

THE PRINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF QUEEN MARY STUDENTS' UNION

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Queen Mary soars into the top 100 of QS World University Rankings



Image: Kevin Choi

QM makes QS top 100 for first time, beating notable Russell Group universities and placing especially high in international aspects of the survey

Victoria Adams

Queen Mary University of London has soared into the top 100 of the latest edition of the respected QS World University rankings for the first time ever, placing 98th with a score of 71.20. Up

seventeen places on last years ranking of 115th, QM has climbed fifty places over the past two years, overtaking other prestigious Russell Group Universities such as the University of Exeter (161st), the University of York (120th) and the

University of Cardiff (123rd). The impressive ascent is a massive achievement for both students and staff.

Professor Simon Gaskell, Principal of Queen Mary has commented on the announcement, saying: "The

improvement in our ranking over the last two years is a tremendous achievement that stems from the hard work and achievements of all our staff. It is also evidence of Queen Mary's increasingly prominent role in global academia, and a sign of

our ongoing reputation as a destination for the very best students."

QM placed especially high in international aspects of the QS survey indices, ranked as the 25th 'most international' university

for students and 81st in the world for its international faculty with over 150 countries represented on campus. The university is ranked 19th amongst UK institutions and 10th in the UK for both research impact

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A Note from the Editor

Davey Brett

Welcome to the first issue of The Print, the new look official student newspaper of the Queen Mary Students' Union. Thanks for picking up a copy and I hope you find it an enjoyable read. It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside all who were involved in this issue and I am immensely proud of how much time and effort everyone has put in, despite only a short and slightly fragmented time together.

Despite some awkward introductions and a complete inability to recognise faces on my part, it's really inspiring to see a bunch of strangers come together, make friends and then happily produce a paper in a welcoming atmosphere. We look forward to adding as many new people as possible to this friendly

and productive atmosphere throughout the year.

In the making of this issue, amongst other things, bikes were ridden, canal locks were opened, interviews were transcribed, secret handshakes were created, articles travelled hundreds of miles, pictures were taken, tramlines were almost shaved into heads, archives were raided, banter happened and - on top of this - some proper good old journalism was carried out. Skills were also acquired and I think that people were able to learn stuff whilst having an interesting and fun time. The pieces of paper you are looking at now are no doubt important, but I think that the previous stuff

is often overlooked, despite arguably being more significant.

You could argue that on campus, people are only really interested in what they are personally involved in. Sport, student media, societies and academic departments can all look like the centre of the universe from the inside, but come across as dull externally and this is where a student newspaper can help. It's our job to look deeper, describe more vividly, be more witty, listen more closely, try harder to be in more places at once and bring everyone's story together in a visually enticing and

readable package. Stories are important because they initiate interest, discussion, friendship, questions and hopefully in the long-run a more connected, involved, and proud campus.

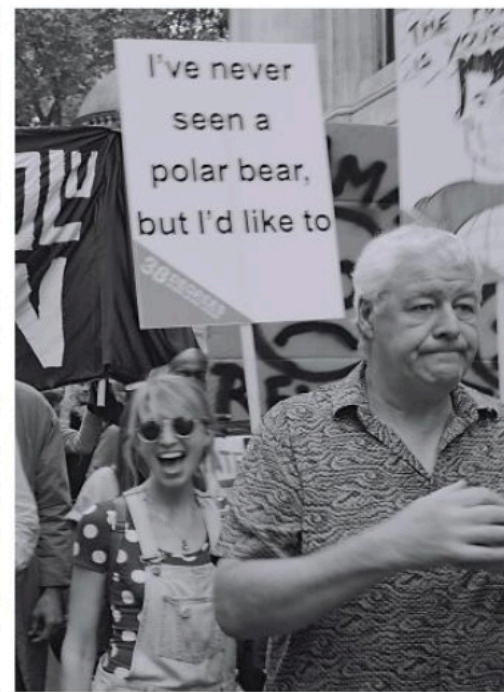
None of this will be happening overnight. If you're expecting newspaper perfection, you should probably avoid newspapers altogether, but if you stick with us, meet us, bring ideas to us, speak to us, argue with us, write for us and just get involved, The Print will go from strength to strength and the rewards will be reaped by everyone. Cheers.

To get in contact with the Editor, send an email to editorgmessenger@gmail.com

News through the viewfinder: London Climate March

Kanahaya Alam

At least 40,000 people, including volunteers from QMUL's Assembly Against Austerity Society, marched from Temple Place to Parliament Square on Sunday 21/09/14, demanding climate actions from the heads of states around the world attending the UN Climate Summit. *Images: Kanahaya Alam*



QMUL applications at an all time high

QMUL application figures risen year-on-year since fee increase

Rachel Barrow

Despite countless predictions to the contrary following the 2012 tuition fee reforms - with many speculating that figures would continue to fall alongside higher fees - Queen Mary undergraduate applications hit an all time high this year since the immediate post-reform drop.

QM received a huge 31,878 applications for its 2014 entry, exceeding the last two years and the previous all time high of 29,953 for 2011/12. That year assumed to be especially popular as it was the last year before tuition fees tripled.

Vice Principal, Professor Susan Dilly, tells us why she believes Queen Mary has grown in popularity over the years, stating, 'reasons that might have contributed to this increase include our success in national and international league tables, a reputation

Tower Hamlets launches Higher Education Bursary Scheme

Rachel Barrow

For its first year running, Queen Mary is supporting the groundbreaking Tower Hamlets 'Mayor's Higher Education Award' aimed at making higher education a more realistic prospect for young people in the borough. The launch of the initiative follows the success of the council's 'Mayor's Education Award', launched in 2011 to encourage school leavers to stay in education post-age 16.

Tower Hamlets is the first council in the UK to launch



Images: Kevin Choi

“ UCAS figures have shown a growing disparity between male and female applicants in the UK

for teaching excellence, significant investments in facilities over the last few years, and the attractiveness of East London as a destination.’

She adds, ‘We are particularly pleased that this is achieved while maintaining our approach to widening participation and outreach programmes, ensuring that the very best and brightest students choose to study with us,

whatever their background.’

UCAS figures have shown a growing disparity between male and female applicants in the UK, with 87,000 more women applying than men this year. It has also shown that undergraduate applications for 2014/15 entry have increased by 4% across the UK. This shows just how impressively Queen Mary's 15% increase stands amongst the figures.

31,878
Applications for QM's 2014 entry exceeded the last two years and the previous all-time high of 29,953 for 2011/12



“ In a borough where 66% of children live in low income families, the initiative has been labelled an “unprecedented move by a local authority”



proud that so many talented and highly motivated students from Tower Hamlets choose to study with us.” Adding that, “We too offer support to help ensure that they are not held back by financial barriers, with nearly 80 per cent of undergraduate students from Tower Hamlets receiving a bursary.”

Applications are now open and won't close until December 15. So, if you're new to Queen Mary from the local area, welcome to the uni and get those applications in!

Visit the Tower Hamlets Education website for more information about the award and how to apply.

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

“At Queen Mary we are

Continued from P.1

and staff to student ratio. Life Sciences and Medicine was QM's highest ranked faculty placing 96th globally, whilst all other faculties; arts and humanities (130th), engineering and technology (202nd), natural science (156th) and social sciences and management (191st) in the top 250 globally.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) topped the list, with Cambridge and Imperial College London ranking second and third respectively. American universities dominated the top of the rankings with eleven featuring in the top twenty. Six British institutions made the top twenty. 2014 sees the tenth anniversary of the QS World University Rankings, which are based on 90,000 survey responses. More than 3,000 universities were considered for ranking. QS is the only global ranking to have been independently scrutinised and IREG Approved.

25

QMUL ranked 25th 'most international' for students in the QS World University Rankings



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Baking Society on the Great British Bake Off so far P17

Student Entrepreneurs at Queen Mary launch innovative app

Claudia Devlin

In July 2014, a group of young and enthusiastic entrepreneurs arrived at Queen Mary's engineering building to share their inventive ideas, in the hope that they could be made a reality. It was a part of 3DS London, also known as '3 day start-up' - an organisation that educates university students and young people on how to kick-start their own entrepreneurial projects. On day one, the group shared some potential ideas, and then they divided into groups to bring them to fruition.

One group worked on a new app, soon to become known as 'favourful'. The app allows the user to exchange favours or services, without the need for money and instead, in exchange for tokens. These tokens can be anything from spare cinema tickets, a bottle of drink or some chocolate. It's a small reward offered in return for doing someone a favour. The app was picked up due to its money saving potential - it works with using 'gift economy', the name given to this method of exchange. It was defined by speaker and author Charles Eisenberg: "In a Gift Society,

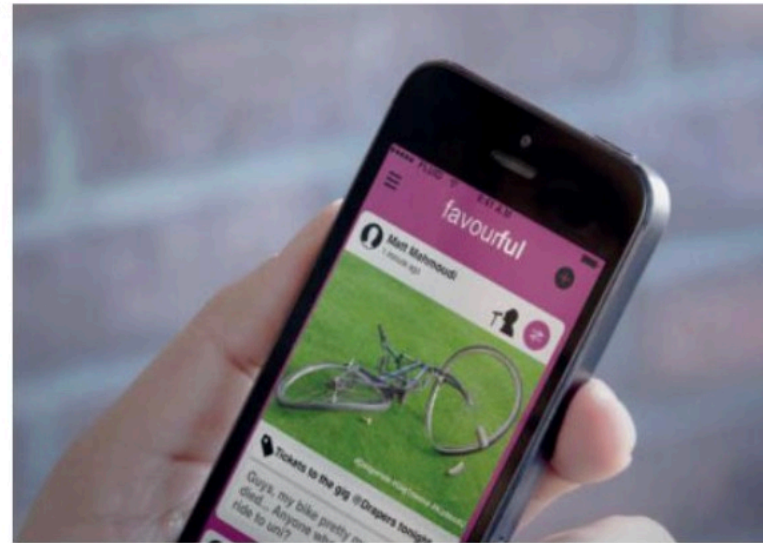


Image: Favourful

when you have more than you need, you give it someone else who needs it."

The app is developing at an exceptional speed. After only starting in July of this year, favourful have gone from strength to strength, attracting young entrepreneurs from other universities (including Bristol, Cambridge and Sheffield) to join the team. Qualifying into the second round of the Tech City News competition only spurred them on, and so far they have released a private beta and garnered a wealth of attention from the students

and the tech world alike. Matt Mahmoudi, founder of favourful and Politics and Business Management student here at Queen Mary, spoke to us about favourful's philosophy:

"About a year ago I was on Facebook and happened to notice a status from a friend nearby asking for help getting her bike fixed in exchange for a pint. The status got 20 likes and no comments or replies whatsoever. It's amazing how people have a tendency to like stuff on Facebook that they would actually be quite happy

to carry out if there was more of an incentive or mechanism of accountability. My friend could have gone to the bike shop, but she could soon be using favourful".

Favourful is set for release in February 2015. Until then, follow Favourful on Twitter: @favourfulapp or find them on Facebook: [Facebook.com/favourfulapp](https://www.facebook.com/favourfulapp)

“

The app allows the user to exchange favours or services, without the need for money and instead, in exchange for tokens

”

QMUL awarded major grant for wound-healing research

Eden Gilby

Queen Mary have been awarded a major grant from the UK's leading medical charity in animal replacement research, the Dr. Hadwen Trust. The grant is for research into healing chronic wounds, such as diabetic ulcers, a major healthcare concern in the UK.

Dr. John Connelly, Senior Lecturer in Bioengineering at QMUL, will be receiving the grant of £117,823. This will fund a two-year research programme which will use human cells instead of animal cells to investigate wound-healing, and improve the testing of drugs and therapeutics.

Dr. Connelly, who is based at the Centre for Cutaneous Research within the Blizzard Institute at QMUL, said: "We are so grateful to the Dr. Hadwen Trust. The result of our research, we believe, will provide new and important insights into human-relevant wound-healing."

Dr. Brett Cochrane, Group Head of Science at the DHT, added: "We are delighted for Dr. Connelly and his team. It is an absolute joy when we can fund a project as full of merit and promise as the wound-healing research at the Blizzard Institute."

The Blizzard Institute at QMUL has been a pioneer in the development of in vitro models as an alternative to animal research, using human cells and tissues and, in particular, the development of three-dimensional models.

In January 2013 Queen Mary and the Dr. Hadwen Trust announced a joint collaboration, which saw the creation of the world's first Professorial Chair dedicated to animal replacement science, based within the Blizzard Institute in Whitechapel.

