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The Courier



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£200 fines for noisy students

● "For students to take it more seriously, we needed to increase our response"

By **George Sandeman**
News Editor

Fines up to £200 will be handed out to students for first-time excessive noise offences.

The new policy, which came into effect this semester on 24 September, is the latest attempt by the University to curb anti-social behaviour by students in the community.

Speaking to Dawn Gray of the Student Progress Service she explained why such financial penalties were now necessary: "[Excessive noise] is such a big problem and it's not just residents, but other students, who are being bothered and we do take these reports and complaints very seriously."

Last year, 129 complaints were made about students causing excessive noise with 65 of those coming from other students

Last year, 129 complaints were made about students causing excessive noise with 65 of those coming from other students. The year before, 121 complaints were made with 68 coming from students.

Gray sought to justify why there was a need to punish first time offenders by saying: "We want to try and sort the problem out at a much earlier stage and it is to the students' benefit that we do that before any possible court or council action."

She explained that the council usually only takes such action after three complaints have been made about a particular house, but that "those could all come in the same night if the council's Night Noise Team keep having to return to the same property."

However, speaking to *The Courier*, residents of a house on Queens Road in Jesmond contradicted this saying: "We held a party on 17 November and were threatened with a £1000 fine if there was another noise complaint about us. We hadn't received any complaints before and were handed an ASBO that night by two police officers, two plain-clothes officers and two council workers. There was nothing mentioned about having three complaints."

Students have also spoken about how some of the complaints for excessive noise made against them have been unfair, making life in their homes almost intolerable due to the fear of being handed a large fine or ASBO by the council.

A group of students who lived on Bayswater Road in West Jesmond last year told *The Courier*: "It was a disaster living above [a particular neighbour] and felt we could barely do any normal activities without her complaining.

"She was unreasonable throughout the year, complaining about noise from the TV during *Match of the Day* and "parties" when there was no music and less than 10 people round."

Speaking on the variety of noise complaints the University deals with, Gray said: "We see everything, we do see it from one extreme to the other. We encounter day-to-day noise of students just moving around the house, something we'd never hold students accountable for as it's out of their control, but we would mediate and get the landlord involved in order to get the matter resolved.

"It's the inconsiderate noise we're trying to tackle where students are putting the TV on loud at two o'clock in the morning and banging doors. The kind of noise that could have been avoided is what they are going to be held accountable for. But if it's parties getting out of

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Fair fine? Tell *The Courier* what you think at:
www.thecourieronline.co.uk

Duchess drops in on Toon
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Rape trial set to conclude

By **Leela Prasad**

An international student has been giving testimony in Newcastle Crown Court as a victim of rape and assault.

The trial began last Tuesday during which she alleged that the incident took place at her home on 20 September 2011, soon after she reached the city, with the crimes perpetrated by another international student in the UK.

The case has been adjourned until Monday morning.

The defendant denies rape and says he had consensual sex with her but has pled guilty to the charge of assault.

A reconstruction of events took place but versions by the defence and prosecution produced conflicting accounts.

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Checky Watch commenters arrested after posting threatening messages on facebook

By **Georgie Moule**

Two contributors to a facebook page, which advises Metro passengers on the location of ticket inspectors, have been arrested for threatening Metro staff online.

Matthew Dean O'Neil, aged 21, of Appleby Court, North Tyneside and David Edgar, aged 26, of Tynemouth Road, Wallsend have both been charged with malicious communication and will appear before magistrates on October 18.

The Courier understands this is in connection with comments posted on the 'Checky Watch' facebook page, which have been denounced as "criminal" by Nexus, the company responsible for the Metro system. The arrests came as demonstrators gathered for a protest at Grey's Monument on October 7.

A Nexus spokesperson said: "While the protest was legitimate, the facebook group has seen a number of posts making threats against Metro staff. This is totally unacceptable and has been reported to the police."

The facebook page was created on September 26 by 21-year-old Ben Potts-Heywood from Jarrow and now has nearly 17,500 'likes'. In response to criticism of the page by Metro bosses, Potts-Heywood claims the page was not set up to encourage people to evade metro fares, but because people are "fed up" with the "extortionate" price of tickets.

Speaking to *The Courier* at the protest on October 7, Potts-Heywood said: "I don't think it's a very good service when you pay those prices to sit on urinated seats in a tin box. A lot of people agree."

In a statement, Checky Watch said: "This page is not promoting criminal activity, we are not telling people to dodge fares, we are simply advising people on the whereabouts of Metro inspectors. We are not saying that the metro should be free, we are simply saying it should not be so expensive."

> "While the protest was legitimate, the facebook group has seen a number of posts making threats against Metro staff"

A Nexus spokesperson said: "This facebook page is promoting fare evasion on the Metro system, which is a criminal offence, and we want facebook to close it down. Metro is subsidised by the tax payers of Tyne and Wear, it does not make a profit, so anyone who travels without a ticket is taking money from the public purse.

"Metro fares are set as low as possible and, compared to other transport systems around the country, it represents good value for money. The law-abiding majority of passengers buy tickets to use the Metro service. It is totally unacceptable that a small minority seem to think they can cheat the system."

The inspectors are supported by the Northumbria Police Metro Unit, who stressed that travelling on the Metro without a valid ticket could lead to prosecution and a fine of up to £500.

Friends remember Guy Joseph in 300 mile cycle ride

By **George Sandeman**
News Editor

Waking up at 6am, finding your cycling shorts and checking you've got enough Mars bars is not how the average person starts their weekend.

But that's exactly what Chanelle Weller and Dan Parker did on Saturday morning last week as they prepared to embark on their near 300 mile cycle ride.

Their mammoth undertaking was done in the name of Guy's Trust which was set up after the death of Guy Joseph, a 2009 Marine Biology graduate, who died last year in the Spanish Pyrenees after a paragliding accident.

Chanelle explained: "His family wanted his name to keep going on and to continue what Guy believed in, he spent a lot of time in Asia and fell in love with the culture and the people. He used to give up a lot of his time, helping out and teaching kids English so his family thought it would be a good idea to set up a charity to build schools.

"They chose Nepal because that is where he learnt to paraglide and was training to be an instructor, and he really fell in love with the country. Hopefully we can build more schools in South East Asia if we can raise enough money."

It was in Thailand, during one of their university summer holidays, that Chanelle, Dan and Guy struck up their friendship whilst scuba diving in Koh Tao, a small island famed for its diving paradise. Chanelle recalled: "We were all uni students who went out every summer so I met him out there. After that, whenever Guy went back out, we'd try to arrange our summer holidays so we could go out to meet him."



TOUR DE NORTH
Chanelle and Dan cycled from Newcastle to Guy's home in East Finchely, London
Photography: Dan Parker

> He spent a lot of time in Asia and fell in love with the culture and the people

The couple had expected to complete the extraordinary feat in 26 hours, but shaved an astonishing near six hours off their target, to finish in 20 hours and 24 minutes.

Having intended to start from the university campus, they set off from Gateshead for logistical reasons. "We were due to set off at 5am but because of roadworks on the way up, we didn't get to Newcastle until 1am so had an extra hour's sleep but then Dan's bike got a puncture so unfortunately we didn't end up leaving until about 6.40am."

At 11.30pm on Saturday, they reached their finishing line at Guy's home in East Finchley, North London that brought a close to their 278 mile adventure.

Asked why they chose to raise money by cycling in particular, Chanelle said: "We wanted to do something a bit different, a couple of friends are doing marathons and half-marathons, and not that marathons aren't difficult, but we thought we wanted something a bit different to raise a lot of money and make it a bit sentimental by joining his university town and his hometown."

Next week will be the one-year anniversary of Guy's passing, but it will also celebrate the life-changing opportunities his memory now provides.

THE COURIER

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Crafted cardboard covers campus



CRAZY CUTOUT

A charrette built by second year architecture students to show how an everyday material can be used differently
Photography: George Sandeman

By **George Sandeman**
News Editor

It's used for making boxes, slightly larger boxes and fascinating, awe-inspiring public space structures.

Cardboard was the central theme of this year's Architecture School charrette as students and members of the public were last week visually serenaded by the array of intricate structures that graced the quadrangle, the student forum and the library.

"It is partly to shake off cobwebs, so that everybody starts the year with a bang"

Architecture lecturer Matthew Margetts explained the purpose of the charrette: "It is partly to shake off cobwebs, so that everybody starts the year with a bang.

"The cross-year participation is a pretty serious attempt at trying to get the students to learn from each other because that can be quite difficult in the normal university program.

"For the guys in the upper school it's to help them develop team management and leadership skills, so the exercise is not for the drawing and designing skills that architects are known for, but for the other side of it in terms of making things happen. And then, to some extent, about actually making things."

It was also the first year that all year groups studying architecture took part with nine different charrettes being displayed, including a video exhibition that chronicled 24 hours in Newcastle, a rethinking of the space on Northumberland Street as well as the eye-catching cardboard structures. In all, 435 students took part along with a host of faculty and former students.

Second year Matthew Zack Nicholl discussed why they used cardboard: "It's about what you can create with a particular material, ones which you wouldn't necessarily associate with monuments or structures and see what sort of possibilities you can come up with."

Simon Hacker, Degree Programme Director of BA Architectural Studies, said: "There is a wee bit of competitiveness but that's in the nature of the architects themselves and I think because they've set their minds to something, they want to do a good job, they've worked incredibly hard."

It's about what you can create with a particular material, ones which you wouldn't necessarily associate with monuments or structures

On what the students gain from the project: "Fundamentally they learn team skills, which is important, and making.

"The opportunities for students to get on and make are limited so this a great way of getting them making stuff and see their designs, not just on paper or on the wall, but something they have to make."

Kate wows crowds in Tyneside tour

By **Susie May Beever**
News Editor

Three international students were selected to represent the University during a visit from the Duchess of Cambridge last week, alongside various other members of staff.

Juntao Zeng, Victoria Oriuwa and Noah Kennedy were the lucky individuals given the opportunity to meet the Duchess, who visited the city as part of a royal tour around the North East.

The visit began on Wednesday morning at Newcastle Civic Centre, where the Duchess was met by the three students and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Ella Ritchie, as well as receiving the usual warm Geordie reception from the public.

Juntao Zeng, Victoria Oriuwa and Noah Kennedy were the lucky individuals given the opportunity to meet Kate

Kate also met with Professor Tom Kirkwood, who leads the University's Institute of Ageing and Health, to learn more about the Medical School's research into the ageing process and related illnesses.

Noah Kennedy, a psychology student on a temporary study scheme here from Loyola University in Maryland, said of the experience: "I was ecstatic. One of the reasons I've enjoyed travelling around the United Kingdom and experiencing its culture is because it has such a rich history in which royalty has played an important role.

"Whilst I've only been in Newcastle for three weeks I can already say that it is an experience which will, without a doubt, transform me."

The Duchess, who flew into the Toon aboard a helicopter, was originally scheduled to visit the region alongside the Duke of Cambridge but he had to cancel his appearance to attend the funeral of Olga Powell, his childhood nanny.

The city's Lord Mayor, Jackie Slesenger, met the royal party at the Civic Centre alongside 14 year-old William Hardy who had the honour earlier this year of carrying the Olympic torch through Newcastle.

Students chatted with Kate about their life and work at the university before she headed outside to greet members of the public.

500 Geordies made it down to the Civic Centre for Kate's visit with many being students.

Students Megan Bartle and Jemima Edwards stood in the crowds to catch a glimpse of the Duchess.

Bartle, aged 20, said: "she carries herself beautifully but is modest and at ease with the public."

Another member of the public added: "We understand why William isn't here and seeing Kate in person is brilliant. She is so good natured and will make a good queen."



Medics to benefit from Barbour's finely threaded success

By **Anna Templeton**
News Editor

The Barbour Foundation have pledged a "large donation" to the Newcastle University Medical School.

J. Barbour & Son, traditionally known for their waxed jackets, has experienced a leap in profits, paying itself a £10 million dividend last year.

Steve Buck, their Managing Director, said: "Barbour continues to experience strong growth and we are satisfied with our 2011 results.

"It is a testimony to the owners and all of the staff that our workmanship and enduring quality are recognised by our customers."

The explosion in the company's sales can be attributed to their popularity amongst the likes of Kate Moss

John Barbour, who began selling oilskins in the port of South Shields, started the company in 1894. The Barbour family are still the sole shareholders of the business with Dame Margaret Barbour serving as chair.

The family still maintain close connections with the North East. Dame Margaret opened the Barbour Academy in South Shields last year to deliver apprenticeships, skills and training for the textile industry.

The explosion in the company's sales and profile can be attributed to their increasing popularity amongst urbanites such as Kate Moss and Alexa Chung.

Dame Margaret also supports charitable causes and other projects in the area through the Barbour Foundation, pledging a "further substantial donation" to The Sage Gateshead.

Mr Buck said the foundation had donated more than £8m to charitable causes since its inception, including their most recent donation to the Medical School's research programme.

Professor Chris Day, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Medical Sciences said: "We're excited to hear that we are to receive this donation from Barbour as it recognises our world leading strengths in medical research. By investing in studentships and fellowships we aim to advance our understanding of diseases such as arthritis, Alzheimer's, cancer and Parkinson's."

James Johnston, Development Manager for Medical Sciences, explained how: "The Medical School was originally founded on subscriptions from local individuals and organisations and has long benefited from the support of alumni, patients interested in research and well-known local names such as Catherine Cookson and William Leech. We established the 1834 Fund in 2009 to encourage donations of this sort.

"It has already offered bursary support for undergraduate medics. There is a great story to tell about the work that our medical research teams are doing and the 1834 Fund continues to attract support to help advance medical research."



BARBOUR BURSARY

The famed waxed jacket makers will be making a "large donation" Image: saxon-campbell (Flickr)



NUSU and Uni to shine a new light on mental health



By **George Sandeman**
News Editor

The Students' Union and the University have teamed up with local charity *Time to Change* to try and tackle the stigma surrounding mental health.

Speaking to students and staff in The Venue, Welfare Office Esta Innes said: "From my perspective, mental health is one of those things that a lot of people don't really want to talk about, particularly students.

"It's quite a heavy topic and a little bit taboo and I think we as an organisation need to work hard to make sure that it is talked about and is discussed in a more positive light."

She added: "This pledge that we're signing today is to show our commitment to tackling the stigma of mental health in everything we do.

"We want to show current students and prospective students that we as an organisation are serious about committing time and effort to challenging stigmas surrounding mental health and get people talking about it."

Signing the pledge was Dr Alison Oldam, the Head of the University's Student Wellbeing Service, with Lindsey Lockey accepting the pledge on behalf of NUSU Chief Executive Simon Gerry.

Oldam said: "This shows our commitment that we as a University are making to students and staff to tackle stigma and discrimation surrounding mental health."

Silent protest honours Syrian graduate

By **Peter Wood**

A silent protest was held last week outside the Students' Union to remember a Newcastle graduate who was killed in Syria and raise awareness of the country's on-going turmoil.

Dr Miri Hussein graduated from Newcastle in 2009 and had been teaching linguistics at Damascus University when he was shot by a sniper along with his brother and cousin whilst collecting essay questions from his home in late July.

Dr Hussein was 34 when he was killed, leaving a wife without a husband and their six children without a father.

More than 50 people participated in the stand against violence which was organised by the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics and attended by various faculty members.

It was done in partnership with other Syrian students and was also attended by other members of the Syrian community in the North East.

At the protest were Miri Hussein's former MA and PhD supervisor at Newcastle and Professor Noel Burton-Roberts of the English Literature, Language & Linguistics department. Burton-Roberts said: "The whole of the School of English are very shocked and our feelings go out to his family.

"We worked very hard together and to think that all of that is wasted, quite apart from the tragedy of it all", the Professor said, adding: "We were expecting great things from Miri. He worked at Damascus University and he was a rising star there."

> "People's humanity is being lost; seeing people being killed is becoming a part of the daily routine"

One of the organisers of the event, which began at noon last Wednesday and lasted approximately 45 minutes, was Hammood Obaid.

Hammood, originally from Damascus and graduated last year, was a friend of Miri's. Speaking about last week's event, he said: "The aim of the event is actually to raise awareness of the situation in Syria and at the same time remember our friend who lived among us here for some time and was a very, very loved person by everyone who knew him."

He also spoke of the situation in Syria, condemning the use of the term 'civil war' to describe what is happening, stating: "The facts on the ground are nothing like that."

Noting that peaceful protest against the regime went on for almost six months, he said: "It's a government that is using its full military force – that was never used in any kind of war by the government – against its own people."

He added: "the struggle of the people to defend themselves against this government can by no means be called a civil war.

"People's humanity is being lost; seeing people being killed, seeing blood and bodies is becoming a part of the daily routine", he said, adding that the lack of international support meant that, "the regime got the upper hand."

"There are still many peaceful activities taking place in Syria highlighting that this is a people's revolution"

The Syrian community in the North East have raised over £800 which has been sent to Miri Hussein's widow whilst the School of English Literature, Language & Linguistics has managed to raise a further £200.



DEAFENING SILENCE
Students and faculty come together to remember Miri Hussein Photo: Peter Wood

The judge asked the defendant in which position they had oral sex. He replied: "She was lying down on the bed and I was kneeling over her."

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A video-recorded testimony by the victim was shown to the jury in which she said she was beaten and raped on the night of 20 September last year.

Speaking through an interpreter, she said the defendant forced her to perform oral sex but slapped her twice and kicked her in the stomach when she resisted.

She said she begged him to use a condom and he laughed it off saying he wanted to get her pregnant as a punishment.

> She said the defendant forced her to perform oral sex but slapped her twice and kicked her in the stomach when she resisted

The court heard medical evidence that the bruises on the victim's lips and cheek were a day old when the victim was examined and that there were bite marks on her shoulder.

However, the medical professional noted that no injury to her stomach was recorded.

The victim also alleges that after the defendant raped her; he took pictures of her on the bed.

A transcript of text messages sent from the victim's phone was presented as evidence.

The defence highlighted a message sent to her boyfriend that read: "[The defendant] seduced me last night and I regret for what I have done. It is best that we don't see each other anymore as I love him."

She denied sending any message to her boyfriend and alleged that her phone was in the defendant's possession at the time it was sent.

The victim also accepted having had a previous sexual relationship with the defendant.

The second day of the trial saw the victim continue at the witness stand with the defence alleging that the victim received a foot massage from the defendant after they returned from a day of shopping.

"You began to kiss and then you helped him to take his clothes off. And then you had oral sex," alleged the defence solicitor.

The victim denied receiving a foot massage and denied that sex had been consensual. She said: "I just wish that it never happened in my life."

After she finished giving her evidence, she was told that she might be recalled for further cross-examination.

On 11th January 2012, forensic evidence was found linking the defendant to the alleged rape.

In his testimony, the defendant said that on 20 September, they went to the city centre at 9.00am and came back at 7.00pm.

He alleges that the victim went inside her bathroom, with the door left open, to change into something casual. She was wearing a black top and black tracksuit bottoms on that night and was arranging her clothes in the wardrobe while he cooked food.

After dinner, he alleges they lay on the bed in the victim's room and that he told her that he still loved her. He alleges that she replied: "Love me like you used to before."

He said that she then voluntarily removed her shirt and that he helped her to remover her trousers. "I took off my clothes, started kissing her and touched her with my fingers."

"She never said no to sex. The only time she spoke was when she asked me to use a condom."

He alleged that her menstrual cycle finished on the 17th of every month and therefore decided not to use a condom. "It was her dry day," he said.

The defendant described: "As usual, like before, I bit her on the shoulder."

"After the sex, I used her camera to take a few pictures while she was sleeping. I did this every time after sex to save it as a memory."

The defendant accepted the charge that he had assaulted her but that this incident didn't happen until the next morning on 21 September. He alleges that he told her he felt jealous because of her pictures with her boyfriend on facebook and wanted her to come back to him. He alleges that she said he was never patient and that the previous night was a mistake.

"I slapped her really hard the first time. She called me a dick. I slapped her again," said the defendant. "I did not feel sorry when I slapped her but when the police showed me a picture of her bruised face I felt bad."

"I can never forget or forgive myself for what I have done to her."

The jury was given a day off on Thursday with the third day of the trial commencing on Friday.

> The prosecutor proceeded to ask the defendant: "How many times did you slap her?" He replied: "Twice. I realised she was using me and I lost control and slapped her"

The prosecutor proceeded to ask the defendant: "How many times did you slap her?"

He replied: "Twice. I realised she was using me and I lost control and slapped her."

The prosecution then moved onto the questions regarding the defendant trying to intimidate the victim.

They alleged that the victim recorded a call from the defendant on the same night that he was released on bail. In the recording, the defendant denied raping the victim after which she hung up the phone.

He went on to text her several times and tried to call her again later on that night.

> Questioning led to the defendant beginning to cry and raise his voice against the prosecutor in some replies. "I would have raped her on the first night if that was my intention!"

"She didn't answer the calls, so I texted her.

"I was drinking with a friend and I called her in the middle of the night but she did not answer the phone.

"I only remember calling her the next morning."

Regarding the severity of the bruising on the victim's face, he said: "If you don't look carefully, you wouldn't even notice it."

The judge then asked the defendant in which position they performed oral sex. He replied: "She was lying down on the bed and I was kneeling over her.

"She wasn't participating in the sex. I had to do everything myself."

A member of the jury raised the question: "Did the victim retch when you were performing oral sex?" The defendant replied: "She appeared to be choking but I moved on."

The prosecution continued along the same line of questioning for some time, which eventually led to the defendant beginning to cry and raise his voice against the prosecutor in some replies. "I would have raped her on the first night if that was my intention!"

As detailed on the first day of the trial, the victim was alleged to have sent a message to her boyfriend explaining that she no longer loved him after being seduced by the defendant. She subsequently denied this and the prosecution sought to support her claim by indicating that within five minutes of sending the first message to her boyfriend about leaving him, she had texted him saying: "I was beaten and raped. I'm scared of [the defendant]."

Closing arguments were made that afternoon with the prosecution saying: "The reality is that she was hit in order to get her to have sex. The defendant's attitude is one that demonstrates that this is a man who was not in love with her.

"He wanted to regain a sexual relationship and he wasn't very particular of how he went about it."

They added: "A whack across the face to express frustration over lost love."

"Although the defendant does admit to slapping her, he's not prepared to admit anything regarding the rape."

"He's a man not lost in passion, but he's devious, he's clever."

"The injuries speak volumes."

The defence began their closing arguments by telling the jury that they must "be cold and analytical" when considering the evidence.

The defence said: "The doctor said she could not be certain that all of the injuries happened at the same time". They continued by going into detail about some of the text messages presented as evidence saying it was incomplete and there were inconsistencies.

The defence also said that the defendant stayed silent during his initial police interview because "he was scared stiff" and that, even though he did have a reasonably good grasp of English, there was still no interpreter available. And that: "It was the police, not [the victim], who raised the question of rape".

Both the prosecution and defence tried to point out inconsistencies in each other's evidence and that these could have been down to language and meaning difficulties.

The trial resumes on Monday.

Additional reporting by Peter Wood.

It's question time but who's got the answers?



WE'RE ALL EARS

Some of the region's biggest hitters answered your questions Photography: Justyna Belkevic and Lusi Manukiyan

By **Justyna Belkevic and Lusi Manukiyan**

Should one receive a child as a gift for Christmas and should Greece have ever been admitted into the Eurozone? These were some of the intriguing issues discussed during the third Question Time held last Thursday in Newcastle University by the Politics Society. The event, which took place in the Herschel building, was chaired by Richard Moss and featured Labour MP Nick Brown, alongside various other political figures.

The very first question addressed to the panel challenged George Osborne's proposal to limit the amount of children in one family to be supported on benefits. It was soon clear that the debate was going to be a heated one.

Last week, in an attempt to find £10 billion in savings, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, offered to slash the welfare budget further, partly by cutting the amount of child benefit larger families could claim.

Brown was quick to point out that the number of large families in the UK was not great, so the policy was most likely to affect the poorest in society, whilst generating little income. He also noted that "children are expensive" and since welfare only partially covers the costs, having a child was an important decision, whether one claimed benefits or not.

Many of the panelists agreed that the choice of having a larger number of children was that of the family, however Vice Chairman of the National Conservative Convention, Charles Heslop, went on to add that dependence on the state had become a 'culture'. The solution he offered was to educate young people to understand that "a child is not for Christmas, a child is for life".

Brown said there were few large families so the policy was going to affect poorest in society whilst generating little income

The question on whether same-sex marriage should be legalised was seen as not worthy of debate, according to John Tennant, as the answer was clearly "yes". What was the bigger issue was whether the Church should be able to opt out. The panellists largely agreed with Tennant's point with Charles Heslop adding that politics cannot stay in the vacuum of 1950s and the view on marriage should be changed accordingly. Nick Brown, however, pointed out that no religious institution was being compelled to allow same-sex marriage on their grounds, and thus the law should be passed as soon as possible to avoid any further conflict.

The debate livened up when Charles Heslop accused UKIP of being a one-issue party with nothing to offer but an exit from the EU. Seizing the opportunity to shine, John Tennant began his argument blaming the EU for being non-democratic and for allowing countries like Greece to join the Eurozone and contribute to the economic crisis.

Offering a business perspective to the matter, Kurt Mueller noted that a change would be of concern to Granger Plc., since the alternative would not be any better, as EU regulations and standards allow for greater transparency and, therefore, benefit businesses.

Overall, the event proved to be a great success according to all of the panellists and judging from the ovation from the audience. The Education Secretary for Politics Society said, "I was pleased with the great turnout, as well as the diverse panel that did not hold back or walk around the topics."



Northumbria Police give reassuring presence



DON'T STOP THE PARTY

Police have encouraged freshers to enjoy themselves responsibly and to be aware Photography: Moises Bedrossian

By **Aine Stott**
Online News Editor

This year's Freshers' Week saw over 6,000 students descend on the city after a lifetime under parental supervision.

Speaking to *The Courier*, PC Al Gibson, a Northumbria Police beat officer on the University campus, outlined what students can expect from the city's policemen and women.

"While students are generally not the most dangerous or violent people officers come into contact with, they can, through inexperience, be vulnerable; exposing themselves to all kinds of problems such as becoming a victim, or indeed a perpetrator, of crime normally as a result of not managing behaviour after alcohol.

"Officers respond to this by changing their policing style for the first few weeks of term.

"Local officers spend more dedicated time on campus and in the halls offering reassurance to the new arrivals. If you see an officer please don't be alarmed - they are there to offer help and advice if you need it."

He added: "We know it can be quite daunting being away from home and we aim to provide another level of pastoral care to those already being provided by your accommodation and the University.

"Our intention is to educate rather than enforce. Newcastle is a safe city and the Police presence is there to ensure it remains that way.

"Additional officers carry out dedicated patrols around the city centre, working late into the evening looking at issues surrounding the various events organised by the University, the Students' Union and the various licensed premises in and around the city centre.

"We want to ensure students find their feet and grow accustomed to the city lifestyle without becoming a victim of crime."

Our intention is to educate rather than enforce. Newcastle is a safe city and the Police presence is there to ensure it remains that way

PC 2101 Gibson works closely with the Estates Security Service and has an office on campus in the Armstrong Building.

He is present all year round and students wanting to contact him can do so by emailing [alastair.gibson@newcastle.ac.uk].

He advised: "Students are coming to one of the best cities in the country and our region is one of the safest areas in the country to live, work and study.

"People do though need to take common sense precautions to ensure their safety, the safety of their friends and their property. Lock windows, especially those on the ground floor; close all flat doors behind you when you go out and make sure you don't leave your valuables on show."

He urged caution saying: "While out and about please be aware that drinking can expose you to dangers which are not necessarily evident when you're sober."

"We used to get regular complaints from a brain surgeon disturbed by noise ... it meant he had to cancel operations"

continued from page 1

control and huge disturbances to a lot of people then that would be considered much more seriously and go beyond the formal warnings and fines to further academic sanctioning and discipline."

The council's Night Noise Team operates between 10pm and 4am on every night of the week but that could change due to funding adjustments. Beat police officers also regularly patrol student-populated areas as part of a monitoring scheme the University partially funds.

Gray explained the relationship between the University and council in dealing with noise problems saying: "We are two different bodies and operate different procedures and can take different action to resolve the problem. We are very joined up in the sharing of information but we don't involve each other in the determination of sanctions or disciplinary measures ... The council have their own powers through legal proceedings to be able to issue fines and confiscate equipment but we don't have any part in that."

On what the new sanctions are looking to achieve Gray said: "We're hoping this new initiative might make students think a little bit more carefully because a lot of it is forgetting that it is two o'clock in the morning, they are a bit drunk and they are disturbing others. They aren't intentionally meaning to disturb others but it is thoughtless, inconsiderate behaviour. The fine and the warning will be now issued on the receipt of a report from the Police that they have witnessed levels of noise that are deemed unacceptable."

Addressing the University's previous attempts at dealing with the problem: "What we had been doing, after a first complaint, was to issue a formal caution which is very minor, with regards to disciplinary procedures, and it was having some effect but wasn't resolving the issue sufficiently when it came to houses offending repeatedly … In order to try and address the problem, and for students to take it more seriously, it meant we needed to increase upon our response."

Things students have been known to come out with when speaking to residents include: "This is a student area and if you don't like it, move"

Explaining the firmer measures that the University can take against more serious noise offenders she said: "We would always investigate more serious noise disturbances with an opportunity for the students to respond and establish who is responsible and whether sanctions are to be determined at the Student Progress Service level or if it needs to go higher to a Student Disciplinary Committee where harder sanctions such as exclusion and expulsion are considered. In saying that, for us to refer a case to that level it would have to be extremely serious."

She elaborated saying: "The kind of things some students have been known to come out with when speaking to permanent residents is "this is a student area and if you don't like it, move." That kind of comment is not helpful and breaks relationships down further."

Speaking on how students are perceived in the community she said: "It's difficult, given the number of people that are living in Jesmond and the surrounding areas we are only hearing from a very small proportion of permanent residents and hearing about only a very small proportion of students … We definitely get a mixed response from members of the public and it's not all negative, they are happy to coexist but to do so without too many instances of noise disturbance."

She added: "There is a very, very small minority of students who won't listen to anyone at all and think they can do whatever they want and we will have to come down a bit more harder on that type of student but that is to everybody's benefit. Unfortunately, their behaviour gives all the other students a very bad name."

Part of Gray's job involves finding out how other universities act upon excessive noise issues: "We do operate differently to Northumbria in terms of dealing with noise complaints but we do liaise in the instance of a joint household so that we can establish who is responsible, and take the appropriate action, but we do act independently of one another so students in the same house could be dealt with differently."

Other institutions that fine students include Queen's University Belfast who "fine much more heavily than we do. They have more numbers, a larger student body and is a bigger problem for them in their community but do have similar kinds of issue to us. Essex also fine students heavily for a wide variety of disciplinary issues … I believe that, in comparison to other universities, our fines are very low, whereas we fine up to £200, others start at £200."

Describing the types of people in the community making complaints, Gray, a Disciplinary Officer, said: "There are a lot of residents out there who are being bothered and it is affecting their lives.

"I believe that, in comparison to other universities, our fines are very low, whereas we fine up to £200, others start at £200"

From families with young children to normal working people and elderly people who can get frightened. To give you one example, we used to get regular complaints from a brain surgeon and when he was disturbed by noise it meant he had to cancel operations the next day because he couldn't take any risks of carrying out procedures whilst he was tired."

