

# Welcome to Cambridge, Fresher!

Top tips for arriving students,  
by those who've been  
through it all

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Student Newspaper since 1947

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# VARSITY

## Female grads earn £5,000 less than men

● **Male leavers bag 22 per cent more  
pay as they opt for high-paying sectors**

**Matt Gutteridge**  
Deputy News Editor

The annual report from the University Careers Service, released last week, has revealed an increasing gender pay gap among recent Cambridge graduates.

According to the report, a woman graduating from Cambridge can expect a starting salary of £24,409 per annum, well above the national average of £21,000, but more than £5,000 less than their male peers. This year's gender pay gap, at 22 per cent, is a significant increase on last year's figure of 17 per cent, and substantially higher than the national average for full-time employees.

The Careers Service report suggests that the salary discrepancy "can partly be attributed to the different career paths sought by our male and female students" – noting, in particular, high attendance from male students at events promoting highly paid employment sectors such as

banking. One such event attracted an audience that was 72 per cent male, and high attendance from female students at events focused on lower paid sectors such as arts and heritage.

The Director of the Careers Service, Gordon Chesterman, told *Varsity*: "The female student has a greater interest in those career areas where salary numbers are not particularly high."

Men make up 78 per cent of Cambridge graduates in the banking sector.

In part, this may be linked to high-paying employers heavily targeting subjects such as Mathematics, Natural Science, Engineering and Computer Science, subjects which are dominated by male students.

"The highly numerate subjects in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) areas which are sought-after by employers tend to have a predominantly male population among the student cohort," Chesterman said.

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Graduating students enter Senate House

PHOTOGRAPH: LOUIS ASHWORTH

## Punt touts out to flout restrictions

**Harry Curtis**  
Senior News Editor

Punt touts continue to frequent King's Parade, despite being banned from the street by Cambridge City Council a fortnight ago.

As part of their attempts to enforce the ban, the council are now proposing giving body cameras to its officers. They're not the first to resort to technology in the long running dispute, however – the Traditional Punting Company has already issued body cameras to its touts as they endeavour to prove that they are doing nothing wrong.

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which came into effect on 15th September, made it a criminal offence for punt tours in specified areas of the city centre, including King's Parade. Under the PSPO, touts operating in the newly prohibited areas face a £75 fixed penalty notice.

The order sought to "limit touting for punting business to agree locations near authorised punting operations," and end the "repeated interference in the lives of residents and tourists, wandering peacefully through the city centre."

The area from which touts are banned under the new PSPO encompasses most of central Cambridge, extending from

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# EDITORIAL

## Tradition – but at what cost?

The University is in the midst of an identity crisis. In the aftermath of Brexit, amid rising levels of student activism, and facing increasing competition from abroad, Cambridge must decide what form it is to take in the future – both at home and overseas. This will doubtless be one of its most volatile periods in recent history.

Freshers matriculating this October have much to look forward to. As students joining during this climate of heightened activism, they too will have the opportunity to have a direct impact.

Cambridge is not known for quick change. On the contrary, the careful preservation of (often quirky) tradition is one of the key selling points of the ‘Cambridge experience’, lauded around the world – and frequently conflated with academic excellence.

The ongoing debate over the future of Class Lists (pp. 6-7) is just one such battle that will be fought over the next 12 months. Although their publication is a tradition dating back centuries, we must remember that the lists no longer serve a practical purpose (students now receive their results online days before they are pinned up at Senate House). This, however, seems to be irrelevant to those who view the bid to abolish Class Lists as part of a slow erosion of centuries of practice. They pledge to defend tradition – but at what cost?

Cambridge may still be one of the top universities in the world (and the endless bombardment of rankings published over the summer have only reaffirmed this), but the future of our international presence – in spite of Brexit – is to be defined by the actions of the next few years.

The pledge to maintain the Home level of fees for EU applicants is just one example of how the University is attempting to soften the blow of Brexit. But the financial burden on the University is heavy – as *Varsity* reported last month, the yearly cost of a Cambridge education is now double the tuition fee. In order to maintain competitiveness internationally, it may be necessary to increase fees. As ever, it won't be a popular suggestion. Fees for EU applicants are just one example of how the University is standing up to the forces of increasing change – but as this concession continues to be directly funded by the University, its sustainability remains uncertain, with undergraduate tuition costing £18,000 a year on average.

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## News

# Stephen Toope announced as new Vice-Chancellor

● *The former President of UBC is described as a ‘born leader’ and an advocate for undergraduate students*

**Daniel Gayne Senior News Editor**  
**Jack Higgins Associate Editor**

The University of Cambridge has nominated Professor Stephen Toope as its next Vice-Chancellor, due to succeed Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz in October 2017.

A formal Grace has been submitted by the University Council, and, subject to the Regent House's approval, Toope will become the 346th Vice-Chancellor of the University late next year.

The Canadian scholar completed his PhD at Trinity College, and was President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of British Columbia (UBC) between 2006 and 2014. During that time, Toope was the highest paid individual in British Columbia's public sector.

A legal scholar and human rights lawyer as well as an administrator, Professor Toope was described by Madam Justice Rosalie Abella of the Supreme Court of Canada as “a rare combination of somebody who is brilliant, humane, considerate, and fearless”.

Professor Toope, who is expected to receive £400k-450k for his new role, said that he “look[ed] forward to working with staff and students in the pursuit of academic excellence and tremendous international engagement – the very mark of Cambridge.”

As Vice-Chancellor Professor Toope will chair the University Council, the General Board of the Faculties; and the Finance Committee of the Council.

Nassif Ghoussoub, a Mathematics professor at UBC, described Toope as a “born leader” and a champion of investment in student's mental health and quality of housing.

As well as being an advocate for undergraduates, Professor Toope has taken a nuanced line on free speech, saying



that while “for a university, anything that detracts from the free expression of ideas is just not acceptable”, a line has been crossed when speech is designed to preclude any speech in response.

Professor Ian White, Master of Jesus College, led the search for Borysiewicz's replacement and complimented Toope's “impeccable academic credentials, a longstanding involvement with higher education, strong leadership experience and an excellent academic background”

He emphasised that the structural peculiarities of UBC, one being that Toope was the de-facto mayor of ‘UBC Town’, meant that the president could feel isolated from faculty colleagues. But given “the prevailing tradition of good scholarship at Cambridge”, Professor Ghoussoub imagined that Toope might feel more at home in Cambridge, where he “can focus on what's dearest to his heart, and he will thrive”

▲ Incoming VC Stephen Toope

(PHOTOGRAPH: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY)

▼ Leszek Borysiewicz, the outgoing Vice-Chancellor

(PHOTOGRAPH: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY)



CORBYN CONUNDRUM

## CULC responds to victorious Corbyn

Bittersweet? A relief? A party changed for the worse? In the wake of another barnstorming victory for Jeremy Corbyn and his Momentum supporters, factional fissures look unlikely to leave the party. Can the Cambridge Universities Labour Club (CULC) avoid the divisions that have blighted other university clubs? *Varsity's* Political Editor **Joe Robinson** finds out what CULC members think.

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DROPPING THE DOGMA

## Faith school pupils suffer for excellence

Faith schools are a triumph of cultural openness, argues **Matthew Wilson**, and typically perform excellently with diverse student bodies. But is it unacceptable when dogma is put ahead of a student's right to make their own choices? And should new Prime Minister Teresa May use her planned expansion of the faith schools system to ensure the right to be informed?

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THE ITALIAN JOB

## Arrivederci, Joe Hart, reluctant pioneer

With few exceptions, the history of British footballers in Europe is a catalogue of benchwarmers, career dead ends, and shamed returns. But while the Premiership may be the world's best football league, perhaps our aloofness towards European football has been bad for the game's development. **Jonty Leibowitz** asks whether more Brits should follow Hart and try playing on the Continent.

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## Investigation

# Over £300: the incidental cost of gowns, photos and drinks in Freshers' Week

- Paraphernalia costs can quickly add up
- Reps blame clubs for high drink prices

**Tom Richardson**  
Investigations Editor

Incidental costs for new students can run well into the hundreds of pounds, even before rent, food or books are included, an investigation by *Varsity* has revealed.

Much of this cost comes from the colleges themselves. Gowns, which are compulsory for matriculation and produced exclusively by Ryder and Amies, the University shop, cost on average £36 across the 31 colleges. Matriculation photographs, though not compulsory, are also a common purchase in Freshers' Week. However, this figure conceals significant disparities from college to college. Twelve colleges offer gowns for £30 at the bottom end of the range, while the most expensive gowns, at Gonville & Caius and Sidney Sussex, cost almost double that at £54.50.

Matriculation photographs, though not compulsory, are nonetheless a common purchase for freshers. Organised independently by colleges, there is considerable variation between cost options, but JET Photographic, a popular company which in 2015 was hired by Churchill, Fitzwilliam, Girton, Hughes Hall, St Edmund's, St John's, Trinity and Wolfson colleges for their matriculation photos, charged £52, with an unframed option available for £39. However, Gillman & Soame, who in 2015 were hired by Sidney Sussex, offered several more expensive options, ranging from an unframed picture costing £45 to their most expensive framed picture at £95, apparently mirroring the disparity in gown cost. The student finance manager of the college had, at time of publication, not responded to *Varsity's* request for comment on the disparity.

Significantly bigger disparities exist, however, in the cost of society membership, which in some cases exceeds all the other costs identified by *Varsity*. Among the cheapest societies were the main political clubs, with the Conservative Association's £10 life membership undercut by the Labour Club's at £4, though neither includes membership of the associated political party. The Student Liberal Democrats occupy the middle ground at £5 life membership. The University sports teams typically charge an average of £20 annually, according to CUSU, although college-level sports and societies are generally free to join.

By far the largest, most prominent and expensive society to join, however, is the Cambridge Union, where the value of the £170 discounted life membership fee for freshers has been hotly debated in recent years. Over half of current Cambridge students are members, yet Asia Lambert, president for Michaelmas 2016, fought her election with a prominent manifesto pledge to prevent an increase



▼ Nightclubs' costs can add up (PHOTOGRAPH: SIMON LOCK)



in membership fees. The Union's treasurer, James Antell, told *Varsity*: "our data shows [sic] that our members come from a range of socio-economic backgrounds", citing a £110 discounted membership offered to the recipients of a full Newton Trust Bursary as proof of their commitment. Despite this, the Union website itself accepts that its high fee "creates a barrier to students from less privileged backgrounds", and Antell expressed a desire to reduce the fee in the coming years.

Considerably cheaper options can be found among the less prominent societies: the Steelpan Society charges £20 per

“The overwhelming cost is from the ridiculously overpriced drinks in clubs”

## Condoms and cookbooks: Student stinginess through the years

The urge to save money is one shared by almost all students, transcending the cliques that otherwise divide the student body. Traditionally, this might be expressed through the purchase of budget cookbooks, with the third edition of Joy May's *Nosh for Students* quickly reaching the number one slot on the Amazon cookbooks chart and staying there for several weeks in 2013. Alongside this and other low-cost guidance for cash-strapped students, student unions have traditionally played a major role in helping students save, with heavily subsidised drinks available at union (and JCR) bars across the country, alongside free sexual health supplies. On the national level the NUS Extra card, perhaps the most popular as-

pect of the organisation, can save you up to 40 per cent at Pizza Express, among other things.

Both of these players have maintained, if not increased, their importance in recent years. Amazon reported in 2013 that student cookbooks had enjoyed a 70 per cent spike in sales following the popularity of cooking shows such as *Masterchef*, despite competition from free recipe sites online. Meanwhile, CUSU in 2015 joined seven other student unions in subsidising the cost of the 'tampon-tax' on tampons and sanitary pads, which they object to, while 10 other student unions distributed tampons entirely free of charge.

However, a new player is emerging: the student saving website. *Save the Student*, which publishes advice on how to save money on things from bank accounts to Christmas, has amassed almost 230,000 followers on Facebook, with UNiDAYS's offers of discounts at shops and restaurants attracting over 650,000. Whether these sites co-exist with old savings tactics remains to be seen.

term, while the Rambling Club charges an annual levy of £1.

Perhaps the most important element of Freshers' Week, the cost of the college parties and club nights where freshers can socialise, is also among the hardest to calculate. *Varsity* contacted the Junior Common Room (JCR) committees of all 26 undergraduate, non-mature colleges, and all those that responded had a different policy regarding freshers' costs.

Generally, the responding JCRs were committed to keeping costs down for freshers, especially for their own events. None charged more than £5 for entry to their bops, with the majority charging nothing and subsidising drinks to, for example, an average of £1.75 at Robinson and £2.30 at Churchill. The majority of respondents plan to hold three bops each and, (assuming free entry, an average price of £2 per drink and two drinks per bop) this totals £12 spent on bops.

More variable was the JCRs' policies on subsidising club nights. While Robinson subsidised one club night, reducing



Union membership can cost up to £170, but discounts are available for some students

the cost of entry at Kuda to £5 on Sunday the 8th, Trinity Hall and Magdalene JCRs sold wristbands giving free entry to clubs throughout the week for £12 and £15 respectively. Entry to the clubs without a wristband during Freshers' Week costs an average of £5, though this increases on popular nights.

However, in a sentiment shared by the majority of respondents, Tom Guiliatt-Griggs, the Events and Societies Officer on the Girton JCR, told *Varsity*: "the overwhelming cost of Freshers' [Week] is from the ridiculously overpriced drinks in Cambridge clubs", and beyond their control.

The four main clubs frequented by Cambridge students: Kuda (Life), Ballare (Cindies), Lola Lo's and Fez offer dozens of drink options, with prices varying throughout the week and the evening. To calculate total costs, *Varsity* has estimated £5 on average per drink, with freshers buying two drinks per night on three nights during the week. Including undiscounted entry, this suggests students are spending a total of £45 on nights out in Freshers' Week, which we consider a very conservative estimate.

However, estimations of cost cannot accurately account for all freshers' experience during the week. Some may choose not to join any societies, and some may not spend money on nights out or alcohol.

Zach Lande, a Sidney Sussex JCR Freshers' Rep, told *Varsity*: "it's partly to do with being sensible. It's easy to burn through all your money on alcohol, club entry and eating out. However, if you budget sensibly there is no reason why you should not be able to participate in everything going on in college and in Cambridge, especially during Freshers' Week".

## Analysis



▲ Cambridge can get expensive (PHOTOGRAPH: SIMON LOCK)

## Fresher costs a small part of a far wider living cost issue



**Tom Richardson**  
Investigations Editor

While the costs *Varsity* identifies seem trivial in the context of the £3,821 standard maintenance loan, for some students they may be the straw that breaks the camel's back. Many of them are unique to Cambridge, a city which also has the third most unaffordable living costs of any student city in the UK, and they may prove difficult to budget for.

Add to this average rents at a number of colleges that on their own exceed the standard loan amount, some students' bank balances will inevitably be plunged into the red.

Of course, many receive help from their parents to fill this gap, and there is generous support on offer from the government, university and colleges. But these grants often come with conditions, and many far-from-wealthy students will not be eligible, while also being strongly discouraged by the University from working alongside their studies.

They will then be faced with a choice: amass overdraft debt, initially attractive at 0 per cent interest but spikes sharply upon graduation, or resort to drastic measures, with more Cambridge students registered on the leading 'sugar-daddy' website than at any other British university.

Neither option offers anything near a sustainable solution.



# Touts flout ban, to keep on pitching to potential punters

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Magdalene College in north, to Downing Street, Pembroke Street, Mill Lane, and the area surrounding Mill Pond in the south. In addition to King's Parade, touts are barred from other major thoroughfares, such as Bridge Street, Sidney Street and St Andrew's Street, and open spaces such as the Backs, Jesus Green, and the area surrounding Mill Pond are also off limits.

The order does however concede a number of "specified touting locations", which are subject to a number of conditions laid out by the City Council. These are the riverside at Quayside, Silver Street, the Trinity College frontage at Garret Hostel Lane, Queens' Green, and the walkway from Quayside to Jesus Green.

The City Council's Safer Communities project began considering implementing a PSPO in October 2015, in response to an ever-increasing number of touts vying to attract tourists in the city's busiest areas, with even punting companies conceding that hotspots like King's Parade are saturated with touts.

The council eventually took action after a consultation, in which 61 per cent of respondents were in favour of measures to tackle the levels of punt touting, which has come to be regarded as a public nuisance. The PSPO was also

▼ Touts could be seen operating on King's Parade on the day the ban came into effect (below left), and also earlier this week (below right)



welcomed by Cambridgeshire County Council and police.

Speaking when the PSPO was announced, the leader of the City Council, Councillor Lewis Herbert said: "We will investigate any reports we receive about continued punt touting in the city centre that is in breach of the PSPO and away from river-based punting operations."

Cambridge City Council did not respond to a request for comment in time for publication.



# Female graduates lose out on earnings by chasing art jobs

► Continued from page 1

"The gender disparities are self-selecting," and the difference was "not through any sense of discrimination," he added.

Chesterman noted that the figure may have been skewed somewhat by certain "outliers" within the graduate cohort, noting that one student had graduated into a starting salary of £240,000 a year as a self-employed financier.

The Careers Service has not observed a gender pay gap between graduates going into the same career types.

"I think alarm bells would start ringing in my mind – and they haven't yet – if there was an a salary disparity in the same sector," Chesterman said.

He added that another factor which could account for disparities might be an increased willingness among male job applicants to negotiate for salary. "I suspect the male applicant is more likely to negotiate salary," he said, noting that he had heard similar reports from the LSE, about graduates entering the financial sector in particular.

The report, which breaks down data not only by gender but also by level of degree, also revealed significant changes in the job outcomes of recent Cambridge leavers. While health remained the most common employment sector for undergraduates, accounting for some 13.6 per cent of recruitments, jobs in information technology are now the second most common at 10.2 per cent, an increase



The University Careers Service PHOTOGRAPH: LOUIS ASHWORTH

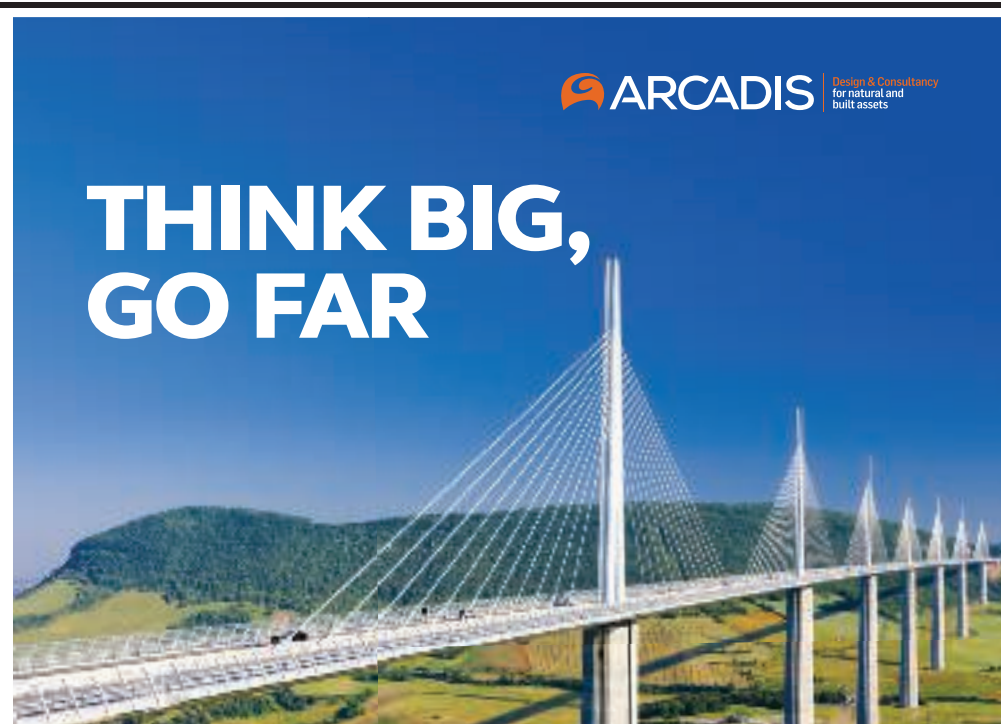
for the third consecutive year, and more than double the level of 2010.

Conversely, teaching careers enticed just 6.1 per cent of employed graduates from last year, slumping to a five-year low. Overall, 57 per cent of Cambridge students chose to go directly into the workplace, a slight drop on 2015, but still noticeably up on previous years, as the jobs market continues its recovery from the aftershocks of the 2008 financial crash. A further 33.5 per cent of students chose to enter further study, down half a percentage point on last year and almost five per cent down on five years ago.

"Fortunately," said Chesterman, "Cambridge is targeted by those employers who offer very lucrative salaries, so the opportunity for both male and female student[s] to earn way above the national salary is available to them."