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love The Bike

Every last Friday of the month, hundreds of cyclists join forces and take to the streets of London, stopping everything in their wake. Kevin Choi investigates the biking phenomenon that is Critical Mass

Kevin Choi

It's a grey and muggy Friday evening on the South Bank. Not exactly the most beautiful weather in which to go out for a cycle. Yet hundreds of cyclists have spontaneously descended upon the area, the sound of bicycle bells drowning out the usual tourist hustle and bustle. The number of bicycles seems to increase exponentially every few minutes, some turning up trailing PA systems, some ridden by Super Mario. The sound systems soon add their blaring dub and reggae to the chorus of bells, whilst everyone gets ready to down their last can and prepare for the ride. As the clock strikes 7pm, the bells reach a crescendo, and the huge swarm of bicycles spills out onto the roads of central London. For the uninitiated, this is the London Critical Mass.

Essentially the biggest mass bike ride you'll ever see, Critical Mass started life in 1992, on the streets of San Francisco. What began as a spontaneously organised ride to reclaim the streets from a decidedly hostile motoring population soon morphed into a global cycling phenomenon, an outlet for cyclists to ride proud and free on their city streets. Initially known as 'Commute Clot', the name soon changed to 'Critical Mass', a term taken from the cycling documentary 'Return of the Scorchier'.

The film describes how motorists and cyclists negotiate busy junctions without signals; by queuing up at junctions and building up a huge

backlog, a 'critical mass' of road users would be able to pass through. Today's Critical Mass rides across the world still operate on the same basic principle - safety in numbers. In a car-dominated world, cycling on city streets is still terrifying for many, especially in cities without good cycling infrastructure, such as London. Having begun in 1994, the London Critical Mass is just one of the countless Critical Mass events happening worldwide every month, collectively representing a cycling protest movement running for the past twenty years.

However, Critical Mass can't really be described as a traditional protest movement. There is no organiser, no leader, no set route and no 'goal' or 'aim'. Mass participants range from curious tourists on (wobbly) Boris Bikes to grizzly cycle couriers who can deliver a letter across London faster than you can say 'fixie'. Some are here to stick it to the man, whilst others are simply along for the ride.

Whatever their reason, it's the huge number of riders that makes Critical Mass work. The huge number of cycles stops for nothing, riders peeling off at junctions to block cars and maintain the 'Mass', even after lights turn red. Riding in the middle of the pack gives you an incredible sense of safety, even when a longboarder barely scrapes between you and the drum'n'bass trailer you've been following through the night.

Rarely in London does anyone feel as safe as one does in the middle of Mass. Without any set leaders or route, the mass moves organically through the city streets, taking over particular parts of the city by the general consent of the crowd. Briefly surrounding the Old Street roundabout in a flurry self-powered motion feels like an exercise in democracy, even against the cacophony of irate taxi drivers pounding on their horns.

Critical Mass is seldom mentioned in the media, perhaps because of the difficulty in pinning down what exactly it is. Without an overt political aim, it is legally a 'Public Procession', as backed up by the High Court in 2005, after police threatened to ban the ride if a pre-determined route was not provided.

Though the sheer number of riders sometimes becomes a brief inconvenience to motorists, the ride is almost always peaceful, and the Met Police often struggle to have any reason for a presence. The only real 'goal' of Critical Mass is to provide the experience of riding through a city in relative safety and security, sadly a rarity in London. If you've got a bike, give it a go. You might just see a London you've never seen before.

The London Critical Mass meets at 6pm and leaves after 7pm, by the British Film Institute on the South Bank on the last Friday of every month. Always wear a helmet and fit your bike with lights - be seen, be safe!



The August Critical Mass takes over the streets of London
Images: Kevin Choi

News through the viewfinder: Ugly in the East End

Victoria Adams

Queen Mary's Lock-Keeper's Cottage has been placed at number five in the top ten ugliest buildings in the country. An article by John Rentoul in the Independent exposes the nation's dislike of the postgraduate building, placing it slightly below Preston Bus Station and the South Bank Centre.



The Lock Keeper's Cottage was awarded a RIBA Award in 2006. This prestigious accolade is presented to buildings that have high architectural standards and make a substantial contribution to the local environment.
Image: Kevin Choi



Freshers' Fortnight

From the 90s to now

Ever wondered what Freshers' was like before Icebreaker and a Social Network party? A campus without Drapers, let alone Monday's Calling? Rachel Finn presents a brief history of QM Freshers'

Rachel Finn & Ciara Judge

The average 2014 Fresher was born between 1995 and 1996. To put that into context, that's about the time that the internet as we know it was released to the general public. Toy Story was the highest grossing movie of the year. The DVD had just been invented. Ebay was brand new. The Spice Girls had scored their first No.1. And up and down the country students were studying, drinking and, hopefully, at some point, graduating. But how did Freshers spent their time at QM when you were growing up? We delved into the Student Union archives to find out:

NINETIES

The turn of the 1990s saw Queen Mary and Westfield College merge to form one university. Back then QMUL was known as QMW and was one of eighty full universities in the country, with the 1993 student population hitting around 6,000. For comparison, today the number of UK universities reaches closer to one hundred and sixty, and the QMUL student population is nearing 18,000.

After being abandoned by your parents in the old tower-block style South Woodford halls, you'd head over to the Chirgwin Bar where,

according to the 1993/1994 student manual, you'd be greeted with a place where "the intense light and severe lack of seating" made your party experience have "the air of your local youth club".

Clutching your newly brought Freshers' Pass, which would let you into the fortnight's events for the bargain and strangely precise price of £19.93, you'd be treated to a Freshers' which still contained a few of today's favourites - an indie night and a compulsory Toga party - whilst also getting the experience of a Star Wars fancy dress party, a night dedicated to Austin Powers, and a space-themed 'Battleship Ball'. The bars and themed nights may have been different, but the experience itself, when you were still in the womb, was pretty much identical.

The 1993/1994 Queen Mary & Westfield College Student Handbook advises that you will spend your first day "frantically trying to avoid the people you met last night" whilst dodging "pools of vomit created by those fledglings who have left the nest for the first time and have taken their newly found freedom too far". 90s Freshers were advised to partake in a first week of "unbridled alcohol abuse", "completely irrational

snogging" and an existence that "revolve(s) solely around evening entertainments", followed by a trip to the Octagon to "have your mugshot taken". Even in the 90s, the consensus is the same as today; "undoubtedly", the handbook says, "this will be the most grotesque and unflattering photo ever taken".

NOUGHTIES

Tuition fees have always been a reason to protest. 2003 saw a Freshers call to arms to demonstrate against paying for higher education, with a march against a "route to a lifetime of debt". After you'd done taking part in the standard student protest, you'd hit one of your three student bar options: "The Drapers' Arms", the Student Union's "E1" nightclub or the South Woodford halls' social "0181".

"Hail Mary" dates back to the early 00s, where it used to soak students' lives every single Wednesday, rather than just the last Wednesday of each month. But not to worry if the uni's horrendous monthly night of regrettable beer consumption and sport team hook-ups wasn't your thing. There was always 'Fizz' on a Saturday. A 2004 union poster promises it can offer you all the "latest, freshest sounds".

In 2004, the main Mile End Campus student village opened and in 2008 Drapers as we know it today opened its doors, where you could attend questionably named club nights such as Happy Mondays, KISS ME or flirt!

In the wake of your hangover, you could spend "half your grant joining clubs and societies you will never grace with your presence". Not forgetting the standard societies - Music, Student Media and Debating - you could also try your hand at Strictly Come Dancing, Poker and Shisha.

The places Queen Mary students have gone out may have changed over your lifetime, terrible fashion choices may have come and gone, but the fresh-faced eighteen year old Freshers of yesteryear have always done what fresh-faced eighteen year old Freshers do best: wear ridiculous costumes to attend stupidly-named parties in order to make regrettable decisions that may possibly haunt them for the entirety of their QM career. We're not too fussed about the loss of 'Fizz', but 'Battleship Ball'? That can come back to Drapers any day.

2008

Drapers as we know it today opened its doors



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90s Freshers were advised to partake in a first week of “unbridled alcohol abuse”, “completely irrational snogging” and an existence that “revolve(s) solely around evening entertainments”

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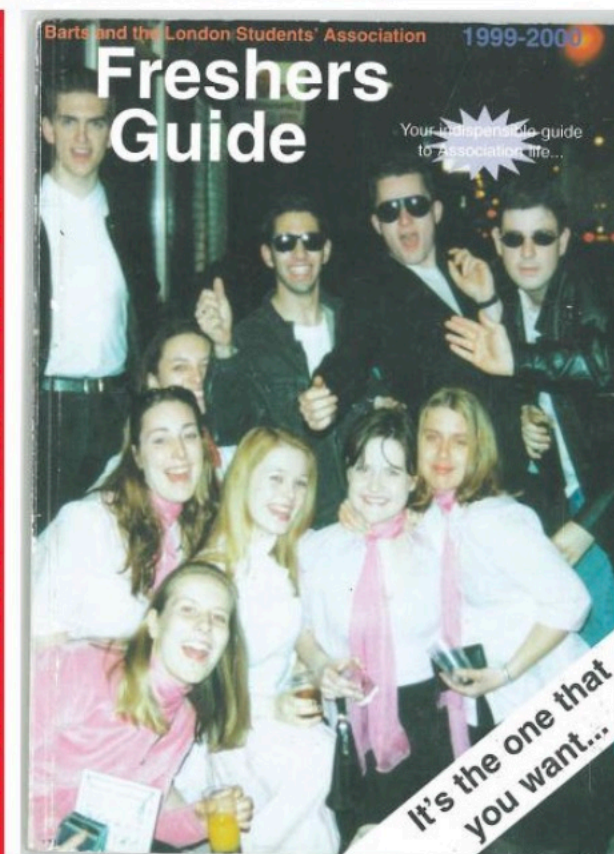
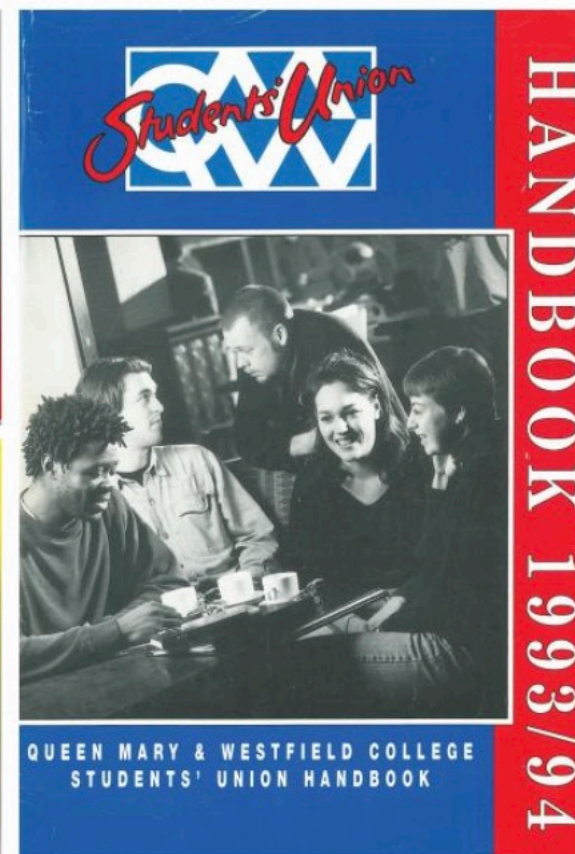
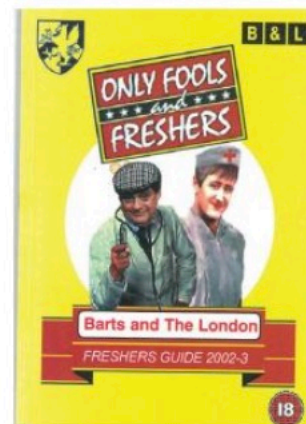
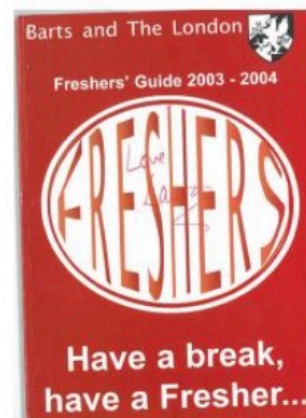
18,000

Today's approximate QMUL student population in comparison to 6,000 back in 1993



QMSU Freshers' (clockwise from top) A Freshers' fancy dress collage with an especially impressive Simpsons cameo; Grease cringefest circa 2000; QMSU showcases its cultural diversity pre-political correctness; Rodney & Delboy show their medical side; and who needs InDesign when you have puns?

