this that Bickerton – who read PPE at Oxford – believes some students err.

"The problems students think about most in this debate are problems really unrelated to the European Union." When it comes to job prospects and the possibility of renting forever, he's adamant that the "EU is not the decisive factor", the British government is. "If you want governments to do the things that you believe in, then elect them. If they're not saying what you believe in, get involved so you can shape what they say."

Bickerton is however quick to stress that, unlike some Eurosceptics, it's not his view "at all" that leaving the EU will magically create a "perfect and pristine" national democracy in the UK.

"There are really deep problems in British politics today", he says, pointing to self-serving politicians who are "focused on their own careers" as a factor in the "real political disenchantment" that pervades society. To think leaving the EU would change that is for him a fallacy as "that would all be the same".

Rather, the significant issue for him is politicians utilising the EU as a tool to shift blame. Voting to leave is therefore voting to prevent "the political

University members celebrated in Queen's Birthday Honours

DANIEL GAYNE DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

The Queen's Birthday Honours list announced on Friday included a number of university members.

Polly Courtice will be commended for her services to sustainability leadership, having founded, built, and led the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, which has spurred serious progress in sustainable practices in business and government for over 25 years.

Dame Courtice responded to the announcement, saying: "This is a wonderful recognition of the work of the Institute, its brilliant and dedicated staff and associates, and its global

network of over 7,000 alumni.

"I'm delighted to be recognised for having built an institute that in many ways has pioneered leadership efforts to tackle global sustainability challenges.

"In recent decades there has been an important shift in the way many businesses have come to view their impact on society and the environment and we are glad to have played a small part in that."

Professor Susan Gathercole will receive an OBE for services to psychology and education, having served as Director of the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit at the Medical Research Council.

Gathercole, a Fellow of the British Academy, is a cognitive psychologist who works on memory and learning, particularly in the causes of specific learning difficulties in children.

Her present work deals with cognitive mechanisms of working memory and how they might be modified through training.

Gathercole said: "I'm delighted and surprised in equal parts. It's wonderful to receive this recognition of research that crosses the boundary between psychology and education.

"Engaging with education professionals who work on a daily basis with struggling learners has enriched the research of our excellent team

immeasurably, and we will continue to build on this in coming years with the aim of improving children's learning."

Allen Packwood was also awarded an OBE for services to archives and scholarship. Packwood has been Director of the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College since 2002 and was co-curator of 'Churchill and the Great Republic' at the Library of Congress.

He said: "Like all recipients I feel honoured, delighted and surprised in equal measure. I would certainly not be receiving this award without the support of all my wonderful colleagues in the Archives Centre, College and University".

Fiona Duncan received the British Empire Medal for services to higher education, having worked in the field since 1982.

Duncan is the Departmental Administrator at the Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience and has contributed to the merger of the Departments of Anatomy and Physiology to create the current structure.

Commenting on the award, Duncan said: "This is an interesting and varied job. I am fortunate to work with academic and support staff, whom I like as people and respect as colleagues. They are committed to delivering world-class teaching and research."

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Zadie Smith 2001

"...freshness, excitement, risk..."
Andrew Motion 2002

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Quentin Blake 2015



Edited by Rebekah-Miron Clayton

Guest Edited by Rupi Kaur and Roger McGough

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UCAS: most privileged areas win more Cambridge places

ANKUR DESAI

Applicants to the University of Cambridge are more likely to get an offer if they are from areas with high levels of higher education participation, according to an equality report released by UCAS.

The report covers 130 universities, with data from the years 2010 to 2015, and calculates the percentage difference in offers given to candidates applying to the same course with similar predicted grades, but differing in sex, ethnicity and background.

Area background disadvantage was measured using the POLAR3 measure, which classifies applicants into five groups based on level of participation in Higher Education of young people in that area.

Applicants from areas in the lowest participation quintile in 2011 were seven per cent less likely to get an offer, when correcting for predicted grades.

Although this figure has decreased slightly and was positive in 2012, applicants were still less likely to get an offer throughout the period.

Applicants from the next three quintiles were also less likely to get an offer, with percentage point differences at or below zero between 2010 and 2015.

Only those who came from areas in the highest participation quintile were more likely to get an offer in all six years recorded, averaging about 1.5 per cent more likely.

According to the statistics, men were about 1.5 per cent less likely to get an offer if they had similar predicted grades to other applicants.

In the last five years, women have been more likely to get an offer, although by small amount of between 0.6 per cent and two per cent.

There was higher fluctuation in the likelihood of getting an offer when accounting for ethnic group.

In 2011, Asians were four per cent less likely to get an offer, although this has changed over the period to roughly 0.3 per cent.

Whether black applicants were more or less likely to receive an offer fluctuated more, ranging from nine per cent more likely to 4.3 per cent less likely.

Those who are white were, on the whole, neither more nor less likely to get an offer, after predicted grades were factored in.



Revealed: the bill of the ball

With exclusive data, *Varsity* exposes the striking spending disparities between end-of-year parties

£286,000

Trinity May Ball Budget 2015



LOUIS ASHWORTH

£213,990

Sidney Sussex May Ball 2016



ARDFERN

£203,530

Magdalene May Ball Budget 2015



LOUIS ASHWORTH

£68,969

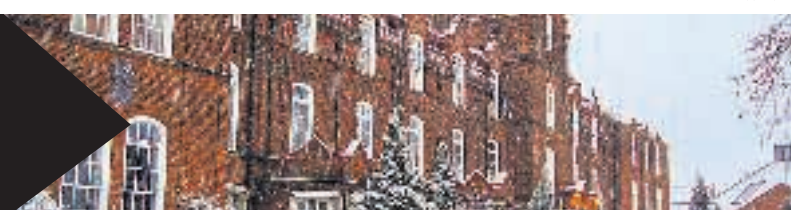
Homerton June Event Budget 2014



FRANMAN247

£40,000

Hughes Hall May Ball 2015



HUGHESSTUDENT

A range in ball budgets

JOE ROBINSON & KAYA WONG
INVESTIGATIONS EDITORS

May Balls and June Events often provide vital motivation through Easter Term but, beyond footing the price of admission, most of us rarely consider the costs that go into making these one-night spectacles possible.

Alongside the increasingly tricky task of finding an uncontentious theme, event committees are tasked with the logistics of organising entertainment, decor and security, not to mention the food and drink which are so vital to the ball experience.

In order to shed light on what goes on inside May Balls and June Events, *Varsity* sent out Freedom of Information requests to colleges and ball committees to find out how ticket proceeds are distributed, whether myths about May Ball spending are true, and, yes, whether Trinity spends that much on fireworks. Seven colleges accepted – Trinity, Homerton, Girton, Hughes Hall, Magdalene, Newnham and Sidney Sussex. Their responses are startling and revealing.

For every May Ball and June Event, the majority of spending on individual items went to food and drink – on average 44 per cent for June Events and 34 per cent for May Balls. This is potentially due to the latter's greater spending on music and entertainment, which averages 23 compared to 19 per cent for June Events and Spring Balls.

From the list of respondents, the

title of most expensive ball won't shock many people. Trinity's May Ball cost an eye-watering £286,000 excluding VAT in 2015. This was a small rise on 2014, which cost £259,133. Last year, for between £310 and £350 each (with upgrades to dining and VIP status ranging from £80 to £140 for a pair) students and alumni could get access to Trinity's stockpile of food and drink which was expected to cost £81,000, including dining guests, whose catering was expected to cost £7,000. Trinity's famed fireworks spending, though, comes to £12,000. This figure, in the context of its six-figure total budget, may seem relatively modest, but by comparison Hughes Hall May Ball's entire spending was almost the same, excluding food and drink.

Trinity's entertainment spending figure of £44,000 also exceeds Magdalene's (£28,575) and Sidney Sussex's (£41,623), and also spent the most on infrastructure and administration in 2015 to provide for its 2,000 guests.

Unlike Trinity, whose prestige and secure funding enable it to hold a May Ball annually, many colleges opt to hold June Events and May Balls every other year. This is the case with Homerton, whose May Balls on average cost twice as much as their June Events and generate twice the income. This difference in cost is most apparent in the costs of music and entertainment – their 2015 May Ball spent £27,790 compared with just £3,292 for their 2012 June Event.

Spring Balls and June Events: a budget offering?

JOE ROBINSON
SENIOR INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR

The common perception that June Events are the cash-strapped cousins of May Balls is generally borne out in the data. It is certainly true in the case of Girton, which holds biennial Spring Balls, and that of Newnham, which holds a June Event every other year. Girton's budget for its 2016 Spring Ball, which was cancelled following the death of a student, saw a £17,670 increase from 2014, with this increase going mainly to drinks, which saw a £12,900 rise (perhaps reflective of the drinking habits of Cantabs), and food, which saw a £6,000 bump.

Despite their decreasing security spending, however, Girton's budget of £157,820 is over double Newnham's projected June Event spending of £77,000 for 2014. The college's June Event, which has secured electronic duo Snakehips as its headline act this year, also spent £5,000 on a fairground ferris wheel. Like Girton, though, its largest spend was on food and drink

– spending nearly 40 per cent of its budget on both. The gulf between June Events and May Balls, though, is considerable. Despite the difference between Girton's 2016 Spring Ball and Magdalene's 2011 May Ball only being £25,820, the gap has widened in recent years. In 2015 Magdalene, whose May Balls demand white tie, projected £203,530 of income, 32 per cent of which went to food and drink.

This actually represents a decrease in the proportion of the budget being spent on beverages and foodstuffs. In 2013 the proportion reached nearly 40 per cent, with close to £80,000 spent on those items, all the more remarkable considering that these figures do not include VAT. By contrast, even Sidney Sussex, which in 2010 went to the lengths of building an artificial canal in college, only spent £64,746 on food and drink in 2016, but spends considerably more on entertainment – £41,623 compared to Magdalene's £28,575.61. They do, however, spend a roughly similar amount – around £4,000 – on aesthetics and decor.

£157,820

Girton Spring Ball Budget 2016



DETROIT PUBLISHING CO.

£77,000

Newnham June Event Budget 2014



ANNA MENIN

£25,923

Homerton June Event Budget 2014



FRANMAN247

'Flawless sublimity'

Trinity

First and Third Boat Club Ball

★★★★★

Monday

£330 (£380 non-member)

Two years ago, *Varsity* released a review of Trinity May Ball in which it declared that the three words that fit the night best were "Must Try Harder". And, judging by the night, Trinity exceeded this challenge and set the bar incredibly high for this year's May Week. Being the 150th anniversary of Trinity's first ever May Ball, this year's event was hyped up to be one of the greatest parties of all time, and it easily lived up to the expectations held by the entire student population.

With a price of £190 per ticket (note that this ticket price is true, despite what the *Daily Mail* is likely to report), they succeeded in perfectly balancing class and fun, with an all-night Mœt et Chandon bar being countered by the Chase and Status tracks that were blasted out by Sigma during their phenomenal set. However, instead of jumping around from attraction to attraction as one does during a May Ball, it makes sense to tackle this review thematically, as that is the only way to do justice to what an unbelievable night it was.

The range of drinks was vast, excessive in quantity and to the highest quality. Nothing could be improved about a ball that offered every single type of alcohol you could possibly want, from the highly classy aforementioned Mœt bar to the knockoff VKs served in the dance tent to the numerous cans of San Pellegrino that filled punts around the grounds. Every taste was catered for, and every area was partnered perfectly with its own set of drinks, including a chill-out area where smoothies and soft drinks helped to refresh ball-goers before they carried on with their 10-hour party.

