

# theboar

*Driving the vehicles of knowledge into the pedestrians of your mind*



fb.com/warwickboar



twitter.com/warwickboar

Wednesday 21st October, 2015

Est. 1973 | Volume 38 | Issue 2

## Two Warwick students hit by cars on campus this week



## INSIDE: Black History Month Special

### Features

The Warwick Rowers: uncovered  
Page 13

### Lifestyle

Don't touch my f\*cking 'fro  
Page 14

### Science & Tech

The 2015 Nobel Prize  
Page 28

### Games & Sport

Can professional gaming  
be a sport?  
Page 37

## TeachFirst

To book your place, sign up via our website:  
[teachfirst.org.uk/graduates](http://teachfirst.org.uk/graduates)



Toib Olomowewe  
Teaches: Business Studies

Registered charity: 1098294

**EMPLOYER  
PRESENTATION**  
**2 NOVEMBER | 6:30PM**  
**ROOTES BUILDING**

Sponsored by:



J.P.Morgan



accenture

warwick  
arts centre



# Editors' Picks

## Black History Month Pullout (p. 16-17)

This issue is jam packed with some fantastic content and really interesting news. However, my pick for this issue is the Black History Month pullout and coverage over the past few weeks. There has been a lot of conversation about the relevance of BHM, and whether it is still necessary in the modern university landscape. We are proud to support the work that has been done featuring everything from Akala to panel debates based around the idea of ethnic empowerment. Special thanks go to Amber Lascelles, Nia-Cerise Conteh and Mems Ayinla for their continued support.

Hiran Adhia

## Adblockers Science & Tech (p.29)

An article that really grabbed me in this issue was 'Adblocker: harmless timesaver or content killer?' in our Science & Tech section. We're constantly bombarded by adverts on-line, and I have always thought of adblocks as a life-saver, but the article raises the very interesting question of whether or not it is in our collective interest to use them.

Bethan McGrath



What were your favourite stories from this issue?

Tweet: @WarwickBoar  
#BoarPicks

## E-sports? Games & Sport (p. 37)

If you think you know where gaming ends and sport begins, prepare to think again when you read this week's collab between Games and Sport. Games writer Willem Garnier argues that the global scale competitive gaming has reached makes it a genuine contender to traditional sport, while Sport's Sam Nugent takes the position that virtual competition can only ever be a poor imitation of the 'real' physical contest. It's made me think about how we make distinctions between a 'sport' and a 'game', and even question whether reality and its virtual representation have merged into the same thing...

Jake Mier

## Iceland in pictures Travel (p. 27)

As always there's a whole wealth of journalistic goodness in this week's paper, but the one that really caught my eye was Tessa Schiller's piece about Iceland in the Travel section. I had no idea anyone even lived there, let alone the small island being host to things like roads and buildings and acceptance of homosexuality. Apparently it's all been buzzing up there for quite some time – I've definitely been missing out! And if, like me, you don't even know what Iceland even looks like, there're some great photos; the one of the glacier in particular melted even my icy, cold heart.

Sam Evans



**Editor-in-Chief**  
editor@theboar.org

Hiran Adhia

**Deputy Editors-in-Chief**  
commuincations@theboar.org

Sam Evans  
Bethan McGrath  
Jacob Mier

**Sub-editors**  
subeditor@theboar.org

Hannah Campling  
Halimah Manan

**Director of Business**  
business@theboar.org

Harshini Singh

**Head of Sales**  
sales@theboar.org

Lauren Garvey &  
Pim Pearce

**Head of Marketing**  
marketing@theboar.org

Iris Du

**Head of Distribution**  
logistics@theboar.org

Simran Thakral

**Head of Apps**  
apps@theboar.org

Kate Mant

**NEWS**  
news@theboar.org

**COMMENT**  
comment@theboar.org

**FEATURES**  
features@theboar.org

**LIFESTYLE**  
lifestyle@theboar.org

**FINANCE**  
finance@theboar.org

**ARTS**  
arts@theboar.org

**BOOKS**  
books@theboar.org

**Connor O'Shea &  
Arthi Nachiappan**  
Joe Lester  
Matt Barker  
Alex Ball  
Lily Pickard

**Nour Rose Chehab**

**Blessing Mukosha Park**

**Elizabeth Pugsley**

**Alexander Shaw**

**Sophie Dudhill**

**Lucy Skoulding**

**FILM**  
film@theboar.org

**GAMES**  
games@theboar.org

**MUSIC**  
music@theboar.org

**TV**  
tv@theboar.org

**SCIENCE & TECH**  
science@theboar.org

**TRAVEL**  
travel@theboar.org

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
photography@theboar.org

**SPORT**  
sport@theboar.org

**Kambole Campbell**  
Tom Hemingway

**Ali Jones**

**Stephen Paul &  
Jess Mason**  
Ollie Ship

**Carmella Lowkis**

**Selina-Jane Spencer**  
John Butler

**Jack Prevezer**

**Shruti Dayal**

**Shingi Mararike**



## WE WANT YOU!

To write for your student paper

Email the section editors above if  
you want to write for the paper

**Get in touch:**

SUHQ, Floor Two  
University of Warwick  
University Road  
Coventry  
CV4 7AL

communications@theboar.org



theboar is the University of Warwick's  
editorially independent student  
newspaper produced entirely by and for  
students.



theboar is printed on 100% recycled paper  
Leave your paper for someone else when finished



Except where otherwise noted, theboar and the  
works in theboar are licensed under:  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>





## Two Warwick students hit by cars on campus last week

Connor O'Shea

**A second student was hit by a car on Warwick's campus on Thursday 15 October.**

The student was hit by the car on Gibbet Hill Road, by the Warwick Business School (WBS) building, shortly before 6pm last Thursday.

However, the student has admitted that the accident happened as she had not left sufficient time to cross the road safely.

Three police cars and two ambulance vehicles attended the scene.

The student has been taken to hospital, but it is believed that her injuries are not life-threatening.

Peter Dunn told the *Boar* that traffic was probably moving slower than the 20mph speed limit on the road and said: "Queues were building."

He added: "The driver was not at fault. The student said herself

that she had not left enough time to cross to the central reservation in the face of the oncoming traffic."

The accident follows the incident earlier in the week when another female student was hit by a car outside the Rootes Grocery Store.

That incident also happened as a result of the student not paying attention to the road as she was using her mobile phone.

The accidents happened on some of Warwick's new 'shared space' roads, which have no clear road markings.

The idea of these shared space roads is that there is no priority for any one group, be it pedestrians or motorists.

This lack of priority is said to result in drivers reducing their speed.

However, following the two incidents, students and Sabbatical officers are calling for the University to review the 'shared space' roads on campus.

**"Action is needed now"**

Isaac Leigh, SU president

## 'There needs to be a zebra crossing'

Billy Perrigo

**Earlier last week, a woman was hit by a car on University Road on Tuesday 13 October.**

The woman was taken to hospital as a precaution, but was discharged with only minor injuries.

According to the University, the girl was at fault as she had been using her phone at the time.

But this accident came only in the second week of term-time since the redesign of University Road.

The new road works under a 'shared space road system', where road signs and markings have been deliberately removed from the road in favour of "negotiation over priority".

Before the redesign, there was a zebra crossing very close to the scene of the accident.

In a statement made before the accident happened, Students' Union (SU) President Isaac Leigh said "Without a zebra crossing near the new plaza area, there is no trigger for drivers to slow down... Proac-

tive action is needed now, not reactive action after an accident has happened."

The day after the accident, members of Security were seen putting up speed limit signs, although when questioned, said they had been ordered 3 weeks ago. Security were also seen performing speed checks on cars.

According to Peter Dunn, Director of Press and Policy at the University: "The road has been a 20mph road for some years and there are signs already saying this."

He added: "We are still completing changes to the street furniture around there which includes those additional signs."

When asked whether the University would review the new system in light of the accident, Mr Dunn said: "The accident was caused by inattention on crossing a road with a close oncoming vehicle which would have had the same result on any road."

After the accident, the SU released a statement, they said: "Student safety on campus is the SU's

#1 priority, and members of our Officer Team are taking this issue up with the University as a matter of urgency.

"In the meantime, we urge students once again to please be vigilant when crossing this road."

Third-year English student Ali Jones commented: "It looks and feels like a pedestrian area. Everyone who is not a first year is used to not having cars coming up and down that stretch."

He urged: "There needs to be a zebra crossing."



WARWICK  
BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH

# Warwick talks police brutality against ethnic minorities

Gerard Jones  
Ayan Mohamed

Adam Elliott-Cooper arrived at Warwick on Wednesday 13 October to give a talk on police brutality against ethnic minorities, specifically those of Afro-Caribbean descent.

Elliott-Cooper, who is associate editor of Ceasefire Magazine, opened by telling the audience that black people are statistically more likely to be stopped and searched, and that they are 3 times more likely to be tasered than white people.

The lecture was largely centered on what can be done to combat such discrimination.

It raised awareness on a number of facts, including that the police

have a legal obligation to specify why they are conducting a stop-and-search, and that an officer must, if asked, provide their identification number and tell the apprehended individual their station.

However, many black students at the lecture expressed their unease at confronting police as they feared it may lead to a violent escalation.

Discussing the recent murders of Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, and Sandra Bland in the US, Elliott-Cooper emphasised that racially-aggravated police brutality is not simply an American problem, citing the cases of Mark Duggan and Stephen Lawrence as examples.

Cooper went on to say that, ultimately, everyone has a responsibility to be aware of the racial injustice that occurs daily: "Unlike America,

Britain is very good at pretending it doesn't have a history of racial injustice. The violence experienced by those in ex-British colonies like Kenya, Jamaica or Nigeria, is now repeated on the streets of Britain.

"Black people are more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, charged or killed at the hands of British police.

"As our legal cases, marches and civil disobedience disrupt this systemic violence, black communities, and their allies, will continue the fight for racial justice, in a country still deep in denial."

Warwick's ethnic minorities officer, Nia-Cerise Conteh, was responsible for organising Wednesday's talk and stressed the role these lectures and discussions play in educating people on the subject.

## A post-racial society?

Ana Clara Paniago

Warwick Anti-Racism Society (WARS) and the Students' Union organised their first coffee brunch as part of Black History Month (BHM) on Monday 12 October.

The session posed the question: Do we live in a post-racial society?

More than 100 students listened to the discussion and nodded in agreement to the points being made.

### 'The New Black'

The two panellists were Warwick Law graduate Yomi Adegoke and Chidi Amadi, part of Think Tank at King's College London, a student-led organisation that provides ideas on specific political problems.

Chidi has appeared on BBC Question Time and had met with David Cameron earlier this year.

**"I am not against white people. I have many white friends."**

Chidi Amadi

He joked with the audience, saying, "I am not against white people. I have many white friends."

The presentation on the screen included quotations from celebrities, such as Pharrell Williams' statement, "The New Black doesn't blame other races for our issues."

The topics discussed ranged from the way racism is ingrained in society to Kanye West's presidential campaign in 2020.

Second-year Tolu Alabi said: "We just don't have these conversations - it was good to get them out so people can talk about these issues."

Mems Ayinla, co-president of WARS commented: "[It was] difficult as our exec come from different parts of the world".

# Student stories from around the globe

Chiara Castrovillari and Sarah Morland report on news that is affecting students

## Mexico

Government investigates missing students

Just over a year after the tragic disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa in Mexico, the Mexican Attorney General has released an 85-volume file about the investigation via her Twitter page.

The disappearance, which sparked mass-outcry and protests across the country, has raised doubts over the way in which President Enrique Peña Nieto is handling the investigation.

Official reports claim the students were kidnapped and murdered by a local gang, who then burnt their bodies beyond recog-

nition. However, relatives and opponents dispute the government's account and argue that state police were likely involved in the abduction.

An expert panel from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) have called the official version physically impossible and concluded that it downplayed the presence of the local police and federal troops.

The Commission have not been permitted to interview the soldiers.

IACHR will be conducting an "official hearing" of their report on October 20th.



## USA

Students fight guns with dildos

**Thousands of Texas students will be strapping dildos onto their backpacks in protest against a gun carrying law passed earlier this summer.**

Under the law, enacted by State Governor Greg Abbott last June, anyone can carry a concealed gun on campus, provided they have the proper licensing.

In protest of these laws, thousands of students have signed up on Facebook to carry dildos onto campus.

"You're carrying a gun to class? Yeah well I'm carrying a HUGE DILDO," announced Jessica Jin,

the event organiser, on Campus (DILDO) Carry's Facebook page.

Dildos, concluded Ms Jin, are "just about as effective as protecting us from sociopathic shooters, but much safer for recreational play."

The concealed gun carrying law will take effect in August 2016, on the anniversary of the Whitman gun massacre.

While private universities may opt out, public institutions will be permitted to designate "gun-free zones."



# SU hits out at Stagecoach in open letter

Cath Lyon

**The Students' Union (SU) has hit out at Stagecoach bus company for failing to meet their promises of a more efficient service as students have been left stranded in Leamington or on campus.**

Isaac Leigh, President of the SU, has written an open letter to the company after heavy delays and long queues meant that students were missing lectures and seminars, as well as sporting events because of an 'atrocious' service, according to Isaac.

He claimed that the SU had received "over 200 complaints" in three days after students had difficulty in getting to campus on time for their classes, despite on-going

negotiations between the union and Stagecoach representatives.

"Sadly, rather than seeing the situation improve," Leigh said in his open letter, "it seems to have actually somehow gotten worse."

The letter also included examples of the complaints that were received, including claims that students are now "losing money – not saving money – by attempting to use [the] absolutely inadequate service."

It also claimed that parents have started contacting the union, distraught at how their children are paying a substantial amount of money for an inadequate service.

These issues come after the company were criticised earlier in the week for failing to issue a complete timetable with later buses on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The SU claims that despite Stagecoach being warned about the potential for overcrowding at the beginning of term "they failed to

**Students are now "losing money – not saving money – by attempting to use [the] absolutely inadequate service."**

increase capacity".

Mr Leigh also claimed that these delays came despite previous negotiations with Stagecoach and Warwickshire County Council.

He said: "We were promised extra buses at peak times, as well as late-night buses, which have not

materialised in the new timetable. We therefore see no other option than to insist on [student] intervention."

He appealed to Stagecoach, including Regional Manager Steve Burd, saying: "Students are your customers, and they have paid for a service which you are simply not delivering. This cannot continue."

"We would therefore like to request a meeting with yourselves to seek compensation for this unacceptable service, and to develop a proper strategy for how to avoid similar occurrences in the future."

Stagecoach responded with an open letter to Mr Leigh, stating: "My company has had two inspectors specifically allocated to monitor and control our university services since the start of term and this will continue for the next few

weeks, until we are entirely satisfied that there are no capacity issues and that all our journeys are regularly departing on time."


"At this stage we will then drop the number of inspectors back to one, which is our normal level of control..."

"...In summary I would offer my apologies for the problems that were experienced on the morning of 6th October which were due to a disproportionate number of our double-decked vehicles having defects that morning."

"The late operation during the afternoon/evening periods on 6th, 7th and 8th October was, however, due to roadworks on Stoneleigh Road, which were a factor beyond my company's control."

The conversations between the SU and Stagecoach are continuing.






- Isaac Leigh,  
President of Warwick Student's Union

"Sadly, rather than seeing the situation improve... ..it seems to have actually somehow gotten worse."

**CAN STAGECOACH SAVE THE BUS CRISIS?**

"My company has had two inspectors specifically allocated to monitor and control our university services since the start of term..."

...this will continue for the next few weeks, until we are entirely satisfied that there are no capacity issues and that all our journeys are regularly departing on time."



- Steve Burd,  
Managing Director of Stagecoach Midlands



Have anything to say? Tweet us with your views!  
Tweet: @BoarNews

## Australia

Students fight fossil fuels

Melbourne's University students held a 'Fossil Free' Summit in response to the World Academic Summit's neglect of the pressing issue to divest from Fossil Fuels.

The World Academic Summit took place in Australia and gathered together key academic figures.

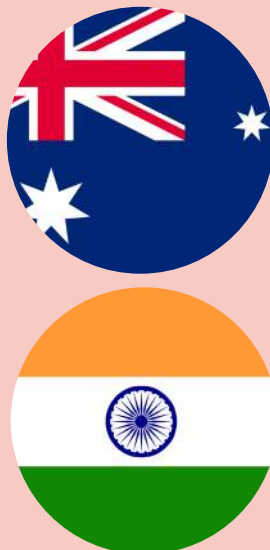
Students marched onto the Academic World Summit's venue the following morning with a clock saying "Get with the times Divest".

The Summit's participants were then surprised by the student's 'Australian Fossil Free University rankings' mock-ceremony satirising

the announcement of the World University Rankings.

The University of New South Wales was awarded a gigantic cheque by 'polluters' for their deplorable efforts. Over the past year the Fossil Free campaign has reached a \$2.6 trillion value of divestment across 451 institutions either fully or partially committed to divestment.

Worldwide, there are over 400 active divestment campaigns – including one in Warwick University, whose Council committed to the divestment this summer.



## India

Students support gender equality

University students in Delhi have taken to the streets to fight for equal rights between male and female students.

After protesting for women's rights to a higher education 50 to 60 years ago, young Indians are now protesting the sexist practice of curfews for women in University hostels across the country.

Some 60 or more protesters of both sexes marched against the discriminatory curfews imposed on young women staying in University hostels (the equivalent of dorms in the UK). These curfews prohibit

them from being out after 7 pm.

The Pinjra Tod (Break The Cage) campaign battles the restrictive measures taken by hostels attempting to keep female University students safe. Participants in the campaign have argued that these measures wrongfully propagate patriarchal values.

Delhi's University alumni have shown solidarity with this struggle and have joined in chants such as "We don't need no false protection, you can't cage half the nation" during marches which have taken place over the past month.



## Princess Anne visits Warwick

Anthony O'Malley  
Sophie Cowling

Princess Anne made an appearance at Warwick's Digital Lab Building to commemorate the University receiving the Royal Charter of Incorporation to form as a University from her mother, the Queen herself, half a century ago.

As Warwick celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year, a former Olympian and Royal came to wish the University a happy birthday.

The occasion was immortalised by a foundation stone of elegant black marble, whose home will be the new Teaching and Learning Building, scheduled to open in 2016.

Attendees included university officials such as Vice-chancellor Nigel Thrift, the Lord Mayor, Professor Michael Scott and WMG Chairman Lord Bhattacharyya, as well as multiple Sabbatical Officers and Students' Union (SU) representatives.



» The Princess meets Camilla Dobinson, president of Warwick Volunteers / photo: Camilla Dobinson

### "No selfies" with Anne

SU president Isaac Leigh commented: "She was so down to Earth and showed a particular interest in the sporting side of Warwick."

Princess Anne has a gold medal in individual eventing in the European championships as an equestrian, as well as being the first royal to compete in the Olympic games.

Mr Leigh commented that students would not have known about the visit as royal visits had to be kept confidential: "The confidentiality surrounding a royal visit did mean I couldn't tell any of my friends or family about it for a week – and hiding my excitement was quite difficult at the time!"

He added: "Oh, and unfortunately we weren't allowed to take any selfies or 'pose' in photos with the Princess."



Did you see Princess Ann on campus?  
Tell us on Facebook

# The Big Freshers' Move-in

## How has this fortnight actually gone?



Robert Ebenburger  
Chiara Castrovillari  
Niall Johnson

**A new round of students have entered their university life at Warwick. The Boar got in touch with the latest arrivals at Warwick to find out more about their first experiences in the bubble.**

For Isaac Leigh, president of Warwick's Students' Union, it was a priority to show that "the SU is a friendly, welcoming and fun place".

The SU's programme during the arrivals weekend and Freshers' fortnight, aimed to showcase the "incredible diversity and vibrance of the activities" offered at Warwick.

Freshers could attend a variety of events from club nights at the Copper Rooms to societies and volunteering fairs.

### First impressions count

In time for arrivals weekend, the construction works around the piazza were completed. Even a rare burst of British sun hit the new space between the Arts Centre and Rootes building, now called the Benefactors Piazza.

Having travelled to Warwick by car, train and plane, domestic and international students were confronted with campus.

The students' first concern was moving into halls. This year, RAG offered a Freshers helper scheme to raise money for The Children's society. In exchange for a donation to the charity, RAG helpers carried boxes and bags to help Freshers move in.

Personal assistance was especially appreciated; as Fresher Andrea found, it was "really easy to move in" thanks to many helpers; some-

one even carried all her stuff.

### Hall wars

For most new students, the choice of accommodation was fairly straightforward – James, a Fresher living in Jack Martin, fell in love with the hall after an open day visit.

Meanwhile Rootes Freshers told us the low price and social environment were key to the appeal.

Living up to these expectations, Rootes' new inhabitants emphasised after only a few nights, that their hall is unpredictable, in a good way.

**All freshers were given a copy of Warwick's 50th Anniversary cookbook upon their arrival**

One Rootes student told us that the high inter-kitchen mobility is the basis for 'infinite possibilities' of nightly adventures.

Bluebell residents, in contrast, value the comforts of their hall,

dents.

Some Rootes Freshers found their pre-drink activities to be the best group experience they had in their first days at Warwick.

Andrea, of Old Rootes said: "We're all pretty good drinkers, no one went to hospital, threw up or passed out so far."

However, Kasia of Bluebell criticised Warwick's circling tradition, which she said often resembled "a celebration of peer pressure".

### International students

Some international students told the Boar that the UK can be a challenging as a new environment. However, they said being surrounded by others who shared that burden smoothened the settling-in.

Adrian from Romania especially valued that he lives with open-minded and co-operative students.

### Home comforts

To cope with the difficulties of life as a Fresher, sometimes it is the little things that make the difference.

For automotive engineer Jack, chopsticks were his essential, he said: "I haven't used a knife and fork since I've been here".

Yet, James from London crowned his Wilko's saucepan set as his best buy because of its supreme versatility.

### Independence

Just having started a life of sweet independence, some of Warwick's new students admitted to a lack of motivation in the kitchen.

Sophie, living in Bluebell, said her worst meal was a dinner of chocolate.

On a more savoury note, one Rootes student had "only had chicken so far".

Perhaps, Warwick's first years are yet to explore their potential as chefs. Nevertheless, to help develop their culinary skills, all Freshers received a copy of Simple Scoff, Warwick's 50th Anniversary cookbook which was put together with the help of Nigel Thrift's wife.

### The parents

For new students, parents who overstay were apparently the biggest obstacle.

Bluebell resident Valentina tried to get rid of her parents quickly, she told us: "I was just like, please leave – I want to hang out with my friends."

Revealing a softer side, many Freshers seemed to feel uprooted from the comforts of home. Most named their mum as their most missed person.

At the same time, Freshers have not forgotten about all their other attachments – Beatriz from Portugal confessed: "I miss my hamster."

## "Only eaten chicken so far"

Student living at Rootes

such as ensuite bathrooms.

Mara told us that "Bluebell is for really quiet people and Rootes for party people", so she chose Jack Martin to get a good balance.

According to many Freshers, going out is the most important and often only social group-building activity of Warwick's first year stu-

English Literature and Creative writing student Valentina claimed the most useful thing she brought were "fluffy socks".

Meanwhile concerns about the British weather led many students to tell us that the most useful thing brought from home was undoubtedly an umbrella.





# Cunningham quizzes Cameron on student maintenance grants

Christopher Tobin

**The Labour Member of Parliament (MP) for Coventry South Jim Cunningham challenged Prime Minister David Cameron on the scrapping of the student maintenance grants and alleged plans to abolish the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA).**

Cunningham, MP for Coventry South since 1992, used his first question of this Parliament to ask questions about student funding. This followed a letter from Isaac Leigh, president at the Students' Union, to Mr Cunningham which raised concerns over the removal of the grant.

Mr Cunningham highlighted that cuts to the education budget

would be a detriment to Conservative ambitions of improving the highly skilled economy.

Cameron replied to this by pointing to government plans on delivering five million new apprenticeships by 2020 as well as the record number of students, especially those from low-income households, going to university.

Plans to convert the maintenance grant for poorer students to loans were first announced in July of this year by Chancellor George Osborne as part of a package of £12 billion of welfare cuts.

Currently, students from low income household families can claim up to a maximum of £3,387 in maintenance grants.

The controversial cuts to the DSA were first announced to come

into motion this year but have since been postponed until 2017.

Lilya Anderson, first-year PAIS student, described the cuts as "damaging to our economy but also detrimental for those who wish to continue their education and simply, through pure luck, do not have the financial capability to do so."

## Barrier to education

She added: "Your financial situation should never be something that can prevent you from furthering your education."

Becky Gittins, third-year Politics student and Chair of Warwick Labour, echoed Cunningham's concerns: "If the abolition of maintenance grants wasn't enough to discourage students from low in-

come backgrounds from attending university, now another underrepresented group in the university system is having their opportunities quashed unnecessarily. Disabled students incur many costs other than the ones being considered in the government's decision..."

"The unconsidered costs of caring staff, mobility devices and more expensive accommodation, in some cases, are a crucial element of the debate which is going unaccounted for."

She added: "I am proud that Jim Cunningham MP honoured the disabled students in his constituency and raised this issue in parliament with such passion and genuine conviction."

James Anderson, Chairman of the University of Warwick Con-

servative Association argued: "It is a common misconception that scrapping maintenance grants will affect and deter those from low income households from attending university."

"The increase in maintenance loans themselves will actually mean that more students will be able to afford more than just paying for household rent, and spend more money on other living costs like food and travel."

He added: "These are welcome changes and mean that university education can become more widely accessible for those who wish to take on higher education, and not just restricted to those households that can easily support students."

» Photo: The Open University / Flickr

# Warwick smashes it in 'Table of Tables' ranking

Lily Pickard

**The University of Warwick has come in 6th place in the Table of Tables 2016, as published by the Times Higher Education.**

The Table of Tables takes into account the main 3 domestic UK university rankings to create the list: the Complete University Guide, the rankings published by The Guardian, and the combined Times and Sunday Times' Good University Guide.

Warwick jumped two places from 8th to 6th since last year.

The University of Cambridge topped the table for the 5th year running, beating out rival Oxford with 90 points to 87, respectively.

Warwick itself received 74 points, with only Oxbridge, St. Andrews, Imperial College London and Durham ranking higher overall.

The University of Surrey, London School of Economics, University of Exeter and University of Bath complete the top 10.

Peter Dunn, Director of Press and Policy for the University, commented: "Warwick has risen in a range of UK tables this year so it is no surprise that we have also risen

in the table of those tables.