Images: QMSU





The Longest Village in the World

As more and more students take to the canals for a supposedly cheaper life, features editor Sarah Garnham explored the stretch of the waterways alongside QM to see what canal life is really like

Sarah Garnham

Any Queen Mary student will have seen the boats lining the stretch of Regent's Canal, but it's difficult to really know what's going on behind the twee names and flower pots. We wanted to find out what it was really like to live on the canal; the freedom, the practicalities and the wilder side of life on the waterways, ranging from getting robbed at knife-point whilst eating dinner to attending some of the craziest parties London has to offer, the canal lifestyle is definitely only for the brave hearted.

The boaters' lifestyle is one of freedom and constant travel as their cruising licence dictates that, after fourteen days, boaters must make a 'genuine attempt' to move from their current spot. Jan, one of the boaters interviewed, loves the 'absolute freedom of being able to move anywhere you want in the country on the canal network'. As his boat is small and very manoeuvrable it means that if he doesn't like a place, he can 'pull up sticks and move along somewhere else or if there's a party going on, you see it, pull up and join in.' One party particularly memorable left huge clouds of blue marijuana smoke drifting down the water.

On top of this, some people make their own boats, with varying levels of success. Fellow boaters told us that in Dalston there's a floating shed on pallets

and even a floating tent on top of a rowing boat. On the other side of the scale, The Floating Cinema, that was recently on campus, was built from scratch and brings a whole different kind of experience to the canal. It aims to show people living in and around the area that there is artistic content and cultural activities that can be done recreationally on the waterways and also perhaps change perceptions of what people think about living on the canal.

Living on canal boats is becoming increasingly popular in London in recent years, especially for students as the lifestyle is phenomenally cheap as once you have the boat, the only costs are for the licence, practical utilities and maintenance. There are a number of students across the country, even some at Queen Mary, who have taken to the boating way of life. Those who know what they're doing tend to be regarded as resourceful by the boating community. However, as they quite often don't have enough experience, younger people can get into trouble quickly and gain negative reputations.

The continuous cruising side of boating can also make it hard for jobs, but people make it work for them. Many of them own bicycles to travel to work or are self-employed. Moored up over the way from France House, we found

Graham, a musician that finds the boating lifestyle great and, although everything is always moving, he stays fairly local. The power for his whole boat is provided by solar panels and although this is less effective in winter, he has enough power to hook up an amp.

There are also a number of extreme differences in the practicalities of this type of lifestyle to that on land. Water supply is becoming increasingly sparse as there are few water points in central London, and these often prove difficult to find and fill up at. Moreover, the water tanks are small and very limited. Gas supply is cheap and the tanks last a reasonable amount of time, so cooking is okay, but gas can often prove dangerous. Cooking with electric is not an option with a wood stove, also bringing the risk of fire. Toilets are also an issue, and the two rules of boating are: 'never let go of your middle line and always use someone else's toilet.' Another boater confirmed these rules explaining that 'the worst bit is emptying the toilet. You take a box and pour it down a hole that acts as one big toilet' and, like the water, there are very few points at which to tip the waste.

There is another downside to the lifestyle too, in the form of overpopulation. This is becoming a massive issue on the canals and we found that



Top: Some of the younger residents of the canal. Bottom: Top Lad Jan waving his ratchet
Images: Kevin Choi



some people didn't want to talk to us due to the belief that waterways could become even more crowded following an increase in unwanted publicity. Shaun, another one of the boaters, said that some people even 'decide to coax birds in to the point that he doesn't stay in London. Another person we spoke to stated that he was robbed at knife-point whilst eating. With little more than a padlock securing most boats, and the constant threat of a public footpath inches away, the security of the canal lifestyle is a growing problem.

There was a societal collapse and they couldn't cope so began to attack each other. He says that proof of this is in the increase in aggression and violence on the canal between boaters, intruders and residents. It worries him to the point that he doesn't stay in London. Another person we spoke to stated that he was robbed at knife-point whilst eating. With little more than a padlock securing most boats, and the constant threat of a public footpath inches away, the security of the canal lifestyle is a growing problem.

The boat life has its ups and downs. Freedom goes hand in hand with danger, whilst the tempting lure of five-boat-strong parties goes hand in hand with the unpleasant duty of pouring toilet waste into an awkward and unenticing hole. One standout feature that ran through all the stories we heard was a sense of calm and contentedness, and this is something that could definitely enhance the student lifestyle.

Foreign Correspondent: New York

Introducing Foreign Correspondent: a regular feature where The Print asks QM students studying around the world to send dispatches of their home from home. This week Priyanka Pau takes a bite out of the Big Apple

Priyanka Pau

The best part of New York is the food - I am exploring the city through its various cuisines and loving every tasty minute of the day.

I recently went to the Williamsburg Smorgasburg in Brooklyn which is a food festival where people set up tents and sell food ready to eat. I sampled cuisines from all over the world - dosa from India, spinach pie from Greece, aubergine goodness from Morocco and various American foods including butter cake, truffle macaroni cheese, and a red velvet chocolate chip waffle. Dosas are a savory pancake with a curry filling and are usually accompanied by various chutneys. This was especially difficult to consume because the pancake is thin like paper and refused to be cut properly so I had to rip it and get my hands dirty. The butter cake was beautiful - it was the consistency of a gooey brownie and despite having chocolate in it, it perfectly captured the buttery taste.

It was such a good day and we ate for about eight hours straight and then went to Macy's afterwards for some late night shopping. I still can't get over the fact it's on my doorstep. I followed that up with a visit to the Italian festival of San Gennaro, which was originally a one-day religious event that began in September 1926 when immigrants from Naples congregated in the

Little Italy section of New York City. Here I indulged my love of food even more by having proper Italian pizza and pasta as well as an American abomination - the fried Oreos! It was as horrible as it sounded - sweet yet dry and had a cake texture that made me want to apologize to my arteries for putting them through it.

This has, however, taught me two things: I need to eat more food from the rest of the world, and, food here is expensive. In fact, everything here is expensive. The price of living in New York is two and a half times the national average, and as someone who previously lived in London, it is more expensive here. It is easy to get duped into thinking that it is cheaper in New York because of the fantastic exchange rate, which is \$1.6 to the pound, but the cost of living is more. Despite all of this, The Big Apple is a prime example of 'you get what you pay for', and every new day brings a priceless experience.

Hunter College (the university that I am studying at) is a commuter college, which reduces the social aspect as you tend to talk to people in class and then leave not seeing them until your next class, which can be a couple of days to the next week to a week later. I had a rare conversation with someone outside class one day and he agreed, telling me that life in New York is

sometimes very lonely and that that's why everyone has dogs. Even though everyone is very warm and welcoming, it can still feel isolated at times. Having said that, people here are quite forward in the way they approach you and compliments get dished out on a daily basis because of my accent, which is doing wonders for my ego. There are also societies and groups that you can join, as well as a few sororities and fraternities that welcome transfer students, but the fact that they meet at Hunter during college hours often makes it feel like extracurricular activities at school.

My dorm is completely different to halls at Queen Mary; it's a 1920s Art Deco hotel that has a select few floors that are dedicated to student accommodation. On walking into the hotel lobby when I moved in, I was blown away. At forty floors high, it is very much part of the New York skyline. It is a five minute walk away from the Empire State Building, and Madison Square Garden is right across the road, which is something that I still can't believe. The accommodation itself is also very nice - I have a large double room that I share with another girl and everyone uses a communal kitchen, gym and recreation room. Each floor has its own Resident Advisor, who is a student that works for the dorm, and they are here

to look after us if we have any problems. This is my favourite part of living here because the people are so nice and the dorm organises trips for us to places that would be hard to get into normally.

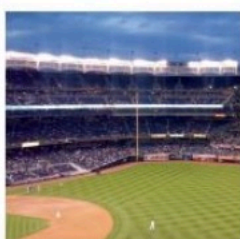
Finally, it wouldn't be a proper report on the US without a visit to a ball game. I went to a Yankees game and bought a bucket of popcorn for £8 (ouch) but it was worth every penny and people's admiration of it actually won me a few friends. The stadium was huge and the patriotism was palpable. Conversations were stopped midway as the national anthem started and everyone stood up holding their baseball caps to their hearts. Derek Jeter, the captain of the team, was playing one of his final games and the support for him was impressive - every time he came up to bat, all that could be heard were chants of his name and motivational music.

To hear more about Priyanka's time in New York then visit her blog ihavelearntsomethingnewtoday.wordpress.com

If you are on your Year Abroad or know someone who is, get in touch with us via Facebook 'The Print' or Twitter @ThePrintQM to share your story



Images: Priyanka Pau



Maansi Kaylan

Halls are a Godsend. That isn't even a hyperbolic statement, because for those of us that love socialising and talking to every kind of human under the sun, university accommodation is the perfect fit. It is a realm of no boundaries, where you can find yourself shopping with someone you didn't even know lived a few doors down from you, or having a movie night with that nice girl from the fifth floor, simply because you aren't restricted. Halls are bubbles, closed off from the rest of society, where you are allowed to explore, learn and thrive as a student.

I myself was fortunate to live in two types of halls last year; private for the first semester and Mile End campus for the rest of the year. Stepping into them on moving day more than a year back (cue the nostalgia) began an experience that really cannot be replicated.

Students could argue that halls are a place where privacy is lacking and judgment is rife, but what they're forgetting is the massive bonus of living in a place where you know no one; a clean slate. You are allowed to be who you want in that place, more so than you would be when you commute to university, because your friends see you all the time rather than just before those hour-long lectures. Sure, you would be judged, but for your present actions, not for your past ones.

My Freshers' week was made amazing by the new friends I found in my flatmates and the people in my building, who immediately took a liking to me (and vice versa) based on nothing but the fact that we were living together.

Those who chose not to stay in halls are also forgetting how much moving out changes you psychologically. The experience of a few hundred students at the same point in their lives, studying at the same place, experiencing the same new

troubles and perks essentially makes you grow as a person. Whereas in the summer you were an in-between eighteen year-old, not very old and incredibly naïve, being around students of your own age range helps soften the blow of finally flying the nest. The bonding I did with my flatmates really helped me transition into an adult.

Your parents aren't there to do every little thing for you, and you are forced to overcome any troubles by yourself. I was never given lots of freedom before university because my parents worried. They looked after me both financially and emotionally as they always had done, and I know now that without moving away, I wouldn't be as independent and clued-up on things as I am now.

In my experience, living out almost always guarantees an incredible social life. If I didn't live in halls, I wouldn't have been able to interact with some of the people who I now call my best friends. Whether it was Sunday night roast dinners, going to Wetherspoons, or having a post-going out discussion/food binge, living with others forces you to bond with each other and ultimately creates friendships, as you experience the highs and lows of university together.

The journey of getting a degree is what people say is 'unforgettable', and I feel that living away from home really enhances that time for the better. You are secluded from real life, allowed to grow and do things that you would never do under the watchful gaze of family. You are put together with people who differ from you completely, and are exposed to life as you never knew it to be. I believe that at a place that is so segregated from both the working world and the usual academic world, what you learn from living out is a fitting addition to that diploma.

THE GREAT DEBATE



Image: Kevin Choi

Do you have to live in Halls to have the full Fresher experience?

YES NO

Living at home for university has, by far, been one of the best decisions I've made. Having the comfort of home, the familiarity of the city I was raised in and the option to immerse myself into student life at the same time, has ensured that I enjoy the best of both worlds.

When transferring from my previous university (where, incidentally, I did live in halls), my university choices were all based in London. Being a London girl, and having accommodating parents, meant that the choice of living at home was an easy one for me to make. The vast majority of my friends from home were choosing to study in London, and all but one were living at home too. Whilst I wouldn't describe myself as being shy or a creature of habit, my social network all being a bus ride away when first year woes crept up was a godsend. On the other hand, I made wonderful friends at university, some of whom are now those lifetime best friends. My knowledge of London also ensured that I could share my love of the city and its hidden gems with them.

I think one of the biggest misconceptions of living at home, as opposed to halls, is this idea that if you live at home you are somehow trapped inside some mollycoddled bubble, with your mother doing your laundry. Those living in halls are somehow becoming fierce independent adults, armed with an Argos kettle and their student loans. From my experience, much of this independence entails a steady diet of pasta and care packages to tide over the Fresher's flu.

Now whilst I do accept that being thrust into an environment which demands self-reliance does encourage independence for later years, I don't buy for a minute that living at home fails to achieve this. Growing into adulthood and living at home are not as incompatible as many think. Over the past two years I too have grown into a self-reliant adult; I rely only on myself financially and balance working with studying and a healthy social life. Another thing that needs to be addressed is, I think, the issue

of living with parents which, generally, is the case with living at home. I cannot speak for others who may have different experiences, but for me my parents have always been open and encouraging of me having a healthy and active social life. Some may not feel comfortable with having parents knowing how many times they go out or how late they get back etc. and that is a very real concern; some friends living at home have expressed similar worries. However in my two years at university my parents have let me get on with my life, fully aware that my choices are mine to make. Perhaps I am fortunate in that respect, but this definitely shows that there are real exceptions to the notion that living at home means the hovering, over-protective parent still willing to ground you at eighteen or so.