However, the food was on another level entirely. Name a food and it is likely that Trinity provided it. While the queues appeared long, they actually moved at a surprising pace. From the standard oysters (only in Cambridge would a phrase like that be considered normal) to the full English breakfast pots (a delightful, filling treat to end the night), there was never any shortage of delicious food, and special mention should go to the Philly Cheesesteak and Sweet Potato Fries stalls, which successfully deviated from the usual May Ball fare of hog roasts and mac 'n' cheese.

“

THE FOOD WAS ON ANOTHER LEVEL ENTIRELY

The range of music had clearly been cleverly thought through. Every act that played at this year's ball was handpicked by the highly capable Ents Officers, and it really did show. With the relaxed acoustic vibes of Fuller and Marlow (read: the artist formerly known as Fuller and Co.), the upbeat jazzy pop covers of the Handlers and the renowned vocal prowess of Dirty Blonde, the student ents were especially good this year. Of course, it is impossible to talk about a May Ball without mentioning the headliners, in this case Nothing But Thieves and Sigma, both of which played stunning sets and truly got the crowd pumping. Music can make or break a night, and, clearly, Trinity were able to secure the

right balance between student bands and big names, a holistic approach which worked well.

The fireworks: W.O.W. If you are reading this and you did not manage to watch the Trinity fireworks, I must apologise, because words cannot do justice to how incredible they were. It truly was a 'you had to be there' moment, and by moment I mean 20 minutes. Not only were there fireworks to rival London on New Year's Eve, there was a terrific light show which captivated practically the entirety of both Trinity and Clare May Balls.

However, despite Trinity perfecting all of these things that every May Ball has, these are not what made it truly great. It was in fact the little things, such as the classical music and opera found in the OCR, the hairstylist and make-up artist in the Allhusen Room, the photographers from Jet Photographic by the entrances who were on hand to capture the fresh-faced students as they entered into this land of wonder and the hidden away punting tours of the river that set Trinity apart from the other May Balls. The unique small-scale events around every corner, combined with the most rigorous attention for detail, was what made the evening flow with flawless sublimity.

Every part of the ball felt as though it had been meticulously hand-crafted to ensure maximum enjoyment, and I feel like that was the key to making this not only the best May Ball I have ever been to, but arguably one of the best nights of my life. And if, in 50 years time, I have the opportunity to go to Trinity's 200th May Ball as an elderly 70-year-old man, you can be damn well sure I'll take it.

—Nikhil Banerjee



Robinson

Robinson Crusoe

★★★★★

Friday

£95 (£99 non-member)

The task of transforming a red-brick college into a tropical island is not one that a committee can simply cruise through. Forgive the pun, but Robinson May Ball Committee certainly deserve praise when it comes to pulling off their highly anticipated theme.

The event was like many other college May Balls: an exciting, thrilling, entertaining, and somewhat tiring escapade. The event started with the complementary offering of Pina Colada fudge, followed by a champagne reception in a tepee. Guests then wandered along a beautifully decorated red carpet, with palm trees and hanging lights, passing through into the main hall where they were greeted with a gigantic chocolate fountain.

While Robinson is viewed by many of its non-college members as one of the more sinister-looking colleges, the decorations and lighting softened its red-brick appearance. However, some elements of the event were not always centred on the 'tropical theme'; for instance, the stand of Belgium waffles was a little perplexing. Nonetheless, offerings of fresh fruit, cocktails, rum,

and seafood risotto fitted with the overall theme.

One of the most surprising features was the addition of a Captain Jack Sparrow, who looked identical to the iconic Disney character. But the best feature had to be the Jazz tent. The range of acts was fantastic, featuring Fowler and Marlow, and a mix of student talent.

My personal favourite came from Zhuan Faraj, David Warren (keys), Alex Maynard (bass), and Zoë Silkstone (vocals), featuring lots of jazzy renditions of pop songs. The chilled music of the Jazz tent was a great way to finish the end of the night.

As one of the cheapest May Balls going, Robinson had everything that other more expensive balls would cater for. That said, the ball was lacking some of the finer details of the more lavish balls, and attention to detail was at times slightly uneven. Nevertheless, was the night worth £100? Certainly. In fact, I had as good an experience at Robinson than any of the other more expensive colleges I have attended so far.

—Emily Fishman

Jesus

The Uninhabitable

★★★★★

Monday

£140 (£159 priority)

Last night, an ambitious theme was tackled successfully; exquisite attention to detail brought 'The Uninhabitable' to life. Jesus's greatest asset and challenge was the enormous space that had to be filled, but attractions were well spread throughout the six environments to guarantee that you never had to wander far for a bite to eat or a drink, and queues were kept to a minimum. Each environment was atmospheric; from the fake snow of the 'Arctic', to the burning cars in the 'Wasteland', guests could immerse themselves into each form of wilderness.

A strong lineup of big artists, including Coasts, Clean Bandit and Jack Garratt, performed throughout the night – ensuring that something for everyone's musical tastes was covered. We particularly enjoyed B & the Jukeboys' covers of feel-good hits, but Coasts were the highlight of the night. By midnight the main stage was packed with people and energy. The 'Outer Space' stage was also graced by comedian Katherine Ryan, whose wit and humour certainly lived up to her reputation.

Even a sudden downpour did not deter people from enjoying the silent disco at the 'Centre of the Earth', which if anything was made more enchanting by the contrast of rain to the artificial flames that circled the courtyard. This environment contained a mix of classic attractions, such as the casino, and the more unusual virtual reality headsets which helped Jesus to stand out from other May Balls.

The wide open spaces were packed with exciting attractions – where most Balls might host a single fairground ride, Jesus sported miami, dodgems and a thrilling roller coaster simulator. With such a large venue to explore, it could be easy to lose yourself, but each environment was well signposted, and many cheerful staff were on hand to direct guests.

The food also deserves a special mention for its quality, quantity and variety. We were treated to Fins & Trotters' fish and chips, Aromi's lasagna and ice cream, and Anna Mae's Mac 'N' Cheese, to name but a few. Practically every stall had a vegetarian option, and kept serving late into the night. The drinks were colourful,

plentiful and well themed in each of the areas. On offer were cocktails, G&Ts, flavoured vodkas, beers, ciders and more. Professional wine-tasting catered to even the most ignorant of connoisseurs.

For those who wanted a chance to chill away from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the ball, the EY Igloo was the perfect spot. Guests could lounge on bean bags to a background of relaxing live music, with a warming curry or bacon butty in hand.

All in all, it's hard to criticise this ball. In fact, the Jesus committee should be very proud of having put on a near-perfect event. The attention to detail and effort which had gone into the theme zones was beyond anything we had ever experienced before. Each and every section of the event felt like a miniature May Ball in itself; even when the sun began to rise at 5am, we still felt as if there was more to explore. The sheer scale of the Jesus May Ball was truly an uninhabitable environment: next year's committee certainly have a lot to live up to in conquering this year's wilderness.

—Rory Braggins & Morgan Raynor



LOUIS ASHWORTH

Emmanuel *Eureka!*

★★★★

Sunday
£85 (£95 Q-Jump)

After attending the Emmanuel May Ball last year and being blown over by walking dinosaurs, GIF making and dodgems, I was eager to try this year's June event. The theme, 'Eureka', made for an interesting night; it's ambiguity meant decorations could be anything from books, to phones, to light bulbs.

On arriving, I was still unconvinced by the theme. Of course, Cambridge is the heartland of academia, but I was unsure how a committee could pull off an entire event based on 'ideas'.

But the June Event was an idea in itself. I was pleasantly surprised at how fun-packed and entertaining the shortened May Ball was. The question for discussion throughout the entire evening was what distinguished the June Event from the May Ball. Of course the duration was an obvious difference, but two friends and I were unable to put our finger on any other notable differences.

After arriving to the tune of bongo drums, and walking through a colourfully lit subway decorated with coloured chemical test tubes, there was a cocktail bar awaiting guests in Front Court. The drinks on offer around the college were of good quality and quantity, including authentic cider, Pimm's and rum.

The food, however, was the ultimate selling point, with offerings ranging from an Aromi stand, a Taste van, and the classic Belgian waffle. Though the food was themeless – unless you count the amazing tastes as amazing ideas – it was of the highest quality.

However, the long queues weren't acceptable. To wait 30 minutes for a waffle, or 45 for a slice of pizza was, in my opinion, unacceptable. Clearly the committee had opted for quality over quantity, though as the evening drew on the queues became shorter and more bearable.

The only stand without a noticeable queue was for the kangaroo, camel, and buffalo skewers, which I think the majority of guests avoided out of fear of attempting a drunken version of

'I'm a Celebrity'.

The music on the main stage was perhaps the highlight of the event. Dirty Blonde performed an array of timeless classics, followed by the Bulletproof Bomb and culminating with Truly Medley Deeply.

However my favourites were inside, where the Churchill jazz band and TRYSD could be found. Although one of the headline acts, Elis James, failed to impress, the smaller acts that featured in the 'Newton's Orchard' really made an impact, such as Emma's own Laura-May and Roisin and Zoe Wren.

“ EVERY CORNER, COURT AND PADDOCK WAS PACKED WITH CURIOSITIES

But the fun didn't end there. Upstairs, dance mats, arcade games, even a Nintendo Wii were present, and at one o'clock in the morning these childish pleasures were a perfect form of light-hearted entertainment. Dr Bendini's Splendiferous Medicine show was quite possibly one of the most gruesome and horrifying acts I have seen for a long time – not quite a rival to the dinosaurs that appeared in the paddock last year, but indeed an act which had the 'horror' factor.

Every corner, court and paddock was packed with curiosities. The June Event was certainly adventurous, but I didn't seem to have many 'Eureka' moments. Of course the theme was a tough one to pull off, especially after the success of last year.

However, an 'idea' requires a level of intellectual curiosity, and so Emma's bold and audacious attempt at creating a June event was certainly an experience of the peculiar.

–Emily Fishman

★★★★

Monday
£142 (£152 non-member)

Clare *The Orient Express*

Welcome and all aboard on the Orient Express. This year, Clare College pulled out all the stops in their mission to create a memorable May Ball, with a variety of food, drink, and entertainment on offer from start to finish. The over-arching theme truly delivered, with different courts and gardens being themed according to different countries along the route of the Orient Express.

For example, Old Court boasted a Parisian drinks bar, the Great Hall a Viennese Ball, and the Scholars' Garden an Alpine Getaway with Belgian waffles and Mulled Wine. Appropriate décor featured throughout, making for a truly eclectic but well-polished spectacle. Here are some the highlights of my night at Clare.

Most important to me was the food. Despite best efforts, I simply could not try everything – a testimony to the huge selection of food available. Old favourites, such as pie and mash and falafel wraps, made an appearance, but I was most taken by some of the more varied treats on offer: cheese and olive tasting in the "First Class Cabin".

Baklava in the "Merchants Paradise", which also featured pizza and ice cream supplied by Aromi. Pretzels in the German Biergarten – accompanied by beer, and seemingly endless drinking songs provided by a lederhosen-clad Oompah Band. The onion bhajis were frankly divine and, for me, stole the show.

Unlike the balls I attended last year – Downing and Jesus – I was most impressed by the range of delicious vegetarian and vegan food available. This was part of Clare's effort to create a sustainable experience. An eco-ball, if you will. Other aspects of this endeavour included serving drinks from kegs to save on packaging, using recycled materials where possible, energy-efficient LED lights and locally-sourced food and drink. The committee also pledged to donate to renewable energy and reforestation projects, aiming to create the first carbon-neutral May Ball. A nice touch.