On the frequency of disturbances she said: "Some residents are being disturbed by noise two or three times a week from various houses in their area, whilst for those students their party is a one-off, for those residents it's a recurring problem."

Explaining how students could help resolve possible problems she said: "One of the guidelines we have is to encourage students to introduce themselves to their neighbours and show that they are nice people because then the neighbours may be more inclined to share information with them about the sorts of people they are living around which may help them get on with the permanent residents more amicably."

Gray was also clear to point out that the University doesn't profit from the fines and that they are deposited in the Vice Chancellors' Hardship Fund, which is operated by the Student Welfare Service "so students suffering financial hardship would make an application for assistance which the fund helps alleviate."

In his welcome to students last month, Leader of Newcastle City Council Nick Forbes, said: "One thing that winds residents up is late night noise disturbance and so we'd like to make a plea to any students wanting to enjoy Newcastle's nightlife is please do it in consideration of others and remember that other people are living and working here too."

Gray's final message to students was: "We understand that students have just moved into the community for the first time, they have just moved out of halls - a completely different environment - they are away from parents, they are being let loose but they need to adjust to their new surroundings and that is the message we want to get through."

University announces new partnership with Loyola

By **Jenni Cannon**

Newcastle University announced this week that it will be working in partnership with Loyola University to open a new science-focused study abroad centre in the UK.

The project will be the biggest overseas presence for Loyola University, Maryland, and is intended to strengthen ties between the universities and create opportunities for a number of students.

The centre will accommodate over 50 students, predominantly recruited from Loyola University.

A new science-focused study abroad centre ... which will accommodate over 50 students

This is the first project run by Loyola where spaces will also be available to other US students, with around ten external students expected in the first year.

Newcastle University will also recruit international students for the programme, aiming to make the process of finding a suitable study abroad programme as easy for science students as it is for those studying courses such as business and the humanities.

The project links the two universities through the aim to work within their respective communities.

Newcastle University has a reputation for high-quality research, and is currently spearheading societal challenges as part of this.



Y'ELLO LOYOLA

The green and leafy campus at the university in Maryland on the USA's eastern seaboard

Photography: Daniel Bedel

One of the three challenges Newcastle is currently tackling goes by the heading of Social Renewal, and is intended to impact the global community.

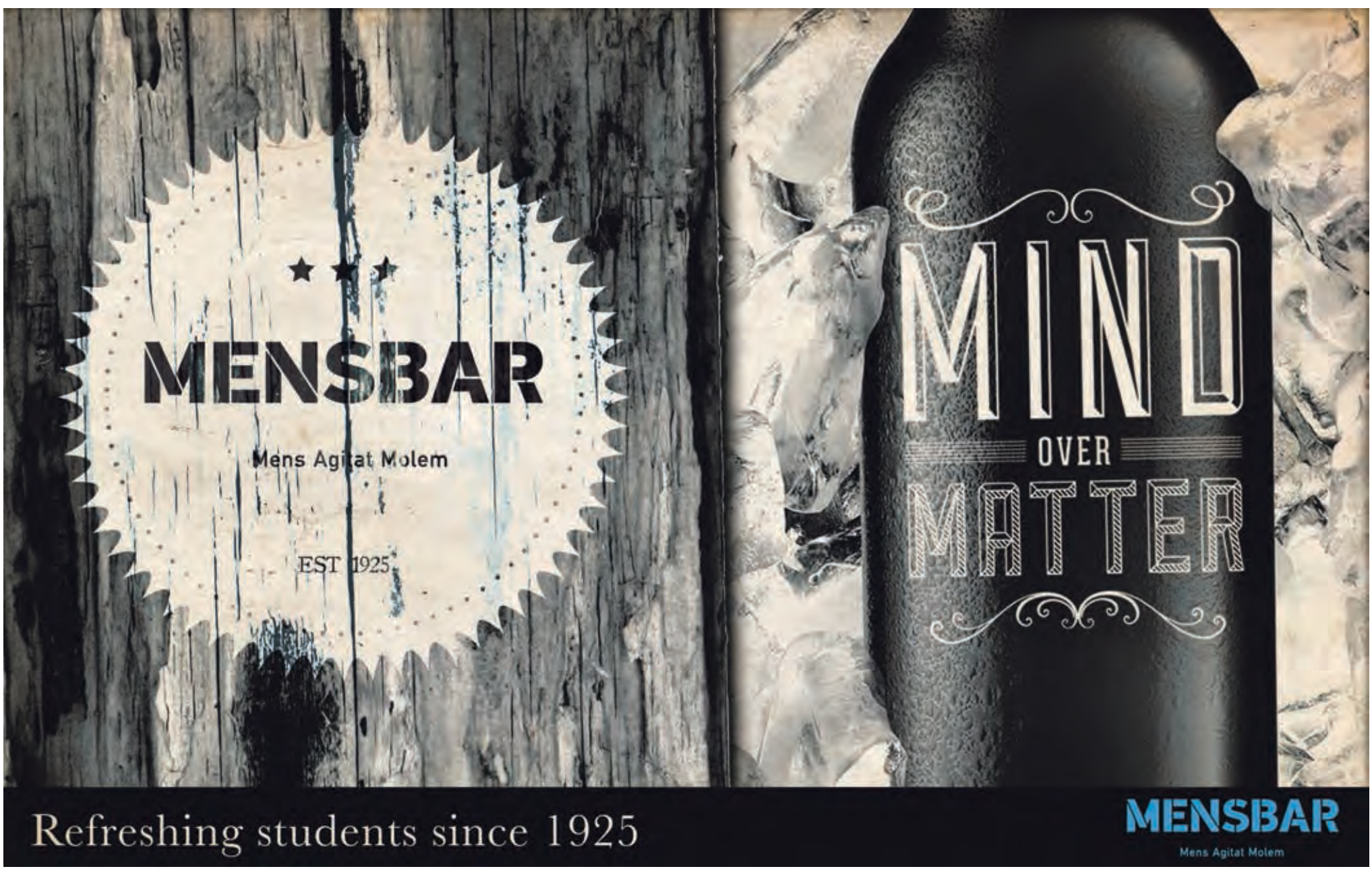
Projects such as this, designed to create opportunities for study abroad students and strengthen international ties, are a key aspect of Newcastle's focus on community development.

Loyola is also renowned for its community focus, and it is hoped that the centre will attract more US students to study the sciences.

This is not the first project run by the two partnered universities. Loyola and Newcastle have been linked since 1997, and have since been working on study-abroad prospects and community projects.

This commitment to international study has recently become more evident. Although already a member of the Russell Group and listed in the top 20 of the Times 2013 University Guide, its strengths seem to lie particularly in the student experience for international students, who this year ranked it 12th in the world.

Projects such as this one, opening in 2014, will help ensure that Newcastle's reputation for excellence among international students remains in the future.



Celebrating 45 years as only UK Uni to honour Martin Luther King

By **Leela Prasad**

In conjunction with the 45th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. receiving a doctorate in Civil Law at Newcastle University, the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) organised a memorial lecture for the journalist, political activist and black nationalist, Claudia Jones.

The event was held in Kings Hall, the same hall where Dr King received his doctorate 45 years ago.

Brian Ward, Professor of American Studies at Northumbria University, drew a comparison between America's first black president, Barack Obama, and civil rights leader Dr King in his speech.

He spoke about how "the dream" had been fulfilled nearly five decades after Dr King delivered his famous speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. It also included the screening of a five minute clip of Dr King's honorary degree acceptance speech.

> We still cannot say that every child has the opportunity to be judged by character and not their race

Later on, Newcastle Central MP Chi Onwurah told the audience how her family escaped from famine in Nigeria, and moved to Newcastle with her starving brothers and mother.

She recollected that she was just 10 years old when she first read those hallowed words. "I was really moved, really powerfully struck by those words.

"I hope his words will come true not only for them but for me. We still cannot say that every child in Newcastle will have the opportunity to be judged by their character and not their race.

"Certainly, I believe it's part of my job, as MP for this great city, to work towards that. Then I can say that I truly believe that Dr King's legacy in Newcastlet will have been fulfilled."

Careers Service
where opportunities begin

Part-time vacancies

Search vacancies online at: www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/vacsonline

Job Title: Event staff
Employer: North East Expo
Closing date: 20.10.12
Salary: Negotiable
Basic job description: 8-10 event staff are required to provide support to a business trade exhibition taking place on 7th November at Newcastle Racecourse. Your main responsibilities will include working on event registration; stewarding in the car park and providing other event cover where required.
Person requirements: Previous event support would be beneficial.
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne.

Job Title: Waiting & Kitchen Staff
Employer: Frankie & Benny's
Closing date: 17.10.12
Salary: Competitive
Basic job description: We are looking for part time Front of House Team Members and Bar Staff as well as Kitchen Team Members/Chefs at Frankie & Benny's in Gateshead and Newcastle. Come along to our recruitment day taking place on Wednesday 17th October at the Frankie and Benny's in Swalwell, Gateshead, 10am - 5pm. No appointment is needed - just bring your CV.
Person requirements: If you have relevant experience and a genuine passion for hospitality and providing excellent service we would love to hear from you.
Location: Gateshead.

Job Title: Personal Assistant
Employer: Disability North
Closing date: 26.10.12
Salary: £8.00 per hour
Basic job description: A Personal Assistant is required to work 10 hours per week for a 32 year old female who is in a period of recovery from mental health problems. The purpose of the personal assistant job is to encourage and accompany the lady in social settings and to take part in therapeutic activities.
Person requirements: The position is subject to the satisfactory result of an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau search and references being sought.
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne.

Job Title: Shop Floor Assistant
Employer: ASDA
Closing date: 23.10.12
Salary: To be confirmed.
Basic job description: A Shop Floor Assistant is required to work 4 hours per week at the ASDA store in Washington, Sunderland. On the shop floor you have a great opportunity to welcome customers, talk to them, help them and make their shopping trip memorable. You also have an important part to play in helping us meet our sales targets, whether it's by recommending a product to a customer or making sure the shelves are stocked with the things they want to buy.
Person requirements: Every day you'll be expected to look the part through a smart appearance, and play the part in a friendly and professional way.
Location: Sunderland.

Job Title: Administrative Assistant
Employer: Newcastle City Council
Closing date: 18.10.12
Salary: £12,787 - £13,589 pro rata

Basic job description: An Administrative Assistant is required to work 16 hours per week at Cragside Primary School in Newcastle (2 days a week - Thurs & Fri, 8:15am start). You will provide general clerical and administrative support including answering telephones, taking messages and responding to inquiries, data input, filing, photocopying, receiving and dispatching post etc. Reception duties may be required.
Person requirements: You will need a good level of ICT, administrative and inter-personal skills together with the ability to demonstrate initiative. Experience of working in a school is desirable but not essential.
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne.

Job Title: Newcastle Work Experience - Marketing, PR and Social Media Executive
Employer: Evening Chronicle Sunshine Fund
Closing date: 22.10.12
Salary: £600 bursary upon completion of placement
Basic job description: Duties of the placement will include: Producing a marketing/PR/Social Media strategy for the fund, liaising with the creative team; maximising the use of social media avenues for fund raising, updating and maintaining news feeds; producing marketing materials to promote the fund and its fundraising activities; liaising with the Evening Chronicle Reporters to ensure all fundraising events receive appropriate publicity, identifying new publicity opportunities to raise the profile of the fund.
Person requirements: Excellent knowledge and skill using various social media channels is essential. Marketing and PR experience is also required. You must be able to work as part of a team as well as unsupervised. Experience of fundraising and marketing events is highly desired.
Location: Newcastle upon Tyne.

Job Title: Newcastle Work Experience - Development Assistant
Employer: Berwick upon Tweed Film and Media Arts Festival
Closing date: 22.10.12
Salary: £600 bursary upon completion of placement
Basic job description: The role will include: Administrating the Festival's fundraising applications; administrating and promoting the Festival's call for submissions; administrating the Festival website and email systems; updating online communications and social media; handling and responding to enquiries; company & Board administration.
Person requirements: Office-based experience, excellent IT skills (incl. MS Word & Excel, preferably Apple Mac) and experience of data-inputting, collating documents, creating spreadsheets and filing. You must have outstanding organisational skills and an eye for detail. Confident social networking skills are also essential as well as professional communication skills. The successful candidate will be self-motivated, with a good sense of initiative.
Location: Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Fancy earning £600 tax free? Newcastle Work Experience placements now online!

NWE offers paid work experience opportunities in local small and medium sized companies and charities (SMEs) to bright and enterprising students.

The term-time programme is open to all Newcastle University students from any degree discipline. You will be required to undertake a total of 100 hours work over 3 - 4 months, fully flexible around your timetable.

The summer programme is open to all current and graduating Newcastle University students from any degree discipline. You will undertake a full-time placement over a 5 or 10-week period.

All current vacancies can be found at www.ncl.ac.uk/careers by following the 'Jobs and applications' tab to work experience. You can also visit the NWE homepage for further info and register for NWE placement alerts www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/develop/workExperience/nwe.php.

Oxbridge reject new graduate 'report cards'

Oxbridge Universities

The two institutions are among up to 10 members of the Russell Group with no plans to award graduates with the new Higher Education Achievement Report.

The HEAR system seeks to give university leavers a detailed breakdown of their academic achievements, extra-curricular activities and work placements.

It is hoped that the move will pave the way for the abolition of existing first, second and third-class degree classifications amid fears it is "far too blunt a tool" to mark out the full range of student abilities.

But the plans have received a lukewarm response from some leading universities, with Oxford insisting there was little evidence that the new scheme was in demand from businesses.

Student jailed for £1.5m VAT scam

Manchester Metropolitan University

A law student lived a millionaire's lifestyle after masterminding a complex VAT fraud.

Paul Hackney was driven around in a Rolls Royce Phantom, paid rent from a Swiss bank account, owned a Range Rover and was collected from football matches by helicopter.

Hackney was behind a string of companies that falsely claimed VAT refunds for international exports of construction equipment that had never taken place.

He banked the money offshore in Zurich, New Zealand, Curacao, Somalia and China.

The scam had been operating for four years when he was arrested.

Hackney has now been jailed for six years after admitting conspiracy to cheat the revenue and conspiring to launder money, and has been barred from serving as a director for 10 years.

Essex student dies after rum binge drink race

University of Essex

A student from the University of Essex fell to his death after downing a bottle of rum in 15 minutes.

Timothy Jarvis, 18, was a few days into starting a maths degree when the tragic accident occurred.

An inquest held at Walthamstow's Coroner's Court heard how Mr Jarvis had been involved in a bet to down the rum.

Demitris Bachaviolos, from Maldon, Essex, told the inquest: "They had a stopwatch as they drank a bottle of rum.

"Timothy had said he could drink the bottle in 30 minutes - he drank it in 15 minutes, actually."

The inquest, held around the same time as new students across the country take advantage of cheap drinks offers, still continues.

Condoms distributed to Cambridge students

University of Cambridge

Freshers at Cambridge University are being given 60 free condoms a week under a new pilot scheme.

In a effort to avoid STDs and unwanted pregnancies, officials have been handing out free contraception packs as well as 'condom cards', to allow pupils to get hold of more.

It means if all 3,500 Freshers at Cambridge use their full allowance, they would get through 10,920,000 condoms a year.

Cambridge County Council has successfully run the C-Card scheme for under-18s, before being extended to Cambridge students with extra funding.

Anna Templeton
News Editor
Photography: Digo Souza / Writing on the Mall (Flickr)

Stranger Danger: A naïve concept?



LAURA WOTTON
COMMENT EDITOR

From what seems a painfully young age, we have all endured 'safety education.' We have diligently learnt neither to accept sweets from strangers on the street, nor to open the door to the shifty salesman when home alone. We are, and rightly so, a paranoid nation when it comes to looking after children, yet this is simultaneously weighed against the fear of cramping a child's freedom and autonomy.

However, when considering the abduction and murder of five year-old April Jones, there seems little scope to be cynical of this seeming excess of caution. Her disappearance has undoubtedly struck a nerve in national consciousness that will be a resounding warning to anxious parents, desperate to protect their young ones from the age-old threat of the 'outside world.'

Yet perhaps what would be worth considering is the naivety behind the concept of 'stranger danger.' It seems all too easy to comfort ourselves with the smug assurance that such abductions are only committed by outside imposters, the so-called 'insiders' absolved of suspicion. Yet we are fooling ourselves. Machynlleth, the 'quaint' Welsh town where April lived, seems hardly the site of criminal undertakings yet this is where the abduction occurred.

Interestingly, a *Guardian* statistic stated that since the 1970s, 'six children per year have been abducted and murdered by strangers' in stark comparison to the 'two children a week' murdered in their own homes. Children, in essence, are more at risk from members of their family and community, a harsh reality that previously we've smugly ignored.

Take for example the case of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman back in 2002, both of whom were murdered by their school caretaker. The same can be applied to these recent events, April playing victim to 'local man' Mark Bridger who shockingly was uncle to April's two half-sisters. There is something of a common thread; however much we drill children with horror stories about the 'outside world', education surely should be invested in raising children's awareness of their immediate surroundings.

> "There are measures that can be taken without the intrusion of persistent parental watch"

There is certainly a fine line between protecting the more vulnerable of society and curbing a child's freedom to the point of excess. However there are measures that can be taken without the intrusion of persistent parental watch.



CHILD SAFETY
Do we need more measures in place to protect children?
Image: Bob Bobster (Wikimedia)

Police and other authorities now take domestic violence extremely seriously, a vigilance which protects not only youngsters but also women who more often than not are ensnared in the abuse too. By setting up approachable counselling services in schools we could bring a child's fears and anxieties to the forefront and discover the potential threat of their home environment.

Sadly there will never be a straightforward solution to entirely eliminate a child's risk of abduction, yet the nation could do well by recognising that the threat can stem from even the closest family relatives. 'Stranger danger' although certainly not out-dated, is a concept that should be introduced to children alongside sensible exposure to the threat of their inner community.

Time for the Queen to back out?



TOO LONG?
Queen Elizabeth has been on the throne for 60 years.
Image: NASA/Bill Ingalls (Wikimedia)



HARRIET SALE

Last Sunday, the Queen missed her last summer church service at Crathie on Deeside whilst staying at Balmoral estate due to a sore back. After a restful morning she was back to her duties and did not miss any scheduled public engagement. Yet despite the seeming triviality of this absence, this surely poses the question: will our 86-year-old Queen ever slow down or stop her demanding occupation as sovereign?

After an immensely busy year, not least to mention the Olympic Games and the Jubilee celebrations, it would be easy to sympathise with the Queen if, after her sixty year reign, she now wanted to step back from her public role. Yet after six decades in office, the Queen is showing no such signs of doing so and, in her current good health, little should she.

Why should the Queen stop when she is still as devoted and successful at her job as ever? She remains focused, dedicated, articulate, and knowledgeable and has experience like no other; Queen Elizabeth II surely is the greatest role model for all generations. It is hard not to look at the example set by the longest reigning monarch, Queen Victoria, whose rule lasted for 63 years. Queen Victoria certainly did not show any signs of abdicating, however she died younger than our present Queen, aged 82. In the past, abdication from the British throne has only occurred in the most extreme circumstances of political turmoil and violence. However more recently, monarchs in the Netherlands, Luxemburg and Cambodia have abdicated due to old age.

> "Queen Elizabeth II surely is the greatest role model for all generations"

So, who or what is to stop her? It is fair to say that, at present, no one can; but the thought of maintaining such remarkable physical and mental health is certainly a thought at the back of all our minds. Yes, the Queen is getting old, and it is highly likely that she has numerous aches and pains; she may well have to miss the odd event. But the truth is that we all get old, let's not hide from it, we should continue to support our Queen, celebrate her achievements and, most importantly, hail how she has grown old gracefully.

Comment

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Is Carnage's 'Pimps and Hoes' theme appropriate?

CARNAGE
Pimps and Hoes: a fun theme, or mysogynistic?
Image: overseastom (Flickr)



ANYA GONCHAROVA

YES

When first reading the theme of this event by Carnage, you can imagine what the whole night is going to be like. A lot of drinking, a lot of exposed skin and a lot of boys and girls going all out to stand out in this mayhem. In three words – classic Uni experience.

There's no denying that most students that go to something like this will enjoy it and will probably do it all over again if they have the chance.

The idea of boys and girls having different but related costumes has always been a particular favorite as it can become a battle between the sexes. Who is best dressed, and who is going to be the last one standing at the end of the night?

It's also certain that the people attending fancy dress events like this are going to be excited about their potential costumes from the moment they buy the ticket. Just imagine all the fun you could have pairing up those fishnet stockings with those hoop earrings. Chances are, this might be one of the only times you could dress this way and go out in public, so why not embrace it?

However, there has been a lot of controversy concerning the event's theme, as it is seen as 'disrespectful' and 'mysogynistic.'

When people go to a beauty and geek themed events, no one complains, as it is a little tamer and it is not the ladies that get the short end of the stick.

Carnage on the other hand, took a traditional idea for a Halloween costume and is now being judged for degrading women in society. A simple piece of advice could be to not buy the ticket if you feel like your pride is going to suffer during this male-dominated role-playing.

As previously mentioned, this theme is definitely not a novelty, so why is it getting discouraged now?

There have been many parties thrown over the years with the exact same wording in the invitation - 'Pimps and Hoes'. Just because it is now Carnage that's sending this event all around the UK does not mean that there haven't been millions of intoxicated students who have experienced and probably loved a very similar night.

Overall, Carnage is being pretty brave with organizing an event like this since the female population isn't afraid to shout accusations about a perceived lack of respect towards them. All things considered though, every girl likes to dress up and every boy secretly wishes to rule the world of at least one girl. Thus, since Carnage is not forcing every single person to go to this chaotic night, it's probably for the best that we still have it and give everyone a chance to go a little crazy.



ADAM THOMPSON

NO

A national student event's organiser, Carnage UK, has sparked debate recently by hosting a 'Pimps and Hoes'-themed bar crawl.

The event in question first took place on 8 October and will travel the country in the coming weeks.

The Women's Officer of the University of Sheffield Students' Union was sufficiently stirred to write an open letter of rebuke to the company - describing the event as 'flagrantly sexist' - while MP Paul Blomfield argued that the enterprise 'trivialises prostitution.'

It would be strenuous and petty to suggest events like this have any real influence on how men and women interact with each other. A vaguely misogynistic night on the town may well be the product of a vaguely misogynistic society or vice-versa but what is more worrying is that the people dressing like Latvian pimps or Russian call girls at night are the same people discussing gender politics and the implications of inequality during the day.

> "If students fail to get a little bit indignant about things like this, then they are an irrelevance"

Personally I am less troubled by the behaviour of Carnage UK and more by the target audience expected to attend. That a market for something such as this exists at all is bewildering but the most disheartening thing is that the primary target is students - students who, in the '60s and '70s burned bras and joined picket lines; students who were once the vocal advocates of human rights.

Whatever is distasteful about a 'Pimps and Hoes' bar crawl is only amplified when one considers that the country's future lawyers are the ones affecting a Baltimore accent for the evening, or that our prospective architects and doctors are parading around like ladies of the night.

University students, with enviable opportunities ahead of them, expected to aid the British economy in its quest for recovery or become trailblazers of change in the future, have a responsibility to maintain high moral standards. Gallivanting about posturing as Snoop Dogg is not the place to start.

The whole thing has a familiar feel to it. Prince Harry goose-stepping into a fancy-dress party while dressed as a Nazi or David Cameron listing 'The Eton Rifles' as one of his favourite tracks both spring to mind. It smacks of people forgetting who they are and what they are for. Like members of the House of Windsor and Prime Ministers, students have a duty to be self-aware.

Carnage UK may be an obnoxious organisation but if those who have gained a place at great seats of learning are in cahoots with the whole charade what chance do we have? If students fail to get a little bit indignant about things like this then they are an irrelevance.

I am patiently waiting for the day 30 years from now when a half-forgotten photo of our new PM wearing a mink coat, with a scantily clad girl on a leash is published shortly after he makes a rousing speech about the glass ceiling.

Prophetic pineapple pays a high price



This week you may have been fortunate enough to hear that amongst all the pandemonium, puking and rash decisions that normally accompany Freshers' weeks across the country, the Reading University Students Union (RUSU) was detaining a pineapple (without trial) for blasphemy against the Prophet Mohammed.

It's hard to believe it's come to this in Britain in 2012, but this actually happened. As the story goes, the Reading University Atheist, Humanist and Secularist Society (RAHS) displayed a pineapple labelled "Mohammed" in order to promote an upcoming debate at Reading's Freshers' Fair.

The RUSU quickly pounced on the RAHS stall, seizing the pineapple and asking the RAHS to leave (the state of the pineapple is currently unknown, some speculating it is languishing in Belmarsh awaiting deportation back to Costa Rica).

I appreciate that the RAHS were being deliberately provocative, and of course hate speech is something that should not be tolerated anywhere, let alone on a university campus. I am not convinced, however, that this amounted to anything even close to hate speech. Then again, I don't know what it's like to believe in a god, particularly one so sensitive to fruit-based humour.

> University should be a place to blaspheme, a place where views are challenged

The RAHS were quite clearly trying to encourage discussion and debate. Under the same logic, presumably the RUSU would remove an Islamic Society displaying a tomato entitled 'Christopher Hitchens' or Richard Dawkins in spinach form?

Nick Cook, vice-president of Student Activities at Reading Students' Union, and someone apparently fluent in Orwellian doublespeak, attempted the incredible, simultaneously defending the actions of the Union whilst committing it to a "culture of free speech".

Free speech must mean something different to Nick than it does to me. Under his 2012/13 manifesto, Cook states he wants "societies to be able to express their opinions in a more productive manner", thus enabling them to "implement change". "Change", given Nick's standards, probably implies the adoption of thought control by the RUSU.

University should be a place to blaspheme, a place where views are challenged and debates are encouraged. People like Nick seem determined to drag us down to a sterile, grey holding room for re-education from Harriet Harman's fairness and equality drones.

Of course, anyone can practice whatever religion they like. But do we have to respect it to the extent that we are petrified of disrespecting it? Maybe I am taking this all too seriously and it just wasn't a flattering enough fruit. Perhaps a watermelon would have gone down more smoothly. Regardless, we should spare a thought for Mohammed the blasphemous pineapple.

Follow the Comment section on Twitter: **@Courier_Comment**



PRICKLY ISSUES
Reading University Atheist, Humanist and Secularist Society create a stir.
Image: Mutante (Wikimedia)



Checkmate on Metro fares



Checky Watch has become an instant hit in the past few weeks. The facebook page, set up on 26 September, has so far managed to attract over 17,000 'likes'.

The site states that the founder of the page, along with 17,000 others, are fed up with the extortionate prices of Metro tickets and the way the Metro is run, but at the same stresses that he intends for ticket prices to be driven down rather than travelling free of charge.

The question must be asked: Is helping people to dodge fares the best form of protest in a bid to see cheaper tickets? The Metro is after all run as a non-profit basis and subsidised by tax payers.

Many people have sent in messages of support, claiming that ticket prices are simply too high for the level of service offered to the public. The website even states that one man had worked out it was cheaper to travel 11 miles on a bus run by diesel than 2 stops on a Metro run by electricity, emphasising the high Metro prices.

Obviously public transport needs to be affordable, but the best way to drive down prices isn't to avoid paying them altogether.

Those working for the Metro system have condemned the facebook page as 'criminal' for encouraging Metro users to travel illegally. Sharon Kelly, head of Customer Services at DB Regio Tyne and Wear, which operates the Metro on behalf of Nexus, said the page "promotes criminal activity" and should be shut down as a result.

> The best way to drive down prices isn't to avoid paying them altogether

Northumbria Police also strongly supported the inspectors and have made clear the fact people travelling without a valid Metro ticket could face criminal prosecution and fine of up to £500.

From the view of a student on a tight budget, commuting to and from University for £2.30 each day sets me back a lot of money and I obviously feel that Metro prices could be reduced to some extent.

Despite this, one must consider the convenience of such a service (we are fortunate in that only 8 light rail systems operate in the UK) and find better ways for prices to be slashed. The Checky Watch facebook page may seem lighthearted, but I doubt many of its followers have actually realised the legal implications it has created.

To respond to this week's articles visit **thecourieronline.co.uk/comment**



ANGRY PROTESTS
Pro-life protesters line the streets to push for a lower abortion limit.
Image: internets_dairy (Wikimedia)

Should the abortion limit be lowered?



MARK SUMMERS

YES

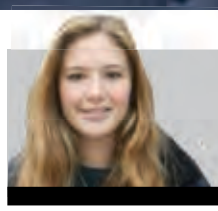
Jeremy Hunt's recent comments on abortion were uninformed and badly timed. Despite this, his message is incredibly important - the maximum limit for abortions should be lowered. This is clear from recent medical progress, but is also apparent once abortion is treated as a social and spiritual issue.

Firstly, the science. Scientific advances in the last few years have been amazing, with half of all children born at 24 weeks now surviving. Also, great steps have taken place in imaging technology, allowing scientists to study the unborn in clarity unimagined 10 years ago. These improvements in medical expertise cannot be ignored and are similar to the scientific progress which led to the original time limit of 28 weeks being lowered to 24 weeks by MPs back in 1990.

The second factor is social. Abortions are legal up to 24 weeks to allow health tests, ensuring the parents know if their child has any medical issues (e.g. Down's Syndrome is diagnosed during a test at 20 weeks gestation). Surely it is wrong though to abort a child because of medical problems they will face in life? After all, if the Paralympics taught us anything, it is that individuals with minor or major mental and physical health problems are just as valuable and talented as any able-bodied individual. Something is gravely wrong with society when it's acceptable to end a life because of health problems when parental support is provided by the NHS and by charities and when there are readily available adoption services.

The final crucial factor is the spiritual side of abortion. As a Christian I'm convinced that no one will ever fully understand the abortion issue if they do not see that the new life formed at conception is different from any other cell in the body. It holds in it the potential that we have all experienced. It has the image of God and it is the form in which God sent His Son, Jesus Christ.

The living human being that is inside the womb needs to be protected, not killed. If there are social or emotional factors which mean the mother does not want to keep her child once she has given birth then those are personal and entirely understandable. However, to fail to bring in a new law providing further limits to abortion and to ignore science and clear social and spiritual factors is foolishness.



ISABEL HEALY

NO

The minister for women, Maria Miller, has spoken about how she would like to see the abortion limit cut to 20 weeks rather than the current 24, and Health Minister Jeremy Hunt has even gone so far as to say in his personal opinion, the limit should be halved to 12 weeks.

Ms. Miller has been supported by the Home Secretary, Theresa May, who also desires a 20 week limit.

Although Maria Miller claims to be "a very modern feminist", in my opinion she is supporting a view which very few women would agree with, clearly shown by previous attempts to disrupt the abortion laws.

Whilst there is an argument for reducing the limit, mainly that many babies born at 24 weeks survive, my main problem with the new suggestions by members of the government is the difficulty it will cause with the 20 week scan.

This is the scan during which prospective parents most often find out about foetus abnormalities.

If the limit was indeed cut, this would give a mother who has had this scan, and discovered that her child has a serious disability, an extremely short period of time to make a particularly hard decision on whether to terminate the pregnancy or not.

Rushing a woman into making this decision is more likely to cause her trauma than if she had time to decide, as she would with the 24 week limit. Indeed Maria Miller mainly bases her argument on the effects that late-term abortions have on a woman.