He said that most Cambridge students seek careers which offer "Intellectual challenge, contribution to society, a good peer group" and a "work-life balance", rather than being primarily motivated by salary.

"I suspect the male applicant is more likely to negotiate salary"



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## News Class Lists

# Class Lists row comes to a head with double vote

**Sam Harrison**  
Deputy News Editor

A debate over the future of publicly displayed Class Lists – lists of student names and exam grades posted outside Senate House – will come to a head this term, with votes being held among the student body and senior academic staff over their future. This is the result of a campaign by students and academics stretching over a year and a half.

On 17th May 2015, the student campaign 'Our Grade, Our Choice' set up a petition on Change.org, calling for the University to create an opt-out system for Class Lists that would be based solely on each student's preference, to replace the extant arrangements, which require a student to provide a valid reason for their wish not to have their grades displayed publicly. They argued that the traditional arrangement "completely ignores the right of privacy for Cambridge students and their welfare", denies students control over their results, and generates "a culture of grade-shaming". The campaign claims that within 24 hours the petition had gained more than 500 signatures. By the time it closed, it had more than 1,300.

The petition was sent to the University, along with a number of testimonials written by students, at the end of May. In October, Our Grade, Our Choice was informed that one of the University's committees, the General Board's Education Committee, had considered their case and backed a review of Class Lists. Then, in November, CUSU entered the fray, its Council voting 20 to 0 in support the abolition of the public display of Class Lists, with four abstentions, mandating then-president Priscilla Mensah to call for an end to the practice.

In April 2016, *Varsity* revealed that the General Board of the Faculties had requested that a proposal be put to the University Council recommending the abolition of Class Lists. Although this went beyond Our Grade, Our Choice's original call for more students to be permitted to opt out of the public display, the campaign immediately welcomed the announcement. It later told *Varsity* that it had considered calling for the abolition of class lists on the original petition, but decided that abolition was most likely to be achieved through piecemeal reform, adding: "We welcomed, and still welcome, the University's stance on Class List abolition. We believe that it is ultimately the final step in ending an archaic and outdated system."

Prior to the proposal, in November 2015, a circular was distributed throughout the University, to which the majority of respondents backed abolition on the condition that the relevant grading information remain available internally. Almost immediately, though, a campaign to 'Save The Class List' was established, creating its own petition which called for a referendum on CUSU's stance, com-

plaining in the rubric of the petition that the decision had been taken "without students being consulted". It made clear that it would campaign for the preservation of Class Lists in a referendum. In July, the group announced that it had surpassed the 350 signatures required to trigger a referendum of the student body. They claim that 700 current and former students and fellows signed in total.

In July, a 'Grace' (a formal notification of a pending change to the University's statutes) proposing the abolition of Class Lists was submitted to Regent House, the body comprising senior academics and staff that is empowered to make the final decision on the issue. Such a proposal is passed automatically provided it does not receive formal dissent from more than 25 of its members. However, in a new twist, 55 members of Regent House requested a formal vote on the issue. This vote will take place towards the end of Michaelmas term.

The student referendum will be held shortly after CUSU forms a new elections committee, likely before the vote in Regent House. It can only change CUSU's stance on the issue, not directly influence the decision taken by the University. However, many believe that it will act as a proxy for the vote within the University, by persuading open-minded fellows of the direction of student opinion.



**Prof. Tong said he was happy to be guided by result of a student referendum**

At the time of the petition's submission, a spokesperson for Save The Class Lists said that the campaign believed "that members of University Council were in favour of the change because they thought that this is what students wanted", and added that "A successful referendum would change that perception." At least some University staff seem to be interpreting the vote in the same way: Professor David Tong told *Varsity* that he was "happy to be guided in [his] vote by the result of the student referendum." Save The Class List also told *Varsity* that CUSU, under new president Amatey Doku, would be obliged to lobby the university for an enhanced opt-out if it became the union's stance, which would strengthen the case for that reform.

According to current plans, the fate of Class Lists will be decided by two votes in Michaelmas term. The first of these will be the referendum, in which all students will be permitted to vote. This will probably ask the student body to decide whether or not CUSU's official stance on Class Lists will be in favour of their complete abolition. Save The Class List is hoping that CUSU will adopt a stance in favour of an enhanced opt-out system that would not require a reason to be given for opting out.



▲ Graduating class of 2016  
(PHOTOGRAPH: LOUIS ASHWORTH)

## Class Lists: A brief history

The 17th-century forerunner of Class Lists was the Ordo Senioritatis (literally: 'order of seniority'), which awarded at most a simple 'pass', and did not rank them according to attainment, though it did name a few of the most accomplished students in an 'order of merit'.

In the 18th century, however, rankings according to merit displaced simple lists: from 1710, students in the Ordo's 'order of merit' were subdivided into 'Senior Optimes' and 'Junior Optimes', and in 1753 another class was added above those, that of 'Wrangler' (so called because of their skill in argument). To this day, the title 'Senior Wrangler' is awarded to the undergraduate who tops the Mathematics tripos.

Examination results in Mathematics, then a compulsory subject, were first printed and publicly displayed in 1748, 18 years after the construction of the Senate House. Partly this was a result of the formalisation of the examination system, which made exams a much more gruelling ordeal than they had previously been.

The account of one student taking those exams might be familiar to some modern Cantabs: "It was hardly ever my lot during that examination to enjoy any respite... My constitution just held up to the expiration of the scrutiny, and I immediately hastened

“  
My constitution just held up to the expiration of the scrutiny  
”

to my own home to alarm my parents with my ghastly looks, and soon fell ill of a rheumatic fever, which for the space of six months kept me hovering between life and death.”

Class Lists for other subjects only developed later, usually as those disciplines came to be taught at the University. A Class List was created for Classics in 1824, for Natural Sciences in 1851, for History in 1875, and for most other subjects still taught at the University between 1905 and 1965, the last being Land Economy. Until 2010, results were publicly displayed before students were told. A change that year saw students being able to access results online before they went on public display.

This followed a campaign by CUSU, which claimed that the previous system caused "a lot of student anxiety". At that time, CUSU also advocated the implementation of the same preference-based opt-out system now advocated by the Save The Class List campaign: that the radical option in 2010 is now favoured by defenders of Class Lists is an indication of how far the parameters of this debate have shifted in the last six years.

**Sam Harrison**

▼ A student is named as Senior Wrangler in 1842  
(PHOTOGRAPH: PUBLIC DOMAIN)



“  
Many believe that a referendum will act as a proxy vote within the University  
”





Academics seek student input prior to decision

**Ankur Desai**  
Deputy News Editor

Voting concerning the public display of Class Lists will take place between late November and early December, with the outcome decided by members of Regent House. *Varsity* has been able to speak to some of the members on the Regent House roll, including some of those who called for the ballot.

Both Professor Sir Alan Fersht, Master of Gonville & Caius College, and historian Professor David Abulafia called for the ballot. In statements to *Varsity*, they discussed the importance of tables and marks, for use of comparison. Fersht stated: "I don't necessarily believe that Class Lists should be externally displayed. But, I do believe that Class Lists and marks should be readily and openly available for internal analysis by colleges without having to jump through hoops for several practical reasons".

He said that many professors taught students at colleges other than their own, and that information of how these students performed was not only of a personal interest but important when writing references and helping these students get positions. He also said that the data would be useful for judging a

college's effectiveness for teaching and admissions, through analysing how students are performing relative to their peers, as well as assessing candidates the college pooled, to further check admission procedures.

Abulafia said that he believed it is "vital to preserve the competitive tables that set out which colleges are succeeding best in which subjects."

Professor David Tong, a Professor of Theoretical Physics who also called for the ballot, discussed the tradition of the Senate House reading of the Mathematical Tripos results.

"In the past, the ceremony was how mathematicians discovered their grades. These days it is simply a celebration, but one which I think is appropriate," he said.

“Getting a degree from Cambridge is a huge achievement, regardless of the grade. It requires enormous amounts of hard work and no small talent. My impression is that the vast majority of maths students are pleased to be part of this tradition as a way to recognise their accomplishment”, Tong noted.

However, he added that “ultimately the Senate House ceremony is just a piece of theatre and I’m aware that there are larger issues at stake”, and thus he was happy for his vote to be guided by the

outcome of the student referendum.

Professor Mary Beard noted the complexity in establishing whether the Class Lists were good for students or not: "Part of me says that these are what we used to call 'public examinations'. And my experience has always been that those who did less well than they hoped were actually supported by the public nature of the results. But part of me feels very iffy about people learning what they got from a Senate House pic on Facebook. It isn't simple."

The idea of a proper debate and democratic vote was put forward repeatedly. Fersht stated that given the importance of the change, "we must have a proper debate by both faculty and students and not have these changes rushed through", while Tong noted the student referendum gives the opportunity for all students to voice their opinion.

On the topic of a democratic vote, Abulafia stated: "Irrespective of the arguments for and against Class Lists, I believe that important decisions in the University should be made by its governing body, the Regent House, and not handed down from above."

John Lister, who also requested a ballot, simply stated he had "no comment to make beyond believing democracy to be a good thing."

## Analysis

## Democracy: the missing ingredient in Class List decision

**Sam Harrison**  
Deputy News Editor



For the anti-abolitionists among the student body and the University staff, one of the central issues in this debate is by whom Class Lists' fate should be determined. Both Save The Class List and academics who spoke to *Varsity* expressed their concern that relevant decisions had not been made democratically.

According to Save The Class List, it was wrong for CUSU to alter its stance on the issue without first consulting the students whom it represents. It has criticised CUSU directly for not consulting students on the issue, noting that the student union did conduct a consultation on the issue in 2008 but failed to do so before altering its stance last year. A Save The Class Lists spokesperson told *Varsity* that CUSU Council had failed even to inform students properly that it was debating the issue, sending out invitations at the last minute and not giving JCR reps sufficient time to consult their members.

Many academics who called for a vote in Regent House were also concerned that, without a vote, the proposal could have no legitimacy. Professor David Abulafia condemned the way in which the Grace had been “handed down” to Regent House, which he believes violates the principle that

the University is a self-governing entity. Professor David Tong said that he was concerned that there had not been a sufficiently broad consultation on the issue, and that students' voices should be heard.

However, their concern is not only with the principles of democracy and self-determination, but also with the practical implications of the policy. Professor Abulafia argues that a vote will allow teaching fellows to refine what is currently an imperfectly-phrased proposal which he claims was written by “people who obviously don’t understand how teaching is arranged in and across colleges nowadays.” In the same vein, Save The Class List has argued that the complete abolition of the lists could have unforeseen ramifications for students with mental health issues.

It might not be excessively cynical to suggest that democracy is also a good tactic for the student anti-abolitionists. As the government has discovered over the last few years, it is very difficult to put up a valid argument against referenda and the principle of diffusing decision-making power. Save The Class Lists also believes that it has significant popular support for its platform of "reform not abolition", and can win a referendum.

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## Politics

# Red Riot: CULC members split on party's

Joe Robinson Political Editor  
Olivia Barber News Correspondent

Over the last three months, the Labour leadership battle played out in a contest not lacking in controversy or conflict. In constituency meetings and town halls across the country, the conflict between beleaguered incumbent Jeremy Corbyn and soft-left challenger Owen Smith took shape in a clash, many thought, for the soul of the Labour Party itself.

After heated debates, accusations of entryism and supposed low skullduggery on the party's NEC, Labour earlier this month crowned Corbyn leader for the second time in as many years. But in spite of the scale of the victory and his ostensibly increased mandate, Corbyn's re-election does little to resolve the fundamental disagreements over his competence and the party's electoral prospects which brought about the challenge in the first place. Calls for unity, for the time being, appear to be ringing somewhat hollow.

In the meantime, political life goes on: local parties continue to function and Labour councils continue to govern. For Cambridge Universities Labour Club (CULC), the task remains one of balancing its function as a forum of debate and discussion with its role as a campaigning

force. Like the national party, its members remain sharply divided over not only the impact of Corbyn's reelection but the party's prospect for power. The changing complexion of Labour and its membership, which has grown to 640,000 and is projected to rise further, remains a challenge for the party, in terms of vetting its new members and translating its numerical advantage into campaigning muscle.

Olly Hudson, a Sidney Sussex finalist, observes that "[t]he Labour Party has clearly changed beyond all recognition over the last year," though he notes that this is "not for the better". Highlighting the problems posed by allegations of anti-Semitism within the party, he argued that "[i]f I wasn't already a member I couldn't see myself joining a party that tolerates anti-Semitism," and goes on to state that the party "promotes such a toxic internal culture where members feel uncomfortable and even unsafe expressing their views."

Even those who supported Corbyn's candidacy express reservations concerning his performance. While conceding that she was "pleased with the result" because she thought Corbyn was the "better candidate of the two", Beth Jamal, a Murray Edwards finalist, remarked that there is "great work to be done to improve his image and [...]"

“Members don't need to get involved in the 'us vs. them' narrative”

► CULC campaigns with the Cambridge Labour Party in the run-up to the EU Referendum.

(PHOTOGRAPH: DANIEL GAYNE)



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# future after Corbyn win



media strategy,” though she also states that “the most important thing is that both sides move on from this and the infighting stops so we can form a strong opposition to the Tories.”

Some of CULC members expressed a sense of frustration at the fact a challenge to Corbyn’s leadership was mounted at all. Luke Heppenstall-West, a finalist at Queens’, called the veteran left-winger’s victory “bittersweet” but branded the leadership election “frankly excruciating and unnecessary”, adding that “Corbyn’s retention of power was never in doubt [and] MPs’ actions have only heightened tensions between Westminster and the grassroots.” He opines that despite “platitudes about a common ground”, there is a “lot of anger” and “both sides need to accept that the status quo has changed drastically and radically introspect if they want to adapt to the new generation of mass party politics.”

Imogen Shaw, CULC Co-Chair, also criticised the need for a second leadership contest, calling it an “exercise in futility” and counting that “Labour was always going to be left in precisely the same divided situation it was in before the contest was triggered, give or take a little more internal animosity.” She recommended that in order to unite the party “we need to advise members

[...] that they really don’t need to get involved in the ‘us vs. them’ narrative that exists within the party at the moment,” and recommended that “the only way we’re going to create a better [atmosphere] is by refusing to accept uncritical factionalism and pressurised slate voting as conditions of party membership.”

Some members are also critical of what the changing composition of Labour membership means for the party’s electability. Luke Warner, a finalist at King’s, couldn’t see the party achieving power for “upwards of 10 years”, noting that the membership had “shifted and reaffirmed its willingness to focus on purity rather than engaging with voters on their own terms.” He added that, despite the party’s apparent remoteness from power, “Corbynistas either don’t understand that or seem to care.”

Despite these warnings, some members expressed relief at Corbyn’s reelection. Murray Edwards student Annie Picton was “relieved to maintain a genuinely strong left-wing opposition in light of the current move towards the right of the party in power,” and called for Labour to “recognise the actual fight needs to be against the actions of our government.” If CULC’s divisions are representative of the party at large, then Corbyn’s quest for unity, and journey to power, face long odds.

## Analysis

### Divided we stand?



Joe Robinson
 Political Editor

While it is almost universally acknowledged that the Labour Party is in crisis, disagreement remains concerning its causes.

Those on the left, observing the resounding mandates Corbyn has won, cite dissent and disunity as the causes of Labour’s woes, chief among which are the actions of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

By contrast, centrist members express concerns about Corbyn’s political approach and the apparatus being erected around him, particularly threats by Momentum members to deselect moderates. Deep structural issues remain in a party where the assertion of parliamentary control is impotent in view of the dominance of a near-unfiltered discourse of member sovereignty, and the threat to local Labour groups is that the national party’s melodrama threatens to over-

take more local concerns. CULC is remarkable among Labour clubs insofar as its inclusiveness and relative political balance are concerned.

Though it has its share of die-hard Corbynistas and convinced Blairites, the bulk of CULC’s membership resides in the soft-left or centre of the party, and that CULC has not gone the way of its Oxonian counterpart is a credit to its members.

That is not to say, however, that tense disagreements have not taken place. Over the summer a Cambridge-based Unite-affiliated Twitter account called for the deselection of moderate city councillors, and Cllr David Baigent rubbed CULC members the wrong way when a tweet of his appeared to associate them with an agenda favouring the so-called ‘one per cent’. Nevertheless, while the national party has torn itself asunder CULC has hitherto avoided major spats and controversy.

Its campaigning chops, particularly in view of a potential early election next year, depend on its continued capacity to put aside ideology and work together. Indeed, in light of proposed boundary changes, Daniel Zeichner’s job could well depend on it.



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# News

## SELF MED-ICATION

### Mediterranean diet the key to a longer life

Cambridge researchers have shown that if everybody ate a Mediterranean diet – rich in olive oil, fruits, and vegetables – then thousands of deaths from heart disease and strokes could be prevented.

The study is the first to look at the effects of diet in the UK and gathered data about eating habits from nearly 24,000 people in Norfolk.

Dr Nita Forouhi, lead author from the University's Medical Research Council epidemiology unit, said: "We estimate that 3.9 per cent of all new cardiovascular disease cases or 12.5 per cent of cardiovascular deaths in our UK-based study population could potentially be avoided if this population increased their adherence to the Mediterranean diet."



## FIN-BACK AT MUSEUM

### Whale, whale, what do we have here?

A giant finback whale skeleton has been put back together by Cambridge's Zoology department 150 years after washing up dead on a Sussex beach. The skeleton had been in storage for three years af-

ter the Museum of Zoology was closed for a £4m makeover. The finback is the second-biggest whale species and this specimen was thought to weigh over 80 tonnes when it was alive. Putting it back together took "a lot of patience, a lot of effort and a lot of labour", collections manager Matt Lowe said. "It's really iconic, it's 150 years old – exactly the same age as the museum itself," he added. Whale-watchers will be able to enjoy the exhibition when the Museum opens again next summer.

## RACIST VANDALS STRIKE

### Anti-immigrant stickers found in Romsey park

Racist stickers have appeared around Romsey recreational park telling immigrants to "bring your families home". Others said that refugees were "not welcome", an apparent play on the popular "refugees are welcome here". A 71-year-old man who lives next to the park said: "Everyone has got a right to an opinion. A lot of people feel threatened and they are expressing it this way, although it's not the way I would do it." But George Williams, 29, just visiting the park, said: "I believe we should help refugees as much as possible but I also think there does need to be the support in places when they do come here".

## CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS

### Cambridge is UK's most sleep-deprived city

Cambridge is the most sleep-deprived city in the UK, it has been revealed by interiors company Curtains.com. Analysing data from the number of queries on search engine Google for terms related to sleep deprivation, they found that Brighton and Manchester also struggled to get to sleep. The company said of the research: "A good night's sleep is a modern day luxury, stressful daily routines, lack of 'me' time, and social pressures have a significant impact on our ability to rest."

While it may be surprising that bustling London did not make the top 10, very few Cambridge students will doubt the results.

## PROMOTED CONTENT

### Grand Arcade student night is back

Lola Lo grass skirts, chocolate tasting, and big discounts. Get ready for your Wednesday night out by heading down to the Grand Arcade on the 5th October for student night. Bring along your student ID between 3 and 8pm to get as much as 50 per cent off in selected stores and restaurants. On top of discounts, there will be a host of things on offer, including goodie bags, freebies, in-store games, competitions, drinks and refreshments! Lion Yard will also be participating in student night, so come down and take part.

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# Mark Watson

## ‘I had no idea what university was for’

Elizabeth Howcroft  
Interviews Editor

I met Mark Watson once and shouted at him. Not in a fan-girly way or anything – not that I’m not a fan, I hasten to add. As I was crowd-controlling the hoards of people outside a Fringe gig this summer, Watson appeared at the door and asked innocently if he had found the right queue.

“Yeah, it is,” I bellowed at him, “But you need to join at the back!” I gesticulated wildly towards the queue, which snaked around the corner, and he scuttled off.

“That was Mark Watson!” remarked some ladies nearby, in hushed tones.

“Yes, I noticed that,” I said, wondering where he had gone. “Do you think I should have asked him if he was on the guest list?”

Fortunately, when I interviewed him about his latest novel a month later, he didn’t recognise me. The same can’t be said, unfortunately, for when I saw him later that evening, however, standing in the guest list queue, with all the other high-profile comedians.

Recognition could easily be an issue for an ex-Footlight like Mark Watson, yet he manages to stand out from a crowd of other white, male, Cambridge-educated comedians. This is not least due to the versatility of his work; not only is he a successful comic on stage – experimenting with new formats such as a 24-hour-long marathon show during the 2004 Fringe – and radio and TV panels, he also owns a production company, Impatient Productions. He presents his environmental consciousness to the public: at the 2007 Fringe, Watson delivered *Earth Summit*, a discussion of pollution and global warming, and a year later published a book about his own attempts to minimise his carbon footprint.