Complementing the food selection was a fairly standard array of drinks including cocktail bars, shot bars, and ice-boxes full of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Nothing too

spectacular, but a necessary component of any May Ball. Also, within a couple of hours the queues for most of the food and drink stalls had diminished greatly, easing my quest for a full stomach and a reduced state of sobriety.

To be honest, I was not greatly impressed by the entertainment on offer. As someone not that enthralled by dance music, I didn't care much for Blonde or Artful Dodger, although some tasteful remixing and a dance mix of "Will Griggs on Fire" went down a storm. The smaller stages and acts, for me, were far more enjoyable than the headliners – Over The Bridge's tight harmonic covers and the early-morning Samba Band were personal favourites, and the early hours featured a fantastically sweaty ceilidh followed by a "Kanye vs Taylor" silent disco.

Overall, Clare May Ball 2016 was a truly memorable night. The committee took a winning formula of food, booze, and entertainment, and blended it with a well thought-out theme to create an unforgettable experience.

–Alfie Wright

Murray Edwards *Secret Garden Party*

★★★★

Sunday
£36



ELIANOR DEELEY

On May Week Sunday students flocked to Murray Edwards College for their 'Secret Garden' themed annual Garden Party. The weather was looking dubious with scattered showers throughout the morning. Although no one can be held accountable for the weather, something could have been done to avoid the slow-moving queue. After waiting for over an hour, we were finally in. Looking a little bedraggled the lack of cloakroom added to the stress, and led to a desperate stowing away of wet jackets in strangers' pigeonholes.

It was time. We headed through to the garden.

Was it worth the wait?

The garden looked beautiful, featuring coloured ribbons and veils as well as little touches, including a tree covered in notes which you could write upon. There really was something for everyone: from candyfloss, glitter face-paint and an inflatable

assault course for your inner child to the shisha tent, silent disco and photo booth for the Instagram likes. Time flew by as we discovered hidden corners of this 'Secret Garden' (unless you spent two hours queuing for the glitter face paint).

The variety of drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, slush and non slush, were good value for the ticket price of £35. The VKs offered a welcome sugar high, and a touch of class. The mac 'n' cheese, burgers and cheese toasties did a good job of soaking up the alcohol while we soaked up the atmosphere. The jazz band, 'insert their name', lured the revellers over to the stage area and within seconds everyone was dancing.

All in all, the evening was undoubtedly a success. Drinks were flowing, everyone was dancing and despite the weather, there were no dampened spirits.

–Tamanna Khan and Faith Jones

Cambridge Union *Garden Party*

★★★

Saturday
£26 (£32 non-member)



FREDDIE DYKE

Devoid of the shambles of 2015, Cambridge Union pulled out the stops for their annual summer Garden Party. The first of this year's May Week garden parties, the Union partied in style. Rather than merely serving strawberries and cream, with limited supplies of alcohol to whet the palette, we were greeted with marquees and several food tents providing plenty of delicious choices, ranging from falafel wraps and smoking hot dogs, to an eclectic and surprisingly popular selection of crudités and dips.

With so many beverages on option, from Pimms, to Gin and Tonics to Prosecco, there was no risk of diminishing supplies of alcohol this year. More like a June event than a Garden Party, the Committee provided us with caricature artists and even masseurs which, for those who attended Robinson and Homerton May Balls the previous night, was extremely welcome. If you were marshalled to the back of Sidney Sussex college, where the Garden Party was held, to improve queue flow, upon entering the college you were greeted with a twee looking ice cream stand and a drinks and food marquee. Seemingly barren, once you continued to explore the

grounds, the main attractions became apparent, as did the main stage. This year the Union chose exceptionally talented acts to supply the music for the entire afternoon, including Saachi, who also performed at Trinity, Truly Medley Deeply who frequently headline may balls, and Selwyn Jazz who got everyone on their feet. All in all, the Cambridge Union hosted a splendid garden party this year, aided also by the lack of rain which boosted everyone's mood. They used the space of the college very appropriately and effectively, ensuring that queues were minimal and no one felt claustrophobic – even the queues for the portaloos was civilised. That is, I think, the perfect word to describe the afternoon. It was civilised in all respects, from the dress code to the quality of food and drinks and the thoroughly enjoyable music.

Substantially improved from last year's rather unsuccessful event, the Union created a wonderful party, conceptually and carried through into its execution. It was a delightful afternoon and, for a very affordable price around the 30 pound mark, one where you will indeed get your value for money!

–Zoe Silkstone

Science research: picks of the year

Varsity selects the best of Cambridge's research papers from the three main disciplines

Biology: stem cells and development

SHUDONG LI SCIENCE EDITOR

The University of Cambridge has always been at the forefront of development and stem cell research. Supporting the university in this rapidly changing field are two internationally renowned centres – the Stem Cell Institute and the Gurdon Institute. Researchers focus on stem cells in particular cells due to their incredible ability to alter themselves to become any type of cell in the human body. A single stem cell has the theoretical potential to regenerate and heal damaged organs, making its clinical uses near endless.

This academic year, there have been plenty of new findings involving the use of human stem cells. For the first time, so-called 'naïve' pluripotent stem cells from humans have been derived from early embryos. The isolated cells have the most potential to change and are almost completely flexible.

At a different research group in the university, strong evidence has discovered that human pluripotent stem cells will in fact develop normally when added to an embryo. This has significant implications for regenerative medicine, silencing critics that cite the unknown dangers of erroneous

development.

It was also in only May this year that research from Professor Zernicka-Goetz's group hit the headlines. Her team were able to keep human embryos alive and developing outside of the body for an incredible 13 days after fertilisation. In doing so they were able to gain a deeper understanding of just how humans change and alter during the earliest stages of development. New techniques like this and the knowledge gained by using them will help make procedures like IVF more efficient and safe – an example of transition towards a clinical setting.

Physics: new use for nanopores

SAM WATCHAM

The ability to accurately detect and identify individual constituents of a biological sample containing many different molecules (such as proteins or DNA) is an expanding area of interdisciplinary research, encompassing elements of both physics and biochemistry. If a reliable method of protein identification can be found, the potential diagnostic applications will be enormous.

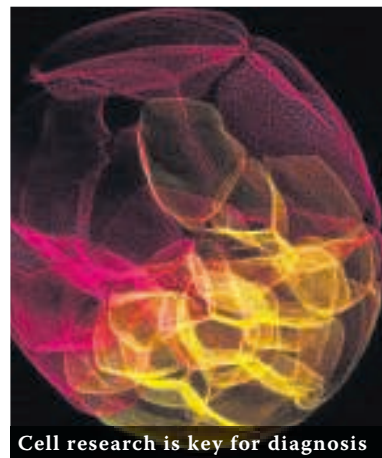
One attractive possibility is to use 'nanopores' – nanometre-sized holes in a membrane that typically only allow

a single molecule through at a time – for this purpose. The idea is simple: the membrane is placed in salty water, and an ionic current is driven across the membrane using an applied voltage. If a protein or DNA molecule passes through a nanopore, it will block part of the current. The effect of this will be dependent on the shape, charge and structure of the molecule, which can then be inferred.

In theory this technique could allow all the different molecules



Nanopores are one research focus



Cell research is key for diagnosis



Better batteries for electric cars

within a given sample to be uniquely identified. Up until now, however, this has not been realised in practice.

In February, researchers Nicholas Bell and Ulrich Keyser at the Cavendish Laboratory published a paper in which they used the technique of DNA origami (whereby intricate 3D structures can be built by folding DNA) to create a library of nanometre-sized DNA structures. By driving these structures through custom solid-state nanopores, they were able to identify which structure was passing through a nanopore with 94 per cent accuracy. This is a large improvement over other techniques, many of which can only target one molecule at a time.

In addition, the authors went on to functionalise four of their structures to detect a single, specific antibody (a protein that targets foreign cells such as viruses). The four antibodies were then simultaneously detected from a sample, the first time this has been achieved using nanopore sensing. The results open up exciting possibilities for the detection of molecules associated with specific diseases, which will allow their structures to be investigated.

Chemistry: an 'electric revolution'

JON WALL

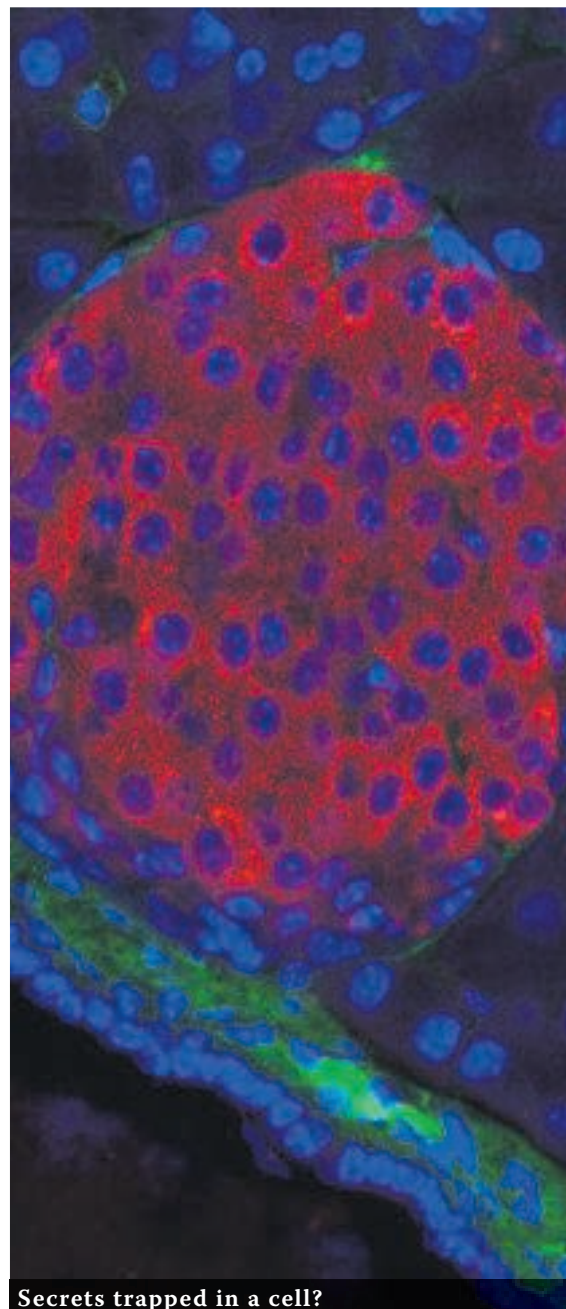
Over the past 10 years, automotive experts have been promising an "electric revolution" in response to predicted shortages of oil as well as ongoing climate change. Each time their predictions have been largely stymied by one factor: a lack of range on electric cars. Such cars are useful in cities, but cannot cross whole countries.

As such, development of better batteries is a key research area. In Cambridge, this is led by Professor Clare Grey at the Department of Chemistry. In a paper from this year's Michaelmas term, her team announced its discovery of a new design for lithium-air batteries which promises high energy efficiency.

Lithium-air cells achieve as close to the limits for energy density in a battery as is possible, and so are seen as having significantly greater potential than conventional lithium-ion batteries. However, these lithium-air batteries face substantial problems with the conditions under which they can operate – until now, carbon dioxide, nitrogen and water all had to be removed from the environment for the cells to work.

However, Professor Grey's team have developed a new system in which the cell can tolerate water being present, while maintaining high energy efficiency and good rechargeability. This new design introduces lithium iodide as an additive, which changes the key reaction of the cell. In standard lithium-air cells, Li_2O_2 is formed and reformed, whereas in the new design LiOH is used instead.