This is not a substantial reason for it to be illegal to have an abortion after 20 weeks, as there is very little scientific evidence to support her argument.

Of course many women find a late-term abortion hard, but is that a reason to remove the right to self determination for grown adults?

Women need to be able to make decisions about their own lives, and it is not up to Westminster to decide what women do with their own bodies.

Although only two per cent of abortions are performed after the 20-week mark, ministers have the right to attack women's reproductive rights.

It is worrying that the people with these opinions are supposed to represent not just women, but this country's health department as a whole.

LYDIA CARROLL



ON THE BLOG

#1- Misconceptions Let's kick their tits in

My options for a *Courier* spot were limited... I already knew I had nothing to offer Fashion and Beauty – once, whilst running very late and extremely desperate, I brushed my hair with a fork – so my metaphorical journalistic horizon was looking grim. When it came down to it, if I had to pick a topic which could, in an emergency, be my specialist subject on *Mastermind*, I could possibly do; 1. How to make wearable hats out of folded newspaper. 2. *Final Fantasy* games, 1996 to the present day, or 3. Feminism. Yes. Women's stuff.

Feminism is, has always been, and at least until this article is over will remain, 'the equality of rights between men and women'. So that's right! From an entirely limited, western perspective, speaking only legislatively, women have achieved some pretty equal rights. We should, in theory, get equal pay, the same judicial privileges as men, and career choices other than 'village prostitute' or 'witch'. That's right, laydeez: congratulations. We have it pretty smooth. 'But Lydia!' you bray. 'Then we are clearly all fine and equal! Why are you here, talking to me?'

Because, I chose feminism over newspaper hats. After three hours spent brainstorming column names ("I've got it now, guys! Clit Corner!") and getting them shot down ("Clit Corner? No. You crazy bint"), I was ready to roll. Questions abounded. Why did so many people I spoke to argue that feminism had become obsolete? Why, when I talked to people – of both genders – about media representation of women was the answer a generally apathetic "that's just the way the world is, Lydia, now please get off my bus"? Why, during any time I've misspent browsing women's magazines, were their contents more divorced from any concept of reality or sense than those of Snoop Dogg's Twitter page? (Don't get me wrong - Snoop's tweets are actually often of the highest quality. Highlights include: 'Fry that shit YA DIG??' and 'three square meals a day. UHEARME?' Can recommend.)

Last Friday, we got onto the topic of whether misconceptions about feminism have led to a general reluctance in people to embrace the term. Prior to this conversation someone had confused 'feminism' with 'lesbianism' again:
Me: Aren't you a feminist?
Housemate #1: (pauses, mystified) No?
Me: Well, you do believe in equality for women, yeah?
Housemate #1: (long pause) Yeah. That's fair enough. Of course.
Me: Would you read a column about it? Even if I put the bit about brushing my hair with the fork in?
Housemate #1: More reading? Christ, I'm still technically on *Harry Potter* book five.
Me: I see. Can I transcribe this conversation? For my article? Please?
(At this point he fell off the chair and onto the floor, which I took to mean 'yes').

The point is, I've never met anyone (I hope) who seriously disagreed with the fundamental principle of feminism. Is not the most calm, rational and sound of arguments, 'the sameness of all people'? So why is a movement that has been, since its conception, not based around the dominance of either gender often relegated to something not just defunct but disdained?

Serious paragraph over. I'm going back on Snoop Dogg's Twitter page.

A quite interesting chat with Alan Davies

Returning to his comedic roots with his first stand-up tour in a decade, **Sally Priddle** talks to the *QI* legend and *Jonathan Creek* himself Alan Davies, about falling over, football and the frantic frenzy that is fatherhood

Everybody has one - that person who if you spoke to them, your heart would be firmly in your mouth and no matter how coherent you normally are, you lose all ability to talk like an actual human being. For me this is Alan Davies. Several excitable facebook statuses down, the time comes and I try my hardest to form real proper words.

A man who needs no introduction, but certainly deserves one, Alan Davies is a legend amongst men. On screen and stage: long-reigning star (but unfortunately rarely winner) of *QI*, murder mystery detective *Jonathan Creek*, author, and stand-up comedian. In his personal life: husband and father - the whole package, if you like.

The interview started rather shambolically, as the pressure began to mount. Despite taking a few large deep breaths before I answered the phone, I managed to initially forget to say my name and tell him that I was "beyond excited to talk to him". Excellent - I had just asserted myself as an anonymous stalker. Oh dear. Time to crack on with the questions...

Most people will probably know Alan from *QI* and *Jonathan Creek*, but he actually started out doing stand up comedy, and his new show *Life is Pain* is his first stand-up tour in over a decade. Since his last show a lot has changed for Davies: he got married, had children and has written a book.

"I'm funnier than on *QI*. It will be pretty much a whole new audience as most people that will come see the show won't have seen me do stand-up before, and of course it'll be very different from last time, as a lot has changed."

And of course the show promises to differ from Davies' role in *QI*, though not just in the change from panel show to stand-up.

"For starters, I'm not being bullied or picked on now. I'm in charge which is very enjoyable, it has been great and lots of people have come out to see it."

Alan was recently in Australia doing a live show of *QI* (where it's apparently almost as popular as it is here). But despite its international popularity, Alan never imagined that *QI* would have been welcomed so warmly by audiences when it started. In fact, he claims he still doesn't see it as being that popular.

"I don't see what goes on, I record it, I go home and just get on with my life. When it's on TV you don't really know. It isn't until you do a live show where all these people are suddenly there that you realise, when they're screaming 'I love you, I love the show'. Although sometimes I get a lot of feedback and responses when I go on Twitter, they tell me they've liked it."

That's @alandavies1, for the record.

This audience interaction is part of the allure of returning to stand-up after such a long time.

"It's one of the real joys of it certainly. I think really I was just trying loads of other things, I wrote a book that no one really bought, and as it was quite hard work I thought I could write another book, but what's the point? That's really hard work!" he laughs. "I was doing my football podcasts that I do with my mate, but we don't get paid for it, and I just started thinking I want to do something that's good fun, a good laugh and I get paid for it and I realised I used to do that back in the '90s - it's called stand-up comedy."

Recent changes in most comedians' lives provide unexpected or new material for their stand-up shows. Now a father, does Davies dare to use his children as comedy material?

"They are providing some material, paying their way in that respect, though I probably won't tell them that until later in life. But I'm sure when they find out about Google, they'll learn everything."

Many celebrities say that they would discourage their children from going into showbiz after having a turbulent time themselves, but Alan says if that is what his children want to do he'd support them.

"With anything like that you have to really want to do it - you can't just dip in and out, be prepared to work hard and devote yourself to it. I just hope they find something they are passionate about. If they want to be engineers, they can be engineers; then they can teach me all about it which would probably be more pleasurable for me."

The nerves start to kick in again, and with the current talking point being his children my questions take a turn for the deep. Hoping to maybe get some tips for myself, I wonder whether Davies has any life lessons to impart to his kids.

"That their mum and dad love them."

This just in: it has been confirmed that Alan Davies is, indeed, the complete package.

Regaining composure it was time to approach an area that Alan is both vocal and passionate about: football. He is an outspoken and well-known Arsenal fan - as previously mentioned he does a free weekly podcast called *The Tuesday Club* - but let's face it: can any game ever match up to the experience of a game in the Toon?

"I've been to a few games in Newcastle, it is just a big football town, a town where if it goes right then it lifts the whole town and goes right through the Toon. When they had a good team in the '90s and nearly won the



"Newcastle is just a big football town, a town where if it goes right then it lifts the whole town and goes right through the Toon."

league it was extraordinary."

Alan's wife is originally from Northumberland, so they regularly visit the North. Family visit commitments and football trips are an interlinked affair, as Alan explains "when Sunderland and Middlesbrough got relegated in the same season, my mother-in-law was quite upset - that was two less visits we would make up North."

Alan was once a drama student at the University of Kent - but now that student pastimes mainly include laying around watching re-runs of *QI* and *Jonathan Creek*, what did Davies' time in higher education consist of? Going to the pub and playing pool, of course.

"Back then, [Kent] was just a fishing village and none of the houses had central heating, so we went to a pub on the pebble beach and had wonderful evenings in there. The rest of the time I spent doing plays and coming up with comedy, all I wanted to do was act. There was also a lot political uprising at the time, people were very politically active, lots of marches and sexual politics."

Last year, Alan went back to university and made a show about the impact of the mining marches on the time.

The list of questions is done. Sensible questions, that is. Having up until now maintained a facade of professionalism (with varying degrees of success), it's time to switch to fangirl mode and ask the questions that a real fan (i.e. me) would like to know.

Alan, what's the best fact you've ever learned on *QI*?

"Most of it goes in one ear and out the other. But there was one thing about ravens. Vikings used to take ravens out on their boats because ravens won't land on water, so they go up incredibly high and if they see land they'll go towards it. But if they don't they'll just come down to the boat and that's how Vikings found land. That is the fact that has stuck most in my mind, that and there is more than one moon."

I can see Alan and myself being firm friends after this experience, but I feel that his tea and biscuit preferences are on a need-to-know basis.

Alan, are you a dunker?

"I'm not a big tea and biscuit person, but if I have a hot beverage I will dunk a biscuit. And if I have to have just one biscuit it would be a Jammy Dodger."

A controversial response, but I can see past that. As a keen sports fan Alan was swept up in Olympic Fever along with the rest of us.

Alan, which Olympic event would you have participated in, if you had to?

"I feel quite old and tired now, so something in a wheelchair would have suited me. Though going round the velodrome or shooting looks good, maybe I'd have given that a go."

Whilst giggling away at the idea of Alan in lycra cycling round the velodrome, the next question comes to me:

Alan, what makes you laugh?

"If you go on YouTube and search 'old people falling over', or just 'people falling over on escalators'. It's not mean because you see it all the time on *You've Been Framed* - grandma at a wedding, she gets up and then a skirt is up over her head, people are trying to help and at the same time trying not to laugh."

Report update: with confirmation that people falling over makes him laugh, Alan Davies is still the complete package.

With Davies' tour reaching Newcastle soon and hopes that I might be able to properly meet him, I need to check that he'll remember me after our enlightening conversation.

Alan, do you ever pretend to know people who talk to you?

"I often meet people and they remember me and I don't remember them and then they say something usefully awkward like 'You don't remember me do you?', so I start the mad panic of 'Who are you?' in my head. Or people say hello to me and I have to ask 'Have we met?' and they simply just go 'No'. I like it when people properly introduce themselves, like 'Hello my name is, we met at blah-di-blah', it's useful and just good manners."

Brilliant, now I have my first words to Alan when I see him face to face.

Despite having hundreds more inane questions to ask to *Jonathan Creek* himself, the interview draws to a close as Alan has to leave for more phone interviews (probably with less random questions).

Before I hang up, it's time for one last question:

Alan, why should Newcastle students come to see your stand-up?

"There is a lot of smucky filth about sex toys," he answers immediately, sounding like an excited 14 year old boy. Who wouldn't be sold on that description? "Also, I will sign your tickets and take a photograph with you, and I know students love that for facebook, they are just obsessed. I don't know how they get anything else done."

The answer? We don't really.

Alan Davies will be performing at Newcastle City Hall on the 27 October.

"I'm not a big tea and biscuit person. But if I have to have just one biscuit, it would be a Jammy Dodger."





Joe Foster, 19, Chemical Engineering (Stage Two)
Winner of the iPhone 5 from Freshtival

"I got a phone call off my mate saying 'either you or your mate could have the iPhone at Freshtival - I have raffle ticket 150, my mate has 152 and the winning number is 151'. My flatmate had ripped his in half, but he rolled it out and it was 149. I went mental running round my flat, but I found mine amongst a load of paperwork my girlfriend should have taken back to her flat. If she'd have taken it, I wouldn't have had the ticket. On the night, I thought to just shove it in my pocket - 'it's never going to get me anything...'"


ZOO PROJECT
Freshtival
2012

Decent days and clubnights: The Futureheads face Freshers' Week 2012

Before their Tiger Tiger DJ set for Freshtival during Newcastle University Freshers' Week 2012, **Lauren Stafford** caught some time with The Futureheads to chat Split Festival, stadium shows and Snoop Dogg's identity crisis.



It's the night of Freshtival and I'm part of Media Crew. This means I'm obliged to wear a lurid pink t-shirt whilst trying to apprehend various celebrities – *Heat* magazine style. There's an extensive line-up of acts to choose from including Lethal Bizzle, Lemar and not forgetting '90s favourites B*Witched. It's difficult to try and arrange an interview when surrounded by hordes of excited students, but luckily Jaff and Dave of The Futureheads oblige and we're bundled into a quiet area of Tiger Tiger. Due to play a DJ set there later in the evening, they look nothing short of bewildered.

"It's an odd venue for us. I forgot my AllSaints T-Shirt," says Jaff with a hint of sarcasm. I presume he's talking about the clothes shop and not the girl band. "I'll be honest, DJing is a very secondary thing. Right, we're a rock band! We like cool bands but when you DJ you have to tailor it a little bit to what's going on. They told us to bring an indie set tonight. I thought, an indie set? In Tiger Tiger? That's going to be interesting."

The Futureheads hail from Sunderland and released their debut album back in 2004. Their music embraces the ethics of post-punk, although in April of this year, they released *Rant*, an album made up of entirely a cappella tracks which was inspired by their previous close harmony work. The band consists of Barry Hyde, Ross Millard, Dave Hyde and Jaff Craig (who's real name is David).

"I'm studying undergraduate history and politics at Northumbria. I'm a mature student, although how mature is very debateable. No one knows that I'm in The Futureheads. Everyone calls me David instead of Jaff."

Seeing as it's Freshers' Week, it seems pertinent to ask him if he has any advice for surviving the first year at uni.

"Well, I suppose a lot of people would say that your first year doesn't count so don't really worry about it. I would say the opposite. Do the reading, turn up to your lectures and have a drink on the night as well."

The Futureheads are no strangers to time management and are involved in various extra-curricular ventures. In 2006 they set up their own independent record label, Nul Records, and they also organise Split Festival in Sunderland which is now in it's fourth year.

"Split went swimmingly. It was a lot of hard work but worth it", explains Jaff. "We didn't get to see any of the other bands! Imagine your worst day at work, times it by twenty and that's what we had to deal with." Jaff seems to have appointed himself as spokesperson. Dave looks into his beer and occasionally gives an enthusiastic nod.

"I had to stand guard while John Lydon had his own personal toilet… and then he pissed in the bin. How punk. Actually, Dave was in charge of dressing rooms so he technically pissed in Dave's bin. Literally pissed on his parade," he laughs. "Actually we did see The Chapman Family. Me mam went. She's 70. It was very heavy. They have a song that's just the F word. I was like, 'sorry mam.'"

At this point we're interrupted by two girls who are part of the Freshers' Crew. They politely introduce themselves and then leave us to continue with the interview.

"It's a dangerous night tonight. There are beautiful girls and boys everywhere," Dave seems to have perked up a bit.

"Especially in this setting. Call me P-Diddy," Jaff jokes.

I should explain that we're sitting in a pleather booth and surrounded by a lot of mirrored surfaces. The décor, is at best, questionable. There's a pause while Dave studies the bejewelled white sofa.

"Are these real diamonds?"

Somehow I don't think so.

"It's like Snoop Dogg's house this," continues Jaff. "Or Snoop Lion. He's preposterous, now that he's decided he's the reincarnation of Bob Marley. He looks a bit like Rio Ferdinand doesn't he?"

I smile in agreement (but secretly I have no idea what Rio Ferdinand looks like). Anyway, back to business.

"Split was a massive success. Great for the area! Great for Sunderland! Great for local bands! Great for the people of Sunderland! Just a little stressful for us but that's alright, we have a pretty easy life. I mean look at us! We're chillin' in P-Diddy's house."

And what of those local bands? Field Music, also from Sunderland, are nominated for the Mercury Prize this year.

"We're ecstatic about Field Music, it couldn't have happened to a nicer bunch. It's about time. People always say that it's good for the area but it's also good for them. They're great and their album is amazing. Plus, if they win I hope they give me half the money. At least half. He used to be the drummer in our band y'know."

Jaff is referring to Peter Brewis who used to play drums in The Futureheads before Dave took his place. To some extent this demonstrates that bands in the North-East are particularly close-knit. There's a mutual respect and friendship that exists between artists for instance, Dave is one half of duo Hyde & Beast,



"We have a pretty easy life. I mean look at us! We're chillin' in P-Diddy's house."

along with Neil Bassett (ex-Golden Virgins drummer) and David Brewis, also of Field Music, features on a few tracks on their album.

"Hyde & Beast are going to record a song soon. It's a little ballad, a bit Elton John-esque," Dave says. "But I'm keen to crack on with new Futureheads stuff. That's a priority. We've taken a lot from the a cappella album. It's still quite fresh to us. We often sing stupid harmonies in the dressing room. That won't get boring for at least ten years."



The Futureheads have become somewhat of a local institution. I've seen them perform in a tiny, booze-soaked courtyard next to RPM Records and in a packed marquee in the grounds of Ashbrooke Cricket Club. Perhaps the biggest venue they've played to date is The Stadium of Light, where they were supporting The Red Hot Chili Peppers.

"Supporting Chilis was weird. There was a big distance between us on stage and there was no banter. It was pouring down with rain. Stadiums aren't meant for that [type of performance]. They're built for sport. They're too bloody big for anybody really but we were honoured that we were asked and it was an amazing experience."

"I'm studying undergraduate history and politics at Northumbria. No one know that I'm in The Futureheads. Everyone calls me David instead of Jaff."

The interview is drawing to a close as several staff members are starting to look a bit antsy.

"Any more? I'm enjoying these questions," Jaff, however, seems determined to stay put. They're definitely going to be fashionably late. "It means that I don't have to play The Killers. I don't know what I'll kick off with really. Maybe MGMT? Bit old now though. Retro. I play all the tunes. Dave is just here for the good times."

"Beers!" Dave pipes up. "It's a shame we can't start with Heroine by The Velvet Underground."

"I was once DJing in Liverpool when this girl sidled up to me. You could tell that she loved herself. She was a bit pretty but mostly fake and crap", Jaff recalls. She was like, "will you play something sexy for me?" So I put on Ace of Spades by Motörhead. She left."

On that note we depart as they head unto the breech. Moments later I hear the first notes of an MGMT track echoing around the club and I can't help but like them both. There's no pretence here, just canny lads that make canny music (and occasionally DJ).

Fashion Editors: *Elissa Hudson and Lizzie Hampson*
Online Fashion Editor: *Sally Greenwood*

campusfashion

Harry Noades



Course: Ancient History
Year: 1

Coat: SUIT, £150
Denim Shirt: Topman, £35
Jeans: Levis, £95
Shoes: Clarks, £50

Total cost of outfit: £330

Why it works:
You can tell a lot about a man by looking at his shoes, and Harry has dared to be different. We love boys in trainers but these classic desert boots in suede add a touch of class to the look, allowing him to wear his daytime look into the night, for those last minute nights out.

Harry says…
"I like trying out different looks, today I'm smart but tomorrow I'll probably be in Vans and beanie hat!"

Ilona Bateson & Frances Stephenson

Zoe Tait



Course: Fine Art
Year: 1

Dress: Urban Outfitters, £35
Shirt: Charity Shop, £3
Denim Jacket: Rokit Vintage, £50
Converse: £40

Total cost of outfit: £128

Why it works:
The fur-lined denim jacket means Zoe can wear her denim jacket well into the winter season. Clashing prints are hot right now, so don't be afraid to mix and match, especially if you Freshers in halls haven't got a full length mirror!

Zoe says…
"I love my black Converse because they go with everything. Charity shop and vintage find are great, they save you money and they have a story to tell."

Top tips for shopping in the Toon

Student loans are in, and that means one main thing - it's time to get shopping! But before you rush out of your front door for a new wardrobe, wise old codger **Victoria McQueen** has a few tips for all you Freshers.

1 Everywhere you shop, ask if they offer student discount. Some cheeky stores won't advertise this offer, so don't let them get away with it.

2 Don't follow the crowds. Newcastle has lots of independent shops that sell very similar styles to the generic high street giants for half the price, so make sure you venture beyond Eldon Square every now and again.

3 Occasionally Newcastle has a student night where heavy discounts are made. It's usually at the beginning of the academic year, so make sure you write the dates in your diary as soon as you hear about it.



4 If you're an online shopper, check out myunidays.com. They provide you with promotional codes to enter at the checkout online so even if you don't have an NUS Extra card, you won't miss out on saving a few pennies. Another good one is studentbeans.com, who offer vouchers for pretty much everything.

5 Fancy dress becomes an integral part of University life, especially during first year, and at least once a month you'll be seeking out a new costume. The Magic Box on Percy Street is great for all your accessories but make sure you check out Grainger Market too, they sell everything.

Fresh start, fresh wardrobe

New student **Lucy Harper** tells us how she managed to tackle the daunting task of creating a capsule wardrobe to see her through her first year at University.



When deciding what clothes to take to University, I had to keep in mind the small wardrobe space available to first year students. To get around the space issues in the car and in my new bedroom in halls, I decided to choose key pieces for the autumn/winter season which would enable me to have different outfits each day without filling my wardrobe with endless amounts of clothing I wouldn't necessarily need.

I couldn't leave home without my favourite item of the season, disco pants, so they were a must for my suitcase. Along with these, I packed numerous pairs of jeans and a pair of leather trousers for every day wear. I also packed various knitted jumpers (very practical for the freezing winter temperatures) and a denim jacket to complete the look.

Knowing that I was going to be coming to the party capital of England, I decided to bring clothes that I could easily mix and match from day to night. Most of my going-out clothes tend to be black, so I packed black shorts, a leather skirt and numerous tops and tunics.

Where would a girl be without a good pair of comfortable shoes on a night out? Wedges and secure court shoes are a must if you want to avoid walking home barefoot and they wouldn't be complete without a few accessories, my favourites being long necklaces and bright lipsticks.

As a first year, Freshers' Week was at the forefront of my mind when packing. Being aware of the fact that we were all going to be expected to wear fancy dress during the first week, and numerous times throughout the year, I had to make room for animal print tops and dresses, cat ears, fairy wings, school uniforms, body glitter and face paints.

Finally, the practical pieces that I had to bring to university included six pairs of boots; from Uggs to wellies and from riding boots to Chelsea boots, I needed to guarantee that I was going to have dry feet during my lectures. These boots, teamed with long parka coats or a Puffa jacket have already proved to be very useful during the torrential rain we experienced during Freshers' Week.

With everything packed into suitcases and brought to Newcastle, I luckily managed to fit all clothes and shoes into the storage space in my halls. However, one of my flatmates brought along with her everything that she owned, meaning she faced some storage issues! To solve this, she cleverly wedged brooms across the top of her wardrobe and hung storage pockets from them. She then filled them with all the shoes, tops and dresses that wouldn't fit in her wardrobe, keeping them within easy reach rather than having them stored in boxes under her bed.

Whilst we all know that bedrooms in halls can be tiny, with selective packing and clever storage solutions you can make the most of the space you have and hopefully avoid rummaging around the dreaded 'floordrobe' five minutes before heading out of the door!



Photography: Rachel Horrocks

Fashion Blog of the Week

www.shewearsfashion.com



she wears fashion

Kavita is a 19 year old girl from the North of England. You'll love her blog if your style is a little more adventurous than the average girls', but even if you like to play it safe, she features some amazing pieces that could easily be adapted to suit anyone's style. Make sure you check out her 'Thrifty Thursday' posts, in which she styles her favourite car boot sale and charity shop finds.

Follow Kavita on Twitter: @shewearsfashion

Online Shop of the Week

www.dollybowbow.co.uk



Dolly Bow Bow is an online boutique inspired by all things girly, vintage and kitsch. Founded and run by 21 year old blogger and YouTuber Kate, the boutique sells a wide range of on trend jewellery, clothes and accessories at really reasonable prices. If you're looking for something more unique than you would typically find on the high street, then make sure you check out Dolly Bow Bow. The highlight has to be the recently introduced home and gifts section, which includes everything from kitsch glass jars and bunny rabbit lamps to retro inspired kitchen accessories.

Follow Dolly Bow Bow on Twitter: @dollybowbow

DOLLY BOW BOW

Beauty Editor: Annie Morgan
Online Beauty Editor: Amy Macauley

thecourieronline.co.uk/beauty
courier.beauty@ncl.ac.uk | @Courier_Beauty

5 Tips

...How to banish your hangover

Been on a heavy night out? Nothing will help more than getting a good night's sleep and keeping hydrated, but you can try your best to hide those hangover-eyes with the following make-up tips



1 Wash Away Your Sins

It is vital to use a good quality cleanser. Ideally it is recommended to use a foaming cleanser or one with exfoliating properties to help remove unwanted make-up, dirt and oil from your pores.

2 Less Is More

To achieve a natural and fresh look, use a tinted moisturiser or a light coverage foundation to avoid a 'cakey' finish.

Prep your skin with a primer or moisturiser to allow your foundation to sit better on the skin's surface.

3 Hide & Seek

To hide unwanted bags and dark circles, use a light reflecting concealer.

Use your index finger and apply to the under eye area. If overnight any unwanted blemishes have appeared, use a concealer brush (or cotton bud) to directly apply product to the blemish for a far more concentrated coverage.

4 Rise & Shine

Avoid using heavy or dark bronzing powders; to ensure you achieve a natural, fresh glow, opt for a highlighter.

Apply from the apples of your cheeks to your temples. This will give you a rejuvenated glow and accentuate your cheekbones. The aim is to look radiant even if you're not feeling it!

5 It's All In The Eyes

Stay away from dark metallic eyeshadows and stick to matte neutral shades.

Brown tones will help mask any redness on your eyelids. Take a small eyeshadow brush and apply a light cream/white shadow to the inner corners of the eyes. This will brighten them and make you look more awake. Finish off the look with a light coat of mascara.

(...But Most Importantly!)

You need to remember to drink plenty water and catch up on your beauty sleep!

by Heather Ratcliffe

How to: Metallic eyes

Metallic eyes are always a big hit whether they're smoky and silver or glittering gold. With this simple four-step tutorial, **Emily Richardson** demonstrates how to create a bronzed, autumn-themed look that can be worn every day or intensified for nights out. These bronzed colours suit any skin complexion and any eye colour, making it an easy-to-wear eye look you can adapt for different occasions. Pair it with a neutral lip for the daytime, or go bold with a deep burgundy lip colour for a sultry evening look.

Step 1:

Apply a primer over your whole eyelid going right up to your brow, a primer is not essential but it helps the eye shadow to stay in place longer. Next, take a light, shimmering eye shadow and apply it just under your brow bone, this highlights your eyes and will reflect light.



Step 2:

Use another light coloured eye shadow and apply it to the inner corner of your eye. This will help brighten the look of your eyes.



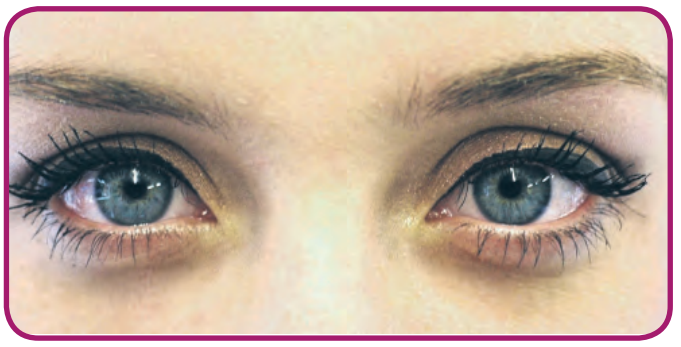
Step 3:

Take a medium brown shimmery eye shadow and apply it to the centre of your eyelid and take it up to, and along, the crease (if you don't know where this is, tilt your head back and it is where your eye dips in just under your brow bone). Either using your finger or a blending brush, blend these two colours together.



Step 4:

Take a darker brown eye shadow and apply it from the centre of your eyelid outwards. For a more dramatic look, wing this darker shadow out further and again blend this into your medium brown shadow. Finish off with mascara and liquid eyeliner. Wing your eyeliner for a night time look.



Tip of the week: Make your own face mask

During the winter months, and particularly up in the chilly 'Toon', it is no secret that our skin suffers with dehydration, producing the not-so-desirable look of dry and flaky skin.

A simple, but effective way of providing the skin with some much needed moisture is by using an avocado face mask.

Just mash half an avocado and mix in a spoon of olive oil and honey! Avocados are a natural saviour for the skin as the oil not only moisturises dry patches, but it also helps dissolve dirt that can clog pores.



by Grace Beddow

Deal of the week

Superdrug's own-brand dry shampoo is currently buy one and get two free (£1.99). This is a lot of dry shampoo but as a university student it is a vital requirement for your toiletry cupboard. It is a fast solution for refreshing your hair if you just do not have the time. We all have those moments where we wake up too late; with a quick spritz no one will know that your alarm didn't go off!



by Victoria McQueen



GIVE IT A GO NEEDS YOU!!

GIVE IT A GO IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF VOLUNTEER MINIBUS DRIVERS TO TAKE OUR STUDENTS TO THEIR ACTIVITIES. WE ONLY RUN DURING TERM TIME, AND AS A THANK-YOU, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THE ACTIVITIES FREE OF CHARGE! THIS TERM OUR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: GO APE, PAINTBALLING, SURFING AND MUCH MORE!

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING US OUT, THEN PLEASE EMAIL

GIAG.UNION@NCL.AC.UK

Monday

GoPlay Beginners Basketball
5-6.30pm
Northumbria Uni Sports Central
After the success of last year, GoPlay are expanding. You can hone your skills at practices and then take part in the Saturday 'turn up and play' league.
Free entry.

Al Murray: The Pub Landlord The Only Way Is Epic Tour
7.30pm
Newcastle City Hall
Britain's most irrepressible Innkeeper will be serving up his premier brew of ale-inspired acumen and bar-room buffoonery. While Broken Britain may be staring into the bottom of an empty pint glass, don't lose hope - Al Murray will fill it back up again. Tickets £25.50
www.newcastlecityhall.org



On The Road: Film Showing
12pm, 2:40pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm
Tyneside Cinema
The book that defined a generation, Jack Kerouac's seminal Beat novel *On the Road* finally arrives on the big screen. The film sees Sam Riley's (*Brighton Rock*) struggling young writer Sal Paradise, embark upon a journey across the USA with his friend and hero Dean Moriarty (Garrett Hedlund, *TRON: Legacy*), the living epitome of the Beat movement. Their personal quest for meaning and fulfilment takes them on a hedonistic rollercoaster ride of drink, drugs, sex and jazz, encountering a vibrant patchwork of personalities along the way and testing the very limits of the American dream.
Tickets from £5.50 available from the box office.

North Terrace Monday Night Pub Quiz
8pm
North Terrace - City Centre
Behind the Sports Centre on Claremont Road. Great pub quiz, free pizza, reasonably-priced drinks and close to the University, a fantastic way to spend your Monday night.
£2 entry

Tuesday

RAG Crew Recruitment
10am-4pm, 16th-18th October
Planning Room, Newcastle Student's Union
Fancy rasing money for good causes whilst having a great time? Come down to RAG recruitment to find out more.

