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# VARSITY

## The schools that rule Oxbridge

● Over ten years, 100 institutions produced over a third of undergraduates

Louis Ashworth, Catherine Lally & Edwin Balani

Oxbridge is dominated by a small group of elite schools, with over half the students accepted over a decade educated at just 250 institutions.

An investigation by *Varsity*, looking at 11 undergraduate intake cycles over the decade from 2006 to 2016, shows the huge proportion of students who come from a small number of schools.

It found that over a third of students came from the top 100 schools, which includes many of the country's most expensive independent schools. Just under one in nine students came from a school that sent one pupil or fewer to Oxbridge per year on average.

Access is one of Oxbridge's most thorny issues, with both Oxford and Cambridge – ranked last year as the two best universities in the world – spending millions of pounds per year on outreach efforts. Both universities have come under intense scrutiny for their disparities in acceptance rates, with one MP last year describing colleges as “fiefdoms of entrenched privilege.”

Today's findings show that there re-

mains a gulf between a top set of schools who send multiple students to Oxford or Cambridge every year, and thousands of other schools that send far fewer. They have strong implications for ‘access after admissions’, which has become a key focus for campaigners in recent years – it means that many Oxbridge undergraduates arrive with pre-built networks of school peers, while many students will be the only person from their school in their cohort.

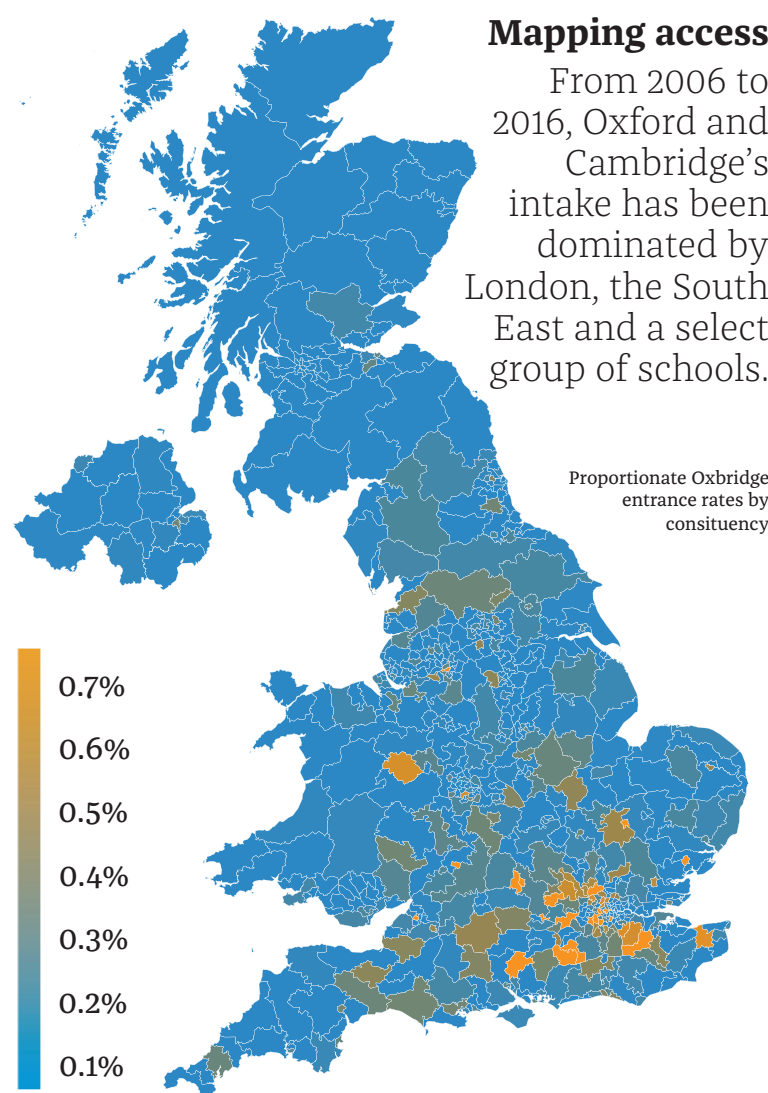
Of the top five schools for overall intake, three – Westminster School, Eton College and St Paul's School – are all-male independent schools that charge day pupils over £20,000 a year. Hills Road Sixth Form College, which is adjacent to Homerton College, is ranked third, with Raffles Junior College in Singapore placing fifth despite a below-average success rate. St Paul's Girls' School, which ranks sixth overall, has the most strikingly high success rate among the top schools: over 50% of its pupils who applied to Oxbridge over the cycles were accepted.

They also show the dramatic regional disparities in access, with students

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### Mapping access

From 2006 to 2016, Oxford and Cambridge's intake has been dominated by London, the South East and a select group of schools.



● Wide gulf in regional access work

Catherine Lally and Jamie Hancock

Cambridge has worked hard in recent years to shed its image as a bastion of elitism, with prosecco-fuelled May Balls and stuffy academics terrifying interviewees still dominating so much of its coverage in the national press. A key element of its efforts has been working to increase the percentage of students admitted from underrepresented regions of the UK.

However, there continues to be a glaring gap in access efforts aimed at students in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland compared to England, aggravating systemic issues of access for underrepresented areas of the UK.

Analysis of data and testimonials gathered by *Varsity* finds that, while college Schools Liaison Officers (SLOs) do valuable work, and Cambridge has gone to significant lengths to improve its access scheme, certain colleges bear a disproportionate amount of responsibility for outreach programmes, falling under the University's Area Links scheme.

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## Colleges show huge disparities in Prevent policies

● At least two colleges have intervened in speaker events

● Bedders and JCR members called on to monitor students

Siyang Wei  
Deputy News Editor

When asked at last term's open meeting whether the Prevent duty poses a “fundamental threat”, the University's vice-chancellor Stephen Toope replied unequivocally: “Yes.” As for its mandatory implementation, he said “the good

news” is that the University's Prevent committee has only met twice, and they are “really committed to trying to take the lightest possible touch”.

“Light touch” has been a common thread in the University's rhetoric, in response to widespread criticism of Prevent by students and staff. When the University's administration began its rollout of the legislation in 2016, an ad-

### In the news:

● Students back funding drive for Big Issue seller

● Cambridge's reliance on EU funding revealed

● Tracking the wheely quick rise of Ofo in Cambridge

ministrators said it would be used “very, very, very rarely”. So far, the University has made only one direct action under Prevent: its November intervention in a Palestine Society event, in which the organised chair was replaced by Paul Mylrea, Cambridge's head of communications. After drawing condemnation,

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# EDITORIAL

## Just read the newspaper

Good journalism often speaks for itself. While the facts alone rarely give guidance without the counsel of our own moral compasses, a well-executed piece of reporting can open one's mind to the nuance of an issue without introducing prejudice one way or another.

So rather than continue the absurd pretence that I – a twenty-one year old politics student who's never had a proper job – have any authority to tell you what to think, let me point out some fantastic pieces of student journalism, and you can make up your own mind.

This week's access investigation is by no means damning of the University, whose 'granular' approach to outreach in some ways makes a great deal of sense. But it does explain in stark terms the terrifying disparities in success between state and private schools, as well as the more complex geographical picture. It also shows that, despite its theroetical soundness, the University's approach to access has significant holes in it. As is often the case with issues at this University, the collegiate system often leads to a situation where a few colleges are burdened with much of the work.

In another classically Cantabrigian story, the lack of inter-college consistency in the University's Prevent roll-out may be causing more problems than it solves. The guidance provided by the OIS – the body tasked with harmonising implementation – appears to be aimed more towards dealing with public relations than ensuring a rigorous procedure. Can the University's claim to uphold freedom of speech be defended when it fails to regulate such a controversial measure?

Elsewhere in News, Molly Montgomery takes a deep dive into the thorny legal issue of disciplinary reform in the context of a harassment crisis on campuses across the world; in Features, Todd Gillespie deals with the difficult lives of hard drug users studying at Cambridge; and on a lighter note, Catherine Lally examines the most wholesome of 'bridges, asking if love can ever really blossom through a swiftly drafted Facebook poem.

If you really want my opinion, take this one: this 40-page issue of *Varsity* is an example of student journalism at its best, and I'd encourage you to read cover to *Guardian* inspired cover. As I finish my time at *Varsity*, I can say that I won't miss writing these editorials, but I will miss being continually excited by the work our fantastic young journalists do week-in week-out.

Peace out.

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## News

# Dr. Priya Gopal 'Those in power are now playing the victim'

## Dr Priya Gopal talks to Noella Chye about racism, free speech, and the Daily Mail

"I realised immediately that it was a hatchet job." Dr. Priyamvada Gopal has been at the centre of many recent high-profile events, including the Cambridge strikes, a public argument with Mary Beard, and most recently a *Daily Mail* hatchet-job by journalist Guy Adams. She tells me of the moment she first glimpsed the article, which had a picture of her sprawled across the paper beside the headline, 'How CAN Cambridge let this hate-filled don pour out her racist bile?'. Perched on an armchair in an office gently lit by sunlight on one of Cambridge's sunniest days this year, she discusses Adams's attack piece on her from two weeks ago, which harshly criticised her use of social media to speak out against Oxford theologian Nigel Biggar – which was "incontinent abuse", in Biggar's words – and others.

"I was horrified, kind of depressed by it." Gopal tells me, even though she has only skimmed the article – an active choice. "I got the general idea" she says, and adds: "I just thought this was very ugly." I sense dissonance in Gopal, over facing an ugly public attack while believing it is illegitimate.

In his article, Adams paints a simple picture of the Churchill fellow: "Famed in academic circles for her strident left-wing views, she is a vehement supporter of Jeremy Corbyn who has published several opinion pieces in the *Guardian* and is a prolific user of Twitter, having posted more than 17,000 tweets in the past seven years." If Adams is right, Gopal is easy to make sense of – a character that fits the narrative of harshness, and needlessly angry, thoughtless left-

wing rhetoric.

Before I leave, I ask Gopal to describe the floor-to-ceiling bookshelf in front of us. She tells me, "It's a sort of... map of my research interests." She starts at the top, where books on Marxism, Marxist theory, feminist theory and black studies sit from her time in graduate school. "Because I was in America, I did a lot of race and ethnic studies as part of my graduate training," she explains. Just below, at eye-level, we find her teaching materials on postcolonial theory, British literature, literary theory, and Asian



▲ Gopal at a rally (LOUIS ASHWORTH)



American and African literature. The lowest shelves hold a mixture of Asian and South Asian literature and poetry.

It's difficult to reconcile Adams's remarks with this visual microcosm of the twelve years of thought, research and work behind Gopal's comments. When I ask her to substantiate what she said about Biggar, she readily answers. "The British empire was by definition a racially unequally structured white supremacist civilisational project... Any project that wants to take on the empire but not admit that it was a supremacist and racist project is by definition endorsing racism and supremacism."

Biggar, portrayed in Adams's article as a victim of Gopal's "left-wing nastiness", wrote in *The Times*: "If she's that aggressive on Twitter, then what is she like in person?" Shockingly, Twitter rarely captures reality. In Gopal's case, sitting in her office, listening to her speak, I realise she commands a certain intellectual vigour, a quickness and energy commonly mistaken for thoughtless aggressiveness. This is not unique to her; a number of other academics in Cambridge spring to mind. The difference, in Gopal's case, is that she opens herself up to misinterpretation in using as public a platform as Twitter. It makes sense, then, when Gopal remarks about the piece: "I was surprised that it was entirely on me."

"That made me realise that there was quite a strong racial dimension to it. You know, accompanied by a photograph that they stole from my site without paying me or crediting me."

Two weeks after the *Daily Mail* article was published, the University and Churchill have yet to issue a statement acknowledging the piece's racial under-



# News



tones despite mounting pressure from the Twitter community. She tells me, “I think it is extraordinary that a senior member of the University would be attacked so publicly in the media and there not even be a half-hearted attempt to just check on me and see how I’m doing, or even think about a joint response. There’s just been silence.”

“That suggests to me that they are willing, at least passively, to play ball with some of the claims of that piece. I find that troubling... it doesn’t bode well for things like anti-racism, and diversity, and inclusion on this campus, broadly speaking.”

Twitter seemed to agree. The hashtag #FreeSpeechSoWhite became a prominent feature of the conversation online, registering over a hundred tweets.

For Gopal, the University and college have failed to defend the academic’s role in society. “Not all academics, and increasingly fewer academics – but for those of us who have job security, we have that security and that protection for a reason... It is precisely to allow intellectuals to speak truth.”

Twitter, therefore, is a useful medium. Gopal, who has 18,000 followers, can come across as the picture of confidence on the website, occasionally retweeting hateful tweets about her, sometimes from trolls. On the afternoon after Adams’s piece was published, she tweeted in reply to a follower commenting on Adams’s grammar: “I have offered @DailyMailUK and Mr @guyadams free writing lessons. The offer stands.”

Recently, though, doubts have surfaced. The *Daily Mail* article, she tells me, has made her starkly aware of Twitter “as a quotable medium”. She adds: “You

can be quoted very easily, and without much context, therefore as with any writing exercise, as I tell my students, you have to be mindful of the institutional framework and the audience.”

She stands by what she said about Biggar – Adams quotes her as having called him “racist”, a “bigot” and “supremacist shite” – as a comment on his ‘Ethics of Empire’ project, not Biggar himself, a distinction she now sees the need to make explicit on Twitter.

Her tweets, only fragments of which were quoted in Adams’s article, read: “The British Empire was constitutively racist. Its great theorists & chroniclers at the time had the virtue of never denying that it was fundamentally premised on Anglo-Saxon racial superiority. Ergo, today’s apologist [sic]—including Nigel Biggar—are racists. But dishonest ones.” In another, she describes Biggar’s essays, ‘The Ethics of Colonial History’ as “Shameful. Apart from any politics attached to it, dumbing down of actual historical work to supremacist shite. Racist & lightweight, well-done, Oxford.”

Perhaps naively, the medium’s public dimension has not always been at the forefront of her mind. “I had envisioned myself talking to friends who were discussing the project, and I was completely blind to the fact that this was actually happening in a public forum,” Gopal explains, though Adams’s piece has certainly been a wake-up call.

I have often caught glimpses of Gopal amid the crowd at last term’s stream of organised action. Through fourteen days of industrial action, a five-day student occupation, and some of Cambridge’s largest rallies, she could be seen huddled towards the back, keenly watching

the action or talking to union organisers and student activists. “I find that this generation of students is very vocal and active, and politically engaged, and that has made it a much better place to be in,” she says.

She likens her relationship with Cambridge to “a long marriage”, and adds: “You understand what the bad things are, but you also get used to some things, and you start to feel appreciative of the good things.”

This has not always been the case. Seventeen years ago, when Gopal first arrived at Churchill College just out of the American university Cornell where she had completed her PhD in colonial and postcolonial literature, she was faced with “a tremendous culture shock”.

As one of just two members of the faculty not trained in Oxbridge at the time, she tells me: “I actually didn’t quite realise where I had landed.”

“I found, as many people who come to Cambridge do, that it’s very much a planet in its own right. I was struck and I still am struck by its insider-ness.” She explains, “No one told me what a supervision was, no one told me what the rituals were, what I did in a college, what the difference between a college and university were.”

It was only when she came to Britain in 2001 that she began engaging directly and extensively with the legacies and afterlife of the British empire. Her comments attacking imperial apologists are drawn from this immersion in colonial and postcolonial thought – a point Adams failed to mention, although he noted that “eminent Oxford don” Nigel Biggar has “published over eight books in five decades”.

“The framing is very typical of our times”, Gopal says of the article. “When male and white supremacy is challenged, the response of male and white supremacy ... is to invert the situation and for the dominant party to claim that it is in fact the victim.” She adds, “For me, Nigel Biggar is a kind of bigger symptom of a larger malice where those in power are responding to threats by playing victim.”

“You have this with Brexit, where you had wealthy establishment men claiming to be anti-establishment. You have this with Donald Trump where you have a billionaire who’s hugely well-connected, he’s a white man – he’s a white conservative man – claim to be speaking for the victims.

“To do so, they’re doing something very interesting – they are taking the language, and the weapons, and the rhetoric of the marginalised.

“For the *Daily Mail* to charge me with racism is a very good example, because you take the person who is complaining about colonialism, imperial apologetics, white supremacy, racism and say, ‘No, actually, you’re the racist.’”

How can Cambridge let someone ‘pour out her racist bile’, Adams’ headline asked. Perhaps more pertinently, how can we keep letting the *Daily Mail*?

▲ **Dr. Priya Gopal is a teaching fellow in English at Churchill**  
(NOELLA CHYE)

“This generation of students is very vocal and active, and that has made it a better place to be”

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## News

# Cambridge UCU members wary of national deal, but emboldened by success of action

● In the wake of the longest academics' strike of recent years, *Varsity* takes the temperature of opinion among union members

Noella Chye

Senior News Editor

Catherine Lally

Senior Investigations Editor

Last term's strikes saw unprecedented levels of staff mobilise to protest the proposed risks to their pensions schemes. The 14-day strike, the longest in the academic sector in recent years, brought Cambridge academics together in a mass display of solidarity. Two weeks after strike action was suspended, Cambridge UCU members spoke to *Varsity* about the significance of the strikes as a symbol of revolt against the deterioration of British higher education.

Cambridge UCU branch secretary Waseem Yaqoob spoke of the strike as a uniting factor between staff, and added that he was "very proud" of the huge growth in UCU membership at Cambridge. He stated that "for lots of people these strikes are an opportunity to talk to their colleagues in a way they haven't done before, and talk openly, gather together and talk about changing the University to make it a better place to work - in a whole load of different ways that go beyond, far beyond pensions."

"It made the place both more human and aggressive," Clément Mouhot, a mathematician at King's and member of the Cambridge UCU industrial action committee, remarked.

For Yaqoob, Mouhot and branch vice-president Sam James, the energy they saw has been stirring for almost a decade. "I arrived at the beginning of a small decay, of new changes in the UK [...] university system - very, very, very negative changes", Mouhot said. The threat to their pensions, he added, was "the straw that [broke] the camel's back."

"A lot of us felt betrayed. There was an understanding that the head of the university is on your side, [that] they want the academics to do good teaching, to publish good papers," he commented. "For many people," the developments in higher education in recent years, which seemed to question that dynamic, was "a breach of trust."

James describes the worsening working conditions that the union is pushing back against as part of an "ideology of management [which] tries to effectively externalise the costs of running the institution as much as they can onto staff and students in order to run [it] the way that you would run a business that makes the most profit." Yet, he added, "It imposes cuts on everyone involved. It doesn't make universities good at what they're for."

Jana Bacevic, a postdoctoral research associate at the Faculty of Education, felt the action short of a strike, particularly the refusal among staff to make up missed teaching hours, "has shown that it's also about how we see work." She added, "The more we perpetuate - inten-

tionally or unintentionally - this culture of overwork, we will see whether academic labour becomes something that fits the neoliberal idea of competition."

Cambridge, in particular, amplified its employees' growing feelings of betrayal when allegations surfaced that its college bursars colluded to exert an outsized influence pushing for a funding scheme that would let them, and the rest of the country's universities, take less risk in funding staff's pensions. Yaqoob commented: "Cambridge has a history of assuming that its staff will tolerate very high workloads and low pay for the privilege of working here. Most staff now understand that that's really the wrong way round, [that] the University is lucky to have academics willing to work this hard for this little."

He added: "Because the college system which [provides] high levels of pastoral care [and] one-to-one teaching, academics in Cambridge have extremely high workloads." Many staff, he explained, have university jobs on top of college duties, and said, "I think Cambridge has a real problem here."

It seems difficult to pinpoint whether Cambridge staff were caught off guard by the allegations against their institution. Yaqoob, for one, was not entirely surprised. He explained, "[...] it's clear that this university, like Oxford, has a lot of money to shuffle around. It therefore is a lot more engaged with the financial markets and large-scale investments in property or in the development of housing estates for staff. So it actually has a very major incentive to reduce its borrowing costs, because it might want to borrow a lot."

A combination of factors made this growing discontent with employers into a perfect storm for protest. James commented: the change to employees' pensions proposed was "a very black-and-white change - we used to have defined benefits, and we're going to lose them." The high stakes of letting things continue as they were made it easier to mobilise. He added: "It's [also] the fact that USS pension benefits remained the same from 1974 to 2011, [then] since 2011, this is the third proposed round of serious cuts," and explained, "There's a sense that over a short period, [there has been] an unrelenting effort to reduce pensions."

### Rank and file

“We will see whether academic labour becomes something that fits the neoliberal idea of competition”

“There's a sense that over a short period, [there has been] an unrelenting effort to reduce pensions”

“At the moment, our strike mandate is suspended rather than called off, so the strike could [still] be called”



The strikes seemed to bring people together in unprecedented numbers, to discuss the growing concerns that had come to the fore. "The strikes made the place much less atomised," Mouhot said, and added: "A lot of people got together and talked, and shared similar grievances and problems."

After four weeks of industrial action, organisation and mass rallies in Cambridge, when news broke on 29th March that union members across the country would ballot to suspend the strikes - contrary to what the branch had hoped for - many striking academics who had fought for UUK concessions were bitterly disappointed. Two weeks later, the impact of that decision and the road ahead for employees remains steeped in uncertainty. Sam James voiced concerns over the establishment of the joint expert panel, and said "If the joint expert panel does not reach conclusions that are satisfactory for USS members, or those recommendations are not followed by the Pensions Regulator, then we will be back on strike in October."

On the other hand, he argued that "equal representation from the UUK and UCU on this panel is really really important, and a big gain." However, he believes that the time constraints on the

▲ **Clement Mouhout, a mathematician at King's and member of the Cambridge UCU action committee**

(NOELLA CHYE)

panel, if it has to produce a report by April means it will "have to re-use a lot of the work that has already been done, such as the valuation process that has been in dispute, including the changes to the scheme."

Still, Yaqoob and James remain hopeful. Despite criticism that the national UCU capitulated, both disagree with characterising the current situation that way. "I don't think the people who voted yes are saying we trust UUK," Yaqoob explained, adding: "People just want to see whether we won enough to carry on. [...] We will be ready to run an effective strike if we need to again."

James appears to share similar sentiments, noting that, "At the moment, our strike mandate is suspended rather than called off, so the strike could be called on without another ballot. "The judgement that members had to make was not so much [whether the] deal [was] good enough, but [whether] this way [was] the best way to the best deal."

Moving forward, the dynamics between employees and employers, it seems, has shifted. The levels of trust between staff and financial management, Yaqoob said, is "near-zero levels". James also commented: "I think it's very clear that the employers' attitude to the union has changed. [...] They used to think that under no circumstances would the UCU run an effective strike, so they could give the most minor concessions, and then a couple of dissenting academics would strike for a couple of days."

Now, he added, "I think the [union has a capacity] to be a genuine partner in how universities are run and if it's not engaged with, it has the capacity to impose costs on the university sector. That does give grounds for hope that some of the bad things in how our education system is run can be resisted more effectively."



# University seeks £600m bond to fund NW site

**Jack Conway**  
Senior News Correspondent

The University Council is seeking to raise £600 million of external finance for “income-generating projects”, one of which is the construction of the next phase of a controversial real estate development.

Between half and two-thirds of the funds will be used to pay for the next phase of North West Cambridge, a £350 million project that has been heavily criticised for budget overruns. The rest will primarily be used to fund the redevelopment of the Royal Cambridge Hotel and the commercial development of the old Cambridge Assessment buildings and the Old Press Mill Lane site.

North West Cambridge, the University’s largest ever single-location investment, is a housing development expected to eventually become a £1 billion project. It was constructed to ensure

that the university maintains its position as one of the world’s leading universities by providing affordable facilities to University staff and income to fund University activities.

The development is expected to include 3,000 homes, some of which will be subsidised housing for University workers. The first phase, which is called Eddington and was completed in phases between Autumn 2015 and Spring 2018, has seen the construction of 700 homes for University staff, 450 homes for the open market, 325 postgraduate rooms, a primary school, a community centre, retail units, and a number of key facilities.

The £350 million first phase came under fire in 2015 for projected budget overruns of £76.2 million, and that track record has spurred two University Councillors to oppose the Council’s aim to raise an additional £600 million.

The councillors explained their reservations in a note of dissent, which raised



concerns about the track record of the North West Cambridge development and cautioned against risking the University’s AAA credit rating and burdening future generations with debt.

Dr Ross Anderson, who gave a speech to the University Council in 2015 blasting the North West Cambridge project for

▲ **The North West Cambridge site is expected to include 3,000 new homes** (NORTH WEST CAMBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT)

“haemorrhaging millions of pounds a month” was one of the two dissenters. He told *Varsity* that he opposes the new bond for the same reason he criticised the development before.

“The reality is that we’re not much good as a property developer and there’s a grave risk that the money will be wasted, leaving future generations with a mountain of debt.

“Our priority should be to tackle what’s wrong with the existing North-West Cambridge development. The grad students and postdocs who live there have many complaints. Some are about problems with facilities that can be fixed. The deeper problems are about cost. The flats there were very expensive to build and the current rents aren’t going to repay the first bond that we took out.”

£76.2m

**Projected budget overrun for first phase of NW Development**

Darshana Joshi, Graduate Union President, has similarly spoken out against the Council’s recommendation. Speaking to *Varsity*, she cited the track record of the first phase of North West Cambridge, and added: the University should instead “pay attention to the well-being of those students who have traditionally been sidelined and support them better to achieve their true potential,” particularly students with families.