Watson’s new book, *The Place That Didn’t Exist*, tells the story of an advertising executive, Tim Callaghan, in Dubai for a project. “At first he really likes it in Dubai,” Watson explains, “then somebody dies and things get complicated. I hesitate to describe it as a murder mystery, although I probably should because those are highly successful commercially.”

“Anyway,” he continues, “the title, and the core of the book, comes from Dubai’s unique atmosphere: it’s spectacular and a bit alienating all at the same time. It’s been set up – with huge success – as a tourist paradise and business hub, and it’s got everything you need... but it’s a bit too much, somehow. And that feeling produces an atmosphere which is just right to set a murder mystery in.”

Despite his literary qualifications (Watson graduated with a First in his English degree) and the success of his first five novels, Watson’s status as a household name is perhaps more of a result of his prominence in stand-up and panel show circuits. At the Edinburgh Fringe in 2006, the two came together in his innovative interactive comedy show



▲ Watson studied English at Queens’

Mark Watson, *And His Audience, Write A Novel*, which aimed to write a novel over the course of the month entirely on the basis of audience suggestions. I ask him if he considers himself to be primarily a novelist or a comedian:

“The writing came first. When I was at Cambridge, I was already writing fiction (not very well), and it had been the thing that most attracted me for as long as I could remember. I sort of fell into being a comedian, and the two – overlapping but separate – interests have coexisted, sometimes quite uneasily, since then.”

For Watson, the process of writing fiction is “a matter of shutting yourself off, working to a plan.”

“I suppose where they [writing stand-up and writing fiction] intersect is that both processes involve an act of improvisation, groping around in the dark. But with stand-up, you know pretty much instantly whether it’s worked or not; with a book, you remain in the dark for a long time.”

Watson regularly performs at the Fringe, having been nominated for the prestigious Perrier Best Newcomer Award in 2005.

What he describes as his “16-year (on-going) love affair with the festival” began when he first went to the Fringe with a play he’d written at Queens’.

Although he performed with the Footlights in his final year, Watson says: “I was never really known as being ‘in’ comedy while I was [in Cambridge], until the very end.”

He is refreshingly frank about the quasi-legendary comedy troupe: “The Footlights mystique was quite off-putting, so I really only dabbled in it for most of my time at Cambridge. It wasn’t till the last year that someone encouraged me

to audition for the tour show and I began to get properly involved.”

Unlike many aspiring writers, he did not always have his heart set on Cambridge: “I didn’t think about it until it was almost time to apply; I had no idea what university was ‘for’, really, and no notion of where to aim for. I was encouraged to go for Cambridge by one of my English teachers and I was drawn in by the (vague, but fairly accurate) idea that it was a home of creativity.”

“I was a bit surprised to get an offer, and spent at least the first couple of terms not really making the most of it, because I had an awe about the place and felt like a bit of a fraud.”

He explains how he struggled to make the most of his time until he found a ‘hunger’ for both his degree and extra-curricular work.

“For the first half of my time at Cambridge I struggled to get into the English course (because it was so huge and perhaps because nobody was looking over my shoulder, the way they had been at school), and undersold myself in terms of social activities too,” he says. “Then

“  
*I sort of fell into being a comedian*  
”

for the second half I started doing everything at once. People say that the busier you are, the better you get at organising yourself, and that’s how it was for me.”

He concedes that his experiences at Cambridge prepared him for the real world – to some extent.

“It gave me lots of the skills I needed (both for comedy and life), and showed me the path – roughly – that I wanted to take. But as everyone is aware, any uni is a bubble, and Cambridge even more so. There are lots of aspects of ‘the real world’ that no educational establishment can prepare you for.”

“The main thing I wish I’d been told, when I left at 21, is ‘things are much more complicated out there than you realise. Take your time.’”

**Mark Watson will be signing copies of *The Place That Didn’t Exist* at Heffers in Cambridge, from 1pm to 2pm on Saturday 1st October.**

**In the evening, he will be performing the set from his stand-up tour ‘I’m Not Here’ at the Corn Exchange at 8pm.**

“  
*There are lots of aspects of ‘the real world’ that no educational establishment can prepare you for*  
”



## News

# Cows, punts and the Tompkins Table: business as usual in Cambridge during the Long Vacation

● *It's been a busy few months for Cambridge. Daniel Gayne brings together the biggest summer stories*

### ANONYMOOS

## Software blurs face of Cam Cow

Faulty facial recognition allowed one of the fen's favourite Friesians to hide its face from Google Street View users earlier this month.

It was found by *The Guardian's* US opinion editor David Shariatmadari and posted on Twitter, where it has now been retweeted 13,000 times.

One English third-year remarked that the cow was being "treated with more humanity than a student in exam term".

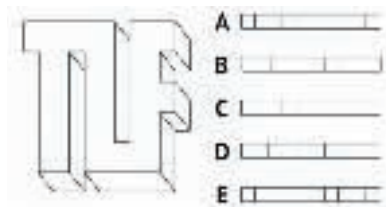


▲ Punt touts are still operating on King's Parade despite the restrictions (PHOTOGRAPH: VARSITY)

### THINK YOU'RE CLEVER?

## Uni release sample entrance exam

In August, the *Mail On Sunday* released some sample questions from the forthcoming Cambridge entrance exams, which will be taken by all students applying from this year onwards. The questions are similar to Oxford's entrance test. Here is a little taster.



Above is Thomas Leslie Fuller's brass paperweight, which shows his initials. Which one of the options on the right is not a side view on the paperweight when it is placed flat on the table (either side up)?

### RIDE-HAIL REVOLUTION

## Uber rolls into town

Varsity learned in early August that the popular ride-hailing service Uber had acquired a license from the City Council to operate in Cambridge. Uber is a service which allows customers to request trips through their smartphones, and these requests are routed to 'driver-partners' who use their own cars. "With Cambridge being such an international city... there's always a bit of a surprise when people realise we're not already there", Uber's spokesperson said.

A timeline or fixed date of launch are not currently available.



### TOUTS PUNTED OUT

## PSPO punts touts off King's Parade

Since 15th September punt tour touts have been barred from operating in certain areas of central Cambridge.

Cambridge City Council's new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) means that anyone breaching the ban in specified areas of the city – like King's Parade – will face a £75 fixed penalty notice.

A council consultation showed that 61 per cent of respondents were in favour of the ban.

"Tell them to ban tourists as well," a second-year Natural Scientist said.

Many punt touts appear to be flouting the PSPO and are still touting (see p. 1).

### BAKE OFF BATTLES

## Sidney's Smyth bakes for his life

For the past few weeks, BBC viewers have watched Sidnet Sussex Engineering graduate Andrew Smyth put his baking skills to the test on *The Great British Bake Off*. Andrew is yet to crumble under the pressure, constructing a perfectly Cantabrigian punting scene in biscuit form in week two. He even rose to the challenge of bread week, when he shocked bread-expert Paul Hollywood by replacing raisins with chocolate chips in his traditional Irish barmbrack. But his gamble paid off and he lives to bake another day.

▲ Winning smile: Andrew Smyth representing Cambridge on GBBO (PHOTOGRAPH: FLICKR)



◀ Oxford: Spires that dream no longer (PHOTOGRAPH: FLICKR/TEJVAN PETTINGER)

### CAM STILL BETTER

## Oxford becomes 'world's best uni'

The three most highly respected international university ranking tables were published over the summer. The QS, THE, and Shanghai rankings all placed Cambridge fourth in the world. Cambridge beat Oxford in the QS and Shanghai rankings, which came sixth and seventh respectively. However, in the *Times Higher Education's* rankings – which is said to 'emphasise subjective factors' – 'the Other Place' topped the table, knocking Caltech off top spot.

### EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

## Lib Dems poised to gain from boundary changes

If enacted, the proposed Cambridge constituency boundary changes would introduce voters from the Queen Edith and Milton wards, both Liberal Democrat strongholds.

Current Labour MP, Daniel Zeichner, took the seat last year by 599 votes, a majority that could be wiped out by the newly included areas where the Liberal Democrats polled 1,298 more votes than Labour in the 2015 local elections.

### GIRTON GRAD TORTURE

## Egypt's police admit investigating Regeni

Earlier this month, the Egyptian police admitted to investigating the activities of Giulio Regeni, the Girton PhD student who disappeared last January and was later found dead in Cairo. Coroners found that he had five shattered teeth, burns all over his body, and broken bones, including a broken neck. His parents have called for the ambassador to Egypt to remain in Italy until they co-operate.



▲ Regeni went missing in January

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### TRINITY WIN AGAIN

## Christ's rises in Tompkins Table

In July, the Tompkins Table, which ranks colleges on their undergraduate performance, was published by *Varsity*. Trinity topped the table once again, while Christ's rose 11 places to third.

There was more variation in the proportion of Firsts attained at different colleges, with a difference of 31 per cent



The number of years in a row Trinity has topped the Tompkins Table

between the colleges getting the most and least Firsts. The fate of the table currently hangs in the balance, with its composition dependent on the publication of Class Lists (see pp. 6-7).

## The Tompkins Table 2016

- 1 Trinity (-)
- 2 Pembroke (+3)
- 3 Christ's (+11)
- 4 Emmanuel (-)
- 5 St John's (+5)
- 6 Queens' (+1)
- 7 Jesus (+4)
- 8 Peterhouse (-2)
- 9 Magdalene (-7)
- 10 Corpus Christi (+12)
- 11 Churchill (-8)
- 12 Downing (-3)
- 13 Trinity Hall (-5)
- 14 King's (+4)
- 15 Selwyn (-3)
- 16 Sidney Sussex (+1)
- 17 St Catharine's (-4)
- 18 Clare (-3)
- 19 Caius (-)
- 20 Wolfson (+6)
- 21 Newnham (-)
- 22 Robinson (-6)
- 23 Fitzwilliam (-3)
- 24 Homerton (+3)
- 25 Murray Edwards (-2)
- 26 Lucy Cavendish (3)
- 27 Girton (-3)
- 28 St Edmund's (-)
- 29 Hughes Hall (-4)



# Forty-four student leaders sign open letter accusing NUS President of 'anti-Semitic rhetoric'

**Anna Menin**  
Senior News Editor

NUS's leadership has once again been criticised for its "attitude towards Jewish students," with 44 student leaders signing an open letter stating: "We must listen to Jewish students when they say something is anti-Semitic."

The letter, which does not mention NUS President Malia Bouattia by name, says: "Time and time again Jewish students have not felt safe participating in our national movement, because of the actions and rhetoric of leadership of NUS."

It also states that NUS's leadership has "rightly" faced "increased scrutiny for its attitude towards Jewish students" in recent months.

Referring to a controversy in July about whether Jewish students would continue to be able to choose their own representatives on NUS's Anti-Racism Anti-Fascism (ARAF) campaign, the letter accuses the leadership of "undermining Jewish students' ability to elect their own representatives."

At the time, Bouattia responded to criticism of a motion that had removed the right of the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) to select a Jewish representative for the ARAF campaign by issuing "an interpretation of policy which will ensure that representatives of the committee will be elected autonomously by self-identifying caucuses."

The letter specifically cites the "anti-Semitic rhetoric" of the leadership as a



**Malia Bouattia** PHOTOGRAPH: FACEBOOK

"key issue in a number of disaffiliation campaigns from students' unions across the country," claiming that such campaigns will continue unless the problem is "properly addressed."

Bouattia's election in April led to referendums at several universities on whether their students' unions would disaffiliate after some of her past comments sparked controversy, including her description of the University of Birmingham as "something of a Zionist outpost", and her reference to "Zionist media outlets."

CUSU held a referendum in May, in which Cambridge narrowly voted to remain a member of NUS, but Newcastle, Hull, Loughborough and Lincoln all voted to disaffiliate.

Following Cambridge's remain vote, CUSU sent an open letter to NUS, calling on the organisation to: "do more to protect the rightful place of Jewish students within the student movement."

Richard Brooks, one of the NUS vice-presidents who signed the letter, and who spoke in defence of NUS at CUSU's debate on disaffiliation, reiterated its assertion that "it is for Jewish students to define what anti-Semitism is."

"It is obviously a very challenging and nuanced argument but when a number of Jewish students over a consistent period of time say they do not feel safe participating in student politics and in the

student movement, I think we have to take that really seriously and listen," he told *The World at One*. However, Michael Segalov, a journalist who sat on NUS's National Executive Council (NEC) until three months ago, defended Bouattia as "the most committed person I have even seen within this movement to fighting racism and fascism in whatever form it takes", and argued that "It's been a priority of her work for years,"



**Brooks said that Jewish students should define anti-Semitism**  
PHOTOGRAPH: BBC

In a statement issued in response to the letter, Bouattia said: "I support my colleagues in the NUS leadership in calling for assurances that Jewish students will be safe on campus and I will do

everything in my power to ensure that is the case."

She added: "my priorities for the year ahead include a focus on inclusion, tackling hate crime on campuses and ensuring that all marginalised and oppressed groups feel safe in the movement."

"I look forward to working with my officers and NEC colleagues to continue to listen to Jewish students and support them in being part of NUS."



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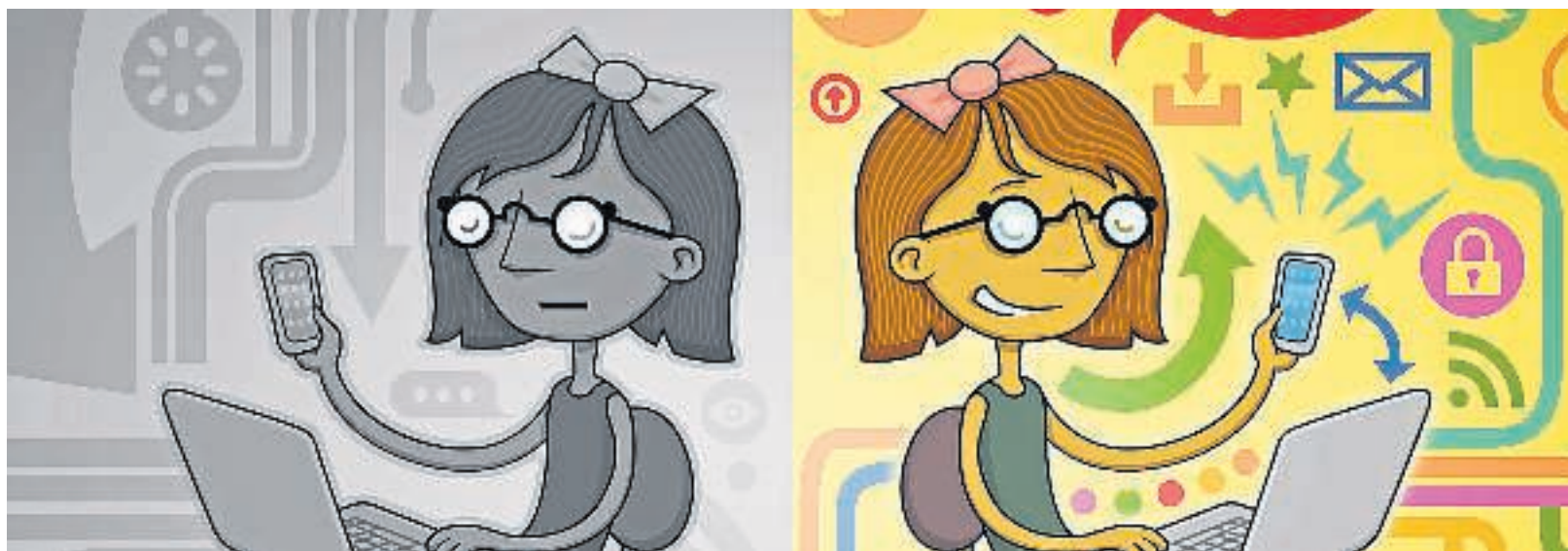
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## Science



# Fast lanes for some, slow lanes for most: the net neutrality battle

**Jon Wall**  
Science Editor

Net neutrality certainly sounds like a good thing – and in fact, advocates of an open internet would argue that net neutrality is the cornerstone of an online environment that works for everyone. Simply put, net neutrality is the idea that “all data are created equal”, that all data transmitted should be treated equally. Put more cynically, net neutrality mandates that internet service providers (ISPs), the “gatekeepers” of the internet, should not have the power to what internet users can access or how they should behave online.

At the dawn of the internet, net neutrality was enabled by default, as there was simply no technology to allow ISPs to discriminate between different types of data traffic. Following the development of deep packet inspection, the technological tool designed to create firewalls and filter malware, it quickly became apparent that new and powerful tools for analysing and managing data traffic would allow the creation of a non-neutral internet. Companies would be able to create fast and slow lanes for different sorts of internet traffic.

Internet Service Providers, in particular American cable companies, have since become notorious for repeated net neutrality violations. This led to ongoing legal battles in the US and worldwide. ISPs typically argue that they are simply carrying out essential traffic management procedures – a euphemism for slowing some (more intensive) data traffic and speeding up other traffic.

However, often these procedures favour the ISPs’ own content over that of its competitors (e.g. speeding up video from US cable company Comcast but slowing down that originating from Netflix).

Actions like these have led to regulation, either to maintain or discard net neutrality as a guiding principle of the internet. This means that the current situation is one in which ISPs are typically creating new and innovative ways of getting round net neutrality provisions, while regulators seek to prevent

abuses of the gatekeepers’ power. This is true for all countries, and they have all responded in differing ways.

**In the UK**, we have no specific net neutrality regulations – instead, we are subject to the wider European Union regulations (for now!) set by European telecoms regulator BEREC. These were updated recently (early September) and are relatively strict toward ISPs.

Previously, ISPs were able to charge content providers in order to ensure that their services would not be transmitted at a slower rate (also called throttling), blocked at times of high traffic or otherwise de-prioritised.

However, under the new rules, these practices have been banned. This is largely seen as a win for internet users, who will now be able to use online facilities without worrying too much about inconsistent service. It will also reduce the burden on smaller ISPs and content providers entering the market, because of the reduced need to negotiate deals for good access.

It is worth noting, however, that there are a few exceptions to these rules, with “specialised services” such as high-quality mobile voice calls, real-time health services (such as livestreams for remote surgery) and live internet TV able to be de-prioritised – if the rest of the ISP’s services would suffer as a result of maintaining quality on these services.

**The Netherlands** is an unusual case for net neutrality. It was the first European nation (in 2012) to pass a law expressly ordering net neutrality, in a surprisingly short space of time.

This rush to net neutrality was set off by telecoms company KPN’s declaration that it intended to start blocking services such as VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol, the way Skype connects calls) which used significant bandwidth on its networks. This was followed by Vodafone’s slightly guilty statement that it was in fact already doing this. Public and political outcry then pushed through this law enshrining net neutrality as a guiding principle.

The Dutch law is a very strict one, and has faced substantial criticism based on

“  
Net  
neutrality  
is the idea  
that all  
data are  
created  
equal  
”

its restrictive nature. Opponents argue that the law prevents ISPs from innovating, as all operators have to offer very similar services. This means that some consumers (e.g. the elderly) with different internet service demands are not able to access discounted offers (which might only have a partial internet service included) – in other words, the Dutch “one size fits all” model doesn’t work for everyone.

**The USA**, with its “sue first, talk later” approach, has been a battleground for net neutrality, featuring cable companies fighting regulators in the courts almost continuously for a decade. The situation has recently (apparently) become a little more set in stone, with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)’s 2015 net neutrality rules reclassifying broadband access as a “common carrier” service. This essentially enforces net neutrality on ISPs, whereas previously they were able to act with less oversight.

Since then, cable companies and mobile operators have sought to be more creative in how they don’t quite violate net neutrality rules. Zero-rating programs in which data usage is exempted from any limits on a mobile plan have become more common. For example, T-Mobile’s Binge On, in which video content from a number of providers was throttled to standard definition, with the data cost of streaming the video not counted, was praised by FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler as an innovative and competitive new offering. New sponsored data programs from Verizon and AT&T also seem to tread a fine line between innovative and anti-net neutrality.

It is new products such as these that will continue to shape the net neutrality debate. Issues such as access to the internet conflicting with net neutrality will become increasingly complicated, and different approaches to net neutrality will bring different results. The restrictive Dutch model contrasts heavily with the perhaps too unhindered approach in the USA, and in both cases it is the users of the internet who suffer – so it will certainly be interesting to watch the new developments in net neutrality unfold.

▲ A non-neutral internet leads to fast lanes for those who can pay for them  
(CREDIT: EFF PHOTOS)

“  
Internet  
Service  
Providers  
have  
become  
notorious  
for repeated  
net  
neutrality  
violations  
”

## Closer look

### Discrimination is necessary for a functional internet

**Zi Ran Shen**

When I first set off to write this piece, I was warned not to do it. Perhaps I am too obsessed with nuanced debate, but I had convinced myself that this issue is more complicated than “internet companies screwing over customers for their own gain” vs. “the utopia of free internet and free information”.