Marrow: Recruitment Clinic
4pm-9pm
Castle Leazes Accommodation Reception

Cheryl - A Million Lights Tour
7.30pm, 16th-17th October
Metro Radio Arena
North East's sweetheart, award-winning and #1 artist, this is your chance to see her 'do her thing' with her A Million Lights Tour drawing heavily on her R&B playlist.
Tickets from £35



Newcastle Comedy Society
7pm
The Venue, Students' Union
After a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe, Newcastle University's very own Comedy Society return with their first stand-up show of the year. Featuring the finest of the University's comedic talent alongside professional comics from up and down the country, it promises to be an absolutely hilarious evening.
Tickets £2, available on the door.



Wednesday

NUSU Day
10am-3pm
Students' Union
NUSU day is aimed at showing you as students what we can do in the Students' Union. The Students' Union is not just a building but a democratic structure, with loads of activities and CV enhancing services that you can get involved in, all at your fingertips.



Playground
11pm-3am
Students' Union
The new Newcastle Sports clubnight - weekly themes, bouncy castle, rodeo bull, stage games and crazy give aways.
Free entry before 12 for sports teams/£4 guestlist.

Thursday

International Development Society Talk about Genocide
6pm-8pm
Herschel Building Lecture Theatre 2
Anyone interested in learning more about genocide? Discover the shocking truths of genocide and find out how to campaign against it and raise awareness.
Free entry, drinks and snacks
If you would like to attend, please email intdev@ncl.ac.uk as spaces are limited.



The Twilight Sad
8pm
Cluny, Ouseburn Valley
Scottish indie rock band. Played with such bands as Snow Patrol and Smashing Pumpkins.
Tickets £9.50 from Cluny Box Office



	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700
M	Iz and J	The Monday Club	Off Topic	Flashback	Sunshine Hours	Ed & Fred Show		Alluringly Acoustic	
T	Cal Redhead	Glow	The Chaz and Ted Show		The Penny Floater	Guava Beats	Whip round	NSR Music and Entertainment	
W	Nothing to Declare		Live on the Tyne	The Jack & Paddy Show	The Lost Hours: Redux	The Northern Connection	Influences	The Courier Music Foru	
T	Continental Breakfast	Jon Ginty's Crazy Music Show	The Grapevine	I Wouldn't Believe Your Radio	Vox Unpop	Under the Covers	The Grace Womersley Show	Under The Radar	
F	2nd Hand Noise	NSRock-Fans	The Kinison Show	NSR Sport-Sport Talk	Courier Film Show	Supercheese	The Charming Man Show		Darragh Keeffe
S	The Big Show with Al Bell	ReCover	Coffee and Juice	Luke & Adam Show	On The Radio	Isabelle Marking & Henry Chandler	The Funk & Soul Revue	NUSU Music Soc-Mussoc Mash	Alt Ro
S	Free / 24 Hour Stream To book 1-2 hours for 1 week, contact- production@nsrlive.co.uk		Low Vibes Radio	The Lowdown with Andy and Ben at PPSF.co.uk	Lowdown	Kickin Back with Narker	SRA CHART SHOW		The B w

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Friday

Salsa-Amor

7.30pm

Black Swan, 67 Westgate Road NE1 1SG

Salsa-Amor at the Black Swan provides salsa classes and dancing in Newcastle. Everyone is welcome! There is no need to bring a partner. You will find a lively, sociable and non-threatening atmosphere. Wear light clothing and comfortable shoes. Classses are informal and fun and given by the best teachers from around the UK!
Tickets available on the door; £4 for students or £3 after 10pm.



Something for the weekend

Propaganda feat. King Charles Live

20 October, 11pm-3am

O2 Academy

Best known for his song 'Lady Percy' , his music is a quite extraordinary mix that draws down influences from Afro-beat, rock and roll, glam, folk, hip-hop and country.
Tickets £4, available online and on the door



Not in Newcastle...

With the Metro going to Sunderland, trains to Durham only £5 return with a Railcard and special weekend deals on trains and buses to Scotland there really is no excuse for your weekend or evening activities to be limited to the Toon. Expand your horizons and find out what the whole of the North East and beyond has to offer.

Birmingham Royal Ballet's Swan Lake

18-20 October, 2pm & 7.30pm

Sunderland Empire Theatre

A timeless story of good, evil and the all conquering power of love, Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* is without doubt the most famous of all classical ballets.
Tickets £11.50-£29.50 from Theatre Box Office

Animal Antics at Edinburgh Zoo

Daily 12.15pm & 3pm

Edinburgh Zoo

If the fact that Edinburgh Zoo is the only Zoo in the UK with giant pandas doesn't persuade you, the daily Animal Antics talks give you a chance to learn fun facts about all the animals from the experts.
Tickets from £13 available at the entrance or online

Radio show of the week: Under the Radar

Returning for another year, 'Under the Radar' showcases unsigned and unheard bands, encompassing an eclectic range of genres and decades – whilst always retaining its focus on pure musical goodness. For two hours, Ted Mason will talk you through the tracks sought out by his expert ears. Not a show for avid listeners of Capital or Metro Radio but heaven for those used to burying their head in this week's underground zine.

NUSU NEWCASTLE STUDENT RADIO

When do you tune in?

Thursdays at 4pm

Something free: Greek Pottery Painting

GO GLOBAL

2pm-5pm

Outside the Students' Union

Bring out your painting skills for what is sure to be a fun afternoon of creativity and relaxation. Learn the techniques used in Greek pottery painting and the famous subjects you see on this type of pottery.

Something to look forward to: Jack Dee Live

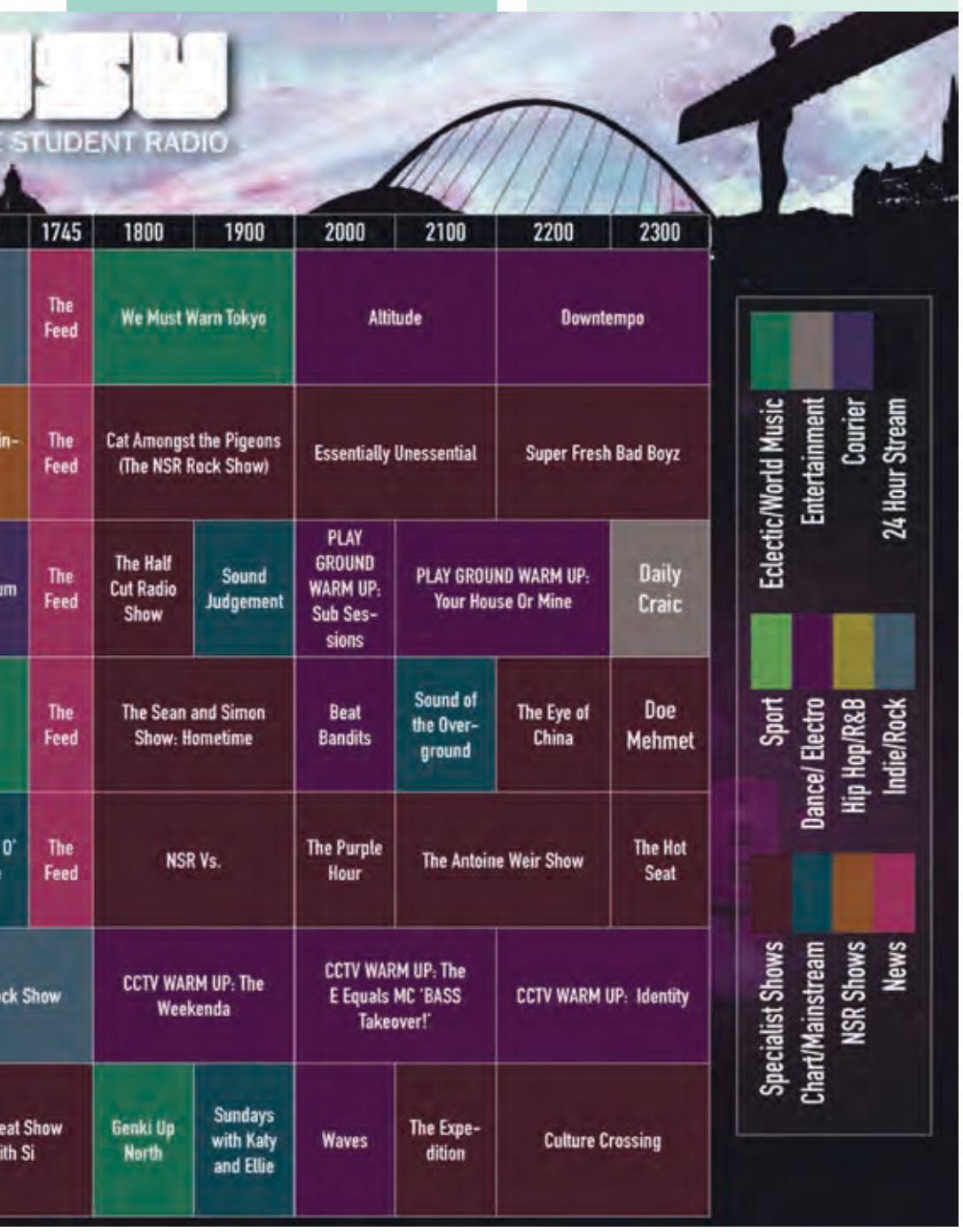


23-24 November

Mill Volvo Tyne Theatre

Jack Dee returns to his first love and is back on the road again this autumn with a brand new highly anticipated live stand-up show. After a six-year absence from live comedy tours, he's back, once again agonising over the slightest of annoyances and misdemeanours of everyday life. The host of the long running Radio 4 show *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue* said he was returning to the road as he "wanted to spend less time with his family".

0844 493 9999, www.millvolvotynetheatre.co.uk



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Lifestyle Editors: Lauren Stafford, Emily Rae, and Catherine Davison
Online Editor: Victoria Mole

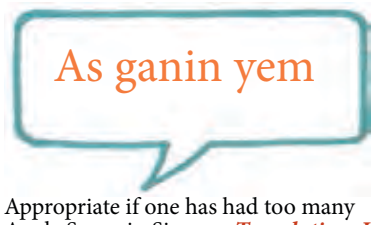
What are yee taakin aboot man?



Eh? What? Pardon? If you've just landed in Newcastle, it's likely that you'll be asking taxi drivers to repeat themselves for some time. The Geordie accent may be friendly but it can also be difficult to decipher. To help you avoid those awkward moments of miscommunication, I've devised a short guide to some choice phrases. Divn't fret pet.



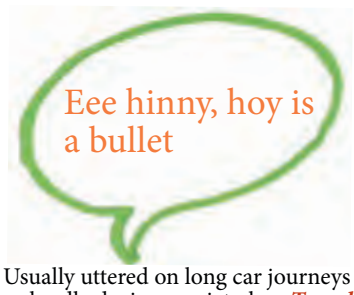
Typically used when one is too lazy to go to Morrisons. ***Translation: I am going into the centre of town for a meal.***



Appropriate if one has had too many Apple Sourz in Sinners. ***Translation: I am going to go home .***



Also appropriate in Sinners. ***Translation: I find that young lady most attractive .***



Usually uttered on long car journeys or loudly during a quiet play. ***Translation: Excuse me love, can you pass me a hard-boiled sweet.***



This one's a failsafe. It'll come in handy if you're being asked a direct question and you can't understand a word through the thick North-Eastern twang. ***Translation: I don't know!***

Lauren Stafford

Oot 'n' aboot in the Toon

There's a huge amount to do around Newcastle, so it's worth taking the time to explore. **Eleanor Moore**, **Alice Comyn** and **Sian Ayling** choose their essential picks.

City Centre

With Newcastle University a minute's walk away from the city centre, there's plenty to do for when you have a couple of hours to kill between lectures. The centre is fairly compact and easy to navigate, with everything you really need within a few streets away.

Doctor's Surgery

One of the most important pieces of information for first year students is where the nearest doctor's surgery is located. There are a few dotted around Newcastle but the nearest one to the city centre is the Saville Medical Group, on Saville Place. Even if you don't think you will ever need a doctor during your time at University it is important to register just in case.



Northumberland Street

Northumberland Street is the main shopping street in Newcastle city centre. Here you will find everything from shops to bars to places to eat. One major highlight for any student is the huge Primark that is situated half way down the street but there is also Eldon Square which houses all of the main high street brands. Also, with the addition of street performers it's a great place to wander with friends.

Tyneside Cinema

If you are looking for a cinema experience with a difference then Tyneside Cinema is well worth a visit. Originally built in 1937 as Newcastle's News Theatre, it has now been reopened having been fully restored. It shows the latest films as well as cult classics. Moreover they have now introduced the 'free film night'; the cinema is showing fifteen of their favourite films over a six week period all free of charge.


Image: yellow book (Flickr)

Grainger Market

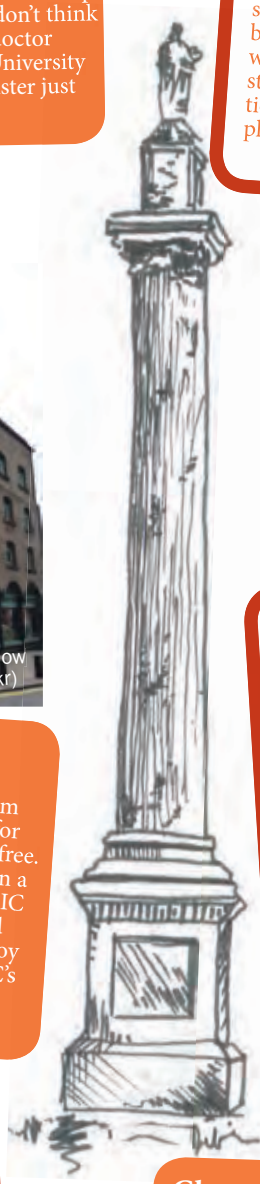
Just off Nelson Street, down from Monument is Grainger Market. This huge indoor market has everything a student needs; from items of clothing for fancy dress, to Italian pizza, to fruit and veg and all under one roof. One piece of advice however is that the market is not open on a Sunday so make sure you don't miss out on the bargains by making the trip between Monday- Saturday, 9-5pm.

Star and Shadow Cinema

The Star and Shadow Cinema is a creative highlight within Newcastle. Entirely volunteer run, the cosy cinema encourages anything diverse, rare and original – including artists, musicians and of course, films. With events almost daily throughout the week, the cinema is perfect for something a bit different to cage dancing. It even offers certain discounts for students!

BALTIC

Positioned just over the Millennium Bridge, the BALTIC is a must see for all visitors, particularly as entry is free. Providing a variety of exhibitions in a beautiful renovated old mill, BALTIC is unique. Eat lunch at the cosy and quirky café or have a drink and enjoy the spectacular views from BALTIC's iconic rooftop restaurant, SIX.



Quayside

Undergoing extensive renovation in the last decade or so, the Quayside is now one of Newcastle's most impressive areas. A large selection of restaurants, bars and clubs line the River Tyne, with the Millennium Bridge and shiny 'slug-like' Sage building providing striking landmarks. On the weekends the Quayside comes alive with locals and students enjoying Newcastle's renowned nightlife. The vibrant Quayside market takes place every Sunday with a large variety of stalls from local produce to homemade gifts. All in all, with its feel-good atmosphere and great prices Newcastle's Quayside has something for everyone.

The Cumberland Arms

A real ale pub, The Cumberland Arms is a quirky country paradise in the middle of city life. Providing drinks from local ales to not-so-local Sangria, there's plenty to sample! You'll also never be short of entertainment – poetry, comedy or music nights occur regularly, along with shelves packed with books and even board games if you're feeling reminiscent! And the best fact? The bar provides blankets and hot water bottles for when it gets cold on the terrace – bliss!

Seven Stories

As the national centre for children's books, Seven Stories is an altogether nostalgic experience. If you still wish you were best friends with *Tracy Beaker*, or have an appetite like *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* when you're hungover, this is for you. With original manuscripts, a huge bookshop and simply things you forgot you used to love, Seven Stories is the perfect cure for any homesickness!

Chase

No student's University nightlife experience would be complete without a visit to one of Newcastle's famous trebles bars. Recently refurbished Chase boasts two floors each equipped with a bar, extensive seating and an attractive outside area. Insanely cheap for all you Southerners, three triple vodkas with mixers will set you back just £6.



The Pitcher and Piano

On location, the Pitcher and Piano cannot be beaten. Situated by the river, the restaurant provides breathtaking views, with the option of eating outside. Slightly more expensive than the average student haunt, the food does not disappoint with a large selection ranging from burgers to homemade risotto. Alternatively, simply sip one of their delicious cocktails on the terrace.


Image: Glen Bowman (Flickr)

Illustrations: Daisy Billowes

Blind Date

Bella Somerset, 2nd year Politics, *meets* Jonathan Wilson, 2nd year Biomedical Genetics



Bella on Jonny

First impressions?
First impressions were really good as he came across as good fun and he was really chatty. He was cute too.

Any striking conversation topics?
We had a lot of interesting conversation topics actually. We even discussed topics like Politics in Pakistan. It was nice chatting about serious topics on a date and not just shallow things like "where's your favourite night out" or "how many trebles did you drink last night".

Any awkward moments?
None at all actually, there was really good conversation topics and it flowed well.

If you were to get married and have babies, what would you want your baby to inherit from your date?
He's pretty calm which is a good quality to have in a person. He's a funny guy too.

Did you open the ex-file?
No, not at all. We were busy chatting about other things.

Did you go on anywhere afterwards?
No we stayed in Bar Blanc, we were there chatting for about three hours.

At any point did you understand why they were single?
No I don't know why is he single really, he's a really nice guy and easy to get along with.

Were you tempted to lean in for a kiss?
I don't know, maybe. It's hard to say as we were chatting the whole time.

If you were to take them home do you think your parents would approve?
Yes I think they would definitely like him. He seemed pretty sensible for a guy, as in he wasn't a crazy drinker.

Marks out of 10?
A definite 8, he was really nice and it was a good date.

Would you meet up again?
Yeah we got on well and I think we'll meet up for lunch some time!

Jonny on Bella

First impressions?
The first time I saw her was actually when she was on her bike, so I guess my first thought was that she was environmentally conscious. She seemed really nice and comfortable with the situation.

Any striking conversation topics?
We chatted a lot about Politics, as she's a Politics student. Interesting Politics stuff, nothing too mental. We chatted a lot about Middle Eastern politics actually.

Any awkward moments?
Not really no! I accidently spilt a bit of drink on the table, but yeah nothing really that bad happened. There were no awkward moments conversation-wise.

If you were to get married and have babies, what would you want your baby to inherit from your date?
I can't answer that. That's a ridiculous question. I mean, she was nice and I guess I'd like nice children. She was pretty laid back too which is a good thing.

Did you open the ex-file?
No, nothing like that came up in conversation.

Did you go on anywhere afterwards?
No just Bar Blanc in Jesmond where we met.

At any point did you understand why they were single?
Well no, not really. Apart from the fact she was a genocidal maniac... no nothing really. She was very pleasant.

Were you tempted to lean in for a kiss?
Maybe. It's a hard one.

If you were to take them home do you think your parents would approve?
Yeah I do, she was hardworking and nice. My family's quite laidback and so was she. To be honest as long as she didn't have a beard, they'd be happy – they don't really mind.

Marks out of 10?
She'd get a solid 8.

Would you meet up again?
Yeah I would.

Unlucky in love? The Courier is here to help! Send your details to c2.lifestyle@ncl.ac.uk and you could feature in our next Blind Date



Horoscopes

Aries
21 March - 19 April
Feeling a bit squiffy? The most likely cause is this month's void-of-course Moon. If it continues into next week, though, it's probably that dodgy chicken burger from Tasty Jack's.

Taurus
20 April - 20 May
New challenges arise this week with the Pleiades looking quite ticked off about something. Keep a machete close.

Gemini
21 May- 20 June
Your love life will be boosted this week by an errant comet fannying out near Neptune. Take advantage with speed and efficiency by handing out your CV to prospective partners.

Cancer
21 June- 22 July
A tricky week for you. Venus' ascension to the seventh house will form an invisible bubble around thet Robinson Library, preventing your entry. Either parachute onto the roof or stay in bed.

Leo
23 July- 22 August
You know that thing you were going to go to? Don't go. The gyrations of Io and Europa suggest your taxi home will be hijacked by pirates and ditched in Whitley Bay. Beware.

Virgo
23 August- 22 September
Pluto's wanderings indicate that at some point this week someone will tell you a long and boring story about their ex. Keep a saucepan nearby to drown them out/knock yourself unconscious.

Libra
23rd September- 22 October
Mars will be very bright this week, so take advantage of this by putting up that IKEA bookcase. It'll still be infuriating, but if you like to work in the dark you'll have a bit more light.

Scorpio
23 October - 21 November
If you were wondering what to get from Subway on Thursday afternoon, get the Italian BMT. There's no astrological backing as such, it's just an absolutely banging sandwich.

Sagittarius
22 November - 21 December
Richardson Road appears to still be under the influence of the transit of Venus earlier this summer. Effects include impaired vision, motor capabilities and judgement of romantic partners, with effects peaking on Friday night.

Capricorn
22 December- 19 January
Mercury's controversial decision to reverse its orbit for the next eight days means that for Capricorns, this week is opposite week. Walk backwards everywhere or face dire consequences.

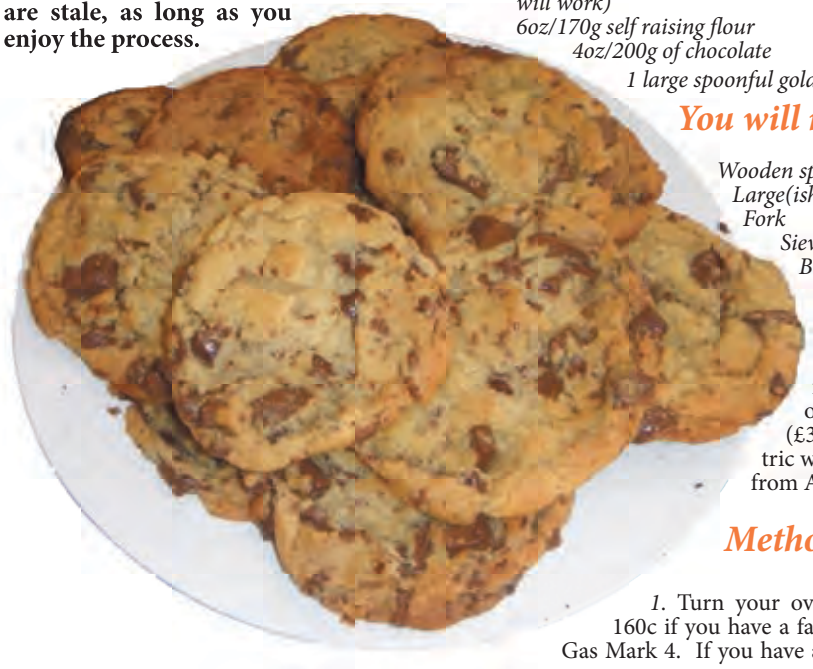
Aquarius
20 January- 18 February
As all of the stars and planets in Aquarius are still on their summer break, there is no horoscope this week. Just try to be good until they return. Keep your head down.

Pisces
19 February - 20 March
An unexpected windfall will come your way this week. This might take the form of finding 50p on the Metro or an unsolicited email from a Nigerian prince.

Tom Nicholson

Streaky Bakin' *Sally's Ultimate Cookies*

Baking is an experience! *The Great British Bake Off* has been trending on Twitter and I'm sure it's not all down to Mary Berry's innuendos. It's an art and a science but most importantly it should be fun! You can do it alone or grab a housemate. Either way, baking is a great way to spend a cold, October evening and you can lick out the bowl as much as you want (yes, I did laugh when typing that). It doesn't matter if your biscuits are burnt or your stotties are stale, as long as you enjoy the process.



Over the semester, I'm going to bare all and show you the basics. We're starting with my ultimate cookies. They are simple, cheap and let's face it, irresistible. My recipe is for a standard chocolate chip version, but if you're feeling adventurous, you can mix it up with nuts, fruit or any number of different combinations. Let's get started.

Ingredients:

4oz/115g butter
4oz /115g sugar (light brown is best but caster sugar will work)
6oz/170g self raising flour
4oz/200g of chocolate
1 large spoonful golden syrup

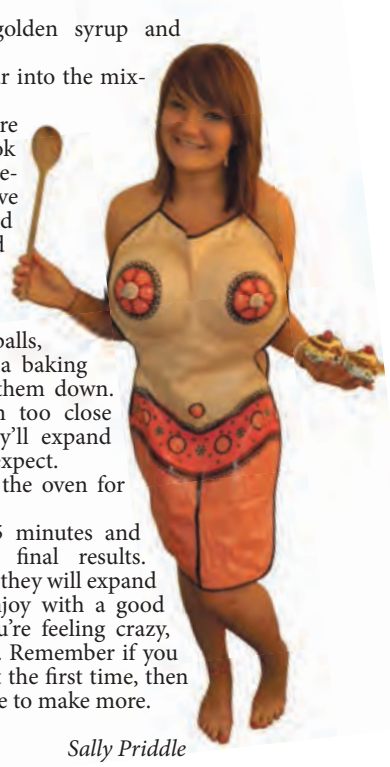
You will need:

Wooden spoon
Large(ish) bowl
Fork
Sieve
Blind enthusiasm

These are the minimal tools. If you're feeling fancy, splash out on some scales (£3.99) and an electric whisk (£5.96), both from Argos.

Method:

1. Turn your oven on to 180c (or 160c if you have a fan-assisted oven) or Gas Mark 4. If you have an agar then you're on your own and seriously, what kind of student are you?
2. Measure out your ingredients.
3. In a large bowl, whizz (yes, that's the professional term) the butter. A fork is a good enough tool. Just make sure the butter is malleable and not too hard.
4. Cream the butter and sugar so there are no stray lumps.
5. Next add golden syrup and blend.
6. Sieve the flour into the mixture and stir.
7. The mixture should now look crumbly with areas that might have already clumped together. Add the chocolate.
8. Roll the mixture into gobstopper sized balls, place them on a baking tray and press them down. Don't put them too close together as they'll expand more than you expect.
9. Put them in the oven for 10-12 minutes.
10. Leave for 5 minutes and you'll see the final results. When they cool they will expand and harden. Enjoy with a good cuppa or, if you're feeling crazy, a bottle of wine. Remember if you don't get it right the first time, then it's just an excuse to make more.



Sally Priddle

Restaurant Review

Northside Diner

An authentic '50s Diner

Fenwick (Third Floor)
39 Northumberland Street
Newcastle upon Tyne

☆☆☆☆

Opening times:

Mon - Fri 9am- 8pm
Saturday 9am - 7pm
Sunday 10:30am - 5pm
0191 232 5100

Northside Diner is a '50s style diner tucked away on the third floor of the well-known Fenwick department store on Northumberland Street. The striking red, white and black decor creates a fun atmosphere and, as soon as you walk in, the experience is authentic '50s America; from the music to the wall decorations.

From the moment we stepped in the door, the customer service was brilliant as there wasn't a huge amount of other diners in the restaurant. This is probably due to the fact that unless you had heard of the Diner, you probably wouldn't stumble across it due to its location in the heart of the Fenwick department store. There's nothing worse than lingering waiters but this was not the case, the waiters were attentive but not pushy.

Most students opt for an Italian when heading for a meal out however one look at this menu and you'll be glad you went for something different. My friend and I used our "2 Boston Burgers and 2 Beers for £10" voucher for the meal, and also ordered a bucket of onion rings for a side, which was absolutely huge - we couldn't manage to get through even half of them even though they were really tasty. Luckily we were given a bag and able to take them home with us.

The huge portions continued with the arrival of our burgers, boasting of locally-sourced meat and with a very generous meat/bread ration. Being a non-red meat eater I managed to swap mine for a Southern Fried Chicken burger whilst my friend tucked into her Boston Burger. She particularly praised the good quality of the meat yet couldn't quite squeeze in those last few mouthfuls.

The mountain of chips provided alongside the burgers could feed two or three starved students, let alone one. Ideal portion sizes for a student as a trip to the Northside Diner could be combined with a light sandwich for tea - you really get your money's worth.

If you do have room afterwards, there's a selection of desserts available.

However, if you're to treat yourself to one thing alongside your meal, try a milkshake. Priced at £4 they're a tad more than your local coffee shop however, they are incredible and full of flavour, without being too sickly. Even if you don't have time to settle down for a full meal, grab a milkshake from there the next time you've got a couple of hours spare inbetween lectures.

So definitely use the voucher, bring a mate or date but do bear in mind that you might end up looking a bit like *Man v. Food* come the end of your meal.

Em Rae



Lifestyle Editors: Lauren Stafford, Em Rae and Catherine Davison
Online Editor: Victoria Mole

Penny Pincher

Four ways to decorate your room for under a fiver

It's been happening since moving-in day; once bare and empty rooms are being occupied, transformed and personalised into students' bedrooms for the year. They will be the venues for sleeping, working, snack-eating and probably pre-drinking. But what makes a new room feel like home? What are the personal touches that our students, on a budget, are adding to make their rooms feel inviting and cosy after a long day of lectures? Here are four examples for under £5 each…



For the ceiling

As ceilings are normally left bare, this idea struck me as original. I hang origami birds from the ceiling with blu-tack and subtle string, appearing to float against the backdrop of your university room. Such origami animals can be bought cheaply as a set, or you could even have a go at making some yourself! They're unlikely to get in the way and will be sure to brighten and liven up your room.

For the noticeboard

Log into Facebook and snapshots of you, friends and family smiling away will no doubt be one of the first things you see. So what better way to personalise your bedroom than covering your walls with new shiny versions of your 50 favourite photos which you've chosen yourself, uploaded and had delivered - all for under £1? Many photo websites offer 50 free photo prints for new customers signing up. All you'll need to pay is 99p for postage and packaging - personal and convenient!

For the wall

Ever read a magazine and then not really known what to do with it? Whether they're about fashion, music or just celeb gossip, most magazines contain covers or pages of photos worth keeping in some way. I discovered that music fans in particular personalised their noticeboards with magazine clippings of band interviews, photo shoots, or even concert tickets and wristbands, all pinned up together forming one eclectic collage; like cheap but trendy wallpaper you can keep updating. And all you have to do is buy a magazine every now and then, and remember not to throw it out!



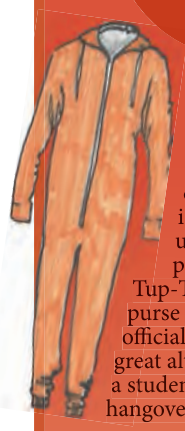
For the floor

Buying a selection of these simple but sturdy boxes is one way to effortlessly organise those lecture notes, information leaflets or anything else you may haveacquired during the day at uni, and has accumulated into a mess on your desk or floor. You will of course need to look back through them at one point, but this is an easy and cost effective way to keep random items and papers neatly stacked away where they don't cause clutter and where you can easily locate them again.



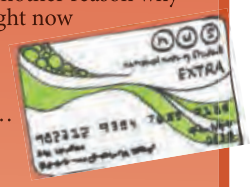
Holly Ingram

What's Hot



One-pieces!
Not only are they essential for keeping you warm in Newcastle's freezing cold climate, the fashion trend is sweeping the town and uni, with the 'one-piece party' proving to be a hit at Tup-Tup Palace. However, if your purse strings can't stretch to an official one-piece, Primark have great alternatives - making onesies a student essential for those cosy hangover days.

