

THE PRINT

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QMSU PRESIDENT'S CALL TO ACTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

QMSU President Talhah Atcha issues an invitation for a worldwide climate change protest

TALHAH ATCHA

On September 20th a worldwide demonstration is taking place to do with Climate Change. We as a Students' Union feel this is an issue that affects all students at QMUL and we want to do our bit for our future. On September 20th at 12pm, join us at Library Square & BLSA as we march onto the Green Bridge over Mile End Road and the Dental Hospital respectively to make our voices heard. Join us as we join the protests in Tower Hamlets and the wider world to demonstrate how

important Climate Change is.

Together we can get the University to Declare a Climate Change Emergency and bring us one step closer to a world where we, along with our children can live long healthy and sustainable lives. 5 Facts about Tower Hamlets and the World:

- In less than 12 years the global climate impact will be completely irreversible.
- Tower Hamlets currently has illegal levels of Nitrogen Dioxide and unaccept-

ably high particulate matter.

- Children in Tower Hamlets have on average 5-10% smaller lungs than average

- 7.4% of all deaths in people over 30 years old are attributable to particulate air pollution

- Air quality and pollution



is intrinsically linked with climate change

If issues like this interest you or you want to make our University more sustainable join the Green Mary student group at: <https://www.qmsu.org/gen/>

SUSTAINABLE STUDENT LIVING

ALESSANDRA DIXON

Whether you're looking to make big changes or little ones, there are things you can do to make your student life more sustainable. A sustainable way of living aims to avoid the depletion of natural resources to maintain an ecological balance. To achieve sustainability, we must all work together to create it.

Some of the ways to make your life more sustainable are simple and make a big difference. A reusable cup and bottle majorly cut down on packaging waste and buying reusable drinks containers is a sure way to be greener without much output. The average human needs to drink the contents of four water

bottles a day, which is 1,460 bottles, even if you only used one bottle per day that's still 365 bottles.

In addition to this, buying water everyday costs money, but with a reusable bottle there is no money outlay other than the first purchase price itself. So, not only is this a greener decision but it is also cost efficient.

Another simple way to live more sustainably is to watch your water usage. By turning off the tap while you brush your teeth you will save 12 litres of water because on average a tap releases 6 litres of water a minute. Another easy way is to fill a washing up bowl when

switching on the heating. If you do dishes, refreshing it if necessary. If it takes 5 minutes to do the washing that's 30 litres of water wasted. A washing up bowl holds a fraction of that.

Reusable bags also go a long way to support a sustainable lifestyle. By bringing a reusable bag you are preserving some of the world's natural resources. Nearly 2 million one use plastic bags are disposed of every minute and 1.7 billion tons of crude oil is burned each year to produce plastic bags alone. As we all know winter is creeping in and it's time to put on the heating, but it may be wise to think a little more before you do this. It is worth considering if a jumper could aid your coldness first before

switching on the heating. If not obviously proceed but be more sustainable about your choice. If the heating is on make sure the windows are shut so heat is not escaping and going to waste. Also, if you leave the house, make sure the heating is turned off because while it may be nice to return to a cosy home, the planet will benefit much more if you choose to turn the heating off. These are but a mere few of the changes that can be made to make your student life more sustainable. But if we all do them the planet will thank us. If you are interested in Queen Mary's sustainability and want to get involved, enquire with Green Mary Student Group here <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/about/sustainability/community/green->

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**EVERY
MOMENT IS
A FRESH
BEGINNING**
– T.S Eliot

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When you're done reading this recycle it please.

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Hello,

Welcome to this year's first edition of The Print! If you're a veteran reader then it's nice to see you back, if you're new, welcome and congratulations on getting a place at *QMUL/BL*.

Here at The Print we aim to cover stories that are important to students; stuff that you're really interested in.

This edition has a new look and will be the last printed edition; in order to reduce wastage, we will be going fully online! Worry not, we will still have regular articles on our website.

As always, feel free to email me for ideas, article submissions and suggestions: editor@theprintnews.co.uk

Join our Facebook contributors group for more info on new editions, submission deadlines or just to have a chat with me, the editorial team or other contributors. (Just search '*The Print Contributors 2019-2020*')

Enjoy and thanks for reading.

-Saywah



UNI APPLICATIONS AT RECORD HIGH

SHAUN FISHENDEN

We all remember the process of applying to university, and for those of you reading The Print for the first time well done on getting your place at QMUL or Barts.

This summer, the country saw record amounts of students applying to university, The Guardian reporting that one-third of all 18 year olds applied for an undergraduate course. 2019 also saw a huge increase in the amount of students who got onto their course via the Clearing process, this year 17,000 out of the 210,000 university course applicants. A 15% rise on 2018's figures.