"However we are delighted to note that this year we were also ranked among the top 100 universities in the world in all three of the main international university league tables."

Professor Sir Nigel Thrift, vice-chancellor of the University of Warwick, reiterated: "2015 has been a year of outstanding success for the University of Warwick, with the university being placed in the top 100 in all three international world rankings."

» Photo: Warwick Media Library





strategy&

*Join a  
revolutionary  
consulting business*

&

**Build something  
great**

***A new kind of Consultant***

We're changing the way the world thinks about strategy and how it's done. We're looking for outstanding graduates, who will join a training programme designed to develop deep and well-rounded core consulting skills. You'll focus on both C-suite corporate strategy work and M&A strategy, and progress quickly in a high-growth, industry-changing organisation.

***Events:***

Case study, **26 October 2015** at Warwick Library-LIB2 from **6.30pm – 9.30pm**

***Application deadlines:***

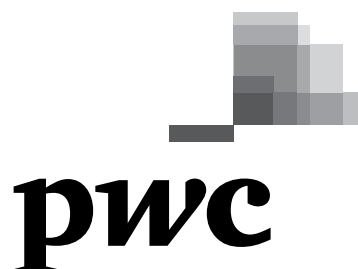
Closing date for graduate applications: **1 November 2015**

Closing date for internship applications: **7 January 2016**

Closing date for women in business applications: **7 January 2016**

Take the opportunity of a lifetime. Join Strategy&.

***[pwc.com/uk/careers/strategyand](http://pwc.com/uk/careers/strategyand)***



© 2015 PwC. All rights reserved.

PwC refers to the PwC network and/or one or more of its member firms, each of which is a separate legal entity. Please see [pwc.com/structure](http://pwc.com/structure) for further details.



# Comment



Editor: Nour Rose Chehab  
comment@theboar.org

## Campaign: Why we want BP off campus

Connor Woodman

Following the stunning victory of our campaign to get Warwick to stop investing in fossil fuels, Fossil Free Warwick has laid down a new challenge to the University management.

We're launching our 'BP Off Campus' campaign, and calling on Warwick to completely sever its links with the company; most manifestly apparent in the presence of BP's only UK-based corporate archive right in the middle of campus.

**"This is a mere taste of the litany of crimes, propaganda and environmental destruction"**

We've demanded that Warwick's management initiate talks with BP over their vacation of the Archive by November 30, in time for the huge climate summit happening in Paris at the end of the year.

Why BP? They were just placed top of a list of European companies blocking the transition to a clean economy. They're currently being sued in a British court for alleged complicity in the kidnap and torture of a union activist in Colombia.

They're responsible for the single largest off-shore oil disaster in Earth's history, and they plan to

**"Allowing (them to stay on campus) is to normalise their presence, legitimate their behaviour"**

dig up and burn far more carbon than is reasonably compatible with keeping climate change within manageable proportions.

This is a mere taste of the litany of crimes, propaganda and environmental destruction wrought by this most vicious of companies. Are any students really comfortable with their presence right at the heart of our community?

Allowing such a corporation to so viscerally occupy half of one of the finest buildings on campus – the Modern Records Centre – is to normalise their presence, legitimate their behaviour, and lend them the respectability an institution like the University of Warwick can confer.



## Editors' Letters



### "A quarter life crisis"

Nour Rose Chehab  
Comment Editor

"I don't have to do things I don't want to do just to fit your social norms." As I heard myself saying that sentence, I realised how far I've come in the past few months.

As a kid, I was always buried in my books, not very interested in whatever was going on in the outside world. This despaired my parents a lot, who were always on my back with sentences like "Go out!", "Make friends", "Look at them! They're having fun! Don't you want to play with them?" The truth is, I didn't. I was genuinely not interested in whatever kids my age were doing.

**"I became obsessed with always looking good, going to the 'right' places, doing the 'right' things"**

But, when puberty hit, I started feeling the social pressure of doing those things I was told I was "supposed" to do. I started becoming that person that everyone else expected me to be.

I became obsessed with always looking good, going to the "right" places, doing the "right" things. What people thought of me became more important to me than my personal fulfilment.

I was genuinely unhappy with myself and had many identity crises. I had those two sides of me constantly fighting inside of my head and it was not pretty at all.

This summer was a summer of rediscovering myself, of reaffirming my identity, of taking back con-

**"I am now completely comfortable being the huge nerd that I am"**

trol of my life and the way it was going. I guess I just realised that life was too short to go around living someone else's life.

Partying was always such a torture for me but I forced myself to go out in order to be included and to be "cool". The dancing, the drunken haze, the sweatiness, the hangovers were definitely not my jam.

I'd much rather chill with some friends, read a good book, go to a concert and do those things that I thoroughly enjoy. I haven't drunk for 2 months (except for the occasional glass of wine), and I've never felt better.

I am now completely comfortable being the huge nerd that I am, and I'm done pretending and putting up a show.

I've even changed degrees from Economics to Sociology. I have always wanted to study Sociology but when I used to say that, people's reactions were always "How are you going to make a living? What are you going to do with this degree? Don't you want to make money?" My answer to them now is "fuck you." I am not letting anyone dictate my life and choices anymore.

Am I now completely free of any kind of social pressure? Certainly not, but I'm working on it. And to you, out there, know that it's never too late for a fresh start and to be the best version of yourself you can possibly be.

**"Forcing BP off our campus would make a real statement"**

researchers.

For all this, according to documents from the Land Registry, BP pays precisely no rent.

One viable option is for BP to

### "Where's the beef?"

Bethan McGrath  
Deputy Editor-in-Chief  
(Communications)

As many of you will have seen, Warwick held the "Festival of Imagination" this past weekend to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

How we celebrate imagination, it seems, is to hold debates and talks (that don't *at all* sound like TED talks), cookery demonstrations, and turn Butterworth Hall into some sort of science playground for primary school children.

What I was most happy to see, however, was a piazza full of food stalls. As a vegetarian, there's usually at least one meat-free stall where I can pick up a decent quinoa and kale mezze with falafel and raw slaw for £7.99.

Yet I was left with very few vegetarian options on my Saturday lunchtime trip. I know what you're thinking, big surprise, most people like meat.

What struck me, though, was a stall called The Beefer, whose black signage brandished two lethally sharp knives next to the name. To most eyes, there's nothing wrong with this sign; the knives are in-keeping with the brand's macho devotion to serving 'really beefy' food. Their display even tells us that 'Beefer don't do no chicken' - Lest their masculinity be brought into question, I'm assuming.

Before you flick to the next page expecting another angry meat-condemning rant, hang on. Whilst I do go on those occasions, in this article I simply want to provoke a little thought. Don't you find it strange that a company would use a knife, of all things, to advertise itself?

A knife, symbolising violence,

pain and death, is supposed to appeal to members of the public and little kids running around the piazza. Isn't that a little strange?

It's like Primark using images of sad, overworked children in its adverts. Causing suffering - which is generally agreed on as a terrible act - isn't even being hidden. Isn't it strange that as a society, we've become so used to meat, and where it comes from, that collectively we don't have any problem with it?

If you haven't already, watch the YouTube video called 'Three year old kid explains why he doesn't want to eat meat'. A little boy is getting his head around the fact that what his mother has served him used to be alive. Doesn't this little boy represent our most natural human reactions?

His thought processes aren't tainted by societally accepted norms, which is why he's so upset at the fact that an animal had to die just for his dinner. This is a basic human instinct, which seems to have been beaten out of us by a culture that tells us eating meat is okay, because everybody does it.

I've gone on for long enough now, but take a minute to consider a scenario where everything about western society is the same, except we don't eat meat and there's no historical record of us ever doing so. If someone then handed you one of The Beefer's burgers, wouldn't you be disgusted about where it had come from?



**Have we been conditioned to eat meat?**  
Comment online:  
[theboar.org/comment](http://theboar.org/comment)

hand over all the documents to the Modern Records Centre to be managed in the public interest, rather than for private profit. Either way, BP as a company needs to get out.

Forcing BP off our campus would make a real statement, cause physical disruption to their activities, and probably generate interna-

tional media coverage.

Warwick has inadvertently set itself up with a sensational opportunity to strike a serious blow to the legitimacy of the industry pillaging our planet.



Follow us on twitter for the latest opinion pieces  
[@BoarComment](https://twitter.com/BoarComment)





# Cartoon Corner



## DAILY MAIL OUTRAGE AS MUSLIM WINS BAKING COMPETITION

NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THEY'LL  
BE TELLING US THAT THEY'RE  
ABLE TO READ.



» "The Great Racist Bake Off?" Cartoon by Reece Goodall

## "Let's take a stand for religious liberty"

Nick Buxey

Although Nadiya Hussain may have warmed the nation's hearts when she became the first British Muslim woman to win GBBO, we're far from fully integrating different cultures into our society.

In fact, official figures on hate crimes showed that religiously motivated ones had increased by 43 percent in the last year.

Additionally, the number of anti-Muslim attacks have become so great that police will now be asked to record them as a separate category, which puts them on the same footing as Anti-Semitic crimes.

It's shocking to think that this was revealed in the same week thousands of British people celebrated a Muslim mum with a knack for lemon drizzle cake.

But life is not Bake Off. In the real world, Muslim men and women (but women in particular), are the focus of attacks which aim to mock their religion whilst attempting to reinforce the tenuous links between mainstream Islam and extremist terrorism.

Stories range from a midwife who left after being racially abused by patients to a commuter doused in alcohol by racist thugs. What's most shocking about these stories is that the abusers in these stories never seem to face any sort of recompense.

Researchers Imwan Aran and Dr Irene Zempi, who conducted interviews with victims of anti-Muslim hate crimes, found that the perpetrators were often not confronted by bystanders. This is reprehensible. It doesn't matter that the victim was wearing a hijab.

It doesn't matter that ISIS happens to use Islam to justify the crimes they are committing. Everyone should feel free to speak out when they're the victim of a crime, no matter how petty it seems. And the public should be standing behind them, defending everyone's right to a peaceful life.

Although it's easy to blame the victims here for not speaking out, that's not the right course of action.

For a minority that's subjected to a barrage of racist abuse simply for having a specific faith, it can often be traumatic to recount these incidents to a police force that may not even be that sympathetic to them.

Some Muslim men and women are even attempting to outwardly disguise their faith. Can you imagine if the same problems were faced by those of other faiths? The uproar would be deafening and immediate. It might be easy for people to ignore these statistics if they've never encountered it, but ignorance is not bliss.

What affects Muslims affects us, and it's important that the rise of Islamophobia was treated as the key social issue that it is. Although I'm not suggesting that we become vigilantes, I think it's high time to take a stand for religious liberty, and confront racism wherever and whenever we see it.

## Trump on Syria: Is the refugee crisis a security issue?

Samer Almaz tells you why Trump's position on the refugee crisis is ridiculous

Donald Trump's words have been a magnet to controversy like flies attracted to faeces, and none more attention grabbing than the threat he issued a few days ago to Syrian and Iraqi migrants that they would be shipped back if he became president.

"They could be ISIS" was his justification. His words echoed Nigel Farage's sentiment that "ISIS are using this route to put jihadists on European soil".

Briefly ignoring the fact that the presidential candidates' plan is unbelievably unfeasible and an insane waste of resources (I don't care how rich you are, Donald), it begs the question of whether he is genuinely concerned for the safety of citizens and therefore whether the US and Europe should be worried, or if this is just part of a racist agenda, allegations which señor Trump's big mouth has been no stranger to.

He attempts to defend his promise by claiming a similar strategy was deployed by Eisenhower, 'Operation Wetback'. This immigration law, derogatorily racist in its very name, deported over a million illegal immigrants, mostly Mexicans who were sent to random remote areas in the Latin state, often stranded with no food, water or shelter.

The policy was implemented in 1954. Literally on the same day ra-

cial segregation was ruled unconstitutional.

Just let that sink in and understand how ludicrous it is to even consider implementing such an archaic policy today. So fair enough, it's tempting to dismiss Trump and call him bigoted.

However, he is still somehow head and shoulders above all other candidates in the approval ratings.

Mainly because I would like to retain some faith in humanity, I refuse to believe that all his supporters approve of him because they are disillusioned.

Much like we are encouraged to critically analyse statements which are tempting to assume are true, there is an interesting case when reversing the thought process and attempting to find some truth in seemingly ridiculous statements made by the comedian presidential candidate. After all, if there is a potential security threat it would be naive to not investigate the risks involved.

Unquestionably the migrants consist heavily of Syrians and Iraqis innocently seeking to improve their lives, many of which are children and in some ways it is sorrowful that an explanation must be made to help people in need.

For arguments' sake, however, there could be a case to suggest a

few ISIS militants could be among them.

To catch a fish you must think like a fish, and after all, if they had intentions to infiltrate the West, this would probably be the optimal strategy.

This opinion has also been reflected by David Cameron and even Pope Francis. Furthermore, Trump claims that the refugees are "mostly strong men", and while there are no reliable sources on six-pack/non-six-pack ratios, according to the UN slightly more than half the refugees to the US are indeed men.

Yet this is about as convincing as the business tycoon's belief gets. The UN office of statistics also indicates that slightly more than half of Syrian refugees to Europe are women, therefore the facts are not particularly suspicious and essentially there is no evidence to suggest the West should be worried. The security threat of this issue is overblown, an ISIS apocalypse is not beckoning us.

Even the paranoid few who would suggest that there is no evidence we should not be worried should remain calm.

If there was genuinely a security threat and a handful of the migrants indeed have disastrous ambitions, you would expect the governments of the respective coun-

tries to be able to manage the risk.

Especially in the USA, the land of supposedly the most sophisticated intelligence agency in the world.

Realistically speaking, if they are capable of hunting down the former world champion of hide and seek underground in Iraq, they are perfectly competent of monitoring the activities of suspicious refugees and neutralising any potential threat on their own soil.

In similar fashion to how terrorists use fear to gain power, Trump is probably employing the same strategy to sway vulnerable voters who feel the need to be protected.

Welcome refugees and send Trump to Syria.

» Photo: gageskidmore / Flickr





## Flight MH17: Truths and lies

Mike Wrench

On the 13th October, the Dutch safety board announced that the MH17 flight was downed by a Russian-made Buk missile. This may not seem particularly surprising.

The West has been quick to condemn the Russians and the pro-Russian rebels, and that condemnation has been widely disseminated throughout most, if not all, of the media. The Western media is decided; Russia did it. Russia is evil.

The report, however, does not apportion blame. There is a suggested area from which the missile came, but any attempts to assign an origin to the missile would probably be erroneous.

Currently, the situation involves a game where several large groups point fingers at each other, each crying that the other group did it. Evidence is ignored, because it is superfluous to each group's purpose.

**"The Western media is decided; Russia did it. Russia is evil."**

And then there is the fact that a civilian plane was allowed to fly over an active warzone. Why? 16 Ukrainian aircraft had been downed by the rebels, but the Ukrainians hadn't closed the airspace involved.

It was sheer madness, or perhaps arrogance. 160 civilian flights went over that warzone; three were close to the MH17 when it was hit. British carriers flew over the fly-zone simply to reduce fuel costs. And Russia is the enemy.

The real culprit, I think, will never be known or found. Any investigation will be accused of being biased, as the Dutch report also has been - there is some basis to this. On the one hand, the West is innately biased against Russia, and on the other, it appears that many fragments of the plane were taken from the site by either the Ukrainians or the rebels.

Simply, I think the countries involved don't care about who died, or even who was and even is at risk; they care about who they can blame. The crash is an easy, emotive political tool. The deaths of 296 people is something that can be used.

As soon as that level of people are killed, people are upset. It's a simple, yet powerful logic. One which politicians and the media can use to fuel anti-'insert-group-here' inclinations in their people.

The very fact that a no-fly zone wasn't enacted shows how little the different parties cared about the human cost of this conflict.

Sure, someone shot this plane down, perhaps accidentally or perhaps not. However the fact is, there were no preventative measures to stop people dying.

My earlier point that the real culprit will never be found is perhaps a little all-encompassing - everyone involved in this conflict is culpable for these 296 lives.

## "I walk home...with keys between my knuckles"

Beth Hurst

About half an hour into the *I Heart Consent* workshop, I finally accepted what I had tried to deny. When one of the facilitators read the legal definition of sexual assault, a few people gasped. "I did not know it was illegal," one girl exclaimed. My mouth dropped open - it had happened to me only that week.

At a popular, local student nightclub I was dancing with my housemates like any other night. I wasn't thinking about anyone around me. I remember talking then dancing next to a group of boys, with one perhaps being a little too friendly, a little too close.

I remember another pulling me towards him, and us struggling to communicate over the deafening music. The rest I struggle to piece together. I remember the feeling of hands around my back, holding me, touching me but I couldn't escape.

The memory of hot sticky breath assaulting my neck still makes me shudder.

It stopped there, but it was enough for me to run out of the room to the safety of the female toilets. The morning after when I read the texts I'd sent to a friend; "Had to run away", "I swear he just kissed my neck", "feel so sexualised" and "they keep trying to grind on me"; I felt sick.

I signed up for *I Heart Consent* because as an exec member for multiple societies, I was encouraged to attend, but I was glad to learn more. When I read that

George Lawlor was insulted by his invitation, I couldn't help but be angry. Forgive me if I don't accept your "This is not what a rapist looks like" sign.

Consent is about far more than simply not looking like a rapist. Its about addressing the ideas surrounding rape culture, challenging stereotypes, spreading awareness, and knowing how to be as \*inclusive as possible. The fact that 90% of victims know their attacker (Rape Crisis UK) is more than just a statistic - it is a reality for countless people.

The group of boys I felt so threatened by? I know them all by name. I've talked to them. They have me on Facebook. What might shock you even more? I like them as people.

I know them through my role in a society, have mutual friends with them, and enjoy talking to them at socials.

None of them look like the imagined shadowy rapist in an alley. Even more...they aren't bad people. Maybe, if they'd have attended a workshop about consent they might have thought twice about their drunken behaviour in a club.

There simply isn't enough awareness of issues surrounding rape culture, so people don't take into consideration the effects of their actions, no matter how small, even towards someone you have met before and assume it's ok.

University is a hub of young adults meeting each other, socialising, and forming relationships. There is no other place where consent culture is more relevant.

The Warwick tradition of circling, in its essence, is drinking with a group of people, some you don't know, lead by social secretaries who do not know you personally, and have a specific job to do.

In this environment we need information about consent, to provide a safe campus environment for all members of the university, irrespective of gender, race, sexuality or religion.

I myself thought, "I probably don't need to go to *I Heart Consent*." I thought I was pretty much clued up about it through my own experiences and reading. I was wrong.

I need *I Heart Consent* because after I felt threatened, my first thoughts were "why did I wear a body con skirt tonight?" and "why did I buy a lolly pop that could have put out the wrong message?"

I need it because my position in a society should not mean, outside of events, I still am forced into the stereotypes and assumptions of my role. I need it because I walk home in the dark with keys between my knuckles. I need it because I struggled to admit I was harassed.

I need it because when someone wolf-whistled at me the day after, as I walked to the bus stop, I nearly broke down and cried.

So excuse me Mr Lawlor, just because you feel like you don't "need" *I Heart Consent*, doesn't mean that you are exempt from the responsibility to attend, to become aware, and help the people that do.



» Photo: Science & Tech editor, Selina, holds I Heart Consent sign



Perhaps around election time you, like me, read an interview with Chuka Umunna where he was asked about being dubbed the UK's Obama, but Jeremy Corbyn, really?!

Certainly Obama and Corbyn have their similarities: they were both involved in activism and protest before they moved into politics and serve as leaders of the more left wing political parties within their respective countries, although comparing the Democrats and Labour is itself a stretch.

However there are equally undeniable differences: a Harvard law graduate and a university drop-out or, more obviously, a black man and a white man. So why am I even asking this question?

I'm currently on exchange at University of California Santa Barbara and am taking a Black Studies class titled "Obama as a Political and Cultural Phenomenon".

What our professor has been

arguing to us so far is that race is fundamentally institutional to the United States and, recently, he did so by comparing it to the centrality

**"There are equally undeniable differences: a black man and a white man"**

of the class system in the United Kingdom.

That's not to say the two are mutually exclusive and I could spend an entire article going into the details of his theory but for the sake of this article, if we are to take his argument as true, then it's worth asking; if race to America is what class is to the United Kingdom, is Corbyn our equivalent to Obama?

Corbyn, at least compared to the majority of high up politicians, has a relatively working class background.

He attended a state secondary school and is arguably more working class than many of us, as he preferred working for rather than studying Trade Unions and thus dropped out after just one year at North London Polytechnic, not quite Warwick.

Perhaps a better example of this apparent class difference are the pictures that went viral last month: both Party leaders from the 80s were placed side by side: Cameron in his tails at a Bullingdon Club social is compared to Corbyn being taken away by police at and anti-Apartheid protest.

Returning to Obama it is interesting to note the similarities between the opposition responses to both candidates coming into leadership; both were, and still are, accused of association with, or even direct involvement in, terrorist organisations.

Are the same arguments that were used against Obama, possibly

as a result of his race, now being used against Corbyn because of his class? I'm certainly not saying this is the case and obviously such a comparison is limited.

The class system, at least in theory, allows for social mobility

**"Are the same arguments that were used against Obama as a result of his race used against Corbyn because of his class?"**

in a way that a race based system cannot, to pick out just one oversimplification made for the sake of keeping the word count down.

Nonetheless, this article was never intended to answer but only to ask a question which is, at least I think, well worth considering as Labour enters into its new, and all too controversial, phase of leadership.

» Photo: lewishamdreamer + jmtimages/ Flickr





Editor: Blessing Mukosha Park  
features@theboar.org

## FNOC: Featured Names On Campus *The names and stories that you need to know*

### Jessica Agboola: Founder of the Black Women's Project



» Jessica (center) with two other members of the Black Women's Project / photo: BWP

Blessing Park

This issue, *Features* was able to speak to Warwick Student Jessica Agboola, founder of the Black Women's Project. By their mission statement they are a student collective for black female students at British universities who are committed to rebuilding the black female body. BWP are also involved with Let's Talk Black, a collective of Warwick University's societies committed to addressing racial, political and social issues affecting black and minority students.

**Blessing:** Please introduce yourself.

**Jessica:** I'm a normal Sociology student acting on her interests. I'm interested in the development of black people at university, especially those who aspire to do more and do things differently.

**B:** Is that what prompted you to start the Black Women's Project?

**J:** Yes, I founded the BWP in January and it was established in February 2015. Our mission statement is that we are a student collective for black female students at British universities who are committed to rebuilding the black female body. Essentially, we aim to do this on a physical and conceptual level. The need for it to be rebuilt is because the black woman's image is incomplete and we believe that only when we acknowledge that, we will be able to make the necessary moves to change that.

**B:** What do you mean that the black woman's body is incomplete?

**J:** Essentially, the Black female body is a representation of our lived experiences as well as being a physical body. The fact that the body needs to be repaired is indicative of the injustices that have been done to it.

**B:** Why is it important that black women make use of groups like the BWP?

**J:** We are all black women in a British context but we are at the core a certain 'type' of black. Therefore, these forums for women exist so we can come together and share our common experiences.

**At some point as a woman you will hit boundaries; but when black women hit them it's going to be different.**

**B:** What is a common experience that you have come across?

**J:** That we may have different experiences, but externally we are viewed the same; as black and as women – this can't be changed.

**B:** How can this impact black women as they make their way through life?

**J:** We may all come from different social and economic backgrounds but what is significant is that certain people can change how they are viewed but, by virtue of being black and women, often society only views the external and aesthetic features that can't be changed in order to cast judgement upon us.

**B:** How does your group empower its members to break past this?

**J:** We acknowledge that there are problems but we navigate our way with wisdom to solve them and get past the boundaries in front of us. We focus on the big picture. Studying at university helped me realise that at some point as a woman you will hit boundaries; but when black women hit them it's going to be different. You can feel alienation because other people don't experience what you will experience. Helping to tackle those issues with

undertones of race, we can deal with them with knowledge and support and honesty – we are honest to prepare for the future. This is the place for it.

**B:** So what is the format of the BWP?

**J:** BWP holds monthly discussions on important issues. We also have a big sister/little sister scheme to help new students transition into university. Hopefully with our alumni there will be a professional network which will create a visible network of black women in spaces that aren't expected. I always say that I want to see black women in space!

**B:** How do you interact with societies like Warwick Anti-Racism Society (WARS)?

**J:** WARS has inspired everything I've done with BWP. Before university I'd never heard from black voices in academia. Now I see the strength, wit and articulate excellence of people that look like me and it's changed how I could view myself. It was as if I had a diagnosis to an illness – I learnt the words and ways of understanding things that I had seen every day but didn't know how to articulate.

**B:** Looking to the future, what things are you most excited to see BWP doing?

**J:** BWP is very excited to see that we are addressing this undertone of race from so many angles, and is grateful to see the other societies like WARS and the African-Caribbean Society working hard through *Let's Talk Black* and *Black History Month*. What a time to be alive!

Want to learn more?  
Find the BWP on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/theblackwomensproject](https://www.facebook.com/theblackwomensproject)

## Blood Lions

Without knowing, I helped raise lions to be killed

Helena Maybury

With around 200 farms in South Africa breeding predators in captivity, over 800 captive-bred lions are killed in canned hunts each year. Canned hunting remains legal in South Africa to this day. Seven years ago the South African government made a law that animals must roam free for two years before being hunted. Lion breeders, however, challenged this law in court and it was ruled that such regulations were "not rational". Is there anything, in fact, less rational and more inhumane? I unknowingly supported this trade.

In the summer of 2014 I volunteered for a lion reserve called Ukutula, in a remote village north of Pretoria. I spent a fortnight car-

**I had inadvertently been helping to rear these creatures to be slaughtered and taken home as trophies.**

ing for lions, bottle-feeding cubs, interacting and playing with lions of all ages. I met some truly amazing people, and fell in love with an adorable 2-week-old cub named Hercules.

Ukutula claimed that they were formerly involved in the genetic research of white lions, and were now simply focused on the conservation and protection of the animals. Over a year later I found out that they were, and still are, implicated in canned hunting. I had inadvertently been helping to rear these creatures to be slaughtered and taken home as trophies. I was devastated. I could not bear to think of Hercules, or any other cub, pacing an enclosed environment while some coward waits in their jeep to shoot him in the head, drag his body back home, and have him stuffed and hung up on display. I was told he would grow old; that they all would.