Student Discounts
What student doesn't love an offer? With Eldon Square Shopping Centre's student discount night and the Freshers Fair at the Union, there are plenty of discounts to be snapped up. Another reason why discounts are hot right now is that it means guilt free shopping with newly paid in student loans (well… almost guilt free...)



Interior Design
With students moving into their new houses and flats, adding a personal touch to your new abode is hot! One easy way to do this is a picture board; creating a collage of your favourite pictures of friends and family instantly brightens up your room and makes you smile if you're ever feeling homesick!



Early morning starts
Getting used to waking up at what feels like a ridiculous hour as a student (8/9am) is anything but easy; your bed has never been warmer or more inviting as you force yourself up for those hideously early lectures!

Drunken pictures
Getting tagged in pictures on Facebook that jog your hazy memory of Freshers' Week is not cool - there are some things that we would rather not remember! Thank God for the 'un-tag' option...



The '*Geordie Shore*' look
A man wearing a lower cut top than most girls and more fake tan than the cast of *Geordie Shore* is not a good look! We may be in Newcastle but that does not mean that you should make the *Geordie Shore* cast your idols! Talk about embarrassing nightclub photos!

What's Not

Jess Belton

Illustrations: Daisy Billowes

Society Swap

This week, Jonathan Lipfriend from TCTV takes on the downward dog and other feats of athleticism at Yoga Society

Being a member of TCTV (The Courier Television) does not require a huge amount of core strength. In fact, the most I've used my muscles during filming was protecting the camera from drunken students during this year's Freshers' Week.

However, I wasn't about to let this trouble me as, despite my housemates' warnings about yoga's physical intensity, I was still imagining a group of girls gossiping and occasionally stretching on multi-coloured mats.



When I first arrived, five minutes late and dressed in trackies and an old t-shirt, I was not at all surprised to note the ratio of girls to boys - around 95% - so my preconceptions seemed to be not completely unfounded. I managed to find a space at the back next to one of the other boys and began my first ever yoga lesson. After about 25 seconds I realised that the guy I was next to was in fact a human incarnation of Stretch Armstrong. Bending over to touch the floor, I struggled to reach the air 6 inches above my toes, while he placed his whole palms on the floor with ease (I wouldn't have been surprised if he could get his whole forearms on the floor as well) and I realised that perhaps a warm up would have been a good idea. After a further 5 minutes I was breaking into a heavy sweat and I soon became accustomed to the Ardha Kurmasana, or Half-Tortoise, pose: The rest position, which I was forced to adopt when my pride finally gave way to my body's need for respite.

One particularly memorable moment happened during a stretch which resembled the beginnings of a handstand, when I almost managed to throw my legs over my head and flip myself into a metal filing-cabinet. I remember thinking that my possession of a Y chromosome made me stand out enough without me face-planting the nearest large metal object.

When the session finally drew to a close, I wanted to sincerely thank the teacher for the workout and more importantly for making it stop, but walking to the other side of the hall was beyond me. Anyone standing outside Jesmond Church at 7:20pm that evening would have been greeted by a hundred chatting, smiling girls and, at the rear, a perfectly life-like jelly model resembling a member of TCTV's team.

Fancy trying something new and promoting your own society in the process? Get involved with Society Swap! Email us at c2.lifestyle@newcastle.ac.uk or tweet us @Courier_Life.

Jonathan Lipfriend



Arts Editors: *Lisa Bernhardt and Millie Walton*
Online Arts Editor: *Grace Harvey*

Writers' Corner

Realisation
by Jessica Kadow

The clouds are bleeding quietly into a spectrum of orange and red around the sunlit office blocks. Through the prison-like windows in the block opposite there are dozens of replicas of me, the corporate drone, carrying out their relentless routines as the seconds amble by. The bright electric light burning in the room around me draws my eyes back to the sea of tiny black numbers wavering on my computer screen. I rub them and groan. Maybe I should go to an optician. I can't even see their faces from here, but, sometimes, I wonder whether they really have faces. I feel like I don't sometimes; it's not like I use it much. She uses hers, always laughing and smiling. When we were kids giggling away instead of doing our maths exercises. Speaking of maths. I tap a few keys on the keyboard, popping some more numbers into this infernal spreadsheet. How did I get stuck in this job? Suppose I started thinking I'd shift when I had enough money to get along, then got trapped. It's easier to stay. It's something to live on, I guess, even if it doesn't feel like you're actually living.

I have lived, even if I don't do it much anymore. Racing around as kids with energy, when the whole world was exciting. Sitting under a bush in the garden, stuffing biscuits we stole from the kitchen into our mouths, brushing off the crumbs when voices shouted our names. That time I first realised how I felt, sitting opposite her in a pub, just a lanky teenager with a group of friends I didn't care about, watching her sip her drink through grinning lips. Even right at the start, using a magnet to pull staples out of the nursery sandpit and seeing the new girl come in. She was so loud back then, the first thing she did was sing. Now I only live in my daydreams.

Nick, my supervisor. Look busy. I start hurriedly shuffling papers around on my desk, my brow furrowed so he'll think I'm looking for something. I hear his shoes brushing along the carpet on the floor towards me.

"Make sure you get me those figures by the end of the day," he says, straight to the point is Nick. He smiles thinly when I nod and walks off to harass someone else. I wrinkle my nose. I don't have any of his figures yet, but he doesn't have to know that. They'll get done.

I keep a photo of her in my wallet, hidden away behind the old loyalty cards. She's never really changed in all this time. She's always been confident and lovely, bouncing about and managing to get what she wants somehow. Can't believe she managed to sail into med school so easily, while I'm stuck in this dump. Wonder if I'll ever escape.

"You still here old man?" A voice behind me.

"What?" I ask, turning round, a little angry.

"It's ten past five; you're supposed to have left haven't you?" One of the young lackeys, all fresh faced and enthusiastic. Old man? Cheeky little... My heart drops. He's right, I should have left already and Nick's figures are still a mess of paper lying on my desk. This is it, I'm done for today. I sit back in my seat heavily, fingers tracing her photo, her face smiling up at me. Yes, this is it.

I grab my jacket from the back of my beloved wheelie chair and hold down the power button of my computer. Goodbye spreadsheets, goodbye accounts. Nick is making his last rounds before he signs off.

continued online at www.thecourieronline.co.uk/arts

The Angel & the Printer's Nephew

Arts Editor **Lisa Bernhardt** talks to author David Almond about 'hobo-angels', children's literature and the joy of writing



If you ask an author about a character in their books, you'd probably expect them to know everything about their – quite literal - brainchild, from their place of birth to their shoe size. However, some literary figures prove to be rather elusive; they keep the reader wondering what they are throughout the entire book and even can't be defined by the writers themselves.

When being asked what the angelic, yet surprisingly human protagonist Skellig in his book of the same name represents, David Almond smiles and replies, "I should know, shouldn't I? I don't know". He explains that *Skellig* "seemed to write itself and I never quite knew what was going to happen as I was writing the book", and this might be the reason why it has been a tremendous success all over the world: It captures the reader from the very beginning with its aura of mystery while maintaining the honest voice of its ten-year old narrator.

David Almond was born and raised in the North East of England in a big Catholic family where he was exposed to books for the first time as a toddler in his uncle's printing shop. He still lives in the region, near Hadrian's Wall, however, for many years he refused to include the local area in his work.

"I didn't want to have anything to do with it, I didn't want to write about it", he says; but eventually, he had to admit that "it kind of shaped me: I found huge amounts to draw on, the landscape and history and language". And if you read David's books closely, you will find how many of them reflect the North East's rough charm and its working class environment.

Before the publication of *Skellig* in 1998 kick-started his career, he worked as a primary school teacher and wrote mainly for an adult audience. Making a recognisable transition from adults' to children's literature might be a challenge for some, but David says that when he was "deliberately writing for adults, it seemed very natural that I then began to write for children. And when I was writing for children I realised I was writing better than I ever had before". And despite being fully dedicated to writing now, he still teaches as a visiting professor for Creative Writing at Nottingham Trent University and Bath Spa University. "The main thing I want to do when I introduce people to writing is to show that we all have great capabilities to write" he says about his role a as professor, firmly holding the belief that "writing is a very natural, a very human thing".

Over the past 14 years, David has become an established name in the world of children's literature, winning several prestigious awards and witnessing *Skellig*, his greatest success to date, being turned into a film, a play and even an opera- 'a beautiful thing, it lifted the story up to something grander than in the book'. Yet he has no intention on resting on his laurels: 'Awards are a reason to get braver and be bolder' he explains, so as a passionate traveller (and keen Newcastle United supporter) writing about Morocco and Japan are next on his list as well as projects for song- and drama writing.

David Almond's unique style of writing – philosophical, inspired by classic and modern poets alike and repeatedly referred to a simply 'beautiful' – has helped him to achieve what many a budding writer is still dreaming of, yet in spite of his huge success, he still embodies an admirable down-to-earth attitude which fuels his productivity. And in terms of *Skellig,* the 'hobo-angel' accompanying him for all these years, it is certainly not too bold to say that it has already achieved the same status as David's favourite children's book *Where the Wild Things Are* which, in his words, "will be with us forever".

David Almond's latest book *The Boy Who Swam With Piranhas* was published in September by Walker. A novel about Tyneside and a graphic novel are due to be published in early 2013.

Post-Potter prose

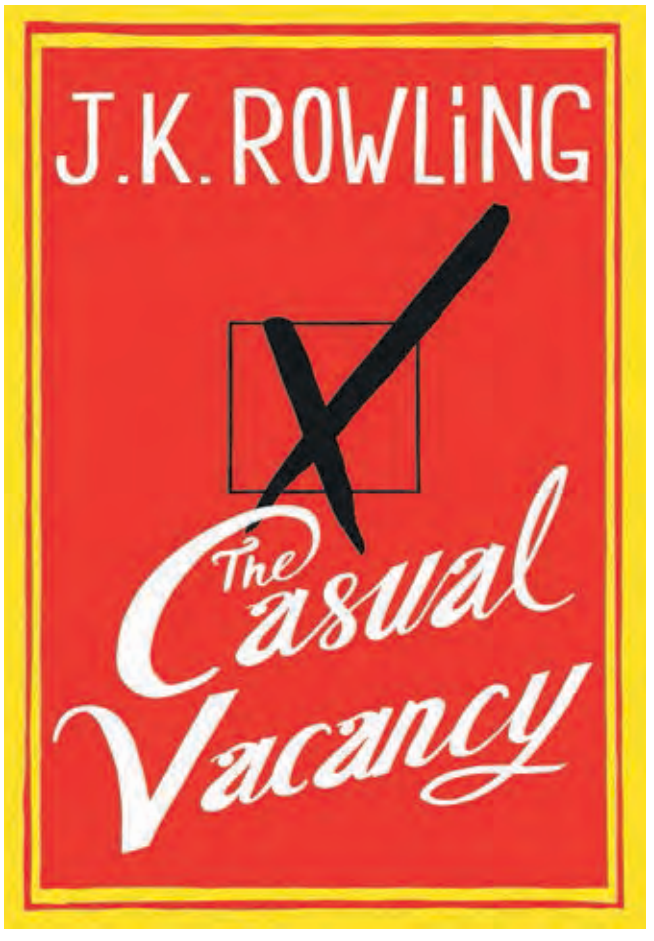
Clara Heathcock explores what to expect from J.K. Rowling's highly anticipated adult fiction debut

Along with many of you other over excited Harry Potter fans, I have read the advanced reviews of J. K. Rowling's new book *The Casual Vacancy* long before it came out.

As I stood in the corner shop, furtively trawling through newspapers that I wasn't going to buy anyway, I found that every paper seemed to focus entirely on either applauding or shaming the left wing political slant the book takes. This is, after all, the book that the *Daily Mail*'s Jan Moir famously claimed was like "having 500 pages of the socialist manifesto shoved down your throat". Having now read the book I can affirm that it does raise interesting political questions, and I certainly agree that it is important to discuss them. To do this, however, at the exclusion of talking about the intricacy and beauty of Rowling's writing would be to do her a great disservice.

She writes caustically and evocatively, as we watch scenes flicker and dissolve jewel bright in front of us and we are hooked seamlessly into a new world that is every bit as vivid and complex as Harry Potter's universe. However, the world that Rowling pulls us into is perhaps more uncomfortable and graphic than we'd expect. The book's narrative revolves around some twenty different inhabitants of the distinctly middle class West Country village of Pagford and its neighbouring council estate 'The Fields.' Following the events after the sudden death of a councillor, it is through affecting personal insights, not dry political discourse, that themes of rape, poverty, self harm, drug addiction, prostitution and snobbery are viewed.

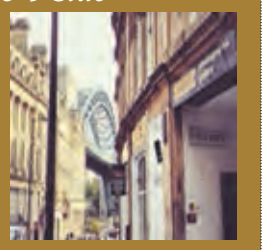
In the context of a discussion about banning council estate children from attending Pagford's local school, one character remarks, "What's needed is a little common sense," to which another smoothly replies "Isn't common sense the name people give to their prejudices?". Witty conversations like these and a dark sense of humour are the tools that Rowling uses to make her points. Thus my message would be not to be put off by the deluge of reviews analysing the book's political standpoint. For the question I was really asking as I stood sliding hundreds of sticky newspaper pages apart, looking for reviews, was simply 'Has she managed to do it again?' Has she created that intense reading experience which made the Harry Potter books impossible to put down? This feeling that the book's world seems more real than your own? Having spent three days solid reading this book non-stop I feel confident to say that she has.



Alternative Guide to Newcastle Arts Venues

Whether you're new to the Toon, fancy a quick cultural fix, or simply refuse to follow the mainstream wave over the bridge to the BALTIC, we have hunted down the best little art spots the city has to offer. And let's be honest: if we hadn't, they would probably otherwise forever remain part of that impressionistic Friday night hazy view of the city as you swagger your way to Munchies.

Side Photographic Gallery, *5-9 Side*



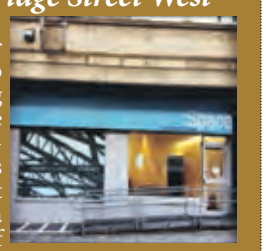
Tucked away unassumingly among the drag of bars and restaurants, Side is for anyone with an appetite for contemporary politics. With a commitment to "documentary in the tradition of the concerned photographer", the gallery is a platform for hard-hitting *Panorama*-style documentation. It prides itself with a discerning eye into the hidden corners of key political world events by photographers "on the front line". A picture tells a thousand words, yet here we are offered a thousand more with insightful blurbs - a refreshing change to the usual "untitled 101".

Baltic 39, *31- 39 High Bridge*



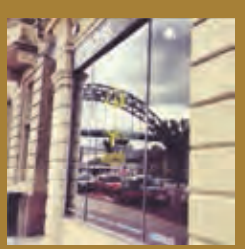
Illustrated by its spot on Newcastle's answer to Brick Lane, High Bridge Street, 39 is the Baltic's trendy teenage cousin. Its adolescence might be to blame for its lack of substance, the entire space consisting of just two rooms at the top of the building. Yet, each artists' employment of the space incidentally makes for the gallery's most interesting dimension.

Newbridge Space, *18 Newbridge Street West*



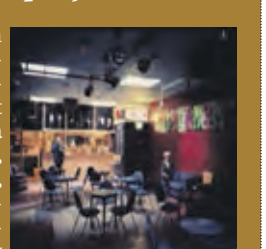
One for the indie kids, this former office block now constitutes a studio space for a community of emerging artist. An exhibition here therefore largely emerges as an experimental and innovative love child of this unique collective. Their most recent concoction is *The Order of Things*: a sharply shot, black and white film of the Great North Run, boldly filmed within the framework of Newcastle's urban bolts and bricks. Visually trippy, so maybe not one to visit on a hangover morning. Or maybe do. Might add to the wondrous surreality of it all.

The Outsiders, *77 Quayside*



The Outsiders, as it boldly labels itself, is not for the mainstream. It is largely made up of graffiti, illustration art, which many an art lecturer would flatly denounce as "too graphicy", but The Outsiders prides itself on showing work by "rejected citizens of the art world". It is basically made up of "cool stuff you might want on your wall". Linked to its original strand in London, the gallery aims to make "buying art easy, accessible and affordable". Perhaps not on a student budget, yet there is no harm popping in on a casual Quayside stroll.

Star and Shadow Cinema, *Stepney Bank*



Take a trip to the east end of town where many an up and coming art gallery can be found. The Star and Shadow is not just a gallery, but a honey pot of creativity none the less. Its has a rich weekly programme of rare films, underground gigs and art exhibitions, as exemplified in its recent Tusk Festival. The cinema is run by an all embracing volunteer community, sharing a simple love for anything original and under the radar. For some reason the feeling of landing of the Boat that Rocked comes to mind upon entering.

Flo McAlpine

previews



Andy Zaltzman

The Stand
16 October

For one night only, comedian Andy Zaltzman will be bringing his one-man show to Newcastle to stir up the Geordies. Wittily named, *Armchair Revolutionary*, his stand-up show takes the form of a political satire, ridiculing everything from economics and social upheavals to new technology and animals.

A well-known face on the Edinburgh Fringe scene for more than a decade now, Zaltzman knows how to simultaneously mock and delight his crowd. After a successful run at the Fringe Festival, Zaltzman is now embarking on a tour across the UK.

Through his exceptional comedic skills, Zaltzman presents us with alternative takes on world precedent issues, shedding a different, and often controversial, light on highly topical events, including those we don't usually associate with comedy. However, perhaps reassuringly, it isn't all politics: there are also supposedly part of the show, which are purely based on dog puns.

Zaltzman promises a performance to rival his hit weekly satirical podcast, *The Bugle*, rousing your political opinions or just making you laugh. Either way, get down to The Stand.

Rosanna Hutchings



Black T-Shirt Collection

Northern Stage
16-17 October

Fresh off the back of a successful run at the National Theatre's Cottesloe Theatre, Fringe First winner Inua Ellams' *Black T-Shirt Collection* arrives at Northern Stage.

Ellams' daring new play dives headfirst into the controversial topics of religion, sex and politics, following foster brothers Matthew and Muhammed as their T-shirt business takes them from the markets of Nigeria to the cut-throat business worlds of China and the UK. In the face of the unfolding events, Ellams commences on a lyrical exploration of commercialism, blending his own visual art with poetry and theatre.

Born in Nigeria in 1984, Ellams moved to the UK in his teens. He uses his talent as a graphic designer in his work in the theatre, narrating his tale with humour and beauty. A 70 minute solo-performance, Ellams' fascinating routine takes you to Nigeria's arid countryside and London's bustling streets in an instant, painting vivid pictures of the capitalist world.

Black T-shirt Collection is a fresh and exciting must-see piece, and a chance to see an enchanting and intense performer tell the story of his home countries.

Sapphire Rees



BRB's Swan Lake

Sunderland Empire
18-20 October

Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, first performed in 1877, has undoubtedly established itself as the most revered classical ballet of all time. Brought back into the public sphere through iconic films such as *Black Swan* and *Billy Elliott*, its popularity has reached new heights in the last decade. A tale of enduring love, evil and heartbreak, *Swan Lake* provides effortlessly enchanting entertainment, captivating audiences across the globe.

The story chronicles the struggle of the young princess, Odette, who has been transformed into a swan by the curse of the malicious sorcerer, Van Rothbart; a curse which is to be challenged by the conquering love of Prince Siegfried, who attempts to save Odette from Rothbart's evil clutches.

In their latest accomplishment, the Birmingham Royal Ballet takes this fantastical masterpiece and injects vibrate, intoxicating choreography to, once again, prove that *Swan Lake* can stand the test of time. It promises to be an astonishing performance and, for any ballet-lovers, a beautiful example of the skill and dedication held by one of Britain's greatest ballet companies.

Alexandra Walker

reviews



What The Animals Say

Northern Stage
3-5 October

A fast paced, side-splitting production, *What the Animals Say* is a surprising variation on political satire covering topics such as football and Mel Gibson, whilst still dealing with the more serious issues of racism and Irish politics along the way.

The story follows a chance encounter between two old school friends: Jimmy, a struggling, unknown Protestant actor from East Belfast and school mate Eddie, the successful, yet seemingly despised, captain of Celtic Football Club. Their ensuing interaction is a theatrical success, providing a hilarious outlook on their lives' successes and failures. Eddie's ignorance of everyone, emphasised by the casual use of offensive, occasionally racist language, serves to establish him as a comic highlight whilst Jimmy's jealousy of Eddie's success, accentuated by his regular aggressive outbursts of Hamlet amongst other works, is both ridiculous and pitiful.

Using a small, sparse stage with a two-man cast, *What the Animals Say* is masterpiece of theatrical work, made universally appealing through the use of contemporary cultural references combined with comedy and complex issues, such as immigration into Britain, whilst exposing the absurdity of prejudice and politics in day-to-day life.

Hannah Carty



Fajfric & Walker/Bromwich

BALTIC
1 May

Any friends of modern art will definitely appreciate Zoe Walker's and Newcastle University lecturer Neil Bromwich's exhibition *The Encampment of Eternal Hope* that was influenced by the apocalyptic predictions for 21 December – the end date for the Mayan Calendar.

According to the creators, the project envisages a post-apocalyptic utopian community, a kind of 'garden of earthly delight'. However, the exhibition consists of a frugal environment of tents and huge trees seeking out positive strategies for future living whilst exploring hopes and fears. In addition to the exhibition, experts in the fields of ecology, economy and the arts will be brought together in a series of events in this survivalist atmosphere.

Another new exhibition, Theta Rhyth by Bojan Fajfric, reconstructs a day of the life of Bojan's father, an administrator for Belgrade's City Committee using films and installations; this includes his experiences during the rise of Slobodan Milošević and economic distress in Serbia.

By displaying news reports and personal stories, the artist creates a collective memory of his country and allows the visitors to plunge into the atmosphere of this unstable period of Serbian history.

Inna Iljina



LK243 UnderSail

Northern Print
3 October - 4 November

The artist Imi Maufe is a rather curious character. Instead of wallowing in a wretched and damp cosmopolitan studio, she has taken up a five-week residency to sail the North Sea between Scotland, the Shetland Islands and Norway in the Tall Ships race on a sailing boat.

Maufe's work plays on the gruelling reality of living out at sea, and her entire exhibition fits into one compact box that accompanied her on her adventure. On postcard shaped blocks of wood she carved the time, location and her address before discarding them into the deep blue sea. By a wild chance several blocks have been returned back to her by post from distant lands and obscure islands, which take pride of place in the exhibition. It makes the visitor feel amazed by the mysterious way the ocean behaves, but also reconsider the wonder of how objects travel and the rich histories that they hide from us.

The exhibition also includes a variety of prints, all containing four word. These beautifully composed prints provide the viewer with condensed snapshots of her time on board in a humorous and descriptive way.

For her next (even bigger) project, she is endeavouring to collect five hundred people to sketch a picture a boat for her.

James Ricketts

Music Editors: Chris Haywood and Sam Summers
Online Music Editor: [redacted]

How To Buy...
Prince



With a career spanning five decades and thirty albums under his tight purple belt, Prince is a daunting prospect for new listeners. Here's where to start:



For Beginners:
Purple Rain

With only a few minor hits in his six year career, Prince had hardly prepared the world for the onslaught that was *Purple Rain*. The 1984 album (a soundtrack to the blockbusting autobiographical film of the same name) was a smash hit, winning an Oscar and propelling The Purple One to superstardom. Though the title track is intensely overrated, the rest of the album is perfect pop with a hard rock edge and an underlying current of funk. Add to that the absurd messianic pretentions and proto-text speak of 'I Would Die 4 U' and you have quintessential Prince. Fun Fact: the description in 'Darling Nikki' of a woman 'masturbating with a magazine' was singlehandedly responsible for the introduction of those 'Parental Advisory' stickers.

For Experts:
Sign O' The Times



Prince's 1987 double album masterpiece is far from the most accessible record in his catalogue, but it's easily the most eclectic, and almost certainly the best. Its epic scope encompasses ten-minute funk jams, nonsense pop songs, and some of the sexiest R&B ever recorded. In amongst that is the title track - an anthem of 80s unrest, from AIDS to the Challenger disaster –and the brilliant gender-bending insanity of 'If I Was Your Girlfriend'. Topping it all off is 'Adore', an underrated classic and one of the most powerful love songs of all time. *Sign* is a far cry from the chart-friendly pop-rock of *Purple Rain*, but it's audacious, experimental, and epic.

For The Bin:
Diamonds And Pearls



By 1991 Prince had ditched his old backing band, The Revolution, and hooked up The New Power Generation, a nine-strong collective composed of musicians, dancers and rappers. That last one should be a bit disconcerting; *Diamonds And Pearls* is full of embarrassing attempts at hip hop from a musician who simply didn't understand the genre. Even worse were the pop tracks, a limp, fluffy bunch, especially when compared to the dirty funk Prince was known for. There are a few decent songs here, chief among them the supremely badass opener 'Thunder', but not enough to save the album. Prince would make a much better stab at rap on next year's swaggering 'My Name Is Prince', but this record is best set aside as a failed experiment.

Sam Summers

NO LOVE DEEP WEB
Death Grips
☆☆☆½

Who are Death Grips? An experimental hip hop trio from California that have gained recent media attention following a public fall-out with their major label, Epic Records.

'The game is mine. I deal the cards' tweeted the band last weekend and lo, they leaked the full upcoming album *NO LOVE DEEP WEB* online, featuring explicit cover art depicting an erect phallus. How very controversial. Over 600,000 plays later, and the resulting exposure has certainly benefited the band. But does their music really merit all the attention?

Opener 'Come Up And Get Me' kicks in with a swarm of bass-heavy synths. Instantly dark and aggressive, this sets the tone for the album. The verse is a cacophony as 'rapper' MC Ride's shouted vocals compete with a dense, bassy beat. It's hectic, it's angry and I have no idea what he is rapping about.

The musicianship of drummer Zach Hill is crucial here; his double-footed work on the bass drum and complex, unusual time signatures give drive and definition to the songs' sometimes overbearing composition. Whilst the drummer excels, the album is in some ways let down by its lyrics. Often unintelligible in the mix, they make little sense even when read on a screen. The repeated themes of insanity and alienation lack originality. The record would benefit from a clever rhyme and a memorable hook here and there.

Penultimate track 'Bass Rattle Stars Out The Sky' is another strong number. Up-tempo drums bounce and click whilst synths drone like a chainsaw. Again, Death Grips succeed in being both heavy and danceable.

Aurally *NO LOVE DEEP WEB* is liable to overwhelm. The production is purposefully gritty and

> "It's hectic, it's angry and I have no idea what he's rapping about..."

abrasive and this does take some getting used to. This music is not designed for mainstream consumption. But if you feel up to the task, this album can be a rewarding listen. At its best it is triumphant. Powerful, physical and dark. It is unlike any album currently in the charts.

Recommended download:
'Bass Rattle Stars Out The Sky'

Mike Slaski



If you like this, try...

Beastie Boys - *Licensed To Ill*
Cypress Hill - *Black Sunday*
Trash Talk - *119*

Lonerism
Tame Impala
☆☆☆☆



Australian psychedelic rock band Tame Impala's second studio effort is already attracting widespread critical acclaim.

Inspired by frontman Kevin Parker's idea of solitude, their follow-up to 2010 debut album *Innerspeaker* shows clear progression.

It's their ability, however, to make themselves sound so fresh and modern, despite these many comparisons, that is perhaps their most impressive feat.

This is apparent none more so than during opening track '(Gotta) Be Above It', with its repeated opening refrain and powerful accompanying guitar effects setting the tone for the rest of the album.

Lead single 'Elephant' has a distinct Queens of the Stone Age feel to it and possesses the potential to sound even better live, whilst the epic six-minute long 'Apocalypse Dreams' seems to have been given a life of its own.

Standout track 'Mind Mischief' might not receive all of the plaudits, yet the synth-infused track and its groovy riff is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the record.

The Perth three-piece have certainly delivered the goods once again with *Lonerism*, likely to please old fans and attract many more.

Does it eclipse their first album? Maybe, just.

Recommended download:
'Mind Mischief'

Matty Aston

All Our Favourite Stories
Dog Is Dead
☆☆☆☆



After 5 years of making music, Dog Is Dead released their debut album *All Our Favourite Stories* and, as the title suggests, it's a collection of indie anthems that could only have been made by a group of really tight friends.

The catchy new single 'Talk Through The Night' is surely going to be a huge track for prinking in the coming months, and previous single 'Glockenspiel Song' is definitely a summer sing-a-long festival track.

As you may have noticed, this kind of thing has been done to death in the last few years, and this album comes at a time when big indie bands like The Vaccines are trying to escape their safe, middle-class image. However, while many tracks are simply doing what's been done before, sift through the buttoned-up shirts and floppy hairdos and you will find hidden on tracks like 'Get Low' and 'River Jordan' a darker, brooding and infinitely more interesting side to this album, reminiscent of the undeniably successful Alt-J.

The chart-friendly tracks with underlying strange vocal harmonies that permeate the album, and the amazing bass lines in 'Do the Right Thing' and 'Get Low', show great potential for something new and exciting. Expect great future sounds from Dog Is Dead.

Recommended download:
'Get Low'

Tom Payne

The Cool Cafe
Jaden Smith
☆



Before listening to Jaden Smith's *Cool Cafe* there are a few facts you have to reconcile yourself with. First, his dad is an international icon and film star. Second, his sister whips her hair for a living and finally, he is only fourteen yet is singing about drugs, women, and alcohol.

The album isn't smooth at all. One song will be T.I.-like then the next Justin Bieber-esque. From track one, 'Hello', in which he attempts to sound like a young Drake, to 'Underwater-Too Much', produced by OmArr, who clearly has a problem with caps lock. The album is slow, cringeworthy and painful to listen to... unless you're Jaden Smith who, when he says 'people say I'm up and coming' clearly believes his own hype.

'The Coolest', in which he states (even though he is underage) 'if you want it and you need it girl, come and get it', is quite good as a pop song if you take it at face value and forget who's actually singing it. However, overall, the album isn't much to write home about and hopefully there won't be a rise in young teens enjoying 'Pumped Up Kicks' due to Jaden's 'flow'.

Recommended download:
'Pumped Up Kicks (Like Me)'

Joshua Nicholson

For tonnes of **web-exclusive playlists** and **live reviews**, check out *The Courier* music section online.

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Gig announcements, updates on the Newcastle music scene, track recommendations and exclusive articles.

Oh, and plenty of #hashtags!

SceNE: Introducing ... Mausi

Delving into the region's exploding music scene, *Music Editor* Chris Haywood brings you a sample of what the North East can offer you...

With time, change is inevitable and often necessary. Mausi are a perfect case in point.

Not long ago, they began to see that where they were and who they had become 'just didn't match what we wanted.' So they reassessed themselves, corrected their faults, all the while sure to retain those potentially outstanding qualities that simply needed a little bit of refining.

As they point out today then, 'Mausi start[ed] again at 'sol.''. A bolder, shinier beast to anything they'd forged previously, this track boasted the arrival of a band driven by a replenished vigour. From that moment on, an overriding sense of confident adventure marked their non-noodly synth pop.