Last but not least, is the financial perspective. Now I pay rent to my parents and contribute financially to the household, but despite that I am not spending anywhere near what some of my friends living away from home are. Living at home has meant that my living costs have been cut down considerably, and transport costs (which second-years and beyond need to seriously consider as they won't have student halls to live in anymore and could have to live miles away from the university) are virtually nothing. Tuition fees have already risen dramatically and so too my student debt-adding maintenance costs to that was unappealing to say the least.

As I now approach the start of my final year and look back at my university experience - the good and the bad - I can honestly say living at home has been a good choice for me. Academically, socially, and financially, my time has not been hindered from living at home. In fact, living at home has enhanced my experience during these areas.

Got a hot topic for the great debate? Got something to say in response? Let us know on social media. Drop us a line on Facebook at: Facebook/ThePrintNews or Tweet us: @ThePrintQM using the hashtag #thegreatdebateQM

Bina Patel

Oxbridge: The bigotry behind the banter

Bina Patel



Image: James Bowe/flickr

'Maybe we can all dress up as council estate teenage mums' - with that one line all my resolve at staying on at Cambridge University shattered. The braying laughter that followed the Student Union Officer's idea for the next pub crawl confirmed that not only was I amongst very different people to me but that I had entered a whole different world. I transferred to Queen Mary the next day.

As most Freshers find, starting university in a different city, away from your friends and family and surrounded by overwhelming social and academic pressures, your first year at university is a testing time. I was no exception to this when I arrived at Cambridge University to begin my law degree. As the first from my college and family to reach Oxbridge, the expectations on me were high. However, unlike any of the students in my year group, I was going in as a nineteen year old who had left her two year old son in London with her partner to make the most of the opportunity that I had been given. I was that teenage mum that these people had in mind - not the Vicky Pollard caricature but a young mum nonetheless, someone they perceived as being from a socio-economic background inferior to their own. They did not know I had a child - had they known then

perhaps the comment would not have been made. But the fact still remains that these people, about to embark on an academic career at one of the world's most prestigious universities, a university known for sending off alumni to senior political offices and the like, were completely out of touch with the real world.

I have no doubt that there were perfectly nice individuals there, I'd made friends with a fair few myself, but the fact still remained that a student elected by other students to hold a position in the Student Union (a body created, ironically, for student inclusion and participation), held such low opinions of those that came from council estates or were teenage parents. To him his fellow students would obviously be from a similar background to himself and so would appreciate those jokes. After all, why should he expect a teenage mum to be sitting in front of him in the grand hall of a Cambridge college? To him and many others, that kind of institution was still the preserve of the elite.

The stereotypes of the elitist children of aristocrats is not as acute as perhaps a decade ago but that one comment in my fresher's week still showed me that there was still an 'us' and 'them' mentality prevalent in some part at Cambridge.

Many of these students were coming from exclusive schools into a prestigious university and would then probably embark on careers in lucrative professions. They would have influence after their academic careers finished in many fields and professions from the judiciary to political office. If they are indeed being educated in a bubble which reinforced prejudice then I sincerely hope that bubble pops - because we all know there are enough out of touch politicians sitting in the Cabinet right now.

I should add that the decision to leave was of course a very personal one; many people from similar backgrounds to me choose to stay on at Cambridge and have wonderful experiences. But my decision was largely fuelled by my desire to not spend any more time amongst people who probably would never accept me. I chose to spend it in London with my son and friends in an environment that felt infinitely more diverse and welcoming. It's been nearly three years since my transfer to Queen Mary and I hope that in this short space of time some more progress has been made to break down the barrier between classes and backgrounds that tarred my experience of Cambridge.

What I don't get is why people are so offended by breasts?

Got something to say? Want to get your opinion heard? Feel that an issue isn't getting the coverage it should have? The Print is always looking for comment writers. Drop us a line on Facebook at: [Facebook/ThePrintNews](#) or Tweet us: [@ThePrintQM](#)



The Naked Truth of Celebrity

Lucinda Diamond

At the beginning of the month, computers from around 100 different celebrities, ranging from Jennifer Lawrence to Cat Deeley, were hacked, their privacy invaded and their pictures stolen and presented to the rest of the world. Some of these pictures were indeed 'harmless', or rather they were of the celebrity fully clothed, in others this was not the case. However, irrespective of the public positions these people hold, this is undoubtedly an extreme violation of one's personal privacy.

Twitter exploded with a wave of opinions on the matter, some even going as far as blaming the victims for their own misfortune, stating that 'if you don't want nude pics to be stolen from your computer, don't take nude pics. Simple. Actually no, it's not as simple as that. It needs to be understood that it is these hackers who are the ones breaking the law and who will forever be in the dark and endless pit of 'The Wrong'.

And he's right. I've sent nude pictures to my boyfriend and vice-versa, and I bet 99.99% of you have done or will at some point in the future. It's just the sort of thing you do when you're in either love or lust. All the internet bullying websites advise against this sort of thing as, evidently, there can be grave repercussions, but then again experts also advise you not to eat sugar and to exercise daily, and I sure as hell don't do that either. Eating doughnuts, sending nudes, they both could lead to either obesity or a world-wide web humiliation, but at the same time it feels good doing it and you're not hurting anybody. The point is it's your choice what you do in your spare time and it's really nobody else's damn

business, especially if they're all doing the same thing.

Looking at a nude picture of someone without having their permission to do so is almost like climbing a tree outside their house and watching them get undressed. Regardless of whether they chose to pose for such photos, the fact is they did not pose for you. And by choosing to view these pictures, you are indeed violating these women. The female race has come so far in striving for equal rights with men and yet what's sad is that even in one of the most apparently liberal countries in the world, they find themselves facing extreme backlash, and abuse, because they decided to send a picture of their boobs to someone they wanted to share a picture of their boobs with. I can't help but wonder if the sexes were reversed how society would react then? Most celebrities and indeed young men in general, on Facebook and other social media sites, have uploaded pictures of their naked torso. On the beach or even just on a hot day, men are 'allowed' to walk about topless and nobody bats an eyelash. What I don't get is why people are so offended by breasts? Not only can they be beautiful but they also have an incredibly important occupation: feeding babies.

Whilst I believe that the flesh of both sexes should enjoy the same freedom as each other, I am also a firm believer in privacy and choice. Even if society did accept liberated breasts on the street, if one person, male or female, does not wish to expose any part of their body for anyone else, then you do not have any right whatsoever in viewing that particular body part. End of.



Comment from the Inside: The Scottish Referendum

The Print's very own Scotsman on the inside gives his thoughts on working for the 'No' campaign and their frantic efforts to preserve the Union

Tom Jobling

I joined the Edinburgh office of Better Together about two months before the referendum polling day. The atmosphere on the campaign had been fairly unchanged for the two years before I started, showing small momentum to the 'Yes' side, but with the 'No' side looking like it could still expect a pretty comfortable lead. Had you arrived in Scotland in the beginning of September, you could be forgiven for not noticing any signs that the most important referendum in Scottish (and British) history was about to take place; people seemed to be living their lives perfectly normally, complacently accepting that the result was definitely going to be 'No'. That was until September 3rd, the day everything changed - the day a poll showed the 'Yes' vote winning.

Overnight the atmosphere was different, as the possibility of Independence began to sink in. Supporters for 'Yes Scotland' became even more energised as they began to see that the work they'd been doing for the past two years was beginning to pay off. On our side, it's fair to say, we got spooked. Within a day Prime Minister's Questions was cancelled, then three Westminster party leaders, one hundred Labour MPs and George Galloway were sent north to persuade Scots to stay. It's difficult to say whether it helped sway people towards the side of the union, but it definitely looked panicked and desperate. Within four days, a brand new timetable for substantial devolution of new powers to the Scottish Parliament was announced by



Image: The Laird of Oldham/flickr

Gordon Brown (who is still an incredibly popular politician in Scotland, something which English friends of mine still find baffling). This meant that whether the result was 'Yes' or 'No', big changes would be coming to Scotland. The status quo was dead.

Nonetheless, as well as spooking us a bit, that poll did prove to be quite helpful. It woke up a large number of ordinary people who were opposed to independence, and motivated them to get involved with the campaign. One of my jobs on the campaign was to organise canvassing events in Edinburgh and get as many volunteers as possible to come along to them. Before that poll we would struggle to get ten people to come along; afterwards fifty would turn up, even if it was pouring with rain, and we'd meet a lot more undecided voters who hadn't thought about how they would vote much, but were now coming to us with their questions about the implications of independence. People in Scotland were suddenly more interested and engaged in the debate, and the referendum suddenly became the lead story

on all newspapers and on the BBC for the next three weeks.

One surreal point during the campaign was when I was interviewed by a TV station alongside a worker for the Yes campaign for a segment about what issues people were raising on the doorsteps, which aired on the news that evening. Admittedly, it was for a Danish news channel, but it still counts. In fact, it was incredible just how the world's eyes were on Scotland for those final three weeks of campaigning. We were followed during canvassing sessions by TV channels from France, Canada, Taiwan and Argentina, as well as journalists writing about what was happening in Scotland, including the Boston Globe and the New Zealand Herald.

Most international observers commented positively on the fact we were having a democratic debate on the potential break-up of a country and how it was being conducted positively and civilly by both sides. They did, however, often suggest to us that they thought personally that our opponents were running

a better and more inspiring campaign, and if I'm honest, I'd agree. Whilst I'd deny the accusations that the pro-union side ran an entirely negative campaign, it did have its low moments. One of the worst examples of this was in the final five days of the campaign when we were handing out entirely black leaflets through the doors of undecided voters, exclaiming "SNP NHS LIES!" and declaring Alex Salmond the most untrustworthy man in Britain - so much for a positive case for the Union!

In the end, the result wasn't as close as people had been braced for and it turned out to be a comfortable victory for the Union, but not exactly a landslide. Also notable is that a big part of our victory was down to overwhelmingly winning voters aged over 65, who backed the Union by 74% to 26%. Amongst those under 65 the result was much closer, and may even have been a 'Yes' majority. Also, the vow made by the three Westminster leaders was a promise of further devolution in the event of a 'No' vote, which is already beginning to look like it might possibly fall apart. None of this suggests that this will be a decisive enough result to definitely prevent a second referendum, as happened in Quebec. A 'No' vote means that Scotland will remain a part of the UK for the foreseeable future, but that probably isn't going to prevent me from getting suspicious looks from bar staff in London when I hand over Scottish Banknotes and plead "Honestly! Its real money, I promise".

Can you be sincere on Twitter?

How the combination of social media and celebrity culture has made it impossible to rest in peace

Megan Gurney

From a young age we are generally taught to 'never speak ill of the dead'. However, public reaction to the recent passing of comedian Joan Rivers has left me questioning whether this is a worthwhile sentiment at all. Obviously Rivers did some good things in her life-time, but she also offended entire groups of people, and I wouldn't blame them for not immediately rushing to tweet 'RIP Joan' in order to keep up with what seems to have become a social media norm.

I'm not suggesting that the time of an individual's death is the right moment to let the world know you hated their hair style in 2008, or that you hope they don't rest in peace because of that potentially ignorant comment they made on the issue of Palestine (I'm talking to you, Joan). But it also seems strange that every celebrity that passes suddenly becomes an inspiration or even an idol. If we think back to the passing of Margaret Thatcher, social media seemed utterly divided. Whilst some people tweeted about their celebratory street parties, others publically mourned her without any mention of the controversy surrounding her legacy.

The mainstream media has found a way to turn the passing of every notable figure into an opportunity to scrutinise the actions of other celebrities. News broadcasters read out lists of condolences and websites publish lists of tweets as people sit back and judge whether they've been sincere enough, or call out people who they believe should have commented; such as demanding Katie Hopkins grieve the passing of Peaches Geldof after previously arguing with her on GMTV. I'm sure no one really wants to agree

with Hopkins, but did she really deserve a barrage of hate demanding that she comment on the death of Geldof, all for the sake of another vague tweet sending hollow condolences to the family of a person that she met a handful of times? Whether Hopkins' criticisms of the mother of two were legitimate or not, do we really need to insist that she retract them just because Geldof has now passed?

I have no issue with a celebrity's death being widely discussed when it becomes something that can be used to spread a positive message. The passing of Robin Williams for example, has brought much light and attention to the under-discussed topic of mental illness. However, even this was overshadowed by the ignorance of the Daily Mail comments section; 'how can someone that rich be depressed?' The amount of upsetting comments found on various social media sites led to Williams's daughter Zelda deleting her Twitter account.