However, there are still some issues to be resolved: there are still constraints on the reaction conditions, and the prototypes take days, rather than minutes, to charge and discharge. While a commercial battery is around a decade away, this research offers a new way of creating better lithium-air batteries, and, when these stronger batteries do become available, the "electric revolution" in motoring may finally occur.



Secrets trapped in a cell?

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How could Brexit affect Cambridge science?

JENNI VISURI

On Thursday 23rd June the UK will vote to either remain or leave the EU. There is continuous debate about whether or not a 'Brexit' would benefit the UK. Arguments for remaining focus on historical, geopolitical and economic concerns, while those for leaving express concerns on immigration and EU laws and regulations. However, a seldom-discussed topic is the effect of a Brexit on UK science.

The UK is involved in a pan-European research network which enables collaboration, as well as numerous sources of funding. Each year we receive almost £1 billion to invest in research, development and innovation. This is 16 per cent of the total available, making it the second-highest funded nation, just behind Germany, who receive 17 per cent. This is a significant sum of money that the UK could not afford to lose out on in the event of a Brexit.

The UK is the fifth-largest producer of scientific and journal articles behind the USA, China, Japan and Germany. However, there is only a small investment of 1.63 per cent from the public and private sectors in research, making it 20th internationally in R&D spend as a percentage of GDP. This means there is insufficient investment from the government, and EU funding has been used to cover up issues with how we choose to fund UK research both at a government and corporate level. In the event of a Brexit, there

would be less funding available, and, needless to say, less funding will mean less research. This, in turn, means fewer papers being published by the UK, unless we find another means of funding.

In the event of a Brexit, it does not necessarily mean that science would have to be funded by an unpopular increase in taxes, as the UK would be saving the rather hefty membership fee of £13 billion. However, even the most optimistic economists expect a loss in GDP, and this will mean a loss in the science budget, regardless of how we spend the money we save on membership. Not all funding is restricted to the UK, but the funding available to non-member states is very small in comparison – currently only 7.2 per cent, the majority of which goes to Switzerland and Norway. In addition to this, the UK would have no say in shaping EU research funding.

A large proportion of the scientists currently working in the UK in labs for academia and industry are EU nationals, and remaining in the EU would be a welcoming prospect. However, in the event of leaving, many may prefer to move elsewhere in Europe.

For non-EU states, there are already strict visa regulations and so many may prefer a Schengen visa allowing fewer restrictions between borders. Hence we could easily lose some of UK's top scientists.

Being in the EU aids collaboration and prevents national boundaries from restricting research. The Open Access and Open Data movements,

for example, have different legal requirements in different countries. Funders wishing to ensure that data and publications are openly available may come across hurdles due to competing requirements between different countries. The EU's funding criteria take account of this and foster relationships between different member states, but science papers from the UK could be easily sidelined without sustained funding to support travel and collaboration.

Within the UK, the highest dependency on funding is Southwest England, Outer London and parts of North England and Scotland, although the entire UK would be affected. Furthermore, different areas of science would be affected by different amounts. Evolutionary biology currently receives 67 per cent of their funding from the EU, nanotechnology receives 62 per cent and biomedical research receives just over 40 per cent. However, the funding for social sciences is greater; for example, economic theory receives a whopping 94 per cent of its funding from the EU. This would have an effect on universities since these are some of the leading institutions in research. The University of Cambridge is one of the biggest recipient universities, with 20 per cent of its research body funding coming from the EU's eighth Framework Programme, Horizon 2020.

The impact of a Brexit on science is not entirely hypothetical, but can be compared with Switzerland's relationship with the EU science programme.

Science and the EU: KEY FACTS

- Each year the UK receives **£1 billion** to invest in research, development and innovation
- UK is the second-highest funded country, below Germany
- The UK makes the **fifth-largest** contribution to science*
- However, we are **20th** when ranked on science funding from the public and private sectors
- The University of Cambridge receives **20 per cent** of its science funding from the EU

*in terms of published research

Switzerland had full access to Framework Programmes as part of an agreement that allows free movement of persons, contributing to their budget alongside other EU members.

However, after a vote to limit mass migration, Switzerland was no longer in accordance with free movement, and was thus suspended from Horizon 2020. This forced them to hastily produce a national scheme to replicate it. Should the UK leave the EU and restrict freedom of movement, it will no longer have access to Horizon 2020 beyond third-country status.

The UK would also have to pay into Horizon 2020 via a continued EU budget contribution. In the event of a Brexit, it is unlikely that politicians would agree on the free movement of people, and it is also unclear if the UK would still want to pay for Horizon 2020, as the fee is partially dependent on the population of the country.

We cannot predict the future and cannot say exactly what the effect will be on science. However, Brexit would cut a significant amount of funding, especially to research-heavy institutions like the University of Cambridge.

Much like uncertainty being the recipe for an economic crisis, a scientific funding disaster due to fluctuating and insecure support would be as likely and could ultimately prove to be damaging to Britain's role as a world leader in research.



For Varsity's guide to the EU referendum, see pages 8–9, for Comment see page 18

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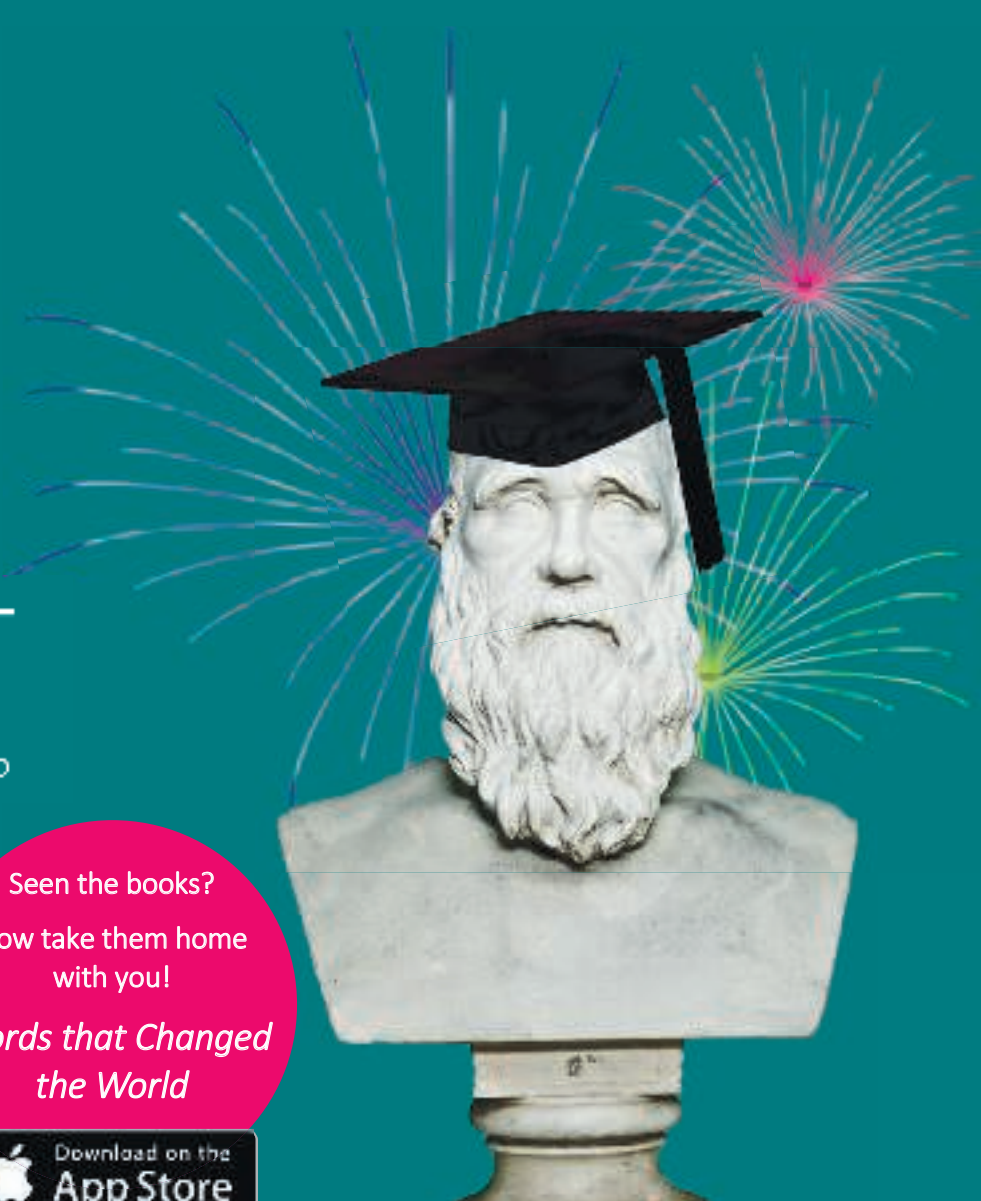
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Interview: Eddie Izzard

“Do it for humanity, above all”



AOI PHILLIPS YAMASHITA

Elizabeth Howcroft interviews Eddie Izzard on his campaign for Remain in the lead-up to the EU referendum

The 54-year-old stand-up comedian Eddie Izzard came to Cambridge as part of his Stand Up For Europe campaign, which sees him travelling to 31 cities in 31 days, attempting to encourage young people to vote to remain in the European Union. The media attention his visit attracts is notable. Three hours before his talk in the main chamber begins, the Cambridge Union's library is more crammed with journalists than I've ever seen it, with presenters and their film crews speaking in different languages as they perform sound and screen tests in advance of a coveted interview slot.

After being introduced as a journalist from *Varsity*, Izzard asks me, “What does *Varsity* actually mean?” Before I can think about a response, he answers himself: “Nobody knows.” I make a feeble attempt to link *Varsity* to the last three syllables of ‘university’, after which he says triumphantly: “That would be my first question to *Varsity*. What do you actually mean?” Right. An unexpected start.

Dressed in a campaign t-shirt, wearing a Stand Up For Europe badge and with nail-varnish bearing the EU and UK flag designs, there could be no doubt as to the message Izzard is trying to get across.

“It’s so important [students] vote on 23rd June,” he says earnestly. He speaks quickly, and it is clear that this is something he has said many times before.

“They should be empowered; this one will affect them not like a general election. A general election is about mortgages and families and they think, ‘What’s it got to do to me?’

[whereas] I think this one can really affect students.”

I ask him why he has become so interested and involved in the referendum debate: “I am not sure exactly why it is that from a very early age I was interested. I was born in Yemen, I was born to British parents, I’ve lived in Northern Ireland, South Wales and the South of England. I’ve always liked people, I find people interesting, I think I could talk to 95 per cent of the world and sit down and have a chat.”

“

DESPAIR IS THE FUEL OF TERRORISM; HOPE IS THE FUEL OF CIVILISATION

He cites a number of valid arguments in favour of the EU from a student’s perspective: money coming into UK universities, the Erasmus scheme, low-cost flights to Europe in the summer, low roaming charges and free health care. He declares: “You never hear about them because they’re good news and no one puts good news out. So I’m telling everyone, they’re out there, fight for them.”

Izzard has a humanitarian attitude towards world politics, and his idealism is clear as he transitions, perhaps unintentionally, from describing the real benefits of EU membership to his ideal vision of a connected world: “[...] fantastic things, and just a positive outlook and open-handed politics where you reach and you say, ‘Hi,

who are you? You’re French, you’re German, you’re Italian, and what do you do? Can I learn from you? Can you learn from us? Now let’s talk to each other; let’s do that rather than this, poll-backed nationalistic thing where people are pulling up walls and separating it out.”

In both his interview and speech, Izzard’s rhetoric is impressive and impassioned. He discusses the origins of the EU: “From Alexander the Great to World War Two, two and a half thousand years of murder and then we stopped, and we said, ‘Let’s make peace work’, and that’s what we’re built on.”