Showing more polish and a firmer grasp of rhythm, their new material now carries the same urgency and telling signs of them as musical maximalists, but never to the extreme of sounding as though they're on the verge of collapsing over each other as they often were before. In fact, Mausi sound at their tightest in the gentle dynamic interplay between siblings Daisy and Thomas's delicately vehement vocals, which merge rapidly into warm choral, harmonised chants. With 'sol.', however, Mausi not only outlined what would become a new sonic direction, but also a new identity. Through the song, within the video and even into the artwork, a 'European, Mediterranean aesthetic' permeated their image, an image that draws on the heritage of the two Milan-born siblings who lay at the centre of the band. Mausi's potent chemistry has always remained though. Unsurprisingly, their collective, relaxed presence on tape, in person, and on stage reflects the same atmosphere which 'was right, just right' at the very beginning, two and a half years ago. It's an atmosphere that clearly owes itself to that brother-sister relationship at its very heart, and the otherwise tight-knit friendships interwoven between them, Benji and Ben.

Nevertheless, the one thing that's most staggering about Mausi is that they've crafted their own success up to this point: 'we edit, shoot, storyboard our music videos, we remix our own songs, we release them; we have complete creative control.' It's this commitment that underlines their acceptance that 'there's so much more to do'. And there is. Because 'sol.' is the sound of a band setting their sights on the summit of the singles charts.

Here's hoping they reach that summit soon.

Chris Haywood

Check out an exclusive review of Mausi's recent show at The Other Rooms @ www.thecourieronline.co.uk.



Unknown Pleasures

No artist. No title. No clue...

This week we gave Rosanna Hutchings a copy of Wu Tang Clan's 1993 gangsta rap classic *36 Chambers*, famed for its aggressive vocals and innovative beats, without telling her what it was. Here's how she got on...



As someone who rarely listens to rap, I would probably liken the style to a less friendly, much angrier Run DMC. The actual lyrics, however, are probably more akin to Jay-Z and 50 Cent (drugs, violence, sex etc.) than how tricky it is to rhyme and meeting a girly whose hair was very curly.

If similes and metaphors are your thing, this album won't let you down. A 'mudhole in that ass 'cause I'm straight out of the swamp', 'slammin' a huge-ass verse till ya head burst' and 'the poetry's in motion coast to coast and rub it on your skin like lotion' to name just a few. Obviously, the album is full of rhymes, but some of them are slightly dubious, for example: 'rappening is what's happening, keep the pockets stacked and the hands clappening.'

While the lyrics are generally offensive, it's almost impossible to resist the odd head bop. Each song has a basic beat, but the backing music is sometimes a bit skew-whiff, with random trumpets, horns and guitar riffs coming out of nowhere. You could see this as refreshing compared to today's overly-polished hip hop, but some of the music is a bit at odds with the violent lyrics and is verging on cheesy 70s funk and soul. This detracts from the true essence of anger that the rappers are probably trying to convey.

Like I said before, the lyrics are rather offensive. Track 9 ['Method Man'] takes this to a whole new level, leaning towards sadism, and begins with the line 'Yeah, torture motherfucker what?' If you've not listened to the album, I'll leave it to you to choose if you want to have a look at the lyrics.

As I am aware that this album is a 'cult classic', I have guessed that they may be responsible for bringing words or phrases such as 'peeps' and 'word up' to the mainstream which I'm not sure is entirely a good thing…

I feel that having not experienced the 'life of a grimey, real life crimey', it is generally quite hard for me to associate with the music and I admit some of the metaphors are a bit lost on me. However, generally the music has a good beat to it and if you were a teenager wanting to rebel, it would be the perfect album to play at full volume in your bedroom.

Rosanna Hutchings

Oh, What A Night: theCUT

Two Nights. One Club.

Shake

Wednesdays, 11pm, £5 (£4 NUS)

Shake at theCUT has to be the closest thing Newcastle has to the perfect night out. For one, it's an almost guaranteed way to avoid (if only for a night) the terrifying Geordie Shore phenomenon of unnaturally tanned men in low cut vest tops. What's more, it's a chance to escape the sort of music these men are talking about whenever you hear them screaming 'TUNEEE'.

If you feel that you've had your yearly allowance of David Guetta and don't think you can take any more 'Gangnam Style', then I can't recommend Shake enough. They describe the night as providing 'party hip-hop' and they certainly make good on their promise.

I would've put 99% of the playlist in the 'impossible-not-to-dance-to' category. From Beyoncé to Wu-Tang Clan, Sean Paul to Outkast and even throwing a bit of classic Justin Timberlake in there, from start to finish I couldn't fault the playlist or the atmosphere.

theCUT itself isn't the fanciest of clubs. However, this means that there is no pretence to get dressed up or feel out of place, and with drinks from £1.50 it's a night you can do on the cheap. I can definitely say I'm converted.

Jenny Thynne



Dragnet

Saturdays, 11pm, £6

Advertised as the alternative to another Saturday night spent navigating your way round tanked-up meatheads and tacky hen dos, Dragnet has something for everyone. Based out of one of Newcastle's most celebrated venues, theCut, needless to say my compatriots and I jumped at the chance when we were offered free entry.

Inside, a friendly and unpretentious atmosphere awaits you. Against a backdrop of commercial electro-pop, old school hip-hop and 70s disco, the clientele fully reflects the diversity of the music played here.

The venue doesn't disappoint either, theCut having been deliberately conceived to cater, with homage to the fantastic World Headquarters, for Newcastle's music lovers.

With a design reflecting the New York loft party archetype, the reasonably priced drinks and intimacy of the setting do much to keep the shenanigans rolling till the early hours.

This is in no small part to resident DJs Kristian Atkinson and Andrew Hutchison who know a thing or two about spinning vinyl. These guys bang out crowd pleasers for fun, seamlessly creating a soundscape that simultaneously caters for the retro-lovers and the ravers. If you're bored on a Saturday night, you could do a lot worse than this!

Lee Abrahams

Shaken or Stirred?

As the release of *Skyfall* looms, **Henry Camamile** takes a look at some of his favourite Bond themes...



Adele - 'Skyfall'

(Skyfall)

She hasn't given us another 'Someone Like You' or 'Rolling In The Deep'. Adele has definitely delved into the James Bond theme tune archives and taken a few notes. The song is one of the most lavishly produced Adele tracks, with strings and reverb filling your ears. Hardcore Adele fans may claim that she has betrayed her roots with this Carly Simon approach, but Adele and producer Paul Epworth have given us back a nostalgic Bond sound. A perfect, seductive sounding theme to accompany images of female silhouettes having liquid poured over them, a throwback to the pre-Daniel Craig days.

Carly Simon - 'Nobody Does It Better'

(The Spy Who Loved Me)

Carly Simon gave us a fantastic motivational track in 'Nobody Does It Better', which was greatly welcome in 1977 and still is today. If I ever feel like I'm not that good at something, Carly Simon's dramatic melodies will always remind me there is something I'm the best at. 'Darling, baby you're the best'. This is a bulletproof Bond song, just like the man himself.

Jack White & Alicia Keys - 'Another Way to Die'

(Quantum of Solace)

The first time I heard the track I laughed because, vocally, it was comedy in comparison to its more sober predecessors. The strained harmonies are representative of Daniel Craig's Bond, the most brutal Bond we have seen yet. The song makes sense in a film with a gritty lead role and beautiful backdrops. It has the familiar orchestral accompaniments, a stunning singer, and Jack White's musical input mirrors the grit of the contemporary film.

Tom Jones- 'Thunderball'

(Thunderball)

Sir Tom, the Sound of the Valleys, never sounded more potent than in this song. Toms' passionate soul lifts this track to make it a gem of a movie score. It is often overlooked as an iconic bond track but I think its discreetness makes it a true masterpiece. Tom has had some shockers, yet no one can deny that when he gets it right it is fantastic. I think it's safe to say he got it right here, and 'Thunderball' has earned its place as my number two best Bond theme ever.

Shirley Bassey - 'Diamonds Are Forever'

(Diamonds Are Forever)

Earlier this year, Shirley was in Her Majesty's service singing this song for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Its euphemistic content, combined with Shirley Basseys' iconic, powerful, theatrical delivery and the unique melody makes it a diamond, not just amongst Bond music or even film music, but in the entire history of popular music.

Kick Out The Jams: Oxjam Preview

Feeling the drag of mid-autumn festival withdrawal? No fear, because I saw it in my special festival scrying glass that the shiny new Oxjam Newcastle Takeover is nigh. Promising a 'city-wide festival takeover' on Sunday 21st of October, the city will be, erm, taken over by more than fifty local live acts, plus a handful of stand-ups acts and DJ sets.

Acts include Athletes In Paris, The Cornshed Sisters, Weird Shapes, 3 Foot Ninja, Big Beat Bronson, and Toyger, as well as soulful folker Amy Holford, who I can vouch is gorgeous live, though with over fifty of these going down it's well worth checking out the full line up.

The Takeover will be spread out across the city, with live music venues including the Cluny, the Cluny 2, Nancy's Bordello, the Tanners and the Church of St. Anns, plus a couple of acoustic and DJ-oriented venues at the Tyne Bar and Blast Studios.

Continuing their 'local bands, global impact' ethos, the festival is (as you might have guessed) in support of Oxfam, with all the funds raised going directly to the charity. So you'll be a good person as well getting to spy the newest acts in the North East and thus be insufferably hip!

Beware: unlike other festivals, the bigger acts are spread out over the whole course of the day, rather than lumped together in the evening, so you'll want to keep an eye on the scheduling. Acts start from 1pm and wrap up late at 11, although there's also half price entry into Propaganda the night before if you feel like starting early. Oh, and yes, there's an after party (plus DJ), over at Nancy's Bordello until 2am, entry price included with the wristband. Think of it as a guilt free all-you-can-eat for new, live, regional music. And really, what could be better than that on a Sunday? Wristbands are going at £7 for access to all the venues and all fifty-one acts, plus DJs and as much additional stand-up comedy as you can handle.

Lydia Carroll

Find details and book tickets at: www.oxjamnewcastle2012.wordpress.com.

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1PM IN THE STUDENT FORUM

TV Editor: Chris Taylor
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BADvertising

Richard Speir takes out his anger on a human microwave with a love of paninis

It's easy to decide on a good advert: you don't forget it and you don't forget the product. Have a quick glance at a Honda advert called 'The Cog'. It's genius – I'm even talking about it a decade later.

The next level down in the league of ads consist of those that we hate to watch but love to moan about, GoCompare being a prime example. This has transformed the legacy of a B grade singer, singing a cover of a very old B grade song, for a B grade website. Great! But we all know what GoCompare do, so well done them.

At the bottom of the pile are those ads that are just dire. Are we really expected to believe that Bond's favourite drink is a cold pint of beer? Thanks Heineken. You have single-handedly ruined my celebrations of Bonds 50th year.



But the worst advert on TV is the one that sponsors *Friends* on Comedy Central. Think hard. Know the one? There you are engrossed in Monica's kitchen when BANG! you're thrown into a different kitchen with a chef sitting on the counter holding a plate and doing his impression of a microwave.

Aside from this being as far away from 'The Cog' as possible, it's useless. I had to research it to discover that they were a company called Zugo who sell microwaveable paninis. Not only did I hate the ad, but I couldn't moan about it for lack of knowledge of what it was advertising. Yet, Alas! Alack! Horror! I have just advertised a bad advert, which is far more than it deserves. Goodbye cruel world…

News Flash: Charlie Brooker and Daniel Maier's hit spoof cop drama, *A Touch of Cloth*, is set to become part of a trilogy with future episodes set to star Anna Chancellor and *Game of Thrones'* Stephen Dillane



The Great British Bake Off

BBC 2, Tuesday 9pm

As we reach the finale of *Great British Bake Off*, many flour-covered cheeks are streaked with a single tear. Beloved amongst students and mums alike, the shows appeal is in that it isn't that competitive for a competition. The contestants are all so nice to each other, offering consolation, suggestions and aid when something goes wrong; Danny being of far more use than the first aider when John cut his hand for example. They just want to bake a good cake or somehow turn a failed gingerbread barn into a dilapidated ruin, much to the joy of Mary Berry.

We've had intensive care nurse, a whisky (and funky cardigan) obsessed Scotsman, an absurdly knowledgeable and inventive retiree with a love of the 70s and Renly/John, (John resembles Renly Baratheon far too much, meaning I've shouted his name at a screen twice this year) creator of a gingerbread Colosseum.

Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood, baking legends, take the role of judges once again and they clearly know their stuff. Able to explain exactly what went wrong with a bake, so that the baker can easily learn from said error, as well as what went right, they rarely use hyperbole and also acknowledge when something is subjective, rather than simply a mistake. There is no artificially constructed rivalry between the pair either, which makes a nice change from most judging shows.

Mel (Giedroyc) and Sue (Perkins), the ever lovable late 90s comedy duo are the show's rock. Even when making somewhat cringe-worthy puns, they are likeable and amusing, tempering any criticisms the judges have with gushing compliments and obvious enjoyment of the food because who doesn't love free food? Of course, even if the contestants, judges and presenters were dull, - which is hardly ever likely - there would be the baking. I've found myself wanting cakes I know I don't like! It's a show that's great to put your feet up and have a cup of tea with. Like an old friend, just with baking accidents and a lot of sugary goods.

It's a tough pick for this year's winner, but given last year's real winner was a surprisingly bold squirrel, you never know who or what might take the baking crown.

Alexandria Morgan

Those who are already heading into the post-*Bake Off* comedown, you're in luck! The Simon Cowell of baking, Paul Hollywood, has announced that the team have already filmed a Christmas special! Bûche de Noël for all!



Downton Abbey

ITV, Sunday 9pm

SPOILER ALERT!

Downton Abbey has taken the world by storm, being watched by over 100 countries and winning an estates-worth of awards. The series has seen many progressions in terms of storylines, but just where exactly is the show heading as it works its way through its third series?

Beginning with the sinking of the Titanic, the first series saw Lord Grantham searching for the next heir of Downton, Matthew Crawley, who instantly takes a liking to eldest daughter, Mary as we get accustomed to the *Upstairs Downstairs* feel of the show.

Fast forward a few years to WWI and the lines betweens the social classes begin to blur, as Downton opens its doors to injured soldiers in series two. Youngest sister, Sybil, sees love blossom with chauffeur Branson, much to the dismay of her family. A man heavily wrapped in bandages turns up and claims to be the original Downton heir, quickly disappearing when questions about his identity are raised and Bates's relationship with Anna suffers due to the return of his evil wife, Vera.

And here we are at the third series. So far, the "Ross and Rachel" storyline has come to an end as Mary and Matthew have finally married and Sybil has become pregnant by Branson. With Bates still in prison and a new maid cropping up "downstairs" to stir things up, it's clear to see why the Americans love it so much.

Chloe Carroll



Take Me Out

ITV, Saturday 7pm

Paddy McGuinness has returned to ITV's Saturday night slot to helm the openly superficial dating program we all love. Crammed full of cheesy gags and frivolous participants, *Take Me Out* really does believe the most important thing is that first impression.

In three rounds, thirty women use a light ('no likey, no lighty') to choose whether they want to date one man. He then picks from the women left who he wants to go on a date with to the sunny Isle of Fernando's (a big step up from the bar in Manchester from the first series) unless he's unlucky enough to suffer a blackout, leaving only a bit of Paddy Love from the man himself.

So far, we've had a postman who's popular on his rounds and proof that, regardless of how good looking you are, people still hold grudges if their packages are late-arriving and a Welsh personal trainer with an almost indecipherable accent, leading many of the girls to think he was from somewhere exotic and not…erm…Port Talbot.

McGuinness holds the show together, balancing the one-liners and witty banter, sometimes giving the impression of being the only intelligent person in the room. He raises *Take Me Out* above the sum of its unsubstantial parts. It isn't highbrow entertainment, but he knows and embraces it meaning, once you start watching, you'll find it very difficult to stop. The ultimate in guilty pleasure viewing!

Aidan Armstrong



Homeland

Channel 4, Sunday 9pm

SPOILER ALERT!

After a rather slow start it would appear *Homeland*'s second season is heating up. Following the relative success of the mission in Beirut, Carrie's obsession with Abu Nazir will lead her to attempt to get her job back within the CIA despite her still vulnerable mental state.

As in season 1 we continue to see Brody acting as "double agent" working with the Vice President while maintaining close links with Abu Nazir. Saul's discovery of Congressman Brody's video suicide message explaining his reasons for the unrealized attack on the Vice President threatens to bring Brody's double life to light.

Brody's family dynamic is set to change in this season. Jessica is getting acquainted with the life of politician's wife, she is set to host a fundraiser with the Vice Presidents wife for maimed servicemen, at the behest of Brody. It will be interesting to watch the development of the couple's relationship, as it will continue to become increasingly fraught after Jessica's discovery that Brody is a Muslim.

The second episode also suggested that there could be a burgeoning relationship between Dana and Vice President Walden's son, which will perhaps create friction between Brody and Walden. Season 2 is promising to be packed full of drama and is definitely something to keep tuned into!

Stephanie Brannan

20 Years Later...With Jools Holland

As the only decent music variety show still airing (we miss you *Popworld*) turns twenty, **Sam Summers** takes a look back at what made *Later...* an untouchable classic

Established in 1992 as a musically-centred spin-off of *The Late Show*, *Later... with Jools Holland* has, for a longtime, been the vanguard of live music on British television.

Aside from a couple of patronisingly 'hip' efforts on Channel 4, inevitably hosted by a prancing Nick Grimshaw or a vacuous Steve Jones, it's really the only music show on a major channel these days. A lot of pressure, therefore, is placed on Jools Holland's excitable shoulders, yet after twenty years he still refuses to buckle, and if anything the show is only becoming more important with age.

The influence *Later...* can have is often staggering, especially considering its late night timeslot. When an unknown KT Tunstall was drafted in at the last minute to replace Nas, her song 'Black Horse And The Cherry Tree' immediately went Top 40, kick-starting her career. Stornoway played the show before they had even signed with a label, sharing the bill with Sting, Jay-Z and Foo Fighters. The performance led to tens of thousands of YouTube views and, eventually, a record deal. More recently, Lana Del Rey's stripped-down performance of 'Video Games' propelled her really-rather-odd-when-you-think-about-it brand of pop into the mainstream.



Somewhat less successful, though nonetheless admirable, are the show's frequent attempts to bring world music artists to a wider audience. *Later...*'s international alumni include such luminaries as Tigran Hamasyan (Armenia), Fatoumata Diawara (Mali), Staff Benda Bilili (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Seun Kuti & the Egypt 80 (Nigeria, funnily enough). While few of these acts have ever gone platinum, they always make for a wildly entertaining interlude between sets from stolid indie bands.

Though undeniably an institution, *Later...* is not without its criticism. It's been decried as a chronically middle-of-the-road wasteland of ageing stars, generic guitar bands and, more often than not, Paul Weller. It's occasionally called out on its elitism: Def Leppard have claimed that Jools won't let them on the show because he doesn't think they're cool enough, a heavy accusation alleviated by the fact that Def Leppard are barely cool enough to get into Def Leppard gigs anymore.

Jools Holland himself has never been the best presenter in the world – at best a little awkward and at worst subtly terrifying – his patented boogie woogie piano duets with guests are always reliably insipid, but it's the endearingly pants elements that have become lasting traditions. Long-time Hollandites can today be found whooping with joy as Jools winces through small talk with Morrissey or slaps some jarring wanton piano bashing on top of a perfectly fine R. Kelly performance.

After two decades of high highs and some even higher lows, it's not hard to imagine ourselves tuning in twenty years down the line to find a grumpy old Adele having an uncomfortable crack at that ol' singing lark by the piano, or an ageing Tinie Tempah crooning 'What A Wonderful World' alongside the ubiquitous Rhythm & Blues Orchestra. Whether you're looking forward to that or not, *Later...* will hopefully still be breaking new artists into the mainstream – and trying their best to break world artists into the mainstream – for years to come.

Fixin' for a Netflixin'

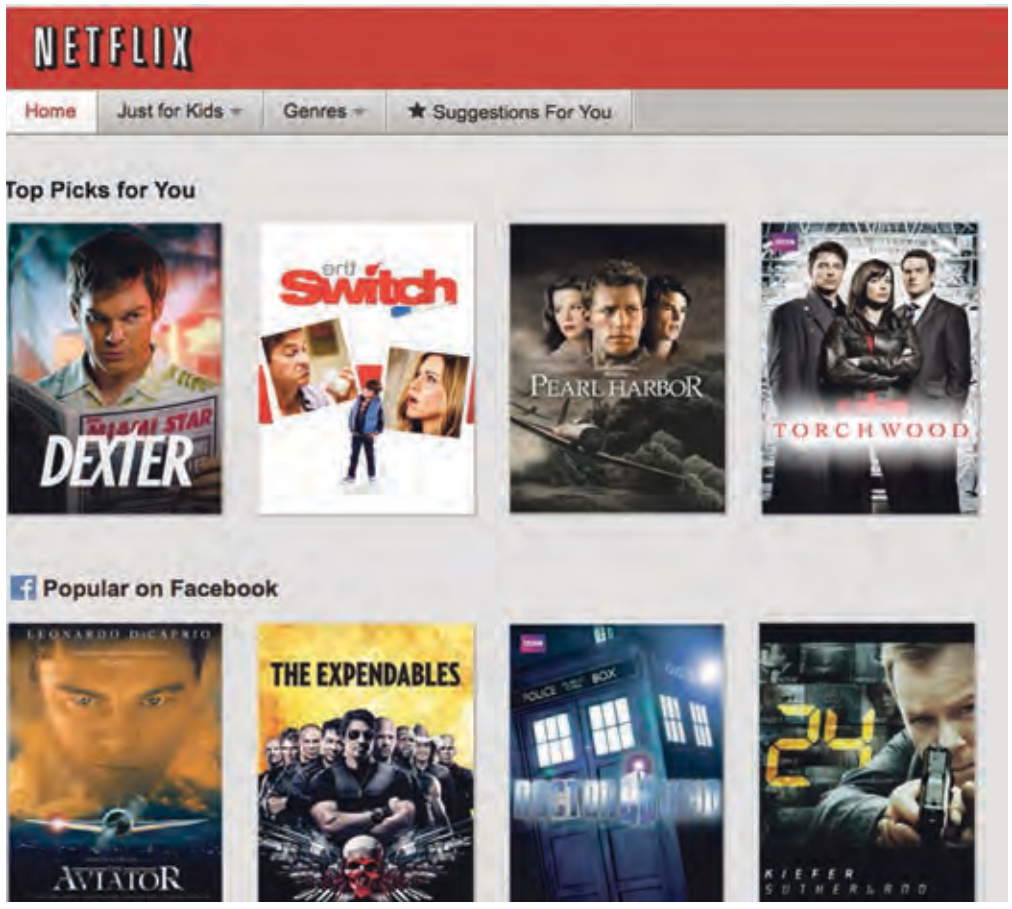
By the time we get home from lecture after seminar after library trip, all we want to do is sit on the sofa with a drink and no seminar reading in sight.

The problem is, by the time you get home, all you have to watch is either the evening news or whatever is on Challenge (as great as that is, by the seventeenth straight episode of *Crystal Maze* it does get a little stale). Luckily, Netflix is the perfect service for beating away the post-uni boredom.

Available on your laptop, games consoles or tablet devices, Netflix has more TV shows than you can shake a remote at. From the thoroughly brilliant *Breaking Bad* to the hilarious *Peep Show* to the animated *Spiderman* series (because why not?), the range of TV shows available on Netflix is pretty fantastic and, with the company attempting to buy the rights to as many shows as possible including Fox's great fantasy football-based sitcom *The League*, the number of shows available is set to soar.

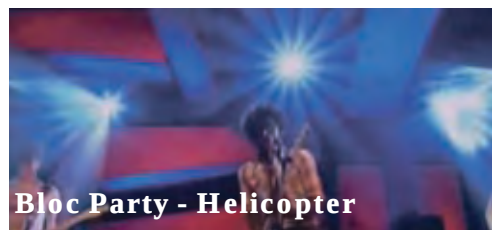
Starting out in the US as a simple film rental service via the post in 1997, it has been seen as the nail in the coffin for the likes of Blockbusters and the other big rental companies. It came to UK shores earlier this year and, by August, hit 1 million users. The real draw of Netflix is the availability of the service. With loads of shows available at your fingertips, it makes for sitting down with your flatmates for a night in with every single episode of *24* (that's a lot of episodes) that much easier.

Chris Taylor



Top 5

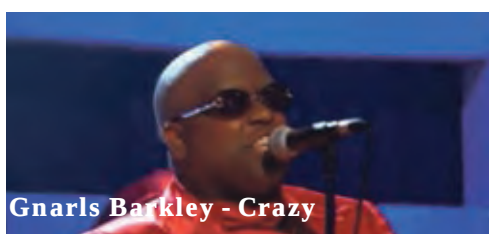
Later... with Jools Holland performances



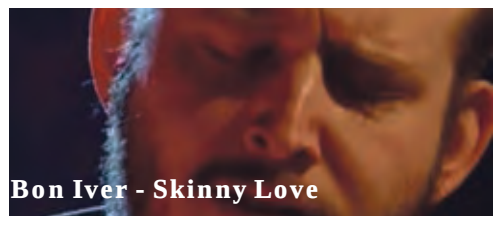
Bloc Party's first televised performance, announcing them as a band to keep more than an eye on. They were slightly stiff in their movement, perhaps a band still chiselling its image, but they were edgy and exciting, and the song bounced all over the place.



The Modfather and Amy Winehouse come together to illustrate their individually immense talents; somehow managing to do it without either stealing the show as they powered through the song that made Marvin Gaye a worldwide solo star. Weller's gravelly tones provide the backdrop for what will be remembered as one of Winehouse's finest moments.



The song that pretty much dominated its entire year of release, stripped-back and slowed down to soothing perfection. A time before Cee-lo-Green was synonymous for his snappy swearing, his voice is so effortlessly soulful that he could probably relax in his own company forever. Pretty much a masterpiece.



The millions of hits still mounting on YouTube to this day are a testament to the brilliance of this performance. The design of the *Later...* studio lends itself so well to solo artists, and in this scenario, one man, an acoustic guitar and hauntingly amazing vocals force everyone to stop and listen.



First appearing on 2007's New Year's Eve edition of *Later...*, many didn't know what to expect from the Oakland-born blues singer Seasick Steve. "Most guitars have six strings, this one only got three strings", he explained to the spectators, before stomping his way to glory, taking the crowd with him.

Matt Tate

Film Editors: Hayley Hamilton and Sam Hopkins
Online Film Editor: Chris Binding

Top 5

Most unlikely action stars



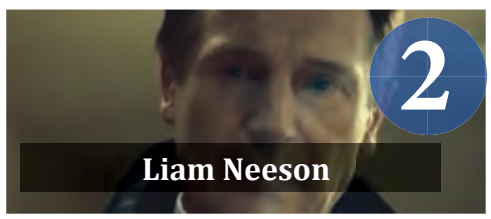
Dalton's success as Bond in *The Living Daylights* is unquestionable; the film grossed higher than its box office rivals that year which included both *Die Hard* and *Lethal Weapon*. However, Dalton's casting as Bond came as a shock to many who had only seen him confined in the world of costume drama in films such as *The Lion in Winter* and *Wuthering Heights*.



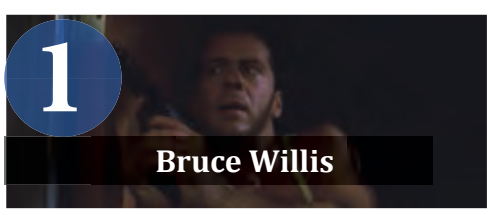
This young actor seems to be mid-transition from the world of romantic comedy and drama to the world of gunfights and villains. Notwithstanding his success in newer action roles in *The Dark Knight Rises* and *Looper*, most fans remember Levitt in successful indie hits like *(500) Days of Summer* and the neo-noir thriller *Brick*. Surprisingly, Levitt fits his newer roles perfectly.



Despite his role as Obi Wan Kenobi in the newer end of the *Star Wars* saga, most people would argue that they are unlikely roles for him to be seen in. Many remember iconic appearance as the troubled Renton in *Trainspotting* or his musical role in *Moulin Rouge!* As a result, McGregor's foray into the action genre seems unpredictable in hindsight.



Although his recent roles in *Taken*, *The A-team* and *The Grey* have confirmed his place as the grizzled "hard man" of the genre, Neeson's career will always be defined by his role as Oskar Schindler in *Schindler's List*. The transition from this vulnerable, grave role to the tough and dangerous world of his most recent castings is pulled off very well.



During the early 80's, Willis had already firmly cemented himself in the world of Television Sitcoms, of which *Moonlighting* was perhaps the most famous. Consequently, at the time of *Die Hard*'s release, many would have been shocked to see an actor used to playing roles not dissimilar from Chandler Bing dropping German Terrorists off high Rises and crawling through ventilation ducts.

Joshua Cadman

Double Take: Liam Neeson

With the release of the highly anticipated *Taken 2* upon us, **Luke Hearfield** considers the unlikely Irish action man with a very particular set of skills.

The general social convention of hitting 60 years of age is to slow things down, take it easy, and maybe take up a new hobby. Some may choose golf or antique collecting - well one gruff Irishman spends his senior days battling Batman, teaching young Anakin the ways of the force and raining down wrath as a Zeus. Yep, Liam Neeson has opted for a much more vicarious choice of lifestyle now that he qualifies for a senior citizen bus pass. And we're all secretly guilty of wishing our dads could be as awesome as him.

Neeson (to quote *Taken*) has a very particular set of skills; the husky voice of wisdom, an ability to turn the blandest of dialogue into an encapsulating speech and enough head tripping fight skills to put Chuck Norris to shame. But it wasn't until about five years ago that Neeson became one of Hollywood's go-to guys for melancholic action star. It was the crowd-pleasing sleeper-hit *Taken* which confirmed to audiences worldwide that you're never too old to be a completely badass hero.

With Neeson reprising his role as retired CIA agent/doting family man Bryan Mills in *Taken 2*, fans are gearing up to see the dynamic dad tackle the Albanian dynasty which kidnapped his daughter in the previous film. Prior to 2008's *Taken*, Neeson was most notable for his work as Qui-Gon Jinn in the *Star Wars* franchise and his career defining role as Oskar Schindler in Steven Spielberg's hollowly depressing war epic *Schindler's List*. If you really want to see Neeson at the peak of his incredible talent then *Schindler's List* is a must see. It is his most powerful performance to date, for which he earned an Oscar nomination and gave him the ability to transform into a bonafide mega star.

Besides his trademark gritty patriarch leads, he's played everything from sex therapists (*Kinsey*) to cigar toting hotheads (*The A-Team*). However we must not forget that for every awesome movie he makes (*Batman Begins, Ponyo)*, he delivers some absolute stinkers (*Battleship, The Grey, Clash of the Titans*). But hey, and we all make mistakes -let's just hope he learns from them. The man has an abundant amount of cool attached to his name- he doesn't need to latch onto shitty franchises to remain in the public subconscious. It's only going to tarnish his imdb page.

No one could make a CG Aslan as insightful as Neeson. There is something genuinely unique about his delivery. Maybe not a soothing as Morgan Freeman, but I could certainly fall asleep while Neeson read me a bedtime story. But while his voice could aid hostage negotiations; his monolithic facial expressions convey far more emotional depth than any dialogue he delivers. A true chameleon that can flawlessly shift from mood to mood seamlessly and as far as character profiling goes; Neeson is in a class of his own. The man can be married to January Jones (*Unknown*) and make it seem plausible (he's 26 years older than her!): now that's talent.



Director Profile: Hitchcock

In celebration of Tyneside's 'Genius of Hitchcock' Festival, **Faye Chivers** takes a look the Master of Suspense and **Jennifer Leighton** reviews one of his classics: *The Birds*.