When death is a public spectacle you open the floodgates to unfiltered comments and those jumping on the bandwagon, at a time when the families of those involved most want privacy to come to terms with their loss. Commenting on someone's passing just because it's trending on Twitter is the opposite of sincere, in many ways I think it would be more respectful to let families grieve in peace.

Can you be sincere on twitter? Worked for the Yes campaign over the summer? Infuriated by the nude celeb saga and want your say? Tweet us your thoughts on Twitter:

@ThePrintQM



THE GUILLOTINE



FASHIST!

Vile Ginger changes student newspaper name despite QM law requiring all projects to begin with 'Q'

The Names They Are A-Changin'

A.R.

QMessenger is no more.

There has been universal outrage this week as the venerable citizens of planet earth gaped in disgusted awe at The Print. The powers that be cite the origin of this name change as both a reference to the medium in which the paper is written and some spurious reference to a cat or something, I don't know. To be honest I haven't done any research. Needless to say everybody lost their shit. And when I say everybody I mean literally dozens of people. Well, maybe half-dozens. Ok, around half a dozen people, maybe less.

Yes it may seem inconsequential to someone of your

intellectual stature. In fact you may wonder why anybody, to whom the phenomenon of human interaction was no longer a mystery, would concern themselves with such an issue. But there is more to this rebranding than simply a reinvigoration of the ethos of the paper and a chance to change it for the better.

Davey Brett, this paper's 'Editor' has been connected with various illicit and nefarious dealings. Not only has he been involved with various planning-permission discrepancies and owns a dangerously large python that he plans to simply flush down the toilet when it becomes unmanageable, my friend Henrietta said she's definitely seen him sneaking about outside her house and looking in her bins and,

also, I found a picture of him on Google where he's got the head and chest of a man but the legs of a goat like Mr. Tumnus.

"Ok, but why does a name change matter?" You ask, like an idiot would ask. Well I'll tell you won't I, as if it's not already clear. Because we should fear change, change is the enemy, and Davey Brett keeps his enemies close. Starburst used to be called Opal Fruits. Snickers used to be called Marathon. Cif Used to be Jif and ISIS has recently rebranded to the less snappy but trendier Islamic State.

Most troubling example of all however is that of Cinnamon Grahams. Cinnamon Grahams spent years in the wilderness and came back Curiously Cinnamon.

This marketing strategy puzzled many consumers. "Who is this unrecognisable cereal and why does he seem so curious?" They cried "Curiosity is not appetising and I will not put him in my mouth!" they screamed. "And what the fuck happened to Graham?" The cry resounded around the world I presume.

Perhaps years out of the limelight and the rejection that Cinnamon Graham experienced led him to rediscover himself. Perhaps he went on a gap year or went travelling and upon returning decided to reveal a personality overhaul. But what did he see out there? He's sinister now. In conclusion, you reap what you sow, goodnight.

Lonely Heart Love Challenge

YO! I'm single as a pringle and ready to FINGER! by which i mean i've got my fingers in a lot of different pies right now but boy am i looking to have a taste. i've got no sense of humour so don't try to kid with me, i'll get mighty mad. once got rick rolled in 2008 - still not over it buddy. ran over his dog. read the facts and tell me who got pranked in that lil sitch.

i like hearing things straight, and i like being straight, so if you aint a chick, it aint gonna stick. got a lil bro called char-

lemagne (guess who gotta name that lil shrimp (me), thought it would make him strong like his big bro, GUESS AGAIN). my parents were eaten by wolves when i was eight (like to tell girls my parents got ATE when i was EIGHT, always gets a laugh and if it doesn't, i'm mad). you know the phrase "when the going gets tough, the tough get going?" i invented that. i said it first. if i hear you say that phrase on the date i will demand royalties.

yeah so all in all, date me ya twerps. it's a love challenge baby.

There's Something About Mary: QM found to harbor illicit rom com cult

L.B.

University authorities have told students that they shouldn't 'twat about' today, a slightly rude comment that has emerged in response to the rallying of an illegitimate romantic comedy cult found to be harboring numerous illicit activities on campus.

Queen Mary has been notified that Los Romanticos, a group of smallish Spaniards parading themselves as lovers of "the movement of people who got no time for temperance, Sebastian", has turned out to be a cult dedicated to the effervescent love of the rom-com movie.

William Shakespeare sculpted Romantic Comedy like "a skilled potter with a

lot of terracotta" in 1604. The 1990's stole the line of take-a-scene-to-intimate-place-maybe-under-the-stars-and-say-it-like-you-mean-it, shoving those pots on a conveyor with more gusto than you can shake a stick at.

Cameron Diaz has appeared in every romantic comedy film that has ever been made, and her mum told us that she "really wants to be in the next one that comes out", so it has come at no surprise to many what one whistle blower has uncovered.

"Chanting 'THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH A HAPPY ENDING BILL CLINTON', they began to don their

Cameron Diaz masks whilst taking off their clothes. What followed was, well, a bit of a sight for my eyes, I probably didn't think that was physically possible,' Mr Whistler told us [scratches face, takes long, slow sip of pink gin].

The idea is attracting more and more students, with the trend growing ever-popular due to an apparent increase in the love of the obstacle-filled relationship, and the broadcasting of it as though every other fucker wants to hear, and the cult has alleged plans to begin operating within the main body of 'conventional' cults on campus.

The first chapter of The Bees Knees: Living with Bees in Tow

L.B.

This was it. The future years of my life spilling out in front of my eyes, cascading down my cheeks in the form of salty dew. Was it for this the clay grew tall? I couldn't possibly answer that, Wilfred. All I knew was that I hadn't told my bees about and Janet, and now they had something to say back.

Me and Janet met in high school, year ten. She was a sassy blonde with too much to say about Spanish influenza. I was a gawky excuse for a bloke, glasses as thick as a brick with a haircut to match. But she liked the cut of my jib and I thought she was one of the most easily-attainable girls around. We dated, fell in love, married, all the while my little guys being privy to every

event that happened in our lives.

Janet never liked the bees much. She'd always tell me that they "take up too much of your time, Jerry. You can't expect us to live a conventional life with our picket fence and nice yellow house with them around all the time. They're a nuisance, they make me uneasy. Why don't we just get a dog?" So a dog we got. A dog that

wanted to please so hard that it pissed itself every time anyone said anything nice to it. Disgusting. All the time I kept subconsciously moving my eyes to the hive, where my heart lay, enveloped by lava and wax. But what could I do? I'd told Janet that I loved her and that the bees would no longer be a priority. Could I sacrifice a human relationship for my little guys?

To Bee Continued...



Cartoon: Anna Tilov

Decoding Chad Kroeger's Photograph

A.R.

Nickleback's frontman, Chad Kroeger, is famous not only for being married to Avril Lavigne nor for his never-changing little beard that couldn't possibly exist other than to hide something grotesque underneath it - he is also an enigmatic lyricist.

The hit single Photograph, released at some point prior to now, has astounded and beguiled listeners and musical scholars since whenever it was released. The whole of the conceit of the song is made apparent in the first line, as Kroeger asks us to "look at this photograph".

This has sparked the questions "Is Chad Kroeger alright Mum? Does he know that I can't see him? Does he know he's working in a primarily, if not entirely, audio medium? Does he think that I can see him and the things that he's doing? Does that not make him constant-

ly paranoid? Has anybody checked on his mental condition recently?"

The answers to these questions are as follows in their respective order: "Probably not, son"; "Who cares"; "If he knew he was working in a primarily audio medium, I'm not sure he would have written this"; "Please, no more questions, son"; "I won't tell you again" and "I can't take this anymore, your incessant questioning has driven me and your father's relationship to the brink of collapse. Do you want to know something about photographs Brendon; have you noticed there's none of you in this house? That's because your father got me pregnant by accident when we were both sixteen and drunk, and while at the time I thought 'maybe missing the appointment for the abortion was a sign from a higher power that I should keep the baby', now I realise you are nothing but a personification of the void left by my crushed dreams of one day being a

sculptor".

Questions about Chad Kroeger's mental condition aside, the identity of the mysterious 'Joey' from the line "And what the hell

“
Kroeger lives in the crater of a dormant volcano and appears only by surrogate

”

is on Joey's head" has been of major critical interest. The indication is that Joey is a friend of Chad's. As fictional musicologist and scholar Rupert Something has claimed however:

"Chad Kroeger could not have appeared in this photograph and he certainly has no friends. Kroeger lives in the crater of a dormant volcano and appears only by surrogate or hologram at live events. Also, he fears photographs immensely because he refuses to believe he would have chosen that haircut himself."

The dominant theory behind this puzzling song so far is that Chad's record label demanded that he prove he had friends and lived a life previous to his musical career, claiming that his listeners would connect with him more if they no longer believed he was woven from vines and brought to life in 2002 by a Haitian Voodoo Priestess. The story goes that Kroeger

Blessed with expertise in taking the p*** whilst causing minimal (ideally no) offence? Fancy having a go at satire? Enjoyed what you read? Let us know! We're always looking for new writers, drop us a line on Facebook at: [Facebook/ThePrintNews](#) or Tweet us: [@ThePrintQM](#)

had read about human life previously to this demand and quickly wrote a list of nonspecific, stereotypical and clichéd human activities and events that could have possibly occurred had he not, in his youth, been a primarily sea-dwelling creature similar to a mudskipper until 2002 when he underwent extensive plastic surgery and bought a long knitted hat somewhat resembling hair.

The concept of 'friends' however reportedly first made him confused and then furious. The story goes that Chad was late night channel-hopping when he came across the hit 90s TV sitcom F.R.I.E.N.D.S and, although confused to what this abbreviation could mean, he persevered.

Finally we come to what is supposedly the ultimate solution to the riddle of what the hell was actually on Joey's head. One fateful night, Chad, aching with loneliness and

struggling to understand the strange relationship between these F.R.I.E.N.D.S, watched the episode where Joey remembers when he got a big turkey stuck on his head at thanksgiving.

Desperately attempting to appropriate the event as a humorous memory of his own, Kroeger took a photo off of the telly and kept it a closely guarded secret, until today.

While the very non-specificity and emptiness of Kroeger's claims to be human ("this is where I grew up") somewhat betray themselves, this is nowhere near as revealing as this, his downfall: The total inability to identify what is so clearly a turkey.

In conclusion I give this song a 6 out of 10.

Groundhog Daydream: Ground café worker speaks out for first time about how he's repeated one day of his life for two years

Freshers' Top Tips

J.H.

So! You're a Fresher! You've made it to university! Congratulations! Things are looking up for you, but guess what? The next two weeks of your life are going to be hell! You're going to really, really hate it, and guess what? There's nothing you can do to make you love it! However, there are things you can do to ensure that you retain a basic sense of humanity. I've compiled these into a formal list that you can religiously abide by. Failing to follow the list will result in emotional crippling that will take years to wash out.

1. Do crosswords.

The elderly are recommended to complete crosswords as a way of keeping their mind healthy

and active. Though you are not elderly, and are perhaps at a point in your life where you feel most youthful, by the end of the two weeks your heart and mind will be old. Like the Classical Sibyl, you will find yourself trapped unwillingly in mortality, but unable to die. Your uni friends will catch your aching glances towards the cemetery, but they will not speak, because they also know. So do crosswords! They will keep your mind fresh, and you will be used to the monotony of life.

2. Don't cry in public. Though it might seem tempting and the exhaustion you feel afterwards will result in the best night's sleep you have ever had, it sparks worry in your fellow

Freshers. I remember when I was a Fresher - a trip to Drapers turned into an orgy of weeping revellers after one student stopped dancing, kneeled down on the sticky ground, and began sobbing so loud the DJ had to cut the music. For a moment it was only him, his face convulsed and twisted in grief, his naked, ugly passion merely a spectacle, something we could distance ourselves from. But suddenly, something broke and one after another the students cried. Drapers became a place of sadness and despair, and it hasn't been the same since. So don't do that.

3. 5



Cartoon: Anna Tilov



why you should become an elected representative...

We still have vacant positions on the Union Student Council. This is your opportunity to make a difference at QMUL, whilst meeting new people and having fun along the way.

what positions are available?