I was assured that the lions, where possible, would be sent to wonderful sanctuaries around the world, and I naively believed everything they told us. There is no evidence, however, that any of

their lions have been exported to sanctuaries outside of the country. The only lions being exported from South Africa are in the form of trophies, skins or bones.

We wanted to make a difference, but instead we unwittingly gave our time, dedication, and money to an unethical and abject cause. Ultimately, we became part of the problem we were trying to solve.

How could we know what was actually happening at Ukutula, and many other so-called lion sanctuaries all over South Africa? The new documentary, *Blood Lions*, investigates the controversial topic and sheds light on the international industry of canned-hunting in South Africa, revealing the truth behind a lot of these sanctuaries and volunteer programmes that exploit people's love of animals in order fund their immoral enterprises.

People have been increasingly questioning the industry of killing animals for sport, especially since the well-known case of Cecil the lion this summer. However tragic and unjust this incident was, it is not exactly a rare occurrence in South Africa as a clip from the *Blood Lions* trailer revealed that, "Every single day at least 2-3 captive bred, hand-reared, tame lions are being slaughtered in canned hunts".

If you are thinking about volunteering in South Africa for animal conservation or sanctuaries, be aware that not all of them are legitimate. Fortunately, there are plenty of resources online that can inform you of the good, the bad and the ugly.

Although my experience has been tainted by this shocking revelation, I do not regret the incredible and unique opportunity I had to interact with and learn about such truly phenomenal creatures. My time at Ukutula only ever deepened my love for animals, and finding out the truth behind the organisation has made me more motivated than ever to do everything possible to raise awareness of the canned-hunting industry and bring about its end. No animal should be bred for the bullet.

*Blood Lions* airs on the 28th October at 8pm on the Discovery Channel.

» photo: Helena Maybury





# The Warwick Rowers: **uncovered**

Tristan, Lucas, Tom and Will talk nudity, cheeky Viallis and fighting homophobia in sport



» Seven years in and still covered in paint / photos: Warwick Boat Club

If you haven't heard about them yet, you will soon. For seven years, their infamous naked calendar has raised an incredible amount for charity. Speaking more about the calendar and the cause that they fundraise for, the Warwick Rowers sit down with Features to talk nudity, cheeky Viallis and fighting homophobia in sport.

**The Boar:** For those who are new to Warwick or haven't been lucky enough to get to know you – who are you and what do you do?

**Tom:** We are the Warwick Men's rowing team and we spend most of the year rowing in races across the country and training for these races. However for the past seven years, every summer we've stripped off to make a naked calendar to raise money for our Boat Club and Sports Allies which fights homophobia in sport. Year on year, it's got bigger and bigger thanks to the gay community getting behind the calendar, to the extent that last year we had an American tour, which generated half a billion page views for media articles about our trip.

Currently team sports enforce a heteronormative culture in which gender stereotypes force people into boxes that aren't the right fit.

**Boar:** The outreach programme that you fundraise for 'Sport Allies' works to help tackle homophobia and help young people. What motivated you to initiate this programme and why should everyone else be supporting it too?

**Lucas:** In the early years of the

Warwick Rowers calendar, we were supporting a range of different charities. When our calendar took off due to the support we'd gained from the gay community, we decided that we wanted to give something back, by focusing on combating bullying caused by homophobia in sports, especially in team sports. Sport Allies has been in existence since 2014 and its goal is to create a world where sport is a leader in celebrating difference. Research commissioned by Sport Allies shows that currently team sports enforce a heteronormative culture in which gender stereotypes force people into boxes that aren't the right fit. A lot of the LGBTQ+ community and also other heterosexual men who don't feel like they respond to those standards are less likely to join team sports and more likely to experience bullying for not being "manly" enough. Sport should be for everybody, and that's why everyone else should be supporting Sport Allies.

**Boar:** Warwick has a lot of sports clubs and also has a strong LGBTQ+ community but do you think there is enough done to act against homophobia not only on the sports pitch (or on the water) but outside of it too? If not, what more do you think needs to be done?

**Will:** Personally I don't think enough has been done at any sports club until all LGBTQ+ individuals who wish to partake in sport can do so freely and without prejudice from other members of the society. You do often hear words such as 'gay' and other sexuality related remarks being thrown around circling in the Copper Rooms and on campus – until behaviour such as this stops I believe there somewhat

is a barrier to LGBTQ+ members being actively involved in sports teams. We do hope the work we are doing with the calendar and the message we are spreading discourages this kind of behaviour, and we encourage other sports clubs to get involved with Sport Allies.

**Boar:** The idea of doing a naked calendar, where did it come from and is there anyone you can specifically mention for bringing the idea up?

**Tristan:** The calendar was originally started by the boat club's ex-president Chris Primett

over the seven years and works full time to make it a success, with help from various members of the club.

**Boar:** In general, on campus do people ever recognise you as 'that guy from the calendar'?

**Tristan:** Strangely enough, I've been recognised twice on the tube in London, once on the streets in LA, and once at home in Cornwall, but never on campus. I think as it's a project run by Warwick students it's not a big deal to be seen around campus, so no one mentions it.

**Boar:** Obviously you've got a pretty large fan base – who makes up the majority of it?

**Tristan:** We've been incredibly lucky to have a lot of support from the gay community, who really helped the project grow in the early years. Nowadays we're about 50/50 between male and female support of all ages. We've recently discovered that a large number of heterosexual males have started following our project, as they're interested in the friendship we have as a team. This is something we've focused on in this year's calendar, as we believe that the bonds that can be made through sport should be open to all, regardless of gender or sexuality and that men shouldn't have to abide by gender stereotypes. That's why our statement this year is: 'This is for everyone'.

**Boar:** You've just returned from your US tour, how was that?

**Tristan:** The US tour was a great way for us to meet a lot of our main supporters, and to gain exposure in the American media. At the end of each day you had to sit back and actually realise what you'd done

that day. Be it working at BuzzFeed's office for a day to being on the Andy Cohen show, to meeting Kim Kardashian and then lifting up Kris Jenner for a photo, the US tour was a truly unforgettable experience. We were able to meet a lot of our key supporters who were obviously unable to make UK events, and also talked at Princeton University to their scholarship athletes about embracing the message of Sport Allies. All in all, a very successful trip.

**Boar:** Do you feel like you need to work extra hard to keep yourself in shape? Should I never expect to see any of you having a sneaky Viallis?

**Will:** We all train hard 12-13 times a week so it's not too difficult preparing for the calendar. You'll always catch me with a cheeky Viallis after a night out – I have to hit that 4000 calories a day somehow! Three days before the calendar I did try as eat about 1000 calories a day – worst few days of my life! Also turning up hungover and dehydrated was actually a good strategy.

**Boar:** Last question, where can I buy a calendar and how much are they?

**Tom:** You can get the calendar and find out more about our project at our website [www.warwickrowers.org](http://www.warwickrowers.org). You can also find us on Instagram (@warwick\_rowers), Twitter (@naked\_rowers), and Facebook ('The Warwick Rowers Calendar')



Read the full interview online:  
[theboar.org/features](http://theboar.org/features)





Editor: Elizabeth Pugsley  
lifestyle@theboar.org

## Don't touch my f\*cking 'fro

Blessing Mukosha-Park talks privilege, diversity, and 'pulling a Rachel Dolezal'

When it's just hair - what's the big deal? "Black women wear weave to look white, why isn't that cultural appropriation too?"

"You should take it as a compliment!"

"White girls just do it better!"

Maybe I'm just an angry black woman. But when I see a video on Facebook of a white woman saying 'how to make straight (Caucasian) hair into afro hair', with comments like the ones above, I get pissed. Because whether it's Miley Cyrus rocking up at the VMAs wearing fake blonde dreadlocks or Marc Jacobs putting bantu knots on white models and selling them as 'mini buns' the blatant disregard some people show to the culture of people of colour continues to shock me.

**"Black women's bodies have been fetishised, desexualised and thrown into the mud"**

Now first, let's get something straight. It's not that I don't appreciate the beauty of multiculturalism and the benefits that can come from a society that is aware and open to all of its different styles, cultures and textures. But we need to be aware of lazy ignorance and, in the words of College Humour, 'Columbising' other people's cultures and ironically claiming something for our own because we think it's 'cool' and 'trendy'.

The reason why it's wrong for white women to retort with comments like those made at the beginning of this article is down to the matter of privilege. White women have the luxury of being able to delve into a cultural 'pick-

and-mix'. Historically, they have been moulded as the standard of beauty for all women to live by. White beauty standards saturate every inch of our lives, from media and music to film and television. Where black women's bodies have been fetishised, desexualised and thrown into the mud, 'white' beauty has suffered the exact opposite. White women are in a highly privileged position. Perhaps due to ignorance, arrogance or because their beauty is seen as the one to emulate, it's rarely criticised when they appropriate other cultures.

**"We need to be aware of lazy ignorance and 'Columbizing' other people's cultures because we think it's 'cool' and trendy"**

Take music festivals for example. It's seen as 'edgy' and 'cool' when white people wear Native American headdresses and bindis at festivals. They get likes on their Instagrams and reblogs on their Tumblrs. If white kids go on gap years and pick up a set of cultural clothing to wear back at home, it's

same luxury. All over the world black women are told that their natural hair is ugly or strange, some sort of circus attraction which warrants wandering hands to touch and play with it like it is not a real part of their body, culture and character. Women in business environments are told that their natural hair isn't 'professional enough' and little girls everywhere playing with the long, blonde hair of their white Barbie dolls grow up craving 'good hair' that flows past their shoulders and runs silkily through their fingers. People of colour are told that their cultural dress is weird, different and something only to be shared in private and yet these same critics will immediately double-tap a picture of Kendall Jenner in salwar kameez ("wow, a new trend for 2015!").

**"Women of colour are not afforded the same luxury"**

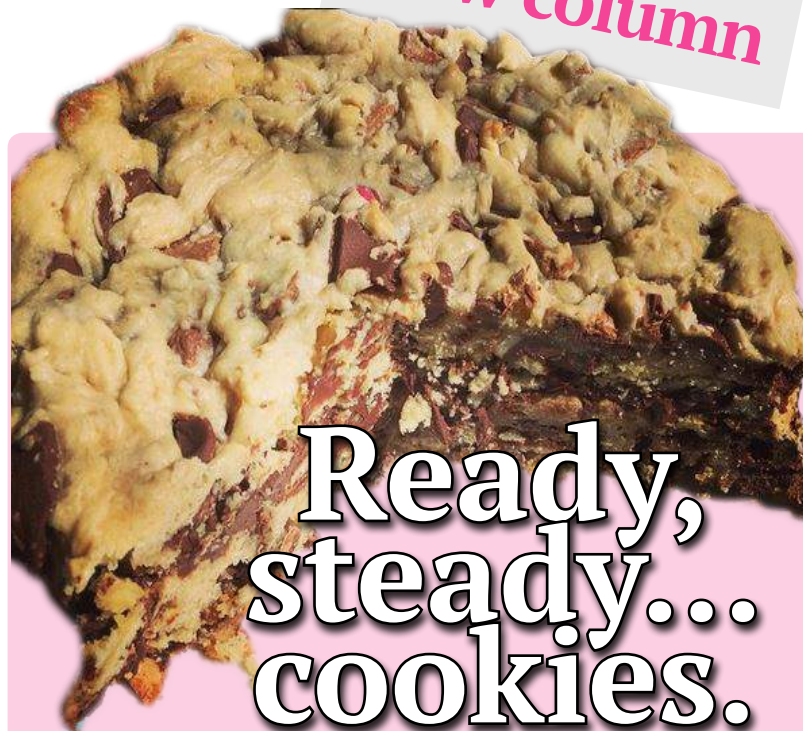
What the girl in the Facebook video was really doing was giving herself a quick perm, something that is widely available in salons and frequently done on Caucasian hair. But she chose to sell it as a method of faking an afro. She made a video that showed white women how to pull a 'Rachel Dolezal' purely for the sake of vanity.

It's the modern day black-face and given how hard women of colour have had to fight to have their own unique beauty acknowledged and appreciated, instances like this video are more of a spit in the face than a celebration of culture.

seen as cool and trendy. If Topshop or ASOS make something and call it 'ethnic print', they market it to their predominantly white, female and teenage clientele knowing that it will fly off the shelves.

But when the situation is reversed, women of colour are not afforded this

New column



## Ready, steady... cookies.

Fancy getting busy with baking? Heidi Selwood is here to tell you how

Whether the autumn term workload is already creeping back on or, if you're a Fresher trying to find something to do halfway through your afternoon Netflix binge, this recipe will be your knight in shining armour.

*Serves 8 (or 10 if you are on a diet (which you shouldn't be)). Don't be afraid to get creative with your toppings!*

Ingredients:

- 2 sandwich cake tins between 17cm and 20cm wide (head to Wilko in Cannon Park - super cheap!)
- 400g milk chocolate cut into large chunks or cubes (use Tesco's 30p version - I've added a bit extra for nibbling along the way. I also added a few smarties as they were lurking nearby)
- 170g unsalted butter (buy a basic block for 80p)
- 200g soft light brown sugar (you can substitute for 200g caster sugar but the cookie will not go golden when baked, so be careful not to overcook)
- 100g caster sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- Vanilla essence (this may seem expensive but it lasts for years and it is used in almost every baking recipe)
- 1/2 tsp bicarb of soda (same concept as the vanilla essence)
- 275g plain flour (or slightly more if the batter is still too soft)
- 5 tbsp of Nutella or the supermarkets own brand chocolate spread (or peanut butter if you prefer)
- And a pinch of salt!

Cooking method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas 4
2. Melt the butter slightly in the microwave, but do not boil.
3. Beat the melted butter with the sugars until creamy.
4. Add the egg, the egg yolk and vanilla essence and beat until fluffy.
5. Slowly stir in the flour, bicarb and salt bit by bit until you have formed a thick dough that is not too wet or sticky. Add a bit more flour if still too wet. You should be able to mould a bit into a ball in your hand without it being gloopy and sticking too much.
6. Stir in the chocolate chunks.
7. Grease the cake tins with a bit of butter to stop the cake from sticking.
8. Place half of the batter in each tin and flatten with the back of a spoon until spread evenly.
9. Place in the oven for 12-15 minutes until slightly golden but still soft. Be careful not to overcook it, the cookie should not be rock solid, it should be slightly springy when touched and still soft in the middle (this is how you get the chewy/goopy texture when cooled)
10. Leave the cookie bases to cool completely, this will allow them to firm up. If you are in a rush then pop them in the fridge for a bit.
11. Remove the cakes from the tins.
12. Top one half with the Nutella/peanut butter and spread evenly.
13. Place the other cookie on top and decorate it as you please.
14. Take a picture and send it over to the Lifestyle Instagram - you might even be re-posted!



Don't forget to tweet us a picture @BoarLifestyle

» Photo: April Spree-man / Flickr



# The cruellest way to reject someone

You're welcome to break up with **Reece Goodall** - but do it properly

It's an almost definite fact of life that, as you develop romantic feelings for other members of the human race, you are going to experience rejection. You'll ask someone out, only to be told in no uncertain terms that they do not feel the same way, and that any relationship between the two of you isn't going to happen – it can be no more than a slight inconvenience, or it could be absolutely crushing, but a stamp of rejection lets you know how things stand either way.

Now, I'm no stranger to rejection (to understate heavily) – finding a romantic partner is somewhat difficult when you've got a face like a cave-in in a shit mine and your personality is only award-winning if you're gunning for a couple of Razzies – and I've noticed a lot of range in the many putdowns I've received.

In all frankness, I would prefer someone to be as blunt as possible if they have to turn someone down. 'No' is as clear as anything – it truly puts a matter to bed, and it leaves both parties free to move on. It doesn't have to be (and rarely is) horrible, and I still remain good friends with a number of ladies who have turned me down because no ambiguity is hanging in the air. Phrase it how you want – 'I'm not interested in you,' for example – but it gets the job done.

There are worse ways to do it, of course, and I got thinking about one due to something that happened to me this week. In a beautifully horrible turn of fate, three girls I had asked out all entered into new relationships on successive days, and all

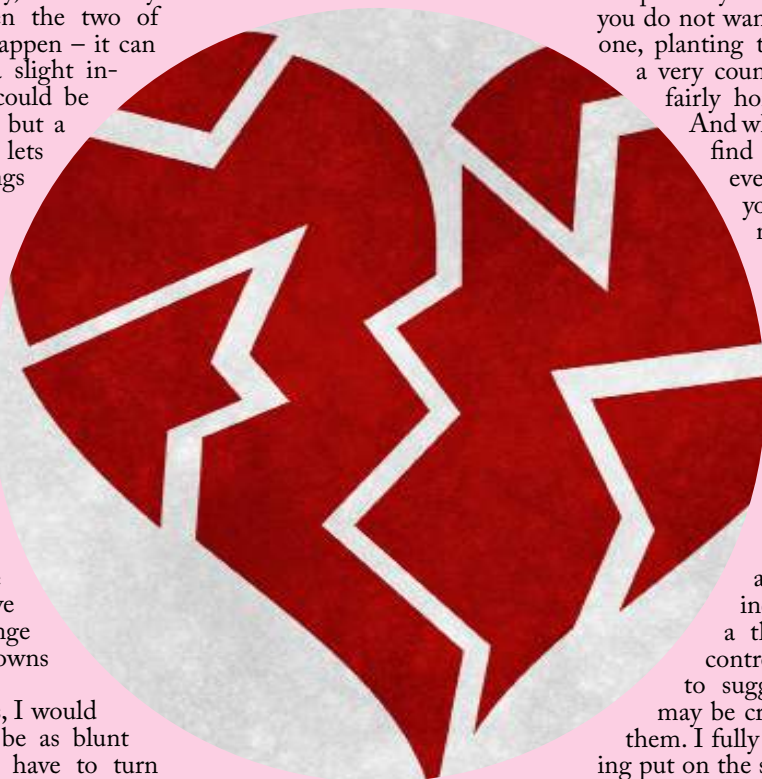
of them one is to tell them no, to put pay to the situation, but this keeps the flame alive. Qualifying your turn-down with 'at the moment' stokes the coals of hope, suggesting that if you play your cards right, there is a chance that you could end up with the person you want to be with. If you do not want to be with someone, planting this thought seems a very counter-productive and fairly horrible thing to do.

And when the person does find someone, it plants even more thoughts in your mind – did you miss your chance? What does this lucky person have that you don't?

Not that I'm suggesting this is an intentionally malicious thing, nor am I suggesting that it is the responsibility of the person being asked to let the asker down gently – indeed, feelings aren't a thing that you can control, and it is unfair to suggest that someone may be cruel for not sharing them. I fully appreciate that being put on the spot by being asked out can be equally as horrible as being turned down (which, inexplicably, I have also experienced).

However, it does seem a fair thing to talk about – if you're going to turn someone down, for whatever reason, that's entirely your prerogative. But why not make sure that you actually do it?

» Photo: Nicholas Raymond / Flickr



used the same rejection when I had asked them out. That rejection was the following: 'I am not interested in a relationship at the moment.'

And this rejection is the absolute cruellest that I can think of, for the sole reason that it does not do the job it is supposed to do. The whole point of rejecting some-

## Drinking and depression

We all know that (binge) drinking in the UK is on the rise. Used in games and nights out as a form of bonding, socialising and measuring up to what 'fun' is defined to be; young 18, 19 and twenty-somethings' like us are thrown into the rollercoaster that is university with a bottle of vodka, complementary condom and invite to every club night henceforth.

Many agree that alcohol is the key to a fun freshers' fortnight. A little drink can definitely take the edge off a new, quite intimidating environment filled with people we don't know and are forced to go out with. It makes you feel more comfortable in a strange place you now call home and bonds you instantly to the stranger down the hall. However, drinking centred socials often mean that alcohol is increasingly prevalent throughout university life. And, when 'letting off steam' means 'letting us get through half a bottle of Tesco's value rum', the culture seems almost dangerous.

Did you know that according to the NHS, about 1 in 3 men and 1 in 6 women may develop some sort of health problem caused by alcohol? Even more relevant are the results of the Student Beans 2011 survey, which found that out of 2000 students:

- 1) 37% could not remember how they got home after a night out.
- 2) 1 in 2 have missed a lecture or a seminar because they drank too much the night before.
- 3) More than a third have been injured after drinking.

It is extremely likely that you or someone you know can identify with one of these statistics. But, it is also very possible to know someone connected to the even darker aspects of binge drinking at university: it is a complete lifestyle change and has the potential to uproot one's mental health. According to the *Guardian*, the number of stu-

dents who took their own lives in England and Wales rose by 50% between 2007 and 2011, despite the number of students as a whole rising by only 14%. Pairing this rise in mental illness, with budget cuts to the NHS, it is no wonder why students fall victim to depression and the binge drinking culture of today.

The relationship between alcohol and depression is complex. Alcohol can be used as a coping mechanism and ultimately exacerbate underlying or previously undetected depression. Because alcohol is a depressant, it decreases the body's capability to reduce anxiety naturally – meaning that the more you drink, the more alcohol needed to 'numb' the feelings associated with anxiety. For anyone, this binge drinking can become cyclical and in many cases is the reason for depressive episodes in students. For those with depression; estimating the right amount to drink in order to maintain the initial feelings of euphoria becomes much harder. On the other hand, it becomes even more likely to crash down into anxiety due to alcohol's depressive traits. It is clear that students often find themselves harming their mental health by falling victim to the viscous cyclicity of drinking culture.

In 2015, the International Business Times stated that a quarter of the UK population will suffer from a form of mental illness, with mixed anxiety and depression being the most common. Because of this, it is really important that we as students are more conscious of how common mental illness is and adapt our culture to support those who endure it. Alcohol should by no means be the central focus of the modern university experience. It is the universities, students unions and students themselves that are responsible to make this a reality.

**Ashmita Chakraborty**

## Freshers fashion: have confidence in your look

Beginning university can be daunting to say the least. But as you begin to settle in to the glorified building site where you will spend the next three years, enjoy the toxic embrace of the daily takeaway and get comfortable with the bunch of randomers selected to live with you (for better or worse), a newfound confidence will be discovered.

Whilst you immediately notice that you are no longer afraid of walking into a room of strangers (you'll become an expert at offering up your A Level Results/favourite alcohol-related anecdote for their entertainment), it often takes longer to recognise how your fashion choices have changed across the first term of university. As your outside catches up with

your inside, you'll be getting a new sense of fashion as well as confidence, when you experiment with a bolder look that represents who you are now to people that cannot compare you to your past self. Man buns, underwear as outerwear and those patterned leggings that your parents said made you look like Bertie Bassett – they are all possible now.

Although reinventions are often limited to first year nap enthusiasts starting to spend most of their time in pyjamas, living with people your own age gives you the chance to watch people become more comfortable in their own skin. Often your housemates are the people best equipped to inspire you to try out new looks, as living on top of one another means that you

can share wardrobes. Speaking as someone who was once forced to once go on a night out despite being locked out of my room, being able to completely borrow someone else's ensemble is invaluable.

**“Being able to experiment with different clothes allows you to embrace the student lifestyle and be who you want to be.”**

Your fashion evolution at Warwick will not be the same without these people. From “show stopping” looks for the Freshers Party, to groaning at the money disappearing from your bank account,

disastrous and successful fashion experiences alike can be part of the intense bonding process you experience with your housemates. Whether consciously or unconsciously, your changes in appearance will be shaped by the people, places and experiences of university. Although your appearance does not in any way dictate how much you enjoy your student experience, being able to experiment with different clothes, hair styles and accessories allows you to embrace the student lifestyle and be who you want to be.

Instead of being constantly exposed to a social rhetoric that expects you to be ashamed of your own appearance, at Warwick you can wear what you like. Campus is a colourful place where people have

no idea what you looked like before university – embrace the chaos and changes that student life brings. As a world-weary final year, you may look back with horror at some of your riskier choices (I am thinking of a turquoise leotard that was Missguided by name and misguided by nature), but it is those fashion choices that help you remember your time at university and become a more independent and confident person. After all – when everything from stiletto heels to pointy elf slippers have frequented seminar rooms in the past, it is unlikely that people will bat more than an eyelid at what you wear to your Thursday 9am. (If you actually make it there.)

**Laura Cunliffe-Hall**



# Black History Month

WARWICK  
BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH

## Melanated Minds: power and prose

There is no one better than Akala to introduce Black History Month, states Amber Lascelles

» Akala a.k.a Kingslee Daley visited Leamington's Assembly this week for the flagship event / Photo: benpuch / Flickr

Arriving at the Zephyr Lounge, I could sense that Warwick Black History Month's launch night 'Melanated Minds' was about to be no ordinary student event. It had attracted a huge, mixed crowd of like-minded people, some non-students, some hip hop fans, all gathered to hear Akala drop some knowledge about black history.

Although the event started slightly late, this gave the attendees a chance to grab a drink, mingle and enjoy a great warm up playlist featuring Nas and Outkast. The night kicked off with an energetic performance from EQHQ street dance group, setting the tone for the next hour dedicated to showcasing some of Warwick's most talented spoken word artists and poets. Themes of race, belonging, and life experiences were approached creatively. Rami Yasir took one for the team by going first to step up to the mic, and his honest bars had the audience laugh-

**Akala's knowledge of indigenous black history was astonishingly detailed.**

Akala, a.k.a Kingslee Daley, took to the stage around 8pm, launching straight into his incredibly engaging lecture by talking about aspects of Ancient Egyptian history that have been buried by the dominant Eurocentric culture. We have all seen films and been to museums where the Egyptians of this period are portrayed as lighter skinned, when there is so much evidence that suggests they were predominantly black Africans. Akala illustrated the fact with photos of Pharaoh sculptures whose features had been mutilated to make them look less African. He encouraged the audience to participate by asking questions, such as where the term 'Ethiopia' derived from (the Greek). In summary, Akala's research evidences how African people were an essential part of the very beginnings of human history.

Akala's knowledge of indigenous black history was astonishingly detailed. There was a lot to take in, but the facts were fascinating. His interest in learning about true black history started young, as he attended a Pan-Af-

rican Saturday school and read Malcolm X at the age of 9. We learnt that in 30BC, the first people on Earth were from Africa; that Africans were present in America and the Caribbean before Columbus; and that Timbuktu is a real place that became fabled to Europeans because of the riches that could be found there. Importantly, Akala did not romanticise African history. The societies he talked about had class hierarchies akin to many other civilisations. "We've been taught that black history isn't universal", he stated, and the amount of information he condensed into two hours served to prove that black history is in fact global history.