Yet one gets a sense that he falls back on indisputable, crowd-pleasing one-liners such as “think of humanity” and sweeping statements about the history of the human race, at times when discussion of the specifics of the politics and economics involved in the referendum would have been welcome. He dabbles in analogy to little effect, suggesting that civilisation, as distinct from terrorism, is “like crops: you have to plant it and feed it and let it grow.”

For example, at one point he tells me, “If you look at the history of humanity, walls are put up when you’re going backward, hands are reached out when you’re going forwards, it’s building bridges and open windows and trying to get better” – a statement perhaps true and reasonable, but it is no great stretch to say it is of more relevance to human behaviour and morality in general than to the specific issues at the crux of the referendum debate.

At times, Izzard advocates becoming

informed, for example, by reading the news. Yet he also says, “If you’re getting confused by the numbers, think of humanity.”

He is keen to clarify to me that he is not advocating casting a vote based on emotional judgements but rather that, with people too busy or uninterested to inform themselves, it is inevitable that many will “do it on a completely gut and emotional level”.

Izzard’s involvement in the referendum campaign has attracted its fair share of criticism in the media. His recent appearance on BBC’s *Question Time* resulted in a pantomime-like exchange of repeated ‘Yes it is’, ‘No it isn’t’, with a member of the audience who suggested that the country’s economy was safer outside the EU. In the Q&A session at the Union, despite his evident sincerity, it was difficult to ignore the audible sniggers when, for example, asked about why members of the Commonwealth with no economic interest in Britain should vote to remain, he replied, “for humanity, above all”.

This is not to say that these were necessarily laughs of derision, and certainly not of disagreement with his argument, but rather, I suspect, the natural response to a comedian giving such a simple and straightforward response to an issue that is proving to be anything but.

He constantly links his political ideology with his own achievements, reminding us with a somewhat unnecessary frequency of his ability to perform in multiple languages and that he toured Europe to do so: “I don’t think anyone’s ever done that before.”

It is worth mentioning, at this point,

as he did partway through his speech, that Izzard intends to become an MP in 2020. This sheds light on his constant linking of running 27 marathons in 27 days and visiting 31 universities in 31 days. He claims both as justifications or explanations of his argument about the Remain campaign, yet, to me, this link is tenuous in comparison with the other obvious similarity: that both are attracting an enormous amount of good publicity. In one comment, he sounds almost Boris Johnson-esque as he says: “I do like history. Churchill liked history.” At another point, he remarks: “I don’t believe in God, but I believe in us. I think we’re pretty good. You know, I’ve done some marathons [...]”

However, perhaps part of Izzard’s charm and appeal is that he is not a fully-trained, smooth-talking politician, with a supply of facts and statistics at his fingers. While criticism that he lapses into platitudes and sweeping statements about human morality are certainly true, what’s to say that such rhetoric isn’t helpful to the debate? In his own words, he’s “just trying to put forward sensible, passionate things” and – in a debate about whether to unite with or separate ourselves from a continent – perhaps we shouldn’t shy away from making moral judgements, based on gut instinct and our own sense of the term ‘humanity’.

When he tells us, for perhaps the third or fourth time, that “despair is the fuel of terrorism; hope is the fuel of civilisation”, the worst Eddie Izzard could be accused of is preaching to the converted.

For more EU coverage and analysis see pages 4, 8, 9 and 18.

Comment

Collaboration is crucial for CUSU's future



Amatey Doku

The incoming CUSU President explains the importance of listening to the student body

With exams now over, I have had the chance to reflect more fully upon the enormous privilege it is to have been elected to serve Cambridge students as CUSU President for 2016/17. Once again, I'd like to thank all the candidates who stood in the election for bringing the campaign to life and engaging the student body in a whole range of issues. Audrey, Jess, Sophie, Eireann, Roberta and myself are honoured to have been entrusted with such important leadership positions, and over the next year we will do our best to realise the policies for which we were elected. We start in July and, after what I imagine will be an intense and comprehensive two-week handover period, we will begin the exciting task of setting out our agenda for the coming year.

Across our manifestos we pledged to: link up the networks of welfare support across Cambridge and expand the reach of welfare provision and information; continue access support for students once they have arrived in Cambridge; and campaign to increase funding for the University Counselling Service and the Disability Resource Centre.

We have promised to work with the university to diversify the curricula, continue to push for all colleges to update their harassment policies, and the list goes on. We will be finalising our comprehensive agenda for the forthcoming year over the summer months, but I am confident that we will achieve all that we have pledged and more if we work effectively with the various autonomous campaigns,

JCRs and MCRs as well as, most importantly, the university itself. We must remember that good policies are made even better by widespread consultation. As I repeatedly stressed throughout the election campaign, while we carry out our election mandate we must listen to and engage with students from across the university, analysing survey data, maintaining good relationships with JCR and MCR Presidents and Vice-Presidents, and, most importantly, going out and meeting students – whether that is at CUSU-organised events or at college open meetings.

This is an important time for CUSU as our team of sabbatical officers will oversee an extensive constitutional review. Constitutions are hugely important for democratic organisations such as ours and it's important that the constitution is in line with the way in which CUSU runs today.

I will be working around the clock to bring CUSU's constitution up-to-date. While Cambridge's collegiate system makes it unique in some respects, there is a lot we can learn from other student unions across the country. As part of this constitutional review, we will be looking at how we can enshrine greater student involvement into the day-to-day running of our organisation, an area central to my election campaign. As with any such review there are likely to be substantial reforms proposed and I will make sure that CUSU Council is given the time and opportunity to scrutinise and debate all the proposed changes. If and when a referendum is required to ratify the changes, I

will work to ensure that all students are fully informed about what the changes will mean for the running of CUSU.

I was delighted that the recent referendum on our NUS membership had the highest ever turnout in a CUSU referendum: it demonstrated that on matters which students really care about, the students will be engaged. However, it is important to stress that the vote to stay affiliated to the NUS was not a vote for the status quo, a point which the current team of sabbatical officers made unambiguously clear in their letter to the organisation.

“

WE WANT EVERYONE TO BE ENGAGED BUT THE ONUS IS ON US TO BE ENGAGING

In the letter, CUSU officially condemned anti-Semitism and racism in all its forms and asked the NUS to do more to protect the rightful place of Jewish students within the student movement. As the NUS replies to all the concerns raised and sets out the clear actions and next steps to ensure that reports of anti-Semitism are fully dealt with, we will make sure that such processes are effectively communicated to all students.

In addition, in our interactions with the NUS we will continue to

hold its officers to account and ensure that concerns raised by students in Cambridge are adequately addressed at the highest level. Students up and down the country will benefit from a strong and representative NUS, and it will be our job as your NUS delegates to make sure that it continues to take seriously the concerns of students raised by both sides during the referendum campaign. As incoming sabbatical officers, we have huge shoes to fill. Priscilla, Rob, Jemma, Helena, Poppy and Charlie have been exceptionally good sabbatical officers, fighting for students on a whole range of issues and through numerous important campaigns. During our handover period we will do everything we can to fight for the long-term changes initiated by the outgoing officers, to learn from their experiences within their respective roles, and to work out how we can build on the progress made over the past year.

CUSU has a bright future, but this is a future dependent on our ability as sabbatical officers to keep students fully informed about how our work is making a real and meaningful impact on the lives of all students. This is why, for next year, my top priority will be making sure that CUSU communicates effectively with all students and that the story of CUSU's vital work is being told, whether that's on Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter or YouTube. We want everyone to be engaged but the onus is on us to be engaging. With your continued support, and with the fantastic new team which I am privileged to lead, I am confident we can make this happen.

CUSU faces a credibility crisis in the coming year



Louis Ashworth

Our students' union desperately needs to demonstrate it can be a force for change

If it's not too early to nominate a word of the year for 2016, 'disaffiliation' is looking like a strong candidate. We approach an era-defining referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union. Last month, the University of Cambridge voted narrowly to remain affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS). Now, the burning gaze of student anger has settled upon a new target: CUSU.

In the immediate aftermath of the NUS vote, a group of Peterhouse students – angry at CUSU's handling of the the NUS referendum and the shutting down of *The Cambridge Student's* (TCS) print edition – wrote an open letter to their JCR demanding a referendum on affiliation with CUSU. They were followed swiftly by Queens', whose JCR executive confirmed their intention to call a vote on CUSU membership next term. Following demands on their JCR Facebook page, it seems Clare may join them.

As Cambridge students escape into internships, holidays and home life over the long summer, tempers may cool. Nevertheless, the underlying message remains the same: there is widespread discontent among many students about how they are represented. The narrowness of the

vote on NUS membership – 303 votes separated the remain and leave votes – shows how tight things have become. For many, there is no belief that bodies like the NUS are engaged with students' actual concerns.

This backlash was bound to affect CUSU – and, in part, for good reason. The end of TCS's print edition was brutal, with neither side involved shrouding itself in glory. Where CUSU trampled cruelly over the hard work of student volunteers, certain TCS members – past and present – showed an alarming willingness to drag individuals into the mud with shameful personal attacks.

The whole fiasco could have been mitigated if CUSU had taken a more honest approach to democratic debate earlier this year. During the build up to the referendum to create a Disabled Students' Officer as a full-time sabbatical position, I was astounded by the unwillingness of CUSU to be open about what the long-term cost of the position could be. Several people within CUSU, who expressed their concerns about the role to me privately, refused to speak out about the financial consequences which the role would entail. It must surely have been known at the time of the referendum that TCS could end up on the chopping block.

In the National Student Survey 2015, CUSU was rated, by outgoing finalists, as the the worst university student union in the country. Only 32 per cent of survey respondents were satisfied with it, a five per cent drop on the year before. It will be very interesting to see the assessment of this year's graduates.

In taking on leadership of this institution, Amatey Doku and his team face an immense challenge. CUSU's accounts show an increase of nearly £50,000 in staff fees, despite only one more staff member being hired. With the abolishment of the Coordinator role, it appears that its responsibilities will be distributed among staff members. This reflects a general shift in the role of sabbatical officers – where, in the past, administration of CUSU was chiefly fulfilled by sabbs, it seems there is an increasing drive for these duties to be handled by fully paid staff.

This should, theoretically, free up officers to focus on campaigning. In this environment, a failure to effect actual change will be less forgivable. With the best intentions, CUSU have this year been continuously sluggish in responding to student concerns.

Late last year, they struggled to grasp how best to oppose proposed street lighting cuts, bizarrely opening

their own poll rather than backing an already successful one. CUSU Council resolved on 15th February (in an emergency motion proposed by the sabbs themselves) to write a letter to the British and Italian ambassadors to Egypt calling for a full investigation into the death of Girton student Giulio Regeni, but it took until the 6th April for a letter to actually be sent. This slow-footedness reared its head again during the NUS referendum. After the Council mandated the sabbs to write a letter to NUS condemning anti-Semitism, the actual writing of the letter had to be outsourced to out campaigner Adam Crafton – this type of behaviour will become less and less forgivable if administrative burdens are taken off sabbs' shoulders.

CUSU Council engagement has gradually increased this year, and this presents an opportunity for the new sabbs to re-capture the attention of the student body. If the new team can prove they can effectively campaign for change, and have the competent administrative backing of a staff team, they can then make a convincing argument for colleges to remain affiliated. If change continues to occur in spite of CUSU, rather than because of it, students may well decide their membership fees are better in the pockets of their own JCRs.