# Newnham founder gets statue outside parliament

**Isobel Bickersteth**  
Senior News Correspondent

A statue commemorating suffragist and co-founder of Newnham College Milllicent Fawcett was unveiled in Parliament Square on Tuesday this week – the only one of a woman so far.

Fawcett was a prominent women’s right campaigner in the early 20th century. As the founder and president of the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies, she led the campaign for women to receive the vote. She was also notable for her emphasis on peaceful campaigning, in contrast to the more militant group of suffragists known as the suffragettes.

Designed by Gillian Wearing, it is the first statue of a woman to be erected in Parliament Square. Fawcett is depicted as a 50 year old and holds a banner that reads: “Courage Calls to Courage Everywhere”, an extract from a speech she made following the death of suffragette Emily Wilding Davison, who was killed after she fell under a horse at the 1913 Epsom Derby.

The statue was the result of a campaign launched by feminist campaigner Caro-



▲ **Millicent Fawcett was a prominent campaigner for women’s rights** (ROSIE BRADBURY)

line Criado Perez in 2016. Perez wanted Parliament Square to better represent the contributions made by women to Britain’s political and cultural landscape. Her subsequent petition for the statue gained over 85,000 signatures.

Prime Minister Theresa May, London mayor Sadiq Khan and former deputy leader of the Labour party, Harriet Harman, were among the attendees at the formal unveiling of the statue.

Speaking at the ceremony, Theresa May said the statue would serve “not just as a reminder of Dame Millicent’s extraordinary life and legacy, but as inspiration to all of us who wish to follow in her footsteps”.

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# Access all areas? Not as easy as it might sound

◀ Continued from front page

While some colleges focus their resources on large regions of the UK, others have targeted fewer, more disparate areas. In several cases, richer colleges target fewer areas than some of the poorest.

## Work by Liaison Officers

Many colleges maintain strong relationships with their link areas. Between March and April 2017, Emmanuel was visited by over 400 students from its linked areas, which include Essex and Sheffield. Meanwhile, between July 2016 and June 2017, Churchill worked with 2,122 students and 176 teachers from 105 schools and colleges through its link to South Wales. The University believes that, in some regions, these efforts have had a direct impact on applications: Churchill noted that 2017 saw the highest number of applicants to Cambridge from Welsh state-maintained schools “in over a decade.”

A University spokesperson admitted that Scotland “is a challenge,” with less favourable fee conditions meaning it tends to be “families with resources” who send students to Cambridge. They also note that Scotland used to be looked after by just one college, before a review 18 months ago split the responsibility between three.

Even with systemic factors making students from outside of wealthier areas in London and the South East less likely to go to Cambridge to begin with, more needs to be done on the part of the



## Access Challenge Wales

**Cambridge accepts few Welsh students each year, including just 57 in 2016. Despite this, just two colleges are responsible for outreach through the entire country.**

University to address these disparities. This is being addressed to some extent by a new Easter Residential at Homerton and Selwyn, which is expected to touch on issues like student finance specific to Scottish students. Scottish schools are also less likely to reach out to Cambridge for visits – with only one Scottish school visiting in 2017 – bringing 20 pupils to Selwyn.

## Emphasising disadvantages

The regions which are least targeted by Cambridge colleges are often those which already have the lowest participation rates in higher education. According to the government’s Participation of Local Areas (POLAR4) classification, which evaluates areas on the percentage of young people engaged in education after school, Wales has the highest rates of young people accessing no post-secondary education, at 20%. By contrast, London has the highest rate of access to higher education in the country, with around 45% of young Londoners living in areas classed as having the highest levels of participation in higher education. Despite this, London – with a population of just under nine million people to Wales’ three million – is divided into 33 access areas targeted by 17 colleges, while Wales is only targeted by two colleges.

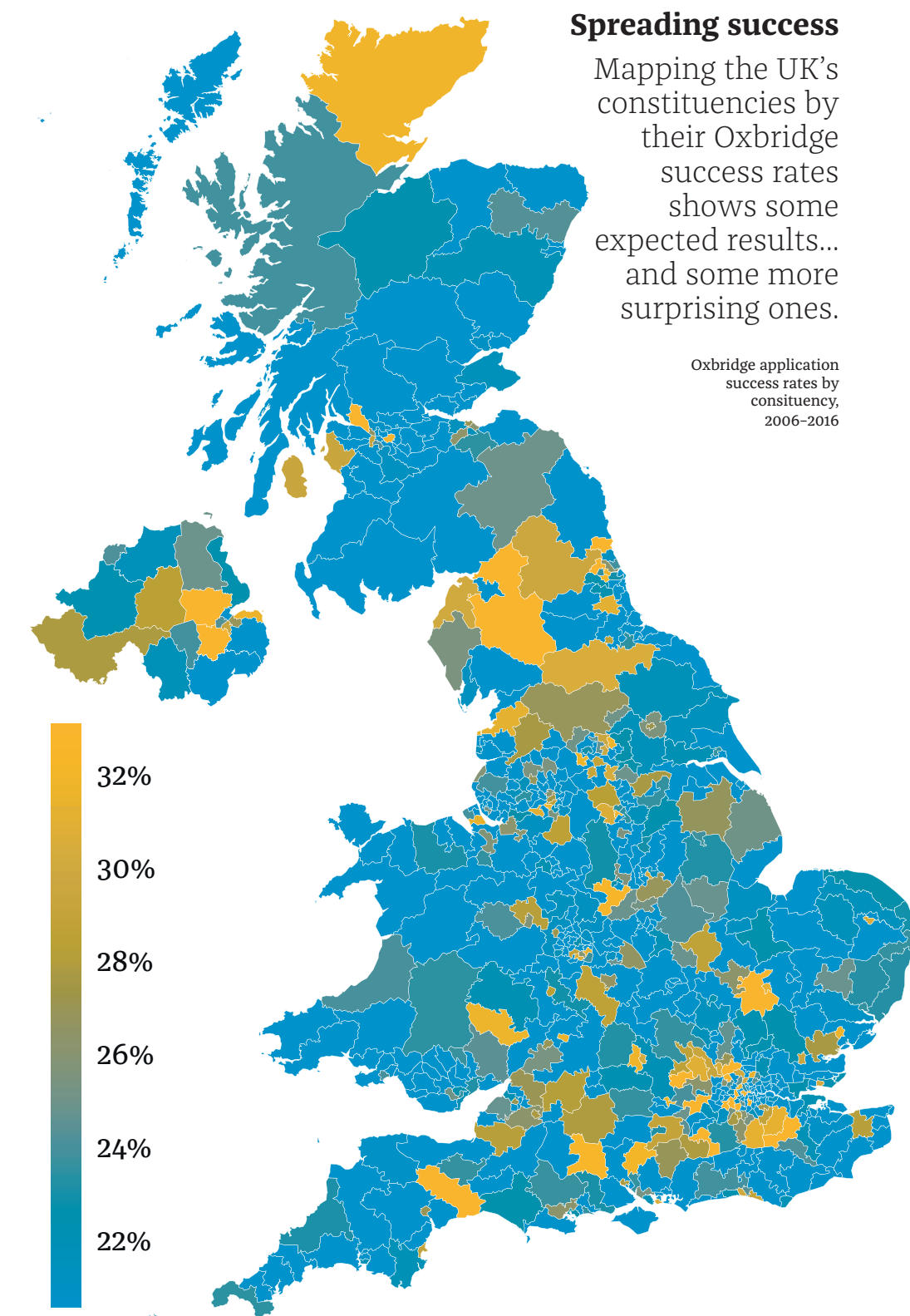
Similar disparities exist in the distribution of areas across England. Birmingham, with a population of 1,124,569 and a wide variance in access to higher education across its districts, is allocated to one college: Newnham. The North East, which has the highest proportion of students least likely to participate in the entirety of the UK, is shared between King’s and Jesus. Though this can allow for more focused use of resources and effort, these are also some of the regions most affected by the problem of distance. According to the University, “the further away the Link Area the more challenging it’ll be to attract students and the more costly the outreach activities will be.”

## Vital work

Nevertheless, the work of college SLOs themselves is highly valuable. Testimonies from students who have taken part in college access work all praised their officers. Feedback reported by SLOs from school students they met is also often very positive – some visits were labelled “insightful” and “eye-opening”.

Each SLO contacted detailed the wide array of programmes and activities that they were engaged in. The colleges have each built up connections with large numbers of schools in their areas, and are in regular contact.

Incoming CUSU access officer Shadab Ahmed urged both the government and the University to address disparities in access. He described a “vicious self-



## Explained: Area Links

The University’s Area Links scheme is one of its outreach initiatives, run through constituent colleges. It allows each college to develop strong ties with specific regions, using a granular approach which lets colleges tailor their efforts to each region. Cambridge has divided the UK into 156 areas, with each allocated to an individual college, though some are shared between colleges. Colleges then run access and outreach programmes within their regions: organising visits to Cambridge and in-college residentials, visits to schools by SLOs, regional tours, and seminars.

Distance from Cambridge is especially a problem when working with areas in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the South West and North of England, as day trips from schools are less achievable.

Though differences between colleges are often products of necessity, the variations between what individual regions are offered is stark. Some schools run residential stays for students, tour schools in their areas and offer funding for students visiting on open days. Where some colleges have an excellent online presence for their access work, others, for example, Girton and St John’s, have little detail available.

fulfilling circle, whereby students from underrepresented areas do not see or hear themselves while visiting, and thus don’t feel a sense of belonging and are dissuaded from applying.” To combat this, he would like to see access events at Cambridge feature representatives from under-targeted regions. He also noted “regional discrepancies in funding by the government,” where “disadvantaged students in London were 41% more likely to achieve 5 A\*-C grades under the old system than their counterparts from some regions in the North.

“Therefore, while Cambridge should further expand and tailor its schemes more specifically to certain regions, there must also follow an effort from the government to provide equal funding across the UK.”

## A changing picture

Access to Cambridge seems to be improving, albeit slowly. In the University’s 2017 intake, 63% of Cambridge students were state-educated – a rise of nearly five percent since 2011. In a report sub-

“*Students from under-represented areas do not see or hear themselves while visiting*”

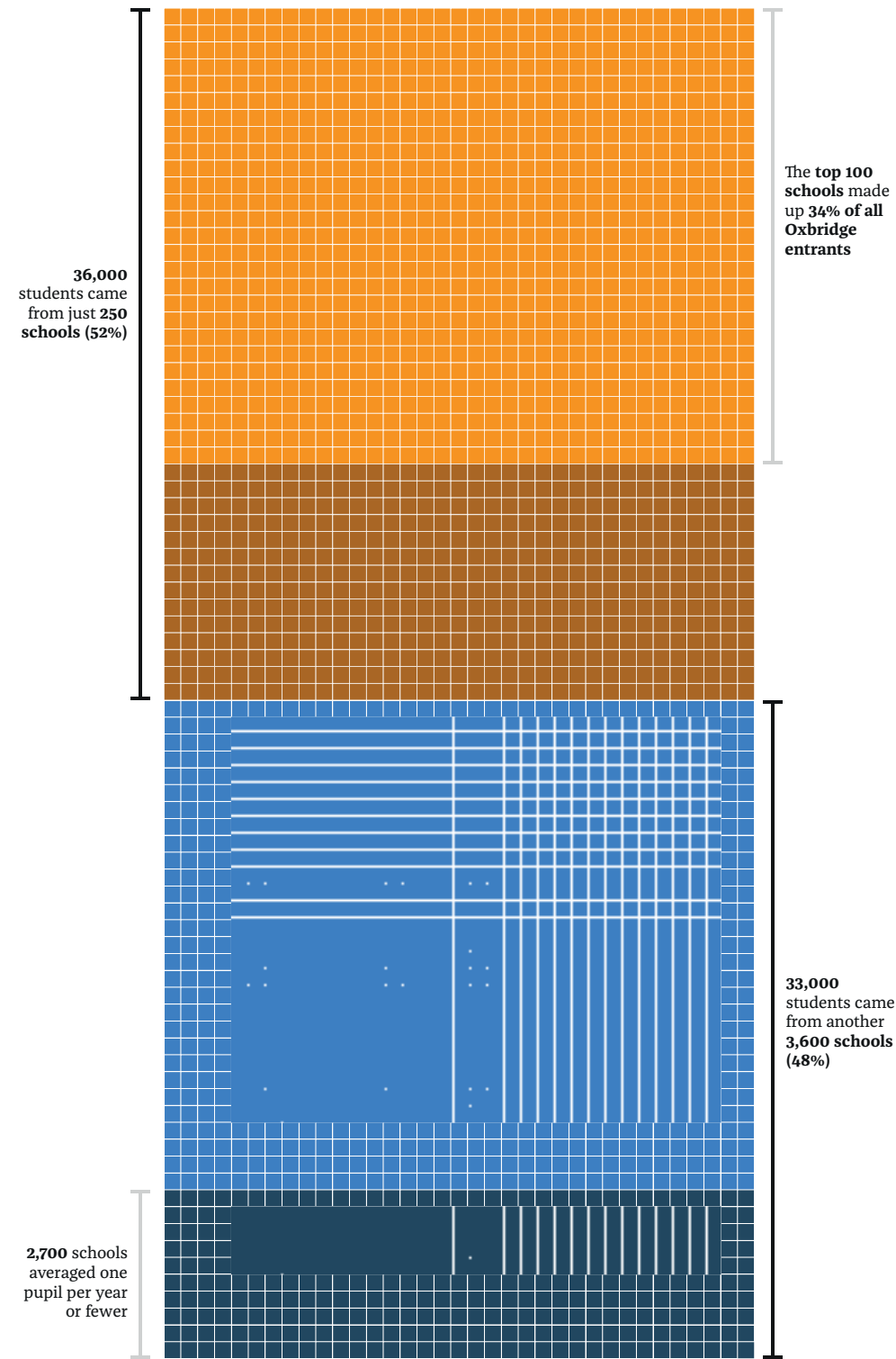
mitted to the Office for Fair Access, the University emphasised that it believed it was doing well to admit students from backgrounds unlikely to access higher education. Cambridge estimated that it admitted 17% of young people from areas historically least likely to participate in higher-education who met the University’s A\*AA offer threshold.

However, it is worth noting that while colleges do not hold an annual review due to the potentially “harmful” effect of changing long-standing area links relationships, they held a large review 18 months ago and some “struggling” colleges were able to pass over their areas to “better-provisioned” colleges. This was shown by the Connect to Cambridge scheme, which has allowed colleges to focus increasingly on the local area of Cambridge and Peterborough outside of the area links scheme. They hope to have more accessible data soon, with the introduction of the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT), which will allow colleges and universities to record access data in a central platform.



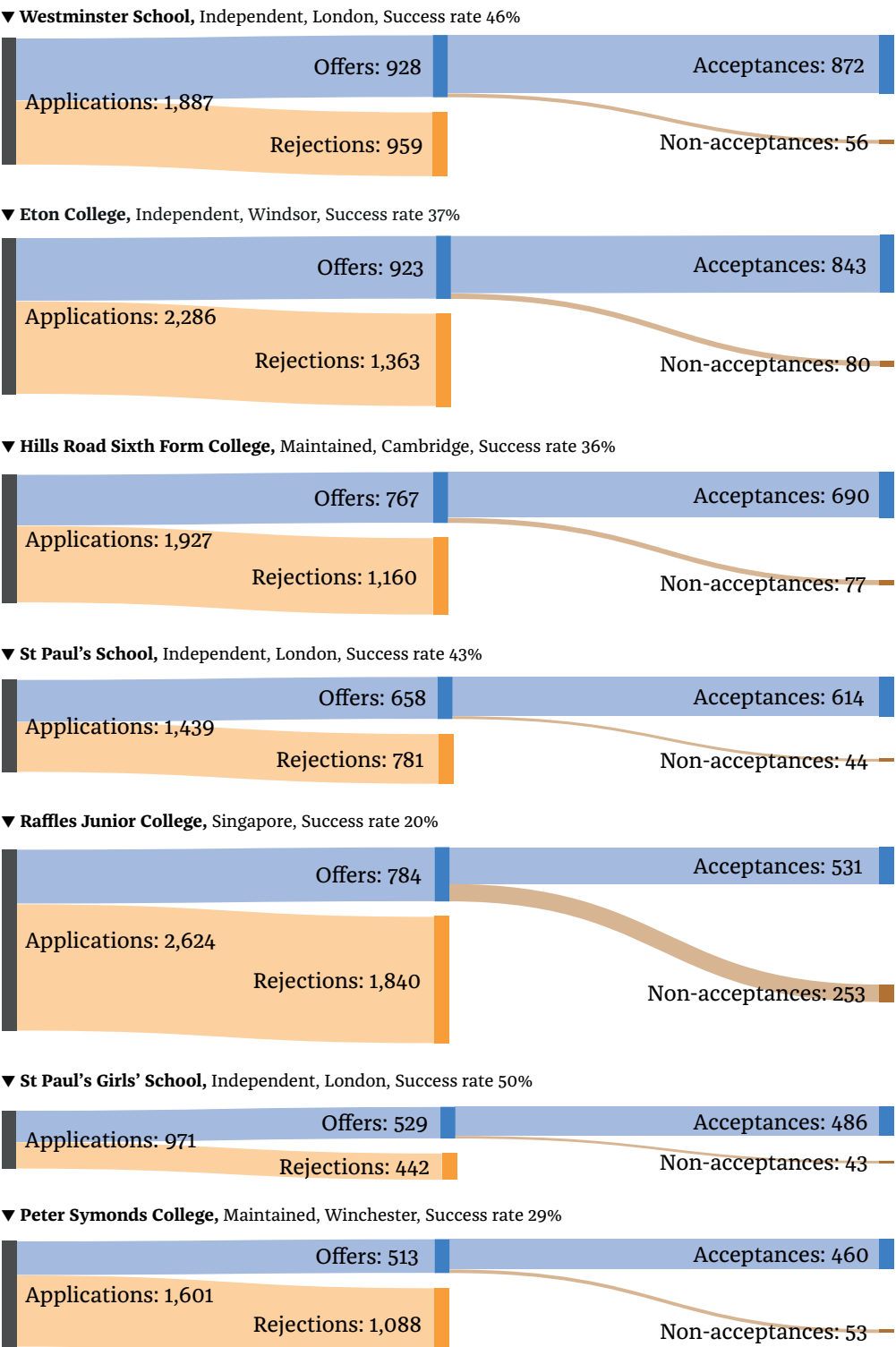
A small group of schools dominates Oxbridge

Out of nearly 70,000 undergraduates accepted into Oxford and Cambridge over 11 intake cycles, over half came from just 250 schools. □ = 25 students.



Quality trumps quantity – but quantity doesn’t hurt

Applications, offers and acceptance for the top six schools by acceptances into Oxbridge (2006–2016)



Top schools dominate Oxbridge intake over a decade

◀ Continued from front page

predominantly coming from London and the South East. New geographic analysis shows that intake numbers do not show the full picture for access, however: in terms of success rates, the greatest divide is not between regions, but between metropolitan and rural areas. To counteract the overrepresentation of certain areas, Cambridge runs an Area Links Scheme, in which colleges are assigned regions in which to undertake access work. A separate report by Varsity today shows the disparities in the system, including the finding that access work in London is carried out by 17 colleges across 33 areas, whereas the entirety of Wales is covered by just two colleges.

Cambridge has long been caught in a difficult bind: stuck between maintaining its highly selective applications process, which it says is vital to maintaining academic standards, and diversifying its student body to be more aligned with the composition of society. In recent years, the colleges rejected a proposal to lower the grade requirements of offers made to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. An analysis by the Higher Education Policy Institute last month found that Cambridge was the “most unequal” university for proportionately representing students from areas of varying higher education participation in its October 2016 intake. CUSU president Daisy Eyre said that the findings showed Cambridge needs to take steps to improve its access fig-



▶ St Paul’s Girls’ School, in West London, has the highest success rate of any top school (CHMEE2)

ures, saying “the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are a key part of the reproduction of privilege in the UK and beyond. “In my experience, the admissions process at Cambridge sees itself as meritocratic, but the fact that 100 schools make up a third of our undergraduate admissions shows quite clearly that this is not the case,” Eyre said. “Cambridge admissions reproduce the educational inequalities in wider society and the University needs to take responsibility for this. “At present, Cambridge admissions efforts are stagnating and they need to take active steps towards a more diverse admissions process. “I am, however, relatively optimistic about the steps the University is looking into to address this,” she added.



## News Reforming the Disciplinary Procedure

# WomCam look beyond Breaking the Silence

**Molly Montgomery**  
News Correspondent

In October 2017, the University launched the campaign Breaking the Silence to prevent sexual violence on campus. Now, over a year later, members of the university community are asking what further measures Cambridge must take to ensure survivors receive adequate support from the institution.

“What we’re doing [with Breaking the Silence] is admitting that we have a problem,” said Lola Olufemi, CUSU Women’s Officer, who is one of the major forces behind changes in university policy around sexual violence. “Now... it becomes about whether we are will-



**CUSU women's officer**  
**Lola Olufemi**

ing to take the difficult steps and have the necessary conversations to tackle it. And that means, are we willing to fund the support services that are being outsourced? Are we willing to create in-house support services? Are we willing to listen to students’ feedback on the informal procedure and the disciplinary procedure? Are we willing to pressure colleges – every single college – to have someone that students can access, that works specifically on sexual violence and assault?”

On 1st May, a Senate House discussion will be dedicated to one of those conversations – whether the university should rely on balance of probabilities, the civil standard of proof, or beyond reasonable doubt, the criminal standard of proof,



for deciding student disciplinary matters. Currently, the university employs beyond reasonable doubt in the student disciplinary procedure.

In a disciplinary procedure that uses balance of probabilities, a case is decided in favour of the party whose statement is most likely to be true. In a disciplinary procedure that uses beyond reasonable doubt, a case is decided in favour of the complainant only if the evidence provided leaves no room for doubt as to whether the alleged incident occurred. Professional regulators frequently rely on balance of probabilities to try cases of professional misconduct, and most universities across the UK employ balance of probabilities as their standard of proof for internal disciplinary procedures. According to Sarah d’Ambrumenil, head of the Office of Student Conduct, Complaints, and Appeals (OSCCA) at Cambridge, “In terms of [not using] balance of probabilities, we’re definitely in the minority. I couldn’t guarantee that we are the only university, but there’s definitely many, many more universities that use the balance of probabilities standard of proof.”

The Senate House discussion comes after the Women’s Campaign encouraged ten academics to write to the university draftsmen calling for the discussion. The campaign also published an open letter to the university demanding a shift to balance of probabilities. Olufemi reported that the letter has gathered over seven hundred signatures from students and academics throughout the institution.

About the need for this conversation,

Olufemi told *Varsity*, “We’ve been having discussions about how to make Breaking the Silence meaningful, and not just a publicity exercise, because I think in an increasingly marketized higher education system, universities are presenting themselves as good on issues like race and gender and are getting all of these accreditations without actually doing the work that is needed to move them forward. So one of the things that we decided would be our priority was campaigning on the disciplinary procedure.”

Although balance of probabilities would be implemented across all student disciplinary matters were the change to take place, it would have specific repercussions for cases of sexual harassment and misconduct. According to Olufemi, “We know that the way that sexual violence happens is most likely... in small and secluded spaces, with somebody that you know, and those are very difficult [to prove], if you have a very evidence-based approach... To make the procedure less cold, and more personable, the balance of probabilities is a good measure... It’s the standard used when cases where the possibility of error in both directions is deemed equal. It is an important step toward signalling... that you can have faith in the institution, because [the change would go] a long way in terms of people’s belief that if they do come forward, they will be believed.”

Dr Elaine Freer, a college teaching officer and fellow in law at Robinson College, is more skeptical about relying on balance of probabilities in the student

▲ **Incoming CUSU Women’s Officer Claire Sosienski Smith addressing women and non-binary students at the 2018 Reclaim the Night march**  
(EVELINA GUMILEVA)



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# Reforming the Disciplinary Procedure News



“We’ve been having discussions about how to make Breaking the Silence meaningful, and not just a publicity exercise”

disciplinary procedure. “I am uncomfortable with the use of the balance of probabilities,” she told *Varsity*, “because, in cases regarding harassment, including sexual violence, the University will be deciding matters that could still be prosecuted through the criminal courts.”

She explained that although “most professional regulators... now use the balance of probabilities when deciding whether a professional misconduct case is proven..., [when] professional regulators hear a case, that is always after any criminal proceedings have concluded...”

“... The current system leaves open a real possibility that the proceedings at the university will then be used in a later criminal investigation, if one occurs. This could jeopardise both the prosecution case and the defence case. It also means that anyone advising an accused student has to have in mind all of the possible outcomes, and uses to which material from the disciplinary procedures might be used in a criminal court.”

Olufemi, however, argued that heavy focus on traditional legal standards may be inappropriate for cases of sexual misconduct. “We know that cases of rape and sexual violence are the least likely to be convicted in a criminal court. Using that model, and that basis, does nothing to meaningfully move the conversation forward about what the institution should be doing. Alongside that, having robust formal procedures is nothing if you don’t have in-house support systems. When students experience sexual violence, as I have found from students I’ve worked with, often they don’t want to know what their options are, they want support – a specific kind of support, that enables them to process what has happened to them.”

Since Breaking the Silence was launched, if you’ve encountered sexual harassment or misconduct as a student on campus and you wish to report the incident to the university, you have the following options. You can report your experience anonymously through an online form, in which case the university will collect the report to provide data about the prevalence of sexual misconduct on campus. Between October 2017 and March 2018, 160 anonymous reports were filed.