Akala's anecdotes kept the dense information lively; for example, one teacher didn't take kindly to young Kingslee challenging her statement that William Wilberforce single handedly abolished slavery. He concluded with a bibliography full of further research, including *Africa in History* by Basil Davidson and *Remembering the Dismembered Continent* by Ayi Kweh Armah. Akala then

took questions from the audience, which is where things got really interesting. A few controversial questions from students, such as "what do you think about cultural appro-

**Akala came across as a genuine, real, down to earth guy whose ideas and knowledge have the potential to become even more influential.**

priation?" had the whole crowd engaged in debate, calling out their opinions. Another student asked Akala if he advocates violence against oppression. In true Akala style, his answers were frank and honest: "I don't advocate violence in all situations - but I'm not in any way a pacifist."

I agree with Akala's view that Britain needs to "change the way that things are taught" because the current curriculum is, and always has been, colonial and out-dated. Although I didn't manage to get my photo taken with him because it was getting late (gutted!), Akala came across as a genuine, real, down to earth guy whose ideas and knowledge have the potential to become even more influential.

In all honesty, if you missed this event - you missed out! However, there are still so many Black History Month events to attend most days and evenings in October.

*Make sure you follow Warwick Anti-Racism Society's page on Facebook for further information on where and when to attend the events.*

» Akala, with all of the different societies involved with BHM / Photo: Amber Lascelles



ing along with him. I personally really enjoyed both Tolu and Amaka's brilliant readings of their poetry, delivered with passion and heart. Next, Teju led a conversation on stage about black women's experiences from childhood to now, featuring Jessica from The Black Women's Project and Nia from Let's Talk Black. The massive round of applause confirmed that there is definitely an impressive pool of talent at Warwick!



# Black History Month

## The New Black: Do we live in a post racial society?

The first panel discussion of Black History Month attracted a crowd of students eager to express their views on the controversial idea of our current society being beyond racial biases.

BHM Coordinator Memes Ayinla introduced the forum, explaining how in recent years she had heard the term 'post racial' used by people she knew and in the media. She explained that this term buys into a belief that society is now 'colour blind', meaning that the majority of people do not have prejudices based on other people's skin colour, and that racism is pretty much a thing of the past.

She introduced the speakers on the panel, writer and former Warwick student Yomi Adegoke who founded Birthday Magazine, a publication that focuses on race, popular culture and intersectional feminism. The second speaker was Chidi Amadi, the Director of Education Policy in King's College London's Think Tank.

To spark the debate, a clip from a recent Pharrell Williams interview was shown, stating that he personally "did not let his race hold him back". Panellist Yomi explained that she didn't agree with the term 'New Black' because it implies that there is an 'old black'; people who choose to complain about racism. Many students thought that Pharrell's statement was similar to accusing people of colour of 'using the race card', which is understandably offensive and undermines the social reality of racism. Considering present global issues like police brutality and 'islamophobia', the statement is especially damaging.

The most provocative quote was rapper Common's, who recently commented: "white people, ya'll did us wrong. We know that

happened. But we need to move on from that."

Most of the audience thought this was a dangerous comment to make, because history cannot simply be forgotten. Common had been described as an 'Uncle Tom' on Twitter, and the panel dissected what they thought this term meant. Chidi explained that this phrase can be used offensively to signify 'whiteness' - for example, achieving good grades and being well spoken.

However, some students disagreed with using celebrities as a measure of how society really is. One student believed that people in the public eye are entitled to their individual opinion too, and another said that the reason why these artists' race doesn't effect them because they have become so rich and successful, their lives are beyond racial disadvantages. I agreed that Kanye West's opinion that 'racism is dead' needed to be taken with a pinch of salt. To me, he seems more interested in personal gain than helping those who still experience racism.

In my opinion, race needs to be seen, because it is a marker of cultural differences which must be understood to form a successful and cohesive society. Although there was no final conclusion to the broad topics discussed, it was great to be a part of a lively and at times heated debate that challenged the perception of what it means to be black in 2015.

POST  
RACIAL

## The fetishisation of the black body

Sexuality and blackness is a topic which I feel needs to be talked about far more openly in a society where black bodies are continuously objectified within the media.

Therefore, I was really looking forward to this informal discussion held by Warwick collective *Let's Talk Black*. Debbie, Abisola and Nia founded the group because they felt that issues which particularly affected black people were marginalised at less diverse universities like Warwick. They aimed to create a space where these issues could be brought to the forefront, and the large turnout for this event showed that their vision is definitely needed at Warwick.

The discussion began with the direct question; what does the word 'fetish' mean to you? It was defined broadly as an obsession with something abnormal. When applied to a whole race, it becomes a degrading way to objectify a person and dehumanise them. *Let's Talk Black* wanted to confront the problematic mentality that allows black women and men to be sexually objectified, in the media and in real life. The audience were asked to share their thoughts on whether they felt they had been victims of fetishisation; for example, called "exotic", touched inappropriately or stereotyped.

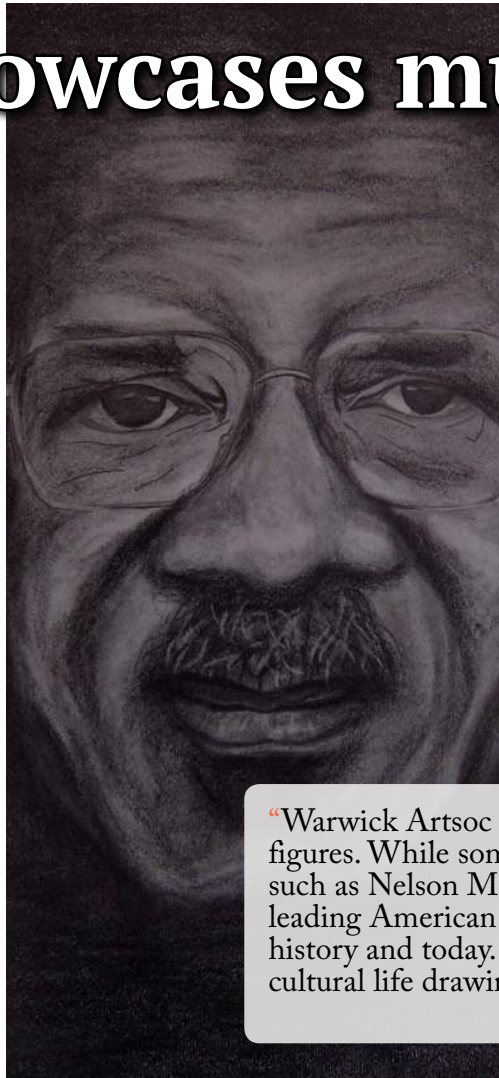
*Let's Talk Black* briefly explained the historical background behind black bodies being seen as a 'fetish'. For example, European

colonisers became obsessed with African women's larger breasts and bums. Aboriginal people were shockingly classified as 'flora and fauna' and seen as inferior. A video explained the history of the Hottentot Venus, an African woman who was taken from her tribe and paraded in front of Western audiences because her body shape was seen as freakish. The video sparked a debate about black women's agency in the present, and how sexuality shouldn't be seen as negative; it is a way for black women to control their own image and positive self-worth.

Because of the informal atmosphere, the discussion allowed everybody to express their experiences freely, in a way that was relatable. The audience gave their honest opinions on topics like interracial relationships, and how harmful it has been that blackness has been appropriated as 'fashion' by white female celebrities. I thought it was interesting to hear perceptions from students who had lived in other countries, like the Netherlands and Germany. Interestingly, Nia explained that it was much harder to find research on the fetishisation of the black male body. Although there were men in the audience, it was disappointing not to have had more male opinions on how they feel the black male body is made into a fetish within popular culture, and how it effects how they are perceived.

An important point to take away from the event is that in the internet age, people must take responsibility for their own education. There are no excuses for cultural ignorance that causes the objectification and degradation of other people, whose culture may not be the dominant one. Only then can people begin to think critically about mentalities that continue to be harmful to black people.

## ArtSoc showcases multi-cultural models

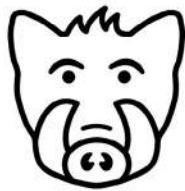


"Warwick Artsoc have showed their support by creating portraits of prominent black figures. While some interpreted the idea by drawing influential political figures from history such as Nelson Mandela, Artsoc exec Yi Ying Lim chose to sketch Misty Copeland, a leading American ballet dancer, recognising the under represented role of black women in history and today. Artsoc aim to continue this work by increasing the number of multi-cultural life drawing models in their sessions held twice a week."

Claire Laslett, ArtSoc president



# 50th Anniversary



speaker series

## Andy Conroy

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
BBC ONLINE & FUTURE MEDIA

*Ever dreamt  
about being part  
of the BBC?*

Starting out in student radio, Andy Conroy holds all the secrets to making a successful career in the media.

Join us on Thursday 22nd October in H0.52 to find out more about his career and how you can get into the media.

The Boar. Creating conversation on campus since 1973.





# 50th Anniversary



This edition will look at the “Festival of Imagination” - the flagship event run by the University for this year covering everything from notable speakers events and discussions; to innovation and the quality of research that can be seen at Warwick today. Here are our picks:



## The Festival of Imagination

Photos: The Boar Photography

### 50 years in 50 minutes *Natalya Smith*

The Arts Centre's guide to the Festival promised a “whistle-stop tour of the last 50 years on campus and the wider world” with “surprise walk-on experiences from some familiar faces.”

It featured guest speaker and Warwick alumnus, Philip Collins, a columnist for The Times and Tony Blair's former speechwriter.

Collins' speech focused on the rise of Warwick as a leading British university amongst a backdrop of social, cultural and political changes since 1965.

However, while Collins gave a broad overview of the University's progress in relation to the world around it, he did so alone. The only “familiar faces” appeared in the form of pictures and YouTube clips of successful Warwick alumni, from entertainers Ruth Jones, Frank Skinner and Stephen Merchant, to politicians including Valerie Amos, Wendy Alexander and Estelle Morris.

Collins discussed the increasing interest over time in Warwick's economic value and scholarship, visiting milestone events both for the University and worldwide.

Nick Crabtree, a first year Classics student, said that the talk “made [him] feel excited to be a student at Warwick and be a part of its constant move forward, especially considering that it's a relatively young university.”

First year Engineering student Álvaro Clavo Vallejo found Collins' speech witty and was impressed by his ability to educate and entertain his audience.

### Simply Scoff 2.0 *Lauren Hurrell*

From the ‘Vegetable Splodge’ of the 1970s to the ‘Seafood Chow Mein’ of today, Simply Scoff 2.0 looks at how cooking has changed over the last forty years through the latest Warwick collaborative cookbook.

Led by Professor of History Rebecca Earl, a panel of past and present University members - including former BBC correspondent Torin Douglas, author of Simply Scoff 1.0 Serena Macbeth, and SU president Isaac Leigh - examined the culinary shift from the 1970s.

Back then, a tin opener and a saucepan were all you needed, whereas today finding a George Forman grill in your kitchen would be no great surprise.

Next to them, in a kitchen setup every first year dreams of having (but would probably have no idea what to do with), University Development Chef Graham Crump whipped up recipes from the old and new cookbooks - and served them to the audience, a definite highlight of the discussions.

The panel also reflected on the shrinking gender divide in cooking talent: Douglas commented that in the past, having a girlfriend often meant ‘living in the lap of culinary luxury’. Now, students of all genders are cooking expert meals alike.

However, the question arose as to how realistic some of the recipes in the new cookbook are - as you would be hard pressed to find a fresher stocking crème fraîche or chia seeds in their fridge.

### What is corruption? *Sarah Morland*

The first answer, in response to the awkwardly-positioned university logo on the title slide, was ‘Warwick.’ (Don't worry, Sir Nigel, it's a joke!) After some dark chuckling and slight technical difficulties, star speaker Laurence Cockcroft tackled the question.

Mr Cockcroft is a founding member and former chairman of Transparency International UK, with extensive experience working in Africa and a lauded anti-corruption book to his name. He began by setting out the 6 so-called ‘types’ of corruption. Most importantly, Mr Cockcroft emphasised that corruption is a spectrum: no country is completely free of it, and no less our own.

This led us nicely onto banking scandals, MP expenses and MI5 covert ops. But Warwick's Mark Philp brought us back to the title question. After poking holes in the various accepted definitions of the word, he concluded that it is the public's extreme vilification of the concept which actually impedes our ability to tackle serious corruption appropriately.

Inevitably, perhaps, the discussion came back to Warwick with a question from the floor: “It is true that it is seldom acknowledged where funding comes from,” began Mark Knights, a History professor. “I'm going to dodge that question.”

Ultimately, Mr Cockcroft concluded that change must come from within: “And what better place than Warwick to start?”

### Solving Inequality *Robert Ebenburger*

The panellists were Georgia Gould, a Labour politician, Tony Atkinson, an Oxford economist, and Stewart Lansley, Bristol academic and author. The discussion was chaired by the BBC's home editor Mark Easton. There was no representative for Warwick.

The three writers approached a solution to inequality from different angles. Mr Atkinson advocated profound policy reform, with a more effective inheritance tax and better child support as two propositions.

Mr Lansley defended the idea of a new economic set-up as a necessary long-term reform, based on co-operative businesses.

Ms Gould called for a re-engagement of politics with the youth, and vice versa, to balance out an “inequality of [political] power.”

While the debate might have been hardly controversial on such grounds, the audience confronted the panel with provocative questions.

They had a positive impression of the event. Sophie Metcalfe, a teenager, liked that the social detachment of many young people was a main topic. Her mother, Pamela, liked that the debate was not an ideological one; instead, she appreciated the constructive debate of policy options.

» Find full reviews  
and coverage online at  
[www.theboar.org](http://www.theboar.org)





# 20% OFF AT STREET

EARLSDON - COVENTRY

ASIAN INSPIRED STREET FOOD



Show a Warwick Uni Student / Staff  
card and get 20% off your food bill!

Cannot be used in conjunction with other offers. Ends 30.11.15



Contact Us!

24-26 Earlsdon St  
CV5 6EJ



#11 & #11U buses to Earlsdon Street



[streetrestaurant.co.uk](http://streetrestaurant.co.uk)



[/streetrestaurant](https://www.facebook.com/streetrestaurant)



[@streetrestaurant](https://www.instagram.com/streetrestaurant)



[@streetearlsdon](https://twitter.com/streetearlsdon)



[info@streetrestaurant.co.uk](mailto:info@streetrestaurant.co.uk)

Discover Earlsdon, Coventry's best night out!





Editor: Alexander Shaw  
money@theboar.org

## Employment rate reaches record high

Alexander Shaw talks newly released jobless figures by the Office for National Statistics

There you have it! Statistics released this week by the Office for National Statistics has shown the employment rate across the United Kingdom to rise to its highest levels on record reaching now 73.6 percent.

The Department for Work and Pensions has pointed out in a press release that this equates to 360,000 more people in work today than this time last year. What's more, the press release also comments on how the unemployment rate has fallen to 5.4 percent, it's lowest level since early 2008, and half the euro-zone average. The figures indeed make for positive reading, with long-term unemployment falling by 25 percent over the course of the year, and youth unemployment now below its pre-crisis level.

Following on from an article featuring in the previous Finance section of *The Boar*, average wages are also rising by 3%, a positive outcome of George Osborne's economic plan.

When commenting on the recent statistics, reforming Work and pensions Secretary Iain Duncan

**"This is a fantastic set of figures, which show more people in work than ever before"**

Iain Duncan Smith

Smith said "This is a fantastic set of figures, which show more people in work than ever before and a strong growth in wages. That is a credit to British business, and a credit to the hardworking people of this country". A common criticism of the Government's economic policy is that it is only being felt in the South of London, often limited to London alone. However Iain Duncan Smith was quick to point out that "This positive picture is replicated up and down the country, demonstrating that this one nation government is delivering a society with opportunity and security for all at its heart".

When looking closer to home, the jobless figures look just as promising, with the local Member of Parliament, Chris White pointing out that Warwick and

Leamington is now 581st out of the 650 national constituencies for the lowest unemployment rating, a rise from its place in 2010 of 414.

This follows a series of positive news coming from both the Conservative press office, but also official statistics released from the Office for National Statistics, which, last week, showed the UK's earnings growing at its fastest level since 2009, an inflation-busting rate of 3.4% above inflation. Maybe that plan is working after all?

### 25%

The fall in long-term unemployment over the course of the year



» Long term economic plan? / Photo: altogetherfool / Flickr



» Britain remaining in the European Union is split roughly 50:50. The next year will be an interesting time / Photo: MPD01605 / Flickr

Recently, a new cross party campaign that calls for Britain's exit from the EU was launched. Ever since its inception, the campaign has been receiving support from prominent businessmen, politicians and a significant section of the public.

From the financial industry, the most high profile donor of this campaign is Crispin Odey, one of London's most prominent hedge fund managers. Mr Odey's decision is somewhat reflective of the general mood of hedge funds across the UK who would mostly want to support this campaign, though silently if not openly. In fact, Hedge Funds, despite being traditional

backers of Tories, have more than often expressed their exasperation over the intense post crisis regulations that the EU adopted after the Global Financial Crisis.

**Vote Leave is already causing major problems for Mr Cameron, worrying many Europhiles**

Hedge Fund managers across the board believe that the EU's Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive imposes additional and

unnecessary costs on them, thereby significantly hampering their global competitiveness. However, the news of the Hedge Fund industry backing the Vote Leave campaign has already sent alarm bells ringing in Mr Cameron's government. To counter the financial prowess of the aforementioned campaign, several top businessmen like Lord Sainsbury have pledged support to the Vote In Campaign that has recently been launched.

The interesting phenomenon out of all this is that it is potentially going to divide opinions in the City of London. Here is when investment banks come into the picture. Most of these banks to-

day feel that London's prominence as a global financial centre lies in

### £933

How much better off each family per year could be if leaving the EU according to Change, or Go.

its ability to tap into the common European market and attract the best of talent from across Europe.

In the eventuality of a Brexit, most experts feel that investment banks are likely to be hit most considering they employ many European citizens and most of their European Businesses are operated from London. Time is thus running out for Mr Cameron and his government to renegotiate Britain's relationship with Brussels and prevent the EU from its first major casualty.

Ehtesham Khurshid



What are the chances of a Brexit?  
Tell us on Facebook



# Major shock for Volkswagen over the emissions scandal

## Elena Prest explores the recent revelations and what we have learnt so far

The Volkswagen scandal has been thrust into the press and both the markets, and the EU has reacted. The President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), has told a German newspaper that it could recall loans that it gave to the company, loans that were, ironically, meant for low emissions engines and research and development into such technology.

Reporting last week, Werner Hoyer told Sueddeutsche Zeitung that it could recall around £1.3bn worth of loans that are still outstanding, a part of the 4.6bn Euros that it has lent the company since 1990. The Sueddeutsche Zeitung quoted Mr Hoyer as saying "The EIB could have taken a hit [from the emissions scandal] because we have to fulfil certain climate targets with our loans". Adding to this, he stated that 'very thorough investigations would be conducted' into the actions of VW.

Already majorly damaged by the scandal, VW has seen shares in recent weeks plummet, with questions over the jobs of many senior executives and who was aware that such rigging was taking place. Further to this, it has severely damaged the companies global reputation as a reliable brand that is trying to help reduce emissions of it's vehicles globally.

This week the Palace of Westminster grilled executives of the UK VW operations, with reports that around 1.2million motors

have been affected and around 400,000 will need fuel injectors modified. Already however, the company has put in place a system to deal with a website where customers can find out if they have been affected.

### £1.3bn

The loan that may be recalled by the European Investment Bank

Mr Willis, the managing director of the VW Group UK apologised "sincerely and unreservedly" for the firm's conduct, saying that by 2016 the firm hopes to have the problem completely resolved. Whilst taking a hit on the markets, sales have only been reduced slightly with the other brands remaining stable and unaffected, as pointed out by Mr Willis, raising questions about the volume of customers that are truly concerned.

One thing worth thinking about though, is this just isolated to VW, or merely the iceberg of a large series of practices by major car firms around the world? The next few weeks will certainly be interesting.



» VW has been the subject of a lot of criticism from campaigners / Photo: Channel 4

## What is the Charter for Budget Responsibility?

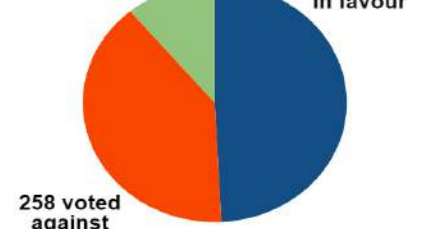
Jennie Watkin talks us through what it means for government spending and how it has just been passed by Members of Parliament

George Osborne

VS

Jeremy Corbyn

72 abstained 328 MPs voted in favour



258 voted against

The new charter requires the public finances to be in overall budget surplus by 2019-2020 and has been passed by 320 Members of Parliament, against 258.

McDonnell, the Shadow Chancellor has called the event rather "embarrassing" admitting that when he first claimed he would support the charter he was trying to "out-OSborne Osborne"



### #1 What this actually means



In monetary terms this could be immensely significant or have almost no effect. Firstly 'in normal times' is highly subjective and may be interpreted differently. However it has the potential to shrink state spending.

Requiring a overall budget surplus 'in normal times' it can bind parliaments to limit public spending and operate a net budget surplus, a key policy of the Conservatives under Osborne and Cameron.

### #2 In monetary terms

## National Stats

The UK in statistics this week by figures released by the Office for National Statistics

140,000

This week's rise in employment compared with the previous quarter

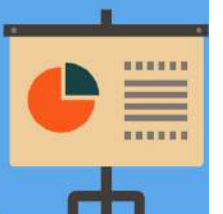
3%

The wage growth in the UK before inflation in the three months to August



-0.1%

The increase in the Consumer Price Index in the year to August



The trade in goods and services in the United Kingdom has positively increased from -£4.4bn in July 2015 to -£3.3bn in August 2015.

### UK Trade in Goods and Services





# Ferrari IPO: Supercar or Superstock?

Karim Foad examines the brand and its positioning in the markets



» Ferrari is a major player in luxury sports cars. It's iconic symbol is recognised world over and it is a leader in Formula One racing / photo: Wikimedia Commons

Ferrari owner Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV is planning to sell a 9 percent stake in the Italian supercar manufacturer, according to an SEC filing. The sale will consist of 17.2 million shares of Dutch holding company Ferrari NV at \$48 to \$52 each, according to a filing on Friday with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The shares will trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol RACE.

The IPO and eventual full spinoff of Ferrari are part of Fiat Chrysler Chief Executive Officer Sergio Marchionne's effort to raise funding to cut the parent company's debt and help finance a 48 billion-euro (\$54.5 billion) investment program that focuses on expanding the Jeep, Alfa Romeo and Maserati nameplates globally.

As part of its separation from Fiat, Ferrari will take on 2.8 billion euros in debt from the company, the filing shows, and subsequently issue

**Here's the thing: Ferrari does not see itself as a car company. It sees itself as a luxury company.**

a projected 2.128 billion euros in debt to third parties. Including that debt, Ferrari will have an enterprise value of about \$12 billion. That would be in line with the minimum \$11.4 billion that Marchionne, who's also the division's chairman, has estimated is appropriate for a brand he contends should be

treated more like a luxury-goods maker than an auto manufacturer.

"A luxury multiple is justified due to Ferrari's capital intensity, profit margins at scaled unit production, operating leverage and price inelasticity," said Adam Wyden, founder of ADW Capital Partners, who owns Fiat Chrysler shares.

At \$9.8 billion, Ferrari would be valued at nearly 35 times its annualized profits for the first six months of the year. That may sound like a high multiple for a car company. In today's startup bubble, that valuation makes Ferrari—which will trade under the ticker symbol RACE—a "decacorn," along with the likes of Airbnb, Dropbox, Pinterest, and Snapchat. Here's the thing: Ferrari does not see itself as a car company. It sees itself as a luxury company. The word "lux-

ury" is the reason Ferrari thinks it can command such a price. About half of Ferrari's current assets consist of its brand value. "Goodwill" and "intangible assets" are literally that: assets that don't exist, except as concepts (although they're backed with powerful intellectual property and copyright claims).

Ferrari, which has made a point of restricting the number of cars it makes to just below demand to preserve its models' high-end reputation, is set to push the boundaries of its exclusivity with plans to increase production of cars such as the €235,000 488 Spider convertible to 9000 cars in 2019 from about 7200 vehicles last year, according to a September 22 filing. The carmaker had previously set its limit at about 7000 cars a year.

Founded in 1947, the company

has been making some amazing cars in recent years and its Formula One team (the original reason for Ferrari's existence) is very close to challenging dominant Mercedes. It's unclear how an independent Ferrari would operate, but meeting federal fuel efficiency standards could prove tricky, without lots of Fiat 500s to pull the average MPGs up. There's also chatter that Ferrari will face increased pressure from shareholders to generate more profits. That could mean not only increasing sales but also adding more profitable but less racetrack-friendly vehicles, like SUVs to its manufacturing setup. Porsche has done just that, with lots of success, in the past decade. But that won't ease the sting of seeing a Prancing Horse seven-seater for the Ferrari purists.

## Chinese manufacturing contraction

Could the days of China being the manufacturing capital of the world be coming to an end?

In recent weeks the Chinese manufacturing sector has been struggling to maintain momentum, with the sector contracting for the second consecutive month.

7%

the official estimation of expected growth this year

suggesting a growth of (only) 6.4%.

Whilst in the face of potentially damning news, the markets have reacted fairly positively, with the Hang Seng in Hong Kong rising to 1.4% and the trade in Tokyo up 1.9%, as reported by the BBC's Business Editor. However, across Asia, Index readings appear less than positive, possibly signalling future problems facing the continent.

Alexander Shaw



» A relative slowdown in the Chinese economy may stop major investment projects / Photo: Wikimedia Commons



Search "The Boar Finance" on Facebook to get involved!





# Broaden your mind to three dimensional design

Sophia Pardon attends the current Mead Gallery exhibition entitled 'Making it'

This exhibition marks the emergence of young artists in the late 1970s who started to revolutionise sculpting. Many visualise sculptures as heavy busts of influential people. However these creators began to expand the world of sculpture, using second hand materials.

*Making it* displays a collection of UK artists who achieve this. It makes the viewer think about the possibilities of objects, and how materials and objects may have more than one purpose or meaning. This is a playful exhibition, as each artist has experimented with and manipulated materials in new inventive ways.