Cross Campus Positions:

•Commercial Services Officer

Mile End Positions:

- First Year Representative
- Postgraduate Taught Representative
- International Representative (Welfare)
- RAG Officer

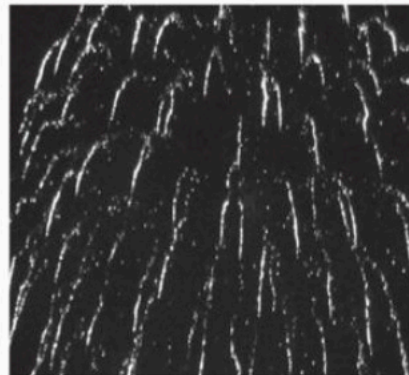
Barts and The London Positions:

- First Year Representative
- Postgraduate Research Representative
- Multi-Cultural Representative

For more information visit www.qmsu.org/elections

NOMINATION CLOSING 4PM THUR 2 OCT

Queen Mary University of London
Students' Union



Baking Society on The Great British Bake Off so far

Hollie Corbett

It's been a rocky road, but we've finally reached week seven of the BBC's *The Great British Bake-Off*. This season has been, quite possibly, the most dramatic yet. We've been through tears and tantrums in dessert week - where the infamous Baked Alaska incident shook the country - to pastry week, where this year's contestants faced the most difficult technical challenge we've seen in a long time, the elusive kouign-amann.

The Great British Bake-Off has not only moved the nation to pick up their spatulas and start baking, but has also spawned internet fandoms for its contestants. Norman, who left in pie week after presenting Mary and Paul with a seemingly unsatisfactory lavender-infused meringue, has even inspired a BuzzFeed article dedicated to proving that he's the best contestant on the show (now, you know you've made it if somebody's written a BuzzFeed article about you.)

The show's popularity has reached such huge heights, with 8.3 million viewers tuning

in every week, that it now even has a spin-off comedy panel show, *An Extra Slice*, hosted by the brilliant Jo Brand and with an appearance from the contestant who has left the show that week. We even saw the return of my favourite Bake-Off contestant ever, Howard Middleton from series 4, to give his opinion on 'bingate'. He discussed his similar experience from his time in the tent, when fellow contestant Deborah stole his custard, which I personally think was one of the best moments in British TV history - if you haven't seen it you need to YouTube it.

The brilliance of *The Great British Bake-Off* is possible because of the characters. We all know someone like Norman, for example, who believes the use of pesto constitutes an avant-garde baking style, or a Martha, who cries in the bad times, the good times...and the average times. We relate to them and grow to love them, and in a voyeuristic way, enjoy watching Mel and Sue poke, prod and generally annoy them when they're at

their peak stress levels.

With the quarter final airing next week, it would be wrong to write about Bake-Off and not make a prediction on the winner. The competition is very close, with all five bakers having a consistently high standard of baking, yet all of them at some point in the show have made big slip-ups. Personally, I'd like to see Luis win; his precision and the incorporation of his skills as a designer have meant that his bakes - especially his showstoppers - look incredibly professional and frankly, delicious. However, from the outcome of pastry week, which is notoriously one of the most difficult and telling weeks of the competition, it looks to be that flavour queen, Chetna, and precision-fanatic, Richard, are the front-runners.

Catch *The Great British Bake Off* on BBC2, Wednesdays at 8pm, when the remaining contestants will be taking on pastries and battling it out in the final on the 8th October. Happy Baking!



Image: QM Baking Society



Societies on Society: The Scottish Referendum

In the first of what will be a regular feature, Eve Bolt asks QM's diverse range of societies for their views on a piece of topical debate

Eve Bolt

It had to be a pie-chart for a Scottish poll, really, didn't it? With the medley of souls at the Freshers' Fair, we thought it would be interesting to see Societies' opinions on the UK society dividing itself. The overall consensus was pro society, affirming and appropriate. These were no bampots. Economic and legal implications were considered as well as concerns over loss of the arts, culture and flag, the Scottish land's gift. And Andy Murray.

A further worry was the political punch this would pack on Sassenachs, with Labour pushing north and Conservatives concentrating on the south.

Generally, it was agreed independence was unhealthy; romantic rather than practical. But there were many nationalist aye-sayers. Scotland's plan to model its resource distribution on Norway's was given as a positive reason to support the campaign, for instance.

Conclusively, the vote mirrored Scotland's. Britain in all its multicultural greatness is exemplified by the mural of societies, patch-worked together by pro-diversity, fun, welcoming and evidently informed scholars. Any student seeking a society should be encouraged to find votes for the union and independence; it is one thing to be 'better together' but a whole new wonder to be able to celebrate individuality simultaneously.



Cartoon: Anna Titov

Results are in: No - Union, Yes - Scotland, Undecided - White

The Print Focus: Nepalese Society

Rekha Gurung, Co-vice president

Formed in December 2009, the Nepalese society is all about celebrating the Nepalese culture and tradition. This is the society for you if you are interested in meeting people from various backgrounds and in learning about Nepal. Nepal is a small but extremely diverse country, with 75 districts and 102 different castes and ethnic groups. We also provide volunteering opportunities in Nepal - an incredible way to experience the country, culture and people while gaining many skills that will make you stand out in the work field. This year we are holding even

more get-togethers, including: Nepalese movie nights, pani puri and momo making parties, a Diwali and Tihar party with other Nepalese societies from London universities, going out as a QM Nepalese society to multiple events held by well-known Nepalese organisations in London so that that we can interact with a larger society who also share the same interests in the benefit of Nepal. Through various events we want to build up the relationship between the Nepalese society and new members so that we can take honest feedback and opinions

from our members on how to improve this society.

The Nepalese society is where we come together as a small family to share our pride and enjoy the Nepalese culture. We warmly welcome those who are interested in celebrating this with us despite his or her cultural origins. With committee members from both Nepalese and non-Nepalese backgrounds, we aim to create a friendly, warm environment by organising get-togethers frequently, once every two weeks.



An Incomplete A-Z Societies of QM

Compiled by Eve Bolt & Amber David

African-Caribbean Society

This society encompasses culture, dance, modelling, and music showcased in their events throughout the year to promote their heritage. **Contact:** president.qmul.acs@gmail.com

AhlulBayt Islamic Society

To raise awareness for a minority in weekly meet + discuss socials and attend serious, interesting talks such as 'Who is Hussain?'. Get in touch. **Contact:** absocqm@gmail.com

Amnesty International Society

With an aim to inspire, AI is planning an anti-torture campaign and a flash mob. **Contact:** ruta_krisciunaite@yahoo.com

Animal Rights Awareness Society

Kcen to make distinct the different types of animal rights, this society is planning a monthly meeting. **Contact:** QManimalrights@outlook.com

Anime Society

Screenings voted for by you and the perks of discounts and prizes throughout the year. **Contact:** qm.engwork@gmail.com

Anti-Austerity Society

Anti-cuts? Pro militancy? With a plethora of campaigns planned, it's all about action here. **Contact:** bangray91@live.com

Arab Society

Non-political and non-religious movement to introduce the Arab culture, also gives free Arabic lessons. **Contact:** ef09353@qmul.ac.uk

Artificial Intelligence Society

The study of machines is fascinating and topical for our generation; here you can discuss the theoretical meaning behind it. **Contact:** davidbary@msn.com

Artistic Representative Company Society

Committed to facilitate all aspiring developers of artistic avenues, namely Drama students, there are planned semesterly (artistic license for the word, please) performances and professional talks. **Contact:** abigail.hickey@hotmail.co.uk

ASEAN Society

Anyone keen to discover more about South East Asian culture should join the fun here, with ASEAN eats and Halloween Horror Movie Nights coming up. **Contact:** aseansociety@gmail.com

Asian Dance Society

Teaching new forms of Bollywood dance to beginners or experts, they also perform dance events throughout the year such as Euphoria. **Contact:** shubimohan94@gmail.com

Association of British and Chinese University Students (ABACUS) Society

Celebrating Chinese culture and have intercollegiate links with UoL (1,500 students across London), and now offer a 10% discount on Bubble Tea with membership. **Contact:** blqmabacus@gmail.com

Aspire Society

Any athlete or novice looking to expand their senses are welcome here to take part in paralympic activities and build awareness for diverse abilities. **Contact:** edopacenti@hotmail.it

Bangladeshi Society

Looking to attract members who want to build on their leadership skills, to gain funding for the society. **Contact:** fahadchowdhury@hotmail.com

Baking Society

This is designed around eating, with ambitions towards coffee mornings and a Great QM Bakeoff. Take a break with cake. **Contact:** hannah.askari@hotmail.co.uk

Bhangra Society

A devotion to Punjabi culture and teaching can be found here, where an inter-university competition is also in the works. **Contact:** karun.chhokar@gmail.com

Biological Society

Aiming to improve employability by grouping like-minded people together to discuss internships and contacts in the science/technology industry. **Contact:** csmcgowan6@gmail.com

BioMed Society

Discussion and lecture topics are based around biochemistry, biotechnology as well as biomedicine, which include guest speakers such as Lord Robert Winston. **Contact:** queenmarybiomedics@gmail.com

BOFFINs Society

Bringing together all the sciences under one roof, all BOFFINs have the opportunity to give a talk in whatever field of science they choose. **Contact:** c.gardner@se12.qmul.ac.uk

Catholic Society

Aims to give Catholic students a different perspective to balancing university and faith. Regular mass at 1pm Wednesdays Campus Chapel. **Contact:** qmcathsoc@gmail.com

Chemistry Society

An interactive experience is intended, with cross-society meets, a dinner, quizzes and a truly unique football game: students vs. teachers. **Contact:** nakhikh@live.co.uk

Christian Union Society

Exists for the benefit of non-members as well as practising Christians, with weekly meets planned. **Contact:** joelleakey@gmail.com

Commuters Society

All about helping commuting Freshers settle into a friendly atmosphere, not isolated from campus life. **Contact:** naomiyasmin1@gmail.com

Conservative Society

Improving employability by monthly networking at Conservative events with the likes of Hague & Pickles along with external support and resources. **Contact:** ha09291@qmul.ac.uk

Cycling

Bike rides and socials all year round. Simple. **Contact:** honorelliot@gmail.com

Debate Society

A surprisingly accommodating crew who welcome novices, plan to discuss a myriad of issues and to equip you with skills every Monday, with involvement from other societies. **Contact:** nick.garland@hotmail.co.uk

Duke of Edinburgh Society

This is an active society with plans to collaborate with others, hoping to enrich your life with map-reading, camping and other survival skills. **Contact:** 07804290633

Economics Society

Strong links with Alumni and an academic focus of relevant work experience in the economics sector, also talks held by professionals such as Muzzafah Khan. **Contact:** seed.jake@gmail.com

EECS/Computing Society

This technical team will be hosting weekly meetings, maintaining a blog and pursuing other avenues to investigate the world of technology. There may even be a chance to participate in Level39 events. **Contact:** d.milajevs@qmul.ac.uk

Engineering Society

Encompassing mechanical, environmental, material engineering experience by industrial events and there are also socials such as paintballing. **Contact:** hadial1993@hotmail.com

Engineering without Borders Society

Participate in engineering projects ranging from a pedal powered smoothie maker to irrigation systems in Ethiopia. **Contact:** sedacael@gmail.com

Equip Africa Society

Focused on fundraising for aid for hospitals in Africa, where equipment and training are in need, bake sales are planned along with movie nights and an exciting re-invention of Take Me Out. **Contact:** equipafrica2014@yahoo.com

European Law Students Association Society

Cultural diversity and human dignity are the missions of the European Law Students Association, achieved through various events. **Contact:** president.elsaqmul@gmail.com

Experimental Media Society

A cinema collective for anyone interested in short films, documentaries, animations, websites, design, video games etc. If you can put it on the screen in the Hitchcock, they want to watch it. **Contact:** a.mcdonald@hss13.qmul.ac.uk

Film Society

For any cinephile seeking films and friends, this is a weekly group that plans to co-ordinate screenings with a plethora of other societies and host quizzes throughout the year. **Contact:** qmulfilmsoc@gmail.com

Games & Video Gaming Society

Follow the way of play, with an inter-university competition planned and access to the latest and greatest consoles and games. **Contact:** izziyoungh@hotmail.co.uk

Geography Society

With daytrips to Brighton planned and assurance that meets will not be just drinks-based socials, any student will find interest here. **Contact:** qmulgeog@gmail.com

Harry Potter Society

Pott-heads unite for this sophisticated club with quizzes, movie marathons, trips and perhaps the odd spell at a leaky cauldron. **Contact:** wimpy_yahya@yahoo.co.uk

Hindu Society

The Hindu Society is all about protecting and promoting Hinduism and Hindu students through university life. For a taste of this varied culture, go along to various colourful events throughout the year. **Contact:** qmhindusociety@gmail.com

History Society

Expanding on different areas of History, there are also opportunities to go on trips to museums, socials and talks given by Historians such as Dan Snow. **Contact:** SaOsbor@aol.co.uk

Homework Club

Constant contact with local schools is our goal. Tower Hamlets is the most deprived area in the UK for further education and with activities such as book drives this group is looking to brighten young lives irrevocably. **Contact:** homeworkclub_qmsu@outlook.com

Ideological Society

A politically driven group with an ambition for a big panel discussion event. **Contact:** qmideological@gmail.com