University is often heralded as a means of immersing young people into new cultures, broadening their horizons and challenging ingrained stereotypes. The rise in applications to university can only be seen as a positive thing and can be attributed to efforts by universities around the country to 'widening participation'. However, the increase in students securing places via the clearing process has brought about more hard-line tactics from universities to attract students to their courses, including offering Clearing places via Snapchat and other uni's offering free laptops and tablets for taking a place at their institution.

The abolition of the cap back in 2015 of the number of places a university could offer has caused this rising trend in higher education, whereby students are seen as consumers and individual universities fight each other to get students to enrol on their courses, a multitude of incentives are offered in the form of a laptop or a scholarship. This is said to be a part of the wider 'marketisation' of higher education and degrees that is so often mentioned via national news outlets such as the BBC and The Guardian.

QMUL'S INCOME AND HOW IT'S SPENT

SAYWAH MAHMOOD

Tuition fees for UK and EU students are still at a record high of £9250 and international students pay anything from £16,200 to £35,000 (These figures could be subject to change from 2021). This high level of student contribution has led to a greater interest in university spending. A report named 'Where do student fees really go?' by the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) details a survey that found that 74% of students want more information on where their fees go.

A look at some of QMUL's income and expenditure details for the 2017-2018 year provides some insight into how it spends its total income. Tuition fees accounted for around 51% of the £461.9m total income of QMUL in the 2017-18 year. However, all the university's income is not solely derived from Tuition Fees. For QMUL, the remainder of the income came from Funding Body grants: 15%, Research: 23% and multiple other sources of income: 11% "Total expenditure (incl

uding taxation and other gain/losses in the year) increased by 9.0% to £449.2m". £217.1m was spent on academic and related expenditure, around 48% of total expenditure.

£103.2m was spent on research grants and contracts, £69.7m on administration and central services, £41.1m was spent on premises, £14.7m on Residences, catering and conferences and £2.7m on other expenses. The statement also states that it's provided to "enable readers [...] to

obtain a better understanding of the governance, management and legal structure of the University."

These figures have been obtained from the QMUL 2017/2018 Financial Statement which can be found here:

[http://www.finance.qmul.ac.uk/media/finance/financialstate-](http://www.finance.qmul.ac.uk/media/finance/financialstatement/Financial-)

BREXIT: HOW WILL IT AFFECT QMUL?

BRONTE CARVALHO

With leave day looming at the end of next month, the question of how Brexit will impact British universities – and, more specifically, Queen Mary itself – has never been more relevant. However, with such a convoluted array of information swirling around the media, it can be hard to work out how exactly Brexit (deal or no deal) will affect life as a student at QMUL. The bottom line is, basically, things are going to change – but slowly.

It may be beneficial to outline why Brexit matters to Queen Mary before we dive into the details. QM famously prides itself on its truly "international" appeal, boasting staff and students from across 160 different countries. According to QMUL's Equality and Diversity Annual Report

2018, an estimated 9% of the student body are EU nationals and the university receives funding from the EU across several different research initiatives, including Horizon 2020 – a €80 billion investment from members of the EU into ensuring "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs". The EU is, therefore, has an important role, not just to funding QM's research projects, but to shaping the demographic of staff and students you will see on campus during your time here.

The impact of Brexit on British universities has already started to materialise in the latest statistics, with a 3% fall in applications by EU nationals to study in the UK between 2018-2019 being blamed on "uncertainty"

over the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Despite the option to apply for British residence under the EU Settlement Scheme, it is almost certain to be a decline in the number of EU students registered at QMUL over the next few years, though we may not see the full impact until after the cut-off date to apply for UK residence on 30th June 2021 – that is, assuming a deal is reached between the British government and the EU. In a no-deal scenario, the deadline to apply for UK residence falls on the 31st December 2020, meaning a further drop in EU applicants could be seen a year earlier than expected. The British government has expressed that EU nationals are "part of our community, and part of our country and we

welcome the contribution that they make", but the decision to leave or to stay is also down to the individual. Over 1 million people have applied to the Settlement Scheme already, but with 2.6 million still yet to do so, the possibility that QMUL may see dwindling numbers of EU students in the years to come seems increasingly likely.

In terms of fees, Brexit spells a certain degree of chaos beyond the 2020-2021 academic year. That is, the British government has so far not released any official statement about the eligibility of EU students for tuition fees and financial support during the course of their study beyond 2021. The good news is that EU students who are already enrolled in a course for this academic year will continue to receive funding even beyond the proposed 31st October leave date (unless a further

delay is agreed on). Even . There has been some laborate with the EU in the future “for a more strategic approach than simply agreeing the UK’s participation in individual EU programmes on a case-by-case basis. So, Brexit could threaten British ties to some already established research projects. Essentially, life at QM could change a lot – but maybe not suddenly at the stroke of midnight on the 31st of October and maybe stockpiling cans of Heinz tomato soup from the Village Shop in case the apocalypse happens is not entirely necessary. The student demographic will shift and change, and decisions (or a lack of them) over reducing tuition fees will probably continue to frustrate students. However, these changes will not happen overnight. It could take years to see the full impact of Brexit on QMUL and it will likely be subtle enough for the majority of us not to notice before the end of our course. In the meantime, check out

the websites below for further information, guidance and legal advice.