I believe that the concept of net neutrality, while seemingly ideal, is naïve. Networks need discrimination to function. Let’s take routers, for example. Routers are constantly selecting for and against information as part of their operations, the very operations that are making our internet usable.

Routers not only decide which interface a packet is forwarded to, but more importantly also modulate which packets to drop when the signal is congested. Without modulation, signal congestion will just lead to a roadblock, with pages not loading and my blood pressure rising. Personally, I’d let a few information packets drop if it makes the internet more usable.

Thanks to routers, I can use the non-neutral internet at a functional speed, but ideally I’d like to be able to open a web page without being bombarded by hot single women near me. I’m flattered, but no thanks.

Therefore I turn to Adblock, my new hero. No longer will I experience the tell-tale lag that accompanies ad loading. No longer will I endure the embarrassment of random ads showing my internet browsing patterns. All of this is permitted by a relaxation of net neutrality rules. While net neutrality sounds nice, it’s pretty non-functional. Instead of actively providing a better quality service by slowing down annoying ads, ISPs instead slow down popular websites and charge them to receive the same service that other websites enjoy.

The solution to this behaviour, however, is not to mandate net neutrality, which would result in no significant difference between competing ISPs. Encouraging companies to offer creative, functional services should be the number one priority when it comes to maintaining an open – but not necessarily neutral – internet.

▼ ISPs can discriminate between different sorts of network traffic (CREDIT: ONEVILLAGE INITIATIVE)





# Access vs. democracy: the future of the internet

**Jake Cornwall Scoones**  
Science Correspondent

On the first of July this year, the UN concluded that access to the internet is a human right. The internet has become one of the most influential entities in the 21st century, becoming an essential part of the lives of virtually all Westerners and a growing number of people in developing countries. But as this ever-growing network continues its worldwide domination, we must ask how such a powerful structure should be regulated and controlled.

The internet was born from a few basic premises: that providers treat all data equally, regardless of destination or source; that access is universal, un-discriminating and free; and that the internet remains decentralised, without an overall controller. In short, big companies should not be able to decide what users see and how they behave. This 'net neutrality' sowed the seeds of an online revolution, with previously unfathomable levels of innovation, seen by the exponential growth of the likes of Facebook, Google and Twitter. The power of the internet lies in its democracy: that all users are treated as equals.

The internet is currently structured as a 'digital commons' as all users have

equal access to its resources. It has thrived to such an extent because 'commoners' can build, manage, and regulate content as they wish, without permission. Elinor Ostrom, a Nobel Prize winner in Economics, has written extensively about the ways in which commons can be managed, proposing eight principles (see box). With the growth of the internet we must ask whether it can continue to be managed as a self-regulated commons, or whether more elaborate regulatory systems are required. Can Os-

**85**  
The number of services provided free of charge by 'Free Basics'

tom's eight principles be upheld into the future?

The internet governing bodies for Europe and the USA, BEREC and the FCC, have both recently released their own guidelines for how the internet should be regulated. They both support open and equal access, preventing Internet Service Providers preferentially favouring certain content streams, and only allowing unlawful content to be blocked. Essentially, any content (which does not breach national laws) is treated equally.

Here rules are applied, sanctions agreed in line with 'community' agreed norms, rather than at the discretion of the ISPs, self-styled "gatekeepers" of the internet.

However, different countries have very different interpretations of lawful content. Regulation can allow for censorship, as the state will decide which websites are allowed. For example, the 'Great Firewall of China' blocks all websites from Google, Facebook and more. In other words, "self-determination of the community" is not recognised, and the state takes on the regulatory role.

By contrast, some advocate a completely ungoverned approach, an extension of our basic human rights, affirmed by the UN resolution: "the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, in particular freedom of expression." It is argued that there should be no formal regulation, allowing for users themselves to self-manage. However, an internet without regulation would present even greater problems than it would solve.

At the same time, there are issues to resolve before we reach the regulatory stage. Much of the world is not connected to the internet. "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," yet many humans are not born connected to the internet. Com-

## Ostrom's eight principles for commons management

- 1 Clearly defined boundaries
- 2 Rules regarding the appropriation and provision of common resources that are adapted to local conditions
- 3 Collective-choice arrangements that allow most resource appropriators to participate in the decision-making process
- 4 Effective monitoring by monitors who are part of or accountable to the appropriators
- 5 A scale of graduated sanctions for resource appropriators who violate community rules
- 6 Mechanisms of conflict resolution that are cheap and of easy access
- 7 Self-determination of the community recognised by higher-level authorities
- 8 In the case of larger commons, organisation in the form of multiple layers of nested enterprises, with small local commons at the base level.

mercial ventures such as Free Basics, run partially by Facebook, are attempting to connect people from places like India and Nigeria to the internet for 'free'. These philanthropic enterprises come at a huge cost to the investors, with Facebook funding space satellites to provide connectivity in more rural areas. However their 'free' service comes at a price: only 85 services are provided, one of which is (inevitably) Facebook. Are we willing trade access for democracy, and will we be able to buy back the soul of the internet (equality, open access, etc.) after we sell it to Mark Zuckerberg?

With this brave new world comes bold new challenges for the internet: providing universal internet access; tackling online-radicalisation; and dealing with the dark-net with its child-porn and drug sites. Regulation is necessary, but what sort? Each option – whether it be community self-regulation of a 'commons', a government-imposed system, or regulation through corporate control – has its own limitations. Do we sacrifice freedom of expression in an effort to tackle ISIS by choosing the collective-commons approach? Do we let companies control our internet access in at allowed many of the internet giants to prosper initially? These questions are the ones which will dominate discussions on net neutrality in the coming months and years.

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# Comment

## Faith schools can thrive if their dark dogma dies out

*The diversity and academic success of Catholic education comes at a cost young people pay dearly*



Matthew Wilson  
studies English at  
Downing College

Matthew Wilson

Amid the furore over grammar schools, relatively little attention has been paid to another aspect of Theresa May's education policy – one which could have equally great ramifications for the future make-up of the British education system. That is, the government's intention to relax admissions rules for new faith schools, which explicitly aims to encourage new Catholic schools to open in England.

England has a rich tradition of faith schools and long may this continue. Whereas in many countries religious educational establishments are the preserve of the fee-paying sector because of strict insistence on state secularism, it is a mark of cultural openness that parents in England are given the choice, regardless of financial situation, to educate their children in accordance with their faith. However, the government must ensure that this sharing of faith constitutes an open and informed discourse.

It is easy to understand why Catholic schools seem attractive to the Department for Education: they are typically both high performing and ethnically diverse. The latter may strike some people as surprising, but it is no secret that England's Catholic community is thriving thanks to growing numbers of Catholic immigrants – Poles in particular. And one of the great strengths of Catholic schools is their ethos of respect and tolerance. The standard of pastoral care in the two Catholic schools I attended was absolutely exemplary: it left an important mark on my life and I know that many of my friends, both Catholic and non-Catholic, felt the same way. But this guiding ethos of respect should extend further, to respecting a young person's right to make his or her own choices.

Because there is an uncomfortable side to Catholic education. On one hand, it is a kind of denial: an unwillingness to accept social realities. On the other, it is intransigence: an obstinacy towards alternative ways of viewing the world and of living one's life. This was most apparent when it came to the sex education I received at school, which was as comical as it was concerning. At primary school, we worked through a PSHE booklet called "God: The Great Provider".

In the first section, we learnt about how flowers reproduce; in the second, we were taught that birds mate by putting their cloaca openings together. That was the end of my primary school sex ed: presumably we were just supposed to infer the rest. Then, in secondary school, it got even more ridiculous. 'Sex education' was taught single-handedly by my RE teacher, in a particularly memorable one-hour lesson, in which she imparted her infallible mantra "if in doubt, keep your pants on", and then proceeded to explain that the only way to guarantee avoiding STDs is by not having sex until you're married. Case closed. I'm honestly not exaggerating: that was it for sex ed. Consent was also noticeably absent from the curriculum. I don't intend to imply that this was sinister, but it certainly was shameful.

The problem is that when Catholic education encounters something that it's uncomfortable with, its default response



May must take this chance to reform teaching (PHOTOGRAPH: CHATHAM HOUSE)

is to pretend it simply doesn't exist. This is, insultingly, the standard approach to homosexuality. The Church now claims to accept gay people, but only on the precondition that they consign themselves to a life of celibacy. So the only way for my gay friends at school to get sexual health advice was to have a quiet word with certain sympathetic teachers, and then pretend the conversation never happened. Our school curriculum also reflected this preference for gay people's non-existence: I remember my A-level English teacher privately explaining to me the reason why we couldn't study *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

But perhaps the most saddening thing of all was when a Catholic teacher told me the story of how a 16-year-old student had confided to her that she was pregnant and was considering having an abortion, and that she had managed to persuade her to go through with the pregnancy. Now, this teacher was one of the kindest people I have ever met and I have no doubt she had the best intentions at heart – after all, according to her belief-system, abortion is a



▲ Students at faith schools may not be taught to make informed life choices

(PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL HALLIWELL)

terrible crime – and for all I know the young woman in question may now be very happy with the decision she made. But that's not the point: it's unacceptable for people in a position of trust to be allowed to put pressure on a young person making an incredibly difficult and personal decision.

There's nothing wrong with faith schools teaching their own values and beliefs. But schools don't have the right to deny children the ability to make informed life choices. The government absolutely must insist on sending dedicated professionals into every faith school to offer objective information about sexual health, sexuality, consent and family planning.

The PM should use her planned expansion of the faith school system as an opportunity to deal with this problem head on and ensure that doctrinal obstinacy never gets in the way of the fundamental principle that all children have the right to be informed. Showing a teenager how to put on a condom isn't going to make them any more or less likely to refrain from having sex before they're married, but it will mean that Catholic schools don't renege on their duty of care.

“Consent was also noticeably absent from the curriculum”



Anna Campbell

## Now I realise my love for Labour's lost

As someone born into a strong Labour supporting family with an aunt who is a Labour councillor and a father who led a Labour youth movement in the 70s, it was natural for me to become a member of the party a few years ago and I have voted loyally in elections ever since. Yet today, I find myself considering a change in loyalty towards the Liberal Democrats.

This is not solely as a result of an intrinsic dislike of Corbyn as a politician. Indeed, when he was elected last year, although he was not my first choice of candidate, a small part of me was pleased that at last we would have a leader who seemed honest and principled and unlikely to engage in pettiness.

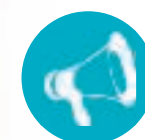
However, one year on, and I find myself considering divorce with the party I have, until recently, believed in so much. Given the opportunity, Corbyn has not risen to the challenge of being a future PM; his performance in PMQs has been disappointing, he has failed to lead the PLP and his performance in the European campaign was unforgiveable. Corbyn has tried to attract people from all sides of the party onto the front benches but with many refusing to serve there, the party's policies are inevitably moving to the left, away from the median voter.

It is thus with great sadness and some feeling of betrayal that I have to consider whether my support will be more valuable elsewhere and look over to the Liberal Democrats. Although this party lacks power in Westminster, it has the potential to grow in the future. With Labour moving to the left and the Tories arguably moving to the right, and many former Libdem seats held in marginal constituencies, the party has a real chance to take back many of these in the future as well as gain some new ones. I already know personally of many former die hard Labour members who have made the move to the Libdems.

Even if I make the move, I can, unfortunately, tell my enthusiasm in politics will no longer be the same, as I no longer feel any party truly represents me. All I can do is hope that change will come again soon in the political landscape as I know so many people yearn it to.



Cartoon by Ben Brown



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# To understand Trump, don't forget Poland

*Travelling around Europe brings to light that the rise of the Right is not an Anglocentric phenomenon*



Anna Jennings  
studies English at  
Clare College

Anna  
Jennings

No matter how you've been spending your summer this year, there are two words which have been unavoidable. Slaving away in internships, travelling remote corners of the globe, scrolling through Facebook in your room, you will have been unable to escape these topics of conversation. They are, of course, Brexit and Trump.

As I travelled around Europe this summer on the Cambridge Student Travel Award, they rather obviously came up. The alumni I met, the people I chatted to in hostels, the kids I spoke to in schools, wanted to know my opinion on the UK's EU referendum, and the US Presidential election inevitably followed swiftly after as a conversation topic; the two seem, in the public mind at least, intrinsically linked as the symptoms of the failure of Western democracy and the rise of a more extreme right wing.

We all know this. We have read, listened to and postulated theory after theory to explain the shifts in the public mood. The problem is social media acting as an echo chamber, validating people's own opinions and intensifying them, we

may say. Perhaps you have your own pet theory. But, the issue at hand is the fact that we do not step back from our US-UK-centric, anglicised view of the world.

Media is fond of a story, a narrative. This is a very successful one. First Brexit, then Trump, next the world in flames. This is something people can grasp, and follow while anxiously biting their nails and muttering about the state of the country. But it is a simplification of the case. Travelling around Europe and talking to people who live in the Baltic States, Poland, and Hungary has made me acutely aware of the fact that the UK and US are not the only two countries with problematic politics at the moment.

Let's look for instance at Poland. The country has a Prime Minister, but the Cambridge alumni I met there all explained to me that the real power is vested in a man named Jarosław Kaczyński, the Chairman and co-founder of the Law and Justice Party, which currently rules Poland. This is a man who has said that Poland cannot take Muslim refugees

because of the parasites they may be carrying, but if you look him up on BBC News, there are 10 search results from this year.

Five of these are about Brexit opinions and reactions. Three are about the tragic plane crash which killed his twin brother. There is one story, however, about plans to tighten abortion laws. The rules in Poland are already pretty strict, only allowing the procedure for instances of rape, incest, danger to the mother's life or foetal medical problems. Poland's ultra-conservative, Catholic population wishes to reduce these rights, and polling shows that Polish support for abortion in these cases has dropped off since 1992. When in Poland, I saw a striking piece of graffiti which scrawled "keep your rosaries off my ovaries", neatly summarising the problem.

You might be wondering at this point why I am writing this. I do not claim to be an expert in Polish politics. I do not want to educate you on the issue. Rather, I am using this as an example of something we are not paying attention to. Of course we cannot pay attention to everything that is happening the world, although for this may now be possible.

The point I am trying to make is that we should be wary of the narrative the

media is selling us. Journalists know that the public are most interested in two things: namely, things which are close to home and things which are sensational. Brexit and Trump fulfil both of those criteria. Central/ Eastern European politics do not: they feel distant and separate from our country, our world, and they are not shocking in the sense that major events have occurred, but rather that a shift in public opinion and politics has happened over a period of time. Therefore, it is not 'good' news for reporters to focus on, and this means it does not become part of the general public's consciousness. Trump and Brexit are part of a broader trend. We need to inform ourselves, to equip ourselves to fight that rough beast slouching towards Bethlehem to be born.

Brexit, as ever, further complicates things. While our world-view is narrowed and partly obscured by our introspective fixation on our relationship with the EU, Brexit means that exactly the opposite is now necessary. We will now have to establish our own individual relations with EU members as well as nations across the globe. It is now even more important that we understand the subtleties and nuances of each country's politics.

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## Comment

# May is certainly a feminist, but only for the few

*While Labour doesn't own feminism, many of the PM's feminist policies only help women a lot like her*



Imogen Shaw  
studies English at  
Murray Edwards  
and is Co-Chair of  
CULC

Imogen  
Shaw

In the weeks before this year's annual Labour Women's Conference, there were fears that it would be overshadowed by Jeremy Corbyn's inevitable second leadership victory. As it turns out, we didn't need to worry about a lack of media coverage. Labour politicians including Harriet Harman, Kezia Dugdale and Angela Rayner have come under fire in the press and on social media for their supposedly "un-feminist" criticism of Theresa May's... well, feminism. Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson was quick to condemn their remarks, tweeting that "Labour thinks feminism is about telling folk which women (who've advanced women) are not \*real\* (sic) feminists. Proper purity of the tribe stuff."

The *Spectator's* Isabel Hardman was particularly brief and damning in her criticism of the conference's attitude to May; "Sorry, ladies, but feminism is even more important than partisanship. If you start claiming that only women who meet with your politics are real feminists, then you break into the People's Front of Judea when feminists haven't run out of problems to solve."

The trouble is, feminism can never be non-partisan. It cannot exist as a separate entity, somehow outside your individual political beliefs, preferred economic and social policies, or actions as

a government minister. The trouble is, there are many feminisms, and no Labour politician has claimed exclusive ownership of any of them. They have simply criticised the shortcomings of May's personal interpretation of feminism. You don't have to be a die-hard Labour apparatchik, or consider the phrase 'Tory feminist' oxymoronic, to recognise that even if May introduced some much needed reforms to address domestic violence as Home Secretary, these efforts were severely undermined by other policies pursued by the last Tory government..

Does May's feminism matter to victims of domestic violence affected by the bedroom tax? Do you think the fact she calls herself a feminist is a comfort to the women she told to "go home or face arrest"? If she promoted more female Tory MPs to cabinet positions than Margaret Thatcher did, does that wipe the slate clean on her failure to address the serious concerns of "state-sanctioned abuse of women" at Yarl's Wood?

Whenever the left are critical of our Prime Minister's feminist credentials, we are informed that "there's a special place in hell for women who don't help other women." It's funny, because I'd hazard a guess that she isn't in great need of any help from me. Much like a lot of her 'feminist' policies, this adage only seems

to apply when the woman in question looks an awful lot like Theresa May.

Can you genuinely call yourself a feminist if you're only interested in furthering the rights of certain, frequently already more advantaged women? In the sense that you have the freedom to do so, yes, you can – but ultimately, your feminism will be pretty meaningless. Criticism isn't so-called "purity of the tribe stuff", it's genuine opposition to her ideological positions. Just because she has chosen to label herself a feminist does not grant her a shield from this sort of criticism. If anything, it should mean that we hold her to a higher standard.

This is something that much of the mainstream press often overlooks in its coverage of feminism and public figures; it's regularly guilty of perpetuating the notion that feminism means never saying a bad word about another woman. This is a misrepresentation of what feminism actually involves. It *should* be critical of itself and of societal norms. Feminism is not a get out of jail free card for powerful women to use to avoid being held to account; yet too often, citing feminism is becoming a tool used for precisely this PR function.

What, then, about the idea that, because "feminists haven't run out of problems to solve", we should suspend critique of others who have identified themselves as feminists, until (presumably) a point when feminists *have* run out of problems to solve? Firstly, this is the equivalent of claiming we should sit

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Feminism  
is not a get  
out of jail  
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powerful  
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▼ Promoting  
women in her  
Cabinet does not  
exculpate the PM  
(PHOTOGRAPH: DFID)

patiently awaiting the inevitable dawn of fully automated luxury communism, rather than instigate and support political campaigns. Secondly, it assumes that all feminists agree about the nature of the problems that need solving, and on the methods by which this should be achieved. This is clearly not the case, even within the scope of Labour or the political left in general.

More importantly, though, positive change is achieved through challenging established power structures. If Labour feminists were to suspend criticism of May they would be severely misguided. When the Prime Minister claims to hold certain values, but passes legislation perceived as detrimental to these values, If you would ask the party to stand idly by on the grounds of feminism, it's worth questioning who you think feminism is for in the first place.



# How I learnt to stop worrying and love the f-bomb

*Swearing is an art but using it in anger is like using your grandmother's best china to play cricket.*



Will Hall  
studies English at  
Emmanuel College  
and often performs  
at Footlights  
Smokers

Will  
Hall

Ah, swearing. Profanity. Expletives. Curses. That noble elect of words which we venerate as somehow ruder, lewder, naughtier. And just as the swear word itself carries an intrinsic roguishness – a rakish charm which both appals and appeals – so it bestows such glamour on its user. The swearer being rude, yes, but also unafraid, rebellious, sexy. Or at least, so it once was. For swearing has, of late, lost its potency. Gone are the days when such monuments to malice would elicit a shocked gasp. I doubt even Mrs Whitehouse, were she alive today, would bat a horn-rimmed eyelid at the four-letter frolics that go on post-watershed. For better or worse, rudery has triumphed over prudery.

I say this as a keen swearer myself. I confess that swear words fly out of my mouth like tennis balls from one of those tennis-ball-firing machines. Not angrily, or ecstatically, but because I now realise something I once didn't – I can. Like many, I was told when I was young – by parents, teachers, *Newsround* (all the great sources of childhood wisdom) – that swearing is bad. I don't think there was an awful lot of explanation behind this, but the received wisdom



▲ "Fuckety fuck" the immortal words of Hugh Grant

(PHOTOGRAPH: TINE HEMERYCK)

was that "cake" was an okay word to say and "fuck" wasn't.