**This is a playful exhibition, as each artist has experimented with and manipulated materials in new inventive ways.**



» Richard Wilson's *Say Chees* (1984)  
Photo: Warwick Arts Centre

The lead for the camera was extended out of the side, as if in mid-motion and together it appeared this was a camera mid-shot.

The artist has recreated and captured a fleeting moment in time using such a heavy industrial material which I found extremely interesting.

As I walked around the space I saw other artists capturing these moments in time, such as Bill Woodrow's *Tattoo* (1983) which used part of a New York City Yellow cab door, and a panther made of black fabric pouncing onto the door.

He uses this fabric to spread across the

floor, almost like a skidding track mark. Again this creates the sensation of a menacing moment being interrupted.

When reading the programme I saw that Woodrow was interested in scavenging and transforming everyday materials. This scavenging nature was a new form of art, giving objects a new meaning.

Tony Cragg displayed this same technique in his piece *Postcard Flag (Union Jack)* which uses found objects to deconstruct the false perception of our perfect nation. He used the objects to assemble a Union Jack flag on the wall, making it during the time of the marriage of Charles and Diana.

This was a time of national pride and royalism. He seems to deconstruct this notion by creating an anti-establishment rawness, juxtaposed against the bright colours which exude this false appearance of wholeness and perfection.

I could go through all the sculptures within the exhibition in this manner however I wanted to highlight these three as I felt they encapsulated what this exhibition was about. It demonstrates how young UK artists in the late 70s changed sculpture as a form of art.

They all look at moments and concepts by taking objects and giving them a new meaning. As an artist it made me think about the possibility of mundane things and how so much can be constructed from things you don't expect.

I also enjoyed that the exhibition had an interactive section which laid out paper, pens, foil, plasticine and other objects. I was fascinated with seeing what sculptures other visitors had made.

*Making it* made me understand the potential of materials and broadened my mind in terms of three-dimensional design.

## Warwick Arts Centre receives over 300 student job applications in a fortnight

The Warwick Arts centre was inundated with applications from new students

The Arts Centre is a constant provider of student opportunity and employment.

This year student involvement is off to a flying start with over 100 applications for performance stewards, 80 of whom were successful and a further 150 applicants for gallery stewards, with 50 successful.

As well as this they have had applications for casual marketing assistants and student ambassadors.

If you spot someone behaving strangely on the piazza or approaching you with creative tasks this is most likely the Student Ambassadors who can give you information about student deals at the Arts Centre.

As well as this there are also box office roles and marketing internships recruited every Autumn and Summer.

Working for the Arts Centre not only gets



you that extra money you might need but also brings a wealth of experience because you are working with a real organisation, the biggest of its kind outside of London, with top theatre companies and creative teams.

The effort of the Arts Centre to involve the student body had been abundantly clear. It shows their acknowledgement and appreciation of the student community.

Although it can sometimes seem daunting to enter into a place where you might just see a member of the general public, the Arts Centre is clearly welcoming student with open arms and providing great employment opportunity in a central campus location and a buzzing atmosphere.

To find out more and if there are any further roles available visit the Warwick Arts Centre website:

[www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/students/](http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/students/)

### Arts Column Archive or Art?



In an age where digital media seems to permeate every corner of our lives, the theatre is one of the last tech-free oases. Recording is strictly forbidden, cameras are banished, and smartphone use is sacrilege.

However, the theatre world has increasingly begun to adapt to the technological age. These hitherto banned devices are working their way not only into the theatre, but onto the stage itself.

I first noticed this trend in the National Theatre's 2013 production of *Edward II*, where actors wielding cameras projected the action live above the stage.

More recently the Young Vic's *Measure for Measure* and *The Oresteia* at Trafalgar Studios have adopted the same techniques, and Complicite's *The Encounter* at Warwick Arts Centre made stunning use of sound; equipping the audience with headphones to create a very personal, intimate atmosphere.

As well as the intrusion of our digital lives on stage, broadcasting productions live to cinemas has proven hugely popular. The proponents of schemes such as National Theatre Live argue they bring theatregoing, with its excessive price tag and bourgeois reputation, to a mass audience.

However, there are undoubtedly knock-on effects to viewing a filmed production over a live one. After seeing the Barbican's *Hamlet* starring Benedict Cumberbatch in person and on screen I thought there were some elements unfortunately lost in translation.

The haunting first moment of the play where Nat King Cole's "Nature Boy" resounded throughout the audience could not produce the same extraordinary effect without the acoustics of a massive auditorium.

On the other hand, in a spine-tingling moment Cumberbatch is able to deliver Hamlet's "Am I a villain?" directly down the lens of the camera, bridging the distance between the actor and the cinema-going audience.

So are these growing technological trends an inclusive innovation for the digital generation, or merely a gimmick that intrudes on the theatre-going experience?

In my opinion, the use of technological advances in theatre, and screenings such as NT Live, are a positive sign for the future of the medium. When technology contributes to the storytelling it can bring something new and exciting to the table.

However, I add this proviso: theatre-makers should be cautious of replacing experiencing a production in person with something that proves to be a mediocre muddle of filtering great theatre into clumsily-shot cinema or of creating an archive rather than a piece of art.

Siobhan Brennan

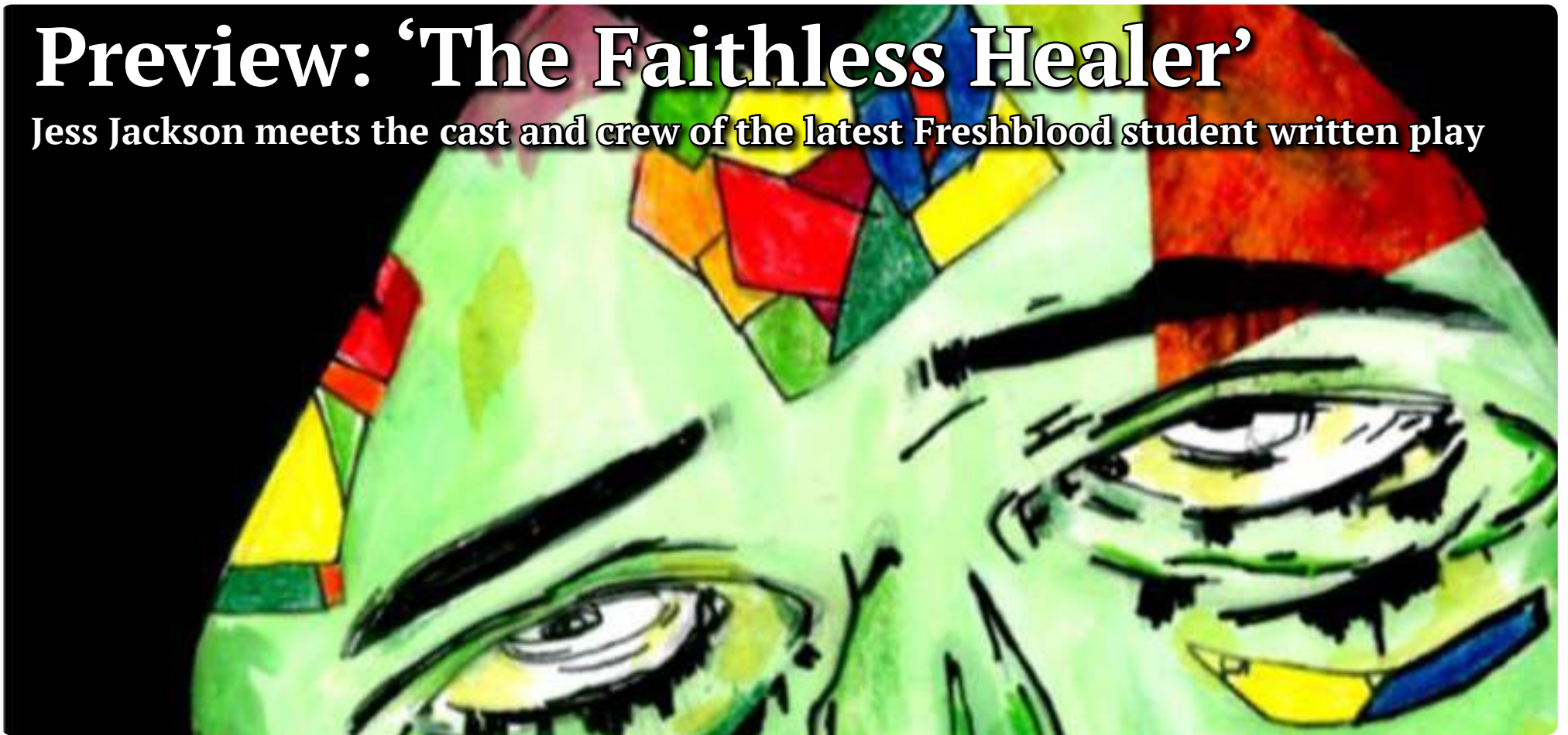


What's your opinion on the increasing use of technology among the arts?  
Tweet: @BoarArts



# Preview: 'The Faithless Healer'

Jess Jackson meets the cast and crew of the latest Freshblood student written play



» A section of the dynamic design of *The Faithless Healer's* promotional material / Photos: Freshblood

**T**he *Faithless Healer*, an original piece written by Sam George is bound to make you smile.

Although I only witnessed a few minutes of a work-in-progress scene, I found myself laughing a lot and was utterly impressed with the standard I was seeing, despite it only being a rehearsal. The brand new piece of writing by George is witty, clever and full of fun.

The piece focuses around Mary, played excellently by Alice Byrne, and her struggles over the healing powers she has been blessed with.

**The brand new piece of writing by George is witty, clever and full of fun.**

*The Faithless Healer* centres around the remote village in which Mary lives and the community's focus on religion and how faith brought this miracle of Mary's powers to them.

However Mary herself struggles with the concept of faith, causing the community to backfire.

The rather large cast of ten alongside co-directors Ella Tebay and Samuel Thorogood have all worked together in developing the characters and their interaction with each other.

When speaking to the cast, they told me the experience had been very physical in the workshops and that it was really nice being part of a performance which was so focused around the ensemble.

With *The Faithless Healer* being the first student production of the year, the cast and crew are all extremely excited for the piece being taken to The Warwick Arts Centre in Week 4.

I have to say, the ensemble were extremely strong. The entire cast were completely committed to their roles and I was lucky enough to witness them at their strongest: speaking in unison along side strong physical work.

The directors have been very clever with their staging, having the ensemble on their knees praising the character of Mary in the scene I witnessed.

The acting from each character looks to be exceptional, with a number of different accents being performed at different moments.

The way in which George has written the piece creates a strong sense of narration from



» Jess Jackson and the cast at rehearsal / Photo: Jess Jackson

the ensemble which portrays a real sense of community throughout.

The cast all work extremely well as a cohort and I got a real sense of a strong cast and crew relationship which was really important to see in the rehearsal process.

This show is definitely not to be missed. Not only is it the premier of a brand new piece of student written theatre, it will also bring a smile to your face and be a really en-

joyable evening.

However there are only four performances so don't miss out! Catch this show at the Warwick Arts Centre in the Studio during-Week 4.

Don't forget to keep an eye out on the Freshblood presents *The Faithless Healer's* Facebook page for their upcoming fundraiser 'Boozy Village Fete' next week.



» *The Faithless Healer* cast in rehearsal  
Photos: Freshblood







## The Rule of Three

Boar Books writers discuss their favourite trilogies

» Photo: Wikimedia Commons

### The Land of Ingary Diana Wynne-Jones

As a fan of Studio Ghibli's 2004 anime film, *Howl's Moving Castle*, imagine my delight when I discovered that, not only was the film based on a book, but that the book is part of *The Land of Ingary Trilogy*.

The books are wonderfully descriptive, with the first, *Howl's Moving Castle*, depicting the town of Market Chipping and life within Howl's castle perfectly. It fully immerses the reader in the land of Ingary and the perilous adventures of the main characters, Sophie, Howl and Calcifer, as they seek to undo the spells cast upon them by the Witch of the Waste.

The second book, *Castle in the Air*, follows the story of Abdullah, a carpet salesman from the desert lands South of Ingary. When his love, Flower-in-the-Night, is abducted by a genie he leaves his homeland to rescue her on a magic carpet. At first it is difficult to understand the link between this book and the first, however a twist half-way through re-introduces some familiar characters and reveals them as being pivotal to the plot.

The protagonist of *House of Many Ways* is the book-obsessed Charmaine, who is forced to look after a wizard's house whilst he is away. The doors in his house bend space and time and it is not long before Charmaine and the wizard's hapless apprentice, Peter, meet Sophie and are swept away to uncover a conspiracy which could threaten the King's life.

The trilogy is full of clever twists and surprises, delivering edge-of-the-seat suspense as well as real comic moments. It is a refreshing take on traditional sci-fi writing, delivered in Wynne-Jones' extremely readable and charming style.

Rachel Brooks

### Millenium Steig Larsson

The *Millennium* series by Steig Larsson was made famous by *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. It's tragic and explosive, yet full of hope for its lovable heroine. Published post-humously, Larsson's novels follow the dynamic and destructive Lisbeth Salander as she battles atrocities committed against her and other women by her government and male citizens.

We meet Lisbeth in the first book, as she investigates Mikael Blomkvist, a journalist hired to look into the disappearance of a girl in the 1960s. Her lack of social graces, evident intelligence and hard exterior should feel jarring, yet there is something spectacular and warm that makes us care for her until we too want to tattoo 'I'm a rapist pig' on the belly of the man that harmed her.

Lisbeth's bad luck continues in *The Girl who Played with Fire*, as she is framed for the murders of two investigative journalists hired by Blomkvist to expose the Swedish sex slave business. Blomkvist risks his own life in effort to prove Lisbeth's innocence. Though not as explosive as the first book, it was equally compelling and possibly darker, as you might expect from a writer who has themselves witnessed a rape.

The third book, *The Girl who Kicked the Hornets Nest*, offers no respite. Larsson fearlessly charges into Lisbeth's past and the suffering she has endured, sending Blomkvist to the rescue. It is Lisbeth who eventually saves herself, despite being shot three times and getting buried alive (a little unbelievable, perhaps, but nonetheless badass).

*Millennium* has everything: intrigue, sex, scandal, raw human emotion and the terror that comes when the truth is brought to life. An un-put-downable must-read.

Simran Kaur Sandhu

## A Walk on the Wild Side

Nicola Paling reviews Cheryl Strayed's best-selling novel, *Wild*

*Wild* is a true memoir about a woman's decision to hike over 1,000 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail entirely by herself. At the age of 26 and at rock bottom, Cheryl Strayed decided to that the best way to confront her past was to go on a very long walk. A three-month one to be precise.

Subtitled "A Journey From Lost to Found", it is immediately evident that this is not simply a book about walking. Instead, Strayed takes the reader on a journey through her own experience of death, divorce, a series of failed jobs and heroin addiction, all of which finally led to her decision to hike the trail.

Throughout the book, we see both the extreme emotional and physical pain Strayed experiences on her journey. Her decision to literally step into the woods alone, with next to no hiking experience, is presented as both incredibly brave and a bit foolhardy, something which she admits to herself.

She does not attempt to romanticise the walk, and so we experience the very realistic demands of undertaking such a physically challenging journey, with vivid descriptions of the injuries she acquires along the way. This, coupled with her age and inexperience, ensures the book is easy to relate to.

We are not alienated by technical language or feel like we are being lectured to, but instead we can empathise with Strayed's

epic journey, especially when she begins to question whether the whole idea was a mistake. Something I am sure we have all been through, no matter the scale of the issue.

The book constantly moves between the past and present, with Strayed's traumatic past being carefully woven into her physical journey. It seems to be the act of walking that allows her to come to terms with her past.

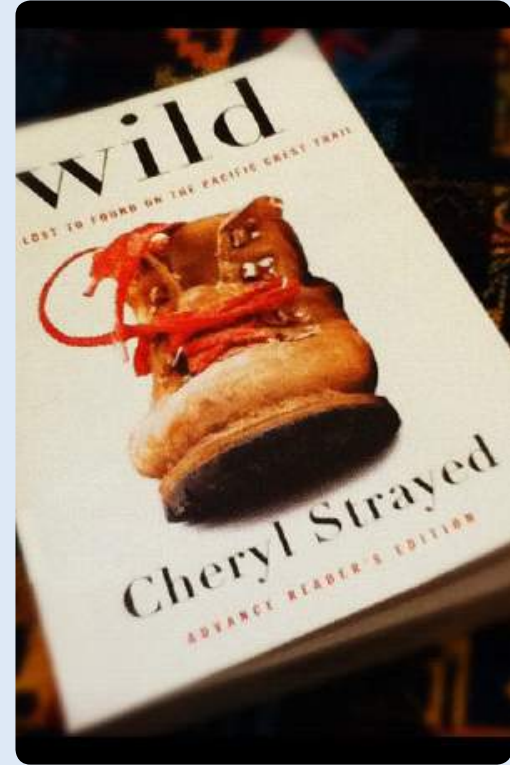
I won't spoil it for you, but the very last line of the book left me in tears, and it is not often that books make me cry. This is a genuinely inspirational read, and proves that there is truth in some of the clichés we are bombarded with. Perhaps the most important thing to take away being that if you step out of your comfort zone, amazing things can happen. Strayed is now famous for her motivational talks which have come about as a result of this book being published and

it is not hard to see why.

Now having read it three times, *Wild* has become one of my all-time favourite books. Even if you're not a big fan of travel writing or memoirs, I would recommend this book to anyone, purely for the sense of determination which propels the story forward.

In fact, I would say it is impossible to read this book without feeling inspired in some way. Ultimately it shows that there is something wild in all of us, but it is only when we take a leap of faith that we discover what this is.

» Photo: Tammy Strobel / Flickr



## Why I'm still charmed by Ron and Hermione

As one of the most beloved couples in children's literature, Ron and Hermione's journey - from antagonism, to friendship, to burgeoning romance, and finally wedded bliss - bewitched a generation. In recent revelation that rocked the Twittersphere, J.K. Rowling made a startling announcement.

The pairing was a "form of wish fulfilment"

According to the creator of the series, the pairing was a "form of wish fulfilment" for her, there was "too much fundamental in-

compatibility" between them, and "in some ways Hermione and Harry are a better fit".

These comments provoked misleading headlines in the press and a downright furore in the fandom. She admitted her inflammatory remarks were tantamount to "Potter heresy!"

So does an author's retrospective opinion of her work, years after publication, necessarily matter more than any other opinion? I would argue not. Once a piece of literature is out there it becomes something more than

an author's brainchild.

For those who have taken her remarks to heart I say this: aren't most successful fictional depictions of romance a form of wish fulfilment? Close friends who become something more; the antagonistic relationship that masks a secret mutual attraction; these elements only make us root for Ron and Hermione more.

As for "fundamental incompatibility", I would counter J.K.'s opinion. Ron and Hermione balance out each other's faults. With Hermione, often-overshadowed Ron grows

in confidence and realises his potential. With Ron, Hermione learns to prioritise doing the right thing over strict adherence to the rules.

Wish fulfilment or not, Ron and Hermione's relationship provides an essential function. They subvert the common trope that 'the hero gets the girl', that you somehow 'earn' the affection of the desirable female in the room. It opens up the space for a strong friendship between Harry and Hermione and - pardon the pun - dispels the myth that men and women can't be friends.

Now there's a pairing worth fighting for.

Siobhan Brennan

» Photos: en.wikimedia.org and commons.wikimedia.org







## Inspiring Iceland

Tessa Schiller investigates the mysterious Scandinavian nation

This summer I didn't really do much with my life, and then it all started falling apart.

When my dad suggested we go on a holiday I wasn't really in the place to suggest somewhere where you 'do things'. Iceland is definitely a place where you can do a hell of a lot of 'things' but you can also sit in a car and drive, and drive, and drive some more.

I've never been so overwhelmed by a landscape. It was constantly changing, often incredibly harsh, but also beautiful.

The whole place seemed to scream of isolation. A solitary landscape, perfect for my grumpy self. We went to the Western Fjords ("now I understand why the parrot was pin-ing") and saw waterfalls, 'ominous cumulonimbus formations' and even picked up a hitchhiker in bright colours who was visiting from Poland.

The highlight was the final day though: the glaciers which flood into the sea leaving chunks of ice beached on the black sand, mist forming as the sun shone down proved that there was nowhere quite like Iceland.

I couldn't live there: the harshness of the surroundings would become too much. But as a place to visit, to drive and think and just look, I can't recommend it more.

1 One of the first things we did was the Golden Circle which is a road trip that takes you around to see some of the best geysers, lakes and waterfalls Iceland has to offer. The most surreal element of Iceland is how much of it looks like American desert.

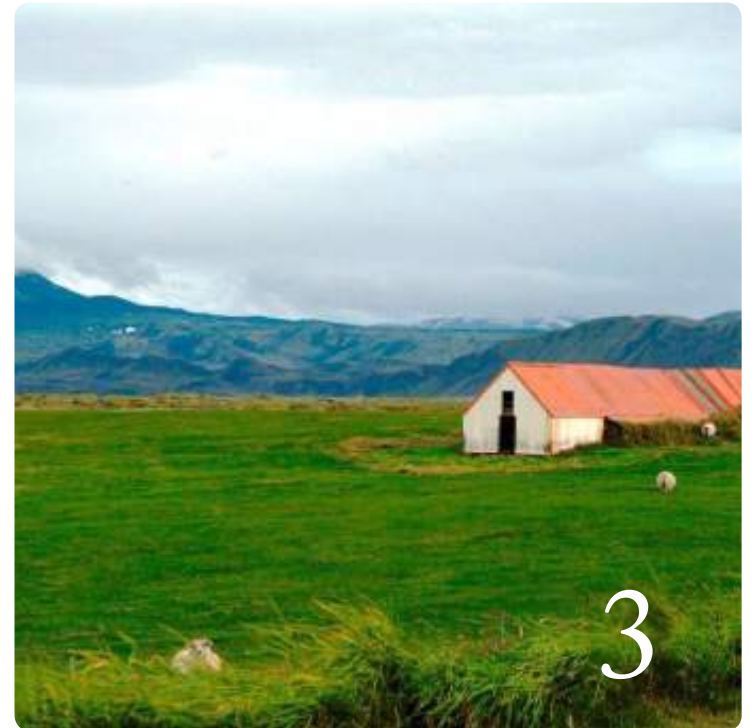
2 For Reykjavik Pride, a rainbow painted street was commissioned. It was beautifully sunny and a lovely long road. I'm glad that it wasn't removed after Pride was over, that it's there to stay.

3 Dad and I spent a long time driving and whilst we drove we would just wind down the window and snap, hoping for the best. This is one of the better ones we took. Mostly because of the angry sheep. The sheep are very angry in Iceland.

4 This is a picture of the glacier lake from Die Another Day. Bond didn't appear in short shorts (wrong film, I know), but it was by far and away the best thing I saw on this trip. Not to sound cliched but it was genuinely breathtaking and entirely surreal.



1



3



2



4

### Culture Shocks:

#### Al-paca your bags

Backpacking across South America for two months this summer meant weeks of indulgent eating (and drinking).

I told myself I should try and eat as many local delicacies as I could stomach. Ranging from the vast choices of barbecued meats in Brazil and the tender Bife de Chorizos of Argentina on the east coast to the more traditional staples of Potatoes, Corn and Rice that

are popular amongst the Andean nations, I wasn't let down when it came to variety.

It was Peru however, that really surprised me when it came to food. Not only was food, much like everything in Peru, extremely cheap but it was always freshly cooked and surprisingly good.

Upon arrival in Cusco, I decided to hunt out the first of my Peruvian musts... "Cuy" (Guinea Pig). Largely a touristy option for most restaurants, it was relatively easy to find a place for me to lose my Guinea Pig virginity, much to the disgust of my female companion at the time.

Costing me £10 and charred to perfection, my half-rodent meal came with both rice and potatoes and a complimentary glass of chicha (a local corn beer) and tasted like a gamey chicken with the odd hair thrown in on top. Not the most appealing of meals for many I'm sure but for the adventurous traveller, Guinea Pig is a must.

For the next Peruvian classic, I had to wait until I had made it to Arequipa, near the border with Chile, where whilst on an expedition to the Colca Canyon I was able to buy a grilled Alpaca skewer from a street vendor for 50p.

Not surprisingly Alpaca tasted like lean lamb but I was assured that as they were not really bred for meat, I should instead try my luck with Llama.

I did manage to get a taste of Llama on my penultimate day in Peru, however it was a bit of a cheat as it came in the form of a Llama burger stacked with bacon, nachos and cheese.

Nonetheless I can safely say it was one of the best burgers I've ever had and capped off of a fantastic time in what was my favourite South American country.

Matt Downs





Editor: Selina-Jane Spencer  
science@theboar.org

## The 2015 Nobel Prize: an unofficial guide

Henry Smith explains the importance of this year's six pieces of Nobel Prize winning research

It's an award almost as revered as the Great British Bake Off trophy – but, while the quality of Nadiya's Mille-Feuille masterpiece was clear to all, the importance of the works that won this year's Nobel prizes can be hard to get to grips with. Here's a summary of what the Nobel Prize winners for each discipline truly achieved.

The Medicine Prize was split between two teams. William C. Campbell and Satoshi Omura received half of it, for the discovery of Avermectin, a parasite-busting drug that Omura found in soil-dwelling microbes. This drug has revolutionised treatment of such parasitic diseases as river blindness and elephantitis. The other half went to Youyou Tu, for tracking down isolation of the active component artemisin from a herb once mentioned in an ancient remedy for malaria. Artemisin now sets a fast acting standard for antimalarial treatment.

Takaaki Kajita and Arthur B. Macdonald won the Physics prize for discovering Neutrino oscillations, which prove that neutrinos have mass. Neutrinos are electron-type particles that have been neutralised, lacking the negative charge. Kajita and Macdonald pioneered in collecting observations of neutrino oscillations, discovering that neutrinos could change "flavour" between neutrino versions of either electrons, muons (big electrons) or taus (really big electrons). This also explained why we were only detecting a third of the electron neutrinos the sun was producing. The only explanation for this oscillation required neutrinos to have a mass, changing the standard model of particle physics.

The Chemistry prize was awarded to To-

mas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sancar for explaining the mechanics of how DNA is able to repair itself. DNA's G, C, A and T groups are constantly at risk of getting mixed up, but we now know it has a crack team of enzymes primed to repair any damage.

The prize for literature was awarded to Svetlana Alexievich, a Belarusian journalist who documented the emotion of the Soviet Union's darkest hours. The events she relates range from Chernobyl to the Soviet war with Afghanistan, and employ real world interviews and anecdotes to achieve a sense of factual accuracy. She describes her work as "an eternal dialogue of the executioners and the victims."