Alfred Hitchcock was born in 1899 near London, and had a significant career in British silent movies and early 'talkies' before making his move to Hollywood in 1939. It was over there that he did the bulk of his most successful film-making, and built a colossal archive of classic films starring some of the biggest names in Hollywood history.

Hitchcock was an impressive director both in terms of longevity and productivity. His career lasted over five decades, but there were periods of intensity when some of the most iconic films in history were churned out, almost on top of one another. In the space of just five years he directed *Vertigo* (1958), *North by Northwest* (1959), *Psycho* (1960) and *The Birds* (1963). However, his legacy goes beyond blockbusters and Academy Awards. Alfred Hitchcock created his own genre of suspense/thriller, and crafted techniques used in thousands of films since.

But what makes him such a unique figure in cinematic history? Is it the commercial success of the films themselves, or the way in which he crafted them? His collaborations with some of the most celebrated names certainly helped his films reach a high level of stardom. Actors from the Golden Age in Hollywood, such as Cary Grant, Gregory Peck and James Stewart, Ingrid Bergman and Grace Kelly all appeared numerous times in his films.

However, it wasn't just the actors and actresses whose names were drawing people into Hitchcock films. The man himself earned a reputation for his power over the audience, and even featured in his own trailers, most notably for the cinematic teaser trailer for *Psycho.* In this six-minute long video, he guides the audience around the set of the film, opening with the innocuous words: "Good Afternoon. Here we have a quiet little motel, tucked away off the main highway, and as you see, perfectly harmless looking."

Hitchcock's ability to control and play with an audience's emotions features in all his films, throughout his career. He confessed his disdain for other horror films, stating that he preferred putting the terror in the minds of the audience as opposed to on the screen. This explains why psychological terror, mistrust and suspense feature so heavily in his thrillers, especially *Psycho, The Birds,* and *Rear Window.*



However, perhaps it is not just his knowledge of how the audience's mind works but their bodies too which distinguishes Hitchcock as a director. As he famously once said, "the length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder." So, maybe he didn't want to make us suffer too much after all.

Hitchcock kept audiences guessing, even when terrifying them wasn't the aim. In a 1964 interview with the BBC, he stated of the audience: "They're saying to me, 'Show us. I know what's coming next'. And I say, 'Do you?'…They're expecting the cliché. And I have to say, 'We cannot have a cliché.'"

The Birds (15)



☆☆☆☆

I'd never describe myself as a film expert, but I am proud to say that there are a few Hitchcock films in my collection. However, *The Birds* is not one of them. The Tyneside Cinema's 'The Genius of Hitchcock' festival seemed like a perfect excuse to introduce myself to Hitchcock on the big screen.

The film follows a simple plot: residents of a sleepy seaside district of San Francisco fall victim to unexplained attacks by violent flocks of birds, escalating from a peck at our heroine Melanie's head to thousands of gulls and crows holding the whole town captive (or caged, if you pardon the pun).

Hitchcock shows throughout that he is the master of suspense. The soundtrack of bird calls and one hell of a creepy nursery rhyme prove to be sufficiently unsettling.

There are some laughable special effects: the blood of 1963 looks suspiciously like ketchup. Nevertheless, it seems that even 50 years has not diminished its position as a classic horror.

Although some of the suspense is less effective as many of the scenes are so iconic, there is a heartfelt romantic subplot, comic moments from the drunkard declaring 'It's the end of the world!', and real Hollywood glamour from iconic star Tippi Hedren. It's safe to say that you won't look at the pigeons at Monument in the same way again. *The Birds* is a definitive Hitchcock that's well worth a watch.

VERDICT: ***It's not horror as you've seen it before. This classic is a must see for any film buff. It ticks all the boxes of romance, comedy and suspense, and for pure entertainment value it's a good watch for anyone. Nonetheless, it's not recommended for bird owners!***

TYNESIDE CINEMA

Jennifer Leighton

Taken 2 (12A)

☆☆½



Treading in the footsteps of Harrison Ford, Liam Neeson is slowly becoming the "I want my family back" action hero. Since audiences first saw Neeson take on the roll of gloomy Bryan Mills in 2008's *Taken*, he has solidified his reputation as a plausible action patriarch - despite the fact that he now has a pension. Neeson became the coolest (and most badass) dad on the big screens. I still get goosepimply when I hear the "I have a particular set of skills" speech.

However, whilst the original *Taken* worked as a fast paced, heartfelt thriller, *Taken 2* is simply a glorified cash cow homing in on its predecessor's success without any of the flair the audience expects to see. It's the *Hangover 2* of action thrillers; the same recycled story, but in a different locale.

Following a typical sequel narrative this one follows the customary revenge plotline. After Mills ransacked through a cavalcade of Albanian prostitution wranglers in the first film it's understandable that a few grieving relatives might want to exact some retribution.

Taken 2 opens up one year on from the previous film's events. Neeson plays the familiar over-protective yet likable dad. He's patching things up with ex-wife Lennie, (Famke Janssen) and navigating the tropes of parenthood by teaching his daughter Kim (Maggie Grace) how to drive and lecturing her on boyfriends.

After a business trip to Istanbul, Mills is joined by his family for a surprise vacation. But they're not the only ones who've tracked him down: Revenge-hungry Albanians led by Murad Krasniqi (Rade Serbedzija) are on his tail. While en route to the market, Bryan notices they are being followed and so the typical *Taken* plotline is thrown into momentum. This time it's Bryan and Lennie who are kidnapped and it's up to gutsy Kim to save her parents.

This is where the film picks up but also starts to spin out of control. The narrative begins to hiccup between each family member trying to save one another and unfortunately becomes a tad convoluted.

Not to say that *Taken 2* is a bad film; the cinematography is one of the film's strongest attributes. The aerial land shots of Istanbul are aesthetically rich and add to the needle-in-a-haystack feeling. Grace's character is fleshed out a little more, despite the fact that running around in a two-piece bikini shatters the illusion that she's playing a seventeen year old girl. The tender chemistry between her and Neeson still proves impressive.

Neeson though, is what carries the film. He brings his usual gruff charisma to the table and it's good to see he's still attending his weekly Taekwondo sessions at the local leisure centre because he's as brutal as ever.

VERDICT: *Taken* ***falls into the 'Ronseal' category- it does exactly what it says on the tin. It's Neeson being his melancholic best, however due to its censored 12A rating the film feels solemnly mellow in comparison to the original. There's nothing new, but despite its rehashed concept there is enough slickly executed action to keep the majority of the viewership entertained.***

EMPIRE

Luke Hearfield

Sparkle (12A)



☆☆☆

The film begins promisingly, with a standout performance by singer Cee Lo Green before we meet the namesake character. Played by Jordin Sparks (winner of American Idol), the character 'Sparkle' is a gifted yet shy singer/ songwriter, whom we follow as she rises to fame in the company of her sisters. The film is a gradual drive to her removal from the shadows of her showier and independent sister, but this obviously can't occur without the presence of some tragedy. The plot becomes slightly slow and laboured but the soul scene of late-60's Detroit provides the perfect backdrop for the musical melodrama and, if nothing else, this holds the viewers attention throughout.

Furthermore, there is an impressive amount of period detail and the terrific soundtrack also cannot be ignored. There is also a vibrant performance from the late Whitney Houston, who as the overbearing mother, poignantly warns her fame hungry daughters not to follow in her footsteps. The film deals with a lot of issues often associated with these sorts of films including stage fright, romance, drug abuse and domestic violence. Unfortunately, this teamed with the film's attempt to address the still lingering race issues is a bit out of place and doesn't quite connect when compared to the lighthearted approach of the remainder of the film.

VERDICT: ***The film has plenty of Sparkle and some memorable moments but doesn't quite live up to the success of the similar Dreamgirls. With a good cast and some emotive performances, this is a film that shouldn't be missed, if only to see Whitney's last acting performance. Not a classic, but would make for a good night in.***

EMPIRE

Alice O'Brien and Frances Allenby

Holy Motors (18)



☆☆

As French Director Louis Carax's first film in thirteen years, *Holy Motors* is a tale of comedy, confusion and dream-like surrealism. The film follows a day in the life of Monsieur Oskar played by former Carax collaborator Denis Lavant. Oskar travels around the city of Paris in a limousine furnished like a performer's dressing room. He is ferried around by Celine, his driver, (played by Edith Scob), to various appointments which appear to be unconnected, nor to have any specific purpose.

In his first appointment Oskar disguises himself as a crippled old hag who emerges from the limousine to harass citizens on the streets of Paris. A subsequent appointment sees Lavant dressed as a hideous, straggly-haired goblin, blind in one eye, staggering around a graveyard tearing flowers from graves and chewing them up. This mad character then makes his way onto a set where the beautiful model KM, (played by Hollywood Starlet Eva Mendes) is kidnapped by him. Unresisting, she is taken to his layer where he dresses her in a burkha and addresses her as if she were an iconic goddess.

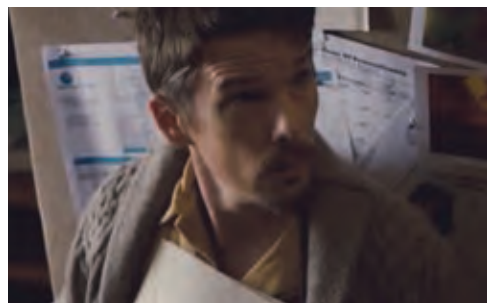
The film was highly acclaimed at this year's Cannes Film Festival, yet unfortunately as a member of the audience I felt alienated by the films seemingly random episodes and lack of linearity within scenes. The lack of plotline was infuriating; however, the film redeems itself with the ever-changing personalities of Oskar and the surrealist techniques deployed by Carax.

VERDICT: ***Despite the film's haphazard nature and acquired taste, its theatrical nature assures that there is certainly never a dull moment and this partly makes up for the lack of resolutions within the plot.***

TYNESIDE CINEMA

Isabelle Owens

Sinister (15)



☆☆☆☆½

Sinister is an amazing horror, combining chilling supernatural and brutal murder scenes. Unlike your typical terror *Sinister* includes an excellent performance by Ethan Hawke who plays Ellison. Ellison is a true-crime author searching for truths behind crimes that police may have overlooked. The film has a strong backing story, which is usually absent within most horrors. Whilst events unravel in the family's new home it comes to light all is not what it seems. Is Ellison soon to find a new found belief in the paranormal?

The film gets straight to the action and doesn't hold back on the shock factor. Ellison fails to inform his wife and two children that the house where they have moved to was the home of a family who met a horrible fate in the garden. As can be expected, he attempts to find out what happened to the one missing family member. Is she still alive?

Hawke fails to ask for help from the local police as he fears discovering that a serial killer is still on the loose. Could this be his final big break? Will it be the book that will make his career? It would appear Ellison is willing to put the safety of his family second, yearning for fame and fortune, and the inevitable array of horrible events ensue.

VERDICT: ***Sinister cleverly uses lighting and camera angles to build tension, keeping you on the edge of your seat, with your eyes searching every corner of the screen at all times fearful of what may happen. If anything lets the film down it's the choice of ending. However, don't let this put you off; overall it's the horror film of the year so far and one I recommend you go and see!***

EMPIRE

Chloe Ellise Morgan

The Perks of Being a Wallflower (12A)



☆☆☆☆

The story of an American teenager battling through high school on a quest of self discovery is a film plot which has been thoroughly exhausted in the past decade or so. However, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is by no means a typical coming-of-age story.

We are presented with a poignant and quirky tale that follows the life of Charlie (Logan Lerman) - a socially inept and troubled teenager – as he navigates his way through adolescence with the aid of two high school seniors, Sam (*Harry Potter* starlet Emma Watson) and Patrick (Ezra Miller). Although the film may seem clichéd with the inclusion of the typical high-school-genre checklist (canteen brawls, first kisses and that one teacher that makes all the difference), each of these moments is laced with such emotional rawness and intensity that they somehow become refreshing.

Stephen Chbosky, author of the bestselling novel, has adapted and directed the film. His delicate screenwriting and intimate understanding of the material shows throughout, with Lerman proving to be a suitable candidate for the role of Charlie, perfectly capturing his awkward existence and providing a strong and relatable narrative. Embark with Charlie on the journey of discovering mixtapes, drugs and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show.* It's well worth the ride.

VERDICT: ***The Perks of Being A Wallflower is a feel-good film, laced with deep emotions and insight into the heartbreaking years of adolescence. The story remains as beautiful and affecting as it was ten years ago when the novel was first published, and though the film may not become as iconic as the best-selling book, it's certainly worth a watch.***

EMPIRE

Sarah Napier

Sportsmanship: the line between fair

This week, *The Courier* looks at the best and worst examples of one of sport's most contentious topics

Earlier this month the Medinah Country Club in Illinois played host to the Ryder Cup in a contest that has been described - mainly by commentators this side of the Atlantic - as one of the greatest in golfing history.

It was also the focus for debate on one of sport's hottest issues: sportsmanship. In this case the participants were mainly praised for the way they conducted themselves during the competition, particularly after various incidents such as Phil Mickleson applauding his opponent Justin Rose when he sunk a monster putt that helped propel Europe to victory.

Unfortunately, this positive attitude has not always been the case during the tournament's history, and golf is not the only game where sportsmanship has been debated over the years; both good and bad examples can be found throughout the world of sport.

Freddie Caldwell

DEREK CHISORA

When you have two athletes going toe to toe with each other, respect between combat athletes is paramount, however this isn't always the case. Take the bad boy of British boxing, Dereck 'Del Boy' Chisora - he has been banned for biting someone's ear and has also kissed an opponent at a weigh-in, but his most disrespectful display of poor sportsmanship came earlier this year when he fought Ukrainian powerhouse Vitali Klitschko.

Chisora's antics started at the pre fight weigh-in where he came sporting a union jack bandana and decided it would be fitting for his 'gangster' image to slap the WBC Heavyweight champion in the face. He then confronted the younger Klitschko brother (Wladimir) on fight night and spat water into his face. Having lost the fight you might have thought that he would have humbled somewhat, but at the post fight conference he confronted fellow British Heavyweight David 'Haymaker' Haye and exchanged blows, which ended in a full blown brawl. Not only does this three day escalation of bad sportsmanship show Chisora as unstable, it also demonstrates his utter disregard for respect between fighters, a code held for centuries among all combat sports.

Phillip Ramshaw

ANDREW FLINTOFF

In 2005, the cricketing world saw one of the most poignant instances of sportsmanship in one of the cruellest sporting rivalries, The Ashes. The rivalry between England and Australia pervades all forms of sport, yet surprisingly it is in the game of cricket that it is at its most virulent.

The second test at Edgbaston is famous for a resurgent English team taking the fight against the steadfast Australians and emerging victorious by just two runs to level the series at 1-1. Ultimately, this test proved the turning point for an exalted 2-1 English victory in one of the most engaging series of modern international test cricket.

However, this test is also well known for Andrew Flintoff consoling a dejected and distraught Brett Lee, who had come so close to saving the match, instead of running off to celebrate with his jubilant teammates, which every fibre in his being must have been screaming for him to do so. The gesture was so strong it created many lasting friendships between the ultimately hostile nations.

Andrew Flintoff proved that, despite the rivalry, cricket is truly a gentlemen's game.

Jack Gelsthorpe

TONYA HARDING

Tonya Harding was a natural on the ice; this was illustrated by her success on the US and international circuit, combined with a strong ability to pull off previously impossible moves, such as a triple axel.

However, her competitiveness got the better of her when she arranged with her husband and bodyguard to injure her main rival for Olympic Gold, Nancy Kerrigan. In a conspiracy worthy of Hollywood, they hired hitman Shane Stant to attack Kerrigan and leave her unable to compete at the US National Championships, which would have lead to Harding qualifying for the 1994 Winter Olympics.

This act of desperation proved futile, as Stant failed to cause a serious injury and Kerrigan qualified for Lillehammer where she eventually won the silver medal. The build-up to the Olympics saw a media frenzy as claim and counter-claim came from both sides, and allegations of racketeering threatened to rock the sport to its core in the United States. The whole event showed the ruthlessness some athletes will employ to guarantee success and the level of determination taken to achieve a gold medal.

James Docherty

ALAIN PROST

Nowhere has the question of sportsmanship been more obvious than in the notorious rivalry between Formula One drivers Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna. After Senna joined McLaren in 1988, the pair had a series of seemingly tactical racing incidents in a desperate bid to secure the championship, or rather to ensure the other driver would not.

These incidents eventually culminated at the 1989 Japanese Grand Prix which proved to be one of the most infamous in history. This race would decide the Championship winner - a goal that was within grasp for both drivers - yet a collision in the final chicane forced both drivers off the track.

Whilst Prost abandoned his car, Senna made a quick pit-stop and eventually took the race win, making the Championship title effectively his.

However, the only speed to have matched Senna's lap times was Prost's eager sprint to race control after his retirement from the Grand Prix.

Prost's protests were eventually recognised, and Senna was controversially disqualified from the race. With that result the French driver secured his 3rd World Championship while Senna had little reasonable explanation for his punishment.

Grace Harvey



Arch rivals Senna (right) and Prost (left) Photography: senna.org.br

Back of the net

Video of the week



'West Indies Special Gangnam Style Dance Final T20 World Cup 2012'W
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doDLNrezvjc

The West Indies proving why they are everyone's favourite cricket team. As refreshing and smooth as a Rum Punch.

- Martyn Ziegler- @MartynZiegler

"Alan Pardew told his players not to worry about the wonga deal. 'Just go out there & give it 4107%'"

(11 Oct) Alan Pardew regrets taking out that enticing short-term loan to cover his fine for pushing the 4th official.

Testing times

1)In what year did Andy Roddick win the US Open?
2)What is the oldest professional football club in the world?
3)How many goals did Christiano Ronaldo score for Real Madrid last season?
4)Where is the US Grand Prix being held this year?
5)How much did the St George's Park National Football Centre cost?

1.) 2003; 2.)Notts County; 3.) 60; 4.) Austin, Texas; 5.) £105 million

This week in sport

Sunday 13th October 2002 - The University Womens Rugby Team kicked off their season by winning the inter-university Freshers Tournament at Cochrane Park

Wednesday 16th October 2002 - The Newcastle University Table Tennis A team made it two wins out of three with an 8-2 victory over local league opposition Mortimer.

Sunday 20th October 1996 - Newcastle United recorded a magnificent 5-0 victory over Manchester United with bars receiving record takings that evening. 'Mon the Toon!

Spot the ball



and foul play

ANDY RODDICK

In the 2005 Rome Masters, at a time when American foreign policy was decidedly unfriendly, Andy Roddick stepped up to restore a little faith in the humanity of the citizens of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Roddick was ahead against Spain's unseeded Fernando Verdasco, and with three match points, he celebrated along with the crowd when the Spaniard appeared to double fault on his serve to deliver the victory to Roddick. However, upon checking the mark left on the clay, Roddick acknowledged that the serve was in, handing Verdasco an unexpected lifeline. The young Spaniard used this new momentum to save the match points, hold his serve, and take Roddick to a tie break which Verdasco narrowly won. He then impressively broke Roddick in the third set to take victory with what he described as some of his best tennis ever.

Roddick's honesty may have cost him the place against Andre Agassi in the next round, but he gained many an admirer for his sportsmanship and his modesty. He claimed after the match "I don't think I did anything extraordinary". However, Verdasco noted that many other players may not have done the same.

Christy Clemence



Extraordinary Roddick in action
Photography: Tim Schofield

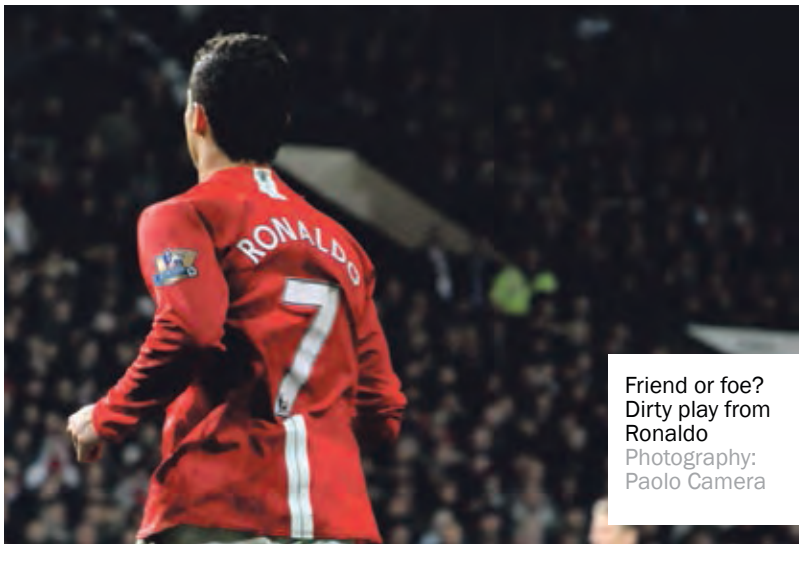
CHRISTIANO RONALDO

Diego Maradona, Diego Simeone and Urs Meier; these are just a few of the pantomime villains that English football fans have grown to hate over thelast few decades. Before England kicked off their quarter final against Portugal in the 2006 World Cup, Cristiano Ronaldo had already carved out a bad reputation for himself amongst most English football fans thanks to his diving antics in the Premier League. After the match, he added to this reputation and became a firm addition to the villain list thanks to his actions, which, in the eyes of many, led to England's exit from the World Cup.

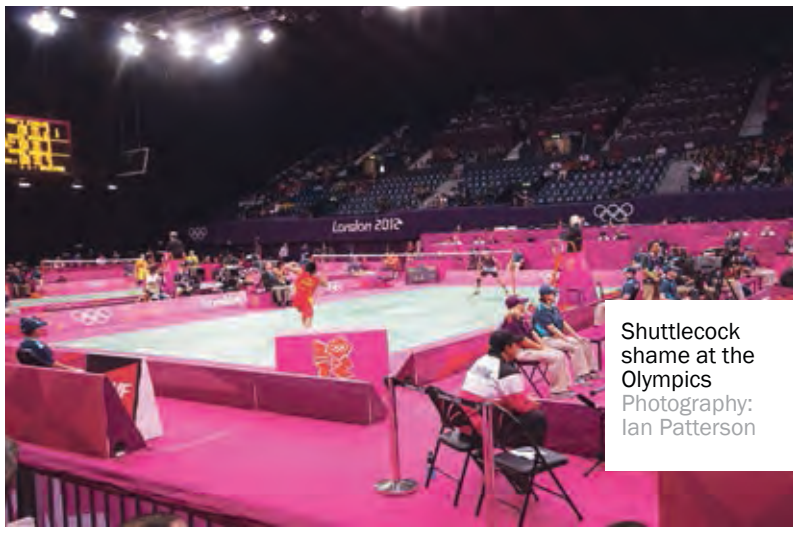
Midway through the second half, the match was goalless and Wayne Rooney was caught in a melée between the ball and three Portugal players, and he appeared to accidentally stamp on Ricardo Carvalho's groin. Ronaldo urged the referee to take action, brandishing an imaginary red card. The red card was shown, however, what was more galling was that Ronaldo appeared to wink at the Portugal camp afterwards, which only enraged England fans even more.

This behaviour appeared bizarre giving that Ronaldo and Rooney were team-mates at Manchester United at the time. The English media castigated Ronaldo, and there were widespread doubts as to whether they would be able to play alongside each other in the future. However, the pair combined on the first day of the new season to help Manchester United thrash Fulham 5-1. Rooney even said later in his autobiography that he did not blame Ronaldo for the red card. Despite this, Ronaldo will never be forgiven by the vast majority of England fans for his antics.

Sebastian Murphy



Friend or foe? Dirty play from Ronaldo
Photography: Paolo Camera



Shuttlecock shame at the Olympics
Photography: Ian Patterson

JACK NICKLAUS

The 1969 Ryder Cup was one of the best and most closely fought contests in the history of the event, with 18 of the 32 matches being decided on the 18th green. It was on the final hole of the final match that the American Jack Nicklaus produced one of the greatest acts of sportsmanship in his match with Great Britain's Tony Jacklin.

With the tie locked at 15 ½ -15 ½, the result would decide the outcome of the contest. The pair were all square going up to the last hole, both narrowly missing their eagle putts that would have won the trophy.

Nicklaus held his nerve from 6 feet to ensure Jacklin had to hold his putt to tie the match. However, the American astonishingly picked up Jacklin's marker, conceding the missable putt and thus ended the contest as a draw. Despite being lauded by the world of sport, his captain, Sam Snead, described it as ridiculous and that the team "went over there to win, not to be good ol' boys". However, the act sparked a 40-year long friendship between the two who co-designed The Concession golf course, as well as setting the foundation of good sportsmanship the Ryder Cup has been built on ever since.

Jack MacKenzie



PAOLO DI CANIO

During his career, Di Canio was not always known for playing fair. He was once banned for a record 11 matches by the FA after pushing a referee to the ground while disputing being sent off during a game. However, in 2001 came a moment of sportsmanship so great that he won that years FIFA Fair Play Award.

Playing against Everton, their goalkeeper Paul Gerrard ran to the edge of his area to clear a loose ball, twisting his knee and ending up injured on the turf. The match continued and West Ham crossed the ball towards Di Canio, who could have easily shot into the unguarded net. Instead, he caught the ball and pointed to the injured keeper demanding he receive medical attention. The match finished as a 1-1 draw, but is remembered far more by both sets of fans for the honourable acts of an occasional footballing villain

James Docherty

BADMINTON

This summer's Olympics recently brought up the question of sportsmanship in an unusual fashion in the badminton. Chinese double partners Yu Yang and Wang Xioli were charged with deliberately playing badly in order to lose, so that they would not have to face their Chinese counterparts in the next round.

Both competitors, along with 8 others, were later disqualified for "conducting themselves in a manner that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the sport." This assertion was perhaps highlighted by the jeering London crowd who had evidently paid to watch some high quality badminton, but were instead subjected to a standard of play possibly matched in their local leisure centre on a Sunday afternoon.

One Chinese journalist on the other hand suggested this was simply 'smart strategy.' Could she have a point? In this case, the answer seems to be an undeniable no.

The Olympics should not be subject to such scheming. Yet it does raise the question. If an opportunity presents itself to 'bend' the rules a little without breaking them, where does this tactically astute 'bending' finish, and the disruptive 'breaking' of the rules begin?

Michael Slattery

MIROSLAV KLOSE

The wish to score can easily be overwhelming, especially to strikers. It can even be so overwhelming that they would go beyond the rules. However, there are some that resist that urge - Lazio striker Miroslav Klose seems to play by the motto: 'fairness first.'

In a recent Serie A match against SSC Naples, he admitted to the referee to have touched the ball with his hand before scoring a goal which would have given Lazio the lead; In the end, Klose and Lazio lost 3-0.

However, this was not his first act of fairness in league football: several years back, when playing for Werder Bremen in the German Bundesliga, he asked the referee to repeal a penalty in a match against Arminia Bielefeld, when, with the scores level, Klose and Arminia keeper Mathias Hain both went for the ball.

Klose fell and the referee awarded him a penalty, however the striker got up to tell the referee that there had been no foul and the penalty decision was revoked. There was a happy ending when Klose managed to score in the 87th minute in a 3-0 victory.

The true meaning of sportsmanship shone through his post match statement: "I don't want to win a match that way!"

Caroline Buenning

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Intra Mural Preview: Barca

The teams stake their ambitions for the season ahead, with sides resembling Crawley to Chelsea this season is sure to be a cracker



Division One

Barca-Law-Na

Barca-Law-Na had its most successful season last year with success both in the League and the Cup. With their goal scoring ability being their greatest asset and with an extremely stingy defence they are looking to emulate their success last year. There are many positive noises coming from the team with the intake of 10 new players, 3 of them being freshers', and words such as 'treble' being uttered ever so cautiously.

Team Comparison:

Manchester City - The deserved winners last year and the team to beat this year, many teams will be looking for this scalp though.
Oliver Ingram

Borussia Forsyth

Borussia Forsyth are one of the newly promoted teams to the division and are looking to mix it with the big boys this season. The injuries to their captain and vice captain will hold them back for the first couple of weeks, and may struggle to stay up.

Team Comparison:

Swansea City - One could see this comparison as an indication to their extremely attractive passing style. However this comparison is made purely because they play all in white.
Hugo Tapp

Crayola

After a decent season last year Crayola are looking forward to another season in Division 1. Hit by the losses of Daniel Rech, their top goalscorer, and Ben Storey, their keeper who made it in the Intramural XI last year, this season could represent quite a challenge. However with a strong turnout in trials Crayola are quietly confident about the coming season.

Team Comparison:

Fulham - The loss of key, influential players has been compensated with strong new signings.
Sam Turner

Dyslexic Untied

Dyslexic Untied, the longest running team in the League, endured another trophy-less season last year albeit making the final in the Cup, only to lose out to a rampant Barca-Law-Na side. Their 4th place finish in the league gives a strong base for new manager Jamie Hudson and Captain Chris 'Smithy' Smith to challenge for honours this season.

Team Comparison:

Arsenal - Similar playing style and similar recent 'success'. They will always be in the mix.
Jamie Hudson

Henderson Hall

For Henderson Hall FC, last year was unfortunately a story of "more of the same"; promise, talent, and some excellent results, but ultimately another trophy-less year. Finishing 3rd and 4th in the Division 1 leagues was accompanied by one good cup run which came to an end in the semi-finals, further compiling the misery on a team which has finished runners-up twice in the last three years.

Team Comparison:

Spurs - Good football, easy on the eye, and on their day can take on the best the University has to offer.
Adam Kaznowski

Newcastle Medics 1sts

After a comparatively baron season for the Medics 1sts compared to previous, with their only piece of silverware coming from winning the Saturday League, the Medics are looking to bounce back from their second place in the Wednesday league and disappointing cup run. With the recall of Nathan Campbell, Rishi Dhand and Joshua Davison from the Uni 1sts, a title challenge is likely.

Team Comparison:

Manchester United - A very strong, dangerous team and should never be written off.
Ben Emmerson

Newcastle Medics 2nds

After a fantastic season last year, which culminated in finishing as champions of Division 2 after an unbeaten season, winning the Saturday Cup and the coveted NAMS title, they have also been named the best medical football team in the UK and Ireland. They are looking to mix things up this year and are aiming for the top of the table, and many are expecting a tasty grudge match against the 1sts.

Team Comparison:

Chelsea - After a successful season last season they have the ability to bring their 'A game' when it truly matters plus strong new signings.
Neil Dalton



Division Two

Aftermath

Aftermath are looking to put a dismal season behind them and the injection of nine new players, six of them being freshers, will hopefully go some way to blowing away the cobwebs. The early signs are certainly positive as shown by a convincing 8-0 victory in pre season.

Team Comparison:

Blackburn Rovers - Under new management after relegation and looking to gain promotion at the first attempt.
Robert Shelton

Boca Seniors

After a relatively uninspiring season, Boca Seniors are looking up. This year they are looking to finish higher up the table and this will be aided by taking on 6 freshers in their trials to brighten up the squad. Confidence is certainly high in the team who are looking to cause real problems for teams in Division 2.

Team Comparison:

Cardiff City - A very competitive team but financially they are all in the red…
Charlie Rowley

Castle Leazes FC

After the disappointment of relegation last season Castle Leazes FC are looking to bounce straight back up this year. This certainly looks attainable with the core of the squad remaining intact from last season and the injection of new blood after successful trials.