As I went to school, I learned even more about this libretto of sin which streaked through the English language like a vein through a Roquefort. Apparently, so older, wiser boys told me, there was a hierarchy. Anything beginning with F or C was practically blasphemous and would require a ritual cleansing if you so much as thought of them. Shit was pretty middle-ground: definitely a swear-word, no question, but slightly more on the venial than mortal side of the fence. (I was relieved to hear this, as I had once heard my mother say it when she cut her finger cooking, and was worried about the repercussions of

her slip-up.) Well, I say middle-ground; we were only nine and it was still pretty much The Rudest Thing Ever.

Then, lower-down the food chain, were the more entry-level swear words. Bloody an epitome of this, often only *truly* rude when coupled with another, equally devastating noun; 'hell' being a classic, but some of the more posey, affected students would plump for the rather charming 'Nora'. Bitch was a swear word when used as a noun, but as a description was less noteworthy. Crap didn't even get a look-in, frankly, we just felt sorry for the poor guy who spent his whole life inventing the loo only for people to sully his name with it.

It was hardly our fault we were so adept at building our vulgar vocab. Rather than subtly hide them in the melee of other words beyond our pre-pubescent linguistic capabilities, society kindly highlighted them with all manner of symbols and bleeps. Even now, whenever I read something, my heart slightly races at the sight of a cluster of asterisks, winking at me silently from the page. Then one day – I was probably 12 or 13 – I said one of the bad words out loud, and... nothing happened. It was at that moment I realised that swearing clearly didn't matter. I said it again, and again it was greeted with profound indifference. I think I went a bit mad after that, and I apologise to those I met in the late noughties, and caught rather by surprise.

Sometimes, at night, I mourn the loss of those prelapsarian days when the air

wasn't cerulean with filth, but by and large I think it's a good thing that we're passed caring. In my fallen state, I collect new swearwords like a philatelist collects stamps; Hugh Grant's "fuckety-fuck" in *Four Weddings* is a personal favourite, although I never use it myself, out of respect to the great man. And I have a rule to never use them in anger or frustration; that would be like using your grandmother's best china to play cricket.

However, I can't help but feel maybe there's a hidden damage here. If we keep effing and blinding at the rate we're going, we might destroy the magic of the swear word. Obviously there's still the big one – we all know that one – but it won't be long before it too becomes normalised by our profane progression. We'll lose the creativity of minced oaths and I worry that my kids will never know that when I stub my toe and shout "Sugar!" I am trying to preserve their innocence, not yearning for sucrose. Moreover, if swear words become normal, then they're no longer swear words – just words. Nothing to bleep out, nothing to asterisk away, nothing to laugh at behind the bikeshed, and that's a shame for all of us.

So maybe, we really should watch our tongues. Maybe the charm of the swear word lies within its scarcity, and we are duty bound to put a fence up and charge an entrance fee – or else erect a blue plaque. Which begs the question, then, when *should* you swear? Well, I'll leave that one to you. Just don't fuck it up.



# Down the rabbit hole: meet the Red Pillers

*In the topsy-turvy world of internet misogyny, women hate men who aren't 'the alpha Chad'*



Anna Fitzpatrick  
studies HSPS at  
Magdalene College

Anna  
Fitzpatrick

Increasingly, the internet has become the realm in which people develop their personalities, world-views and identities. The material we touch leaves a residue so sticky that our fingerprints are left everywhere – an insight into our thought processes being illuminated in the form of Google searches or 'likes'. The questions we are too embarrassed to ask anyone else are captured permanently in the cobwebs of our search history.

Beyond the plastic surface of white-picket-fenced, unrealistically happy group pics on Facebook, sharing has emancipated a rawer emotional form. Online spaces can provide an outlet to vent our darkest thoughts in cathartic diary form, at no one in particular – 140 characters at a time. They can provide the mask of an egg icon to spit the venom we'd never want to be seen spitting. We can say things we like the sound of, unaccountably enjoying the thrill of appealing to the conscious or subconscious thoughts that are never allowed to escape into speech for fear of social penalty.

The mask of anonymity has unleashed a liberation of expression – shining a

light into the darkest corners of our skulls and freeing the thoughts that we would never let escape its confines to land on our lips. A peculiar chasm has ruptured any continuity between the online and the 'public', sanitised realm – with pockets of insularity emerging on social media as people find a once inaccessible home for their expression. In the concentration of these pockets, our exposure to contrasting views is not only at an unprecedented volume – but a burning intensity.

I have explored the darkest corners of the internet to find these raw reactions, to read the 'socially unacceptable', 'politically incorrect' expressions of those who feel disoriented by the rapidity of online social justice movements. I met the 'Red Pillers'. 'The Red Pill' is a forum on Reddit for people who claim to have been 'woken up' to the 'reality' that women today have special privileges while men are being oppressed. For 'The Red Pillers', misandry is an active cancer, suppressing the 'true nature' of women's desires – that what they really want, is some good old-fashioned subjugation.

Alienated, disillusioned men retreat to this space to loathe women and in-

dulge in their 'enlightenment'. Its sub-topics include "Be The Patriarch", how to "experience the non-stop attention, validation and abundance that today's young women have", complaints that women are becoming sexually deviant, and theorisation as to "why women lose interest in nice guys". One popular sub-reddit critiques third-wave feminism for only being there to "allow women to fuck the top 10-20% of men", complaining that they "want the rest of us to fuck off and die for 'not being the 'alpha Chad'". The essence of the whole forum is captured by an advice post on mind set: "Just Remember That You're Better Than Them (women) At All Times".

Online, you can find toxic outlets for the vitriol that people are too afraid to spit in person. It is becoming increasingly socially unacceptable to overtly (although not implicitly) express the view that women are inferior to men. This seems to be true in the experience of the 'Red Pillers', too, with one user stating that the "first rule of Red Pill" is to "never talk about Red Pill", warning that "the blue pill machine demonises RP as misogynistic and will only hurt your reputation if you openly hold these beliefs."

Those in power can determine how far expressions of fear as hatred in the shadows of the internet seep into the

▼ Milo Yiannopoulos is one of a number building the 'meninist' mindset (PHOTOGRAPH: LEWEB13)



mainstream as divisive antagonism. Already, with a get-clicks-or-die journalistic culture, populists have proven that fear is a fertile condition for hate. The increasingly Trumpified, neo-conservative language of threat and fear is permeating all facets of Western culture, and gender politics is not immune. The inevitable fear in response to the flash-intensity of social change is being exploited to elicit roars.

Katie Hopkins is cleverly reductionist and cunningly simplifying in declaring on *Question Time* that "women, actually, don't want equal treatment." Her track record of exposure from sensationalism suggests that this statement was not much deeper than professional attention seeking. Milo Yiannopoulos similarly raised his profile in holding a match of hatred next to the petrol of disorientation as his fans hurled abuse at Leslie Jones because her identity did not fit in with their vision of how 'ghostbusters' should look.

It's not only the Milo's or Katie's who profit from inflaming social tensions. Students at our university regressed to sensationalising women discussing anti-depressants and contraceptives as a feminist "drug ring" – risking the welfare of young people to generate clicks. The Red Pill makes you wonder WTF is going on.

# The Prince is back and he's sticking around

*Dirty politics is all proving too much for one squeaky-clean fresher*



Martha O'Neill  
studies HSPS at  
Trinity College

Martha  
O'Neill

As the summer of 2016 draws to a close, it is perhaps a pertinent time to consider what we have learned during the turbulent and febrile political climate of recent months. From the Conservatives' momentous change of leadership and the Messianic re-crowning of Jeremy Corbyn, to the devastating social repercussions of Brexit, it could be said that, of late, British politics has been in a state of flux.

I, too, have found myself in a state of emotional flux. Term starts in less than two weeks, and I don't think I've ever been more terrified or excited in my life. Well, except maybe that time I opened the car door in the lion enclosure at Longleat (true story, but I lived to tell the tale). With such ambiguity comes a sense of insecurity (am I doing the right thing? Am I good enough? Will anyone like me?). British politics is itself open to such insecurities, with opportunistic individuals asking themselves not 'am I doing the right thing?' but 'am I doing the right thing for me?'

Over the past few months, we have seen politicians attempt to 'climb the greasy pole', – but without the charismatic charm of the dapper Disraeli. It could be said that all great political minds have one thing in common – a desire to win. However, when does the concept of winning instead morph into the desire for self-gain? Machiavelli once

wrote that "A wise lord cannot, nor ought he to, keep his promises", and 2016 has certainly provided a great case-study of the existence of dishonesty within British politics.

Let's first consider Brexit, the full-scale effects of which are not yet known. What we can assess is the way in which the country got to its 'out' decision. You guessed it, such a decision was based on... political duplicity. From promising £350 million for the NHS, to matching agricultural funding and 'closing the borders,' the Brexit narrative proved to be rooted in fantasy and an ideology devoid of fact and truth (e.g. remember the whole misshapen banana thing? – just weird).

Vilification and a willingness to blame others for the country's problems were central to the Brexit win. The EU referendum demonstrated the lows that politicians, on the right in particular, were willing to stoop to as a means of advancing their own careers. However, Machiavelli may be proved wrong in assuming that this was a 'wise' thing to do – please see Gove and Johnson for further evidence.

This underlying political dishonesty is not simply confined to the right of British politics. It is possible to observe such behaviour within the hard left also. Consider Jeremy Corbyn, whose supposed commitment to the EU left a lot to be desired. Even more recently, Traingate perhaps demonstrated the clear presence of mendacity within British politics – but it also exemplified that the art of deceit must be mastered if it is to provide any form of political advancement. Even after his success in the recent leadership contest, Labour still finds itself behind

in the polls. Thus, we can perhaps conclude that, once again, those who lie are not necessarily 'wise'. (I paraphrased this on my Twitter account: The Supreme Leader's minions were not best pleased).



**Machiavelli would be proud of some of our politicians**

Most frightening, however, is the paradoxical nature of Theresa May's first few months of governance. She began her premiership claiming that the "government [she will lead] will not be driven by the interests of the privileged few, but by yours". Fast forward to September, and the interests of the privileged few seem to be well-catered for with the emergence of government plans to reintroduce grammar schools. This government now seems to promote segregation based on ability as opposed to the bettering of all schools. While Labour continues to be guided by Momentum (to the point of complete incompetency), May's weasel words will be but a distant memory, eclipsed by the harsh reality of her government's plans. Nice work, Jezza.

The hollowed rhetoric of the few can so often fuel distrust of all politicians, when in truth much is being done to address the apathy felt by the electorate today. Consider the new-found accessibility of MPs, who are now able to engage with their constituents over Twitter and Facebook. They are no longer abstract, intangible 'names', but rather human beings with Instagram accounts and the same vulnerability and insecurities that

every individual shares. This digitalised age has allowed us to see politicians for who they really are – be it darn-right liars or hard-working parents who must console their children as the locks to their family home are changed once again. (If you've been hiding under a rock, I'm referring to my heroine Jess Phillips MP. A friend of a friend had a picture with her at conference – not that I'm fangirling or anything...).

It is clear that Machiavelli is intrinsically wrong when he assumes that "a wise Lord" (or Lady) cannot "keep his (or her) promises" and, despite the necessity of compromise, the mark of a successful politician is not their ability to engineer and exploit the public, but their ability to make a positive change and to inspire. (Wow, that got a little emotional and cheesy, didn't it?!) We should not let figures such as Boris and the Brexiteers (debut album to be released shortly) or Corbyn and his apparatchiks mar the reputation of dedicated and committed MPs who work tirelessly to better the lives of their constituents. On the other hand, those who stay true to the words of Machiavelli must be held accountable, or the horrors of June 2016 are bound to be repeated.

This Summer, British politics has far exceeded the scripted absurdity of *The Thick of It*, if without the polished (and gloriously blasphemous) spin of Malcolm Tucker. It has, however, highlighted the timeworn and institutionalised presence of political chicanery – which, unless addressed, will continue to fuel apathy. So as I venture out into the big, bad world as a squeaky-clean fresher I'm staying true to myself. This wise lady ain't no liar (though a tad prone to hyperbole).

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British  
politics  
has far  
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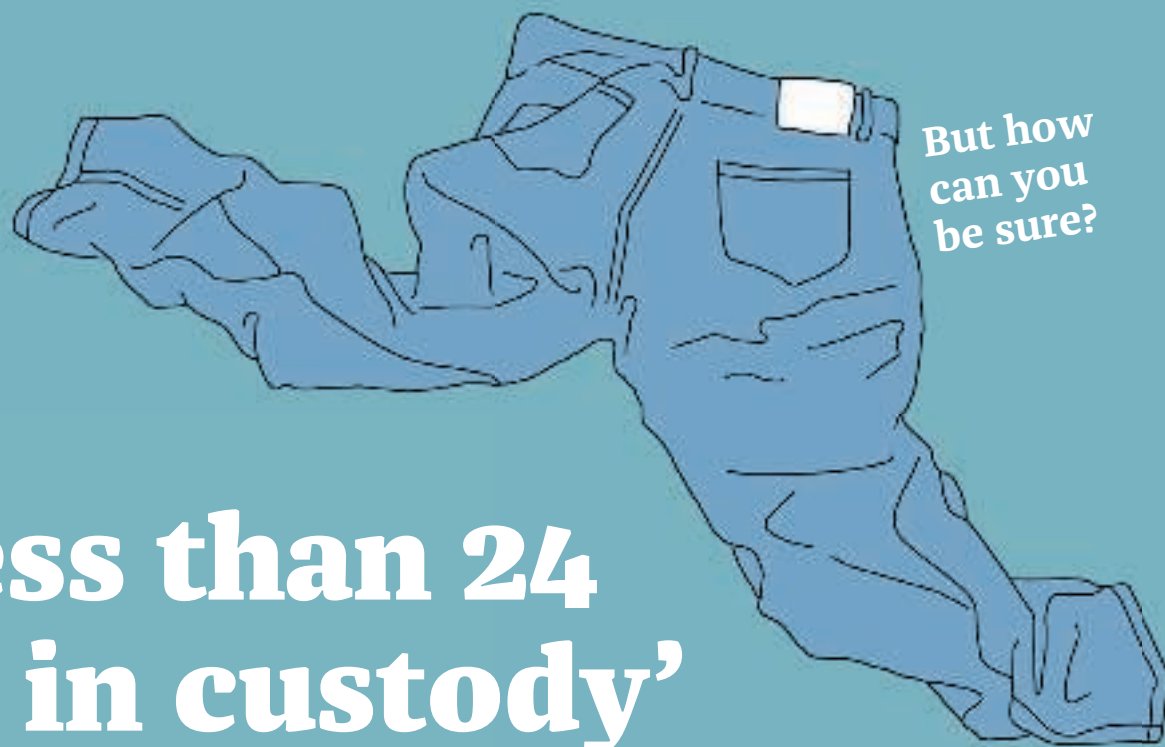
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# ‘He spent less than 24 hours in custody’

Why consent workshops are the most important part of Freshers Week

By Anna Walker



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## Consent workshops at Cambridge are a relatively new phenomenon.

*Anna Walker* looks at their impact

Illustrations by *Abigail Popple*

If you are a woman starting university in the UK in 2016, there is a 1 in 3 chance that you will be sexually assaulted before you graduate. I was. If you are attacked, there is 90 per cent chance it will be by a friend, a classmate, someone at college, or someone you know. Would a consent workshop have stopped him from threatening to throw me out his window or for pinning me down on his bed for four hours? Almost certainly not. The courage to attack another student that violently can come only from his confidence that he would never face trial. He was right. A finalist at Cambridge, both of our colleges were inert - there was absolutely nothing they could do.

His college had a responsibility only for his pastoral care, and couldn't reprimand a student who had not been found guilty in court. Although I had tried to go to the police, the waiting time for a trial in Cambridgeshire was 18 months, and he was due to graduate in a term. I intermitted and flew as far away as I could from the man who had left my body bruised and told me he would 'destroy' me. I spent months trying to reclaim my body. He spent less than 24 hours in police custody.

**So what's the value** in an hour-long consent workshop in freshers week? The goal is to collaboratively set the culture of the cohort - to agree on what is (un)acceptable behaviour. So many people feel unable to go to the police - marginalised minorities are substantially more likely to be victims of assault, and men and non-binary people who are assaulted are even less likely to report attacks. Consent workshops mutually establish what is and is not acceptable, particularly when navigating consent and alcohol, and cement active, enthusiastic and informed consent as the minimum and the norm. No two consent workshops are the same, because the group decides where the conversation goes. Some points are fairly standard: a passed out person can't consent, consent is not just the

absence of a 'no', but an informed and enthusiastic 'yes', you need 'fresh' consent every time and consent can't be coerced. The workshops try to debunk popular myths about sexual assault: most rapists don't 'look' like a rapist (jumping out from behind a bush with a knife), a lot of victims of assault don't fight back violently as self-preservation means that many will 'freeze,' and the rate of false allegations is far lower than a lot of people believe.

The number of allegations that are false in the UK is estimated at between 1 - 3 per cent. Although it is concerning that it happens at all, the disproportional focus on false accusations reflects how uncomfortable we still are to talk about sexual assault in Cambridge.

**Cambridge is not alone** in trying to spark a student-led discussion about sexual assault. CUSU's Oxford counterpart has been running consent workshops for five years. The US is years ahead of the UK when it comes to talking about sexual assault on campus. George Washington University was the first college to make consent trainings mandatory for all incoming students. The state of Minnesota now mandates that every incoming freshman needs to take a course on campus sexual assault within ten days of starting university. According to Kathryn Nash, the co-founder of TrainEd, who spoke to *The Economist* in September, a "high percentage" of assault cases at universities involve first-year students, who often have unprecedented access to alcohol. There should be little doubt that orientations during Freshers' Week provide the most logical and most effective time for a conversation about consent.

**The structure of consent workshops** at Cambridge is fantastic because it mirrors the diversity of the college system: peer-led, there is no syllabus or script and any student can volunteer to lead. CUSU Women's Campaign provides support and training to colleges only if they want it. CUSU also provides help to avoid the feared pitfalls of consent workshops,

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What is the  
procedure  
in college  
if you are  
assaulted?  
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► **It's time to begin talking about consent** (Abigail Popple)



ensuring that they remain inclusive and acknowledging the wide range of assault victims rather than treating men as potential rapists and women as potential victims. Fears of workshops being 'patronising' or 'accusatory' are thus generally unfounded.

The autonomy of each college group to lead their own workshops means that each session is a genuine conversation that provides the cohort with a shared set of expectations and vocabulary, rather than a box-ticking exercise. There are also more pragmatic benefits to holding workshops so early in someone's time at university.

Often, survivors of assault and abuse will share their stories, and might ask for the group to keep an eye out for them when clubbing in freshers' week. Workshop facilitators frequently lead with questions to nuance the debate: what is the social etiquette in inviting an accused rapist to the same birthday formal as their victim? Is that considered neutrality or complicity? How drunk is too drunk to consent? What is the procedure in college if you are assaulted? Is there anything you can do if you don't want to report what happened to the police?

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18 months  
and he  
was due to  
graduate  
in a term  
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There are also more structured programmes available targeting more specific groups. Feedback from one of the Cambridge college's men's rugby teams that attended a 'Good Lad' workshop was overwhelmingly positive. Although anonymous feedback from one player acknowledged initial concerns that the team had been chosen for the workshop because they had been stereotyped as hyper-masculine trouble-makers, these were addressed in the initial exercise, which "dissipate[d]" any "residual awkwardness." The specific targeting of men in programmes like 'Good Lad' leaves it vulnerable to criticism that are harder to direct at the all-inclusive freshers' week workshops, but open conversation about consent can only be a good thing.

My hope for this year is that we



can move beyond debates about whether or not consent workshops are necessary. The number of Cambridge students who are harassed or assaulted each year is reason enough to at least talk about it. It's too soon to tell whether consent workshops will actually influence people's behaviour. But it doesn't cost us anything to have this conversation. Instead of reacting defensively to college consent workshops, help to make them more effective. How can we improve them, quantify and track their successes and impact (or lack thereof), and how can we continue this conversation beyond freshers' week? We need to deconstruct dichotomies of 'good men' and rapists, and acknowledge that our best mates might commit assault. We need to move past the easy targets of the drinking societies and rugby teams, forget the idea that this is an ideological imposition from the Women's Campaign, and acknowledge the uncomfortable truth that we are all potential victims and perpetrators. Although not much can change while the conviction rate for sexual assault in the UK is less than 6%, consent workshops can only be a good start ●

▲ No amount of alcohol shifts blame from attacker to victim (Abigail Popple)



Read 'Diary of a Fresher' online at [varsity.co.uk](http://varsity.co.uk)

## SURVIVOR'S STORY

# It's not my fault – is it?

*Why is it that most victims of sexual assault struggle with feelings of guilt post-attack?*

During my third year of university I was sexually assaulted by one of my close friends. I wish I'd had the courage to speak out about it then, but I had to prioritise my own health and well-being - and that's okay. I went through a period of denial after the assault and felt that my experience wasn't valid as it didn't resemble the stereotyped images of sexual assault or rape victims.