The separate Prize in Economic Sciences went to Angus Deaton (not the one from TV) for his work developing measures of poverty, introducing "change in welfare" as an indicator. He also highlighted the Deaton Paradox, where large, permanent and sudden changes in average income tend to result in fairly slow changes in consumption habits.

Last but certainly not least, the Nobel Peace prize went to the National Dialogue quartet for their role in stabilising Tunisia. Tunisia was the first uprising in the Arab

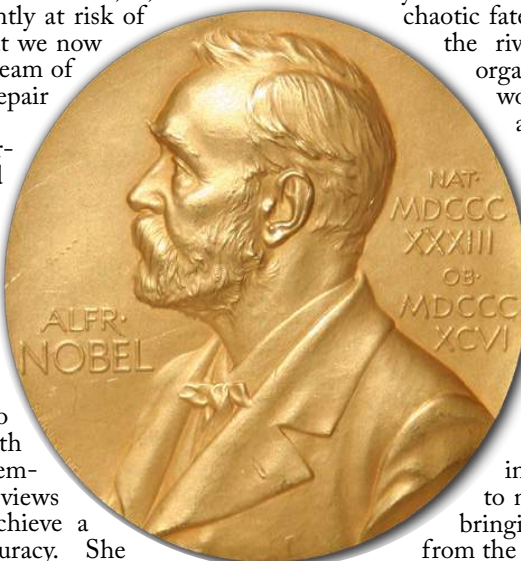
Spring, toppling the dictatorial President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. But though the country looked destined for the same chaotic fate as Libya and Egypt, the rivalrous Tunisian civil organizations for lawyers, workers, human rights, and industry put their differences aside to form the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet. They drafted compromises between the many political parties vying for power and laid down a more democratic foundation for future elections, forcing all political parties to negotiate together and bringing the country back from the edge of civil war.

The prizes were announced between the 5th and 12th of October. But use your newfound Nobel knowledge while you can: you only have until next year before another set of winners are announced...

» The Nobel Prize photo: Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library / Flickr



Do you want to write for Science&Tech?  
Email us on:  
Science@theboar.org



### Scientists Explain: How DNA repairs itself

DNA's G, C, A and T groups are constantly at risk of getting mixed up, but we now know that DNA has a crack team of enzymes that are primed to repair any damage.

For instance, a C group in a CG base pair can decay at any time to lose an amino group and render itself unreadable. We had no idea how the body counteracted this, until Lindahl discovered an enzyme able to remove the specific damaged C nucleotide.

If UV radiation causes two T groups to bind together, another enzyme found by Sancar will cut out the defunct strand and let it be replaced.

If the GCAT nucleotides don't link to each other correctly (so if A accidentally matches itself to C, for example, or G to T), a third enzyme, found by Modrich, will cut the section open and again allow it to heal.

These enzymes are pretty handy; without them, life would not have evolved at all.



» DNA double helix photo: Public Domain Pictures / Pixabay

## Having happy friends is good for your health



» Photo: Sachin Patekar / pdpics

### Lacey Read discusses the impact of friendship groups on students' mental health

A recent study conducted by Professor Frances Griffiths, at Warwick University Medical School, found that a healthy mood amongst friends leads to a lower risk of developing depression and an increased chance of recovery from the illness. Using the Markov model, a similar method used when tracking the spread of infectious disease, the study observed more than 2,000 adolescents in a network of US high school students. Individuals were classified as either having depressive symptoms (low mood) or not being depressed (healthy mood) according to the score cut-off associated with a clinical diagnosis of depression. By tracking the spread of moods, the researchers were able to see how the student's moods affected each other. The depression did not spread amongst friends but the good moods did!

Depression is currently a major public health concern. Globally, 350 million people are currently affected by depression. According to the Royal College of Psychi-

atrists, one in five people become depressed at some point in their life. Student life can be extremely stressful and the transitions you

**"Having approximately 10 friends with a 'healthy mood' double the chance of recovering from depression over a 6-12 month period"**

make when coming to university can make you more susceptible to developing depression. As many as 29% of students may experience some mental health issues during their studies. However, this study has found that having as little as 5 friends with a 'healthy mood' can halve the probability of developing depression. Having approximately 10 friends with a 'healthy mood' double the chance of recovering from depression over a

6-12 month period.

Currently, depression costs the NHS upwards of £8 billion per year. Edward Hill, the lead author of this study, suggests that encouraging strong social networks may be a low-risk, low-cost way to reduce depression. He states that his "results suggest that promotion of any friendship between adolescents can reduce depression since having depressed friends does not put them at risk, but having healthy friends is both protective and curative". An author of the paper, Dr Thomas House, implies that this study shows promise for more 'cheap, low-risk social interventions' to treat depression. He thinks that by encouraging social networks within individuals, we may reduce the instance of depression. "As a society, if we enable friendships to develop among adolescents (for example providing youth clubs) each adolescent is more likely to have enough friends with healthy mood to have a protective effect."

So the key message to take from this,

freshers, is to take a few weeks to socialise, before you let work stress you out. Get to know the people in your flats, on your course and in societies. It may even protect your mental health.

*If you ever need mental health help, there are many services on campus for you. Nightline is a free, confidential service that provides you someone to talk to. You can call them 9pm-9am on 024 7652 2199.*







# The Nobel Prizes: an analysis

**A**fter a long wait – (nominations began in September 2014), laureates of the 2015 Nobel Prizes were announced during the first two weeks of October. We all know that the Nobel Prizes are important: but what impact do they have on the non-scientific world?

## Physics

The Nobel Prize for physics is shared between Arthur McDonald and Takaaki Kajita from Queen's University, Canada and the University of Tokyo, for 'the discovery of neutrino oscillation'. As Henry explained, neutrinos are tiny sub-atomic particles with no charge. Most of the neutrinos around Earth are from nuclear reactions in the sun with hundreds of billions of solar neutrinos entering our vicinity each second, so they're pretty important. The important conclusion of these scientists' work is the neutrinos must have mass! This is a huge revelation for the world of subatomic particles – despite their small mass there are so many neutrinos in the universe that their combined weight is estimated to be around the same as that of all of the visible stars.

## Chemistry

Split between three scientists, the Nobel Prize for chemistry was awarded to Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich and Aziz Sancar (the second Turkish-born recipient of a Nobel Prize ever) for their 'mechanistic studies of DNA repair.' Lindahl began searching for an enzyme to repair faulty DNA material at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. This was followed by Modrich's detailed research into mismatch repair – using enzymes to repair damaged DNA; a very effective process for DNA protection. Later, Sancar worked at Yale University to identify and remove DNA material damaged by UV light using enzymes. The combined processes can repair a huge amount of DNA defects caused by UV rays, toxic substances and copying errors and are massive developments for many degenerative diseases and forms of cancer.

## Medicine

The Nobel Prize for medicine was also split between three scientists who discovered two different drugs. We'll start with Youyou Tu, the first female Chinese laureate, who dis-

covered artemisinin, an anti-malaria drug. She was part of a secret military project trying to find a cure for malaria and decided to explore ancient Chinese medicine as part of her research. She combined this with modern statistical analysis techniques to produce artemisinin. The second recipient from Kitasato University, Japan is Satoshi Omura, a soil microbe expert who also took influences from natural remedies to discover avermectin. William Campbell took this work further at Drew University, New Jersey. Avermectin was evolved into the more powerful ivermectin and used to wipe out parasitic infections in humans. These discoveries are estimated to have improved 3.4 billion lives, almost half of the world's population.

All of these laureates are extremely deserving and have made a big difference to their chosen fields. It's reassuring to know that scientists are constantly making progress in the battles against some of the problems that mankind faces. I'm sure next year's awards will bring another batch of equally inspiring and worthy recipients.

Sarah Elliott

Photo: Hackspett / Creative Commons

## No turning back: global temperature to rise 2°C by 2100

**S**cientists have announced that all our attempts to keep the increase in global temperature below 2°C from pre-industrial levels by the end of this century are not enough.

Why 2°C? It appears that nobody truly knows. The politicians claim that it is "what the science demands", whereas the scientific community, as represented by the IPCC, counteract with "climate policy is a value-laden judgement and therefore falls beyond the remit of scientific enquiry". Nonetheless, the throng of politicians at COP21 will make promises to avoid "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system" as outlined in the UNFCCC Rio Convention (1994). They will attempt this with absence of official scientists in the building. And this is why the world will probably fall short of agreement once again.

Although the climate is incredibly complicated, temperature is effectively the major driving mechanism behind most other aspects of the climate system. You are most likely already aware of some of the direct consequences of excessive warming, such as loss of ecosystems, risk to human life, sea level rise (due to both the melting of glaciers as well as thermal expansion) and depressingly many more. Therefore it appears that indeed, monitoring the global temperature rise is a feasible way of judging just how badly we are doing. But to what extent?

The problem I see is this: natural climate variability may account for up to 0.5°C change in either direction over a few decades. That's 25% of the proposed maximum target. Even if humankind reduce emissions to 0% of the dirt that we currently spew out and contribute to the already saturated 400ppm CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere; even if that unlikely scenario happens, global temperatures may still rise up to 0.7°C. Add a potential 0.5 of natural variability on top and the next century could witness a rise of 1.2°C, enough to cause severe damage to ecosystems and further affect the delicacy of our atmosphere.

Sadly, this is something like a best-case scenario. The trouble is that science cannot fully predict the sensitivity of our climate; the change caused by change leads to chaotic and unpredictable behaviour, thus we may well see an increase in natural disasters we can't stop. That's if we stop polluting this very minute. It only gets worse if we carry on as normal.

Though one could argue that there is little each one of us can do in light of all these failures of the big guys in governments, there is in fact quite a lot that collective action can do. If we do not want to keep spinning this perpetual rat wheel fuelled by politicians' empty promises, we must get the scientists involved in discussions. If we do not, the world stands no chance against climate change.

Kaja Milczewska



Photo: NASA/Flickr

## Adblocker: harmless timesaver or content killer?

**S**o you're browsing the web, going about your usual business and out of nowhere you see a pop up. Maybe you want to watch a video on YouTube but are forced to sit through that movie trailer you've seen a dozen times. It's no surprise then, that ad blockers have seen an increase in their install base. Ad blockers are small browser extensions that can be downloaded freely by anyone. They execute code that prevents ads loading from a known database. For the end user, it simply means no ads. It's a simple fix to an annoying problem.

One of the latest tech concerns is privacy. It's come to light that ad networks collect data on their user to inform which ads are shown to them. Yet, no major networks allow easy access, if any, to control what data is being mined, who's viewing it and how it's being shared. Ad blockers take care of this too, as the ads just aren't allowed to load. It's actually an effective way to prevent data snooping and hands back control to the user.

So why do ads exist in the first place? The internet is full of content. Providing that content costs a lot of money. Especially if you have lots of traffic. In order to recoup the costs, companies can do one of two things:

- 1) Sell a product or service alongside their content for profit.
- 2) Sell advertising space.

The second has a lot more appeal as it means that the end user doesn't have to spend money to access the site. Also, there is no guarantee that people will buy a company's product. Selling ad space is more convenient for website owner. It also means that the content (largely) remains free. Companies buying ad space, are betting that the large user base will see the ad, click on it, and in turn

buy their product/service. Yet that's where the issue lies. If people install ad blockers, they don't view these ads and in turn do not buy said product. It means that websites are unable to command higher prices for the ad space which leads to a loss of revenue.

Currently, the install base of top three ad blockers on Google Chrome is around 100 million. That's 3.4% of the total number of internet users. Now that may not seem like much, but content providers have begun to notice. Channel 4 prevents viewers from watching content on All4 if they have ad blockers installed.



This tussle of users and content providers suggests a serious problem. Up until recently, this issue was only on the desktop. However, with the release of iOS 9, people can download content blockers from the app store for mobile Safari. Some analysts have suggested that this may be a sophisticated attack against Google, as Google currently owns the largest ad network. By encouraging users to disable ads on their devices, the

Google ad network doesn't have the impact it once had. This directly affects their bottom line. It's a rather sneaky tactic to impact Android.

It's no surprise then that some content providers have begun to find alternative ways to fund their content. The *Guardian* asks users using ad blockers to become supporters. Some have started to sell sponsored posts as a way of promoting products by writing reviews or featuring it in a video or podcast. These are indirect ways of achieving the same thing – selling space to allow content to be distributed freely. Another new way to allow to free distribution of content is to use Patreon. Patreon is a website that allows artists and creators to earn recurring payments from their fans. Patreon is a subscription service for which, like Kick Starter, higher pledge amounts result to higher benefits. It's a clever way of engaging with the audience.

Perhaps this then is a sign; a signal to the ad industry to do better. To do away with the annoying popups and flash videos. To remove the ugly links and skyscraper banners. To re-evaluate the data mining they do and give users control of what personal data is being collected. There's no better time to propose reform then when you're about to get knocked out. Instead focus on more curated content that is relevant and tailored to the site you're on. Make the whole experience seamless. Who knows, people might even engage more if the content is relevant to them.

Hamza Oza

Photo: Sven Hartz / Wikimedia Commons





Editors: Jess Mason and Stephen Paul  
music@theboar.org

## Getting to grips with Gengahr

Stephen Paul interviews one of this year's biggest British breakthroughs

» Horror-show psychpop from the rose-petalled boys / Photo: Hollie Fernando

Their concoction of the catchiest of catchy dream-pop sees them crooning loveless lines like “Darling, it started out meaning nothing” on ‘Dizzy Ghosts’, but always immersing themselves in wicked horror-show cinematics: “Two teeth to stick you with and I still don’t know your name” the vampiric love story ‘Fill My Gums With Blood’ goes.

This is **Gengahr** – an odd-pop four-piece originally from London town, and they’re fast becoming Britain’s biggest breakout band of 2015. The year started well enough, opening for **alt-J** on their European tour, then onto Australia where the band have seen the most success; they gained a record deal there before anywhere else. “That was a big one for us” Felix Bushe, lead-singer and guitarist for the band, tells me as I caught up with him shortly before their first (first!?) headline UK tour.

The dank, dim gloom of Hounds would then play the perfectly imperfect host to Gengahr’s ‘Bathed in Light’ et al.

The Hare and Hounds, an old-school sort of grimy Brum pub/venue with decades-old decor (and a thriving live music scene – **Du Blonde** played another room on the same night; **East India Youth**, **Speedy Ortiz** and **The Wytches** were to play in the coming weeks), was several worlds apart from where I’d last managed to catch these psych-popsters. Glastonbury’s John Peel tent on a Sunday morning is an unforgiving place; hangovers cling to skulls, like neuro-

science-occupied squirrels. Swaying to the music was probably involuntarily on most people’s part. I digress. The dank, dim gloom of Hounds would then play the perfectly imperfect host to Gengahr’s ‘Bathed in Light’ et al.

The success of similar bands makes it surprising, then, that with one of the debuts of the year they’ve not quite exploded just yet

Live, the mix of lush melodies, Bushe’s captivating falsetto and lead-guitarist John Victor’s mind-boggling skills with a six-string axe, produce a wonderful sound. ‘Trampoline’’s outro and the thrashes featured on ‘Heroin’ and ‘She’s A Witch’ are particular highlights.

I wondered if taking the (often difficult) decision to pursue a career in the (almost always unforgiving) music industry had been made easily enough: “I always wanted to do this, but as I got older that confidence has wavered. I found myself back at uni a few times, trying to do other jobs: I always wanted to do music, with differing levels of intensity I guess”. There’s no doubt that now, all the hard work has been worth it.

Certainly the success of similar bands such as **Glass Animals** and **alt-J**, then further back **Radiohead**, makes it surprising, then, that with one of the debuts of the year they’ve not quite exploded just yet. Felix nevertheless doesn’t take the bait, and points to the sort of level-headedness and grip on reality which has probably allowed the band to go as far

as they have done already: “taking everything in their stride” and “there’s no missing out steps”. No ‘I want to be playing stadiums’ aspirations yet from this band, despite the plausibility of that prospect – whether they want to let themselves believe that or not.

As our interview comes to a close, I ask Felix if he reckons they’ll have had a number one album in ten years’ time. He laughs and says probably not. But with the 90s coming back into fashion, their well-crafted loud/soft dynamics seem perfectly suited to fill these smaller venues this autumn, and (well, why not?) even larger spaces for years to come.



» Mind-boggling axe skills Photo: Flickr / Paul Hudson

## Albums

**Deafheaven**  
*New Bermuda*

★★★★



While Deafheaven’s signature instrumental interludes still remain scattered throughout the album, many of the riffs are far more gritty and punishing than their last effort, with the church-bell laced introduction of the opening track soon giving way to grandiose instrumentation. While it could be argued that a lack of more experimental interludes deepens the immersive nature of their music, *New Bermuda* is in fact a much more difficult record to lose yourself in than their earlier albums.

**Will Copping**

**Deerhunter**  
*Fading Frontier*

★★★★



Make no mistake, this is Deerhunter’s poppiest album to date, yet still fundamentally ‘Deerhunter’: dreamy, textured, and an amalgamation of a multitude of styles. *Fading Frontier* is a welcome new entry into their already stellar catalogue of music. Cox and co. deftly tread the fine line between accessibility and experimentation. In doing so, they will hopefully gain a whole host of new fans enticed by the melodic delights of the album’s first half (and ‘Snakeskin’). But, crucially, they have retained the idiosyncrasies that gained them fans in the first place.

**Jack Short**



# Bestival: sonic excellence and stories

## As eclectic, anecdote-generating and rave-fuelled as ever...



» Camping at Bestival - not to be confused with Camp Bestival photo: Flickr / Stephanie Overton

If your body is broken by the odyssey of travelling across bodies of land and water by unconventional modes of transport; if you've burnt through half the pack of Lamberts you were hoping would last you the weekend before you've even pitched your tent; and if a guy in a pineapple print bucket hat is asking every member of your group if there's a NOS balloon going, then you know – already, by 1pm on the Thursday – exactly where you've arrived.

This is Bestival, the season-closing party on the Isle of Wight curated by venerated Radio 1 tastemaker Rob Da Bank and his wife Josie. Once a year, swarms of twenty-somethings pack themselves onto ferries, hovercrafts and catamarans, making something of a spiritual pilgrimage to a temporarily transformed Robin Hill country park. Seeking to test their personal capacities for self exploration and self destruction, they dig out their most violently colourful and unapologetically practical garms, raid the nearest Tesco for 'everyday value' crisps and cereal bars, and strap themselves in mentally for the most revealing, least hygienic weekend of their lives. Twice now I've been counted among said swarms, and on neither occasion have I returned to mainland territory disappointed.

**Only at Bestival does Flying Lotus supporting Duran Duran make perfect sense**

Many overheard comments referenced the line-up this year, which demanded deeper versing in the creed of circuit raving than the typical major line-up tends to. The poster space occupied last year by ubiquitous names such as Chic, Disclosure and Major Lazer, this year found itself filled with acts of either cult popularity or relative obscurity. This slight stacking towards the alternative lent itself to one of the best festival crowds I have ever experienced, characterised by a concurrent appreciation of niche artistry and unpretentious displays of warmth towards acts of mainstream appeal. Only at Bestival

does Flying Lotus supporting Duran Duran make perfect sense.

**Bestival holds the most profound purchase on the wet wipe-scented**

Where Boomtown – with its divisions by subculture and distinctions of genre – encourages an atmosphere of playful tribalism – Bestival strives instead to transcend such notions of difference, making it the perfect hunting ground for spotters of future trends and guilty pleasures alike. One of my mates shared a fag with (yes, the real) Paul Chuckle at the Chemical Brothers, and had an even better time screaming out all the words to every song performed by a Frank Sinatra tribute band, who were playing in an imitation fifties ballroom. This is the sort of eclectic series of experiences Bestival prides itself on delivering.

As diverse as it undoubtedly is though, the festival retains a few clearly defined strengths, and it plays to them. This year, grime and bassline were the electronic genres to dominate, the potential highlight being Mike Skinner's Tonga party with Big Narstie, Murkage and DJ Q, which saw the ideally claustrophobic Jaegerhaus stage transform into a relentless mosh of sweaty bodies as The Streets mastered mind – evidently battered – slurred emotionally charged words of worship to the DJs and MCs he shared the tiny stage with: "Oh my days... Have you ever seen so much shellin'?" Pirate radio icon Slimzee's back-to-back set with bassline poster girl Flava D caused similar scenes at The Port (Bestival's main outdoor rave stage, built into a massive disused military ship), reaching a peak when rising grime star Novelist hopped on the mic to provide what he accurately called "energy and flavour."

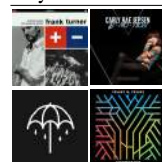
Complementary to the paranoid hype of all that 140bpm pandemonium were the softer-edged pleasures of artists like FKA Twigs and Jamie xx, both of whom worked Big Top tent crowds into states of trance, though by entirely different methods. Twigs's was an entirely physical performance, the balletic

sexual confidence in her dancing and movement elevating the collision between her vulnerable falsetto and cavernous future trap beats to a thrilling, primal euphoria unlike anything I'd ever experienced live before. By complete contrast, the most physical Jamie xx's set got was a gentlemanly goodbye wave to the audience at the end. Whereas Twigs spiked and invigorated the senses, Jamie lulled and bathed them; as his sweeping set washed colourfully over them, his listeners appeared as intent on letting their minds drift from the moment as Twigs's were on keeping their eyes glued to the stage.

**In truth, the experience feels something closer to a lucid dream than it does to merely a 'music festival'**

And even with such a spectrum of sonic excellence to offer, Bestival's reach extends far beyond the musical. It's in the nonchalant wanderings through the mystical greenery of the Ambient Forest, the between-act sit-downs beneath the exotic neon glow of the Bollywood tent, and the 6am missions to the toilets past the World's Largest Disco Ball, that Bestival holds its most profound purchase on the wet wipe-scented soul. In truth, the experience feels something closer to a lucid dream than it does to merely a 'music festival'.

You might not know as many of the acts listed on next year's Bestival flyer as you do those on the flyers of Reading and T in the Park, but if you've got a cynical VICE-reading friend trying to talk you into following them there next summer, and you decide to take the leap of faith, chances are you'll be signing up for the early bird payment plan come September 2016, and buying tickets to every rave you never previously knew existed in your local city immediately after.



Fancy reading the full-length, uncensored, uncut album reviews?

Music online:  
theboar.org/music

## Albums

**Frank Turner**  
*Positive Songs for Negative People* ★★★



While most of Turner's albums have a pretty central theme, *Positive Songs for Negative People* seems to stumble from idea to idea at times. While, at its core, it's

an album about getting better after the events of 2013's *Tape Deck Heart*, it is an album that occasionally trips itself up in its own rampant sense of excitement. Nevertheless, *Positive Songs* feels like a stop on the way to something bigger and still has plenty to enjoy. It doesn't show him at his best, but remains classic Frank Turner — showing off his ability to have you jumping around the room one minute and quietly sobbing the next.

Alistair Jones

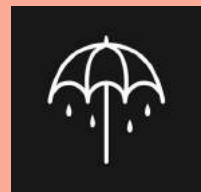
**Carly Rae Jepsen**  
*E.M.O.TION* ★★★★★



Thematically, the usual suspects love and relationships dominate, but musically we're taken back to the 80s and 90s, with Jepsen channelling Cindy Lauper and working with a wide range of producers – even co-writing with Sia(!). Admittedly, this summer's fun first single 'I Really Like You' was an easy, radio-friendly choice that hoped to pick up where 'Call Me Maybe' left off – a "Call Me Back", if you will. The 80s production did at least hint, however, at what was to come; the album dives off in many different directions, even slipping in a few of Carly's experimental, less sugary moments.

Stefano Guarnieri

**Bring Me The Horizon**  
*That's The Spirit* ★★★★★



A significant departure from anything Bring Me The Horizon have previously attempted, *That's The Spirit* embraces melodic hooks and electronic-pop that pushes the band into uncharted territory. The end result is one of the best rock albums in recent years — bursting with passion, anger, hope, and seriously catchy melodies. The leap from their last effort, *Sempiternal*, to *That's The Spirit* showcases their ability to better themselves and their music further. In fact, the only reason *That's The Spirit* can't be given a perfect rating is because this can't be the peak of Bring Me The Horizon's power.

Tom Hemingway

**Years & Years**  
*Communion* ★★★★★



Synthpop three-piece Years & Years have been on everyone's minds after winning this year's BBC Sound of 2015 poll. Channelling indie artists such as Fenech Soler and

Friendly Fires, it's refreshing to see a band successfully cross over to the mainstream whilst still preserving their (electronic and nu-disco) roots. Affection is a prominent theme on the record, with lead-singer Alexander openly discussing his dysfunctional relationships, and uncovering the essences of vulnerability and sexuality throughout. Meanwhile the R'n'B tinged 'Worship', chilled Reggae influenced 'Take Shelter' and the glistening pop perfection of 'Shine' see the band exploring a range of genres.

Jay Chauhan



# YOU can make a difference

Welcome to a new academic year from the Environmental Sustainability Team!

There are lots of opportunities for you to help us make Warwick more sustainable. We need **EVERYBODY** to work together and do their part to improve our environment. Every action counts!

Do you have an idea about how to make our campus better? Apply for the **Environmental Sustainability Fund** at the SU. Email applications to [Democracy@warwicksu.com](mailto:Democracy@warwicksu.com) by 5<sup>th</sup> November; there will be more opportunities to apply later in the year.

Or share your idea at [www.warwick.ac.uk/carbon/improvement\\_form](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/carbon/improvement_form)



[www.facebook.com/SSOWarwick](https://www.facebook.com/SSOWarwick)



[www.warwick.ac.uk/Cuttheflow](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/Cuttheflow)

Living on Campus? Take part in our two competitions to win great prizes and help to save the planet's resources by saving water & energy.

You can also make an even bigger difference by applying to be your Hall Society's **Green Officer** for this year at [www.warwicksu.com/societies/halls](http://www.warwicksu.com/societies/halls)

[WWW.WARWICK.AC.UK/ENVIRONMENT](http://WWW.WARWICK.AC.UK/ENVIRONMENT)

## GRADUATE OPEN EVENING

### 4 NOVEMBER 2015

LSE offers taught and research graduate degrees across the social sciences. Come to our Open Evening to meet our eminent faculty, explore our central London campus and discover where an LSE degree could take you.