If you wish to take further action, you can file an informal complaint with OSCCA. Through the office, an investigator meets with both the complainant and the respondent to record any statements about the incident in question, and to help determine further action that both the complainant and respondent can agree upon, based on the requests of the complainant. This informal procedure is called the Procedure for Handling Student Cases of Harassment and Sexual Misconduct. Between October 2017 and March 2018, six complaints were received through this channel.

But if the respondent will not agree to the action that the complainant requests, or if the complainant does not feel that the proper action has been taken after the informal procedure has concluded, the complainant can file a formal complaint under Regulation Six – the regulation that specifically treats harassment and sexual misconduct – of the Cambridge Statutes and Ordinances. (Or, you can skip the informal procedure and request the formal procedure right away.)

The University Advocate receives your complaint and determines whether the case can be properly investigated under the definition of harassment outlined in Regulation Six. If so, she will present a

## Timeline Harassment & Sexual Assault Policy Reform

- **2014**  
Women’s Campaign publishes ‘Cambridge Speaks Out’ report surveying the prevalence of sexual violence in the student body
- **2015**  
Women’s Campaign publishes ‘Mind the Gap’ report, detailing experiences of sexism at Cambridge
- **2015**  
Disciplinary Procedure altered to include cases of harassment
- **2016-17 academic year**  
OSCCA established; harassment and sexual misconduct policy and anonymous reporting rolled out
- **Michaelmas 2017**  
Breaking the Silence launched
- **February 2018**  
Women’s Campaign publish open letter demanding change to burden of proof

charge to the respondent, and the case will be heard by a disciplinary committee composed of five people. The committee will decide whether and what sanctions will be imposed. The defendant then has the right to appeal the decision. Over the course of 2016-17, four complaints relating to Regulation Six were received.

Olufemi stated that although the 2017 establishment of the informal procedure was an important step in providing more resources for survivors, much work still needs to be done to make the formal disciplinary procedure accessible. “[The informal procedure] was originally created to enable people to carry on with their studies, and to not have to carry on with a very laborious, intensely stressful and scrutinising disciplinary procedure. It enables the complainant to say, “I don’t want to see that person between these hours”, or “I don’t want that person to enter my college”, all of which are necessary provisions, and a form of harm reduction. But this doesn’t get to the fundamental, underlying problem, which is that nobody accesses the disciplinary procedure for cases of sexual harassment and assault.”

D’Ambrumenil told *Varsity* that the student disciplinary procedure is currently undergoing a series of revisions. About accessibility, she said, “That’s one of the things that we’re looking to improve... When we’re revising the student disciplinary procedure, we’re really looking at all the guidance available to ensure that it is as accessible as possible.” She noted that OSCCA would welcome any opinions from the university body while the disciplinary procedure is under review.

Considering changes she would like to see in the future, Olufemi told *Varsity*, “In an ideal world we’d have a disciplinary procedure that was simplified so that students could access it, use the balance of probabilities, and then they’d be able to access a group of people – not just one person – a team of people with specific experience in dealing with survivors of sexual violence and domestic abuse... Having a more progressive disciplinary procedure signals that the university is changing, and that it isn’t so attached to tradition at the expense of functionality, or at the expense of the welfare of its students.”



## Aoife Hogan Breaking the Silence must be substantiated

### ANALYSIS

Changing the burden of proof is one step in what needs to be a long process of thoroughly and thoughtfully substantiating the appearance and operation of the university’s policies and in-house support systems. The university does not have, and should not aspire to emulate, the powers of a criminal court. So, debate surrounding changing the burden of proof used in the University’s Formal Disciplinary Procedure must come down to the question of what the Procedure’s purpose really is in cases of harassment and sexual misconduct.

The greatest onus of proof is on the university, today, tomorrow, on May 1 and beyond, to show us that it stands by Breaking the Silence. The university must prove that the campaign and its reforms are not just filling the void with white noise.

Its first purpose is to do right by both the complainant and the respondent, in the context of their mutual existence in the university. This point is not in dispute between those who are in favour of changing the standard of proof, and those who are not. I use the term ‘changing’, rather than ‘lowering’, purposively – to point out that shifting the standard of guilt does not at all mean that those pushing for change hope to see a rise in the number of ‘guilty’ verdicts. The students who signed the Women’s Campaign’s Open Letter, and the academics who posed student concerns to Regent House, hope to see the Procedure actually being used. We must first make

the step to make the process more accessible and accommodating for all students, before hypothesising about the murkiness of the cases which may be brought forward.

This leads us to the Formal Disciplinary Procedure’s second purpose, no less important than the first – to provide a symbolic platform which encourages those survivors to speak up and report cases, especially those who do not wish to pursue legal channels, but who nonetheless want to take formal steps to feel safer at this university. The University, as an institution with codes of conduct, has recognised its duty to students in this regard. It now needs to realise this duty, evinced by survivors trusting the Disciplinary Procedure – a long and strenuous process – to offer a real chance of positive change, and to facilitate a dialogue.

Above all, we must ask whether the Formal Disciplinary Procedure, under the current model and the newly proposed one, exists within a holistic apparatus of in-house support services. The idea of providing institutional procedures depends upon the university respecting its duty of care to students and doing something about it. This goes far beyond featuring links to Cambridge Rape Crisis on the Breaking the Silence website, an external support system which is severely oversubscribed. It means more than workshops in Freshers’ Week and online campaigns. It means honesty, and honesty is reached through discussion, something which must not begin and end with May 1.



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## News

# Lack of centralised support means vastly differing Prevent approaches

● Kurdish Society members call for apology from University and St John's after speaker censorship

● King's also intervened in Islamic Society event, which was later cancelled

Continued from front page

the University has characterised the incident as a “mistake”, subsequently apologising and promising to “do better”.

However, this is far from the full picture: though Cambridge implemented its own Prevent procedures, the status of the colleges as separate legal institutions means that compliance is their own responsibility. A *Varsity* investigation has found that the reality of Prevent implementation across the University and colleges has been characterised by inconsistency, and a lack of transparency and accountability.

The legal requirements of Prevent required a joined-up approach, which was theoretically made easier by the fact that it presented an opportunity for a top-down, standardised implementation. This role fell to the Office for Intercollegiate Services (OIS), the body which facilitates logistical support between Cambridge's colleges and also manages the intercollegiate committees, produced a standardised set of guidance documents to avoid the duplication of labour.

This included risk assessment spreads, guidance on process, staff training information, and draft freedom of speech statements for colleges to adopt – as well as advice on how to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

The efficacy of the guidelines in encouraging a cohesive approach across colleges, however, has been called into question by the results of *Varsity*'s investigation, which found that Cambridge's colleges had already splintered into strikingly varied practices.

Most colleges have responded to the new laws by forming some kind of committee, which monitors and reports on implementation. Using freedom of information requests, *Varsity* asked for minutes of all colleges' Prevent committees meetings, and details of any interventions that had taken place. Several colleges rejected parts of the requests: Trinity did not send minutes as they contained “sensitive information”, Churchill and Homerton said their committees did not take minutes, and Magdalene said its committee only communicated over email.

The investigation further found that three colleges took different approaches



▲ Dilar Dirik was impeded from contributing to a Kurdish Society panel discussion

(CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY KURDISH SOCIETY)

in processing the same speaker under Prevent. St John's' general implementation was much more vigorous: the college called for all its student-facing and welfare staff to undergo Prevent training, including porters, tutorial and academic staff, and bedders. In addition, a two-page section of its student handbook tells Johnian students to monitor peers for signs of radicalisation, and instructs them on how to make reports if they are suspicious.

“It was a very petty form of harassment”

## Muslim students “self-censor” under Prevent

Throughout the investigation, Muslim students repeatedly stressed to *Varsity* the impact Prevent implementation had on their experiences of the University. Abdulla Zaman said that a supervisor warned him not to “raise any alarm bells” after giving him topics such as Hezbollah to study.

He added that many of his Muslim friends feel “very uncomfortable speaking in supervisions because they could be reported for anything...that fear is always there”.

Another Muslim student echoed this concern, telling *Varsity* that while she had never had any direct experience with Prevent, it had still resulted in her “self-censoring” her work.

Another said that the atmosphere of suspicion caused by Prevent means

he feels he has to “be the good Muslim all the time”.

“Everyone Muslim in places like Cambridge will make jokes about being overheard by someone, being taken out of context and accused of being extremist,” he added, “or jokes about emails being read and prayer spaces being watched. While we know it doesn't happen, they're manifestations of what's actually in the back of all of our minds. We are also very hesitant to talk about some religious issues, or issues around Palestine and Israel for fear of being called extreme.”

He explained that this affects not only Muslim students' welfare, but their ability to participate in the public life at the University: “It's resulted in Muslim students not making up a large presence in student politics; for us, it's always best avoided because deep down I feel a voice like mine is just going to be shut down.”

By contrast, several colleges took relatively ‘soft’ approaches, with some only extending training to tutorial staff and directors of studies. Jesus's Prevent committee found in a February 2017 review that much of the training they planned had not been carried out.

Despite this, the committee decided “not to press the matter further with those that have not completed the training to date”.

When asked about these disparities, Head of the OIS Matthew Russell said that he had “no view”, other than that it appears “entirely natural and normal” that Colleges should take different approaches to their Prevent duty.

St John's were also one of only a few colleges which chose to answer our request for details of any interventions that had taken place, naming two: a John's Theological Society event, and a panel on Kurdish political struggles hosted by the Kurdish Society in November 2016.

Barzan Sadiq and Dilar Dirik, who organised the event, told *Varsity* that they had not been aware of its referral through the Prevent process prior to being contacted as part of this investigation. What they described of their experience, however, appeared remarkably similar to how a Palestinian Society event was handled by the University one year later.

Shortly before the event was due to take place, they were told that Dirik, whom they planned to co-chair the panel, could not do so because she was judged not to be a “neutral person

who can fairly chair the session” after checking her “speeches and texts online”. Though they eventually managed to negotiate Dirik's presence on the panel in order to assist an external speaker with English, she was not permitted to contribute to the discussion herself. A University proctor also sat in on the event “to observe that freedom of expression [was] guaranteed”, although no reasons were given as to why this was deemed necessary.

They described the measure as “a very petty form of harassment and a blatant case of Orwellian politics”, and drew links to the “criminalisation of the Kurdish freedom movement” by European governments. They added: “It is absolutely shocking, distressing and also frustrating to see that we have been subjected to this controversial process, especially in such an opaque and secretive manner, without any explanation, justification or information.”

“It says a lot about the scheme that we were not even aware that we were subjected to it.”

Issuing a “demand transparency, explanation and an apology from St John's College and the University”, they also alleged that the University was not applying its Prevent duty fairly: “It is not surprising that this scheme is targeting vulnerable communities such as Muslims in times of Islamophobia, or Kurds in the context of massive genocidal attacks in the region.”

Another college that gave details about Prevent interventions was King's, who stated that the duty had only ever been applied to one speaker, Mark Regev. However, *Varsity* also spoke to Abdulla Zaman, a student at King's who organised an event at the college about Islam in Europe hosted by the Islamic Society. He claimed the event was cancelled following questions raised by King's staff about a controversial speaker.

During a meeting with a King's professor, Zaman was told that the college could get into trouble with the government if a speaker were to say something controversial, and that as the organiser of the event, he would be responsible. Zaman said that he assumed these remarks were directed at one proposed speaker, Abdullah al Andalusi, who had recently been criticised by an article by the *Telegraph*.

Concerned that the event might be cancelled, Zaman said that he offered to disinvite al Andalusi, a decision supported by the professor. However, the disinvitation led to one of the remaining speakers declining to attend. Another wrote to the Islamic Society expressing concerns about the event and asking to talk to the organiser. As a result, according to Zaman, the Islamic Society were forced to cancel the debate altogether.

King's omission of this incident in their response to our freedom of information request suggests that despite the fact that their intervention was a significant contributing factor to the cancellation, it was not formally recorded – there would be no official process by which to appeal, or public channel through which to find out it had even taken place.



# News

## DOUBLE THE GOLD

### Don't rain(bow) on my (King's) parade

Cambridge residents were treated to a beautiful double rainbow yesterday. It is as yet unclear whether anyone found a pot of gold at the end of either rainbow, although it seems likely that Trinity College has more than two rainbow's worth of cash – perhaps their endowment grows exponentially with each natural weather phenomenon? Many took the opportunity to share rainbow pictures on social media, and perhaps hoped that the vibrant colours in the sky offered hope for the exam term ahead.



▲ No gold in sight (METE ATATURE)

## PEMBROKE BROKE?

### Pembroke spends £5,000 on a desk

Pembroke College has come under fire after spending £5,000 on a desk formerly owned by poet laureate and Pembroke graduate Ted Hughes. Some students, including CUSU president-elect Evie Aspinall, have suggested that the money would have been better used improving living conditions; however, fellows defended the controversial purchase, with Dr Mark Wormald saying, "What could be more inspiring to future generations of Pembroke students and writers than to have Ted Hughes's own writing desk and chair beside them as they read, study, compose?"

## (GUINEA) PIGS MIGHT FLY

### Lucy Cavendish adopts 4 guinea pigs

Lucy Cavendish College has adopted four guinea pigs, named after inspirational women: Emmeline Squeakhurst, Virguinea Woolf, Oreo and Ruth Bader Guineasburg. They claim to be the first Oxbridge College to have guinea pigs as pets. This is not the first time that guinea pigs have resided at Lucy Cavendish – in 1972 they were used to maintain the gardens. However, their future role is likely to centre on student welfare than grass-management. Speaking of the benefits of these new pets, Student Union Officer Laura McClintock suggested they will offer "a welcome distraction from deadlines!"



▲ Pigging out (AOIFE BYRNE)

# Big Issue seller kickstarts fundraising drive for coffee trike business

Stephanie Stacey  
Senior News Correspondent

Standing outside Sainsbury's, where he has become a familiar face selling *The Big Issue*, Jonjo Doe tells me that his job is difficult: "People just don't want to listen to you."

Doe arrived, homeless, in Cambridge more than three years ago and has since built a reputation among locals and students alike based on his entrepreneurial talent and sociable demeanour. Now "ready to move onto other things", Jonjo plans to construct a coffee trike selling coffee to busy customers in Cambridge.

Aiming to raise funds to kick start his business, Doe started a GoFundMe a few weeks ago, which, at the time of writing, has raised £1,754. Money will go towards constructing and preparing the trike and coffee equipment, and paying for a pitch.

Doe is eager to emphasise that his coffee trike fundraiser, unlike many other campaigns on GoFundMe's platform, is "not a hard-luck story", but rather a means of "setting up [his] own business and becoming independent again".

The coffee trike concept has been on Doe's mind for a while now, and he says it's "exciting to see it finally getting in motion", though he wishes everything would happen "a bit quicker". He is concerned, however, that his fundraising campaign is stagnating slightly, and is aiming to increase efforts to "build momentum", incorporating advertisements for the campaign into his *Big Issue* sales routine. He shows me a copy of the magazine with the fundraiser's web address written on the back.

Describing the beginning of his career as a vendor of *The Big Issue*, Doe says, "there were no expectations", emphasising that his entry into this field of work was born of "real need" and survival instinct. "I was homeless and I knew it could be a good source of income if you worked hard, so I started."

*The Big Issue*, founded in 1991, now



▲ Doe is a familiar face outside Sainsbury's on Sidney Street (LOUIS ASHWORTH)

ranks among the world's most successful homeless outreach initiatives, with a weekly circulation of 82,294 as of 2017. Its business model is simple: vendors – who must be homeless, marginalised or vulnerably housed – buy copies of the magazine for £1.25 and then sell them on to the public for £2.50, keeping the profits.

Doe credits the *Big Issue* for offering "unexpected possibilities", citing his encounters with the Mayor of Cambridge and founder of *The Big Issue* Lord John Bird, with whom he has visited Westminster and been interviewed by Sky News. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, is a regular customer, Jonjo tells me.

However, selling *The Big Issue* certainly has its drawbacks, and fundamentally,

he emphasises, "it's not a very good job". On "bad days like today" sales can be frustratingly slow. Even worse, Doe tells me, "People are rude to you. I've been attacked several times."

Being a vendor can often often be "wearing", and, though he notes that the initiative has helped him, Jonjo is emphatically clear: "it's not what I want to be doing in the future".

The planned coffee trike may be the first step in fulfilling Doe's entrepreneurial dreams, but it is unlikely that it will be his last. "What else? There's always something else!", he jokes, before going on to detail his interest in the Community Land Trust, a nonprofit aiming to develop affordable housing for the most vulnerable, and *The Big Issue*'s new digital edition.

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## News

# Bike-share boom The story of Ofo's meteoric rise in Cambridge

- The bike-sharing pioneer has expanded from 20 to 550 bikes in Cambridge
- The future, however, remains unclear for the warring industry

**Jack Conway**  
Senior News Correspondent

Exactly one year ago this week, a flood began in Cambridge. They came as a trickle at first, with only twenty of them peppered throughout the city – the first of their kind in all of Europe. Today, only one year later, what was once a trickle is now a tsunami. A tsunami of bright yellow bikes that has swept the streets of Cambridge and the world.

They are owned by Ofo, a Chinese company locked in a battle for two-wheeled world domination, and they are revolutionary. Ofo is the world's first and largest dockless bike-share company. Users download the Ofo app, use it to find a bike, scan the QR code on the bike to unlock it, pay 50p per half hour, and simply leave the bike whenever and wherever they finish using it.

Since Ofo pioneered the dockless bike-share business model, it has become increasingly popular—dozens of competing companies have entered the market. To mark one year since the frenzy first reached Europe via Cambridge, this is the astonishing story of how dockless bike-share grew from a trickle into a flood.

### Riding into Cambridge

In April, 2017, Ofo was looking to expand. It had spread like wildfire in China, becoming a multi-billion dollar company. When it decided to move overseas, it chose Cambridge as the site of its first foray outside Asia.

When asked why the company chose Cambridge as its launchpad into Europe, an Ofo representative told *Varsity* that “Cambridge is synonymous with cycling so it made perfect sense for us to run our pilot scheme here.”

The pilot scheme started out small, “with just 20 bikes as a small scale trial.” But “the service has expanded rapidly,” the representative told *Varsity*. “We now have a fleet of 550 bikes” in Cambridge, he said, not to mention the company's 6,550 bikes spread across four cities in the UK.

“We've been thrilled by the way that the city has adopted ofo and taken to using it in such great numbers,” the Ofo representative said. While the numbers in Cambridge have indeed been impressive, they pale in comparison to the company's incredible explosion across the world.

### The bike-share boom

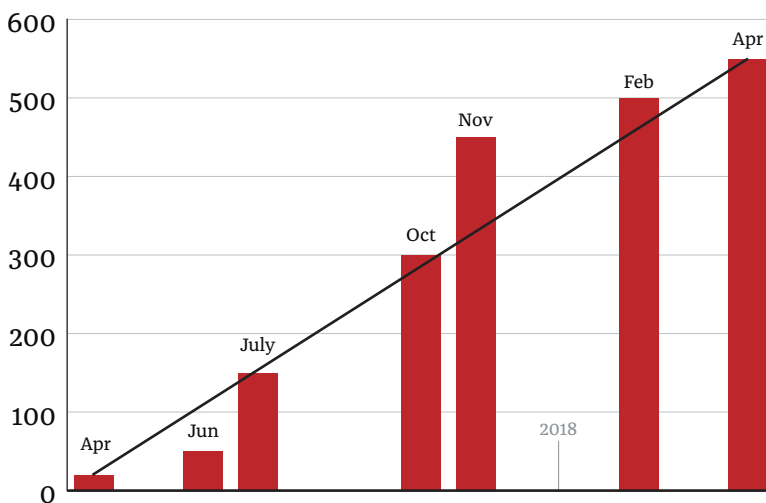
At the dawn of 2017, Ofo operated in only one country: China. When it launched its



▲ Ofo's bright yellow bikes have been scattered across the city (MATHIAS GJESDAL HAMMER)

## Ofo on a roll

The bike hire company has gradually expanded its Cambridge offering, rising from twenty bikes last year to 550 today



### Using Ofo in Cambridge

Given the issues inherent in the dockless bike-share business model, what is it like to use Ofo in Cambridge? Sara Borasio, who studies HSPS at Girton, said that she started using Ofo after her bike was stolen. Since then, she has continued using it. “Most of the time I can use my own bike, but if it's being repaired or I'm already in town for some reason, Ofo is very useful.” Although she has had some issues with the condition of the bikes, she said that “I'm still glad it exists, and I'm especially glad Girton is still included in the geofenced area.”

Like Sara, Georgia Crapper uses Ofo despite owning a bike. She uses it once or twice a week, finding it most useful

for one-way journeys. She said that though the bikes are quite heavy and more difficult to ride than her own, her overall Ofo experience has been very positive. “It's quick and better for the environment than taking an Uber, not to mention cheaper! The bikes are easy to find if you're in the centre of town, and usually no more than a five minute walk if you're a bit further out.”

Ben Grodzinski, from Christ's, first started using Ofo when he visited China. “In Cambridge, I've only ever used it once, when my own bike was in the shop for repairs. If I didn't have my own bike, I'd use it very regularly. In China, where I didn't have my own bike, I probably used it twice a day on average.” Considering Cambridge is such a bike-obsessed city, Ofo seems to have chosen wisely in launching its European expansion here.

pilot scheme in Cambridge on April 20, 2017, the UK became the third country in the world to host the company's signature bright yellow bikes.

Now, there are 10 million bright yellow bikes in 21 countries. The company has expanded from 80 cities a year ago to over 250 in recent months. And it isn't alone. The UK quickly became the first front in a bitter competition between Ofo and its rivals, the most prominent of which, Mobike, has expanded at a similarly blistering pace.

Mobike launched in Manchester on 29 June, marking its 100th city launch and its entrance into Europe. Just under five months later, on 22 November, it launched in Berlin, its 200th city. It launched in 100 cities in 146 days—a new city every 35 hours. Mobike now operates in 15 countries, having launched most recently in Chile and Mexico.

### Cambridge's wheel ordeal

The conditions on the ground in Cambridge mean that the worst effects of

the bike-share war have been avoided, but difficulties remain. The dockless business model's darker side has been unavoidable here: freeing the bikes from docks also frees riders to steal, damage, or dump the bikes.

When asked if their bikes have been vandalised the head Ofo UK told *The Guardian* that “We had one thrown off a bridge in Cambridge.” *Cambridge News* found that 15 abandoned bikes were handed over to the police in a six week period in November, and last week it reported last week that “a Cambridge man was left exhausted and irate after the incessant alarm from an Ofo bike kept him awake all night.”

In general, however, Ofo told *Varsity* that “Vandalism hasn't been a large problem for us. The vast majority of people in Cambridge have been using our bikes as intended, responsibly, and treated them with respect.”

And when problems do arise, Ofo has a team to come to the rescue: “On the rare occasions that our bikes do get damaged our marshals collect them and get them repaired and back on the road in a matter of hours.” Besides collecting and repairing bikes, marshals ensure that the bikes are parked properly and redistribute them to locations where demand is high.

### The Cambridge advantage

As Ofo, Mobike, and their competitors scramble to take over the world, the future of dockless bike-share remains unclear. Neither Ofo nor Mobike is profitable, and the war between the two companies is extremely costly.

Despite Ofo's difficulties, the company seems to have chosen wisely when it decided to launch here one year ago. The city's cycling culture and small size, not to mention Ofo's marshals, have allowed for a degree of success.

To Ofo and Mobike, the year since dockless bike-share came to Cambridge has looked like a fight to the death as they struggle to take over the world as fast as possible. To Cambridge, the city synonymous with bicycles, cycling has become even easier than it was before.





# EU funds a third of schools' income

**Jamie Hancock**  
Investigations Editor

A significant proportion of the income of University schools comes from the European Union, a *Varsity* investigation has revealed. According to University finance reports, this means that Brexit could result in significant “financial uncertainties and risks” for research.

In the financial year ending in July 2017, University schools, which are groupings of related faculties and departments, received a total £59,220,000 in research funding from the EU Commission, covering 640 grants, as well as £10,683,000 for further costs. This represents 12.7% of Cambridge's external research income overall. The EU is the University's third largest source of such funding, after UK charities (30.59%) and Research Councils (31.5%).

A Freedom of Information request by *Varsity* revealed the extent to which reliance on EU funding varies by academic school. In the year 2016-17, Physical Sciences (incorporating departments such as Applied and Pure Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, and Ge-

ography) was the largest recipient with £19.5 million. Biological Sciences and Clinical Medicine also received amounts of over £10 million. The School of Arts and Humanities received the least, at £3.1 million.

However, these figures do not reveal the extent to which these schools depend currently on EU funds. Clinical Medicine, for example, was granted £10.4 million - yet this figure represents only 5.9% of the school's external research income. In contrast, the EU provided nearly 30% of comparable funding for the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (comprising the History, Economics, Education and Human, Social and Political Sciences faculties). Figures for Arts and the Humanities and Physical Sciences were 22% and 20.3% respectively.

These funds are provided by the EU Commission via a variety of schemes, such as the Horizon 2020 initiative. Cambridge University's 2016 Annual Financial Report noted that the University had “continued to perform strongly with the European Research Council” and that it had “been confirmed as the leading University recipient of funding” under this scheme. The report termed the



Brexit result “a significant challenge” to research income. The 2017 report is yet to be released.

Meanwhile, the University's Annual Report for General Board to the Council in 2017 stated that “loss of European Research Council funding would likely

▲ **Research funding is allocated by the European Com-missions** (JA179)

impact on the University's ability to engage leading researchers.” According to the report, the University “engages with government on Brexit issues” and “has established working groups to keep all aspects of Brexit under review.” It emphasises Brexit as one of “the University's key financial uncertainties and risks”.