The night I was attacked, we had all walked from the pub to a friend's house and were staying up, to chat and drink for a while as usual. The man who assaulted me was a young man, who I'll call Sam for the purposes of this article, who I'd known for a long time. We'd become very close, but I hadn't seen him in a while.

On this particular night he was encouraging me to drink as much as he and the others always did, even though I'd been drinking less that year. Retrospect is an unhelpful

mirror, but at the time I recall the males in the group had made some pretty inappropriate sex jokes. In the past I might have let them slide but in that past year I'd begun to speak my mind a bit more often. So that night

when I called the person who made the joke out, I was unsurprised when Sam shoved a bottle of spirits towards me; a gesture I'm assuming said "lighten up".

I did drink a lot, as always tended to happen at these particular meetups, but it was an emotionally charged evening for all of us and I'd soon lost count of drinks and was dangerously drunk. That was my mistake, I'll freely admit, but it's certainly not an excuse for what happened to me.

As the evening went on, I remember getting emotional about something and tearing up and Sam and I curled up on a sofa in a corner. This was his

attempt, I assumed, at consoling me and acting like the big brother figure and best friend he had been to me so many times before. At this point, I was so drunk that I couldn't stand, and my level of consciousness was swinging between outright black out and utterly incoherent.

When I regained consciousness, Sam had his fingers in my vagina and was pulling my hand onto his crotch with his jeans undone. All I could think was "stop", and as soon as I could get any words out, I said "stop" coherently enough to be understood. He did then, to his credit. It was an odd sensation in the swirling fog of my head to suddenly hear this immovable, loud "stop".

However, when I next managed to stand up, intending to remove myself from the situation and go sit with my other friends in the room next door, Sam followed me and kept trying to put his hands on my body. I kept trying to bat him away, desperately trying to get my alcohol-swamped head to figure out what I should do. The second I could walk steadily enough, I hurried three blocks, alone, at 3am to get home and pass out in my bed.

At this point, I just wanted to feel safe as I'd felt with Sam before but now there was so much conflict in how I felt about him. I wish I hadn't gotten so drunk; I wish I'd spotted the warning signs in him earlier and kept my distance. For several months afterwards I tried to pass it off just as a weird thing that happened, feeling guilty and that it was somehow my fault. I was disturbed at my own visceral reaction and the "stop" I had mumbled that night kept echoing in my head.

Over time, I started showing signs of PTSD and I was in denial until a counsellor I'd been seeing for sleep problems questioned whether my experience had indeed been non-consensual. I've only been able to resolve the health problems I've faced since the assault by reflecting and admitting to myself that it was definitely not consensual, and definitely not my fault ●

*"I just wanted to feel as safe with Sam as I'd felt before"*





## A new beginning

*Martha Saunders*

discusses the reality of living student life with Asperger's

New beginnings aren't a concept which fills me with excitement. Last weekend I burst into tears because the coffee shop in my local Waterstones had been renovated while I was away on holiday.

Starting university was no exception to my difficulty with change. It's normal to be anxious about moving out, and I truly believe there is no-one on Earth who genuinely enjoys Freshers' Week, but for those on the autistic spectrum, for whom routine and stability is crucial, university life presents a particularly unique and frequently overwhelming challenge – especially if you're hell bent on pretending to be 'normal.'

The defining characteristic of Asperger's Syndrome is that I process information and social situations intellectually rather than intuitively. This doesn't really sound like such a big deal in isolation, and it's incredibly hard to explain to people how exhausting it is. The best analogy I've managed to come up with is this: imagine that breathing does not come to you naturally. For every single breathe you take, you have to consciously tell your body to inhale and exhale. Imagine you have to do this for the rest of your life without ever letting anyone notice; you have to do everything 'normally', except that while all the people around you breathe with ease, you must constantly remember to keep pushing the air in and out of your lungs. I've learned to do this very well.

People are generally very surprised when I mention I'm on the spectrum. "You don't *seem* autistic," they often say, probably the most bittersweet compliment in the world; you seem just like us, and well done, because how terribly undesirable you would be if people could tell what you really were. On the one hand, I manage to avoid drawing this kind of unwanted attention to myself. On the other, I am expected to constantly perform a normality which I find exhausting and at times impossible.

This is a daily reality for many women and girls with undiagnosed or high-functioning autism. As well as being pushed



▲ Breathe easy?  
(FSP Vintage)

to an unhelpful and dehumanising extreme, the image of ASDs is heavily gendered. Misleadingly referred to as "the extreme male brain," the research, diagnostic criteria and writing on the disorder is all weighted towards the typical male presentation, leaving many autistic women like me to slip under the radar and become masters of disguise. The efforts we take to blend into the background unsurprisingly result in alarmingly high rates of depression and anxiety.

The really painful thing about my experience, and the experiences of so many like me, is how easy it all should have been to avoid. How different things would be if there were just a little more awareness about how Asperger's manifests differently for women; just one best-selling novel with a character I could actually relate to, just one article which interviewed one of us instead of a scientist who talks about autistic people like curious lab specimens.

This column is my attempt to create that little bit of awareness and give some insight into the challenges and pleasures of an incredibly misunderstood and unfairly maligned disorder, and help other students like me feel a little less alone. I'm writing this from back in that renovated coffee shop; it turns out the new place does much better coffee. I guess some new beginnings do turn out for the best ●

“You don't seem autistic, they often say”



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# Culture



## Cambridge Film Festival

*A preview of the best this year's film festival has to offer*

Nat Rosa

The 2016 Cambridge Film Festival (CFF) will take place from the 20th to 27th October at the Arts Picturehouse Cinema and select venues around the city. For the first time in its 36-year history, the Festival will debut in October, and will offer an extensive programme including retrospectives on musical titan Roger 'Syd' Barrett and legendary film actress Ingrid Bergman, as well as the Camera Catalonia series, a showcase of the best work in contemporary Catalan cinema.

The third-longest running film festival in the UK, the CFF prides itself on celebrating both veteran filmmakers and first-time directors, bringing together a dynamic line-up of entertainment from around the world.

This year, Pink Floyd aficionados and

▲ *Intermezzo*, a Swedish drama (Cambridge Film Festival)

music lovers alike will delight in a specially curated film night, paying homage to vocalist, guitarist, songwriter, and Cambridge native, Syd Barrett. Headlining the tribute is the UK premiere of *Get All That Ant?*, a documentary directed by Barrett's former school friend Anthony Stern.

The free-form film features exclusive footage of iconic performances and music promos, together with rare stills of legendary bands such as The Rolling Stones, The Doors, Pink Floyd and Donovan. The archival material is combined with never-seen footage of the musical genius, much of it shot by his friends, colleagues, and former girlfriends Libby Gausden and Jenny Spires. In honor of the 10th anniversary of Barrett's death, the site of his last ever performance will also host a memorial concert organised by Cambridge Live.

Fans of the inimitable and unforgettable Ingrid Bergman will enjoy a programme that explores the actress's early performances in German and Swedish productions. Scenes from *Intermezzo* (1936), *The Four Companions* (1938), *A Woman's Face* (1938) and *A June Night* (1940) will be screened, alongside the documentary *Ingrid Bergman in Her Own Words* (2015) by acclaimed documentary filmmaker Stig Björkman. Narrated by Academy-Award winner Alicia Vikander, this unique film marks the 100th anniversary of Bergman's birth, and takes an intimate look inside the actress's personal world through her own letters, diary entries, photographs, and 8mm and 16mm footage. The portrait that emerges reveals the multifaceted character of arguably one of the world's most talented actresses, at once charming and wilful, hypnotic and intractable, fascinating and delightfully nonconformist.

*Barcelona Summer Night* (2013) and its sequel *Barcelona Christmas Night* (2015) will kick off events for the Camera Catalonia series. Aside from these two comedies, which delve into the hilariously entangled love lives of six couples living in Barcelona, the series will also premiere the documentary *Sex, Maracas & Chihuahuas* (2016), the story of acclaimed musician Xavier Cugat, and *The Virus of Fear* (2015), a chilling tale helmed by prominent Catalan director Ventura Pons.

The festival has also partnered with

the Cambridge African Film Festival to present a curated selection of exceptional documentaries and features from the region, as well as the Cambridge Family Film Festival, a programme of family-

“Three men attempt to find their purpose in post-colonial, contemporary Namibia”

friendly entertainment. On the slate for the Cambridge African Film Festival is *As I Open My Eyes* (2015), the debut film by talented Tunisian director Leyla Bouzid, *Zanzibar Soccer Dreams* (2016), an eye-opening documentary about the impact of sport on the lives of women in Zanzibar, and *The Unseen* (2015), the story of three young men attempting to find their purpose in post-colonial, contemporary Namibia.

The festival will also exhibit *Dare to Dream*, a programme of short films that explores myriad issues facing young Africans across the continent. The timeless comedic exploits of Buster Keaton, curated by Neil Brand, will be front and centre at the Cambridge Family Film Festival. Keaton for Kids 2 will be accompanied by a live piano performance, and featured together with favorites such as *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981), *E.T. the Extraterrestrial* (1982), *James and the Giant Peach* (1996) and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II* (2011), among others.

Rounding off the festival are screenings of *Arsenal* (1929), Aleksander Dovzhenko's trailblazing film set to a live score by Bronnt Industries Kapital, *A Brilliant Genocide* (2016), a harrowing documentary uncovering the dictatorship of Ugandan dictator General Yoweri Museveni, *From Afar* (2016), the directorial debut from Venezuelan director Lorenzo Vigas, and the UK premiere of *The Interrogation* (2016), a gripping adaptation from the autobiography of Rudolf Höss ●



▲ From top to bottom: Jareedy from *Barcelona Summer Night*, *A Woman's Face*, and *Dare to Dream* (Cambridge Film Festival)

## The River Cam

*A freshers' poem by Jade Cuttle*

The mist above the river hangs in hesitation like the tingle of midges, time bending slowly in on itself like the spill of the sun as it turns

a blind eye to the chaotic curl of the current, shoving its swell through the morning rush of rocks shifting restless beneath the surface:

the river is ready to be ripped from its bed, stripped of its sheets, dragged by the drift, its stitches of silt worked loose by the tide

before it can rise, like a splinter of sunlight whose split is slight then all of a sudden has swallowed the sky.

## Plan ahead »

*Upcoming events you can't afford to miss*

**ArcSoc**  
9th October

"The Factory" is the theme for the first ArcSoc of the year. Fortunately there is no need to book – £6 standard or £4 ArcSoc members' tickets on the door





Find more culture tips online at:  
[varsity.co.uk/culture](http://varsity.co.uk/culture)



## Woolf to Wordsworth

Discover Cambridge in literature, and literature in Cambridge

Charlie Stone

Cambridge has been home to hundreds of famous writers over the history of the university, its image immortalised by their works just as their works are immortalised in the city. Given the wealth of literature published both in Cambridge and by those who have been to Cambridge – from William Wordsworth to Virginia Woolf, John Milton to Sylvia Plath – it's not surprising that across the city there are a number of sites with literary and historical significance.

Since 2008 a carved stone placed behind the bridge in King's College has shown the first and last lines of a famous Chinese poem by Xu Zhimo, called 'Farewell to Cambridge'. Xu was a literature researcher at King's from 1921-22, where he fell in love with English Romantic poetry and the French symbolist poets, whose works he translated into Chinese. He wrote his 'Farewell to Cambridge' in 1928 after coming back to the city on a tour, and would tragically die in an air-plane crash just three years later. The lines of this poem on the stone, the first and last two of the poem, translate roughly as: "Quietly now I am leaving, / Just as quietly as I came. [...] Softly I wave my sleeve, / I am not taking a single cloud".

Grantchester isn't just the idyllic setting of a gritty TV detective drama; it is also a countryside village just outside Cambridge that has hosted a number of famous names in years gone by. Its Orchard Tea Garden was once frequented by literary greats such as Rupert Brooke, E.M. Forster and Virginia Woolf, while

the tearoom itself used to be the home of the poet Lord Byron. Brooke's poem, 'The Old Vicarage, Grantchester', preserves the memory of the establishment and the village: "But Grantchester! ah, Grantchester! / There's peace and holy quiet there, / Great clouds along pacific skies, / And men and women with straight eyes, / Lithe children lovelier than a dream". Today, it's a pretty spot to socialise on a sunny afternoon, and the Rupert Brooke Museum nearby reminds us of its esteemed patrons who have visited the place since its opening in 1897.

The Eagle pub is known primarily for being the location of the announcement of the discovery of DNA by Crick and Watson in 1953; however, it has literary significance too. The historic cultural hub is thought to have played host to numerous performances of Shakespeare plays – performances Shakespeare is said to have attended himself.

It is sometimes more interesting, though, to see Cambridge appear in the writing of these artists. Woolf often mentioned it in her works; in *Jacob's Room* she writes: "They say the sky is the same everywhere. [...] But above Cambridge – anyhow above the roof of King's College Chapel – there is a difference. Out at sea a great city will cast a brightness into the night."

Is it fanciful to suppose the sky, washed into the crevices of King's College Chapel, lighter, thinner, more sparkling than the sky elsewhere? Does Cambridge burn not only into the night, but into the day?" She would go on to detail her social activities in Grantchester in her diaries, and it is clear from her work that Cambridge and its neighbouring village held a dear place in her heart.

In fact, many of the college libraries across the university contain rare manuscripts from revered alumni – artists

whose works are available in the numerous bookshops around the city. The University Library contains most: whilst not a picturesque building, it holds over eight million books and manuscripts, most of which are free to examine by anyone.

With over 100 libraries, Cambridge is truly a literature hub, and students of the university have wonderful access to a myriad of pieces of literary history, both in the libraries and beyond ●

“It is clear from her work that Cambridge and its neighbouring village held a dear place in her heart”

### Festival of Ideas 17 - 30th October

◀ **Decorous fun at ArcSoc (Tom Porteous)**

Events from “using sound design to foster inclusivity” to “are fluid identities the future?”. Events often get booked up, and tickets are free online.

### Akala 31st October

MOBO award-winning English rapper and hip-hop artist Akala comes to the Cambridge Junction at the end of the month – advance tickets at £15.50.

1 OCTOBER - 7 OCTOBER

## What's on this week?

### COLOUR: The Art and Science of Illuminated Manuscripts / Fitzwilliam Museum

The exhibition is unique in showing the technologies which reveal painting techniques and forgeries, and features the immersive installation by Emil Siemeister, *The Placebo Macclesfield Psalter*.  
 Until 30th Dec.

### RECASTING / Faculty of Classics

The Faculty is famous for its plaster cast museum; this exhibition brings together contemporary pieces within the permanent collection to explore art's continuing relationship with the classical past.  
 Until 15th Oct.

### Joey Holder – Ophiux / Wysing Arts Centre

Located out of town in a village called Bourn (a short bus ride), Ophiux explores the relationship between economically-oriented technological progress and “synthetic biology” through science fiction.  
 Until 20th Nov.



▲ **Joey Holder's Ophiux**  
 (Courtesy of Wysing Arts Centre)

### Saturday 1 Cambridge Art Fair Guildhall

While aimed at buyers, with tickets at £4, it's a good opportunity to see modern and contemporary art on Market Square. Also open on 2nd October. Visit: [cambridgeartfair.com](http://cambridgeartfair.com)

### Sunday 2 Nina Conti Corn Exchange

Tickets still available for the comedian's Cambridge-stop in her *In Your Face* tour at the Corn Exchange. Visit: [cambridgelivetrust.co.uk](http://cambridgelivetrust.co.uk)

### Tuesday 4 Two Man Show The Junction

Tickets are also still available for local RashDash's Two Man Show, which takes aim at masculinity and patriarchy with Visit: [junction.co.uk](http://junction.co.uk)

### Wednesday 5 OPEN DECK Portland Arms

The classic gig where you bring your own records and dance along. Get information at [theportland-arms.co.uk](http://theportland-arms.co.uk) (Sold out.)

### Thursday 6 Art on Mars Fitzwilliam

A chance to see Damien Hirst's *Beagle 2*, and the COLOUR exhibition after hours, followed by a lecture with physicist Andrew Coates at the Fitzwilliam. Booking essential.

### Chris Newman and Friends Hidden Rooms

This eclectic group bring jazz, ragtime, blues, gentle ballads and rock and roll to the Hidden Rooms, a little-known cocktail bar on Jesus Lane. £5 in advance, £8 on the door.

### Turf Kuda

As usual, some of the best in dance music, with Dan Shake, who played an impressive Boiler Room set in February, and Byron The Aquarius, who formerly produced for Eminem. The night continues until 4am, and advance tickets quickly sell out.

### Gravy Train Hot Numbers

For something a little more relaxed, but retaining the funk, the Gwydir Street branch hosts a jazz/funk fusion trio, selling craft ales and good wine. Visit: [hotnumberscoffee.co.uk](http://hotnumberscoffee.co.uk)

### Friday 7 Afro Tema Hot Numbers

Local artist originating from Dakar in Senegal fuses reggae and Afro-Latin vibes. With the Steak and Honour food van for dinner. Visit: [hotnumberscoffee.co.uk](http://hotnumberscoffee.co.uk)

If you'd like to submit an event for our listings, send details to [culture@varsity.co.uk](mailto:culture@varsity.co.uk)





# Varsity Introducing...

# Hannah Fytche



Want to recommend someone for Varsity Introducing? Email us at: [interviews@varsity.co.uk](mailto:interviews@varsity.co.uk)

Christian author and blogger Hannah Fytche speaks to **Anna Jennings** about her published book *God's Daughters*, her need to write, and the insecurities we all share

## When did you start writing?

I've always written things. I have embarrassing notebooks full of stories that I wrote as a child. Writing is something I can't not do. I started writing blog posts for Rhythms [now Tearfund Lifestyle] in 2014, but Christianity has always featured in my writing because it's a part of me – the fingerprints of the writer are always all over the writing.

## How did the book come about?

My mentor knew a publisher who was looking for young Christian writers, and I thought they'd want me to do a blog post series, but instead I got an email asking me to write a book. I was 17 at the time, and very surprised, but delighted to accept.

## What is *God's Daughters* about?

It's about the pressures we all face to be good enough – clever enough, good-looking enough, perhaps even holy enough – in order to be accepted, approved, and loved by other people.

I think that on some level we all crave that. I wrote it specifically for girls because self-image for girls rather than guys is something I personally know more about; however, while it's stemming from my own experiences, I think the message *God's Daughters* communicates is applicable to everyone.

The book encourages readers to reflect for themselves, and helps them to discover the Bible – what God speaks into each situation. Each chapter ends with some questions for further thought and a song that is connected to the content of the chapter.



## How do you find reading back what you've written – have you changed, or are you the same person?

A bit of both. There are some things in the book from when I'm 14 or 15, but there's lots of parts in the book where I'm still learning the same lessons. There have been times when I've gone back to bits of the book and told myself that I need to listen to myself more. That's part of the joy of it – that I can look back on it as a letter to myself.

## Were you nervous about the book being published?

When you're sitting in a room by yourself writing, you forget how much of yourself you're putting into the work – your own anecdotes, stories and vulnerabilities. There are people out there reading the stuff I've written that I've never met and probably never will meet. And yes, that's a little bit scary but quite exciting as well. I was only nervous about it being published once I'd sent the manuscript in and realised that this was actually happening.

## ▲ Hannah studies Theology at Clare College (Hannah Fytche)

## You study Theology at Cambridge. How does your writing interact with your studies?

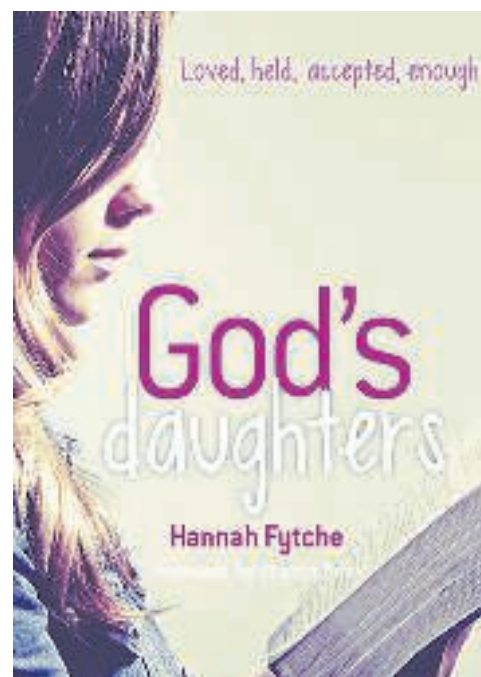
Often, as a Christian, you get warned before studying Theology at a secular university that it'll challenge your faith and that you're not going to come out the same.