EU referendum: student perspectives

Cambridge students discuss facets of the referendum less focused upon in the public debate



Fabian Stephany

We must not forget the fields of Flanders

These are troubled times for Europe. Right at the heart of the continent, in the administrative capital of the EU, bombs detonate, people suffer and die. Europe has been struck by shocking terror attacks, but avowals of solidarity follow the fading bursts of bombs. In the face of the horror which threatens our shared values, Europeans show whole-hearted and honest compassion for each other.

Nevertheless, the bloodshed in the middle of Europe, in Paris and in Brussels, seems mind-bending and surreal to us, since terror and war are distant memories for the 'blessed generations'. As the news unfolds, we remember a seemingly distant time, 100 years ago, when European soil was blood-soaked before; Europeans stood opposed to each other in hostility and hatred rather than side-by-side in solidarity and compassion. A time when we Europeans murdered each other: a time of paranoia, fuelled by aggressive nationalism and led by ignorance.

The young soldiers in the trenches of Flanders and Verdun did not recognise that the hopes, fears, and dreams of the young men they fought were the same as their own. Instead, they set Europe on fire. They destroyed their generation's prospects, and they then were caught up in an even more cruel turmoil only 30 years later. Never again, the survivors of this lunacy agreed, never again shall Europeans be enemies. This was the initial motivation of the European project.

In the last 70 years, this spirit has come to life in the many endeavours of the EU. Just half a decade after World War Two, this spirit bound together enemies of war in the Treaty of Paris. It created a united Europe across the channel in 1973. That spirit of togetherness backed Eastern neighbours when walls were built, and welcomed them as the Iron Curtain fell.

Today, this spirit has formed an 'Erasmus generation' of young Europeans that could never fight against each other, for they have lived under one roof. They have shared their hopes, fears, and dreams. The European idea has brought them together and has successfully prevented history from repeating itself once more. For keeping this initial, most fundamental and most important promise of peace and stability between the people of Europe, the EU is a true success story.

The current debate about how the EU operates and who should participate in it should first consider this fact, which ultimately outbalances any other economic argument. We should not forget the fields of Flanders, not only on Remembrance Day, but also on Thursday 23rd June.



Maartje Geussens

Immigrant is not such an alien concept

I don't think I can stomach two more weeks of the EU referendum. Each day I feel like I have to justify my existence. Making breakfast with my boyfriend, someone on the radio tells me that I'm taking British jobs. Having dinner with the people from my local charity shop, a fellow volunteer tells me that I'm the reason her grandson's school didn't put on a nativity play. At the supermarket self-service checkout, a couple debates whether houses might finally be cheaper if I just went away and vacated my room. It's making me feel like a fraud, like I'm somehow taking a British person's place, doing their job, living in their house.

Sometimes I try to explain this to British people, and they always say the same thing – "oh, but I didn't mean you". I'm white, middle-class and I have a posh voice: of course,



you didn't mean me. I've graduated, worked for five years, paid taxes and National Insurance, and now I'm back for some more education. I'm the paragon of 'good' immigration.

But we should all know by now that the 'bad' immigrant doesn't exist. I'm not the exception: I'm the rule. Immigration is good for the economy. If Britain has more money because it has more immigrants, it should be able to build more houses, schools and hospitals. My existence here shouldn't make me feel guilty, and yet it does.

I know I won't have to leave the UK if Britain votes Leave. But what about me 10 years ago? Here's an alternative history: I would have cheerfully

gougued out my right eye for a place at a British university, but that doesn't mean that my parents would have let me at 17 years old take out a student loan for overseas fees, which add up to about three times the average UK wage.

And if the fees for EU students don't rise to overseas levels? A friend from the US wanted to apply for a librarian traineeship after our course is over – similar to my first job, it doesn't pay much, but it would be excellent experience. When she entered her details on the online application, the website shut itself down and locked her out. She wouldn't make enough for the university to sponsor her visa. That's her story now; it

would have been me then.

I can't pretend I'm in the UK out of the goodness of my heart, because I've taken pity on its economy and want to sacrifice myself to donate 20-40 per cent of my income to the HMRC. Nor can I expect anyone to vote Remain because leaving would make me sad; everyone can educate themselves on the benefits the EU has for Britain. But the discussion still stings.

I'm here because I love it here. Teaching secondary school English isn't a very glamorous calling, but it's mine. I love my boyfriend. I love my field of research. I love the UK; I just don't know how to make it love me back.



Jon Wall

Europe facilitates scientific endeavour

In an acrimonious and lengthy campaign, in which each side seems to dispute any and all facts given by their opponents, the position of the scientific establishment on the EU is remarkably cohesive. The vast majority of academics and Vice-Chancellors support remaining in the EU, with more than 150 Royal Society fellows signing a letter which suggests a "disaster for UK science" in the event of a Leave vote.

Why, though, does science matter? I would argue that investment in science is one of the few areas which guarantees a payback, not just through investment to create skilled jobs, but also in long-term benefits from innovation. Whether this comes in the form of developing new cancer treatments or smart materials, the benefits from science investment will always flow through a nation's economy.

Science is also a more clear-cut case as it is one of the sectors in which the UK attracts more funding from Brussels than it puts in. Cambridge, Oxford, UCL and Imperial are the four institutions which gain the most from EU research funding. It is not just limited to the elite institutions, however, as 85 per cent of UK Higher Education institutions receive some degree of EU funding. And while Brexiters argue that money saved in

total net contributions could go towards plugging this funding shortfall, this does not take into account the whole picture.

Due to the collaborative nature of scientific research, attracting scientific talent is a key aspect of an institution's strength. Free movement through Europe clearly aids this. Furthermore, and perhaps more significantly, having a centralised funding body confers a number of benefits. It prevents duplication of research throughout Europe, leading to faster progress.

It means that international collaborations are more likely to be funded than if individual national interests were behind project funding, leading to more diverse research projects. Finally, in the case of science, the European project allows for less bureaucracy than we would have in the event of Brexit, as the mechanisms for obtaining funding are centralised and simplified.

There is also a case to be made for pride in the European institutions of science. The work done at the European Organization for Nuclear Research is considered world-leading, and it has become so through the strength of a joint European project. The place which British science holds in this is particularly strong – it is one of the areas in which we as a nation can be considered world-leading – and this is because of our European connections.

Science is one of our greatest bridge-building activities – the history of space travel, and the iconic photos of American and Russian spacemen together are a fantastic example of this – and science is strengthened when countries can work together. Science is an activity which really does benefit all of society in both the short and long term, and it is clearly stronger in the EU.



Nicholas Mavreas

The EU amplifies Britain's global voice

One of the most poignant chapters in *To Kill a Mockingbird* begins with the phrase: "Atticus was feeble". This is uttered by his young daughter, Scout, who feels that with the passage of time he has lost his previous vitality and is sinking into an unavoidable decline. It seems that Brexiters also feel Britain is feeble. They feel powerless in the face of Brussels. They feel that they cannot project power as effectively abroad and feel shackled to the Eurocracy. They want to 'make Britain great again'.

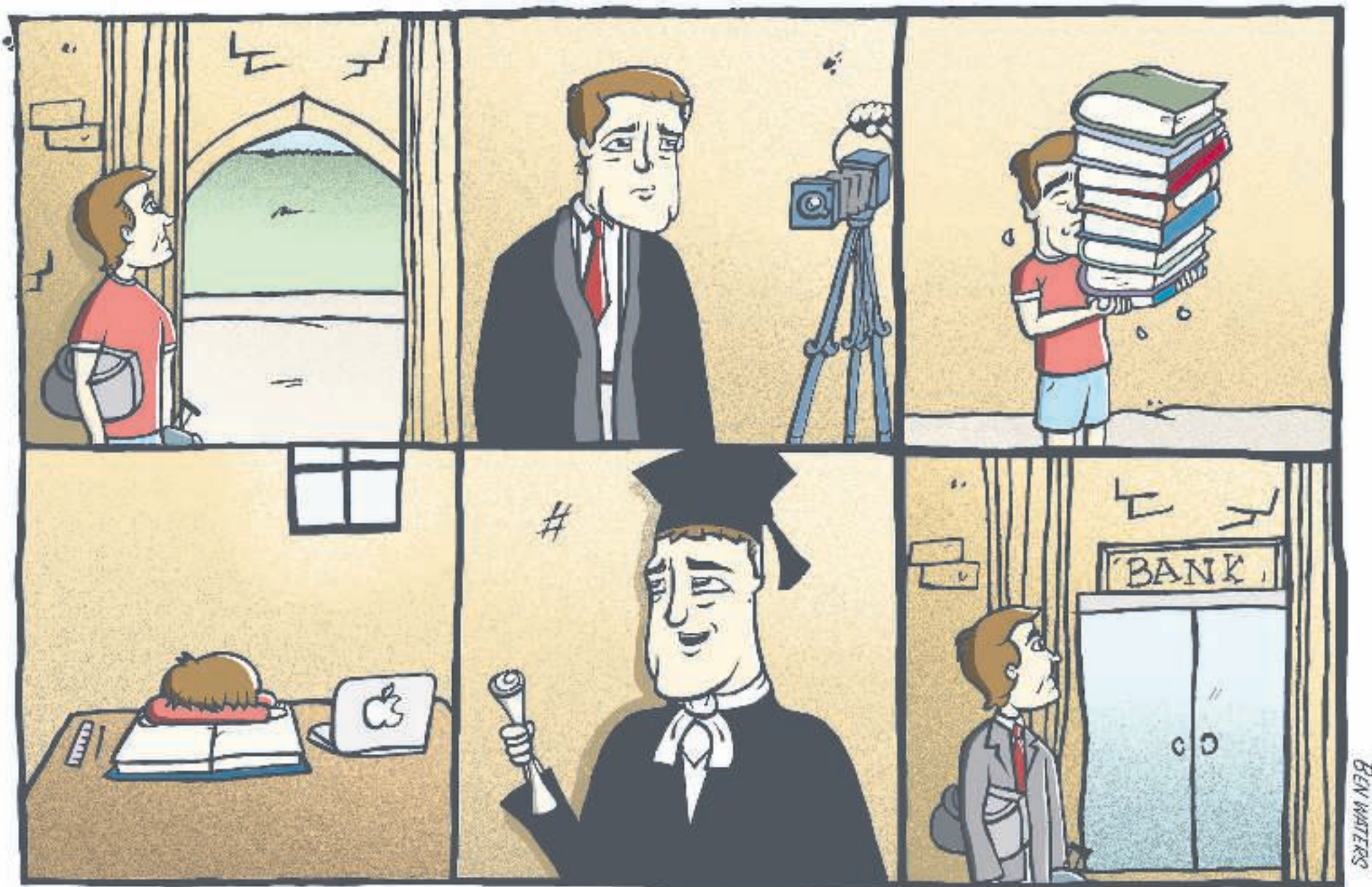
The solution, they perceive, to Britain's faiblesse, is to sever ties with the EU. Alone, they perceive, this island of 65 million people can better engage with the rest of the world and become stronger. But there are numerous foreign policy and security challenges which we may have to deal with in the future: a resurgent and volatile Russia; rumblings of discontent by China in the South China Sea; and the ongoing crises in Iraq and Syria. Britain could be directly or indirectly threatened if these situations escalate.

To this, some might say that the best option is to go it alone. But we no longer have the power to effectively do this. One may argue that NATO already serves the purpose of fostering defence cooperation, but NATO is subservient to US interests,

which might not be the same as European interests. One solution to this conundrum is a European army and border force. With a combined defence, and an army drawn from a pool of 450 million people, we can project power beyond the borders of Europe. We are unlikely to ever go to war alone again, and the experience of French officers in the British army has been positive so far.