Despite this, the data seen by *Varsity* indicates that there has been a net increase in EU funds over the last five years. Between the years 2012-13 and 2015-16, overall EU research grants to Cambridge's academic schools grew from £43.5 million to £60.9 million - a rise of 40%. This figure dipped slightly in 2016-17 to £58 million. The total funding received from the EU Commission last year was £59,200,000.

This reduction could be part of a wider decline in UK universities accessing EU funding, even prior to Britain officially leaving the Union. According to *the Observer*, the UK received 3% less funds from the Horizon 2020 initiative in September 2017 when compared to 2016.

The Prime Minister, Theresa May, has said the British government is seeking “a far-reaching science and innovation pact with the EU” from Brexit negotiations. Nevertheless, the specifics of any such agreement on research funding remain unclear.

In February, a similar investigation by *Cherwell*, a student newspaper at the University of Oxford, revealed that some departments at the University of Oxford depend on the EU for as much as 75% of their external research income.

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## Science

## Aubrey de Grey



## ‘Ignoring the threat of ageing is morally inexcusable’

The controversial gerontologist talks to **Stephanie Stacey** about the scientific research offering hope of eternal life

**W**ould you like to live forever? Aubrey de Grey might be able to help you out.

Having publicly declared that the first person to live for more than a millennium is likely alive today, de Grey has dedicated large amounts of energy and time to the pursuit of medical technology which may one day allow humans to live indefinitely.

Now one of the most famous names in gerontology – the science of ageing and related ills – de Grey’s work focuses on the seemingly outlandish idea of curing death, currently a concept seen only in sci-fi films and fantasy novels like *Twilight*.

Having graduated from Trinity Hall with a degree in computer science in 1985, de Grey switched fields in his late twenties upon discovering “the horrifying fact that most people, and indeed most biologists, viewed ageing as not very important or interesting.” He appears both astonished and disgusted that the world pays so little attention to ageing, the one malady which affects us all.

De Grey defines ageing as “the collection of types of damage that the body does to itself throughout life as consequences of its normal operation.” For this reason, he argues that there is “no real answer to the question of how ageing harms us”, emphasising that it harms us “by definition”.

His major breakthrough came through the realisation that rather than attempting to delay the damage inflicted by ageing, as was the established practice, gerontologists could do better by repairing this damage after it has occurred. This idea, though “counterintuitive” to many of his colleagues, has now become “totally mainstream” in the field, and forms the basis of the Strategies for Engineered Negligible Senescence (SENS) Research Foundation which de Grey co-founded in 2009.

Speaking of the work taking place at SENS, and around the world, de Grey proudly declares that there have been “huge advances” in implementing his theory of damage repair. “Among the most high-profile is the ability to remove senescent cells using certain drugs, but there’s a lot more that is more esoteric, such as making backup copies of the mitochondrial DNA in the nucleus and introducing bacterial enzymes to eliminate otherwise indigestible waste products.”

Asked about the biggest barriers currently facing progress, de Grey replies: “Money, money and money.”



“Governments will have to provide anti-ageing treatments to get re-elected”

He blames the field’s financial struggles on “the desperation that almost all people have to put ageing out of their minds and pretend that it is some kind of blessing in disguise, so that they can get on with their miserably short lives without being preoccupied by the terrible thing that awaits them.”

According to de Grey, this attitude is “psychologically understandable but morally inexcusable”.

Dismissing fears that exclusive anti-ageing therapies could increase inequality – creating a dystopia in which the rich live long prosperous lives while the poor are condemned to early deaths – de Grey claims these treatments “will quite certainly become universally available virtually as soon as they are developed.”

He cites political and economic incentives for ensuring universal access to anti-ageing therapies: “They will be so intensely desired that governments will have to provide them in order to get re-elected”, and they “will pay for themselves so fast that it will be economically suicidal for any government

not to do that.”

Theoretically, in a post-ageing world, the elderly will no longer face the physical challenges which currently inhibit or slow down productivity, and could therefore continue working indefinitely, contributing to the economy rather than draining resources. However, the prospect of a post-retirement world could raise concerns for mental wellbeing, among other human rights issues.

De Grey rejects criticism of his field as “unnatural”, citing this challenge as another “great example of the desperation of so many people to switch off their brains when confronted with the need to discuss the defeat of ageing.”

Towards those who make the “unnatural” claim, de Grey is both indignant and dismissive: “It takes about ten IQ points and ten milliseconds to notice that the whole of technology is “unnatural” – including, of course, the whole of medicine – endeavours that those who voice this objection do not tend to oppose.”

Morally, de Grey does not have any

doubts about the quest to extend life: “For something to be an ethical issue it has to be a meaningful dilemma and in order to make that case one must make the case either that people who were born a long time ago have less entitlement to health, as a human right, than younger people, or that health itself is a lesser human right than other things that might end up being mutually exclusive with it, like parenthood.”

“Once one focuses on the fact that this is just medicine, that any longevity effects would be just side-effects of health, the ‘ethics’ of the matter rather rapidly vaporises.”

Offering advice to aspiring scientists and researchers, de Grey emphasises “on no account should you go into a highly competitive field”, arguing that the “thrill” of competition is “vastly outweighed by the grimness of the perpetual fighting.”

“Didn’t you get into science to make a difference? So, identify backwaters – backwaters that SHOULD be centre stage but aren’t.”

Perhaps inspired by the very advice he offers, De Grey seems never to shy from the eccentric or unpopular. Almost a caricature of the ‘mad scientist’ stereotype, with long unkempt hair and outlandish goals, he has faced criticism on all fronts, including from his scientific peers. In 2005, the MIT Technology Review offered a \$20,000 reward to any biologist who could offer an “intellectually serious argument that SENS is so wrong that it is unworthy of learned debate”, seeking answers to the rather common question of whether de Grey is simply “totally nuts”.

For Aubrey de Grey, death is a challenge to be overcome, rather than an inevitable reality. He is alarmed – even angered – by those who simply accept their fate.

Asked whether he has a bucket list, de Grey replies: “Since I don’t intend to die, I don’t need to prioritise.”

▲ De Grey has come under criticism from the scientific community

(THE CAMBRIDGE UNION)



▲ De Grey was a student at Trinity Hall, graduating with a BA in computer science in 1985

(NIGEL BROWN)



# Starring as a woman scientist

**Thea Elvin**  
Science Correspondent

In 1919, Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin won a Cambridge University scholarship to study Natural Sciences at Newnham College. Less than ten years later, her PhD thesis on the chemical composition of stars was described by fellow scientists as “undoubtedly the most brilliant PhD thesis ever written in astronomy”.

Despite her later significant career in astronomy, Payne-Gaposchkin arrived in Cambridge intending to focus her studies on botany. However, she attended a lecture given by the director of the Cambridge Observatory, Sir Arthur Eddington, who had recently returned from the west coast of Africa where he had been making observations of stars close to the sun during the eclipse, providing experimental proof of Einstein’s new theory of general relativity. The lecture inspired in Payne-Gaposchkin what she later described as “a complete transformation of my world picture” and she then abandoned her studies in botany

in favour of astronomy.

Neither Cambridge nor the UK provided any opportunities for women to pursue scientific careers at the time; the university did not award degrees to women until 1948. Graduating in 1923, Payne-Gaposchkin sought research opportunities in the United States and moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts to study for a PhD in astronomy at the Harvard College Observatory.

Since the 19th century, women had worked at the observatory as ‘computers’, carrying out the tedious job of categorising the light spectrum of each star as it was passed through a prism. For her PhD, Payne-Gaposchkin compared this spectral data with stellar temperatures. She discovered that, although carbon, silicon and some common metals were present in the Sun in the same abundances as on Earth, the most abundant element in the stars, and therefore in the universe, was hydrogen.

Payne-Gaposchkin used the ionisation equation developed by Indian astrophysicist Meghnad Saha to relate the temperatures of the stars to their



▲ Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin was an alumna of Newnham College  
(SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE ARCHIVES)

spectral data. This allowed her to show that variations in the spectral absorption lines were due to differing amounts of ionization at different stellar temperatures, as opposed to the composition of the star.

From this she was able to work out the relative abundances of each element from the spectrum, establishing that large quantities of hydrogen and helium make up the majority of a star’s composition.

At the time this discovery was extremely controversial. Most scientists accepted the belief that the elements making up the Sun should be in the same ratios as those making up the Earth,

25

years between  
Payne-  
Gaposchkin’s  
graduation, and  
first Cambridge  
degrees awarded  
to women

with even Eddington believing iron to be the most abundant element in the Sun. Payne-Gaposchkin was dissuaded from making her conclusions and forced to write them off as anomalies in the data, until four years later when separate experiments derived the same result and her work was recognised.

Payne-Gaposchkin was a trailblazer science: her Ph.D. marked a turning point for women scientists, who went from being thoughtless “computers” to making major contributions to science.

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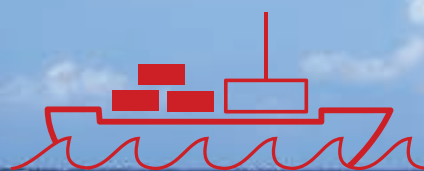
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# Opinion

## Fifty years after Powell's speech, a river of blood runs through British politics



Alex Mistlin is in his third year studying HSPS at Emmanuel



◀ Enoch Powell, former Conservative MP, became infamous for his 1968 anti-immigration 'River of Blood' speech

(ALLAN WARREN)

Last week, BBC Radio 4 came under criticism for broadcasting Enoch Powell's 'Rivers of Blood' speech in full. Indeed, Dr Shirin Hirsch, one of the academics interviewed for comment on the speech, demanded that her contributions be removed on account of the fact that she was "disgusted by the way the BBC are promoting this." Some critics, such as LBC pundit James O'Brien, were particularly appalled that the speech was broadcast by the public service broadcaster, equating the BBC's decision with providing a platform to right-wing extremists.

However, having listened to the speech in full, I firmly believe that the BBC made the right decision, not least because, going forward, the BBC's relevance and legitimacy depend upon its continued insistence on commissioning controversial content. The BBC and the programme's presenter Amol Rajan (himself an immigrant from Kolkata) made sure to contextualise the speech so as to make clear that the program could only be construed as an endorsement of Powell's views by someone who hadn't listened.

In truth, I only wish the BBC were a little more circumspect in the program's promotion (the BBC did not make it clear

that the actor Ian McDiarmid's performance of the speech would be broken up with analysis from a range of commentators) and a little less tentative in its execution. To be clear, my defence of the BBC is not derived from sympathy for Powell's intolerance. I am the son of a Commonwealth immigrant and I have demonstrably benefited from the race relations legislation to which Powell was so vehemently opposed. However, in a week in which the children of the Windrush generation have been threatened with deportation, despite living in Britain for over 45 years, we should not pretend that politicians sympathetic to Powell's ideology do not occupy some very powerful positions. While active proponents of right-wing extremism might be quiet for now, this does not mean that there aren't some very extreme, and very right-wing, actions being taken by the current government.

Regardless of what one thinks of Brexit, it would be churlish to deny the role that the immigration debate continues to play in the negotiations. Given that Powell's speech introduced imagery which informs our politics today, there is no better time for the BBC to be broadcasting such a speech. As Peter Hain, former Labour cabinet minister and anti-apartheid campaigner, noted: "[Powell] used this phrase 'we're becoming strangers

in our own country'...it was that kind of sentiment coming off the doorstep [during the EU referendum]."

Therefore, it is a shame that, for younger Britons, Powell is almost an irrelevance. According to polling commissioned by British Future, less than a fifth of under-34s (18%) can pick Powell's name from a list when asked who is associated with the phrase "rivers of blood", compared with 82% of those aged over 65. British liberals should be clamouring for Powell and his legacy to be under the spotlight once more, for the speech represents the dirty laundry of those who unironically argue that "political correctness has gone mad". We should air it just as the BBC aired Powell's immortal phrase "in this country, in 15 or 20 years' time, the black man will have the whip hand over the white man."

Returning to the present, last week (and the last four years since the passage of the 2014 Immigration Act) saw the Windrush generation failed so spectacularly that the government have actually apologised for mishandling the situation. On Monday, iNews reported that the government's startling insensitivity stretched to the production and distribution of a memo telling those being deported or removed from the UK to Jamaica to put on a local accent to avoid attracting "unwanted attention".

Given that the government has long had the ability to grant indefinite leave to remain to those whose presence in the country may be technically questionable but socially desirable, the government's persistence can only be put down to cruelty or incompetence. Either way, Alastair Campbell is correct to note that the government's inability to properly document these persons does not augur well for the millions of changes to immigration status that will be engendered by Brexit.

Another of Powell's contemporaries, Harold Wilson, once said that "a week is a long time in politics," and this past week has demonstrated three crucial things. First is that we still live with the legacy of Enoch Powell, a politician who was ostracised in his lifetime but who has had a greater impact upon British Politics than the establishment figures who shunned him. Following the speech, in which Powell expressed support for the repatriation of immigrants, denunciations appeared in newspaper editorials attacking his "appeal to racial hatred" and Edward Heath put paid to Powell's political ambitions by casting him out of the shadow cabinet.

Second, Brexit has done very little to sideline immigration as a political issue. Vince Cable, the Liberal Democrat leader, explains that "until two years ago I felt positive that the legacy of Enoch Powell's poisonous and pessimistic rhetoric had been buried. Now I am not so sure. The 'immigration panic' – albeit mainly directed at white east Europeans – and Brexit have now brought some dangerous xenophobia back to the surface."

Unfortunately, it is not just Eastern Europeans who find themselves on the receiving end of naked prejudice. Attacks against Jewish people are up and as the horrifying "punish a Muslim day" campaign makes clear, Islamophobia remains rife in Britain. Of course, no government official would condone this trend but it is our elected politicians who legitimise this climate of xenophobia.

Third, even if the targets of prejudice have changed (Farage himself promises more Indian doctors and less Romanian criminals) racism remains an active force, not just in British society but at the highest echelons of British politics. For fifty years now the ideology of people like Powell has bloodied our politics. But it is not too late for senior politicians to start draining the venom out of our discourse. Guaranteeing the rights of forty-seven thousand members of the "Windrush Generation" is a good start. Guaranteeing the rights of three million EU citizens would indicate that there is a real "wind of change" blowing through British politics.

“  
There is no better time for the BBC to be broadcasting such a speech  
”

Alex Mistlin



# The unsung hero of Irish politics



Nadia Hourihan is a second year studying English at Trinity

Nadia Hourihan

This was the front cover of *The Sunday Business Post Magazine* for the 20th anniversary celebrations of the Good Friday Agreement, and I find it uniquely depressing. Not only is Nobel Laureate John Hume missing, but so too is the first ever woman secretary to Northern Ireland: Mo Mowlam.

Mo Mowlam wasn't in my history books at school. I can't really remember the first time I heard about her. And that's a crying shame because there are few things more enjoyable than hearing about this peerless, fearless and (delightfully) graceless woman.

Unusual for politicians, Mo Mowlam was relentlessly likeable. There's a video of her, in February 2000, taking part in a puppy wedding on what is now The Graham Norton Show. It was filmed just after Blair had made Peter Mandelson Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, or rather "Secretary of State for Ireland" as Mandelson referred to himself during his first appearance at the House of Commons despatch box. Mo, for all her hard work in Northern Ireland, was relegated to the relatively lowly position of Cabinet Office Minister.

Norton's interview with her is fascinating. Her sense of humour makes her a comfortable guest on his couch. After a brisk succession of impeccable one-liners ("Are you still very interested in Northern Ireland?" "I'm interested. I keep up to date, of course. But I've got a very demanding job now, I do drugs"), Norton quickly clocks the happy absurdity of why everyone likes Mo. In many ways Mo Mowlam seems totally out of whack with our ideas of a politician: you actually want to see her on The Graham Norton Show.

She was uncouth. She was unfiltered. She was ferociously authentic. Mo disdained rulebooks for stately conduct. Famously, on her unprecedented visit to the Maze prison she threw off her wig (worn because she was battling a brain tumour at the time) to smoke



▲ The cover of *The Sunday Business Post Magazine* for the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement (THE SUNDAY BUSINESS POST MAGAZINE)

rollies with UFF and UDA terrorists. She got in trouble for this.

Nor did Mo have any qualms about calling Martin McGuinness, a former Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) leader and later deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, a 'babe' and a 'bastard' in close quarters; she knew such irreverence bought affection, and trust. Neither did she have any qualms about flashing the UUP First Minister of Northern Ireland David Trimble her knickers, although I doubt that this bought either affection or trust.

She got in trouble for all of this too. Mo's celebrated informality was often credited with having helped to cut through political impasses and bring people to the negotiating table. So why is it so hard to hear about her?

Tony Blair, whose praise of Mo in his 1999 conference speech drew the room to its feet for a standing ovation, did not even mention her name during his anniversary speech in Belfast this April.

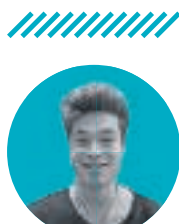
Everywhere, from recent BBC articles celebrating the Good Friday Agreement as a 'work of genius', to my high-school text books, Mo's stepdaughter, Henrietta Norton says it best: "Where the fuck is she?"

The Guardian columnist Zoe Williams suggested that it was because "the best way to get written out of history" was to be "a middle-aged woman".

I don't get it. In my eyes, Mo makes for the best kind of history.

Mo Mowlam is someone I wish I had met. And what is more, she's someone I hope we will continue to hear about.

# Rugby Australia is perpetuating homophobia



Oliver Winters is in his second year studying History at Downing

Oliver Winters

Australian Rugby star Israel Folau has provoked controversy after writing on his Instagram account that gay people go 'to hell' unless they repent their sins. This comes the year after he disavowed the official stance of the Australian team by opposing the legalising of gay marriage in the recent Australian postal vote.

The role of a celebrity in modern life is a complicated one: they hold a privileged position especially with followings on social media, where Folau has over 330,000. However, as Folau has made clear in an article he wrote justifying his homophobic remarks, he is as entitled as any other to his opinions, shaped by his Christian beliefs under religious freedom. He therefore asserts that he has the right to publicly voice them, regardless of whether they are shared by fellow players or wider society.

Folau is indeed correct: he has the right to express his views on homosexuality to the same extent as any other individual. While his outspoken views are undeniably unpleasant, they do not constitute a form of hate speech. Folau

can thus post such comments 'freely' on his social media, alongside masses of other vitriolic and homophobic content. It is true that as a celebrity, Folau has the ability to propagate his views to a greater audience than most, but the fact that he is well-known does not lend greater authority to his views. As such, although distasteful and nasty, Folau shouldn't be prevented from expressing himself as he would if he were an ordinary citizen, albeit a misinformed and unpleasant one.

However, what makes this situation concerning is the limited response from Rugby Australia, the professional body with whom Folau is contractually bound. Despite Folau's professed willingness to walk away from his contract, Rugby Australia has refused to condemn him and his words. As the governing body of rugby in the country, the failure to disavow Folau is extremely troubling.

Critics have argued that given the wider struggle to prevent Australian players going overseas and making themselves ineligible for the national side, Rugby Australia's lack of action is motivated by a fear of losing a star player

a year before the World Cup. This is not to say that there hasn't been a public backlash: several prominent players have reiterated support for LGBT+ rights, citing the role rugby has to play in targeting homophobic attitudes within society, especially within indigenous communities. By refusing to openly condemn Folau, Rugby Australia has not only implied that homophobia is acceptable, but that rugby and its institutions have no place in tackling social issues in communities.

Homophobia in sport is a serious problem, one which I have experienced first-hand. The responsibility falls upon Rugby Australia to demonstrate that homophobia has no place in the sport, and that there are some opinions that have no place on the rugby pitch. As a public body, they have a responsibility to tackle issues such as homophobia. Israel Folau, despite his fame and success, remains just another homophobic individual amongst many. It is the failure of Rugby Australia to engage with the issue of homophobia, and so engage with their wider role in the community, that remains most troubling.



Vivienne Hopley-Jones

Let's stop turning a blind eye to racism

Editor's Take

25 years following the murder of Stephen Lawrence has left many of us considering how much attitudes to race truly have changed in Britain. If the past few weeks have elucidated anything, it is that Britain remains a highly racialised society. From national politics, to individual experience, the racism that remains embedded in our culture is a depressing yet important discussion we must continue to have. This is an argument that has clearly been made by many many before me, and it saddens me that we must re-assert it again and again.

No discussion of polarisation can be articulated in contemporary British political debate without giving credit where credit's due; to Brexit, of course. The climate of intolerance which has toxically flourished since the vote to leave, enabled by a sense of legitimacy which was perhaps contained within what that vote, has been one factor enabling racist attitudes to be un-bottled. Britain has become more openly racist following the referendum, with an increase in instances of racial intolerance and violence.

The past weeks have shown us that such instances are far from purely the results of individual actions or attitudes. The problem goes much deeper. Nationally, the burgeoning Windrush scandal in particular is an absolutely appalling illustration of a racism that penetrates deep into our established institutions. Furthermore, the way in which several lecturers have been attacked by the national press, most notably Cambridge's Dr. Priyamvada Gopal's highly racialised treatment by the Daily Mail, shows the way racism continues to mark our society. Even walking my dog around the park back home, I was confronted by individuals openly expressing attitudes that were highly racist, expecting me to nod along and agree.

Writing about anything this week that did not address the racism that penetrates our society felt wrong to me. That we live in an increasingly divided, individualised society, defined by our fear of one another and those we perceive as the 'other' is saddening. More than saddening, it is crushing. Growing up in one of the most multi-cultural cities in the country, diversity and multi-culturalism has been my 'norm'. I need not here lay out the benefits to individuals, communities and society of diversity, or tolerance of difference. Instead, let's reflect on recent events, that seem individual but in reality form a much wider picture of modern Britain. A much wider picture of racism, sexism, homophobia and discontent, that I am sure many of us do not like the look (or feel) of very much. So, let's continue to fight to change that



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## Opinion

## The non-existent rise of the neo-fascists



Naman Habtom-Desta is a second year studying History at Homerton

Naman  
Habtom-Desta



◀ **Svenskarnas Parti (Party of the Swedes) marching in Stockholm** (CARL RIDDERSTRALE)

The collapse of social democratic parties in Europe, whether in the Netherlands, France or Poland, and the electoral failures of the Democratic Party in the United States have been blamed on the supposed rise of neo-fascist forces across the West. In reality, these are marginal figures who have been inflated and used as scapegoats. The term 'fascist' has been used most recently during the Italian election. Weeks before Italians went to the polls, news outlets like *The Guardian* published articles with titles such as '[t]he fascist movement that has brought Mussolini back to the mainstream' when referring to groups like *CasaPound*. 'How massive is this party?', you must be wondering. It must be a major parliamentary party for a national newspaper to cover it, no? No. In March's election, this explicitly fascist organisation garnered less than

a percent of the vote. The second biggest result of a genuine neo-fascist movement was that of *Forza Nuova*, which managed to convince just above one third of one percent of voters. Are these the people bringing *il Duce* back to the mainstream? Evidently not; yet none of this, it seems, stopped CNN from running a headline claiming that '[i]n Italy's elections, the fascists did scarily well.'

More often than not, explicitly neo-Nazi 'parties' — if one is so generous to describe them as such — can be seen parading and marching rather than actually electioneering. In Sweden, *Svenskarnas Parti* (Party of the Swedes), which sought to implement an ethnic requirement for naturalisation, dissolved due to a lack of members. Arguably the most successful neo-Nazi movement in Sweden is the Nordic Resistance Movement, whose greatest breakthrough so far has been

gathering 500 members for a march in Gothenburg last year. Even Hitler's failed Beer Hall Putsch had at least two thousand participants.

Any electoral success that has been garnered, rather, can be attributed to the moderation of formerly extreme parties. Perhaps the most striking example would be that of *Jobbik*, a Hungarian nationalist party. The party has gone from being explicitly anti-Semitic (with one of their MEP's, Csanad Szegedi, regularly denouncing international Jewry prior to discovering that his grandmother was an Auschwitz survivor and soon after emigrated to Israel) to having a leader who has renounced the party's anti-Semitic past. He even sent a Hanukkah greeting letter to Hungary's Jewish community! In many ways, the party is to the left of the ruling *Fidesz* party of Prime Minister Viktor Orban regarding European affairs

and economic issues.

But a crucial question needs to be answered: is a party a reflection of its supporters or are the supporters a reflection of a party? In the case of the parliamentary parties, it is difficult to say for those that stand on the edge of the spectrum. A portion of their voter base is made up of people who are more extreme than the party platform itself but are unable to bring themselves to vote for an extra-parliamentary party out of fear that their vote would be wasted. Therefore, while most neo-fascists vote for nationalist parties, nationalist parties are not necessarily neo-fascist in of themselves.

In the case of eastern Europe, a certain redefinition of 'neo-fascist' might be useful. Unlike in other parts of the continents, some political beliefs, particularly related to immigration and social issues (most notably LGBT rights and abortion), are fully mainstream. As such, the narrow confines of xenophobia and extreme social conservatism, will be of little practical use. One should not superimpose western European norms of socially acceptable views when analysing those in the east. Rather than 'extreme' being a relative term *between* states, it should be a qualifier *within* states.