Indian Society

With a host of exciting cultural activities, they're keen to integrate non-Indians and nationals alike. **Contact:** qmindiansoc@gmail.com

International Society

Attempting to bring all students with different backgrounds together, sponsored by the international department – who offer non-EU students free membership. **Contact:** marishka.mehta@gmail.com

Iranian Society

If you have an interest in Persian culture and food, attend monthly meetings to venture to the likes of Knightsbridge, Kensington and Chelsea. **Contact:** shane.d95@hotmail.com

Italian Society

This culture will be demonstrated at its best with 3-4 events planned every month, food to cook and eat, films to watch and language sessions. **Contact:** gasparch@hotmail.it

Jewish Society

A fun atmosphere will be provided here with lunch socials and a chance to immerse yourself in a culture that has planted seeds that have flourished in the East End. **Contact:** rickyadean@hotmail.com

Knit-A-Soc

With a chance to 'yarn-bomb', enter a knitathon and an upcoming Rag Week, it's all fun and fundraising here. **Contact:** kristinehelmi@gmail.com

Korean Society

If you have an interest in K-pop or Korean drama – this is the place to be, where regular screenings run. **Contact:** haziz@se12.qmul.ac.uk

Krishna Consciousness Society

Discover the Evolution of Consciousness through meditation and yoga classes and look forward to co-operate with the Hindu Society. **Contact:** vinayraniya@hotmail.com

Labour Society

Preparation for the General Election is the main aim for this haven for Labour's student supporters or for those looking to learn. **Contact:** eddie.scott747@gmail.com

Law Society

The biggest on campus last year, this is a society of skill and scale calling out to Law and non-Law students to network, debate and participate in mooted competitions. **Contact:** president@qmlawsociety.co.uk

LGBT+ Society

A safe space to expand your social sphere and interact with other societies biweekly, for every sexuality under the rainbow. **Contact:** istill@live.com

Malaysia Society

A home away from home for Malaysians and non-Malaysians

alike, with a Freshers Potluck Dinner in October, this is a joyful culture to explore. **Contact:** Facebook, Queen Mary Malaysian Society

Marrow

The plan is to fundraise and raise awareness for the importance of donations towards fighting cancer. **Contact:** facebook.com/marrow.qmbl

Marxist Society

Care to campaign against zero-hours contracts, poor living conditions, tuition fees and capitalism? For the chance to do so and put yourself in the running for the NUS delegate candidacy, join here. **Contact:** nelson.wan94@hotmail.com

Mathematics Society

Holding academic talks including Professor Peter Cameron will be speaking about Paradoxes (7th October Maths Foyer 5pm). **Contact:** giulia_campolo@yahoo.it

Medieval Re-Enactment Society

Costumes and swords are but two attractions of this group that thrive on living history. **Contact:** so.redland@gmail.com

Model UN Society

This is where you want to be to debate world issues at conferences as far-ranging as Oxford and Cambridge, namely one in March. **Contact:** Facebook, QMULMUN

Music Society

Magically making up for the absence of a music degree, this is a creative outlet and a professional platform to appreciate and practise the art. **Contact:** qmulmusicsociety@hotmail.co.uk

Nepalese Society

Proud to be a small, tight-knit community they celebrate national Nepalese festivals and are looking to give Nepalese lessons. **Contact:** President - Shruti Rai

Neuroscience Society

Explore the fascinating world of the brain in this cerebral gathering. **Contact:** fariha_alauddin@hotmail.co.uk

Nigerian Society

Brand new society this year, building on the Nigerian culture and very open to what should be covered in meetings. **Contact:** qmul.nsa@gmail.com

Pakistani Society

A cultural society who celebrates their heritage with cricket matches and events, which are also intercollegiate. **Contact:** zuhairmalik9@gmail.com

Parkour Society

Achieve more in sport and push yourself to bravery with a dynamic activity that can boost your confidence overall. Weekly classes and holiday socials are planned. **Contact:** chriskphermore94@gmail.com

Pan-African Society

This cultural society looks at liberation in Black History throughout the year and is more political and less social. **Contact:** davidbary@msn.com

Photography Society

Free exhibition tickets, concessions, talks, pizza + photo nights - just a snapshot of the opportunities here. **Contact:** qmulphotosoc@gmail.com

Physics Society

To mark 100 years of crystallography a lecture will be held on diamonds in October, as well as Careers month in November. **Contact:** e.galt@se11.qmul.ac.uk

Psychology Society

Are focusing more on academic talks this year, including one with hypnotist Martin Taylor who performs and reveals the psychology behind these tricks. **Contact:** juhaid_192@hotmail.com

Reach-Out Society

A mentoring charity working with young people from disadvantaged communities, this was one of last year's nominated charities as voted by students at QM and Barts. **Contact:** shams.uddin@outlook.com

Rock & Metal Society

A non-mainstream mission with the main aim of getting groups to gigs together via Facebook. **Contact:** archiefarrer@yahoo.co.uk / QMUL Rock & Metal @ Facebook

Romanian Society

Castles, museums and art are icons of this culture, which shall be explored and celebrated through holiday events and a potential boat party. **Contact:** maria.lazeala@gmail.com

Salsa Society

Through music and social action, this is a way to boost self-confidence and esteem within the Hispanic culture. **Contact:** ilaydacoruk@gmail.com

Scandinavian Society

For a safe, Scandinavian social, join here. **Contact:** emiliemaria@msn.com

Secularism/Atheism Society

Consisting of extremist ex-practisers, this is a sanctuary from religion for those who need it. **Contact:** wahid.r4h@gmail.com

Sikh Society

The main goal is to provide a friendly, relaxed environment in which students can socialise and get involved with sikhi. **Contact:** simrankaurrai@hotmail.co.uk

Singapore Society

A multi-racial society with a realm of riveting events planned comprising of the Nottingham Winter Games and a Freshers welcome picnic in early October. Just as the government has ensured that there is an even mix of all religions in public housing to prevent ethnic enclave, this group desires diversity. **Contact:** qmss.exco@gmail.com

Socialist Society

With campaigns against the zero hour contracts English & Drama teachers hold here at QM and pro free education, it's time to socialise with the socialists. **Contact:** socialiststudentsociety@gmail.com

Somalia Society

A celebration of a diverse culture, with fashion, poetry and language the focus of regular socials welcoming everyone. If you want to know what's really khattar, attend and be enlightened. **Contact:** Facebook, QMSU Somali Society

Sri-Lankan Society

Based around Sri-Lankan heritage, they aim to showcase food and culture with events including cricket matches. **Contact:** isuru@hotmail.com

STAR Society

The Student Action For Refugees Society is planning a mighty big event: a performance involving a refugee group in November. If you would like to take part and further change myths and opinions about refugees and asylum-seekers, do not hesitate to investigate. **Contact:** mcristinagarcia@icloud.com

St John Ambulance Links Society

Learn first-aid skills every Wednesday and get the chance to help out at New Year's and the Notting Hill Carnival with this charity society. **Contact:** bdashti989@hotmail.co.uk

Syria Solidarity Society

If you want to help aid for one of the biggest humanitarian crises and take part in debates, as well as mark the Syrian Revolution Anniversary, 'Do It'. **Contact:** ha09084@qmul.ac.uk, Yasin Fatine

Tamil Society

Dance and music competitions will fill the year as awareness of the culture is spread. **Contact:** @qmtamilsociety

Team-Up Society

This is a new charity eager to involve students as tutors in a project to improve social mobility for local low-income students. Deadline for subscription is 12th October. **Contact:** skader@se12.qmul.ac.uk

Theatre Society

A society with presence and a promise for a range of activities, excitingly including a 24 hour play, a festival and the chance to act at the Edinburgh Fringe. **Contact:** appeppin@gmail.com

Trading & Investment Society

Who aim to make economics and business news more relevant and accessible to students, come try your hand at trading live funds on the stock exchange. **Contact:** bannergreg@gmail.com

Underground Music Society

For lovers of electronic music, people searching for good vibes on a night out and if you want to explore late-night London. **Contact:**



Societies Selected Events Calendar Semester 1

AhlulBayt Islamic Society
December 2014
'Who Is Hussain?' Talk

Archegos Society
Every Sunday
Campus Church Service

African-Caribbean Society
October 2014
Black History Month
29th October 2014
ACS Showcase

Anime Society
24th-26th October 2014
MCM Exhibition @ Royal
Victoria Dock

Anti-Austerity Society
15th October 2014
#BlockBoris @ Kensington
Tube Station
17th October 2014
National Demonstration @
Embankment, 11am
19th November 2014
March For Free Education @
Malet Street, 12 noon

Arab Society
Mid-October 2014
Eid Dinner

Bhangra Society
8th October 2014
Taster Session @ Whitechapel
Dance Studio, 2-5pm
15th October 2014
Auditions @ QMSU Blomeley
Rooms, 2-5pm

BOFFIN's Society
October 2014
Library Square Science Fair

Catholic Society
October 2014
Journalism Talk (by a Priest)

Conservative Society
Every Month
Networking with MPs
10th October 2014
ULU Conservatives
Under 30s Wing

Commuter's Society
8th October 2014
Meet & Greet @ QM East
Gate, 2pm
11th October 2014
London Daytrip
15th & 29th October
Lunch Outing
24th October 2014
Freshers' Dinner
30th October 2014
Halloween Movie Night
November 2014

Thorpe Park Trip

Economics Society
23rd October 2014
Seminar by Muzzafar Khan
(Assets)
11th November 2014
Oliver Cornock's OBG Speech
26th November 2014
Karl Cheng Trading Speech

Engineering Society
October 2014
Build a Quadcopter

Harry Potter Society
7th October 2014
Slug Club
18th October 2014
Quidditch!
17th November 2014
Pub Crawl
13th December 2014
Surprise Event...

History Society
22nd October 2014
'History of Ideas' by Dan
Snow

Indian Society
October 2014
Desi Night
November 2014
Diwali Festival

International Society
31st October (Halloween)
Jack the Ripper tour
October/November 2014
Food Festival with Eastern
European Society

Islamic Sisters Society
4th October
Charity Week

Knit-a-soc
Every Wednesday
Meet @ next to the Hive, Mile
End Campus, 3-5pm

Law Society
2nd October 2014
Law4All Event

Malaysia Society
October 2014
Freshers' Potluck Dinner

Maths Society
7th October 2014
Paradox Talk

We want to hear about your society experiences! Went to an event? Joined something different? Want to promote your society? We are always looking for societies to feature and writers to contribute to the section. Drop us a line on Facebook at: [Facebook/ThePrintNews](https://www.facebook.com/ThePrintNews) or Tweet us: [@ThePrintQM](https://twitter.com/ThePrintQM)

Material Society
1st October 2014
Social @ Cheapskates

Nepalese Society
October 2014
Dashain Festival

Physics Society
October 2014
Academic Talk
November 2014
Careers Month

**PsiStar: The Physics &
Astronomy Society**
December 2014
Northern Lights trip

Rock & Metal Society
10th October 2014
QM/UCL/KCL Pub Crawl

Singapore Society
November 2014
Nottingham Winter Games

Stop the War Society
25th October 2014
100 Years of War
Conference

**Student Action for
Refugees Society**
26th November 2014
Refugee Group Performance

Syria Solidarity Society
2nd October 2014
Short Film @ G.07 Francis
Bancroft Building, Mile End
Campus, 5.30pm

Tamil Society
4th October 2014
War & Economics Workshop

Theatre Society
3rd & 4th October 2014
24 hour Play
November 2014
Festival of Plays

UNICEF Society
October 2014
Thrift Shop

Unite Society
27th November 2014
Come Union

**Women Working in
Business**
1st October 2014
Meet & Greet

Fresh From Freshers

Eve Bolt

You'll have more than enough lectures this year, so I won't bore you with the old hat persuasion spiel. Time for a new hat. Maybe a wizard's one? Or a chef's toque? The Freshers' Fair showcased the magic available at Queen Mary and the societies with the spells to make it. Go on over to the societies profiles to see the myriad choice.

As a Fresher, I'm as overwhelmed and invigorated by the fair as many of you will be. Our first commitment is to our course, of course, so the decisions for how many and what kind of societies we join are difficult ones. Second and third year students have agreed, however, that a proactive attitude aids studies rather

than compromises them. Dedicating yourself to even one society can bestow you with freedom rather than shackles.

No matter what, rest assured there is a home from home for you. There always has been at Queen Mary. Ernest Henry Jago, an Engineering student in 1933 and fighter lieutenant, was a member of the Rugby, Football, Badminton and Lawn Tennis clubs as well as the Dramatic Society. Pop to the Octagon to see his page in the Veterans' book. In the modern day, Dola Osilaja, President of the Queen Mary Student Union, emphasised that 'societies are a great way to make friends and learn more about different cultures

in such a short space of time.' He was welcomed in with open arms. Ruth Valentine's The Making of Queen Mary, University of London (find it in the Hub), includes Dominika Jankowska's comment that 'being international and foreigner-friendly is one of the greatest features of the university'.