Although the idea of a European army is anathema to Brexiters, it is time for a paradigm shift. We must realise that we can deal with future security threats much more effectively within a European framework. The fiasco over the last year with the large inflows of refugees has already prompted a response. Plans exist to establish a European border agency, which will have the power to deploy its members without the consent of a member state. This can help against recalcitrant members such as Greece.

What I propose is not only to remain in the EU but also to strengthen our role within it. To make a positive case for more Europe, it would be good to co-opt the Brexiters' language. I am aware that currently the idea of a common army is pie-in-the-sky. This is a way in which we can strengthen Britain, not by disengaging from the EU, but by intensifying our involvement. Britain has always acted as a brake on European integration. Nevertheless, we are one of the major countries of the EU. Imagine a British army officer in charge of a European army. Imagine Britons helping to process the arriving refugees and tackle the refugee crisis in the context of a European border agency. We can share costs of developing technology, and each country can bring its own brand of expertise to make us strong again. We may not always get what we want, but we will find that together we are stronger.



Cambridge, it's time to discuss my exam term



Alex Ridley

It's not just those with recognised mental illnesses who struggle with examinations – the problem is wider

I fell absolutely and completely in love with Cambridge. I made incredible friends, in and out of college. I got a boyfriend. I became involved in theatre and rowing. But less than nine months later I found myself thinking 'I don't think I can do this again next year'. It truly felt as if exams had killed my energy and passion. I no longer wanted to learn about the things that I had spent the previous summer reading about out of pure interest and excitement; I just wanted to pass the exams.

At the beginning of the academic year it felt like my life had suddenly been enriched by opportunity, both academically and otherwise. This term, I went from being involved in five shows in Lent to none, from going out three times a week to getting up at 7am to start revision. However, I was determined to tackle exam term in a healthy way. The pre-GCSE sobbing breakdown I experienced before my first exam four years ago was not to be repeated. I think I did end up breaking down, but not in a dramatic way. I didn't have to see my tutor, I didn't have to get my mum to make an emergency trip to Cambridge, but when I looked in the mirror a few minutes before going in for my ninth exam of the week, I couldn't help but feel a bit broken. Looking at the people around me, both known and unknown, I wondered what these exams were actually testing: acquisition and interpretation of knowledge,

or merely the ability to keep going.

I generally consider myself quite a strong person. I'm quite good at taking 'mental health days' and I try to keep things in perspective while caught in the Cambridge bubble. But I don't think I've ever cried as much as I did the week before exams started. I was exhausted, I missed my friends, I missed having lie-ins and watching Netflix. I missed not constantly being terrified of failure. Before coming to Cambridge, the question was never whether I would do well, but how well I would do. Now, it felt like it was all about coping. And I know I am definitely not alone in feeling this way. So, what can practically be done to deal with this?

The *Cambridge Student* reported in 2015 that an average of 2.7 per cent of all undergraduates intermit (based on statistics from 2012-2015). St Edmund's had the highest percentage, with 10.5 per cent of the student body intermitting. Aside from the mature colleges, the highest intermittence rate is Girton with 4.18 per cent. This means that more than one in every 25 students will intermit. Although, of course, people do intermit for reasons apart from mental health, it is shocking to think when examining these statistics that intermission is only considered as an option for students who are unable to continue their studies. How many students are struggling silently, and still sitting exams and dealing with

'regular' Cambridge stress while suffering?

“CAMBRIDGE, I KNOW I COULD LEAVE YOU, BUT I DON'T WANT TO

Personally, I don't have a mental health issue, and I don't want to leave Cambridge. I don't think taking time away (other than a needed long vacation) will significantly help anything. So what about the students that stay in Cambridge? This academic year 89 students (out of first-, second- and third-years) had special examination arrangements due to anxiety/ depression/ OCD/ unspecified mental health issues. This was lower than the previous two years (186 and 146 respectively). This is a tiny percentage, especially compared to those that intermit. This isn't surprising as it seems to me that having extra time in an exam is probably not going to significantly help when mental illness has hindered effective revision throughout the year. The fact is that people with mental health issues don't do as well in exams (22.2 per cent of non-disabled students get a First; however, only 16.3 per cent of

those with mental health conditions do). As I said earlier, I don't have a mental health problem, but like many I struggled with exam term and the repercussions of everyone around me being stressed and struggling as well.

To me it is not enough to simply say, "this is Cambridge, it is going to be stressful", or "you knew what you were signing up for when you accepted your offer", because I really didn't. I didn't know what it would feel like to sit 10 exams, nine of which were on five consecutive days. I didn't know what it would feel like to get a pessimistic supervision report and be told I'm not quite up to standard.

Cambridge, I know I could leave you, but I don't want to. However, I think Cambridge does have to change to be better for me. The support is there for when it gets really bad, but we can't just dismiss the struggles of those who don't have a diagnosed mental health condition, and we can't assume that this is how it has to be because 'Cambridge is Cambridge'. I'm not sure what can or should be done, but the university has a moral obligation to do something.

The problem is there in the statistics. The problem glares back at us: anyone can see that there's an issue, that things can easily escalate. We talk about it all the time, we campaign, we write articles on it. My question is, what will change for next year?

We need to treat political blackness with care



Jun Pang

In her final article, our BME columnist turns her attention to political blackness and its relation to activism

That the latest NUS Black Students' Conference saw the motion to change the use of 'political blackness' as a general referent for the campaign demonstrates the persistence of unproductive, monolithic approaches to BME activism that ultimately fail to achieve liberation for those who need it most. That the Chinese detergent company Qiaobi recently released a (now) widely-condemned television advertisement portraying a black man being literally white-washed – or, perhaps, yellow-washed – into a more 'attractive', palatable Chinese man, shows that solidarity between people of colour is not something that can be taken for granted, and that anti-blackness is still a prevalent issue in many communities.

That I can rattle off countless examples of racism against myself and my friends, sometimes at the hands of other people of colour, within only one year of being in this space, shows that there is no escape from the legacy of colonialism and hatred. In this climate of forced homogenisation, internal disunity, and false consciousness, how is it possible that BME individuals can achieve solidarity? Given that our historical memories, our interlocking oppressions, affect us in such different ways – that our experiences, which are key to defining our struggles, are unique and subjective – how are we to keep moving forward with our activism?

Today, many concepts which used to be radical and unique have been watered down into fighting words – words bereft of any strength. At the Decolonising Academia talk at the Cambridge Union, panellist Chaka Laguerre spoke about how the concept of "intersectionality" has

ceased to be employed radically in academic and social practice; today, intersectionality is simply one concept among many that many pin on their liberal political vision-boards in order to legitimise their claims for justice. We have not adopted it widely as a framework for understanding; instead, we have usurped it from black women such as Kimberlé Crenshaw whose intellectual labour aimed to revolutionise the way we view intersecting axes of oppression.

“

WE ARE NOT A MONOLITH

The world remains unchanged – today, people constantly make jokes about racial "oversensitivity", bemoaning the apparent loss of the right to free speech on the part of many individuals, without critically interrogating why social justice activism has been singled out for criticism. Hegemonic ideas remain unchallenged – (white) people continue to be uncomfortable with being confronted with their privilege, and continue to fail to exercise grace in the recognition that some people may simply have a better understanding of a social phenomenon than themselves.

It is in this context that BME activists must come together and redefine our positions in this university and in the world based on a mandate of decolonisation. It is imperative that we do not accept piecemeal change simply under the comfortable umbrella

of 'diversity', but demand a fundamental change in the paradigms with which the world works. This begins, I think, with the recognition of the simple truth that we all have different battles to fight and that, although we may organise together and follow the same trajectories, the journey to justice will take concerted efforts in various directions, not vertically but horizontally.

To hierarchise oppression is to participate in it, to assist whiteness in both parochially separating and simultaneously homogenising the experiences of people of colour. Only if we refuse to all operate under the category of political blackness can we begin to acknowledge that our experiences as people of different colours brings different experiences of oppression and privilege that must be addressed as such.

This is what will separate us from typical social movements and their tendency to order issues based on an 'objective' sense of importance (a remnant of the legacy of white liberal movements) – this is what will show that we have listened to Audre Lorde's directive: "the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house".

It would be a lie to say that solidarity between people of colour already exists unproblematically. Within groups, safety comes from insulation, to the extent that one set of oppressive structures can appear to dominate over all the others – groups develop offensive and defensive tunnel vision when threats hit too close to home. In the East Asian community, this has most recently been evident from the case of Peter Liang, a Chinese-American police officer who shot Akai Gurley, a black

man. Liang was ultimately let off with an extremely lenient sentence, and the community rejoiced (having protested against his prosecution), failing to realise, in the words of poet Franny Choi, "it's true that no one wants to see us alive either". What is important is not unity to the same end but solidarity and generosity of spirit in understanding that we must support one another in what we are trying to achieve, and to believe in good faith that liberation will come if we strive for it.

This holds true, too, for white allies, whose privilege is such that they bear the onus of educating themselves and supporting people of colour by passing on the microphone – by respecting the simple reality that BME people know their lives and their experiences better than people who could not even begin to live and think as they do.

My journey as an activist in the last year has been one of learning how oppression moves from strength to strength, from visibility to invisibility, so that in the end we cannot see so much as feel it directing our lives. It is when we wake up that the unlearning begins, that we realise the forces we cannot control are those that find most purchase in our lives, that we understand that we must struggle, and struggle through it all.

Ultimately, if we are to be allies – good allies – with one another, if we are to truly claim solidarity, we must realise that, inasmuch as we have our own areas of struggle, we are also linked by that collective struggle.

We have a duty to one another to understand the different ways in which the world is built against us; we are not a monolith, and we are stronger for it.

On editing: the year from the Comment desk



Anna Jennings

Our Comment Editor reflects on the role of Varsity's Comment section, and its relation to news stories this year

Being Comment Editor for *Varsity* is an interesting role because the remit is so open. To comment on things relevant to students, or which students are interested in. Aside from the seemingly unending stream of spam emails advertising everything from belly-fat loss and an improved sex life to buying conservatory windows and saving various kidnapping victims which come through to our email account, we receive a whole array of interesting pitches. They are often heartfelt, personal, but also profound and politically astute.

The emails come in flurries. With the anti-Semitic comments flying around Malia Bouattia, we read email after email, each offering a distinct perspective on the NUS drama. It truly makes one appreciate how multi-faceted any political decision is in a university like Cambridge. People wanted to write about the LGBT+ perspective, the BME one, the Jewish angle. But the noteworthy point here is that there wasn't and isn't a singular perspective for any of these viewpoints, but rather a whole spectrum of opinion.

The advantage of *Varsity* is that it is willing to platform this whole spectrum of viewpoints. We are not a newspaper with a fixed ideology, giving us an intellectual freedom to explore whichever views the editors, writers, and readers are interested in. Earlier this term, one of my Deputy Editors asked if there was a *Varsity* 'line' on some particular issue, and I was delighted to be able tell him that

there wasn't. Aside from avoiding overt racism/ sexism/ homophobia etc., we are merely committed to publishing good writing and clever ideas. Part of the fun is editing an article which strongly voices an opinion on a student issue, and the day after publishing its opposite.

The spirit of the Comment section, then, operates to open up ideas, and provoke thought. The motivations of our writers go far beyond a solipsistic desire to see themselves in print or disseminate their own views, but rather are led by a dedication to debate. I am always touched by the devotion, the hours people put in to writing their articles and going over edits to get the last comma right.