In a recent study by the Berlin think-tank *Das Progressive Zentrum* (Progressive Center), "low wages and the collapse of social and transport infrastructure" were found to be the real drivers of anxiety. Anti-migrant, anti-Islam and anti-Europe slogans have relatively little impact on alienated voters. It would be a grave error for parties that have been electorally weakened to lay the blame externally. Fringe parties did not succeed; mainstream ones failed.

For the time being, don't worry too much about the rise of a Fourth Reich.

“  
A certain  
redefinition  
of 'neo-  
fascist'  
might be  
useful  
”

Let's face it, the world *needs* fossil fuel energy

Paul Cosgrove is a PhD studying Engineering at Pembroke

Paul  
Cosgrove

'Climate justice' seems a well-intentioned but somewhat nebulous concept: a more detailed description might entail both fighting climate change and helping the world's poor. Granted, the former fits more neatly into a manifesto, but aren't these one and the same? Not entirely: cutting down greenhouse gases and lifting the world out of poverty are rarely complementary causes.

An oft-touted technique for fighting climate change is to drive fossil fuels into an uneconomic death spiral by 'bursting the carbon bubble'. This is a primary aim of the Divestment campaign. However, the efficacy of the bursting mechanism is presently by-the-by — the outcome is always portrayed to be more important. Expensive fossil fuels equal no more greenhouse gases equals a happy world, right?

Access to energy is crucial to our existence, but is often taken for granted. Colloquially, 'energy access' is understood as switching on a light at a whim. However, equally fundamental to the OECD experience is having a radiator

during a snow storm or a fridge in a heat wave. Abundant energy enables these miracles and without it our lives would be incomparably worse. This abundant energy is overwhelmingly thanks to fossil fuels. We cannot forego hydrocarbons entirely: our best shot is to produce them by other, more expensive, energy-intensive means.

Nonetheless, divestment activists tell us that we must revoke oil production's social license and make our abundant energy unaffordable — the Ethiopian lacking a 200th of a European's energy access will appreciate the righteous intent. But even many Europeans suffer from energy poverty — how then can killing fossil fuels be purely virtuous? This is perhaps jumping the gun; after all, coal, oil, and gas aren't the only game in town. Wind and solar power are now cheaper than coal, haven't you heard?

Well, kind of: but only when abusing the least sophisticated and thus most headline-worthy cost metrics. Naturally, if this were the case the world would be building unsubsidised renewable energy, regardless of whether Big Oil wants

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Having  
electricity  
when it is  
required  
is literally  
a matter  
of life and  
death  
”

us to or not. The cost of renewables is under-stated but the value of intermittent electricity is often ignored; having electricity exactly when it's required is crucial for most forms of industry but it's literally a matter of life and death when running a hospital. On the other hand, a surfeit of electricity may cause the grid to collapse — blackouts and broken pylons are somewhat inconvenient. Batteries? Great for scalping peaks and troughs in electricity prices, inconceivable for backing up a grid. But renewables create more jobs than fossil fuels! True, just as banning tractors would create many more jobs in farming — requiring additional human toil for the same output isn't a selling point. Ideal if you believe humanity should live at one with nature, less so if you support feeding more than billion people.

Intermittent renewables will likely never come close to powering a developed country. They can manage a few hours during a sunny summer Sunday but invariably modern economies require substantial reliable energy in the form of coal, gas, hydro, or nuclear plants. De-

manding otherwise is to enforce energy poverty and suffering; to quote Rachel Pritzker of the Breakthrough Institute, 'poverty is not my favourite climate solution'. Significant climate change is a near-certainty but at least with inexpensive fossil fuels those worst affected can be well prepared.

So, if fossil fuels aren't going anywhere why shouldn't their production and use be as cheap and green as possible? Cheap, fracked gas has killed US coal and thus reduced emissions more effectively than nebulous environmental legislation ever has. Is it surprising that fossil fuel research could pay dividends for the climate?

That fighting climate change is a cause close to my heart is indicative of my good fortune but billions have more imminent concerns. Exxon and friends aren't inherently evil: they produce perpetually cheaper, cleaner energy vital to the world's continued flourishing. We must obviate fossil fuels as much as possible, but trying to destroy oil and gas supermajors is at best misguided, and at worst immoral.



# The refugee crisis is a problem caused by states



Nina Jeffs is a second year studying HSPS at Corpus Christi

Nina Jeffs

Destroying ‘The Jungle’ did not eliminate people’s demand, or right, for asylum. But since the infamous refugee camp was destroyed by the French police in 2016, Calais has barely featured in the news. Macron’s visit in January sparked some media attention – but the scope of the European refugee crisis, and the world’s 65 million displaced people, is easily lost in a 24-hour news cycle. Unless we renew and re-animate the Calais discussion now, we risk turning down the dangerous path of apathy.

Currently, around 700 people live in Calais in worse conditions than when ‘The Jungle’ existed – in tents and cardboard boxes, inside the forest and by the side of the motorway. There is no camp, and very little government support. In fact, there are daily incidents of French police brutality: refugees consistently report that police wake them up in the night by pepper spraying the inside of their tents, confiscating their tents and possessions, including blankets, medication and identity papers. In freezing winter conditions, French authorities initially refused to open emergency accommodation, and when they did it consisted of limited spaces in an unheated concrete warehouse.

George, a long-term volunteer with Help Refugees, reflected that although the media depicts the refugee crisis as a humanitarian issue, there’s more to it than that:

*“We’re not in an earthquake, this is something that has been caused by the state. This is a very very politicised, and political, phenomenon.”*

This is where the mainstream media narrative misses the mark. News coverage of the situation is largely defined by external powers such as the French government and law courts, and often fails to capture the situation on the ground. For example, a brawl between asylum seekers at Calais made headlines in multiple publications, but the many eyewitness accounts and video footage of French police brutality at Calais do not.

In this media environment, staying educated about the reality of the refugee crisis is an uphill battle. For me, it took going to Calais to volunteer with Help Refugees earlier this year. Beforehand, I expected most refugees there to be families, women and children, and mainly from Syria. I now realise that my misconceptions stem from the mainstream media narrative about what it is to be a refugee – mostly dominated by images of women and children, often injured and looking ‘helpless’. These images powerfully draw on our societies’ ideas of who is most deserving of compassion, as can be seen from the outpourings of support for the refugee crisis after the image of three-year-old refugee Alan Kurdi lying dead on a beach went viral.

In reality though, refugees are not a homogenous group. Refugees at Calais are from a diverse range of backgrounds including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Eritrea and Ethiopia, and have fled their homes for a huge range of reasons, including forced conscription, becoming child soldiers, climate induced famine, ethnic cleansing and torture. In many of these circumstances, young men are the first

casualties: one reason why they make up the vast majority of refugees in Calais. Ultimately it takes more humanity to admit that a refugee can be from any demographic category you could possibly conjure up, rather than just the stylised images in the news and sometimes fundraising appeals, because it entails understanding the basic premise of refugee law: that all human lives are equal, and that nobody deserves persecution.

Juliet Wheeler, Calais Coordinator of Refugee Info Bus (a British organisation that provides legal information to refugees), tells me that one of the most important things she has learnt in her role is the importance of educating herself about the situation in people’s countries of origin. Many voluntary organisations are doing their part to challenge the hegemonic presentation of refugees in the European media by enabling refugees to tell their own stories. This helps the public to better understand the diverse reasons people seek asylum and the kind of treatment they receive from our governments – a sure way to avoid apathy in the case of Calais.

Other, usually quiet, voices speaking out reveal the deeper political manoeuvring behind the issues at Calais. Accounts from Home Office whistleblowers detail the bureaucracy creaking under pressure – with accounts of asylum interviewers acting like vindictive driving instructors, tripping up asylum seekers on tiny inconsistencies in their applications in order to achieve a high failure rate. They also reveal that the French and British governments provide limited legal support for people navigating an

“Around 700 people live in Calais in worse conditions than when ‘The Jungle’ existed”

▼ ‘The Jungle’ at Calais (LIAM STOODPIECE)



incredibly difficult asylum process, effectively setting asylum seekers up to fail.

Volunteer organisations are brilliant at tackling the short-term symptoms of the Calais problem, with organisations such as the Refugee Info Bus providing free internet access and legal information to refugees, and student-led campaigns such as SolidariTee funding legal aid for refugees. Ultimately though, change in the bureaucratic framework, and a revitalised understanding of the situation of refugees in Calais, are needed for a long-term solution.

Today, there are 65 million displaced people worldwide, and if carbon emissions are not reduced, the number of refugee applications are set to double by the end of the century. Given the treatment of 700 refugees at Calais, our refugee provisions need rethinking, and urgently. For those who care, this means challenging the mainstream media narrative and pushing for large-scale bureaucratic change.

# Social media is jeopardising political pluralism



Tom Toon is a third year studying MML at Selwyn

Tom Toon

It’s free, and it always will be! As ever, the news that no lunch comes complimentary seems to come as a great shock to all those who previously placed great faith in Facebook’s watertight privacy policy.

Amidst all this brouhaha, Jeremy Corbyn has made his position crystal clear: he will not be jumping on the #DeleteFacebook bandwagon. On the one hand, it is refreshing to see a public figure refusing to bow to such an insincere movement: just how many people will regret their ephemeral indignation when they can no longer remember anyone’s birthday? More to the point, however, Corbyn himself recognised that cutting off access to 1.4 million potential voters would be the political equivalent of shooting himself in the foot.

In his words, “online is where it’s at”. This may be very ‘down with the kids’, but it reveals a salient truth: social media is now the unquestionable battleground for electioneering, with the traditional press increasingly relegated to the periphery.

Though many factors contributed to Labour’s resurgence in last year’s snap election, a rapid change of heart from the majority of British newspapers cannot be counted amongst them. In particular, *The Sun* rallied against the Labour

leader from day one, culminating in an infamous plea urging its readers not to “chuck Britain in the Cor-bin”. In less vitriolic fashion, *The Telegraph*, *The Times* and *The Evening Standard* proffered similar advice.

However, none of these publications had properly weighed up the popularity of the Labour leader on social media. By the end of the campaign, Corbyn had three times as many Twitter followers as his rival Theresa May, and on a party level, Labour saw their number of Facebook likes shoot up 75%, compared to a mere 10% for their Conservative counterparts.

Of course, Labour have their well-oiled team of marketers and analysts to thank for targeting the youth and appealing to them in their own language. But, on a deeper level, this inequality on social media reveals a serious problem about the way these platforms can stifle openness and genuine debate.

Though it is sometimes hard to believe it, newspaper articles are generally written by professional journalists and always verified by editors who have legal sanctions threatening to crush them each time they go to press.

On social networks, however, it is becoming increasingly difficult to separate the news from the noise. According to a

survey carried out in August 2017 by the Pew Research Center, over three quarters of Americans under the age of 50 get at least some news from social networks – predominantly Twitter. Limited until recently to 140 characters, this platform does not exactly lend itself to nuanced perspectives, as exemplified by vulgarian *par excellence* Donald Trump, and more importantly, the viral nature of the web enables jingoistic soundbites to assume validity simply in virtue of their visibility.

Consideration must also be given to the psychological mechanisms that often lead people to post content on these sites in the first place. In short, it seems that the need for us to belong in a group makes us more likely to seek affirmation according to the rules of the group rather than through genuine personal expression. It is really just a numbers game, the sole aim being to amass as many likes as the pertinence of the hashtag will allow.

Crucially, this online group identity appears to align itself pretty neatly with what many voters perceive to be left-wing policies. Indeed, that the current Tory government is proving to be pretty toothless is somewhat beside the point. Championing Labour appears to facilitate inclusion — ‘for the many, not

“Three quarters of Americans get their news from social networks”

the few’ — whereas it is evidently less fashionable to back a ruling party whose ideology, at least in theory, is based around empowering the individual to change his or her own lot without state intervention. In practice, this can never completely work, because it does not factor in embedded social, economic and racial prejudices that, to modify Orwell’s felicitous phrase, serve to make some individuals more equal than others. Nevertheless, the fact still remains: more than one political model exists, and such pluralism is critical for any democracy to function.

Yet the internet community – the largest and supposedly most inclusive of them all – has yet to diversify sufficiently to allow the plurality of perspectives that actually do exist to compete for attention. And, this echo chamber of self-affirmation will remain hermetically sealed to opinions from the credible right for as long as they are tarred by the ugly brush of Britain First bigots. No-platforming speakers because of borderline views is one thing, but refusing to even countenance different socioeconomic positions is another. Debate should be exactly that – an open space where opposing viewpoints can be aired and shared. *Shy Tory or Limousine Liberal?* Now there’s a debate for you.





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# Vulture

○ FEATURES (24-27)  
○ ARTS (28-29)  
○ FASHION (30-31)  
○ FILM & TV (32-33)  
○ MUSIC (34-35)  
○ THEATRE (36-37)



## Love in the time of Crushbridge

Can it ever be more than a bit of fun?

*pages 24-25*



## Tabs on tabs

Meet the Cambridge students on Class A drugs

*pages 26-27*

*Inside*

**Caroline Walker at Kettle's Yard**  
28-29

**Met Gala 2018**  
30-31

**The ADC's summer jaunt**  
36-37



## ONLINE THIS WEEK

GOING TO CAMBRIDGE AS A NORTHERNER

# Escape from Easter Term Exams with A Series of Improv-able Events, the Corn Exchange and Even more women

*A guide to Cambridge's Easter Term events for when exams have stressed you to your wits end*

ADC This Week

**Neural Networks**  
Corpus, 27th,  
9.30pm

**Footlights Smoker**  
Corpus, 30th,  
9.30pm

**Looking Glass**  
Corpus, 1st-  
5th, 9.30pm

**E**xams loom heavy. Revision season is upon us, and stress will reach its peak. Now, more than ever, it's important for us to enjoy what Cambridge has to offer (as for some, it will be our last time as undergraduates).

Of course, it's easy to feel as though anything that isn't work is procrastination in Easter term; but while your DOS might not agree, art can be the best remedy for a mental block.

If you're struggling to finish an essay, or find yourself re-reading the same chapter on medieval land law without anything sinking in: take a break. Watch a play, attend a poetry recital, listen to a live music performance. Anything to give yourself a little time to rejuvenate.

Below is a whistle-stop tour of this term's events to help you plan a little down-time. Just because people are revising, doesn't mean the Cambridge creative scene turns off. Not in the slightest.

## Week 1

To kick things off, the Corpus Mainshow, playing until Saturday, is Noah Greelan's *The Arm in the Cat Flap*. It portrays the decline of a group of university friends who take a trip into the Suffolk countryside. With industrial amounts of pasta, alcohol, and Suffolk local radio, this is one show you should make sure not to miss.

On Friday night at Fitzwilliam College auditorium, architect Farshid Moussavi RA will present the second annual Scroope lecture (in conjunction with Scroope: The Cambridge Architecture Journal). The lecture is entitled *Architecture, Aesthetics and Micropolitics* and is

sure to be of interests to architects and non-architects alike.

For something more relaxing: on April 28th, Cambridge Meditation and Buddhism are running a meditation workshop aimed at reducing stress, tension and worry. Everyone is welcome to attend and no experience of meditation is needed. The course comprises two one-hour sessions with a coffee/tea break.

To celebrate National Jazz month, The Cambridge Brew House are hosting a chilled Jazz Burnch on Sunday the 29th, played by local function band Swagger. Enjoy jazz of the finest calibre whilst tucking into a three-course meal.

Frank Turner fans are in luck as he plays at the Corn Exchange on Monday the 30th of April as part of a world tour to promote his new album *Be More Kind*. Tickets are still available so book soon!

The Cambridge Union is holding a talk by Classicist Joyce Reynolds with Tessa Dunlop, author of *The Century Girls*. The *Century Girls* tells the stories of six centenarian women, including Joyce Reynolds, Honorary Fellow at Newnham College.

This event is free to Union members and members of the public can purchase tickets from Cambridge Live.

If you're looking for something a little more argumentative, Trinity Politics Society are hosting a panel discussion entitled 'Is Free Speech Dead?' at 18:30 on the 2nd of May in the Winstanley Lecture Theatre.

The speakers include Kaite Welsh, author and journalist; Claire Fox, a libertarian writer; Rhiannon Melliard-Smith, co-chair of Cambridge Universities Labour Club; and former-CUSU president Amatey Doku.



“While your DOS might not agree, art can be the best remedy for a mental block.”





## Week 2

Shakespeare's *Hamlet* is running in a stunning new candle-lit performance at the Round Church from the 1st of May until the 5th.

Alternatively, on Sunday 6th May and Monday 7th May, the Downing College Music Society, in association with CUDS, will be presenting *Ballets Russes*: a short production displaying the highlights of Diaghilev's *Ballets Russes* with dancers and orchestra.



## Week 3

The Heong Gallery are running a special event on the 10th of May at 6pm about the Inuit people, and their visions of landscape across land sea and ice.

This event will feature original large scale floor maps and hand drawn routes of the Inuit elders of Nunavut.

It will be ran by Michael Bravo of the Scott Polar Research Institute who will share his extensive knowledge of how the Inuit's connect with their living landscapes.

The event is free, but booking is essential.



## Week 4

Running 15th of May until 19th of May at Corpus Playroom is Gary Owen's play *Killology*. The plot is centered around a fictional video game where the aim is to kill people as brutally as possible.

Questions of blame spiral when a young teenager is murdered in real life in circumstances similar to those of the game: is the game itself a fault? In a time when the media is routinely pointing a finger at technology and desensitisation, this is sure to be a thought-provoking play.

## Week 5

Cure your Week 5 blues with a helping of feminist comedy in *The Man Presents: Even More Women*. From the 22nd of May to 26th of May at Corpus Playroom, a cast of strong monologues, spear-headed by strong female characters, will be running so be sure not to miss them.

## Week 6

If you're feeling lyrical, Cambridge Youth Musical Theatre are presenting two new musicals by Geoff Page between 30th May and 2nd of June in the Corpus Playroom: don't miss *Blondel: Minstrel on a Mission!* and *The Criminal Capers of Colonel Blood*.



## Week 7

Fletcher Players is hosting Katherine Soper's *Wish List* from the 12th to the 16th. The play follows Dean, a man controlled by his obsessive compulsive disorder and the rituals it forces him to complete. How will he respond when his benefits are unjustly cut, and his life enters precarity like never before?

## Week 8

For some late-term comedy, The Cambridge Impronauts will be running *A Series of Improvable Events* from the 12th until the 16th of June at the Corpus Playroom. Vulnerable orphans, nefarious adoptions and secret societies collide for a night of conspiracy and heart-break ●

# Pedestrian Perspectives



## Holly Platt-Higgins

Just as Jesus would have wanted, the Easter break is a chance for most of Cambridge's students to head off to the slopes and celebrate being free from perpetual deadlines. For my own safety, (and lack of a second home in Méribel) I spent the break firmly rooted in the Kentish countryside, wasting money I didn't have at the pub with old school friends.

All the people I've grown up with are doing completely different things with their lives now: some are finishing uni, some are travelling, some dropped out, and one moved to China. Being home always makes me realise how much of a bubble Cambridge really is. It's often quite difficult to remember the rest of the world is still out there.

Last term, internships seemed to be the hot topic among many second years. The holy trinity of McKinsey, BCG and Bain seemed to dominate dinner conversation and anxieties about applications and rejections somehow poured into my daily life. It's highly infectious, all that pressure and expectation; even though I hadn't applied for anything and didn't plan on it, I was suddenly Shanghaied into being worried about internships. Was there any part of me that wanted to be a consultant? What the hell did BCG even stand for?

A friend came into my room last term and, both of us having complained about work for a long time, he said, 'we always talk about work. Let's talk about something else. What's your favourite colour?' I don't think anyone has asked me what my favourite colour is since I was about six, but it was such a good question; such an unrelated question which, for a moment, pulled me out of the Cambridge-haze.

So, I thought, I'd start collecting interesting things I'd overheard in and around The Bridge and try and keep the real world slightly closer this term. Things to remember this week:

1. A little girl, aged about 3, in a pink raincoat, rode on a scooter next to her dad down Kings Parade. They weren't talking for a long time but then he turned, looked down at her and said, 'It's quite good that you're around so many beautiful buildings; you won't realise it until you're older.'

Cambridge is an incredible place to live. If you're having a tough week, at least you get to cry around sandstone and stained glass. Maybe you won't realise it until you're older, but it's unlikely you'll ever live somewhere so steeped in history and memories at this place.

2. On the train from Cambridge to Kings Cross, a skinny girl with peroxide hair must have been heading off to go travelling. She kicked her case under the seat and then her grandpa gripped one of her arms in each hand, lovingly squeezed her and said, 'If you want to come home, at any point, you come home. There's no shame in it.'

Although most people in Cambridge are not wired to deal with failure, things not going the way you wanted or expected, well, it's really not the end of the world. Making the decision to try is often the hardest part anyway so, if you give it your best shot and it doesn't work out, there's no shame in that.

3. A tall guy with dark brown hair and a denim jacket was on the phone while unlocking his bike by the Seely Library. 'Yeah, I thought that too mate, but the weather is meant to be lovely this week, so hopefully it'll be alright.'

Even though it's exam season in the bubble, for the rest of the world, it's just called summer. The Beast from the East will soon be a thing of the past. Cambridge is once again, about to be soaked in sunshine. You might be concerned because you don't know anything about Renaissance political thought, but at least you can put away your jumper and walk around drinking iced-coffee, like someone in LA who's concerned about gluten. So, this week: appreciate the architecture, don't worry too much about the outcome, just invest in the attempt and, remember to enjoy the sunshine ●



**ONLINE THIS WEEK**

GOING TO CAMBRIDGE AS A NORTHERNER

# Despite the help of the internet, Cantabs still romantically incompetent

*The Facebook page may be a favourite among starry-eyed Cambridge romantics, but does it ever lead to something more serious?*

**Catherine Lally**

Since bursting onto the scene in early 2016, Crushbridge has filled Facebook feeds and fuelled daydreams aplenty. The page's mission statement is: "Making Cambridge less awkward, one declaration of love at a time." But with the sheer number of tags below each post, many being jokes but some sweetly hopeful, we are left to ask – is Crushbridge really helping us find love?

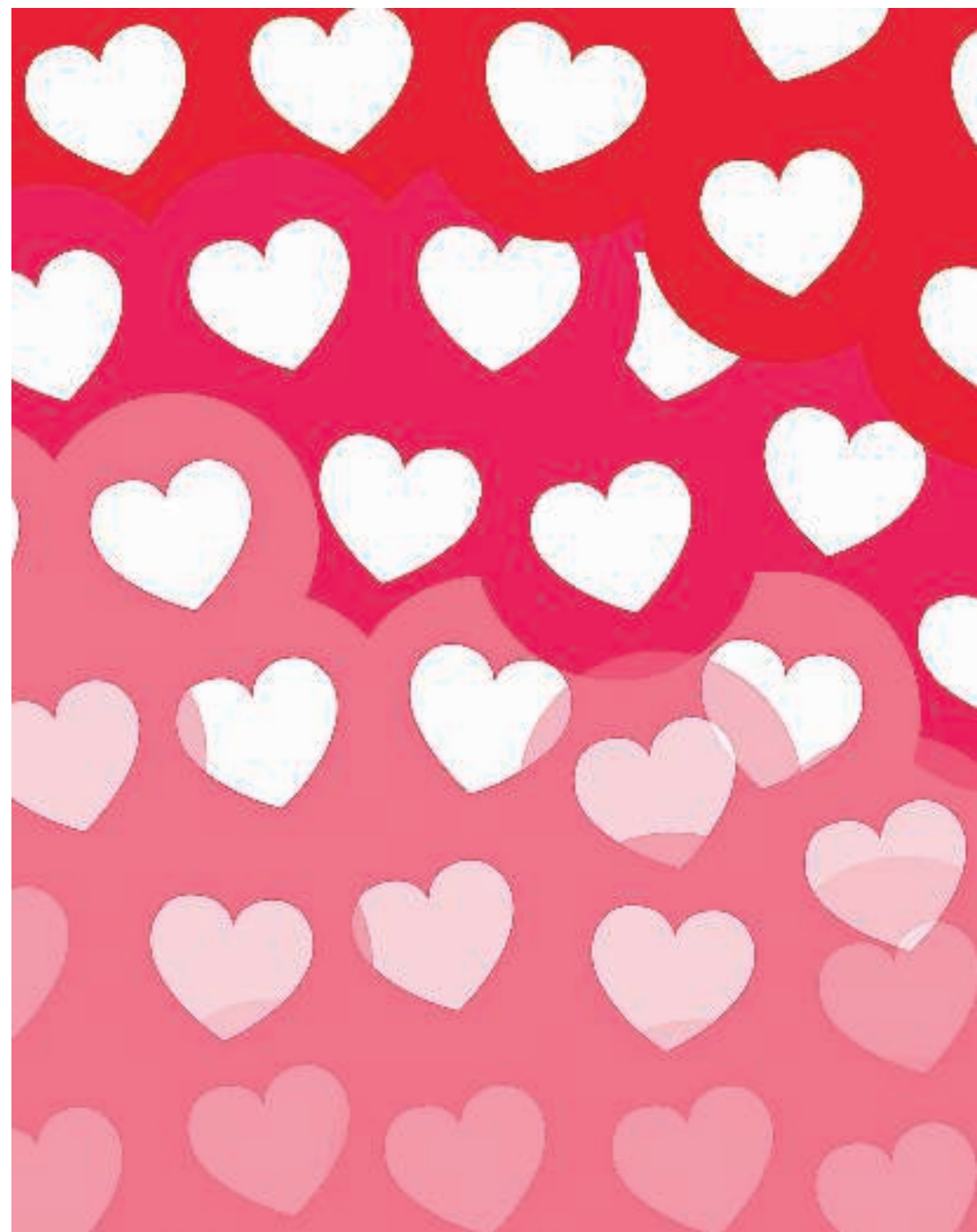
Varsity's quest to find star-crossed lovers united by Crushbridge was less than fruitful. This was in no doubt influenced by what I'm lacking in investigative abilities, but can also be attributed in no small part to the conclusion that very few real-life Cambridge couples meet on Crushbridge. The admins themselves struggled to find couples in their own search, gleaning little beyond a couple whose Crushbridge romance was all too short-lived.