So, why don't you become a great feature of the university too? The perks of societies - prizes, discounts, competitions - go hand-in-hand with the incomparable skills that'll benefit you in the world of work. Go to the gigs, give a voice to those who have none, yarnbomb, provoke, chill and more! Change myths and create legends.

Images: QMSU



Womens Only Sports Sessions

We have introduced new womens only sessions in badminton, basketball, football and swimming to the Union's Get Active programme. These sessions will be run by completely female staff and will be delivered in an all female environment.

**TURN UP AND PLAY FOR AS LITTLE AS £2
OR PURCHASE A WOMENS ONLY
MEMBERSHIP**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP £25 | SEMESTER A £15

Queen Mary University of London
Students' Union

Get Active



SWIMMING



BADMINTON



FOOTBALL



BASKETBALL

BUY ONLINE AT
WWW.QMSU.ORG/GETACTIVE

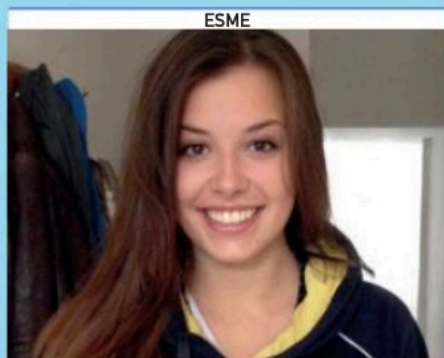
QM GET ACTIVE
@QMGETACTIVE



Heads in the Game

On the eve of a new season of QM sport, we caught up with some notable team presidents for a spot of banter and to see what we can expect for the year ahead

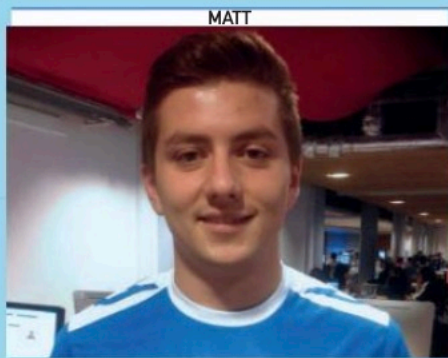
Girls



ROLE	QM Netball Club Captain
Nickname	FHM
Chat	6/10
Red Beer Ability	Brewed
Awards	Club of the Year

We won Get Active Contributor of the Year because of how well our intramural leagues worked, many of our girls were bumped up to play for merger

Boys



Role	QM Football Club President
Nickname	Moon
Chat	8/10
Red Beer Ability	"Unrivaled"
Awards	In progress...

We've just appointed 2 Arsenal affiliated coaches to push the club in the right direction

What teams are you in?

Matt - I'm in the second team.
Esme - Aren't you in the third team?
Matt - I've moved to the second team this year
Esme - Oh what as in you've put yourself in the second team this year
Matt - Sorry, how many times did you chunder on court?
Esme - I chundered 3 times
Matt - Is that due to lack of fitness or...?

How did you guys do in Merger?

Matt - Merger was good for us.
Esme - Was being club of

the year good for you too?
Matt - ... we were unbeaten at Merger, which is great because I think that as the biggest sporting event of the year, if you can't perform against your biggest rivals, what's the point in turning up.

How do you feel about Sports Awards?

Matt - Not bitter, just disappointed in Club Sport. They try to make themselves out to be a serious organisation while blatantly disregarding progress and contribution.

Esme - Contribution being?
Matt - Just playing very nice football, because foot-

ball is the most beautiful game.

What are the aims for this year?

Matt - This is a big year for QMFC. We've just appointed 2 Arsenal-affiliated coaches to push the club in the right direction, and have set up an intramural league to provide football for all those who want it this year. It felt so good to be able to offer an opportunity to absolutely everyone.
Esme - I mean it's not really a change for us because we actually had that last year. We won Get Active contributor of the year because of how well our intramural leagues worked, many of

our girls were bumped up to play for merger as well...
Matt - ...but we're a dynamic and changing club and we've realised that things might not have gone as well as they could have last year.
Esme - Did they not?
Matt - Well I mean... no

How's the social side?

Matt - Really good, we offer everything. We've already booked paint balling.
Esme - We've already had a massive welcome back session, and have freshers tea and club curry coming up.
Matt - Our social secs Joe Hoskins and Declan McLoughlin did a very

good job last year, so much so that they were voted in to continue the role for this year and have already planned many sessions for the club. We're also planning a tour for this year.
Esme - Have you not done a tour before because that's something that we offer every year...? We have the annual netball tour to a mystery location every year so the girls only find out on the day of departure. Loads of fancy dress and laughs; it's a really great way to get to know each other.

Any closing comments?

Esme - Club of the year.
Matt - Yeah, we would really like to wish the other

clubs a very successful year, and hope that we can all come together in March to reclaim the Merger cup.

QMFC kick off the season with a friendly away fixture at Oxford uni on October 5th. They will also have a pre-season match against UEL on the 8th before their first league match at their home ground in Chislehurst on October 15th. Follow them on twitter: @QMfootballclub

QMN begin the season with a home fixture against Barts 1st team on the 15th October at the Copperbox Arena. Follow them on twitter: @QMULNetball

QM Sport: Play where the champions play

Pollyanna Benson

Being part of sport at Queen Mary, like any other university, is obviously extremely beneficial in terms of meeting new people, having some fun and, of course, extending the old CV. What makes QM different from other universities are the facilities that we have on offer to the students and staff partaking in sport. Many of you will know how close we are to the Olympic park, but perhaps not as many of you will know that we have use of many of the facilities within the park. Yes, we're talking about the same venues where Tom Daley dived, where Chris Hoy cycled and where Michael Phelps wiped the floor with everyone else.

QM Sports clubs including Swimming,

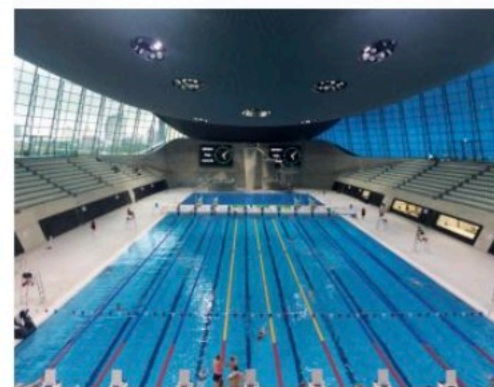
Handball, Netball and Fencing all utilize these facilities and are proud to host home matches and competitions there. Just think how intimidating it is to hear that you're playing an away game against QM... and their home ground is the Olympic park. There is also plenty of room available for spectators at these venues, to provide equally intimidating home support.

Don't think that you're missing out if Sports Club life is not for you. Don't feel confident

enough to race laps in a monstrously sized pool? Not prepared to battle to the whistle in the Copperbox with 7,000 seats filled with your biggest fans? (Disclaimer: we cannot guarantee sell out capacities but we're definitely hoping for an increase this year). Don't fret because there is still plenty of opportunity for you to check out the facilities, including the velodrome! If you'd rather turn up and play with some mates, without the pressure of competitive sport, then QM has another

scheme, Get Active, which is perfect for just that. The scheme is in its fourth year, but this year improvements have been made. Damian Lyons, QM's convener of Get Active says "we are extremely excited to bring back a bigger, better programme of Get Active for 2014/15. Due to generous funding from Sport England, we are able to expand the programme into the Olympic park and offer nine new sports to the students." These sports will include a 10 week diving course in the competition pool, so book your place now!

At QM we are extremely fortunate to have these opportunities to play sport in the same arenas and stadiums as elite athletes before us. Go for it. It's yours to take!



Images: Hannah Sargeant

Sporting highlights in the East End



Image: Hannah Sargeant

Veronique Ivory-Johnson

Sports Editor Veronique Ivory-Johnson gives a run-down of some of the best sport the East End has to offer

East London has a notoriously vibrant, loyal and exciting sporting reputation. Whether you're new to the area or not, you

may not be aware of all the sports on offer to you. Ranging from football to basketball to boxing and dog tracks, the east end of London will almost certainly have something to suit you.

Brisbane Road Stadium – Home to league one, east-end football club Leyton Orient. Holding a rather small capacity of 9271, this

£14
Price for student tickets to Leyton Orient Vs Swindon on October 4th at Brisbane Road Stadium

old-school club are well known for their passionate fans, known as the O's, and offer a real east-end day out. With tickets being reasonably priced you can enjoy league football for half the price of the Premier League. The next match is Leyton Orient Vs Swindon on October 4th, tickets for students start at £14.

Copper box – The Copper Box Arena at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has rapidly become the place to watch sport in London. Housing up to 7,500 spectators, the stadium is home to the London Lions basketball

team, London Handball Club and Leyton Netball club. The next match is the London Lions Vs Bristol Flyers on the 3rd October £14.50 – go along and support the Lions on their home turf!

York Hall – Located in Bethnal Green, only a 20 minute walk from campus, York Hall facilitates boxing matches throughout the calendar year. Although somewhat pricey at £37 a ticket for most events, it's hard to dispute the calibre of entertainment and experience on offer. As Britain's most well known boxing venue and the sixth best in the world it holds a capacity of 1,200 and draws in sell-out crowds for every event. The next big night is on Saturday 11th of October for a night of Championship Professional Boxing.

Romford Greyhound Stadium – Slightly further out of the centre, this is the only remaining greyhound track in East London, since the closure of Walthamstow Stadium in 2008. Located in Romford, this award winning track holds five race meetings per week costing £4 per entry, with the first race on

£10
Starting price for ATO World Finals tickets from the 9th-16th October at the O2 Arena

Lee Valley Hockey Centre – Located at the Olympic Park, this hockey centre will be hosting both the EuroHockey championships in 2015 and the Women's World Cup in 2018. This Hockey centre is a really exciting and accessible new venue, with a fantastic capacity of 25,000. Tickets are now on sale for the EuroHockey championships which start on the 21st of August 2015, tickets range from £12.50-27.50.

London Aquatics Centre – Opened in time for the Olympics, this breathtaking swimming pool/diving centre really is the jewel in the crown of the Olympic Park. Not only is it now open to the public, but it's still host to a wide variety of competitions. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events!

Monday being free. This exciting and unpredictable event will cast off any pre-conceptions of the sport and simply offers a great night out.

O2 Arena – Technically south of the river, this south east venue is a London landmark. Hosting a variety of events throughout the year, one stand out sporting event is the ATP World Finals. From the 9th-16th October the top eight tennis players in the world battle it out for the last title of the season. Watched by an audience of 261,247 over the eight day contest last year and with prices ranging from £10-£64, this really is the hottest ticket in town.



Sport



The road to Merger begins here

SELECTED UPCOMING BUCS FIXTURES

WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER

Women's 1st Netball

Queen Mary Womens 1st (Barts and The London SMD) VS Queen Mary University of London Womens 2nd

Men's 1st Badminton

King's College London Mens 1st VS Queen Mary University of London Mens 1st

Women's 1st Tennis

University of Hertfordshire Womens 1st VS Queen Mary University of London Womens 1st

Men's 1st Squash

Queen Mary University of London Mens 1st VS University College London Mens 2nd

Women's 1st Hockey

University of Essex Womens 1st VS Queen Mary Womens 1st

Pollyanna Benson

With wounds still very much sore and another year of QM and Barts sport about to commence, our Sport Editor delivers a Merger Cup battle cry for the year ahead

March 15th 2014: Barts emerge victorious with a Merger Cup win. Champagne on one side, beers and tears on the other. For QM, the blood bath was over and the

only thing left to do was to wipe away the sweat from muddled, downcast faces and find a way to let go.

For those who are unfamiliar (not just first-years), The Merger Cup is the official Queen Mary and Barts London varsity tournament. Each side is the ultimate rival of the other, and this is the most important day in the sporting calendar to show who is boss. Imagine being a final year and forever having the honour of saying that you left your university

with degree in one hand, Merger Cup in the other. The pride. The glory.

We're told that Merger is a great way to maintain a friendly and healthy rivalry between Queen Mary and Barts. Don't buy into this blasé attitude. The competition is fierce and ruthless. This year The Print will be providing you with expansive inside coverage of the run up to Merger 2015 from both sides, covering sports including: fencing, rugby, swimming, badminton, rowing, netball, hockey,

football and plenty of others, as they prepare themselves for their shot at glory.

Barts and QM play competitively against each other many times throughout the year in various different sports. Regardless of what happens throughout the year, Merger is the moment that rewards its victors and offers no mercy to those who fall short. Pick a side. See you there.