This debate, too, is not confined to a narrow range of topics. From personal experiences of mental health issues and alcohol abuse to in-depth analysis of American politics and Syria, the wealth of subjects on which the Cambridge student body can offer insight and understanding always amazes me. I think the Comment section therefore provides a means for readers to better understand sectors outside their own experience.

And yet Comment is not merely concerned with the conferring of understanding. To comment is often considered a passive role, of responding to and analysing external events. Particularly as played out in the microcosm of Cambridge, Comment articles have a real capacity to take an active role in altering reality, in changing the subject upon which they

comment. We saw this with the Class Lists debate, and again with the NUS drama, as we published a series of articles exploring a range of perspectives. As these articles were shared and discussed on social media and in person, they flagged up important considerations and led the debate in new directions. I like to think that *Varsity* played a role in provoking debate around the NUS referendum, leading to record voter turnout.

“

NEITHER OPINION NOR STYLE IS HOMOGENOUS

This year has been one in which the role of the print newspaper – and by extension, student journalism as a whole – has been challenged. With the end of the print *Independent*, and, more locally, the cutting of the *TCS* budget, the place in society of a printed newspaper has been challenged, especially as we can now check the news continually on a whole array of phone apps. The role of long-form analysis as a means of journalism, too, has perhaps been seen as more precarious. With sites like *BuzzFeed* attracting mass markets with listicles and GIFs, and social media meaning anyone can comment on anything, anywhere, anytime, the traditional role of the broadsheet's editorials and

commentary has been destabilised.

And yet, the important point, perhaps, is that it prevails. Readers remain. Despite the pessimistic predicaments for journalism's future, it is very telling that in moments of political importance, such as the upcoming EU referendum, we turn to these published writings as voices of authority. Opinion, in short, is still valued, and always will be – not as something which can be automated or generated by the general public, but rather as a form which requires more time, knowledge and specialism.

The role of the editor in this process is a balance between preserving the original style and voice of the writer, while making changes to better express that meaning and meet a generalised style of *Varsity* comment writing. This poses problems when the writer expresses a set of ideas very different to your own, and it perhaps becomes an unconscious response to add more hedging ("I think...", "it seems to me") to these pieces. Having said that, processing such a large volume of articles means I have become more sensitive to the inevitable idiosyncrasies of different writers, and learnt to be more respectful of those who want to say 'that' where I would put 'which', or who have more of a penchant for the semi-colon. In Comment, the point is that neither opinion nor style is homogenous.

Applications for Section Editors for Michaelmas are now open. For more information please visit <http://www.varsity.co.uk/get-involved>

If England won Euro 2016...

An alternative universe in which England cements its position as the best football team in Europe, if not the world

KEIR BAKER

"Rooney picks up the ball in the centre of the park. Back to goal... he turns. He's got Vardy and Kane for company, running at the German defence... Halfway into the German half... Vardy's made the run! Rooney plays the ball, it's past Hummels... Vardy's through! Jamie Vardy for England... he's around Neuer... he's scored!!! Jamie Vardy's done it - 90th minute... it's the winner!"

Roy Hodgson smiles. Four years after he guided England to Euro 2016 glory, the voice of Clive Tyldesley still brings back happy memories of that famous night in the Stade de France. Not that it has yet been forgotten: Hodgson's uncharacteristic knee slide along the touchline still remains the most-watched video on YouTube, and an online petition calling for King William to give him a knighthood was signed by over 10 million people.

"I remember receiving so many messages of congratulations and gratitude. David Cameron sent me a handwritten letter, describing just how absolutely chuffed he was. That was really humbling... though I remembering being confused by it too. He had added a little postscript, request for more players from his favourite team, Aston Villa, to be included in my next squad, but there was a crossed-out West Ham next to it."

David Cameron was not the only politician grateful for the

performance of Hodgson's England; the team's thrashing of Russia, Wales and Slovakia in the early stages of the tournament is largely credited by political commentators with causing a landslide vote in favour of Brexit. Following England's 8-0 victory over Slovakia, Nigel Farage's tweet - "this shows us just exactly what we can do without the help of any foreigners" - was retweeted over one million times and was featured heavily as part of the Leave campaign's social media effort.

“

MARCUS RASHFORD WAS SOLD TO BARCELONA IN RETURN FOR THE UK GAINING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANARY ISLANDS

Hodgson - who has just returned from the set of *Jamie Vardy: The Movie* after filming a short cameo - remains coy about the political implications of the win, preferring to discuss instead the influence of his triumph on the game he loves.

"I continue to feel a sense of joy every time I hear about the careers of those players in my squad. It gives me great pride to know that my revolutionary

tactics and ground-breaking approach to management - you know, pointing at the net and instructing them to kick towards that - has helped all these players progress."

Indeed, after his record-breaking 16 goals throughout the tournament, Manchester United's teenage sensation Marcus Rashford was sold to Barcelona in return for the UK gaining sovereignty over the Canary Islands, a deal described as "an absolute bargain" by Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. Hodgson's captain Wayne Rooney, meanwhile, after having undertaken a course in public speaking at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, has had success as a pundit on BT Sport. As his colleague and former England teammate Michael Owen recently described, "Wayne can say lots of words about football, and for me, if a pundit cannot do that, it is always going to be tricky to have a successful punditry career."

Hodgson, who has now learned his 20th language and is currently the face of Rosetta Stone's TV campaign, was always confident his England team could go far.

"We always knew we would do well if we took advantage of the pace, trickery and all-round brilliance of James Milner. But the biggest sign of our impending

victory for me was something I read in *The Sun*: they pointed out that 2016 was 50 years after 1966 and that meant we were guaranteed to win... It made sense to me,



because - after all - 50 is a number."

After overcoming the underdog label (an England victory was given 9/1 odds, the same likelihood as Jeremy Corbyn's Fuck Tony Blair Party winning next month's general election), Hodgson's England went on to not only reshape and transform the English football scene, but lots more besides.

Former pop superstars One Direction - who had spent three years in pop wilderness performing in Longleat Forest Center Parcs - were catapulted back to the top of the charts with their song 'We Finally Won Something', while 2017 saw a marked rise in the babies being christened 'Gary', 'Dele' and 'Lallana' in honour of members of the so-called Heroes of 2016.

Now with Euro 2020 just on the horizon, and England fans still hurting from being expelled from the 2018 World Cup in Russia following a diplomatic incident reportedly involving Joe Hart, Vladimir Putin and some anti-dandruff shampoo, Hodgson remains hopeful that his successor, Alan Pardew, has the opportunity to experience the same feeling of glory.

"It was one of the best achievements of my life, perhaps second only to keeping Fulham from being relegated. It was a dream come true to show the country that after all those years of hurt and confusion, not going for Harry Redknapp was not a ludicrously stupid choice."

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Varsity matches:



University of Oxford

WINS:
54



Cambridge struggled against Oxford in the Rugby Varsity match

Following a hard-fought series of sporting clashes, **Oxford** have a narrow lead over **Cambridge** in this year's Varsity matches.



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the story so far

WINS:
52

University of Cambridge



The battles which still lie ahead

JACK RANSON SENIOR SPORTS EDITOR

As most Oxbridge students prepare to head home for the summer, ancient academic rivalries can be laid to rest – if just for a while. For many students, though, the real competition is about to begin. The University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge are nearly neck-and-neck overall in this year's Varsity sports matches. According to the match tracker on Cambridge sports website *The Blue Bird*, the 108 matches played so far show a tight but troubling situation for the Cantabs. At present, Oxford holds a narrow lead of 54 wins to Cambridge's 52. But the overall tally will not be known for another couple of weeks.

Varsity looks at the all-important battles still to be fought.

CRICKET

Although the Twenty-Twenty event went in Oxford's favour for both the men and women, the Light Blues have a chance to redeem themselves at Lord's where they will be playing the One-Day event on Friday 1st July and the traditional Four-Day event from Tuesday 5th July at University Parks, Oxford. This famed fixture began in 1827, with history weighted slightly

in Cambridge's favour, 59 wins to Oxford's 55 (56 drawn). Can Cambridge wrest the momentum from their Dark Blue counterparts? A win in Oxford would be a return to winning ways for the club and a repeat of what they achieved in 2014 at the Oxford ground.



THE CROQUET VARSITY MATCH WILL BE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT BEAST FROM ITS FASTER-PACED COUNTERPART

CROQUET

They might only be distinguished by a few letters, but the Croquet Varsity match will be an entirely different beast from its faster-paced counterpart. This is a game of nerve, precision and snazzy sweaters. For over a decade, the tie has been dominated by Oxford, so it seems difficult to predict anything else happening this year. But if the Light Blues can do it, they will have the distinction of being the first

winners from Cambridge since 2002. If nothing else, it promises to be quite a stylish affair, hosted at London's Hurlingham Club, with a lunch provided for both teams.

SAILING

One of the more glamorous fixtures to look forward to, the 99th Varsity Sailing Match will take place at the Royal Southern Yacht Club on 29th and 30th June. It is one of the world's longest-running sailing regattas, and last year the honours were split between the men and the women. If you fancy a couple of days of sunshine on the south coast, relaxing on the beach while the crews slog it out on the water, this could be the Varsity for you.

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

Another water-based battle, this one may – at first glance – be a rather less attractive prospect for spectators. The gruelling race is held between 2nd and 7th July, as the best swimmers from Oxford and Cambridge come together to race across the 21 miles between Dover and Calais. The competition seems fierce, as each swimmer takes to the water for an hour, swapping with another member of the squad until they reach the French coast, typically

achieved in just over seven hours. The water is cold and salty, but the support doesn't have to be – last time the clash was held (2014), the race was declared a draw, so this year there is everything to play for.

TENNIS

As the dust settles on the heat of the clay-court season, attention turns towards the beautifully manicured lawns of Queen's Club, Devonshire Park and the All England Club.

But slotting comfortably into the middle week-end of the Wimbledon Championships, another hotly contested match will be taking place at Moor Park in Hertfordshire, between the Dark and Light Blues.

Last year's disappointing loss was the first in the last decade for Cambridge, and they'll be looking to quickly snatch back the initiative with a victory next month.

Things went downhill for Oxford in the skiing match, with Cambridge taking the win



ALL BOAT RACE PHOTOS: BBC

Looking back: the 2016 boat races

FELIX SCHLICHTER

Both the Cambridge men's and women's squads did themselves proud in heroic battles against the Oxford crews in this year's Boat Races.

The omens were not in the Light Blues' favour; the last Cambridge win had been back in 2012, when the men crossed the line first courtesy of a broken Oxford oar. The weather also cast doubt over the feasibility of staging the race, while the Varsity footballers had lost the early match-up against Oxford at Craven Cottage, on this decisive day of university sport.

The Cambridge women battled bravely to hold on to the coat-tails of Oxford, until they were almost sunk by the wrath of the Thames. For a few seconds it even looked as if Cambridge would succumb to the elements and sink.

Nevertheless, despite the race being effectively over, and the red flag being briefly raised by the race umpire, Cambridge extricated themselves and rose again from the rising tide, justly holding their heads high as they crossed the finishing line more than 30 lengths behind the Oxford crew. Their tenacity in rescuing a boat reminiscent only of the Titanic midway

through the race proved admirable.

The Cambridge men, meanwhile, managed to turn both height and weight advantage into a performance of raw power and graceful poise which saw them seal victory for the first time in four years over their perpetual rivals.

Despite a loss for the women, the Cambridge crews continue to maintain a double digit gap between them and Oxford in terms of victories; the men put some much needed daylight between them and Oxford and now lead 82 to 79.

A victory, then, for Cambridge: a victory, too, for rowing.

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Trinity's firework display, successful in spite of forecast rain, marks the second day of May Week.

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