Team Comparison:

Birmingham City - Looking at promotion yet they may regret this comparison. *Alex Jones*

Ecosoccer

After a disappointing end to last season, Tom Warren's blue army finished sixth in Division 2. Hopefully for them the lessons have been learnt, and they are looking to play football the right way. This will be helped following lucrative trials making this team look very competitive.

Team Comparison:

Brighton - A great start to the season however complacency set in meaning a slide down the table. They are very proud of their slick passing football.
Tom Warren

Lokomotiv

After finishing third last season and narrowly missing out on promotion, Lokomotiv are hoping for a successful season with promotion and a decent cup run definitely on the cards.

Team Comparison:

Blackpool - A high scoring team with a good style of play, narrowly missing out on promotion last season, they're definitely contenders.
Sam Turnock

The Hurricanes

After a disappointing Hurricanes campaign the previous season, the perennial under-achievers have set their sights firmly on a league title. With just six players remaining on the books, the Hurricanes are fielding an almost brand new team led by captain Adam Duckworth.

Team Comparison:

Leeds United - A predominantly Yorkshire team and the sleeping giants of Division 2, where a pint of smooth and a meat and potato pie is compulsory after every game. *Adam Duckworth*

adjudged to repeat triumph



Barca-Law-Na celebrating last year's triumph. Photography: Hubert

Roman Villa FC

Having run away with the Division 3 title last year, the Villains are looking to push on with a second promotion in as many seasons. Solid rather than stylish, Villa are incredibly strong defensively, conceding only 7 goals in 13 games last season and will use this as a springboard for splitting teams apart on the break.

Team Comparison:

Southampton - Looking for consecutuve promotions in as many seasons, Villa are gonna be in the running late into the season.
Jack Meyrick

Division Three

Bio Neverlosen

Despite Bio Neverlosen making their debut this season, hopes are high of a strong finish with a promotion challenge expected. The team is yet to gel together properly but with hard work on the training field, Captain Luke Smith is expecting steady improvement as the season commences.

Team Comparison:

Tranmere Rovers - Thoroughly disorganised, some good players with a lot of terrible ones.
Luke Smith

Brown Magic FC

Brown Magic find themselves in an unfortunate situation at the start of the season. With all but three of last season's squad remaining, the team has had to recruit many second and third year students, many who have played for other teams that have disbanded. The aim is to avoid relegation yet this team is a relatively unknown quantity and could cause problems this season.

Team Comparison:

Portsmouth - A healthy injection of new players comparable to the South coast club.
Matt Brown

Jesmondino FC

Describing themselves as: "one of the best teams in the worst league", it is clear to see that they see themselves as a team with great potential and are looking to improve on their sixth place finish from last season. With accusations of fraudulent activitiy, broken legs, point deductions and the buying out of other teams, it should be no surprise that they are seen as the bad boys of Division 3.

Team Comparison:

Wimbledon - The Crazy Gang ... this needs no explanation.
James Rumball

Multiple Scorgasms

The Scorgasms are looking to climb the ladder and move up a division as quickly as possible. Promotion however might be a tough ask in a strong division and Declan Ferry's side will rely heavily on Hugh Grovenor to get the goals and push them up the table. The Scorgasms remain positive and always like to keep the ball on the deck.

Team Comparison:

Leyton Orient - Play a nice brand of football however, like the O's, pushing for the title might be a step too far.
Declan Ferry

Newcastle Dynamos

After a decent but unspectacular season last year, the Newcastle Dynamos will be looking to do much better with their sights firmly set on a top three finish.

Team Comparison:

Preston North End - Sometimes they turn up and are utterly useless and other times they play like they should win the league. They also play in their kit.
Neal Lees

Newhist FC

Despite relegation in their debut season last year, there is plenty of cause for optimism this season. A good core of players remain who have learnt from last seasons tribulations and are eager to chase promotion this time around. If last year's players can gel with this year's promising recruits then they may be in the mix come the end of the season.

Team Comparison:

Doncaster Rovers - Struggled last year to compete against teams with higher budgets but feel they will be stronger this year in a lower division.
James Thornton

Politic Thistle FC

Owen Elias' men were very unlucky not to make the Second Division after being pipped at the post by Roman Villa. They were also knocked out of the cup at the quarter final stage on penalties by First Division side Aftermath, making them firm favourites for the Third Division title.

Team Comparison:

Sheffield United - One of the the giants of the division, getting the title is a requirement not an aspiration.

Additional Reporting by Sports Editor Ralph Blackburn and Online Sports Editor Jack Gelsthorpe

Division Four

Bayern Toonich

This new look club has many ambitions this season competing in four competitions, including two cups. Not short of ambition and enthusiasm, they have their eyes firmly set on promotion.

Team Comparison:

Exeter City - A small club not without ambition and drive.
Johnny Armour

Crystal Phallus

As a team making their debut in the intramural leagues, Crystal Phallus have the lofty ambitions of not finishing bottom. They are looking to have a solid finish in the table and a decent cup run.

Team Comparison:

Fleetwood Town - For their gravitas, panache and the fact that no one really cares about them.
Ryan Sewell

The Establishment

The Establishment are a new team and therefore relative unknowns. Expect a few surprises from this team. They're looking to upset the odds with a strong run in the cup.

Team Comparison:

Gillingham - They are expecting a strong start to the season, much like Gillingham's early season form.
Xander Fraser

Geomatrics

Geomatrics are taking each game as it comes in their first season of Intra Mural football for ten years. Whilst many of the players have not played together for a while, improved fitness and time on the training pitch will be key to propelling them up the table with an Everton-esque late season surge hoped for.

Team Comparison:

Accrington Stanley - After only recently making it back to the league, new investment is hoped to propel them to promotion.
Christopher Holland

Sub Standard Liege

A fluid, attacking side, boasting a range of dangerous offensive players, match controlling midfielders and no nonsense defenders. Liege are new to the league this year but have high hopes of promotion. After the 9-1 demolition of Crystal Phallus on Sunday 7th October, squad morale is extremely high.

Team Comparison:

Port Vale - Looking to get up the table quickly after a good pre-season.
Jordan Mundy-Gill

Thundercats

A new team yet not without intramural experience with many players coming from other teams. Their division does not underlie their skill and experience. However, whilst they are a team of great individuals, their ability as a team is yet to be seen.

Team Comparison:

Crawley Town - Swiping players from other teams as well as an expectation for promotion this year.
Steven Gold

Trigger Happy

A new team who are aiming for mid table, however with a player who once sat on the bench for Accrington Stanley in a league cup match anything can happen. If the team gels then mid table is very attainable but the first few weeks will be crucial.

Team Comparison:

Bradford -A team full of individuals who need to gel, yet if they do they should be fine.
James Wright

INTRA MURAL WEEK 1:

Division 1

Medics 1s 8 - 1 Crayola-Henderson 4 - 1 Dyslexic
Borussia 0 - 10 Medics 2s

Upcoming Fixtures:

Barca-Law-Na vs Crayola
Dyslexic vs Medics 2s
Medics 1s vs Hendo Hall

Division 2

Leazes 1 - 2 Hurricanes
Boca Snrs 2 - 6 Roman V
Ecosoc 4 - 2 Lokomotiv

Upcoming Fixtures:

Boca S vs Aftermath
Ecosoccer vs Hurricanes
Roman V vs Lokomotiv

Division 3

Scorgasms 2 - 3 Politic T
Newhist 4 - 0 Bio Never
Jesmond 2 - 2 Dynamos

Upcoming Fixtures:

Brown Magic vs Bio Never
Jesmondino vs Scorgasms
Newhist FC vs Dynamos

Division 4

Crystal 0 - 9 Thundercats
Establish 4 - 0 Trigger

Upcoming Fixtures:

Bayern Toon vs Thunder
Dyslexic vs Geomatrics
Crystal P vs Trigger Happy

HITCH 2013

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Twitter bet lands Winter in cold Tyne waters

By **Nick Gabriel**
Sports Editor

Last Sunday, Daily Telegraph sports writer Henry Winter donned his wetsuit and took to the chilly waters of the Tyne in order to honour a bet he made regarding the long-term future of Newcastle United boss Alan Pardew.

Back in 2010, such was the uncertainty that surrounded the club at the time, few people foresaw Pardew's tenure as manager being as successful as it is.

One of the skeptics included renowned journalist Winter, who took to Twitter to make the bold pronouncement that if Pardew were to see out his contract, he would swim the width of the Tyne.

As such, following owner Mike Ashley's recent decision to reward Pardew with a new 8-year deal, Winter opted to honour his side of the wager.

Accompanied by professional swimmer Tony Greener, he swam from the pontoon at the base of the Tyne Bridge to the HMS Calliope on the Gateshead bank.

"The first part was an absolute doddle," Winter exclaimed after completing the swim. "I was thinking I could do this all day.

"But then, two thirds of the way in, the river really starts to wear you down. It felt like I was in the fast lane of the motorway. Fortunately, I had Tony by my side who was just about able to guide me through to the end."

The swim was also used as a way of raising money for the Bobby Robson Foundation, a cancer research charity, set up by the former Newcastle and England manager a year before his death in 2009.

Regarding the subject of the cause, Winter noted: "It's great to support such a worthy foundation.

"One of the reasons that the swim has been able to go ahead is due to the way in which the great man is held in such high reverence across the North East."

On completing the swim, Winter was presented with a personal letter from Pardew himself.

The letter read: "Henry, you're a man of your word and I like that. Congratulations! I can't imagine how cold it was in the Tyne today, but rest assured we will give you a warm welcome when you arrive at the stadium later.

"Once more, well done for raising money for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. It's a superb charity that's close to all our hearts at Newcastle United."

On the subject of future predictions, Winter went on to joke: "I think if I have a slight dig at another manager, it'd have to be at a club like Peterborough, which only has a very small canal running through its city centre."



Chuffed: Winter poses with his celebratory towel upon completing the swim
Photography: Christy Clemence

Fury surrounds 'loan shark' sponsorship

continued from page 48

Forbes continued: "It's a sad indictment of the profit at any price culture at Newcastle United."

MP for Wansbeck Ian Lavery, who is a Newcastle season ticket holder, stated he would now not set foot in the stadium.

Political pressure mounted with Newcastle Central MP Chi Onwurah saying: "I had hoped that Wonga would stay away from St James' Park. This would be like Ba saying 'get a payday loan.'"

Regarding Wonga's staggering £54 million profit, Onwurah said: "It's not the sort of economic growth we need in Britain given the debt and misery these companies are causing to many."

This issue is particularly prevalent in the North East, which has a higher personal bankruptcy rate than any other part of the country.

Lee Manning, President of the R3, a national membership body of insolvency professionals, said: "Wonga has chosen to target a region that has comparatively high numbers of people experiencing financial difficulty." In fact, 70% of the North East say they are worried about their current level of debt.

Newcastle Manager Alan Pardew sidestepped questions on the deal. He said he was "not a businessman" but did explain he was pleased with "the decision to bring back the St James' Park name. The finance that it gives me directly helps me with the first team."

Pardew however may have to worry about certain members of his first team.

The Muslim Council of Britain has cautioned Newcastle's Muslim players that they could be breaking Sharia Law if the wear Wonga adorned shirts. Stars such as Hatem Ben Artfa, Demba Ba and Papiss Demba Cissé may boycott the sponsor as Freddy Kanouté did at Sevilla by wearing an unbranded shirt.

Newcastle's new deal with Wonga is hardly the first morally questionable business decision the game has taken. Manchester City's owner's are members of the United Arab Emirates government that bans homosexuality and legalises large scale exploitation of foreign nationals as domestic workers.

Stoke City is owned and sponsored by Bet365, an online gambling company, similar to former Sevilla sponsor 888.com whilst Barcelona, a football team which has often been seen as morally incorruptible, recently ended their agreement to donate €1.5 million per year to the charity Unicef whilst wearing them on their shirts . The humanitarian charity was replace by the Qatar Foundation in a record breaking five-year €150 million deal.

However, the contract agreed with Wonga is a vast improvement financially on the previous sponsorship deal with Virgin Money.

Whilst Newcastle added only one senior player to their squad during the summer transfer window, rivals spent millions bringing in new talent.

Money from the Wonga deal could improve the Newcastle squad dramatically but the price they may pay is the tainted association with a company known for profiting from people in difficult financial circumstances.



St. James' Park may have its old name back, but some fans are fuming
Photo: George Sandeman

Kennedy upbeat about Uni fortunes



The Men's Hockey 1st team are another success story of the Kennedy era

continued from page 48

"Everyone is raising the bar, we ended last year with over 300 more points than when we finished in the exact same position in the 2007/2008 season, which just shows every top sports university is putting the work in, not just us. We have to constantly up our game."

An example of the university meeting the increased expectations of students with regards to sport has been the Elite Athlete Squad, an organisation specifically for up to 20 high performance athletes excelling in their chosen sport.

"Each athlete gets a sports mentor alongside an academic tutor in order to maintain the perfect balance between their academic studies and sport. It makes it easy as possible for them to be at their best in all areas," said Kennedy.

He continued: "All athletes receive a support mechanism package so that they go into the programme learning about sports physiology, nutrition, psychology, injury prevention and lifestyle management. They also receive a full medical and physiotherapy screening by Lynn Booth, a Team GB physiotherapist."

With such dedication to their best athletes, Team Newcastle are well set up to build upon their successful season last year, that saw nine trophy finals, six winners medals and an unprecedented fifth consecutive Stan Calvert victory.

In response to asking whether Newcastle can continue their winning streak in the annual Varsity match-up and reach a record–breaking sixth win, Kennedy said: "I am never confident, as on paper Northumbria should beat us every time."

Yet, with such ambition and a committed group of coaching staff working alongside him, Kennedy's reservations will hopefully be swept away.

Volleyball team will be digging for victory

By **Jess Short**

The Newcastle University Volleyball Club (NUVC) has had a surplus of new members this year, which promises a successful year for all teams. Last year the women's first team placed 3rd in the BUCS league in their division behind Northumbria and York.

Although this was a positive result, the team will be looking to better it this year with new players that have already improved the team and, with a fresh, motivating coach, the team aims to place well in BUCS and strives to advance to the next division.

The men's first team had a great season last year topping the BUCS league and placing 8th in the Student Ctup, but due to injuries and having members in their final year of their degree, key players were lost. This led to a loss in a critical match against Durham University, which allowed Durham to finish first in the league on points difference.

Ahmad Al-Shafai (Men's captain) states: "Like every year in the team, most of the players from last year left, so our goal this year is to reformulate a strong core team with new players. We will start the season slow and hopefully build up our pace to top the league and maintain the position to get promoted for next year".

Whilst the men's team are not intending on joining the Student Cup this season, the women's team are determined to qualify. For the first time in a few years there has been a large number of beginners joining the Club, all eager to learn and be part of NUVC. This ensures that the Club will have strong second teams in the upcoming season and they show promise of a great finish in the local league.

In the past, the team has bonded over weekly socials which are still occurring and will continue for the duration of the year. Overall, it's looking to be an enjoyable and successful season for NUVC.



NUVC Men's in action
Photography: NUVC

Intra Mural Rugby set for schedule change

By **Ted Bunn**

The biggest change to come about in this year's Intra Mural rugby league is that all games will now be played on a Saturday afternoon, rather than Wednesdays. The plan is to bolster the University's BUCS teams mid-week, but it is debatable as to how much it will affect the league, the main difference being there will be more hangovers after a Friday night sweating in the Den or Riverside.

The favourites for this year's competitions are again last year's Cup and League Champions, Armstrong, who come into this year looking to push on from the previous year of dominance. However, after losing some key players and big boys like 'Caz' in the center and Charlie Rose at 10, they might struggle to impose themselves like last year, however with the big Hugo Snape and Olly Bishop, they are still this year's team to beat.

Their biggest rivals are the Titans, who like Armstrong have lost key players but remain a threat nonetheless with Chris Arundel skippering this year's side. Known to bring a big defence to the small Close House pitches, it makes them one of the favourites this year.

One of the teams most affected by the switch to a Saturday are the Agrics, as a lot of the lads have to run off home to do their milking at the weekends. Despite having a smaller than usual pack, the Agric 1s look promising again with a large in take of freshers, but the Agrics 2s may struggle after a record breaking season last year, due to the new changes. Yet, with big Fraser 'The Bear' Johnson smashing it up in the row, watch out for a big upset throughout the year.

After a disappointing season for both the Larrikins and the Cheeky Ladies, both teams will be looking to improve. However, because of the Cheekies' reputation, they have a large intake of freshers, an advantage over their counter-parts making them this year's dark horse.

The remaining teams are those affiliated with specific courses, the Law Blacks, Medics and Engines. Despite having good sides they will struggle to compete with the top end sides like the Titans and Armstrong. Yet, traditionally the Engineers are one of the stronger teams and have a knack of winning key games. The Medics are likely to struggle due to their domestic league commitments on the same day and without the fresher's team in this years competition they seem most likely to take this years wooden spoon.

This year may be affected by the scheduling changes, and when this is added to the loss of many of the leagues key players, it may seem to suggest a fall in standard. However, the influx of new players looks promising and the competition will be a close run affair, meaning this year should be a cracker.



Armstrong celebrating last year's cup victory
Photography: Jonathan Dale

Come one, come Netball: Intra Mural League set for most popular season

By **Jo Murnane**

The Intra-Mural netball season has begun. With 32 teams competing in two leagues, the competition is going to be exciting and dramatic. Last year's winners, Ladies' Hockey and The Agrics, playing on Tuesday and Saturday respectively, will be searching for glory again no doubt. Meanwhile, new teams like Mathletes and Blue Lightning will hope to be in the running come the end of the season.

The league structure is simple: each team is placed in a group of eight, where they will play each other twice in a league format. After the league fixtures, the top four teams from both divisions qualify for the knock-out rounds. The team that wins overall will find themselves with a place in the Intra-Mural Hall of Fame. The shortened matches of 25 minutes mean that teams will have to demonstrate speed, agility and seamless skill on their way to victory. Netball talent at the university is great this year, so we hope to see some testing and exciting matches between the teams, old and new.

Sarah Todd, organiser of the IM netball leagues, also has high hopes for the season: "As predicted this year, the Intra-Mural netball leagues have proved very popular: all the leagues are full, as are the squads, which is a true testament to how popular netball is here at the University. The first fixtures have been played and the standard yet again is very high which hopefully give us a very exciting, competitive season!"

So, if you're not involved in a team, be ready to hear about great games and competitive leagues over the coming year!



NUNC celebrate success
Photography: NUNC

Owls turn heads with emphatic Durham win

Rugby League Mens

Newcastle 2nds	24
Durham 1sts	0

By **George Clarke**

The glossy, new-look Owls, 2nd XIII, looked chic and flamboyant at Fortress Cochrane by embarrassing the Durham Drongos 24-0.

Many freshers graced the hallowed turf of Cochrane Park for the first time and they were lead by elder statesmen such as Sam Flowers, captain George Clarke and Nial Hanratty, who filled the gigantic void left by the currently AWOL prop Andy Lenski. Great organisation from Jim Walker and Tom Schofield in the halves helped NURL to get a roll on and letting fresher Matt O'Neill go over from just 0.0065 inches out.

NURL prop forward Conor Ellison missed the conversion from under the sticks, which caused much disappointment to the adoring NURL support Minutes later, Ellison was in the thick of it, going toe-to-toe with one of Durham's wingers in what can only be described as the poshest brawl in the history of Rugby League. Ellison was saved the embarrassment of being knocked out thanks to Frank "The Tank" Bagley pacifying the irate Durham pack only for Ellison to then be sin-binned for a terrible punching technique.

With the NURL defence being tested to breaking point, Dean 'Nice Guy' Noble helped open the gap, as he crossed over for the Owls just before half-time. Plentiful bench changes were made with freshers Max Emmott, Harry Mason and Matt Fry impressing with solid carries and hard work. Complimenting them was full-back Flowers putting Steve Janey through for a try, which was quickly followed by Sam Rhodes crossing over for his first score in the Royal Blue of the Owls.

With the game nearly tied up, Flowers came close to his first of the season but was denied by a valiant Durham player. The game was then sealed by second row Clarke, who crossed and then converted to give NURL a deserved 24-0 victory.

The 2nd XIII go to Northumbria next week with every chance of coming away with the 2 points against their arch rivals.

Royals and Owls ready to tackle season ahead

As the season gets under way Christopher Griffiths and Ted Bunn provide a preview of the season to come for the Rugby League and Union boys

Rugby League

The AU's most beloved roll into the 2012/2013 season with a newly appointed coach, international league star Chris Parker, and with a heap of talented freshers to further add to the most successful club in the University's history.

Last year will be difficult to top for the 1st team, winning the league, their Stan Calvert bash up and narrowly missing out on a BUCS final appearance after star halfback Griffiths broke his collar bone (and nose probably) with just minutes gone in the game against Loughborough.

Old crowd favourites and socialites Dave Knox, Micky Ward and Andrew Beanz are now part of the furniture and will be looking to go out with a bang in their final season with the club. Jack English finally did something useful for NURL over the summer and persuaded a good looking Matthew Woods to come and offer his services to NURL. A hooker or halfback, he's one to watch, also looks to be a good goal kicker after only just missing in front of the posts against Sheffield in a pre-season friendly. Daniel Capman is looking in peak condition at last and is registering 20 seconds flat over 100m, another man to keep your eye on both on and off the pitch.

The second string outfit have room for improvement on last year and improvement is inevitable with no nonsense Neil Hanratty returning to the pack. Ryan Fletcher returns from a year in Somalia, he is the final piece in the NURL-Garforth jigsaw as are fellow ugly men Josh 'BishBashBosh' Cranage and Zeus-esque Andreas Mehmeti.

Gorgeous George will be captaining the second team after impressive displays in pre-season training. Ginger Jack was due to make his debut for the 2s this coming Wednesday however a unfortunate incident with a double decker bus left him with no option but to sit out.

NURL are looking in better shape than ever, minus a few, and will undoubtedly be looking for a team and club of the year nomination come the end of the season as well as two league victories and successful cup runs.

They will be guided by arguably the most handsome committee across the AU with the likes of 'blonde' haired,t blue eyed Marty Jones overseeing finance, rugged preppy George Matthew and Big Jon Watts in charge of administration. To add to that Harry Rigby and Dan Capaross will be in charge of the impossible task of choosing which girls have the pleasure of a social with us come Wednesday night.

Finally Chris Griffiths and last years Man of Bash 'Our lal Mylsey' front up the Presidency dealing with anything from laundry to players personal issues.



The Death Machine in action last year
Photography: Clare Deal



The Royals battling for a line out last season
Photography: Turlough Donnelly

Rugby Union Mens

Leeds Met	27
Newcastle	22

By **Ted Bunn**

The Royals lost their opening BUCS match of the new season after a tight game against Leeds Metropolitan, last Wednesday afternoon.

Despite a man of the match performance from 1st year Ryan Goe, the first half saw Newcastle let themselves down via an array of mistakes that Leeds capitalised on. Leeds crossed for three first half tries, the last of which was agonisingly on the stroke of half time, leaving the Royals trailing 17-3, with Crosbie scoring the visitors' only points.

After half time, Newcastle started well as substitute Burn sniffed out a gap and crossed for a try from a quick tap, making it 17-10 after Crosbie added the conversion. Then Newcastle turned up the pressure by scoring a well worked try at the line out, with the leaping salmon Fraser Wrem going over. Another brilliant team score by the openside flanker George Burnie put Newcastle ahead for the first time in the game. However, two late tries by Leeds using the home turf to their advantage thwarted any hopes of a first league win.

The forty Geordies will have to wait until next week when they host the Poly for the first time this season in a game that is not to be missed.

Rugby Union

The Uni boys start the year with a mixed bag of a pre-season, losing to lower league Manchester Uni but emerging convincing winners over Edinburgh two weeks later. The loss of key players to graduation and local sides has lead to the need for an injection of youth.

This new season is an exciting one for the club and it is all about change. Despite the dodgy lids and suspicious tans, the boys are really pushing for an exciting brand of rugby, using pace and width to see away the likes of The Poly this year.

The club as whole has taken a step forward with Director of Rugby Tom Wilkinson really starting to bolster all aspects of rugby. The use of the new Strength and Conditioning room has resulted in painfully early sessions for the players. This, combined with improvements in coaching and more contact time, has added to the club's prospects and prowess.

The 1s may have arguably lost some of their size up front but a strong core remains, particularly in the backs with skipper Joe Beckett and club captain Jonny Neville. However, it has given the chance for boys to come up through the ranks to represent our 1s, particularly Michael Ogunjobi, the big second year, who loves to smash the opposition in and the shaven George Burnie at openside.

Not only does this year look good for the First team but also for the rest of the teams, as the 2s and 3s once again compete in the same league and the 4s team looks just as strong after the decision not to enter an Intra Mural freshers side this year.

With the likes of Eddy O'Hare banging the drum for the 2s and our very own Andy Goode in Jack Cook, the boys look good for the up-coming season.

However, with a competitive league for the 1s, it'll be a tough test but it'll show how far the boys have come since last year.

Yet, all in all, this is an exciting year for our rugby boys and one that we can't wait for.

Death Machine smash sorry Scousers for seventy

Rugby League Mens

Newcastle 1sts	74
Liverpool JM 1sts	0

By **Chris Griffiths**
at Cochrane Park

It was a sunny Wednesday afternoon at Fortress Cochrane, and NURL 1st XIII took no prisoners defeating the scouse outfit LJMU 76-0.

Debuts were handed out to Greek import Andreas Mehmeti who worked tirelessly in the middle to grind down a not-so-fearsome LJMU pack.

Also, making their debuts were Tom Whalley and Dan Shortman, who both made a fine contribution to the impressive score line. A well-groomed Matt Woods also pulled on a NURL jersey for the first time making more of an impact than fellow housemate Jack English has done for two years at the club.

As the ever-present female faction watched on, NURL did not waste time in getting their season up and running. NURL's third best dentist and man of the match Michael Ward registered 4 tries along with a fluked conversion, and Daniel Capaross Midwood failed to score for the 112th game running.

To mention every scorer wouldn't make for easy reading, but a special mention must go to Josh 'Cran the Man' Cranage for try of the game, and, arguably, an early contender for try of the season.

A clever scoot from no less than one metre out saw Josh bish his way over in textbook hooker fashion. Conversions were in free flow with Griffiths missing the odd one here and there, and prop Jonny Watts maintaining his 100% kicking record in NURL colours.

An outstanding opening fixture for the AU's most beloved club, but an away fixture to Leeds Met next Wednesday will separate the Herberts from the Hanrattys in a NURL side that, so far this season, cannot be questioned in anyway shape or form.

Wednesday 17 October
Venue: Heaton Sports Ground
Newcastle v The Poly

BUCS RESULTS:

Rugby U Mens 2nds 34 v 14 Sheffield Hallam 2nds
Rugby U Mens 3rds 33 v 22 Sheffield Uni 2nds
Rugby U Mens 4ths 15 v 13 Leeds University 4ths

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The Perfect Ten: Team Newcastle set for another successful year



Unbeatable: Women's Rugby is just one of the many recent success stories

By **Lucy Williams**
Sports Editor

As another year commences at the university, Team Newcastle are hoping to build upon their success from last year, which elevated them back into tenth place out of 150 institutions in the British Universities and College Sport (BUCS) rankings.

With an impressive final points total of 1952.8, Newcastle have re-established themselves as a university of sporting excellence as well as academic prowess.

After a disappointing slump to fifteenth place the previous year, it is a credit to all the sporting staff, coaches and teams that Newcastle were able to excel and reach such a high standard once again.

One such member of staff is the Performance Sport manager, Fraser Kennedy, who, in his own words: "Lives and breathes Newcastle University sport".

Joining the University in 2005, Kennedy started out in the newly created managerial position with Newcastle sitting at nineteenth in the BUCS table and they have progressed a great deal since then. "We have all worked so hard over the last seven years to get to where we are today.

"As one of only three institutions in the BUCS ranking not offering a sports degree, we are punching above our weight to be placed in tenth position overall," Kennedy said. Newcastle are surrounded by esteemed company in the top ten places.

To be alongside six other Russell group institutions, and other sporting elite universities, such as Loughborough, is an outstanding achievement for the University.

Newcastle have consistently been ranked in the top 15 of the BUCS league for the past six years, but to maintain their place in the top ten would fulfil the university's aim of always wanting to be up there with the best that there is.

Fraser Kennedy, who, in his own words: "Lives and breathes Newcastle University sport"

Kennedy continued: "Universities such as Cambridge, Leeds and Northumbria are not in those ten places, so for Newcastle to be there is a massive pull for prospective students, especially if you look at Northumbria who have 1,000 undergraduates studying a sports based degree and invest much more money in to sport. In comparison to them, it really is night and day.

"When we consider this comparison with Northumbria, it places Newcastle's success into perspective. It is indicative of the increased professionalism and passion of all those involved in the sports department, which clearly outweighs the larger sums of money that Northumbria have available to them."

Lack of investment has caused some problems though, and last year there were many concerns voiced over the capacity of the sports centre to deal with the expanding Athletic Union.

Nevertheless, Kennedy insists work is always being done to improve facilities: "All the money the sports centre generates through memberships is recycled and put back into its development."

The new £300,000 high performance strength conditioning room epitomises the drive and commitment to improve the sporting facilities that Newcastle University has to offer.

The state-of-the-art room will provide the ideal environment for the teams to train in with the some of the best equipment, such as £18,000 worth of dumbbells, Olympic bars and plates, and a functional trainer machine.

"I am very pleased with the room. We have worked very hard in getting the design right. We are trying to create a professional environment as much as possible within the boundaries of higher education."

Kennedy is keen to not become complacent and allow the development to stagnate: "We are always looking to improve the facilities.

"We have invested in new developments at Cochrane Park and we desperately need a new sports hall and artificial pitch, so I am always working towards that."

"With the aspect of rising student fees coming into play, students are rightly expecting more from their university experience, and so sport has become a crucial part of the University's profile.

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SPORTSMANSHIP: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY P.40-41



Photography: Caliban

Morally Wonga

Ba and Cisse may threaten boycott over club's new sponsorship deal

By **Ralph Blackburn**
Sports Editor

MPs from Newcastle and the surrounding area have called out Newcastle United over their new sponsorship deal with 'legal loan shark' company Wonga.

Newcastle's cohort of Muslim players, that include Hatem Ben Arfa and Demba Ba, could boycott the sponsor by wearing shirts without Wonga on the front because of their religious beliefs outlined in Sharia Law.

Last week, Managing Director Dennis Llambias announced a four year contract had been agreed with Wonga worth £24 million.

Llambias stated: "Wonga's desire to help us invest in our young playing talent, the local community and new fan initiatives really impressed us." Wonga has guaranteed a minimum of £1.5 million to be invested in the football academy and the club's charitable foundation.

In a move that will doubtless be popular amongst fans, Wonga announced it had bought the stadium naming rights and would be reinstating the traditional St. James' Park name. This follows the controversial change of the stadium's name to the Sports Direct Arena less than a year ago.

It is thought to be an attempt of getting fans onside in spite of Wonga's polarising public perception. It is has been labelled a 'legal loan shark' due to its business of giving out short term loans at a comparatively high APR of 4,214%.

Nick Forbes, Newcastle City Council leader, opposes the deal strongly saying: "I'm appalled and sickened they would sign a deal with a legal loan shark."

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