But I've actually found it hasn't challenged me to the point of breaking, but rather deepened my faith.

## What about the future?

There's more that I want to write, which could perhaps go in a book form. I'm in conversation with the publishers, but there's nothing concrete yet. And it's not just about what I write, but about giving other people a voice.

I think I'd like to look more into working to give a voice to people who don't have one ●



Hannah Fytche's novel, *God's Daughters*, is available now.

You can find Hannah on Twitter (@hannah\_fytche) and on her blog, [www.createdenough.wordpress.com](http://www.createdenough.wordpress.com)



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# Fashion

## Celebrating the gown

Just as the leaves fall, the days become shorter and clouds cover the sky, Cambridge gets flooded by gowns at the beginning of every Michaelmas. Exclusive and odd, academical dresses are a key part of the quintessential Cantabrigian background

PHOTOGRAPHER  
Nitin Sharma

FASHION EDITOR  
Agustin Ferrari Braun

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Miriam Balanescu



I remember visiting Cambridge before I started my degree, and, by chance, turning up on graduation day, when the town was bustling with people dressed in black and white, each and every one wearing strange, furry hoods. Rather embarrassingly, I even remember wondering whether these students were all part of some explorers' society, back from an Arctic expedition, something along those lines. Anyway, little did I know that they were exhibiting the staple of the Cambridge wardrobe: the gown.

Gowns have been part of academic dress since the Middle Ages, initially starting out as a sweeping floor-length clerical dress. As time went on, things were spiced up a little; hoods changed, the length changed, and even colour was allowed (though only for the most important university members). Today there is an impressive range of gowns, depending on college, subject, or academic level. Throughout its long history, the gown hasn't survived just to provide warmth, shelter from rain, or to act as a cloak of invisibility, but its principal purpose is to show status.

It is odd to think that even in 1869, when women were first admitted to the University, they didn't wear gowns. For so long, gowns have been part of a male-only world, often associated with snobbery, extravagance and a picturesque life straight out of *Brideshead Revisited*. What is essentially a frilly overcoat, seemingly

used to be a ticket into the tiny Cambridge bubble and a pass to get you out of the real world. Thankfully, things have changed. There are many more people from many more backgrounds now, with a gown slung over their shoulders, pairing it with brightly coloured suits and fabulous dresses.

But still, the gown poses problems. However much the university changes, the gown is still a symbol of status. People parade around the streets of Cambridge in formal dress by day and by night, and we can't begin to imagine how alienating this could be for the local community. Despite this, walking or cycling through town in a gown is a bizarrely liberating and exhilarating experience. Perhaps because it is something you know you will never be able to do back at home, perhaps because it makes you feel more sophisticated than you did before you moved into college. It doesn't feel all too bad dressing up for formal hall every other week.

After all, the gown is a sign of academic achievement, and it's difficult not to feel a little bit proud when wearing one. It is another stitch in the tapestry of a very unique university lifestyle, one that sometimes doesn't feel very far from being at Hogwarts. Academics have been dressed in gowns since the University was founded, and it is quite special to be able to carry on such a tradition. Like all fashion, all style choices and outfit decisions, the gown expresses part of your identity. The gown features in several photos of key

“However much the uni changes, the gown is still a symbol of status”

events, from matriculation to graduation, and you will probably wear it with some of your favourite and smartest clothes while you fight your way through your degree. As a fashion item it is, therefore, just a tad important.

So I guess the gown is a tradition we can afford to keep. There are issues surrounding it, but I'm sure it will continue to evolve with the rest of fashion, just as it has already transformed from the plain, clerical dress it used to be. The gown makes any outfit instantly classier, goes great with anything (especially velvet dresses and white stilettos), and, while wearing one and sitting at a candle-lit dinner in hall, you can pretend, for a moment, that you are in Harry Potter ●





Check out Varsity Fashion's Instagram photos: [instagram.com/varsityfashionuk](https://www.instagram.com/varsityfashionuk) 



MODELS  
Jade Cuttle  
Renchun Ho  
Stephanie Ashenden  
Jasper Vardag-Hunter

## THE NEW H&M ADVERT

# When integration meets domination

**Agustin Ferrari Braun**  
Fashion Editor

We can all agree upon the fact that the advertising world is terrible to women. Whether it is by imposing impossible beauty standards or by reducing women to a mere commodity for men, the marketing business has always been one of the strongest bastions of the patriarchy. However, during the last few years we have seen how this trend started to change. As feminism became something cool and commercially useful, a word that could be used as an entire background for a singer to perform in front of, publicists started to play with this idea, trying to exploit it in their products. The latest example of this tendency being the advertising of the last H&M autumn collection. The whole point of the clip is to feature models that do not correspond to the traditional image of beauty that we expect from a fashion video: Black women, LGBT women, overweight women, hairy women....By acknowledging the existence of all these women who are different in their own



▲ **H&M's latest campaign uses feminism for commercial purposes (YouTube: H&M)**

way, the advertising aims to be seen as something of an empowerment statement. It is not.

The message that I think this video conveys is indeed an integrating one: all women can be sexualised by men, no matter their race, body or sexual orientation. The advertisement makes you adopt a masculine perspective, and the women featured in it endure the symbolic violence that is normally reserved to models that correspond to traditional beauty standards. We thus see the fragmentation of the overweight model's body by the

sole display of her butt and her breasts. We gaze at the hypersexualisation of the hairy woman who is placed on a bed with an evident connotation. We regard the representation of the old woman with a suit as a femme fatale, one of the stereotypical female roles.

We even look at black women not showing any kind of education in a dining room, which is supposed to be "bad-ass", in the words of the company, but that is just the old association between sex and the breaking of social rules.

All this is joined by a version of the classic song 'She is a lady', a version that is cut off at the end of the second verse, when the singer says "and the lady is mine".

This commercial is, as any other, just a display of the hegemonic vision of women that permeates society as a whole. The problem comes when this manifestation of masculine fantasy is presented as a feminist product. If this discourse is accepted, the product will not be equality between genders but rather an equal distribution of masculine domination. And that is not exactly empowering, is it? ●

 **Read an extended version of this article at [varsity.co.uk/fashion](http://varsity.co.uk/fashion)**



# Theatre

## Taking a show to the Edinburgh Fringe

**Alex Ridley**  
Assistant Producer, *Alice*

**T**he Edinburgh Fringe Festival. These words alone make a theatre fan's heart beat a little faster. Over 3,000 troupes of actors, directors and techies migrate to the heart of Scotland for a month, and the city turns into a thespian's paradise. The whole city plays host to these performances, from back rooms in dingy bars, to cars driving around the city with a tiny audience sitting in the back (an innovative idea by another Cambridge show!).

I was lucky enough to attend this year as Assistant Producer for *Alice*. We'd already had a fantastic sell out run in Cambridge during Lent Term, during which I was Deputy Stage Manager, so I was incredibly excited to help take this show onto a larger stage and a much larger audience. *Alice* was a contemporary circus interpretation of the classic *Alice in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass* stories. It was completely devised by Joanna Vymeris, the director, with bits of wacky dialogue lifted straight from Lewis Carroll's books. The result was a truly magical hour of dancing, aerial circus, gymnastics, juggling and acting, and I can assure you I had no problem watching it over and over again for 13 days in a row!

I arrived in Edinburgh late one evening when the festival was already in full swing – our run was in the last two weeks of the four-week festival. When I walked out of Waverley train station it felt like I was in a different world, despite having visited Edinburgh a number of times before. The atmosphere was like nothing else. Pulling up at the student accommodation we had booked for our ambitious

team of 30, I had no idea whether they had received my close to £10,000 payment, which I had sent off a few nights before with shaking hands, praying it wasn't an elaborate scam. Fortunately we did have somewhere to stay for the next two weeks, and my exorbitant payment wasn't lost in cyber-land. Unfortunately, our technical rehearsal on the stage the next day was cut short by some double scheduling and miscommunication, and we were faced with the prospect of performing our first show in front of a paying audience without having been able to have a full tech rehearsal, let alone a dress rehearsal!

Thanks to our Producer Jamie Rycroft's fantastic ability, and a few last-minute rehearsals scheduled by Joanna, the first and following 12 performances progressed smoothly with great feedback from the audience and positive online reviews. We had over 1,800 people watch *Alice*, and

▼ *Alice* during its ADC run in January (Johannes Hjorth)



“  
It felt  
like I  
was in a  
different  
world...”  
”

we contributed 13 to the total of 50,549 performances at the festival.

Our afternoons were spent flying on the Royal Mile, where it wasn't too difficult to generate attention once our jugglers and gymnasts started working their magic, as well as watching as many other shows as possible. I watched about 30 shows while I was there, and was surprised by the amount and variety of what was on offer. I saw magic shows, stand-up, musical and sketch comedy, plays, musicals and new-devised writing. The amount of talent on display was incredible, and I felt extremely lucky and privileged to be able to spend two weeks of my summer fully concentrated on helping to create, and watch, art.

So, would I go back next year? Absolutely. However, it is a very expensive endeavour. This year, I was fortunate enough to be involved in a show that I genuinely loved and was passionate about. If I'm not so lucky next year I might go up for just a couple days and pack in as many shows as I can (I know someone who saw 12 shows in 36 hours!). The Fringe turns 70 next year, and I hope it continues long after that as the magical theatre playground that I encountered this year ●

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## Freshers: Don't be cowed by Cambridge Theatre

Sarah Wilson

Big fish, small pond. Small fish, big pond. It is the maxim every new student encounters at least once before and once during their time at Cambridge, and it never bothered me much. Getting a place at King's was enough for me; I was happy to muddle along with my academic work, no longer wanting to be the best of the best. What nobody told me, however, is that this pond wasn't just made up of talented academics, but talented writers, poets, and actors too.

From a young age, I had always been involved in plays and productions, and I naively envisioned that I might follow the likes of John Cleese or Stephen

▲► Adam Butler Rushton and Sarah Wilson in *Tate Post-modern* (Johannes Hjorth)

Fry, and breeze into the Footlights and the theatre scene to continue my love of performance at Cambridge. Sticking to my guns, I rolled up to an audition for one of the freshers' plays, making it through the first round, but flopping at the second. My timing was off, my voice faltered, and I vaguely remember cringing as my 'American' accent fell down somewhere in Australasia. I knew the second I stepped out of the room that I had messed up, but when the rejection came through, I couldn't move past it as used to do. Already feeling like an imposter in my academic work, I took it as a sign that the calibre here was simply too high for me. As term went by, I watched gloomily as the same people cropped up again and again in different productions, falling into the ADC clique, and despaired at a (terrible) swap when some tosser 'fined' anyone who didn't have Camdram credits; something I'd never even heard of. I lost confidence in myself, feeling as though I'd missed out on membership to a very exclusive and insular club. It was only in second term



that I finally plucked up any courage to audition again, and was shocked when I was given a leading role. The show *Tate Cambridge* was an immersive piece set in an art gallery, and during a term where I struggled with personal and work-related issues, it was a godsend. I made friends with people outside college, and remembered how much fun performing can be. Later, we revised the show and took it to the Edinburgh Fringe, where it proved the most exciting/hilarious/fun experience I've had at university so far. At the end of the year, my biggest regret looking back was letting one of my favourite things become such an anxiety, and not auditioning more.

Freshers' Week is the best time to get involved, you have nothing to lose but much to gain by having a go. As with many things at Cambridge, the theatre scene can appear cliquey and nepotistic, but you can make of it what you want. Most students get only nine short terms here; it is a waste to spend any of them believing you're not good enough to do something you enjoy ●

## Opening this week

**Tuesday 4th**

CAST 2016: *As You Like It*, ADC, 7:45pm (till 8th)

*Walnut Sanchez and the Macaroni Saga*, Corpus, 9:30pm (till 8th)

*Lagoon: Footlights International Tour*, ADC, 11pm (till 8th)



▲ CAST 2016:  
*As You Like It*

**Thursday 6th**

*Girton: The Musical*, Old Hall, Girton College, 9:30pm

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# Music

A FRESHER'S GUIDE  
TO LOCAL  
MUSIC

**Staying  
cultured  
in Cambridge**

**Perdi Higgs**  
Music Columnist

**S**o I will wholly admit that when I moved to Cambridge last year, my expectations for good live music were not staggeringly high. That said, the London cynic in me was reassuringly met with a surprisingly vibrant music scene, with a fun variety of gigs at the centre of it.

Don't underestimate the importance of music when you are first arriving as a fresher. Making your first friends is pretty much defined by desperately grasping at one thing the two of you may have in common and making it into an alliance. Music is key for this, and has personally been tried and tested. Nothing breaks the ice more than asking a girl you've met like twice to go see Father John Misty with you on the other side of Cambridge – but we have been friends ever since. The silver lining of a city the size of Cambridge is the small venues. Often, you can see bands perform in a venue a quarter the size of what they would play in London, and often in tiny spaces like pub attics where you get a low-key and intimate experience that is really special.

For the best selection of alternative shows, the Portland Arms is undoubtedly the best port of call. Do not let the name deceive you – while the Portland Arms is a pub, it is a little hub of live music. They have some really exciting acts and are a classic stop for artists touring the UK; last year I saw Hinds and Låpsley both at the Portland Arms while they were on their European tours. Looking at the calendar for this term, they have some really cool people. Look out for Sorority Noise on the 11th October, and Hooton Tennis Club on the 3rd November.

The bigger acts will probably play the Corn Exchange (right off of Market Square), and last year it was the tour stop for The Vaccines, as well as the Last Shadow Puppets. A likely popular show will be Laura Mvula, playing at the Corn Exchange as part of the Cambridge Jazz Festival on 24th November, so look to grab tickets as soon as possible.

“  
Keep an  
eye out  
for what  
is going  
on with-  
in your  
own  
college  
”

▼ **The  
Portland  
Arms  
hosts reg-  
ular gigs  
(AWool-  
dridges)**



Most arriving in Cambridge will soon find that their notions of 'far away' will radically change. The Cambridge Junction is located at a repulsive 28-minute walk from the centre of Cambridge – but if you can stagger there, it is often the host of really cool live artists and bands (or just get a cab). Junction is actually made up of three different rooms, which can be split for smaller shows. The Mystery Jets are playing on 12th October, and Primal Scream on 5th December, which should be really cool. Sometimes, for larger nights the entire place is opened up, such as when Junction hosts drum and bass/house nights, which are the largest of their size in Cambridge (but remember, this is Cambridge, not Bristol, so do not get your hopes up massively).

Going out and finding new venues and attending these gigs is a really great way to keep your head slightly outside of the immersive college bubble that you will likely find yourself living comfortably in as a fresher. But there are also lots of opportunities for live music closer to home. Keep an eye out for what is going on within your own college (most host regular open mic nights of some sort). There are also college-hosted nights that are open to all, and student bands perform. In particular Clare-ents is a fun night hosted within the cellars of Clare, as well as King's Bunkers nights that are located underground at King's. So the point is that, in terms of live music in Cambridge, there is a lot more than meets the eye. Some you have to go out and find, and others you just have to roll out of bed and stumble to your college bar. For the best updates about what live music is coming up, I would recommend utilising Facebook by liking venue pages for new announcements, or just checking the calendars on each venue's website. Go out, explore, and remember: if it's more than 20 minutes away, it is probably more effort than it's worth ●

CONFESSIONS OF AN ACA-HOLIC

## How I learned to stop worrying and love a cappella



**Nicholas Wong**

**L**et's get one thing straight: I'm a HUGE a cappella nerd. I've loved a cappella with a burning passion since I watched Out of the Blue's 'Don't You Want Me Baby' on YouTube at 14, back before it had any semblance of coolness. Back before *Pitch Perfect*, and before Pentatonix hadn't even appeared on NBC's *The Sing-Off* yet, let alone released their cover of 'Somebody that I Used to Know' (I'm an a cappella hipster. Bite me).

I have met amazing people who love a cappella as much as I do, and who have helped me to realise that what you see on *Pitch Perfect*, YouTube or at the Fringe isn't necessarily the pinnacle of a cappella.

As soppy as it sounds, it's about singing with your friends, and helping to make other people happy, one inappropriately choreographed song at a time.

As my time in Cambridge draws to a close, the a cappella scene is enjoying a renaissance. Last year Fitz Barbershop drew international attention, performing in the Netherlands in Easter, and China on a joint tour

▲ **The Cambridge a cappella scene is thriving (Cadenza)**

with the fabulous Fitz Sirens, having combined in August for a show at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Cadenza was also busy, attracting the glamorous Vanderbilt Melodores for a concert, and returning triumphantly as Voice Festival Competition Finalists, with prizes for outstanding arrangement and mu-

sicality. Not content with that, Cadenza is also undergoing a major rebranding, with recordings, music videos and a stint at the Fringe on the horizon.

But it's not just these groups. Many more groups are becoming staples of the Cambridge a cappella scene: AcaPembroke, Catzapella, the Gonville Girls are just a few of the rising tide. With murmurings of an a cappella society starting, these are truly exciting times to be in Cambridge if you're an a cappella nerd like me.

But even if you're not, why not see what all the fuss is about? Most of the groups will be at the Freshers' Fair, so come down for a chat and sign up for an audition that could change your life ●

“  
Many  
more  
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are be-  
coming  
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of the  
scene  
”



★★★★★ = AMAZING  
 ★★★★★ = GREAT  
 ★★★★★ = GOOD

★★☆☆☆ = OK  
 ★☆☆☆☆ = BAD  
 ☆☆☆☆☆ = ABYSMAL

To listen to Varsity's Spotify playlist, go to:  
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## New releases

### ALBUM

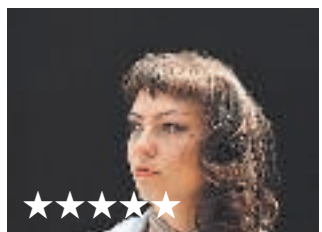


★★★★★  
**Together, As One**  
 Laura Jurd

Technically an album by her band Dinosaur, Laura Jurd has displayed a maturity and virtuosity on *Together, As One* that is well beyond her years. Having been rightly crowned a BBC New Generation Artist, this British trumpet player is on her way to becoming one of most interesting and talented jazz musicians

this side of the pond. The haunting track 'Underdog' recalls the *Bitches Brew* era of Miles Davis but brings a modern element that has recently been pioneered by trumpeters like Terence Blanchard. *Together, As One* is a highlight of the early fall and one that stands in the same league of many cutting-edge releases around the globe ●

### ALBUM



★★★★★  
**My Woman**  
 Angel Olsen

*My Woman* is Angel Olsen's best album to date. Following 2014's *Burn Your Fire for No Witness*, Olsen has produced something bolder and brighter. It's clear that she is well acquainted with the traditions of American pop, yet rather than mock or mindlessly rehearse them, she's

done something better: bring them together to create something distinctive, perhaps best exemplified by 'Shut Up Kiss Me'. Despite the stylistic diversity, Olsen's stunning voice and simple ear for melody hold the album together. We should treasure a record this clever, yet so plainly enjoyable ●

### THE TOP

## Albums of the week



### Heads Up Warpaint

An increased emphasis on beats serves as an effective balancer to their distinctive echoing vocals and moody guitars, and grounds the drifting melodies with a sense of purpose ★★★★★



### How to Be a Human Being Glass Animals

A portfolio of vivid vignettes compiled by lead singer Dave Bayley. The essential element of humanity sets this album in a different league from many recent releases ★★★★★

Got your own Top Albums List? Email it to [music@varsity.co.uk](mailto:music@varsity.co.uk)

# Tackling Peak-time Congestion in Cambridge

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# Reviews

## THE TOP 5

### Picks from over the summer



#### Stranger Things

★★★★★

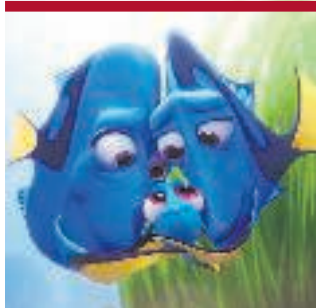
Netflix's big summer hit is a love letter to 80s sci-fi and horror. *Stranger Things* is a show that is lovable, unexpected and, at points, damn near terrifying.



#### Fleabag

★★★★★

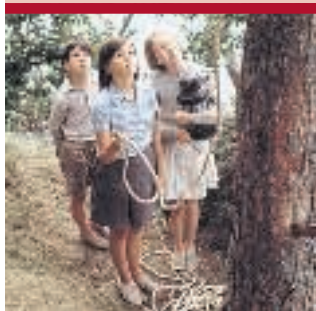
*Fleabag* is a comedy unafraid to mix in dark realities. Phoebe Waller-Bridge is sex-obsessed *Fleabag*, struggling to run a guinea-pig-themed cafe.