The unlikelihood of a Crushbridge author and subject really hitting it off can stem from the fact that dedicating one to a stranger gives you little chance to gauge in advance how they are likely to respond to unsolicited compliments. Painfully wholesome Crushbridges sent out to people who know each other well already – like the now infamous AI "Take me back" – aren't providing romantic introductions.

I spoke to one maths student who told me that she became aware of a Crushbridge intended for them when a friend mentioned that it "specified the location we generally sit in during lectures." Generic Crushbridges are dangerous in that the subject might never realise it is aimed at them. After all, "hot girl in the BGM library," posted on the 13th of April, might never be identified by her Facebook prince.

Our mathmo did not pay much attention to the post, until the author messaged her and they agreed to meet for coffee. She admitted that "it felt exciting to be admired," although there were no romantic feelings on her part, and she found it "slightly awkward when I arrived at the intended pre-date meeting place since I had no idea what the Crushbridge-writer looked like (stalking his Facebook had failed to provide satisfactory up-to-date photographs)." While they "chatted happily for an hour or so," she found that "it was a strange way to meet someone, given the unbalanced weight of expectations, so I ended up inventing a tutor meeting so as to slip away in the least awkward way possible."

Reflecting on her brief experience dating through Crushbridge, she told me that she now feels that they would only use Crushbridge "as an outlet" for things she might not feel comfortable sharing publicly, and "not as a way to reach someone I genuinely plan to attempt to date."



▲ **"I ended up inventing a tutor meeting so as to slip away"** (DANIEL GAYNE)

Speaking to another student, she said she "knew for certain" that she was "the girl with the enchanting voice walking down Sidgwick Avenue," having been the only person in that particular location at that a particular time. However, in an unfortunate twist of fate, she was never able to make contact with the author, as "a few other people got tagged and I think the person who wrote it got confused, and wasn't sure which of us it was."

Still, does Crushbridge's less than stellar matchmaking record make it useless? Of

**Anonymous Anthology**  
*A collection of the finest poetry ever created by Cantabs*

**February 7, 2017**

To an Emma fresher:

You left too soon in  
freshers week,  
It is only you that I seek.  
It is a shame that you live  
so far away,  
It makes it much harder to  
come and play.  
If you get another taxi over  
to Girton,  
We can turn the lights low  
and draw the curtain.  
I saw you box the other  
night,  
And what a majestic sight.  
If you give me another kiss,

I promise it won't be a  
swing and a miss.  
Some fancy footwork and a  
couple of jabs,  
(Right) hook up with me.

**October 20, 2017**

E,  
Your blue eyes are  
incredible. Let's try to talk  
to each other when we're  
not drunk.

**February 9, 2018**

Lilies are pink  
Your Barbour is green

I fell when you gave me  
an easy-peel tangerine  
Daisies are white  
There's just one issue  
I can't date a tory  
But I'd try it for you

Roses are red  
You're politically blue  
Let's make it official  
before we leave the EU

**February 16, 2017**

To the girl who glanced  
in my direction from the  
other side of King's parade.  
You're the only female

contact I've had in weeks.  
Please marry me.

- A Churchill CompSci

**May 16, 2017**

Dear my big shark,  
What we had was fun.  
I miss it.  
Let's try again.  
Love  
Your fresh little fish





“  
Three months and  
a few pub meets  
later, we're close  
friends  
”

course not. Crushbridge is undeniably fun, both to read and to write for, even if it just lets us flirt with the idea of something we might never pursue.

Some even manage to make friends via Crushbridge. The student I spoke to most happy with his Crushbridge experience said that a Crushbridge containing his initials first caught his eye in November. He guessed it referred to his college through “If the power of Christ compels you to, then... coffee?” He was then tagged in the comments by the author, someone they had met recently, perhaps removing some of the mystery involved. In a reply Crushbridge, the author complained “that I was being too obvious and bemoaning the poor quality of my post’s poetry.”

This exchange continued on a fittingly pleasant track: “Three months and a few pub meets later, we’re close friends. Not lovers, for sure, but it was a pleasant surprise and a suitably ‘happy ending.’”

The original subject of the Crushbridge then remarked to *Varsity* that “it’s a strange form of entertainment, in a way. The ambiguity of the messages is often calculated to apply to as many people as possible, which makes direct identification very difficult. But, then again, as Wilde said: “The very essence of romance is uncertainty!”

They have not used *Crushbridge* since. “I’ve not got anybody to write about!” ●

## I love to remember everything my dad was

**Ana Ovey**



In writing the last of these columns on coping with grief, there is an overshadowing urge to do justice to the memory of my father. Retention has been one of the most important, and easily shaken, aspects of my grief. I want to remember the sound of my dad’s voice, what he’d say when I got home from school, what his favourite songs were, how loudly he’d laugh at my jokes. The ferocity with which I’ve attempted to hold on to this has often been painful: what has caused the pain is the acknowledgement that I cannot possibly remember everything that my dad was. This scares me because it means acknowledging that though I know I miss him, and that his loss hurts, he’ll still be gone, and I can’t render him living in the inevitable imperfection of my memory.

But it’s still vitally important, certainly to me, to remember. I love to laugh about everything that my dad was. I love, in a strange way, to cry about it. I love knowing that he meant so much to his wife, to his sons, to his friends, and to me. The most precious things people said to me following my dad’s death were memories. I adored talk of mischief he caused, of university friends sharing silly little anecdotes, of colleagues laughing at games or pranks my dad took part in. I loved his students telling me what they’d learnt from him and how he’d taught it in the most ridiculous way. I loved his friends telling me about things he’d said to them, whether these were wise, funny, outrageous, or caught anywhere in the middle.

After my first column, people in and outside of college messaged me lots of kind and encouraging things – but one message was particularly touching, and particularly identifiable, from someone who had also lost their dad. It was what prompted me into thinking, a little more deeply, about what the importance of memory to someone grieving. ‘*I find I often just want to talk about how cool my dad was*’ was the message that contained a sentiment so recognisable to me, as was what followed it: that people tensed up, whenever she tried.

I went back out to Australia at the end of February, apprehensive about how it would be to be in mourning and in another country, on the other side of the planet, on my gap year. But something that helped me enormously, along with all the support and love I was being shown in Sydney, was the love I was being shown back home, in the form of various video calls from my brothers, my mum, and my close friends. One call I got from my oldest brother was one of the loveliest, and most bittersweet, I can remember. He’d been looking through old photographs of our family, and recalling all the memories they held. I watched, over ten thousand miles away, beaming and trying not to cry, as he showed photographs

and told me about them. We both shared love for our dad – and how much we missed him. It was at a new meeting point between heart-warming and heart-breaking that other griefsters will be familiar with.

During a week of Michaelmas that was particularly messy, I was invited to the house of some family friends who’d just moved into Cambridge. Aside from having enough lovely children to distract anyone from the retrospect of a rubbish essay and a disheartening week, they were also able to share with me recollections of a father I sorely missed, and desperately wanted to talk about. It wasn’t that I wanted to cry about him – although I did – I wanted someone who knew the person I had lost, and was able to share memories of him. The moment that prompted a giggling recollection was someone entering a coughing fit after laughing a little too hard, which had been a notoriously characteristic trait of my dad’s. As it happened, I beamed – so did one of the family friends, and I was able to share a momentary laugh about what had been one of my dad’s most ridiculous, and easily satirised traits. It was something tiny, but it meant so much.

Memory is important, because it’s personal. I navigate life more retrospectively than I did before my dad died, and so much of what he did and taught me offers me guidance in my new context. I’m also reminded, with joy and heartache, the running jokes he made, the songs he loved, the embarrassing things he did. Sharing memories like this is important. The past is something to be engaged with – for the person communicating it, and the person listening. And, if you have lost someone, you’ll never be able to remember the number of hairs on their head, or the precise angle of their smile, or the first thing they said to you on your seventh birthday. You *will* remember odd and heart-warming anecdotes: the worst meal they cooked for you, the awkward way they offered high fives, how strong they liked their coffee. And these things, however seemingly banal, are precious – because the person you grieve for was precious. Hold on to that ●



▲ “The past is something to be engaged with” (ANA OVEY)





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[VARSITY.CO.UK/FEATURES](http://varsity.co.uk/features)

# ‘For me, drugs have always been gateway drugs. I’m just a curious person’

**Todd Gillespie** speaks to two Cambridge students about the downsides of the high life

It’s noon. Amber takes her fifth dihydrocodeine pill of the day. Sitting cross-legged on her swivel chair at a central Cambridge college she tells me she was, like most people, fervently against drug use when she was younger. Since she started secondary school, she’s used almost every drug you can think of – including opioids, cocaine and heroin. Now, she’s addicted to dihydrocodeine, an opiate used as a painkiller for ailments like back pain which she says gives her the feeling of being “in an energised cocoon”.

After being introduced to the drug by her friend at home last year, she has become addicted during her third year at Cambridge. Doctors normally prescribe up to three pills of dihydrocodeine per day. Amber takes up to twenty.

She started smoking cannabis around the age of 14, taking ecstasy (MDMA) at 15, and acid (LSD) and ketamine at 16. When she was 19, she tried heroin, an opiate which she still uses occasionally when she runs out of dihydrocodeine. “For me, drugs have always been gateway drugs. I’m just a curious person.”

Amber doesn’t strike me as a typical heroin user, and when I ask her about it, she sighs. She “wouldn’t be able to function” if she used it frequently, and dihydrocodeine still allows her to get through lectures and do her work. She explains that many people take heroin in its powder form, which gives a less powerful kick than injection, and challenges the stereotype that it’s as simple as sticking in a needle on your first try.

“People think it’s just about needles and shooting. No one’s gonna stumble into a needle at, like, Woodstock. You start heroin in general by snorting or smoking, which is obviously a danger since it isn’t as mad a start as people say.”

Is she ever tempted to shoot? “God no,” she balks. But she does admit she now needs increasingly more heroin than expected to get high each time. Does that scare her? “Yeah, definitely.”

When I mention I’m cautious of romanticising drug use, which kills almost four thousand

people in England and Wales every year, she bluntly responds: “Well, first of all, you can’t shit. Heroin junkies spend days with a rubber spoon.”

Amber has never gotten that far, she is keen to insist, but getting through Cambridge has been a struggle. When she hasn’t been able to source dihydrocodeine, she has had to take other “really nasty” opioids to stop withdrawal symptoms so she can make it to lectures in the mornings and stay on top of her extracurricular commitments.

Rhys, another Cambridge student, tried heroin for the first time when he was 18. He’s never “shot” it, either, and now strictly avoids it. “It’s not particularly interesting,” he says, reciting times he’s been incapacitated for hours in his College room.

He’s not a “coke boy”, either – he says it gives him chest pain and anxiety. It’s a “cheap thrill,” he says. “Surely an expensive one?” I correct him and he laughs. “Well yeah, a really expensive thrill.”

Are there any drugs he hasn’t taken? He smiles, pauses, and chuckles. “Crack.”

Drugs were common at his school where students were “rich and intelligent with little to do,” and says that while Cambridge provides lots to do, he became more adventurous with his increased liberty. “If you wanna get fucked up, you have that freedom for the first time in your life,” Rhys says, “but you can run away with those freedoms.”

Several academic studies have indicated that intelligent people are more likely to try recreational drugs. In Cambridge, very few students take hard drugs like cocaine and heroin, though, like at most universities, drugs like ecstasy and cannabis are relatively common.

Rhys sticks to psychedelics like acid and ketamine, which is known for its use as a horse anaesthetic. “In 2014, when the government moved ketamine from Class C to Class B, it made it harder to steal from veterinarians.”

He struggled with “habits” for ketamine and benzodiazepine (a psychoactive tranquilizer drug known as ‘benzos’) in the past, but

► **“I don’t want them to strap me down and throw my stuff away”**

(LOUIS ASHWORTH)



has, he says, “dealt with them”. He still uses ketamine regularly, but is gradually taking less and less because his tolerance is getting so strong that it has made it very expensive to get high.

Psychedelics are known for altering users’ interpretation of the world, especially through producing auditory and visual hallucinations, unusual patterns of thought, and reportedly heightened states of consciousness. What makes him want to get high on them? “I prefer doing drugs which galvanise you rather than force you to be happy.” More stimulating psychoactives, like ecstasy and cocaine, can cause more energetic and, Rhys suggests, reckless behaviour. He believes that, while they should be decriminalised, those drugs can potentially do serious harm to others and shouldn’t be fully legalised.

He never uses the word addiction, though he takes drugs almost every day. His degree has suffered, though he says drugs can sometimes help him understand deeper concepts in the books he reads.

Perhaps surprisingly, he isn’t concerned about his use, but appears unsettlingly confident in his ability to control it responsibly. Ultimately, he says, he values the experiences and feelings that psychedelics help evoke. “When I’m introspective, I can assess myself. It allows me insights which I can then accumulate when I’m sober. I think about when I’ll be out of university and how I don’t want a soul-destroying job. I ask myself how I can be happy with being destitute. It can instil a sense of doom, too.”

Like Rhys, it’s unlikely Amber will give up drugs completely, and, perhaps typically of an addict, it doesn’t seem like she wants to. “It’s

“  
 I associate being  
 sober with a really  
 jarring feeling  
 ”





“  
Cambridge forces  
you to adapt  
rather than deal  
with things  
”

my way to get through Cambridge,” she says, adding glibly that while “some people go to the gym or do sport, I take drugs”.

She sometimes gets drugs delivered to college in unassuming parcels. “The porters deal with hundreds of parcels a day – they would never know. I could be ordering fabric for dressmaking.”

But she is desperate to kick her dihydrocodeine addiction. It costs her about £200 per month, although she insists it isn’t excessive. She equates it to how much a regular pub-goer would spend on alcohol. But she still hates it, and has been going back and forth trying to quit for months. Every day she wakes up craving a pill, feels guilty sitting in supervisions when she’s high, and stresses that she wants to be “a normal person”.

Does she forget what it’s like to be sober? “Yeah, for sure. I associate being sober with a really jarring feeling.”

The stress of life in Cambridge can make things harder. “Cambridge forces you to adapt rather than deal with things,” Amber tells me. “I think to myself: I just need to make this work.”

The University Counselling Service has been one source of solace. “Talking to someone prevents spiralling into the weird dark hole that your room can be.” But, like many students, she complains of long waiting times.

Her addiction is isolating. “I feel far away from everything,” she says despondently. She has friends and family, but doesn’t talk to them about it. “I don’t want them to strap me down and throw my stuff away. It’s easier to exist from a distance.”

Names have been changed to preserve anonymity. ●

# ‘We need to continue breaking the silence’

**In their final column, our *Anonymous columnist* provides a manifesto for the tackling of sexual violence**

*Content note: the following article contains discussion of rape*

This term, I’ve talked about what it means to be raped, and my experience of the continuing effect it’s had on my life. Things are continuing to look up – the rape is now over six months ago, and I am feeling better than ever. I haven’t had a nightmare in a long time, and the rape has stopped feeling like such a big, all-consuming thing which defines me as a person.

I’m feeling optimistic personally, and I want to expand that optimism to society at large. Let’s talk about what we can do to continue helping matters for survivors of sexual violence. I’d love to have some magic solution to make rapists disappear, but unfortunately a more cynical pragmatism is needed.

Last term, Cambridge launched its ‘Breaking the Silence’ campaign to tackle sexual harassment and assault on campus. A similar rallying call has resounded across global media with #MeToo and the ‘Time’s Up’ campaign in Hollywood. The primary goal of these movements has (rightly) been to begin the dialogue on what has long been a hidden and shameful subject, as well as to publically expose to institutions and, well, men, the scale of the problem.

But that silence has indeed now been broken. We know there’s a major problem with sexual harassment and assault in Hollywood; we know that, horrifyingly, almost every single one of our female friends has a #MeToo story. The ground is set for fixing the issue which has been identified – but this is where it gets harder. The work now is less flashy, less quantifiable, less immediately satisfying.

While Cambridge’s ‘Breaking the Silence’ campaign is admirable in providing centralised information and support (the appointment of a new Sexual Assault and Harassment Advisor is particularly important), there is still a long way for the University to come. The disciplinary procedure for dealing with sexual misconduct is in urgent need of updating, and it’s a sad state of affairs that students are having to put pressure on the University to implement change: I am hopefully that the Senate House discussion will yield positive results. Likewise, consent workshops should not have to be a student-led initiative: more University involvement would improve uniformity across colleges, as well as the quality and attendance of sessions offered. Content warnings are a simple measure but can make a huge difference to the everyday lives of survivors of sexual violence.

On a national level, massive steps are needed to create a legal system which does justice to victims of sexual violence. Like an estimated 85% of survivors, I chose not to

report the crime I experienced, and I wonder how much that decision – for me and others – was weighted by a lack of faith in the legal system. This year, the acquittal of the rugby players charged with rape and the announcement of plans to ‘urgently’ review rape cases have given a very public platform to what seems to be an alarming trend of regression in legal trust of victims. The default assumption should be to believe those who make the difficult decision to come forward.

Of course, change does not occur only at an institutional level. As a public, we have spoken up with #MeToo and #IBelieveHer – and now it is our responsibility to follow through on our words. The scale of the problem is terrifyingly huge, and I continue to be disgusted by the number of people who, upon hearing my story, will offer a similar tale of their own. But there are some small steps we can take to improve matters

**Practice affirmative consent.** It’s easy for things to be ambiguous in the context of a drunk hook-up, but if we all make a proactive effort to ask for consent we can change a culture of grey areas of consent and ‘bad’ sex.

**Zero tolerance policy.** Rape makes sense in a culture where catcalling and groping are acceptable. These aren’t separate problems but the same sliding scale of disrespect; calling people out and refusing to tolerate problematic behaviour wherever possible will lead to progress.

**Education, education, education.** The public has a responsibility to educate itself and engage with the issue – if you’re reading this, you’re doing a good job. Better under-

“  
The scale of the problem  
is terrifyingly huge  
”

standing the issue makes society as a whole better equipped to tackle the problem and to support its victims, for instance in being mindful of their language and casual references to rape.

**Supporting some of the fantastic charities helping survivors.** Charities like Rape Crisis UK do really important work, and they need funding to continue providing and extending their services.

And, finally, we need to **continue breaking the silence** – to continue opening up the dialogue on these difficult subjects when it’s no longer on trend, and listening to what the victims have to say ●



**ONLINE THIS WEEK**  
GALLAVANTING IN GHENT

# Caroline Walker Actions: The Image of the World Can be Different

**Annabel Bolton** discusses the concept behind Caroline Walker's project at Kettle's Yard

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There's something refreshingly normal about Caroline Walker. As I am ushered into her canvas-stuffed studio with a welcoming grin, I am greeted with coffee, biscuits and laughter. With this introduction it is easy to forget that I am interviewing one of Britain's leading contemporary artists. In a field often permeated with pretention and inaccessibility, Walker and her work feel like real life, and her upcoming solo project of new paintings at Kettle's Yard as a part of their recent exhibition *Actions: The Image of the World Can Be Different*, is exactly that. With the title *Home*, the works depict a group of women in domestic spaces in London; the subjects are refugees seeking asylum, attempting to re-establish normal life in the capital.

"I would say it's definitely the most politically sensitive work that I've made," explains Walker. It fits effortlessly with Kettle's Yard's aesthetic and ethos: issues of racism, feminism, and class differences are addressed by nine artists in *Actions*, including Walker. This opportunity for her arose through a direct commission from Andrew Nairne, the creative director at Kettle's Yard, who has been visiting her studio for several years.

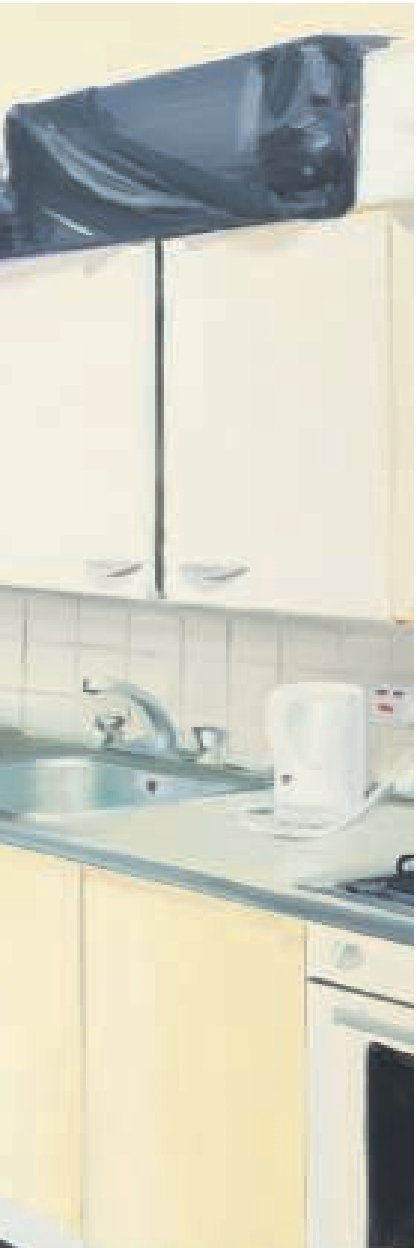
It was Nairne who suggested that Walker's paintings serve as a response to the refugee crisis. But this was quite a "leap" away from the themes in Caroline's previous oeuvre. Walker is a polished artist, with her own vision, ambition and brilliant self-consciousness: "I realised I would have to find a way of doing it which approached the subject in a way which made sense in the context of the rest of my work."

To begin with, Nairne suggested a trip to the "Jungle" in Calais. Walker agreed, but knew from the start that whilst this would be rewarding and intense, it was not necessarily going to stimulate a creative response: "That particular subject matter didn't feel right for me to tackle," she rationalises. However, the title of her series - and indeed the key idea behind her finished paintings - came from an event Walker experienced visiting the French coastal city. Upon entering the "makeshift accommodation" of one of the few women present at the camp, Caroline explains the experience: "It was like she'd tried to transport... something more familiar into this space. And it made me think about how it is we actually create a sense of home; what does home mean when you're so far away from your home?"

Staying true to her artistic style, Walker came up with an idea for her project: "I decided that if [the subject] was going to fit it had to be about women and it had to be in London for me to feel that as an artist I had any right to respond." Caroline then discovered Women for Refugee Women, a charity which challenges injustice experienced by women seeking asylum in the UK and provides a support network, meeting in groups on a regular basis for yoga sessions, knitting, English lessons, and other activities. Walker attended a meeting hosted by the charity to pose her preliminary photoshoot, and five women agreed to participate.

Abi, Consilia, Joy, Noor and Tarh all have incredible stories to tell. Escaping dire situations of domestic violence, forced marriage, abuse in the workplace, they have left every-





“Walker desires for the viewer to see reality in a new light”



thing behind - for some of them that includes family and children.

However, their moving biographies made Walker sensitive of her identity as a white British female: “I was unsure about my position in relation to their lives, and whether it was appropriate for me as an artist who has no personal experience of the displacement and uncertainty faced by refugees to be the one to tell their stories.” But the more invested she became in the work and the more she painted, she realised that “If you take out the political context of who they are and what it means in the current socio-political climate... they’re really just portraits of women in London.”

Her models are unassuming women, carrying out daily activities. Previously Walker has hired architecturally modern houses or apartments and dressed her models in a certain way to achieve a desired, almost dream-like aesthetic — something she describes as “almost like working with a film set”. With these five women, however, there was “nothing staged about the interiors or what they’re wearing or anything, they’re just - as they are.”

If we look at the image of Tahr, we peer in at her from the other side of a door: the voyeuristic view is a common trope for Walker assuming newfound relevance, “I am an outsider and I’m getting this little glimpse into their lives... but I’m not claiming to be inside that experience, so I wanted the paintings to reflect that there might be this slight distance between us.”

A striking sense of colour and light is also palpable in these works. Caroline wanted not only to photograph her subjects, but to capture an essence of who these women were in order to be able to reflect this in her painting.

In her work, Walker desires for the viewer to see reality in a new light, recognising elements of everyday life that we normally overlook. “They’re quite quiet paintings really, but I don’t believe it’s my job to tell you how to think about these women, but maybe to reflect on something which is all around us [that] we just don’t notice.” Surely that must be one of the greatest heights art can hope to achieve? ●

▲ **Caroline Walker’s**  
**Tahr, two versions, 2017**  
(CAROLINE WALKER)

Caroline’s work at Kettle’s Yard is on display from 11th April – 6th May 2018

## Remembering Rogovin’s Forgotten Ones

**Rosie Chalmers**

One of my highlights of the re-opening of Kettle’s Yard is the return of Jim Ede’s open library. The shelves are filled with books on art, photography, and architecture as well as the Penguin classics for any students who want to flick through an artist’s collection or have somewhere quiet and cosy to read in. The new Kettle’s Yard upholds Ede’s traditions and it was here, flicking through some photography booksm that I came upon the photographer’s Milton Rogovin’s *The Forgotten Ones*.