Book online now at [lse.ac.uk/OpenEveningBoar](http://lse.ac.uk/OpenEveningBoar)

# Have you got a story for us?

We are always on the look out for campus-breaking stories and the latest bit of rumour to investigate for News.  
Email us at [news@theboar.org](mailto:news@theboar.org) in confidence and you could see your name here in the next issue.

Answers provided in next paper

## How about a study break?

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8						9						
10										11		
										12		
13		14						15				16
18						19						20
				21								
22										23		
24								25				

**Across**

1 University town on the River Avon (7)

5 Do well (in a course, say) (5)

8 Illumination (5)

9 A treaty (anagram) - board for moving mugs? (3,4)

10 Reverse (a decision) (8)

11 Fresher's home? (4)

13 Go beyond (a limit) (6)

15 Relieve (thirst) (6)

18 Society (4)

19 Relating to trees - or ale bar (anagram) (8)

22 Talk (about a subject) (7)

23 Publication (of The Boar, say) (5)

24 Hiccup - burp (5)

25 Put off (starting something) (7)

**Down**

1 Greetings! (7)

2 Scoundrel (5)

3 Worldwide computer network - I rent ten (anagram) (8)

4 Container for boiling water in (6)

5 Test - questions (4)

6 Screen (for a shower, say) (7)

7 Faithful (5)

12 Period of instruction (8)

14 Administrative group for a town (7)

16 Old axe-like weapon - held bra (anagram) (7)

17 Pal - mate (6)

18 Star (colloquial) (5)

20 Written composition - thesis, say (5)

21 Shove (forward) (4)

						1	2	
3				5		9		
					2			8
	5	6						
4					6	7		
8	2		4					3
				1	7		9	
	4			3				6
	8		2			5		

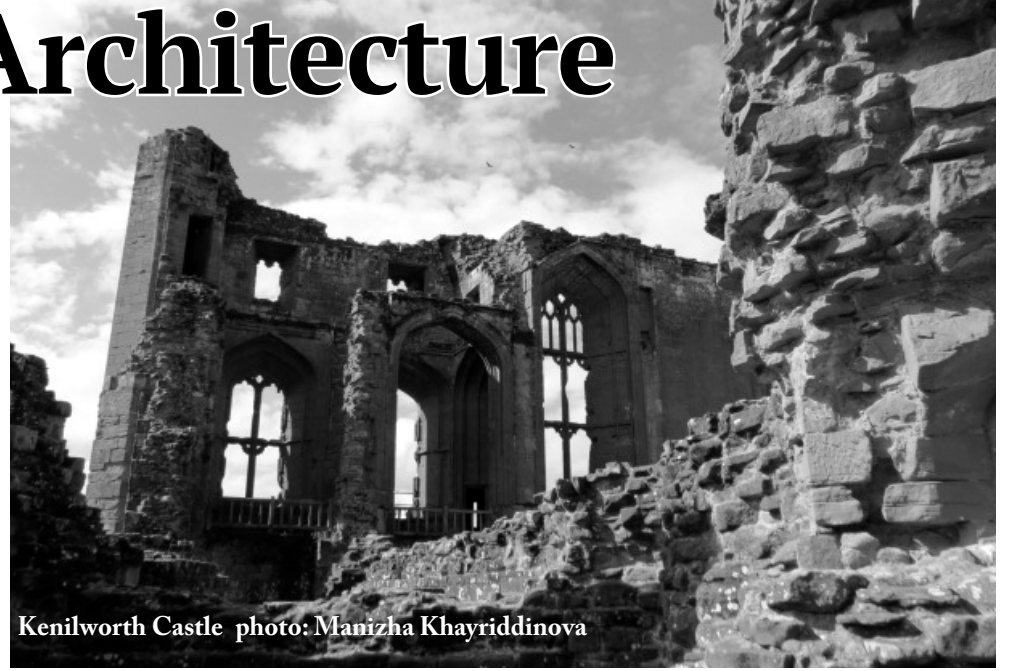
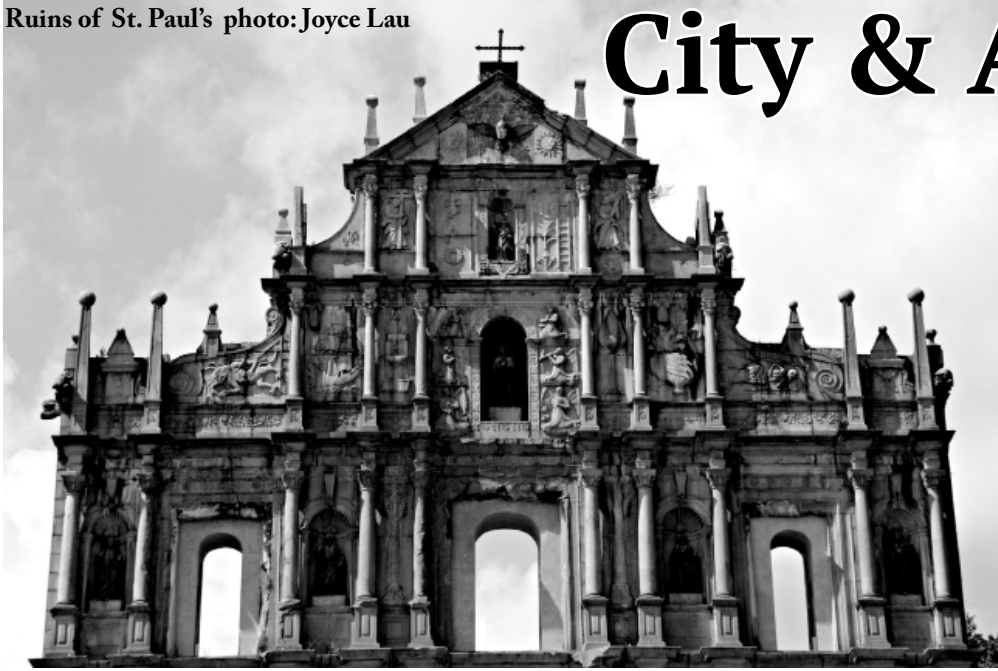




Editor: Shruti Dayal  
photography@theboar.org

Ruins of St. Paul's photo: Joyce Lau

## City & Architecture



Kenilworth Castle photo: Manizha Khayriddinova



Uspenski Cathedral, Helsinki  
photo: Joyce Lau



Photo: Kambole Campbell

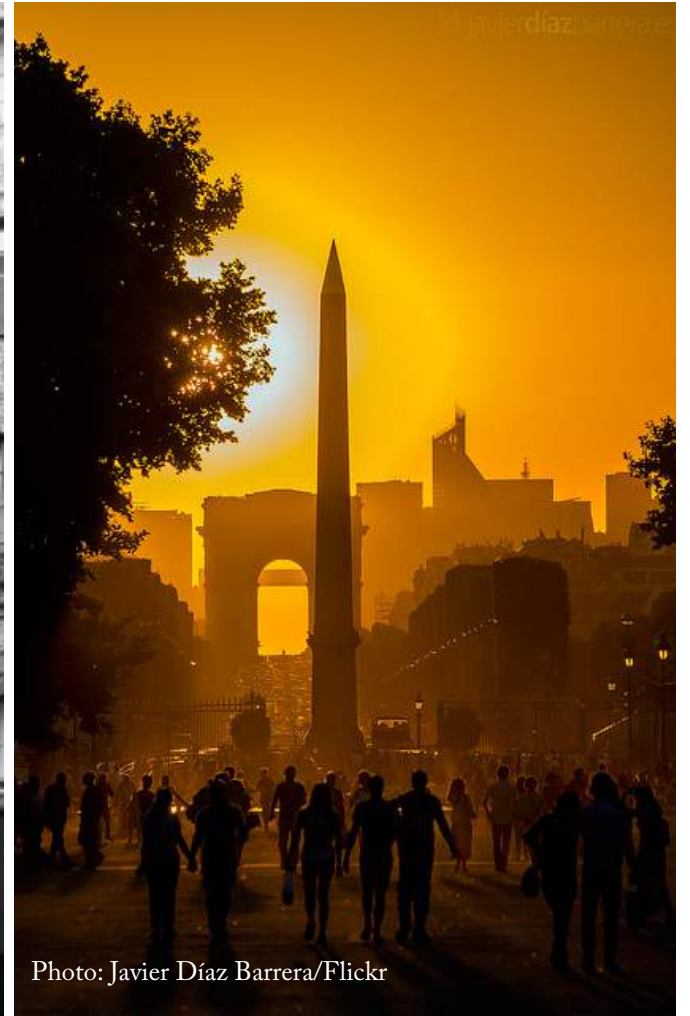


Photo: Javier Díaz Barrera/Flickr

## Fun with Photoshop: Black and white photography

Everyone enjoys taking black and white photographs - they symbolize memories and help us to be true professionals online (#photographer #blackandwhite). But it isn't always possible to take black and white images, so how can photoshop be used to make professional-looking images? No idea? Don't fret, because Photography is here to help!

**1** After opening your photographs in Photoshop, go to image-adjustment-black and white. This command helps you to fine tune your image and separately refine the colours in your image.

**2** To make your photograph look more "professional", you can go to image-adjustments-shadows and highlights. This helps you to decide the amount of shadows (dark areas) and highlights (bright areas), you wish to keep in your photograph.

**TIP:** To make subtle changes to your photograph, remember to decrease the hardness of the dodge and burn tool brushes to zero!

**3** Further to this, you can use the dodge tool (for brightening areas) or the burn tool (for darkening areas), which can be found on the toolbar on the left. If you've made an error, use the sponge tool to erase.

**4** Finally, you can adjust the shadows and highlights in your photograph by going to image-adjustments-layers. Just slide the bars till you like the way your photograph looks and you are done!

*Interested in photography? Join our team! By being a part of our team you can explore different types of photography, cover events and improve your skills! Join our Facebook group "The Boar Photographers 2015/16" to know about the latest opportunities.*





## American psychos: our obsession with murderers onscreen

**T**he *Guest* (dir. Adam Wingard) takes the 'returning American soldier' motif and somewhat predictably gives it a 'sinister twist'. However, its infusion of a variety of familiar genre beats flesh out the narrative in a thoroughly self-reflective and unpredictable way. *Downton Abbey*'s Dan Stevens conveys the perfect mixture of lurking emptiness, simmering violence, and pervasive southern charm in his role as David. He arrives at the Peterson household claiming to have been their deceased son's best friend.

**"This type of Blockbuster fulfils our desire for power over sex and death, without making us deal with the consequences of any real action."**

This character can be seen throughout action cinema, a professional gone rogue - killing bad guys to survive. Except here they aren't the faceless military drones seen in more conventional films. James Bond kills a bunch of people in the name of her Majesty/ the name of James Bond when he does his whole rogue thing; Rambo too can probably be seen as the villain of his own films; and the recently concluded (we hope) *Taken* trilogy's Bryan Mills mows down every vaguely Eastern European guy that side of the channel in the name of his daughter.

At the heart of this lack of moral depth is an inherent contradiction. Whilst it allows for the good guys-bad guys scenario that has

been drilled into the last few generations of children (a good thing?), it also lends a lack of weight to what is essentially rampant murder (a bad thing, probably). The desensitised violence in modern popular culture is no revelation at all but is still an unsettling prospect. We have many non-psycho heroes that kill without consequence in the gloriously escapist films of the post *Star Wars* world. Take a look at that moment when the plucky Indiana Jones guns down three Nazis with a single bullet.

It's natural to love escapism. This type of Blockbuster fulfils our desire for power over sex and death, without making us deal with the consequences of any real action. But should we be made to feel these consequences inside of the film? Don't get me wrong, *Indiana Jones* is my favourite thing. Ever.

One has to hand it to *The Guest* for tackling the contradiction between our support for the protagonist and our indoctrinated views on the consequences of death. Not to say every death is felt 100% in the film; in fact, death often takes the form of humour as an extension of the awkwardness of the film's reality. The difference here is that the protagonist fulfils the role of both the monster of the b-movie horror pastiche on display, as well as the action 'hero'. This confusion surrounding the viewer's line of identification and support for the character is an inversion of a traditional film narrative. As a result, *The Guest* is engaging as both a fantastically entertaining film teeming with nostalgia, and a film which allows us to engage with Hollywood cinema in an interesting way. Go watch it!

Daedyn Appleton



## Denis Villeneuve's nail biting new thriller - *Sicario* Review

**I**t is hard to make a serious blockbuster movie. The genre of drama and thrillers is a tired one, well developed over the last few decades, and genre's that also sometimes become ready-made parody material. However, with the emergence of titles such as *City of God* (2002), and *Public Enemies* (2009), hope has been breathed into the hearts of film-fans. *Sicario* is one of such films, even though at first, the topic may seem clichéd: Gangs versus the police force and good guys versus evil organized crime. But don't let yourself be deluded into thinking that you've seen this story before. Rather than using a linear narrative, *Sicario* follows emotions and moods, taking many unexpected turns.

It's a film where you should concentrate on yourself more than the thoughts or actions of the characters, constantly provoking the question: how else could this film be made, if not the way directed by Denis Villeneuve? The performances of Emily Blunt, Benicio del Toro and Josh Brolin are marvellous, complementing each other perfectly. Del Toro dominates every scene he's in, but it's the chemistry between his and Blunt's character that fuels the film.

Their characters face a conflict which tears at the heart of every person at some point in their life: do ends justify the means? Is morality relative? What is left of our beliefs in an unlawful land? It's the sexual tension, the unspoken words, and the bending of the rules that give life to their portrayals. *Sicario* features an old film trope of an older, more experienced character initiating a younger one into their future role, Alejandro initiates Kate into a world she never realised existed and which she is not ready to face alone. He's

not a mentor but rather a force which tears apart her preconceptions of what is right and wrong. The narrative may feel stretched a bit thin the more you think about the numerous shootouts and scenes of tension-building drama. Furthermore, Roger Deakins' panoramic cinematography brings the viewer into an atmospheric, suffocating world of close-ups and vivid colours.

Overall, I very much recommend *Sicario* as

**Their characters face a conflict which tears at the heart of every person at some point in their life: do ends justify the means? Is morality relative?**

a well-made piece of contemporary, political cinema and a breath of fresh air to the thriller genre. The film offers a small beacon of hope in its interesting portrayal of a woman and her navigation through the underbelly of the American government and its morals.

Joanna Jabukowska



Become a writer by joining the group 'The Boar Film Writers' and being a member of the society

## Space Oddity - Ridley Scott returns to form with *The Martian*

**T**here is a fairly long standing theory that Ridley Scott only makes a great film once every decade. Varying tastes withstanding, there are many people, myself included, who would be inclined to agree. His latest efforts, *Prometheus* and that other film about Moses that will not be spoken of here, were visually compelling yet underwritten and lazy. It was clear that Scott didn't have material that matched his skill behind a camera, something which has thankfully turned around for *The Martian*.

In fact, *The Martian* almost plays like a counterpoint to *Prometheus*; on the surface the films both take place on a desolate, uninhabited planet - but where *The Martian* notably differs, is in its celebration of scientific process and method, and an unwavering dedication to smart people, as opposed to 'biologists' who poke alien snakes and can't read maps. NASA's strong involvement speaks volumes to this film's celebration of science and exploration, space being the final and

most challenging frontier.

Adapted from Andy Weir's novel by Drew Goddard (*Daredevil*, *The Cabin In The Woods*), *The Martian* is a surprisingly hopeful testament to human ingenuity in the face of extreme adversity. Matt Damon shines among a pretty stacked supporting cast, not just because of the compelling narrative and exotic location, but because of the sheer charm he brings to the personality of astronaut/botanist Mark Watney.

The memorable characterisation of Watney is one that has been missing from recent Ridley Scott pictures, bringing to

mind the character of Ripley from the *Alien* franchise.

Smart, funny, and apparently as hard as nails - faltering once or twice when struck by disaster, the film expertly uses his physical isolation to bring weight to his situation, rather than simply writing the character as lonely or depressed. Like many survival films *The Martian* is a positive representation of the human will to live, but is also unique in the surprisingly upbeat sense of humour running throughout the film. Unsurprisingly, *The Martian* is also a gorgeous piece of cinema. Harry Gregson



William's music underscores Scott's visuals to elevate the picture to something greater than a survival film set in space. Scott prides himself on building sets from scratch and filming on location, enhancing the realism of the film and raising the stakes by doing so - this is a world that is dangerous, and we are often reminded that Mars isn't really meant to accommodate life - Watney for the most part somewhat exempt from the notion that he can survive the intense spectacle that sci-fi often brings.

*The Martian* is potentially the most 'feel-good' film that Scott has ever done, but the optimism, lightness and happiness of the film doesn't feel grating or unearned, it just makes it all the more powerful.

Kambole Campbell



Send us your thoughts on all the latest releases!  
Tweet: @BoarFilm





# Recap: *The Great British Bake Off* Season 6

Carmella Lowkis looks back on the most popular season of the hit BBC baking show to date

It's official: Britain loves baking. If there was ever any doubt of that fact, the viewing figures for *The Great British Bake Off* Season 6 final have put an end to it.

According to the BBC, Nadiya's win on BBC One was watched by an average of 13.4 million viewers, with a peak of 14.5 million. This makes it the most-watched show of 2015 so far; compare that to the measly 2.5 million who watched the final of the first season in 2010, and it's clear that *Bake Off*'s success has risen more quickly than dough in a proving drawer.

The final was also streamed on the Big Screen in the Piazza for Warwick students to watch, and Curiosity ran *Bake Off* specials all day.

Eleanor Dawson, an English Literature finalist, has only recently been won over by the show. She said: "Before this summer I was a *Bake Off* sceptic. But now I've seen the light. And it smells like shortcrust pastry."

So what is it about Season 6 that has caused so many new viewers to tune in?

For starters, this season seemed to have the closest final to date, with Nadiya, Ian, and Tamal all performing exceptionally, especially in the 'showstopper' round.

Nadiya won over the judges (Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry) with her "big fat British wedding cake", but with the incredible sugar work on Tamal's bake, and the perfect flavour in Ian's, it must have been an impossible decision to make.

**By the show's sixth season, it's not only established itself in the hearts of the nation, but has managed to find its optimal format**

While there were no dramatic disasters this year – in comparison to the custard theft of 2013, and 'bingate' in 2014 – it was still an emotionally charged ten weeks.

The technical challenges were far more vicious this time around. Gone are the halcyon days of a brandy snap technical; this year saw obscure challenges such as a Victorian tennis cake, mokatines, and flaounes. At the start of the season, Nadiya struggled with these, consistently placing towards the bottom. However, we've since seen her become a four-time technical winner. I think it's this progression

that has made her so popular with the public: it's been a joy to watch her grow as a baker.

"I'm never going to say 'maybe,'" a tearful Nadiya told the camera after learning of her victory, "I'm never going to say 'I don't think I can.' I can and I will."

There were tears all round after the announcement, with even the stolid Mary Berry getting misty eyed.

By the show's sixth season, it's not only established itself in the hearts of the nation, but has managed to find its optimal format.

This year saw a drastic reduction to the informational segments which took up a large amount of screen time previously, choosing to focus instead on the contestants and their baking.

Whilst I'm a 'trifle' sad to see these go, it's true that the show has felt more cohesive thanks to their absence; it's now much harder to find a break for a quick cuppa!

Now that the summer is over and the tent has been collapsed, we'll have to wait an-

other long year for *Bake Off*'s return, but hopefully the delicious memories of this season will give us enough food for thought until then.



» Nadiya with her coveted trophy photo: BBC/ Love Productions/Mark Bourdillon

## The Boar TV Guide

Boar TV brings you the top five TV shows to watch this fortnight, as voted by section contributors:

**#1 *How to Get Away with Murder* Season 2 UK Premiere: 28 Oct / Universal Channel**

With so many questions remaining after Season 1, the new season of this Emmy-winning US drama can't come soon enough.

**#2 *The Apprentice* Season 11: Wednesdays / BBC1**

The new season started last week, and things are already heating up: who'll be fired next?

**#3 *Supergirl* Season 1 US Premiere: 26 Oct / CBS**

The first episode may have been leaked, but now it's finally ready for official release. If you held out against temptation this long, now it's time for your reward!

**#4 *Grimm* Season 5 US Premiere: 31 Oct / NBC**

The mixture of police procedural and fantasy has popularised *Grimm*, but will the show remain interesting now that its novelty value has worn off?

**#5 *The Last Kingdom* Season 1 Premiere: 22 Oct / BBC2**

Swords, war, and torrid affairs: that's all you need in a TV show.

» Photo: US CPSC / Flickr



Do you want a say on what goes into the next Boar TV Guide?  
[fb.com/groups/BoarTV](https://fb.com/groups/BoarTV)

## Are the BBC right to cover e-Sports?

Halimah Manan on BBC coverage of *League of Legends* championships

Starting on 15 October, BBC Three teamed up with BBC Sport to live-stream the *League of Legends* world championships. By covering this paradoxical new genre of sport, e-Sports, it seems the BBC is reaching further to gain the attention of young people – and, in line with 'Make It Digital', it may just work.

*League of Legends*, a competitive multiplayer online battle arena, pits teams of players against each other in a variety of battlefields and game modes. As a roleplaying game, it gives players the chance to level up their skills to become the best. These features have made the game so popular that, according to *Digital Spy*, over 27 million people play every day.

While it's easy to dismiss *League of Legends* as 'just a game,' it is far-reaching; with sixteen teams from across the world taking part, it is an international event. The tournament is so serious that its prize pool totals a whopping \$2.13 million. To put that into perspective, the Women's World Cup 2015 winners received \$2 million.

Even if you haven't heard of *League of Legends*, well-known American band, Imagine Dragons, clearly has. Last year, their song, 'Warriors', was the championship's theme song.

As *League of Legends* garnered 27 million viewers for the grand final in 2014, the BBC would have been amiss to ignore the championship when it took place in the heart of

London, at Wembley. This is especially true in the middle of their 'Make It Digital' season, dedicated to normalising the digital world in all its forms.

In some ways, presenting the championships live on TV will bring multiplayer online tournaments like *League of Legends* into the mainstream. Who knows: perhaps *League of Legends* will become a household name.

However, whether or not they're necessarily meeting demand to stream the championships remains to be seen.

**The tournament is so serious that its prize pool totals a whopping \$2.13 million**



» The 2015 *League of Legends* world championships were held in London photo: Riot Games

Last year, *League of Legends* streamed the games for free to watch across the world, online, and even in cinemas.

In this case, the BBC's coverage would almost seem pointless.

The only saving grace for the BBC is that they also conducted interviews and commented on the event, as with any sport; even the least clued-up of viewers should have been able to understand what was happening.

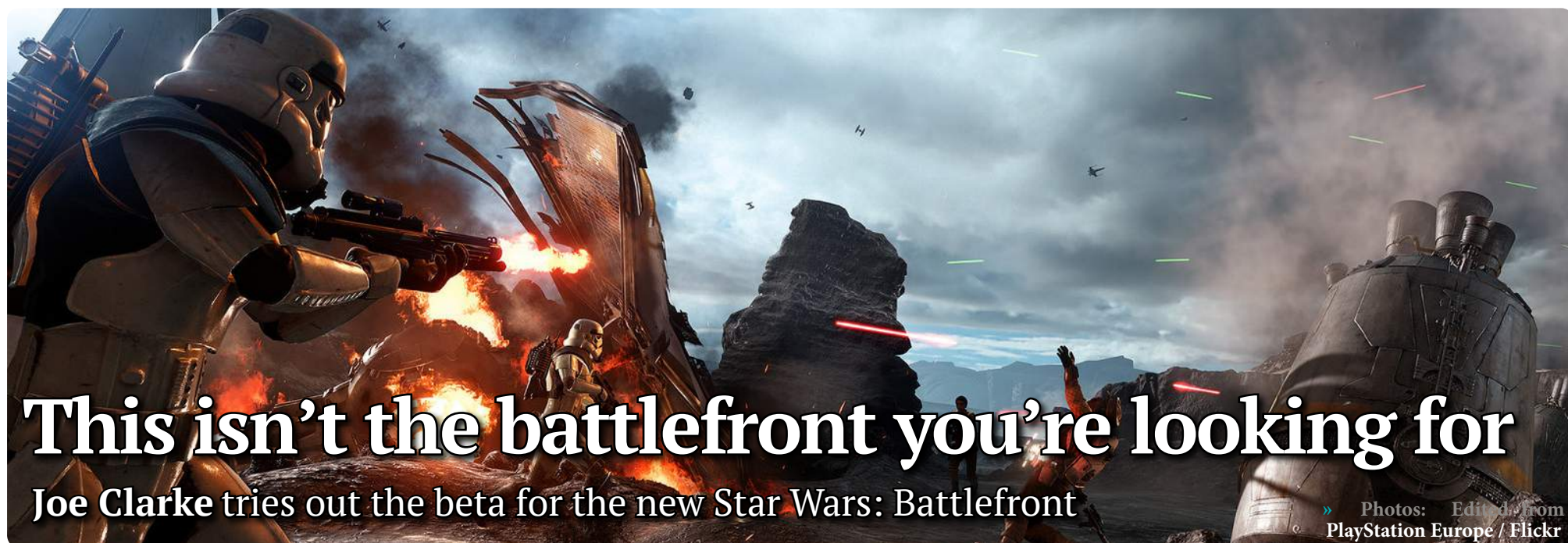
Regardless of whether you truly consider *League of Legends* a sport – and no matter how strange the concept of BBC streaming the tournament – it is refreshing to see another take on tournaments shared on a national level. If nothing else, it will normalise gaming beyond *Call of Duty* and *Grand Theft Auto*.

Whether this succeeds in attracting the attention of young people will only become apparent when viewing figures emerge. Either way, the BBC have taken a step forward in sharing a different type of international event, and extended their reach to the wonders of e-Sports and the online world.





Editor: Ali Jones  
games@theboar.org



## This isn't the battlefront you're looking for

Joe Clarke tries out the beta for the new Star Wars: Battlefront

» Photos: Edited from  
PlayStation Europe / Flickr

**B**etas are tricky things to write about. Pretty much anything I complain about can be explained away by saying "of course it isn't perfect, it's a beta!". But let's give it a try anyway.

First things first, fans of the old *Battlefront* games are going to be disappointed; This definitely isn't the game you used to love. In fact, a lot of what made *Battlefront* great to begin with is missing. Space combat? Gone. Third-person gameplay? Gone. Moving an AT-AT? Gone. Even simple things like walking up to a vehicle and climbing in have been inexplicably removed, replaced with a pick-up system that makes it very easy for power-ups to be dominated by those who know where they spawn.