#### Finding Dory

★★★★☆

While it never quite loses its status as a sequel, a cast of new, interesting and funny characters allows *Finding Dory* to stand on its own.



#### Swallows and Amazons

★★★★☆

A loving and careful adaptation of Arthur Ransome's 1930 novel, *Swallows and Amazons*. A beautifully shot, faithful adaptation.



#### The Great British Bake Off

★★★★☆

With each challenge billed as 'the hardest ever', a mix of complete disaster and resounding success keeps the show a winner.



## Bridget Jones's Baby

★★★★☆

By Genevieve Cox

All it takes is one sequel to ruin an entire series of movies – or books, for that matter – and this was the foremost worry in my mind on arriving to see the latest installment of the Bridget Jones franchise: would *Bridget Jones's Baby* ruin the previous hilarity of *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*?

Yet my qualms and apprehensions were entirely unnecessary! Despite 12 years passing since the last film – with the first two being released only three years apart – *Bridget Jones's Baby* not only managed to retain the fun and laughter of previous Bridget Jones films but also embedded elements relevant to contemporary society. In more updated situations

“Her witty comments and timed overlaps were especially amusing”

– music festivals, TV news reports, and current celebrities, including a feature from Ed Sheeran(!) – Bridget retains her loveable clumsiness and fatal attraction for awkwardness with her unplanned, mystery-father pregnancy. The much-loved 'Bridget moments' of 'how to quit your job in style', 'how to embarrass and be embarrassed by your mother' or 'how to misunderstand Mark Darcy' are incorporated and entangled in the new plot. The new film also explores the difficulties of being a single parent, and reaches the ultimate conclusion that it really does “take two men” to handle a woman as large – in her pregnant state as well as in her fun personality – as Bridget Jones!

I was amazed at how well Renée Zellweger managed to recapture Bridget despite the gap between this and the former movies. Despite her age, and having a “tin of soup in my cupboard older than...”, Bridget is no longer a ‘middle-aged spinster’ but a single, career-focused woman with the potential to be a ‘cougar’ who is, as she puts it, “ready to roll with the ironic bearded hipsters”. She has a passion for life that lights up the screen and leaves you with a positively feel-good emotion: “Hashtag let's do this!”

Although my friend missed the presence of the charming, bad-boy-lover

▲ Renée Zellweger reprised her role as Bridget (Universal)

▼ Patrick Dempsey is a new love interest (Universal)

Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant), additions to the cast certainly fuelled and added to the sense of fun. New man around town Jack Qwant (Patrick Dempsey) seamlessly steps into the shoes of ‘dead’ Daniel Cleaver and Bridget censors herself: “Cannot fall in love with shiny, new American.” The addition of a new female best friend, Miranda (Sarah Solemani), to help Bridget get into even more trouble than usual was definitely a wise move. Not only does Miranda's character help to explain the development of the more career-focused Bridget, she also creates comedy in the workplace. Her witty comments and timed overlaps in dual conversations – one with Bridget via microphone and the other in a live presentation on TV – were especially amusing. Yet a personal favourite moment has to be Bridget's failure to recognise Ed Sheeran, mistaking his familiarity for “the guy in Starbucks” and asking him to take a photo of her and her friend, not with him.

*Bridget Jones's Baby* is a film packed with laugh-out-loud moments. Star-studded and full of comedy, it definitely exceeds expectations and fulfils the criteria for a hilarious night out at the cinema ●





★★★★★ = AMAZING  
★★★★☆ = GREAT  
★★★☆☆ = GOOD

★★☆☆☆ = OK  
★☆☆☆☆ = BAD  
☆☆☆☆☆ = ABYSMAL

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# Autumn openings

by Rosie Best

## Doctor Strange

Out: 25th October

For someone who doesn't usually engage with Marvel films I am actually quite intrigued by the upcoming film *Doctor Strange*. It will be the fourteenth film from the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and tells the story of the fictional neurosurgeon Stephen Strange's (Benedict Cumberbatch) car crash and subsequent recovery; it is during his recovery that he encounters the Ancient One (Tilda Swinton) and learns about the 'mystic arts'.

Honestly, this all means very little to me – after at

least half an hour of Googling, I'm still not sure who The Ancient One is. However, the portrayal of alternate realities and the incorporation of this within a superhero film does seem to have the potential to add an exciting new dimension to the movie.

In the trailer these alternate realities and the manipulation of them are represented through mind-bending visual effects, and Benedict Cumberbatch seems to be channelling an element of *Sherlock* in his portrayal of the intelligent and gifted Doctor Strange. Highly anticipated for many Marvel fans, perhaps this movie also has a chance of attracting some newcomers to the superhero scene ●



◀ Benedict Cumberbatch as Doctor Strange (Disney)

Check out the full list online at:  
[varsity.co.uk](http://varsity.co.uk)

## Moana

Out: 25th October

Disney's latest animated film is scheduled for release late this autumn and clearly represents an effort by the studios to achieve something new. *Moana* features a female lead and, on top of this, seeks to explore Polynesian culture by drawing on the various legends of Māui – a heroic figure who, among other things, is said to have brought the Hawaiian islands up from the ocean floor with his fish-hook and to have slowed down the sun.

Through the central character of Moana (Auli'i

Cravalho), who has no love interest but does possess the magical ability to control the ocean, the studio also seems to have created an empowered and independent female character reminiscent of Queen Elsa in *Frozen*.

It is safe to say that the recent controversy and accusations of cultural appropriation, sparked by the Māui costume sold and then discontinued by Disney, has cast a shadow over the film's release. Nevertheless, when the film is released in early December, we must judge *Moana* for ourselves. It will be interesting to see that both the directors have chosen to portray Polynesian culture and legend, and how viewers will respond ●

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# Sport

## SUMMER ROUND-UP

### AN ABSOLUTE BELTER

#### Karate

**September** A five-strong team from the Cambridge University Karate Club (CUKC) travelled to Chesterfield to compete at the Shotokan Cup, where two Light Blues were unfortunately eliminated at the hands of England team members. Nonetheless, CUKC did return home with some success, as Marcus Ingham managed to clinch a bronze medal.

### A BIT OF HORSEPLAY

#### Polo

**July** Cambridge University Polo Club (CUPC) travelled to Tianjin in China to face off against five of the world's leading universities at the Metropolitan Intervarsity Polo Tournament. Competing against Oxford, Harvard, Cornell, University of London, and Skidmore College, CUPC registered one win and two losses but finished in fifth place overall.

### HUNGARY FOR SUCCESS

#### Lacrosse

**September** Cambridge University Lacrosse Club travelled to Hungary with the Oxbridge All-Stars team for their 2016 Tour, where they faced off against Bulgaria, Croatia and a team from the Israel Premier Lacrosse League (IPPL).

The Oxbridge All-Stars reached the Championship final against IPPL where, despite grabbing the early goal and striking the woodwork in the first half, they were beaten by the pre-tournament favourites 5-1.

For more Sport updates, check out [varsity.co.uk/sport](http://varsity.co.uk/sport)

### CAM ON, CUCC!

#### Canoe Polo

**June** Cambridge University Canoe Club (CUCC) faced Oxford in the canoe polo Varsity match on the River Cam.

The women narrowly lost 5-4 when Oxford grabbed victory with a golden goal, but there was some success for the Light Blues: in the men's match, a hat-trick from Nathan Hammond secured Cambridge a 6-2 win.

### BREXIT? WHAT BREXIT?

#### Swimming

**July** The six-strong Cambridge Varsity Channel Relay team managed to complete the epic swim across the English Channel. Swimming in hour-long turns, they reached French shores in a time of 9 hours and 28 minutes.

### A STICKY START

#### Hockey

**September** The men's team season opener's was a 2-0 loss to Letchworth.

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### Jonty Leibowitz Arrivederci, Joe Hart, the reluctant pioneer

So Joe Hart and his dandruff-less hair have swapped the crowded smog of Manchester for the sunny promenades of Turin. England's number one, who has always resembled a fan let onto the pitch for his sheer enthusiasm, has been sacrificed at the altar of Pep's great Northern revolution. He now finds himself in new territory, keeping goal for a Torino side who linger around the middle of the Italian Serie A.

The initial reaction in the British press to Joe's reverse-Brexit has been one of mild bemusement and intrigue. British footballers, we have been told, do not go abroad. Or at least, they only go abroad when things go wrong at home – think Joe Cole, Micah Richards, or Joey Barton. The iconic image of a modern British footballer abroad must surely be 'lurking' Ashley Cole, awkwardly perched not quite in the Roma squad, not quite out of it. He left after making only 11 appearances for the club.

Going back further, the annals of British football history seem to be littered with players who have not quite made it abroad. Ian Rush hit the nail on the head when, upon returning from a disastrous season with Juventus, he bemoaned the fact that living in Italy "felt like living in a foreign country". Successes have been few and far between, and almost always short lived. Gary Lineker, in the days when he kept his trousers on, scored an infamous hat-trick for Barcelona in El Clásico. Kevin Keegan starred for Hamburg, and Glenn Hoddle shone on the Monaco coast. More recently, Steve McManaman and David Beckham were beloved by Real Madrid



◀ Joe Hart in action

(PHOTOGRAPH: FLICKR/JOHRLING)

fans, although Jonathan Woodgate and Michael Owen somewhat less.

Yet despite the rare success story, the basic fact remains that not enough British footballers play abroad, and when they do they rarely succeed. When this issue is considered, we usually write it off as unimportant. "Why would an English player want to leave the best league in the world?" we ask ourselves. "Besides, who wants to live in Europe anyway?"

In one sense, this is true: the Premier League remains the world's top division, and will always be the main object for any British player. However, the fact remains that the reluctance of British footballers to move abroad has been bad for not only our footballing culture but the development of the British game itself. It has meant that rather than immersing ourselves in the innovative and creative development of European football, we have remained isolated and underdeveloped. The 'Barcajax' tactical revolution of the 1990s – when gifted Ajax players were brought into the Barcelona squad – failed to trickle its way into the English game because no English players were learning it. Think what could have been if Paul Scholes had been playing alongside a young Xavi or Iniesta at Barcelona.

True, the influx of foreign managers to the Premier League has partially redressed the impasse between us and the rest of the footballing world. However, there is still a long way to go, and arguably the same logic can be applied to managers. If more English managers took opportunities abroad, surely we would see a better quality of English coaching. Whatever you might make of Roy Hodgson, his career was indelibly improved by going abroad. Britain missing out on

tactical and footballing innovation might be the main tragedy of our exporting deficit, but it is not the only one. On a far simpler – and perhaps even irrelevant – level, it has meant that British players have missed out on the gloriously random moments that a continent of footballing opportunities can offer. When Paul Lambert left Motherwell in 1996, he was tempted to join Aberdeen. A year later, he was instead lifting the Champions League with Borussia Dortmund. Look at every Premier League squad this season, and you will see British players who are getting restricted playing time. If only they took the plunge, they could return in a couple seasons with medals, trophies and a career's worth of new experiences.

Part of the explanation must also go deeper. Young British children are not taught European languages at school, and in general, our culture retains elements of an almost aggressive anti-Europeanism. One could almost imagine David Davis trotting into a school playground and reminding young boys and girls playing football that 'Brexit means Brexit'. Football alone might not be able to redress these problems, but it can help. In the last year, Welsh schools have reported an increase in pupils wanting to learn Spanish, inspired by Gareth Bale.

So good luck to Joe Hart as he embarks upon his Italian job. British football would do well to lose its parochial attachment to home and begin making up for lost time on the Continent. Europe might feel like a "foreign country" for most of our players, but it doesn't need to be. Just try and stay off the spaghetti.

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# Hamilton vs Rosberg: The great versus the good?

**Charlie Stone**  
Deputy Sports Editor

All of a sudden, Nico Rosberg's ahead. Lewis Hamilton, 19 points ahead after 13 races of this year's Formula 1 World Championship, was widely expected to dominate yet another F1 season. Instead, Rosberg's win in Singapore, his third in a row, has provided another twist in a topsy-turvy championship fight between these drivers.

This is one of the most exciting rivalries in recent memory. Mercedes's dominance over the constructors' championship has left other drivers mere backing figures to the struggles, spats, and controversies between Hamilton and Rosberg: two drivers, in their prime, fighting to be the best. The excitement that is seen every race weekend – something that F1 has lacked in past years – prompts the question: are we witnessing one of the great racing rivalries?

In short, we are not. There is no doubt that Hamilton can – and will – go on to be one of the legendary F1 drivers: his exciting, risk-taking style of driving has already won him three world championships and he shows no sign of relenting. His big personality, whether he be crowd-surfing in Silverstone or celebrating wildly over the team radio, never fails to entertain. And Nico provides a

worthy opponent.

But that is just it: he is only a worthy opponent. The Mercedes story is really the Hamilton story, for Rosberg has not had a say late in a championship until, perhaps, now. In 2014, Hamilton did make up a 25-point gap to Rosberg three times but still went on to win the championship by a significant margin. In 2015, he won easily – most of Rosberg's wins came after the championship was as good as decided.

Admittedly, Hamilton is not on top this year, but it is nonetheless hard to see Nico as a great in his own right. Where Hamilton is exhilarating, Rosberg is mechanical. Where Hamilton is unlucky, Rosberg is lucky. In fact, many

**19**  
**How many points ahead Hamilton was after 13 races this season**

people still attribute the tightness of the championship to two things: the utter dominance of the Mercedes over the other constructors, and Hamilton's terrible luck early on in the season.

Indeed, it is hard to argue that Rosberg's 43-point lead that he accumulated early on this season was entirely down to his own skill: Hamilton's car was extremely unreliable – so much so that he

questioned his own team's loyalties – and the fact that the Brit has achieved a 62-point swing so quickly puts Rosberg's fighting qualities into doubt. There always persists the feeling that this is again Hamilton's year: the gulf between the two drivers seems to run far deeper than just on the leaderboard.

Classic F1 rivalries were always between two truly great drivers. The 1970s were dominated by Niki Lauda and James Hunt: two wildly different personalities – Hunt, an outlandish Englishman with a playboy attitude, the like of which had never before been seen in F1, while Lauda was an efficient, ruthless driver, completely dedicated to his job. Their tussles were so exciting that they inspired a major Hollywood film, Ron Howard's *Rush*, and numerous documentaries. In 1976 for example, Hunt won the championship by a single point against Lauda, who had almost died in a horrific accident at the Nürburgring and had led by more than 30 points until Hunt pipped him in the final race. Later on, especially in 1989 and 1990, it was Ayrton Senna versus Alain Prost. Their relationship was tumultuous and their collisions shocking, and they brought probably the most famous moment in F1 history: at the 1990 Japanese Grand Prix, both flew together into the gravel at Turn 1 to ensure that Senna became champion.



Hamilton in action at Monaco 2016

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW LOCKING

Importantly, in those days, success was down to driving rather than the cars. As Lauda described: "It's different today, but then it was a tougher time. Every race we went out and survived, we celebrated, had a party. It was a different time." Indeed, it was a dangerous time where drivers would risk their lives whenever they went out onto the track: a time where Senna would tragically lose his. So when these fierce rivalries are examined in the light of today's, Hamilton and Rosberg do not compare. It is thrilling, of course, but it is hard to escape the feeling that Rosberg is only a good driver in a great car and always struggling to escape his teammate's shadow.

But things can still change. Sunday is the Malaysian Grand Prix, and a good result for Rosberg will see him move further ahead of Hamilton in the championship standings. This season now represents a great chance for Rosberg: with a takeover of F1 imminent, the winner of this year's Driver's Championship will be the last of the Ecclestone era before the reign of Chase Carey begins. If Hamilton wins, Rosberg could be forgotten, their rivalry could be dismissed and Hamilton will be the name on everyone's lips. But if Rosberg becomes champion, all that could be different. This can still become a great rivalry, but Rosberg's time is running out.

Bring on Malaysia.



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# Sport



Charlie Stone

Hamilton vs Rosberg:  
a rivalry to cherish?

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## Clinical Loughborough crush Cambridge

**Loughborough** 35

**Cambridge** 8

**Keir Baker**  
Senior News Editor

Cambridge University Rugby Union Football Club's (CURUFC) preparations for December's Varsity match against Oxford got off to a stuttering start on Wednesday night as the Light Blues slumped to a 38-5 loss against Loughborough in their first competitive match of the season.

Having lost last year's equivalent fixture 43-6, this game was always set to be a tough opening fixture for CURUFC, but the match's tale was not reflected by the scoreline. Indeed, the Light Blues' Head Coach James Shanahan will be frustrated that, despite dominating both possession and territory for long periods, his team lacked the clinical touch of their opponents to register more than a solitary try on the scoreboard.

The opening moments were scrappy, as both sides looked to shake off any pre-season rust. While Cambridge had success in the early line-outs, making three consecutive steals, Loughborough were dominant in the scrum, which they used to launch clever set-piece moves. And first blood went to the home side: nine minutes in, Rory Triniman's break through the Loughborough line allowed

Cambridge winger Simon Davies to score the try, finishing smartly in the corner. The subsequent conversion was missed by fly-half Fraser Gillies.

But Loughborough – kitted out in purple – responded quickly. Their captain Mark Dixon shanked what appeared to be a routine penalty, but the following restart was caught by the away side's full-back who superbly broke through the CURUFC line (though the Light Blues will rue missed tackles) and fed scrum half Jack Moates to score.

The closing stages of the first half epitomised the game: while scrappy, there were flashes of quality from both sides. Cambridge, however, were largely confined to their own half and the well-drilled away side kept the pressure on, forcing CURUFC into a number of errors. Indeed, a rare break from the Light Blues was halted, the ball ripped out and suddenly Loughborough were on the break: Loughborough winger Jack Stapley raced down the right wing and fed an inside ball to prop Ben Christie to finish off the try.

Cambridge, who had recently returned from a week of pre-season training in Faro, Portugal, battled out for the sanctity of the half-time whistle. An inspirational bit of defending on the right-wing by Michael Phillips saw the Emmanuel College medic halt a Loughborough three-man overlap with a perfectly timed tackle, while the Light Blue forwards put in huge hits to keep the away side at bay. But a transgression at the last of a succession of scrums under the Cambridge posts gave referee

Robert Teare little option but to award Loughborough a penalty try that was duly converted by Dixon to leave the score 19-5 at half-time.

CURUFC captain Daniel Dass had spoken pre-match of a desire for his team to use every match as an opportunity to prepare themselves "mentally and physically to be in the best shape... come December 8." And, despite an early scare in the second half, where a knock-on from Moates squandered a superb opportunity to score that had been set up by the dancing feet of the ever-threatening Stapley, Cambridge's second-half performance will have pleased their captain. The Light Blues made wholesale changes to their front three and went on to dominate the scrum, pushing the away side back into their own half. For the majority of the half, Cambridge monopolised both territory and possession but lacked the quality to convert. Last-ditch defending from Loughborough and a string of unforced errors from the Light Blues denied them a way back into the game.

At 60 minutes, just after an apparent spear tackle from a Loughborough centre controversially went unpunished, a succession of catch and drives from Cambridge saw the home side's rolling mauls stopped agonising close to the line. Loughborough were struggling to break out, with the Cambridge back three pulling off some impressive covering tackles to keep the squeeze on.

But in the last 10 minutes, fatigue set in and Loughborough ruthlessly capitalised, a just reward for their incredible soaking-up of pressure. An overlap down

▲ ▼ Cambridge struggled despite flashes of real quality, especially in the first half (PHOTOGRAPHS: GEORGE COLE)

the right wing saw the away side's second row Thibaut Flament pop an inside pass to Stapley to finish the try and take the score to 26-5 after the conversion by Roddy Denness.

Seconds later, a mistake from the restart gave Loughborough's Joss Morgan – whose 20-minute cameo off the bench was effortlessly sublime – a chance to beat two men and put through a grubber kick which he was unfortunate to knock-on.

With three minutes to go, Morgan was at it again: a fine set-piece from the visitors gave the replacement winger a chance to feed Josh Price to score a try in the corner.

In the match's final action, Morgan himself scored a well-deserved try, as a gorgeous chip from centre David Buck allowed Morgan to score in the left corner.

While the scoreline may provide a negative outlook for those of a Light Blue persuasion, CURUFC skipper Dass – with his side set to face Cambridge Rugby Club on Monday evening – offered a contrastingly positive tone: "We're a good bit ahead of where we were this time last year in terms of how our preparations as a team have gone."

With a recent influx of new players yet to fully bed-in, Cambridge fans will hope that the positives from Wednesday's performance – hidden somewhat by the one-sidedness of the scoreline – can be built on over the coming months, before the Light Blues look to overcome their Oxford rivals on 8th December at Twickenham.