Rogovin worked for decades in the poorer areas of Appalachia and Buffalo, and his photos depict the life of miners, families, neighbourhoods and communities through the decades from the end of the Great Depression to the Cold War period. He was a social commentator; his work highlights the hidden lives of those in poverty such as the overcrowded squalid homes, and the nightmarish conditions of the mines. He captures the American working perfectly — sometimes through emotional portraits, and other times through large celebratory wedding photos. Some of the family shots are replete with smiles and excitement, as the photos were rare treats and became treasured by those within them and proudly displayed years on. However, they also show the darkness of abject poverty and the daily endurance of those who live in it: each figure fits into their landscape and context.

Rogovin famously championed the rights of those living in poverty: “The rich have their own photographers, I photograph the forgotten ones”. These are not gleaming photos of America’s presidents, or the colourful whirl of the 60s Cultural Revolution, but an exploration into the teeming millions who do not adorn the walls of national galleries. It makes you realise how wonderful it is to see photos of everyday life, the struggle and the hardship, photos of communities and history. The woman smoking, staring at us, is the sort of intimate and challenging image we should see in London’s National Portrait Gallery, rather than the endless oil paintings of Judi Dench, the Queen and Kate Middleton. Rogovin’s work delves below the surface to find those who laboured for America yet remain entirely unseen. He often worked in African American neighbourhoods, or took photos of immigrant families (perhaps inspired by his Lithuanian roots), and went on to complete numerous projects and have many exhibitions but *The Forgotten Ones* remains the most prominent in depicting the American 20th century and fighting for a space in the gallery for the working class.

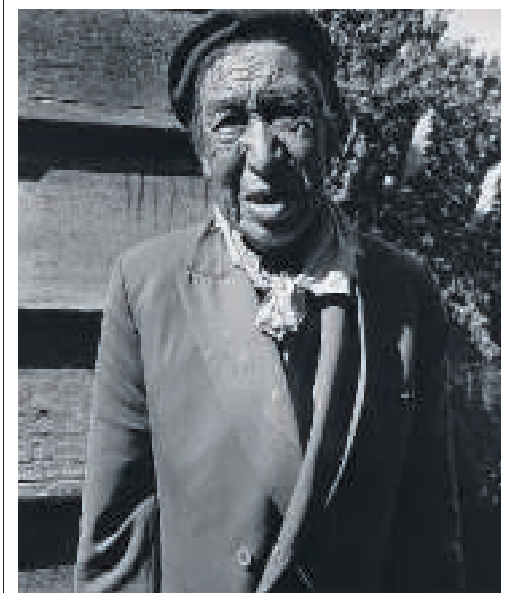
Martin Parr, a British photographer whose work mirrors Rogovin’s, explores worlds and communities that are the norm but sidelined. One of his most famous pieces documents holiday goers in New Brighton in the summer

of 1984. Parr’s work in this period encapsulates the lives of the working class in Thatcherite Britain, with many interpreting the photos as a representation of economic deprivation and unemployment. In fact, it was the political atmosphere of the 80s that inspired Parr and many other photographers to explore the stories of increasingly marginalised communities and individuals. Since then he has barely stopped for breath with new collections, new work and new stories nearly every year.

But the seething, swarming beach shots from New Brighton also buzz with the lazy joy of summer and childlike excitement for fish and chips and sandcastles. There is great affection in his work, not merely political protest. Another collection takes place in Working Men’s Clubs in England and Wales, where candid shots show Saturday night dances, Elvis tribute bands, and bingo cards being waved in the air. The photos revel with dancing, celebration and friendship that Parr enters full into. Like Rogovin, Parr manages to freeze a moment while filling it with vibrancy. From the mother firmly gripping her children’s hands to the tender embrace of elderly couples dancing and the lime-green ice cream, each person and detail is portrayed. Wh

ile Parr’s subjects do not endure the destitute poverty of Rogovin’s, both photographers demonstrate the lives and patterns of the working class at different points in history. The realism of such photos is a political declaration, and their beauty an invitation to witness a world so often ignored or forgotten within the arts.

You can find both Rogovin and Parr in the V&A’s permanent collection and there is also an exhibition of Parr’s seaside photos at the National Maritime Museum, opening this April ●



▲ **One of Rogovin’s ‘Forgotten Ones’** (FLICKR: SANTIAGONOSTALGICO)



ONLINE THIS WEEK

VIRGIL ABLOH MOVES TO LOUIS VUITTON

# 2018's Met Gala is set to be a heavenly affair

Every year, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute holds a Gala which opens its annual fashion exhibition. This year, it tackles themes of religion and fashion

**Robyn Schaffer**

I've written about the Met Gala before. It usually begins in the same way each time; pondering the theme, wondering who will wear *who* and *what*, and will the theme be honoured appropriately? It then usually ends the same way each time: decent theme, a lot of potential for creativity and exploration, but a net failure on behalf of the guests to engage fully.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's annual Costume Institute Gala, which celebrates the opening of the museum's fashion exhibition (the title of which is also the Gala's theme) is always an enormous fanfare of an event. With every appropriate A-lister in the media industries present, the evening has become over recent years somewhat the ultimate opportunity for celebrities to not only gain fashion credence but boost their egos/reputations/social media followings. I have been a longstanding die-hard fan of the Gala, namely because at the heart of the matter it chooses to celebrate legendary designers, epochs, ideas and fashion as an art form. However, there seems to be a view floating around the industry as of late which, to me, rejects what is so important about the Gala and the exhibition it inaugurates.

*Vogue* contributing editor and celebrity stylist, Elizabeth Saltzman, was recently quoted saying "It's not a costume ball or a fancy-dress party. It's a benefit for fashion, and a wonderful, glorious opportunity to create business and buzz about the industry." To a degree this is indisputably true; the fashion industry is largely about consumerism and generating business, but it is also about fantasy and escapism, something which, I believe, the Gala has the scope to encourage. It saddens me to think that the most magical night in fashion has been reduced simply to a cog in the wider machine of business sales and publicity, but this year, things might be different.

The theme of this year's Gala is *Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination*. You might be wondering what on earth fashion has to do with Catholicism and religion, but this is precisely the point. Last year, I wrote a suitably average supervision essay on religious iconography, and it's only just now made me realise that it actually has quite



a lot to do with it, and, as the exhibition and Gala should, prompts us to think about and realise the endless influence of fashion into the many diverse spheres of our society. But it's certainly a risky move – while religion has always been a popular subject for museum exhibitions, choosing to apply it to one of the biggest red-carpet events of the year, and all its connotations, is bold.

There is the omnipresent danger of unknowingly misappropriating religious culture and hence causing huge uproar, but also scaring attendees out of fully adhering to the theme for fear of such results and the drama of fashion politics. Despite this, it seems there is endless potential for the exploration and celebration of both fashion and religion in their own rights, but also how the two interrelate.

Since their birth, all religions have involved rituals and practices which involve some element of *performance*, in the sense that certain acts or deeds are *performed* by certain people for certain religious purposes. For many of these 'performances', specific dress is worn to signify religious authority and the acknowledgement of these acts, creating a religious wardrobe or uniform as such. Furthermore, these garments, with all their symbolic meaning, tell a story and convey a message on be-



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half of the wearer, which is something that fashion does far beyond the realms of religion, and connects people of all backgrounds.

The ‘fashion industry’ as we think of it, however, connects with religion slightly differently, and it is this that will be the focus of the Gala. For years, fashion’s biggest names, from Jean Paul Gaultier, to Christian Dior, to Givenchy, have used religious iconography and references in their collections. I can think of numerous Dolce and Gabbana collections which play on the centrality of Christianity to their Italian heritage, while labels like Givenchy and Chanel implement this on a far subtler basis. There seems to be a perennial appeal for these motifs in what is essentially an ephemeral industry. It probably wouldn’t be all that far-fetched (and correct me if I’m wrong) to suggest that many in the world of high-fashion adopting this style aren’t orthodox practitioners of their respective religions; so why is religion so popular when it comes to what we wear?

There has been throughout history an element of mystery to religion, especially in times of persecution and rebellion, propagating a sense of exclusivity which is all too common in the elitist world of fashion. Perhaps, then, the two can relate on some unexpected level, which, in hindsight, may make sense.

“The fashion industry is largely about consumerism and generating business, but it is also about fantasy and escapism”

▼ **Madame Grès evening gown**  
(INSTAGRAM:METCOSTUMEINSTITUTE)



▲ **This year's Gala will question how fashion and religion interrelate, using the collections of many high profile designers**

(INSTAGRAM: METCOSTUMEINSTITUTE)

▼ **John Galliano's couture fantasy of imagined papal wear for Dior**

(INSTAGRAM: METCOSTUMEINSTITUTE)



Fashion can be an admittedly superficial and fleeting place, and this is not at all to suggest that religion works on this same level, as religion is arguably one of the most enduring and pivotal pillars of society that civilisation has ever known, truly standing the test of time. Yet it is for this very reason that it is so interesting to place it alongside fashion, celebrating both the similarities and differences of each.

It remains then to be seen how the Gala’s guests will respond to this all too thought-provoking theme. Come the first Monday in May, the stars will descend on the steps of the Met to pay homage (we hope) to a concept and an exhibition which amalgamates two of history’s most influential ideas and institutions. Watch this space ●

# EXAM TERM ESSENTIALS

Worried about looking drab and drained as you slave away in the library? Fear not, **Eli Hayes** has found all the vitals for successful and stylish revision

Waking up every morning and facing the prospect of a day spent in the library can be depressing. It’s a situation made worse by the knowledge that you probably haven’t done your laundry for ages and the only clothes within reach of the comfort of your bed are the same ones you had on yesterday. But, thankfully, I have found all the necessary items to get in now, before the going gets tough, so that you can rock up to your revision-cave looking and feeling fab.

## A Slanket

While it might not strike you as on-trend, a slanket is guaranteed to make you the envy of every fellow all-nighter in the library. With the addition of a pocket on the front (which can both hold snacks and catch falling tears), you will never have to get up from your seat again.



## Active Wear

Life hack time: all-day active wear doesn't have to mean you are actually exercising. Donning your sports gear can provide the aesthetic of hard-work and dedication, and conveniently assuage any suspicion that you've really been bingeing Netflix in the library all day.



## Fake Tan

Missed the sunny weather? Don't worry, you can buy the same effect in a bottle. Slap on some fake tan next time you get a minute to yourself and you can waltz through the book stacks looking bronzed and relaxed, no one need know you haven't seen real daylight for weeks.

## Fifteen May Ball dresses

All of which, you will inevitably send back. But, hey, the online shopping was good procrastination and you can make your friends think you're really on top of things.



## A hat

Haven't shampooed for five days now? Luckily, hats are a summer staple and - depending on your chosen style - can add edge and sophistication to your look. Heads will turn as you find your seat, but no one will know the truth.

## Sunglasses

Eye bags are growing and dark circles intensifying, but wearing sunglasses 24/7 in the summer time is fortunately also a marker of style. Hungover? Sunglasses. Exhausted? Sunglasses. Been crying about your inevitable failure? Sunglasses.



## Hip Flash bracelet



Most recently worn by Queen Rihanna herself at Coachella, this handy accessory can be easily worn into any library without a hint of suspicion. What better way to take the edge off that hardcore cramming than by slowly and secretly getting drunk?

Now you're in the know, what's left to worry about? If you've reached the end of this article, you've clearly got a hold of your procrastination. Exams will be a breeze.





FULL REVIEWS ONLINE  
VARSITY.CO.UK/FILMANDTV

# A John Williams soundtrack for always, forever



For her first 'Make Mine Music' column, the score for a Steven Spielberg masterpiece is mulled over by **Lillian Crawford**

**A**n ape throws a bone in the air. Flutes are heard in the offing, caught in a technological ballet high above Earth. Stanley Kubrick lets the music enrapture an auditorium without distraction, bending image to its will without cuts or jumps. Science-fiction demands imposing swells from the brass and strings to touch upon its majesty, far more crucial than practical effects or computer imagery.

*A.I. – Artificial Intelligence* is not a space adventure, but an earthbound meditation on humanity's final destination. It would have been Kubrick's second outing in the field, an opportunity to reflect on the soul-searching red eye of HAL 9000 and cast him in the guise of a child. Conceived in the 1980s, the film went through a production nightmare that prevented its release until 2001, a largely coincidental link to its spiritual predecessor. As David and Gigolo Joe are propelled toward Rouge City, they burst through the open mouth of a gigantic woman to the sound of Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*. Worlds away from the 1968 vision of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, we hear a composer similar only in name, and without the grandiosity of Johann Strauss II's 'An

der schönen blauen Donau'. It is a respectful homage to the wishes of a master, albeit one distinctly capable of finding its own style.

"Without John Williams, bikes don't really fly, nor do brooms in Quidditch matches, nor do men in red capes. There is no Force, dinosaurs do not walk the Earth, we do not wonder, we do not weep, we do not believe." This was Steven Spielberg's testament to his career-long friend, John Williams, with whom *A.I.* marked their seventeenth collaboration. The story Kubrick was never able to tell, having died before the release of *Eyes Wide Shut* in 1999, is all about wondering, weeping, and believing. It is hardly surprising that he passed the material onto Spielberg, who was duly criticised for the film's bitter sentimentality and talking teddy-bears. However, as he has often repeated, that was all Kubrick, and he has the papers to prove it.

There was a thirty-year period in which Spielberg would not have sought a score from anyone else. Their third collaboration, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, is a deliberate shift from delicate airiness to throbbing dread – moments of discordant terror like 'Barry's Kidnapping' eventually settle in the triumph of the five-note sequence taught by Claude

Lacombe. Abject fear from extra-terrestrial threat is proved irrational, the companionate resolution seemingly inevitable, a message of peace with the Other driven home again by *E.T. The Extra Terrestrial* in 1982.

A recurring motif in the score to *Close Encounters* is 'When You Wish Upon a Star' from Disney's 1946 adaptation of *Pinocchio*. It is a wistful tune capturing the sickening sweetness that has ruined too many a Spielberg picture. With *A.I.*, the filmmaker took the Blue Fairy and made her a symbol of false belief, turning the traditional happy ending on its head and crafting a climax unfamiliarly bleak. Carlo Collodi's tale takes centre stage in the film, with David's human owner, Monica, reading the story both to him and her real child. The android is manifested with jealousy for the love she shows Martin, and he sets out to become like him – a transformation staunchly, perhaps brutally, confined to realms of the imagination. For the Blue Fairy's persona, voiced in the film by Meryl Streep, Williams wrote a deft lullaby that lilts with a warming melancholy, portraying a hope ultimately futile. Few of the composer's themes inspire such sorrow in the viewer, its power brought out in the soprano tones of Barbara Bonney, whose humming is a constant reminder of her distance from the world.

Heard throughout Williams's oeuvre is a chilling cor anglais, an instrument that allows for a softer sound than the oboe to represent nostalgia of a home or a mother. There are several scenes in *A.I.* when David recalls Monica that the cor anglais emerges in the underscore, a cantilena that first appears after his mother imprints the robot child to herself. Those themes will be converted into an exquisitely gentle minimalist piano concerto in the film's final moments, with additional footage used to allow the theme to play in full as we dance towards the end credits. The score thus resolves in a theme more similar in style to Steve Reich or Michael Nyman than the earlier avant-gardism of György Ligeti, itself harking back to Kubrick's use of his music in 2001.

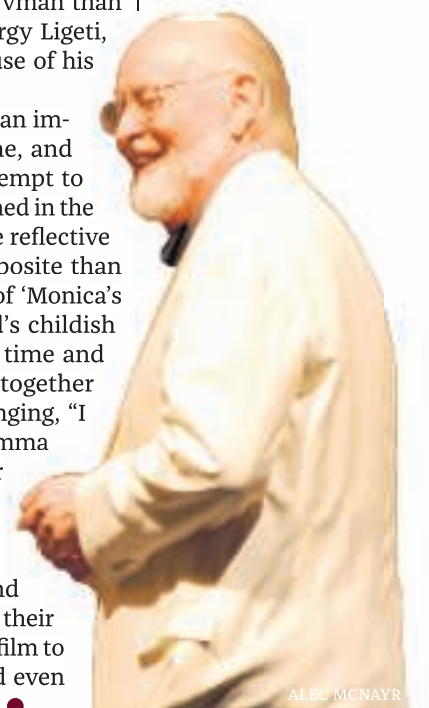
The sound of science-fiction is an impossible one to exclusively define, and neither Williams nor Kubrick attempt to do so. There is reason to be frightened in the future, but there is also time to be reflective and peaceful. nowhere more apposite than in Cynthia Weil's lyrical version of 'Monica's Theme'. The words convey David's childish fantasy, a belief that "there's no time and no space" and that they can be together "for always". But she starts by singing, "I close my eyes", revealing the dilemma at the film's heart to be whether we chose to remain in the land of dreams, or wake up and face the starkness of the universe. When viewed in this light, Spielberg and Williams seem less sugary than in their more popular flicks, elevating the film to a transcendent status unmatched even by Kubrick's philosophic odyssey ●



“A respectful homage to the wishes of a master, albeit one distinctly capable of finding its own style”

▲ **David's complex emotions drive a stirring and melancholic score**

(DREAM-  
WORKS PIC-  
TURES)



ALEC MCNAYR



# Crocodiles and gorillas and wolves... Oh my!

## FILM REVIEW

### Rampage

Dir. Brad Peyton  
In cinemas now  
★★★

It has been forty-eight hours since I saw *Rampage*. It is now but a smear on my memory's lens, little more than a reminder of a Monday afternoon spent in a darkened room with a friend. It was, however, a darkened room fitted with a ginormous cinema screen and a stonking set of speakers turned up slightly too loud. The combination of such an environment and *Rampage* may not have allowed any details of the film itself to become lodged in, let alone turned over by, my brain, yet the faint sense of two hours enjoyed certainly

► **Dwayne Johnson reviews the rather desperate situation**  
(WARNER BROS PICTURES)

lingers.

*Rampage* is a film, therefore, which given a certain mood, a certain setting, and a certain indulgence, has the capacity to make one happy in the moment. I can easily imagine, on the other hand, that many of its viewers will come to the end of 2018 having entirely forgotten that they had even seen the thing.

Enough money has evidently been spent on the film for the special effects to be essentially convincing, but the crashes, bangs and wallops, particularly during the overblown final fight sequence, lack the critical sense of peril which might have elicited a gasp or a wince. *Rampage* boasts some cracking roars and screeches, but the physical carnage barely provides the base thrills which ought to have been its bread and butter.

This is a far greater niggle than the monumentally clot-headed narrative, which begins with a space station exploding and a canister happening to find its way back to Earth and landing precisely inside a gorilla enclosure at a zoo in San Diego. The presence of an alligator which can take out a whole floor of an office building with one swish of its tail should be enough for an unconvincing story to become irrelevant; in *Rampage*, this is never quite the case.

An excruciating exchange of 'banter'

“There is a far greater niggle than the monumentally clot-headed narrative”



between The Rock and his gargantuan primate pal at the very end aside, *Rampage* is more funny than it is thrilling. It is funny, moreover, in an endearing way, with small touches, an exaggerated scream, for instance, or a subtle fist pump, lending the film a rollicking, pantomime atmosphere which neatly distracts from the myriad flaws present in the script. Jeffrey Dean Morgan steals the show, and then holds it to ransom, drawling zinger after zinger and highlighting the mugging which seems to characterise the remainder of the cast's performances.

*Rampage* is ramshackle, and occasionally frustrates as a result. Three characters, each with fine comedic potential, are introduced at the beginning, yet disappear once George the Gorilla starts his exponential growth spurt. Elsewhere, however, the knowing wink at the audience proves more than sufficient to render a remarkably simple escape from an army base entertaining rather than infuriating. *Rampage* does not have intelligence, but it does have charm, and enough of it to ward off tuts and sighs.

*Rampage* will not change your life, and will most likely not even change your week, but if the vague sense of time reasonably well spent appeals, then it is worth a foray to the biggest big screen within easy reach ●

**Hugh Oxlade**



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## Interview: Zak Abel

With a massive stage presence and infectious sense of fun, Abel is making a name for himself. **Hermione Kellow** sits down with the the singer/songwriter.

**Z**ak Abel may be young but he is far from inexperienced. After only a few years on the music scene he is already working on his second album and has collaborated with numerous incredible musicians from Tom Misch to Gorgon City. His soulful vocals truly pack a punch and alongside his awesome band, the party never fails to get going. I caught up with Zak before his absolutely incredible headline set at Churchill Spring Ball.

**You have a great stage presence; what have been some of your biggest influences concerning your performance style?**

Definitely Jamiroquai; I love the way he moves so freely on stage and makes it a kind of party. I think also I come from a sporting background, I used to play table tennis semi-professionally and I see it as the same thing performing live, you've got to give everything you have got because essentially you are taking up people's time, and I want them to have the best experience possible.

**What's the best gig you have ever played?**

The best gig I have ever played was probably KOKO in London. It's the biggest headline show I have done to date and it's a really legendary venue... to get a chance to play there is just, it's an honour.

**Any particular favourite song to play live?**

I love playing 'Unstable' live. I also like playing 'Only when we're Naked' live because the key thing with that song is just to imagine you are naked on stage, and I always ask the people in the crowd to imagine they are dancing naked in their room. People are a lot looser.

**Have you had any weird gig experiences that stand out?**

I did a little gig at Bicester Village once... it was a really random gig and in the front row there was this woman who was kind of bop-

▲ **Aged 23, Abel has already worked with Tom Misch and Gorgon City**

(ZAK ABEL: FACEBOOK)

ping along to the music and then I realised half way through she was actually wearing earphones. I called her out and she was like 'Oh I didn't even realise' so then she took them out and could suddenly hear the frequencies that were missing!

**How are you finding being back in the studio working on album number two?**

I have just been consistently writing and trying to write better songs and go deeper and talk about more interesting things. I like the idea of being useful to other people in some way so I'm not interested in writing a self-indulgently.

Obviously, I have to like all the music I put out, but at the same time I have to think about how do I think this is going to resonate with other people.

**You've mentioned before that Afro-Caribbean production influenced your first album. Is there anything inspiring you at the moment?**

I recently got into Joni Mitchell; I cannot believe I didn't listen to her stuff before. She's one of the most fearless songwriters I have ever heard and the way she plays piano and the way it interacts with the melodies are just genius and so I'm definitely borrowing a couple of things and I'm studying it because I have to keep studying other people to figure out what kind of direction I want to go in at the moment.

**You've done lots of collaborations with artists over the past few years, is there anyone up and coming you would like to work with?**

There is a dude called Col3trane who I really rate. I feel like he is moving in a slightly different direction to me he is more hip-hop influenced. I definitely respect what he is doing.

**Being very active on social media; how do you approach your position of responsibility**

*Vulture* TUNES



## Picnic Weather

Avoiding any sweeping statements (which tend to jinx the weather), we can say with caution that Cambridge is beginning to feel the warm influx of spring. It is a time for iced coffees, sitting on the backs and trying to 'work' outside for finals. It seems fitting to have a soundtrack for Easter term that complements the happy weather with fun music. Wear suncream, don't forget your picnic blanket, and relax.

Truth Hurts  
**Lizzo**

Subway System  
**Jimothy Lacoste**

Myriad Harbour  
**The New Pornographers**

It's You  
**Robert Schwartzmann**

Forget It  
**Blood Orange**

Birds Don't Sing  
**TV Girl**

Anna Wintour  
**Azealia Banks**

I Can't Quit  
**The Vaccines**

Name on a Matchstick  
**Springtime Carnivore**

Sex Karma  
**Of Montreat & Solange**



**as an online influencer?**

I think it's really important that the stuff I put out there is positive and not negative in terms of the effect it has on the world and on the effect it has on other people's mental health... there is so much noise happening on social media all the time, you could literally just spend your whole day scrolling.

I do enjoy letting people know what is going on and I enjoy, especially when I put new music out seeing what people think, that's really important to me. But I try and limit the amount of time I spend on my phone as much as I can because I feel like you just become too distracted.

**Is there anything you would like to promote more on your pages?**

Maybe put your phone away man, the irony! If you're reading this leave your phone at your Grandma's house, lock it away, talk to your mum!

**To finish up, you have previously mentioned trying to get more flexible. Any progress on touching your toes?**

Nope, definitely not, soon maybe! ●



# 'The soundtrack to May Week'

ALBUM REVIEW

## Geography

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★★★★★

Tom Misch's debut album opens with a particularly apt quote from a 2011 interview with jazz trumpeter Roy Hargrove. Not only does *Geography*'s feel-good funk vibe mimic the performances of the Grammy Award-winning Hargrove with his jazz quintet, but the quote does genuinely seem to describe Tom Misch's approach to music. Misch has slowly risen to the surface of the modern hip-hop/pop scene via the now common but hard-earned method of self-releasing EPs on Soundcloud and Bandcamp.

*Geography* marks a change for Misch. Although his slick production, strong beats and great tunes have been well established by his earlier EP work, projects such as *Beat Tape 2*

(with a runtime 25 minutes longer than *Geography*) don't seem to have distinguishable themes or connections between songs. The *Beat Tapes* were much more of a musical portfolio showcasing the scope of his production skills, whereas *Geography* is undeniably set up from the beginning as an album; not just a collection of great tunes, but a connected narrative statement.

At the fading out of Roy Hargrove's sampled interview on 'Before Paris' we hear Misch trying out his drum kit before the breakout of one his signature shuffling, sunshine-filled rhythms. Unusually for Misch, this track's only purpose seems to be as a segue into 'Lost in Paris' (as the title implies); however, it does encapsulate the essence of the album: infectious beats interspersed with artistic statements.