Fans of the old games are going to be disappointed; this isn't the game you used to love

However, the game certainly feels like a *Star Wars* game, with lots of effort having been put in to create an authentic experience. The sound effects are brilliant; blasters and vehicles sound like they do in the films, and everything has been lovingly designed to look like it belongs in the *Star Wars* universe. It also helps that visually, the game is absolutely breath-taking, with the Hoth snow-scape glistening in the sun a particular highlight.

Gameplay-wise, three separate modes can be played in the beta, two multiplayer and one single player/co-op. The single player

mode is essentially a glorified horde mode, with context provided by everybody's favourite fish-faced soldier, Admiral Ackbar. This was fine, but felt a bit boring to begin with, with the map feeling particularly sparse.

The first multiplayer mode, Drop Zone, is a King of the Hill style game, with two teams of 8 trying to capture and defend escape pods falling from the sky. Whilst simplistic in idea, matches often felt incredibly tense and exciting.

Finally, and perhaps most excitingly for *Star Wars* fans, there is Walker Assault, in which two teams of 20 players face off against each other, with the Imperials trying to defend an AT-AT, helping it to destroy the rebels shield generator, whilst the rebels try to bring the machines down. Although this mode may seem exciting, it was actually the least fun to play, thanks to the teams always feeling imbalanced. Most games would end with an Imperial victory, as the imperial side always seems to have the upper hand. In 8 hours of gameplay, the rebels only won once.

All 3 modes share some pretty important problems that need to be addressed right away. Level design in particular becomes a problem fairly quickly. The Suluust map is covered in deep geyser pits that are easy to fall into, but a pain to get out of, which makes the map feel poorly designed. The design aspect is also tiresome due to the size of the maps. I understand that DICE were aiming for the scope of a battlefield, but due to the location of spawn points, it often takes far too long to get back into the action upon death.

Spawning seems to have been unfairly set up. I regularly spawned right in front of the enemy, or found the enemy spawning behind

me. During one game, I managed to get the most kills because I stumbled upon the enemy spawn point, which must have been incredibly aggravating for the other players.

Vehicular combat needs some work as well. When playing for the first time, the game gives you no indication as to how to control your character. Whilst on foot, this is no big issue, as it's pretty standard FPS-fare, but when vehicles, particularly flying craft, are involved, it becomes problematic. You're not told how to fly, how to shoot, or what the various power-ups for your ship actually do, making for a steep learning curve. This is further hampered by some particularly shoddy collision detection. The game encourages you to fly low in order to take out foot soldiers, yet, due to poor collision detection, I often found myself randomly blowing up, with the game accusing me of suicide, when I knew that I hadn't hit a damn thing.

I will admit to squealing with delight when I got the chance to control Darth Vader for the first time

For the beta, there were no beginner servers, meaning that I was dumped into a game with people who had clearly already spent hours levelling their character, which quickly made it feel like a game of haves and have-nots. I was expected to do well to level up, but found this difficult to do, as the enemy all seemed to have more powerful weapons (including an infuriating sniper rifle pick-up),

and the ability to use a jetpack.

This isn't to say that the game isn't fun. As the game is made by DICE, the team behind the *Battlefield* games, the shooting is unsurprisingly spot-on, feeling fair, fun and easy to handle. Vehicular combat is pretty good once you get the hang of the controls, with dog-fights between TIE fighters and X-Wings being a particular highlight. *Star Wars* fans are going to get a lot of fun out of playing with their favourite vehicles and characters in these beautiful and authentic levels, and I will admit to squealing with delight when I got the chance to pilot an X-Wing or control Darth Vader for the first time.

These impressions seem to give off a negative vibe about the game, but that's not quite fair. Yes, there are many aspects that several fixing before release but despite these flaws, I kept wanting to play more. I had only intended to play for a couple of hours before going back to *The Witcher*, but I ended up playing for nearly ten hours over the space of three days. If the flaws and poor game design are fixed before the December release, I can see this being an outstanding multiplayer experience. This may not be the *Battlefront* game that you were hoping for, but that doesn't stop it from being a whole lot of fun and a damn good *Star Wars* game.



Want to write for  
Boar Games? Email  
us at [games@theboar.org](mailto:games@theboar.org)

## Until Next Time...

23 October - **Just Dance 2016 and Assassin's Creed Syndicate**

Featuring the musical stylings of Katy Perry, Pitbull, and *The Little Mermaid's* Sebastian, *Just Dance 2016* is the newest iteration of the popular rhythm game. At the other end of the gaming spectrum, the London-based *Assassin's Creed Syndicate* is out on PS4, XO and PC. Fortunately, unlike Paris-based *Unity*, this one seems to work,

but we'll see...

24/25 October and 31 October - **League of Legends World Championships Semi-Finals and Final**

The *League of Legends* World Championship group stages are over, and while the North American Dream is already over, European hopes are still riding on Origen and potential finalists Fnatic. As predicted, Asian teams are excelling, with all both Taiwanese and all three Korean teams, including likely eventual winners SKT TI still in the competition. Whatever happens, expect a hotly-contested final showdown.



» Photo: Jakob Wells / Wikimedia Commons

## e...Sports?

Against the backdrop of the *League of Legends* World Championships, **Boar Games** takes on **Boar Sport** to decide if Professional Gaming can ever really be a sport

### The sheer scale of competitive gaming already rivals traditional sport

Willem Garnier

For a few years now, a new type of competitive sporting event has been gaining a high amount of popularity: eSports. But can video games ever be considered sports?

First of all, let me make it clear that eSports are now definitely a professional discipline. Maybe not so much a few years ago, but the world of eSports and competitive gaming has experienced a huge popularity boom recently, leading to top 'athletes' being more than able to make a solid living out of video games.

Don't get me wrong, eSports aren't quite football yet. While the top gamers are indeed able to make huge amounts of money, they still heavily rely on tournament winnings to do so, and while those not at the very top level might still get a salary from sponsorships, they're definitely not set for life.

More and more teenagers and young adults are quitting their jobs or their studies to fully pursue careers in eSports, and they have good reason to do so. Just this August, *Dota 2* tournament The International 5 boasted a prize pool of over 18 million dollars. The *League of Legends* World Championships not only pay out over 1 million dollars of salary, but the teams themselves receive money from both the game's developers and their own sponsorship deals, from companies including SK Telecom, Red Bull, Nissan, and Coca-Cola. The International already has more prize money available than the Super Bowl, the Baseball World Series, the World Series of Poker, or even the FedEx Cup.

If money and professionalism aren't the problem, then what's making people so apprehensive towards calling professional video games a sport? Do video games not require enough skill to be considered a sport? While that may be true for casual gaming, you can't just button mash your way to victory against professionals. Gaming pros have so much mechanical skill and hand eye coordination

that their timing is perfect to the millisecond. Top level games usually boil down to a show of strategy, as it is incredibly rare for any of the top pros to make a single mistake.

*Dota 2* tournament The International 5 already has more prize money available than the Super Bowl

I guess it comes down to the physical aspect. Typically, for something to be considered a sport, it needs to be at least somewhat physically demanding. And that's fair enough. I could try and argue that gaming requires a lot of physical dexterity, that button presses need to be really precise and really fast or that it's very common for professional gamers to injure their wrists or their backs from extended gaming sessions. These are valid points, but, realistically, we both know that gaming is not as physically demanding as "traditional" sports. And it never will be. Perhaps that's why professional gaming is being labelled as eSports rather than just sports, because we all know that they're missing the physical aspect which many people closely associate with the word "sport".

I think competitive gaming can be considered a sport, but perhaps that's up to your interpretation of the word and its implications. Nevertheless, gaming is now professional, demanding, and generally fun to watch, with more and more outlets beginning to broadcast video game tournaments. Gaming has a huge audience of passionate fans, and even if it isn't your thing then I hope you can still accept that some people really do love it just as much as you might like football, rugby, or even ultimate frisbee.

### Gaming lacks the physical discipline to ever be truly classed as a sport

Sam Nugent

There is little doubt that competitive video gaming, otherwise known as eSports, has become big business in the technologically advanced world in which we live. Indeed, it is estimated that close to 72 million people tuned in to watch some form of televised eSport competition in 2013, spreading across the globe as a unifying and enjoyable experience for those with a passion for gaming.

But the use of the suffix 'Sport' was always going to raise issues, as the financial and social advantages of official classification as sport have the potential to take competitive gaming to the next level. However, this does not, and should not, come easily and is a primary reason why 'traditionalists' such as myself believe that sport should be protected, and that video games have no place within this category.

What classifies a 'sport' is of course a thorny issue, but it's widely accepted that a sport is either primarily physical (such as athletics), primarily motorised (F1), primarily co-ordination based (billiard sports) or primarily animal-based (equestrian sports).

This becomes problematic when one begins to argue that "sports of the mind" (such as chess and eGaming) are equally valid, or that gaming requires no less co-ordination or more physical fitness as golf or motor-sport. But a golfer must use their body to exert precise amounts of physical energy, and it is imperative that a driver remain in peak physical fitness so their heart does not explode at 200mph. Gaming and chess involve neither of these, and whilst they require vast amounts of skill to excel at, this is why they are not sports. *Countdown* is not a sport, and neither is gaming.

The national funding that is awarded to the governing bodies of activities classified as sports is thinly spread as it is, and to take away from other sports to give to gaming would exacerbate this problem, particularly

in Britain. We live in a time when the national teams of our two most popular sports in football and rugby cannot progress beyond the group stages in a major tournament. Sports coaching across the disciplines is in need of expensive reform from grassroots level through to the very top, and there is simply no place for funding in an untested, and ultimately expensive, activity such as gaming.

Sport is either primarily physical, motorised, co-ordination-based or animal-based. Gaming involves none of these

Classifying eSports as a sport has practical disadvantages as it gives smart-aleck teenagers an excuse for laziness and lack of exercise in a time when physical activity is already in decline. Initiatives that look to combat childhood obesity such as Michelle Obama's Let's Move aim to get children and adults alike playing sport and exercising for at least one hour a day. Shockingly, I don't think that playing video games was exactly what the First Lady had in mind. When a concerned mother knocks on their child's door, with only flashing lights and the sound of virtual gun-fire proving that something living actually dwells within the room, and can be dismissed with a cry of "Go away! I'm playing sport like you wanted me to!", the situation becomes farcical very quickly.

Competitive gaming, as an activity that brings so much joy to so many people, should be given space and encouraged to grow. But, at the expense of having my corpse teabagged by angry Halo fans, to call gaming a sport is going too far at this point.

## Worlds: A Beginner's Guide

*League of Legends* is the biggest video game on the planet. The game's professional scene, which is played in 5v5 games, and has leagues throughout Europe, the Americas, East Asia and Australia, runs throughout the year, and success at the League Championship Series (LCS), helps teams qualify for Worlds – the annual League of Legends version of the World Cup.

The tournament starts with a double round-robin group stages, in which teams from Europe, North America, Korea, China and Taiwan, as well as international wild-cards from Thailand and Brazil, play each other twice, with the top two teams from each group pro-



gressing into the knockout stages. North America have already fallen, but two European teams, Fnatic and Origen, remain against a host of Korean and Taiwanese teams, all of whom progressed from their groups. Knockout games are best of five affairs, and can stretch for several hours between balanced teams.

This year's grand final takes place in Berlin on 31 October, and if all goes to plan, both Fnatic and overall favourites SKT T1, the Korean 2013 champions, will be looking to lift the trophy for the second time, something no team has ever managed to do before.

» Photo: Riot Games

Ali Jones



# Club Spotlight: Dodgeball

## The Sport

As one of the UK's emergent sports, dodgeball is flourishing year after year with new teams and players taking up the sport across all corners of the country. The University of Warwick's Dodgeball Club, the Warwick Warriors, were founded in 2006 and are currently one of the more prominent university teams within the dodgeball community. They boast two women's and men's teams

## The story so far

The women's team had their most successful season last year, securing promotion to the Women's Dodgeball Premier League, before climbing up the table to a 5th place finish. They also won a gold medal in the Women's North England Championship and a bronze in the UK University Championship. The hugely successful men's team have achieved 35 medal positions since the club's birth. Their trophy haul includes five UK University Championships (including last year, making us the current University Champions). Over the last five years the University team have placed first at least once in almost every single cup or tournament we've been eligible to play in. We also won gold in the University Fresher's Championship in 2014, and have constantly seen Varsity victories over Birmingham University.

## How to get involved

Dodgeball is a great sport to try your hand at. It's simple, yet extremely tactical. Tired of tightly controlled rules and regulations? No worries, you'll pick up Dodgeball in flash after a couple of training sessions, and there is huge scope to see yourself improve vastly in a much shorter period of time than a lot of other sports – over the last two seasons both Warwick Dodgeball Fresher teams played in the Fresher's University Championships and every single one of the players have gone onto figure either the 1st or 2nd teams.



photo: Warwick Dodgeball



## Andy Fordham: A sporting miracle that masks a bigger problem

**Sam Nugent** looks at the remarkable comeback of the Viking and analyses the sport's inherent drinking culture

The stereotype that professional darts is a sport for the big-boned is not one without grounding. Indeed, although walking from the oche to the board to collect thrown arrows thousands of times a week certainly adds up to a decent score on a pedometer, the match.com profile of the generic dartist still inevitably contains the word 'cuddly' at least once.

But why is this? Surely the amount of walking and time devoted to practice in a sport so heavily rooted in skill and precision means that, by course of logic, the most dedicated of professional darts players should not be as heavy-set as they are?

The answer to this is almost painfully obvious. Though darts has come a long way from being a game played only in the dark corners of pubs, its links to excessive alcohol consumption remain very apparent.

While it is not the case for all professional players, the pressure and nerves generated around crowd-based and televised events have led many to reach for the bottle in order to dull their hand into remaining steady. If this is shown to work and the player builds up a dependency, there is little escape from the seductive pull of a tall and frosty pint of lager before an important game.

While it would appear from the outside that steps have been taken to prevent this from becoming an archaic issue bleeding into the modern game, it is perhaps a much bigger issue than is realised in the public eye. Though drinking is perhaps not actively encouraged, the BDO's banning of alcohol on stage in 1989 was a decision made mostly to appeal to sponsors in a period of decline; whilst the decision as to whether a player's pre-match routine contains ten consecutive Jagerbombs or not remains entirely their own.

Andy 'The Viking' Fordham is the best example of this in action, as one of the biggest characters,

and biggest men in the history of the sport. Fordham lived up to his Nordic billing in a period of great success in the BDO in the years bookending the millennium. Though the winner of only one World Championship in 2004, this figure belies the ease with which Fordham often plundered the board for checkouts; downing opponents with deathly spears of tungsten to reach four semi-finals in just six years between 1996 and 2001.

But Fordham's imposing figure and hulking arms did little to mask his

any of a dozen genuinely serious health complaints ailing the Viking at the time. The doctor examining him some time after the match (Fordham remained in denial and simply went to bed with a brandy in the immediate aftermath) told him that "75% of his liver was dead and that the remaining 25% was dying"; advising him to stop drinking immediately so he could be placed on the waiting list for a full liver transplant. When he was finally admitted to hospital, Fordham claims that doctors drained 18 litres of fluid from his body and a naked candle in the room would have burned the infirmary to the ground.

Since then Fordham has lost around 17 stone and has not touched a drop of alcohol in over eight years. Finding it difficult to regain his form after such a dramatic change in his body an inability to rely on the drink that played such a big part in his success, the Viking has recently qualified for the Grand Slam of Darts 2015, after a long absence from televised events.

For this sporting achievement The Viking should receive great credit and applause, but the bigger miracle is a biological one as Fordham should simply not be alive. His case is one of extremes but whilst alcohol is a genuine and readily available coping tool for the more nervous darts players, it may only be a matter of time before the underlying health problems associated with this area of the sport claim a victim who will not be so lucky.



perhaps inexorable health problems. Once 31 stone, Fordham claimed in a 2009 interview with the Telegraph that he rarely ate; attributing his colossal size purely to his liver-kicking lifestyle as a darts player. Downing the best part of a bottle of brandy alongside two dozen bottle of beer before big matches, Fordham claimed that he was rarely sober and didn't ever get bad hangovers ... because that would have required him to ever stop drinking.

His 2007 match with Phil Taylor was ended prematurely officially due to Fordham suffering from overheating but the fact of the matter is that it could have been



For more comment pieces from the world of sport, visit: [theboar.org/sport](http://theboar.org/sport)





# Three to remember: Moments black athletes “shook up the world”

photo Venus Williams at US Open 2013  
Flickrworker / Wikimedia Commons

## Jesse Owens beats Hitler at the 1936 Olympics

Before Usain Bolt, before Carl Lewis, Jesse Owens was the original super athlete. His four gold medal haul at the Berlin Olympics in 1936 is often lauded as one of the greatest individual performances in the history of the modern games.

No man has had to run so fast with so much riding on their each and every stride. Six months after Berlin won the right to host the biggest sporting showcase on earth, Adolf Hitler rose to power off the back of a wave of widespread post World War I German discontent.

An integral part of the ideology he convinced his countrymen would help bring them out of diplomatic ruin was deeply rooted in prejudice - he believed “the master race” of Aryans were superior to the rest of the world in each and every way. The Berlin games were meant to be a showcase of German athletic dominance.

That was until the fleet-footed American entered the Olympic stadium for the 100 metre final. With a glint in his eye, he took to the starting blocks as Hitler looked on, before surging into the lead and bursting through the tape for the victory in a time of 10.3 seconds.

In going on to collect three more gold medals not only did he completely destroy the notion of Aryan supremacy, he proved to his fellow Americans at home that the much maligned figure of the “negro” could be a national hero.

## Tommie Smith and John Carlos' Black Power Salute at the 1968 Olympic Games

If Owens' protest against an anti-black Olympic establishment lay in the elegance of his strides, Tommie Smith and John Carlos took affirmative action one step further, creating arguably the most iconic image in sporting history.

The visual of the pair standing atop the rostrum, medals slung round their necks, heads bowed, with their gloved fists raised towards the sky in parallel black power salutes will never be forgotten.

In the most tumultuous year the Civil Rights struggle had ever seen, against the backdrop of Martin Luther King's assassination and ensuing riots, the duo stood tall, embodying the stoicism and bravery of all their oppressed African American brethren pushing for change. As the anthem rung around the stadium, Smith's world record winning gold medal performance and Carlos' impressive bronze medal clinching run took a back seat. The salute wasn't just a symbol of defiance in the face of a nation yet to free the descendants of former slaves from the shackles of segregation, it was a nod to the the desperate living conditions of many of their compatriots.

The pair stood on the podium without shoes in a nod to the poverty faced by blacks across America, whilst Carlos' unzipped Olympic jacket was a daring break from Olympic protocol, a slap to the face of the IOC who refused to acknowledge their plight were strictly against political demonstrations of any kind at the games.

## Venus and Serena Williams battle it in Primetime

It's 2001, Primetime CBS Television. The women's singles final at the U.S. Open is about to commence, but this time there's a different atmosphere, an electrifying sense of anticipation.

Those in attendance and those watching at home knew they were seeing something special. With the lights shining their brightest and the world looking on, two African American sisters stepped out into a stadium aptly named after the legendary black tennis champion Arthur Ashe.

Venus and Serena weren't the first black trailblazers in the sport, Althea Gibson and Ashe, made inroads into a game that was a squeaky clean bastion of upper class country clubs, but they never well and truly dominated. The Williams sisters straight out of Compton with big strokes and otherworldly athleticism, reached the pinnacle and took the women's game to a whole new level.

This, the pair's first ever clash in the final of a Grand Slam tournament was a landmark, a sight to behold in the modern game, proof that the aura of exclusivity surrounding tennis could be overturned. They wouldn't just overturn to establishment once however, they would do it again and again-duelling across the globe for some of tennis' biggest titles for the next 14 years.

Even today, Venus and Serena are still filling arenas and capturing the public imagination.



» Photo: Tomer T / Wikimedia Commons



» Photo: Materialschemist / Wikimedia Commons



» Photo emmett andersont / Wikimedia Commons





## Rugby To That: Warwick Rugby raise the curtain in a thriller



» photo: Warwick Sport

### Lanre Ige reports on Warwick Rugby Union's thrilling opening season win against Nottingham

Heading into the first BUCS match of the season, there were lofty expectations placed on the Warwick rugby union first team to perform. Many see Warwick as the favourites for the Midlands 1A division title and up against a newly promoted side, the consensus surrounding their opener against Nottingham was that Warwick would stroll to a convincing victory.

While the performance fell short of the eloquent game plan set out by Warwick Captain Matthew Lawrowitsch of 'Dominate, Dominate, Dominate'. What became obvious towards the rear end of the contest was Warwick's unflinching determination and character in the face of adversity. This wasn't a classic Warwick victory by any means but nevertheless, in between loose hands and a slow start lay all the hallmarks of potential champions. The early match excitement surrounding the first BUCS fixture of the season was almost immediately brought to a halt. Soon after kick-off, a quick move by the Nottingham backs lead to a gaping overlap, and in a flash the Notts' 11 was away

to the posts. Try. Nottingham's subsequent failure to convert did little to brighten the mood. Despite Warwick's relative domination and the large disparity between the two team's set pieces, they were unable to get a foothold on the game. Sloppy play meant that any momentum that Warwick tried to build up soon dissipated due to a handling error or infringement. Despite the so-far disappointing team play, Warwick's noticeable individual player advantage kept them firmly in the game. Bruising carries by the likes of Will Harvey and Antoine Cornet kept Warwick camped in Nottingham's half. The Warwick pressure was telling as an offside infringement gave Warwick's scrumhalf the opportunity to kick for points on the 15-minute mark. While impassioned home support has long been a bastion at Fortress Cryfield, Warwick were more in need of calm heads. By the 25 minute mark the game still sung the same story. While Warwick continued to dominate, silly mistakes kept Nottingham in the contest and occasionally put the home team under pressure. The Nottingham

number 11 seemed determined to trouble the Warwick wing all afternoon with his quick feet. A characteristic break from him off a Nottingham turnover lead to his second try which was then converted. At 3-12 one wondered if the Warwick players began to feel disheartened. The first half oscillated between anticipation and disappointment. For all of Warwick's individual good work and excellent set piece play, they were hampered by their systematic inability to hold onto possession for more than a few phases.

#### Warwick were more in need of calm heads

The number nine, George Teeboon, kept Warwick in the game with another 3 points off a penalty kick. For all the disappointment in the first half, it was hard not to feel that Warwick were still very much in the game. The second half saw Warwick make some vital changes

with Colm Geoghegan coming off for Brian Cabrol at lock; followed shortly by an injured Cam Lewis being replaced by the appropriately named William Taal. These substitutions and the Warwick coach's stirring half time team talk seemed to spark a fire. After a bout of possession in the Nottingham 22, Chris Orford, Warwick's opsive flanker made a darting break and placed the ball behind the opposition try line, Teeboon once again converted. Following a first half of lacklustre Warwick rugby, the first ten minutes of the second half showcased everything that Warwick fans and players had been excited about in the off season. Warwick seemed energised and looked ready to run away with the contest. However, some silly defensive errors from the Warwick backline, followed by a slight of hand by the Notts' 12 lead to another try. With Nottingham leading 17-13 in the 60th minute, the tide of the game turned once more. The fans seemed fed up; a shout of "You have the scrum, use it!", from behind the touchline told the story of Warwick's failure to capitalise on

their obvious set piece advantage. In typical fashion, a good piece of Warwick scrummaging was followed by one or two good phases of possession before the ball was once again lost as they approached the opposition try line. Soon after, Will Harvey, Warwick's hulking inside centre powered through the middle of the pitch in the game's pivotal moment, in the ruck that followed the Nottingham Number 8 was pinged for stamping on a Warwick player. His ten minutes in the sin bin gave the Warwick players the much needed drive to power on and eventually win the game. Following a strong maul off a lineout, deep in the opposition territory; the ball was taken out wide by the Warwick 9 and after some intricate interplay by the backline – landed eventually in the hands of the Harvey, who swiftly placed the ball in between the Nottingham posts five minutes before the final whistle. George Teeboon followed up with the expected conversion to seal the Warwick win.

### Comment Corner: BUCS sport spectatorship; is anybody watching?

Term opened with a somewhat refreshing publicity boost directing us towards the opening fixtures of the BUCS season. Sports Officer Alex Roberts sent out info graphics of scheduled highlights we could all attend, obviously in search of a campus-wide fan base to get behind our 65 clubs, and in particular, the BUCS clubs.

While the sparkly adverts have been shared, and a 'game of the week' highlight introduced, such scheduling information has hardly been scarce in recent years – yet, when you stand on the sidelines of such games, there are often more medics than audience members. Clubs themselves appear to have fair audience alliances – most notably Men's Football and Women's

Netball who will frequently turn up to each other's games to rally on their Warwick side. Then, there's Varsity.

We fill up half of Coventry's Planet Ice for the finale, and attracted 100+ spectators to the opening Basketball spectacle this year. Impressive as those crowds can seem, we are a university of over 25,000, and our support base for our sport clubs is measly at best. With our campus being of the biggest in the UK space-wise, it can seem daunting to trek around for the pleasure of standing on a cold, muddy pitch in Week 7 when both essays and influenza are due.

From day one we demonise Westwood as a separate body to the main campus, but in reality it's

a ten-minute walk from the sports centre. As for the Cryfield pitches, now that the bus interchange has shifted the centre of gravity of campus towards the Students' Union, watching the bulk of home games hosted at Warwick has never been easier nor more convenient. As for results, imagine if we could impact on Warwick's place in BUCS simply by showing our support?

Women's Football Social Officer Danielle Boughey told me that sideline support indeed boosts morale and thus player performance: "For us, the atmosphere at games is so important. The girls agree that they naturally play better when someone is cheering them on and they've got fans to impress."

With spectatorship and inter-

est in women's sports growing, yet still globally depressed relative to that of male-counterpart games, grass roots sport is an easy way to address the imbalance and show forward-thinking support.

Action points to note going forward, then: update yourself on fixtures lists, picking out a team or two that interests you, and turn out for some of their matches with peers, if not to cheer on the team, then at least to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the bubble.

Chloe Wynne



Got something to say about University Sport? Tweet us @BoarSport #CommentCorner

WEDNESDAY 14th OCTOBER

WARWICK SPORTS CLUBS  
**GAME OF THE WEEK**

MEN'S LACROSSE 1s

vs.  
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM 1s

LOCATION: CRYFIELD  
KICK OFF 14:30

» photo: Warwick Sport