In a recent episode of "What's in My Bag?" posted on record store Amoeba's YouTube channel, Tom mentions some of his favourite albums. All of these influences can be heard in *Geography*: D'Angelo-style soulful vocals, John Mayer-style guitar, Bill Evans' piano, Change's disco vibes and Kaytranada's slick production. Tom admits this himself: "The way [Kaytranada] mixes his beats and stuff... I just try and copy him". Not only does Misch replicate Kaytranada's studio strategies, but he also borrows one of his collaborators for 'Lost in Paris' - Goldlink's appearance on this distinctly Misch beat is very much reminiscent of his 2017 banger 'Meditation' produced

“So many good tunes and such wide ranging appeal”



by Kaytranada.

'South of the River' follows, a bouncing feel-good track that is almost a classic by now for Tom Misch fans after its release as a single in August 2017. Originally I interpreted it as harking to the vibrancy of London's South Bank; however, its inclusion next to songs about Paris could feasibly imply links to the Seine - thus providing a neat geographical bridge between abroad and Tom's hometown. This smoothly leads into the depths of Tom's family home with his sister Polly's introduction to 'Movie': a slower, soulful ballad done the Misch way with a pronounced bass and solid drum beat.

'You're On My Mind' is a standout track. Previously released by Tom as an upbeat pop track over a heavy syncopated bass, this stripped back and slowed version with pin-tight instrumentation has a unique emotion which more than makes up for the basic lyrics.

With a vocal sample of his sister and album artwork by his mum, this album is filled with familial love. Indeed, Tom Misch is the only artist I have introduced to my family which they have gone on to see a concert of together. This album has so many good tunes and such wide ranging appeal I'm certain it will help raise the spirits of many as we enter exam term, and although it's early to call, I wouldn't be surprised if many of these songs become the soundtrack to May Week ●

David Swarbrick

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## ON THE ROAD

With the ADC Theatre undergoing major renovations this term, productions are taking place in a variety of alternate venues around the city. Here's some of the places you can head to for site-specific amdram in the coming weeks.

**Text by** Anna Jennings

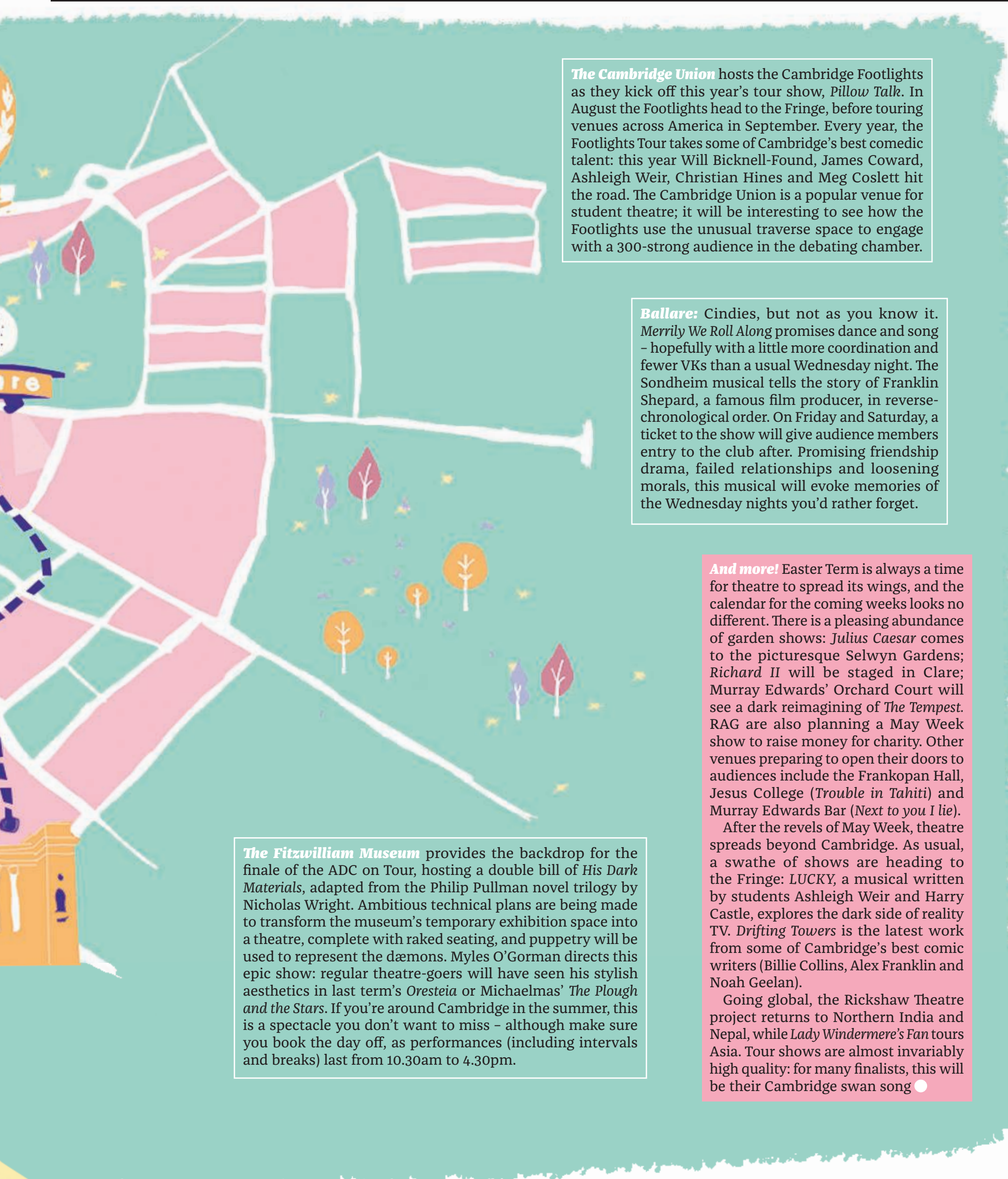
**Illustration** Anna Palma Balian

Built in 1130, the **Round Church** is an atmospheric and beautiful building with a long history in the heart of Cambridge. This makes it an ideal location for the week one production of *Hamlet*. Candlelight and an audience of just 60 promise an intimate experience for the lucky few who have already snapped up tickets for this sold-out show. Under Ben Lynn's direction, this team intend to emphasise the continued social relevance of Shakespeare's enduring tragedy, drawing out the theme of mental health. *Hamlet* is a role which comes with a huge amount of pressure: recent acclaimed *Hamlets* include Benedict Cumberbatch, Andrew Scott and Maxine Peak. We look forward to seeing how Jamie Sayers (who played Orestes last term) will rise to the challenge.

**The Corpus Playroom** continues to run a packed schedule in Easter Term, as a number of staples of the Cambridge theatre scene make a welcome return. *The Man Presents: Even More Women* will no doubt enjoy a popular run under the direction of Emmeline Downie and Ania Magliano-Wright. *A Series of Improv-able Events* is the Cambridge Impronauts' take on Lemony Snicket: the publicity blurb implores audiences "oh no, do not go and see this show". We're also excited about *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*: the experienced cast and director (Katie Woods) will doubtless create an intense and brooding drama. In May Week, *Second-Generation* looks set to be a touching and honest sketch show about immigrants in Britain.







**The Cambridge Union** hosts the Cambridge Footlights as they kick off this year's tour show, *Pillow Talk*. In August the Footlights head to the Fringe, before touring venues across America in September. Every year, the Footlights Tour takes some of Cambridge's best comedic talent: this year Will Bicknell-Found, James Coward, Ashleigh Weir, Christian Hines and Meg Coslett hit the road. The Cambridge Union is a popular venue for student theatre; it will be interesting to see how the Footlights use the unusual traverse space to engage with a 300-strong audience in the debating chamber.

**Ballare:** Cindies, but not as you know it. *Merrily We Roll Along* promises dance and song – hopefully with a little more coordination and fewer VKs than a usual Wednesday night. The Sondheim musical tells the story of Franklin Shepard, a famous film producer, in reverse-chronological order. On Friday and Saturday, a ticket to the show will give audience members entry to the club after. Promising friendship drama, failed relationships and loosening morals, this musical will evoke memories of the Wednesday nights you'd rather forget.

**The Fitzwilliam Museum** provides the backdrop for the finale of the ADC on Tour, hosting a double bill of *His Dark Materials*, adapted from the Philip Pullman novel trilogy by Nicholas Wright. Ambitious technical plans are being made to transform the museum's temporary exhibition space into a theatre, complete with raked seating, and puppetry will be used to represent the dæmons. Myles O'Gorman directs this epic show: regular theatre-goers will have seen his stylish aesthetics in last term's *Oresteia* or Michaelmas' *The Plough and the Stars*. If you're around Cambridge in the summer, this is a spectacle you don't want to miss – although make sure you book the day off, as performances (including intervals and breaks) last from 10.30am to 4.30pm.

**And more!** Easter Term is always a time for theatre to spread its wings, and the calendar for the coming weeks looks no different. There is a pleasing abundance of garden shows: *Julius Caesar* comes to the picturesque Selwyn Gardens; *Richard II* will be staged in Clare; Murray Edwards' Orchard Court will see a dark reimagining of *The Tempest*. RAG are also planning a May Week show to raise money for charity. Other venues preparing to open their doors to audiences include the Frankopan Hall, Jesus College (*Trouble in Tahiti*) and Murray Edwards Bar (*Next to you I lie*).

After the revels of May Week, theatre spreads beyond Cambridge. As usual, a swathe of shows are heading to the Fringe: *LUCKY*, a musical written by students Ashleigh Weir and Harry Castle, explores the dark side of reality TV. *Drifting Towers* is the latest work from some of Cambridge's best comic writers (Billie Collins, Alex Franklin and Noah Geelan).

Going global, the Rickshaw Theatre project returns to Northern India and Nepal, while *Lady Windermere's Fan* tours Asia. Tour shows are almost invariably high quality: for many finalists, this will be their Cambridge swan song ●



## Sport

# Rugby has a growing injury problem, and it must be solved before it gets too late

**Ben Cisneros**  
Sports Columnist

The past fortnight has seen a spate of concerning news about injuries. Dylan Hartley will miss England's summer tour due to ongoing concussion problems. Dragons centre Adam Hughes has been forced into retirement over the same issue. Northampton's Rob Horne suffered life-changing nerve damage in his arm 13 seconds into the East Midlands derby and will never play again. Jonathon Joseph's season is over too.

Yet this is not unusual now. This season has seen club and international sides decimated by injuries and England's physio room is increasingly looking like a morgue. Hartley, Joseph, Watson, Lawes, and Hughes won't play again until at least September. Others must be rested.

Season by season, Rugby Union is becoming more physical. Players coming through are bigger, stronger and faster than they have ever been, and the impact? More forceful collisions. Add to this the new ruck laws which allow teams to commit fewer men and put more in the defensive line, and not only do you have high impact collisions, but there are also more of them.

World Rugby have tried to control the concussion epidemic by lowering the height of the tackle through more severe sanctions and with Head Injury Assessments, but it is not enough.

A large proportion of concussions suffered come not from being tackled high, but from tackling too low. The tackler is far more likely to be concussed colliding with a hip or knee than the tacklee is when caught over the shoulder. Indeed, when Danny Cipriani collided with Faf de Klerk's forearm in a recent Premiership game, he was out cold for several minutes in what was a troubling incident to watch. But what can be done?

Dr Willie Stewart has recently called for tackling to be banned. Indeed, this would be the only way to eliminate concussions from the game entirely. When scientific studies are warning that suffering severe concussion in your twenties can increase the chance of dementia by over two thirds, it is surely time to sit up



▲ **Courtney Lawes is just one of many casualties of England's brutal schedule** (BOB/FLICKR)

▼ **Danny Cipriani could step into the England side** (FEARLESS FRED/FLICKR)

and take notice.

Of course, concussion is nothing new but as we become increasingly well-informed, governing bodies must take action. What's more, as the NFL has demonstrated, the spectre of liability looms large.

Removing tackling would end Rugby Union as we know it. Indeed, many would argue that the positives of playing the game outweigh the risk of injury, concussion, and the potential complications in later life. So there must be less drastic alternatives.

Banning tactical substitutions could be one such badly- and urgently-needed alternative. Back before the days of professionalism, players could only be replaced if they were injured. While this would potentially be difficult to police – especially with concerns over invisible brain or head injuries – it would mean players would need to be more durable and would change the focus of the game from one of size and power to one of skill and stamina. It could reduce the force of collisions that are the root cause of so many injuries.

Another possibility is to improve tackle technique. If tacklers get their heads in the right position more consistently, they are far less likely to be concussed and, if they hit at the right height, there is less danger to the tackled player. This needs to be a focus from grass-roots right up to international level. To all players, whatever level, whatever age, safety can be taught.

Lastly, at elite level, the playing load

must be reduced. Fewer games means fewer chances to get injured and means players will be fresher – injuries are more likely for fatigued bodies. The RFU has in place limits on the number of matches England squad members can play in a season (32), and rules about rest after the Six Nations; but both have been breached.

This season Mako Vunipola was not given his mandatory rest after a gruelling Six Nations, and last season it is thought Maro Itoje exceeded the playing limit due to the Lions tour.

This is simply unacceptable. With the casualty rate so high, clubs and unions need to start taking player welfare seriously; there is simply too much at stake. More stringent regulations should be put in place, the playing limit reduced further, and fines handed out for breaches.

Unfortunately, there is a limit to what the RFU can do. In England, it is the clubs that hold all the power: they own the players and make the Premiership what it is. In Ireland and New Zealand (the only sides above England in the world rankings at present) it is the unions which have control. This allows them to dictate when their players play, or rather don't play.

For example, going into the 2018 Six Nations, Jonny Sexton had played just 435 minutes for Leinster this season compared to Owen Farrell's 1084 minutes for Saracens. It is a startling comparison and is part of a trend throughout the respective squads which may go some

“*England's physio room is increasingly looking like a morgue*”

way to explaining the poor showing of England in the Six Nations and of their club sides in the Champions Cup. More games means more exertion and ultimately exhaustion for players. This is not a difficult equation.

This is an age-old problem in England. When rugby union was on the verge of professionalism, it was the clubs that acted first when the RFU hesitated. The clubs took the initiative and the RFU have been playing catch-up ever since. The club vs country struggle is unlikely to go away, but both need to come to their senses about the welfare of their greatest assets. If that requires huge financial investment by the RFU, then that is what they need to do.

In the short-term, England must rest some of their stars for their summer tour of South Africa. Owen Farrell, Maro Itoje, Jamie George, Mako Vunipola, George Kruis and Dan Cole have barely stopped playing since September 2016 and, going into a World Cup season, are at high risk of burning out. If any side in the world can afford to rest players it is England, given the great depth they possess. The likes of Danny Cipriani, Luke Cowan-Dickie, Dave Attwood, Ellis Genge and Harry Williams are ready-made replacements.

The only time players seem to get a break these days is when they have an injury. This needs to change – starting this summer. Before long, the problem could reach a tipping point. We must halt the runaway train before it picks up too great a head of steam.





# Give the Gold Coast a gold medal for pushing boundaries

Chloe Merrell

Pushing boundaries, exceeding limits, surpassing expectations – these are all reasons why watching sport is inherently entertaining. This is fundamentally why we keep coming back for more. When it came to such moments of surprise, elation and joy, the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games certainly did not disappoint.

But what might we say about the competitors who must overcome obstacles beyond their immediate rivals? Some of the greatest moments in this year's Commonwealth Games came from individuals and teams who are no strangers to adversity.

Undoubtedly, the most unforeseen gold of the Games went to the England netball team, the Roses. The sole women-only sport in the Games, netball is often overlooked as a playground pastime. Despite being the sport which boasts the highest number of women participants in England, until May 2016 players received no salary for representing their home nation. Central contracts, regular fixtures of men's sports such as rugby and cricket, were just not thought warranted.

The gold provided evidence that structural support is necessary if potential is to be met, and England netball have that potential in abundance. Since netball's Games debut in 1998, England have never progressed to the gold medal match, instead vying each and every time with Jamaica for the bronze medal. Always the bridesmaids, never the brides. One wonders why.

This year, having beaten Jamaica in nerve-wrecking fashion less than 24 hours prior in the semi-final, Tracey Neville's team took on the host nation Australia for gold. With only the final quarter to go the Roses trailed, but a last second Helen Housby goal secured victory and gold. Relief and ecstasy was carved into the faces of the players as they claimed their first major world title, putting the demons of the recent past firmly behind them in vanquishing the hosts in their own backyard.

Due to a shortfall in funding for the national side, central contracts are currently slated to last only until 2019. That is the year when



▼ Gold medal winning England Netballer Geva Mentor (PADDY NAPPER)

England will host the World Cup; one hopes that the success of 2018 will consign the struggles of the past to the history books.

Opportunities such as that on offer on the Gold Coast are crucial for an oft-forgotten sport to cement a place in the national psyche as respected, a place which it should already have. Of that there is no doubt.

The Games set itself the target of delivering the most inclusive Games to date. True to their word, laid out was the largest integrated para-sport programme in Games history. With 300 para-athletes attending and 38 medal events, Gold Coast 2018 saw a 45% increase in para-athlete numbers and 73% increase in medals on Glasgow's Games in 2014.

Unlike the Paralympics, which is held after its able-bodied equivalent, the Olympics, the para-athletic competition in the Commonwealth Games takes place within the eleven days, in tandem with the able-bodied competition.

Sixteen-year-old medley swimmer Eleanor Robinson MBE was called upon to compete in the Games for Team England, a debut. Despite previously achieving great success in the S6 category, Robinson opted to compete in the S7 category.

In so doing, Robinson chose to compete with athletes who, in theory, are less disabled than her. A cautious Robinson opined before the Games that 'all I can do is my best.' Her best proved quite enough.

After a slow start in the S7 50m butterfly event, Robinson, with her trademark drive, ploughed through the pool to leave the competition in her wake. The young swimmer finished with a time of 35.73 seconds, twenty-four hundredths of a second outside the world record, almost two whole seconds ahead of Canadian Sarah Mehain.

Upon claiming gold, the emotionally overwhelmed Robinson left the pool with tears streaming from her face. Already the recipient of the BBC's Young Sports Personality of the Year in 2016, the future promises even greater things still for the young para-athlete.

With its unwavering commitment to a women-only event and to para-athletics, this year's Commonwealth Games set itself apart from Games of yesteryear.

With great strides still required before full equality is reached in sport it is only when major competitions provide opportunities for all to excel that adversity is truly tackled.

It then falls upon us to properly platform moments such as those above, and to recognize the boundaries that were overcome in making them possible. When we do so, when we realize the significance of the achievement, life-changing moments become game-changing moments. Only then can the steady journey to progress continue unabated into the future.

## Performance of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games is often chastised for being irrelevant. Considered by some to be a simple flag-waving, history-erasing exercise, the Commonwealth takes a lot of flak. But the athletes that do show to the Games occasionally do perform to the highest of standards.

One of those athletes was Katarina Johnson-Thompson. Rarely out of the spotlight in recent years, languishing in the shadow of Jessica Ennis-Hill, KJT finally emerged on the Gold Coast. By winning the compe-

tion, the Liverpoolian has set a benchmark from which she can now go on to contest for the World title this summer.



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## The Commonwealth Games is a bastion of equality in sport

Reviewing the Gold Coast Games gives hope to those who are often forgotten



# Sport

## Heartbreaking Queens' make Cuppers final

Lawrence Hopkins  
Sports Editor

The hot spring day belonged to Queens' who advanced to their first Rugby Cuppers Final in over thirty years with a gusty defeat of Caius. Despite a lacklustre first half display, the College dug deep in the second period, ultimately finding a way to win.

The first half in the scorching April heat belonged to Caius. The boys in blue scored twice in the corner from scrums to seemingly put one foot in the final. The scrappy affair saw its first points taken when Caius positioned themselves expertly inside Queens' territory with the boot, before winning a penalty from which they spread play to touch down in the corner. Not long after, a near-carbon copy try was also scored. The early goings belonged to Caius but they failed to further their advantage in the remainder of the second half.

Water breaks broke up play throughout the match, but the green and white lacked fluency regardless. With Charlie Amesbury appearing to carry an injury, Queens' lacked rhythm and were met with physicality when on the offensive. At half-time, Queens' had plenty of work to do.

A boisterous Caius following, punctuating the contest regularly with chants of "Let's Go Caius, Let's Go," were to leave Grange Road disappointed as Queens'

turned the tables in the second half. Amesbury's influence grew, directing play as a lineout turned into a driving maul, which turned into the first score of the afternoon for Queens'. Amesbury's deep kick set up Queens' second score minutes later. Phase after phase of pressure told as forwards crashed over the whitewash.

Queens' gave everything. And that Herculean effort was to be too much for Caius to overcome. Caius squandered their first half dominance in the second forty, allowing Amesbury, playing at ten, to dictate his back line's movements. This included a magnificent team try; backs running at pace in the Caius half, offloading in the tackle, proffered a penalty inside the 5. The quick tap kept the tempo high, high enough for Caius to fail to prevent adversaries from diving over to widen the margin.

Niall McCarthy, Caius' first year scrum half, did his level best to drag his men back into the contest as the tide turned, running from deep and producing heroics as he touched down in the corner and subsequently deposited the tough kick over the posts. But his efforts were to be in vain.

As the final whistle went, McCarthy, shattered, stood alone, disconsolate. The youngster had performed admirably but the grit and tenacity of the whole Queens' side saw them claim a place in the final. The victors face the Red Boys of St John's in the final.



▲ Caius fell just short in their pursuit of a place in the final (LAWRENCE HOPKINS)

## Sports news round-up

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

### Hawks give record funds to Cambridge sport

The Hawks' Club Charitable Trust has shelled out £29,950 to 145 athletes at the University. The fund, established in 1996, is dedicated solely to sport and does not discriminate on gender. All 31 colleges of the University were represented by the recipients of the annual awards, three of whom received £1,000. Hawks' Club President, Sebastian Tullie, described the awards as "hugely important to the sportsmen and women who are fortunate to receive them."

ROSES IN BLOOM

### England honours for Cambridge sextet

Six of the BUCS Silver medal-winning Women's Lacrosse Club have taken one step further in their lacrosse careers over the vacation. The group, consisting of Amelia Miller, Ella Benson, Erica Wallace, Julie Wise, Katie Lehovskiy and Sophie Tamblin, headed to Scotland to play in the Home Internationals series for England. Some of the group have also been selected for the World Lacrosse Championships in Israel this summer.

BREAKFAST READING

### Online highlights to read this weekend

Head to [varsity.co.uk](http://varsity.co.uk) for coverage of the Rugby Cuppers final, to be played at Grange Road on Saturday, and the latest on Spain's controversy-frought journey to the 2019 Rugby World Cup. Keep an eye out for coverage of the remaining Varsity matches as they happen throughout Easter term.

• Semi-final Results • Gonville & Caius 23 - 29 Queens' • St John's 47 - 12 Girton •

## Arsene for Arsenal is no longer, but revere him still

Nathan Johns

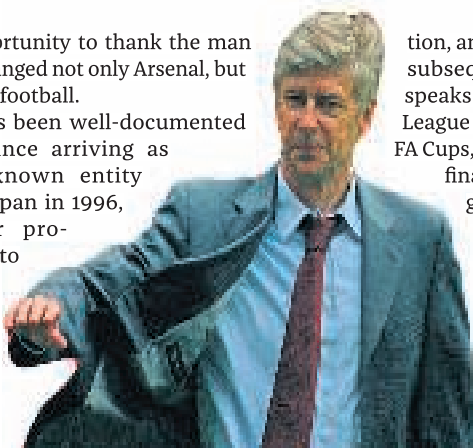
In the flux that is today's dynamic football world, the changing of the managerial guard rarely comes as a surprise, especially when passion fan groups are involved. None have been more vocal than the notorious "Wenger-out" campaigners, who have finally got their wish. The Frenchman will bid *adieu* to North London at the end of the season; despite the air of inevitability, the announcement still came as somewhat of a surprise to close followers of the national game. Wenger has been ever-present in

English football since the mid-nineties. No Arsenal fan still in their teens has ever known any different.

After a series of two-year contracts, few would have anticipated this news breaking with a significant portion of Arsenal's season still to come. Yet, ultimately, however, this makes sense. As much as we have giggled at "Wenger out" placards appearing anywhere, from WWE to political protests, the Arsenal Fan TV-inspired social media storm surrounding this campaign has unfairly tainted Wenger's reputation. The prolonged *au revoir* that will now follow will at least give the naysayers

an opportunity to thank the man who changed not only Arsenal, but English football.

It has been well-documented how, since arriving as an unknown entity from Japan in 1996, Wenger proceeded to revolutionise training, tactics, nutri-



tion, and much else besides. His subsequently acquired record speaks for itself. Three Premier League titles, two doubles, seven FA Cups, and a Champions League final defeat to arguably the greatest club side ever assembled later, Wenger is by far and away the club's most successful manager. The battles between Wenger's Arsenal and Ferguson's Manchester United, between the fiery Viera and fiery Keane,

at the turn of the millenium were legendary. He brought to these shores the joy that was Thierry Henry, and it is unlikely that we will ever see another season like the one he masterminded with his "Invincibles". Anyone with this record should be revered, not ridiculed. The recent lack of patience afforded him has come only as a result of his own achievements. Arguably the greatest compliment that Arsene can receive is that he is a victim of his own success. Wenger's time certainly had come, but Arsenal Football Club and football lovers everywhere will forever be in debt to a man who cannot zip up a coat.