QMUL’s official website includes thorough advice for current and prospective EU students at the following address:
<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/brexit/>

The Advice and Counselling Service also offers legal advice and instructions to EU students:

<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/brexit/student-faqs/>



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A DRINKLESS GUIDE TO FRESHERS

ALIYA ARMAN

Teetotal? Can't bear the taste of booze? Fancy a night out without the accompanied agony of a splitting headache in the morning? Whatever the reason, we've got you covered on how to navigate the first few weeks at university without the drinks.

Recent studies show that 1 in 5 students do not drink, suggesting that we as a society have moved past the idea of Freshers being a shot-filled student sphere synonymous to literally any mid-noughties' sitcom set on a university campus. Finding your feet in a new environment can be daunting, so here are some ways to help you make the most of your first few weeks at Queen Mary **Check out campus events**

The Welcome Fair is a fab way to see all the societies, sports clubs, volunteering groups and student media outlets in one place. Check out all the activities on offer and take advantage of freebies given away by national companies and QMSU outlets.

Another great event to rock up to is QMSU's very

in the Blomeley Rooms & The Nest where you can make mates over the mutual awkwardness of being a fresher. **Make the most of what's to offer in London**

With a fantastic number of renowned art galleries, trendy shopping destinations, Instagram-worthy food markets and quality entertainment venues right on your doorstep, there's always something to see and do in London. The best part about having a university campus in the heart of vibrant East London is that you're only a stone's throw away from thriving cultural hotspots, so it's impossible to ever find yourself stuck on ideas on what to do. And the best part? QMSU has exclusive access and co-ordinated meetups to London must-see sights, going from the classic West End musicals (e.g. tickets from £20 to see The Book of Mormon at the Prince of Wales Theatre, 7:30pm on 17th September) to the quirky East End streets (tickets at £6 for an hour a Zap Space trampoline park, 2pm on 23rd September).

Commit to be fit Whether you're a com-

plete newbie looking to take up a new sport or an elite athlete in need of somewhere new to train, Queen Mary offers a range of activities with fantastic facilities in a safe and welcoming environment for all. Head down to the Get Active Festival on Tuesday 17th September from midday to 4pm at Library Square and have a go at arcade basketball, football, pan-na cage or touch tennis to name a few.

Go to Drapers events without drinking

Contrary to popular belief, you can still enjoy yourself on a night out at Drapers and skip the whole hassle of googling hangover cures in the morning. Being teetotal doesn't have to mean that nights-out at Drapers are a no-go in the same way that enjoying a drink doesn't mean that you don't also enjoy a night-in curled up in bed watching Netflix. Surround yourself with friends who are on the same page and make you feel comfortable.

After Freshers, it's worth bearing in mind that Hail Mary is our biggest club night at Drapers and takes place on the last

Wednesday of every month – turn up to see QM's sports teams celebrate their successes and countdown to the infamous Hail Mary video at midnight.

Stay in good health

You can never have too many Day & Night Nurses during your first few weeks of university. Freshers flu is truly no laughing matter. Also, whilst on the topic of health and the general theme of surviving Freshers, make sure to sign up for the free meningitis jab with your GP! As a new university student, you're at higher risk of infection as you mix closely with

lots of new people, some of whom may unknowingly carry the meningococcal bacteria.

Always stay safe

If you have a night out that's closer to central, always try to go home in numbers, never alone. Plan your way back home by downloading the Citymapper app and also make sure to download UBER for when buses or tubes stop running to avoid paying extortionate black cab fares.

Stay true to yourself

Without trying to sound like an overzealous youth pastor, or like the kind of weird-but-wholesome

meme your mum might share on Facebook, the most important thing to remember is to stay true to yourself. University is so much more than just Freshers, so don't stress yourself over whether or not your decision not to drink is in any way whatsoever an indicator for how the course of the next three years are going to go. Just be unapologetically yourself and don't feel as if you need to be insecure or worried about what others may think about your personal choices – everybody else is in the same situation, fitting in is just an illusion.

So go off and enjoy your Freshers festivities; make unforgettable memories; and relish in all the random bursts of moments where you remember that you're actually at university now doing a whole damn degree, instead of reading this article that is feebly floundering towards its last sentence in despair for the sweet release of a simple full stop.

ADVERT

QMTV

As many new students enter their first year of university there are a variety of new exciting things that wait ahead. One of these things is independence... financial independence. For new students this is the first time that a huge sum of money will be entering their account all at once. That being said, these top tips may still need to be read by some older students, who have not quite got the hang of budgeting.

With each new loan instalment comes the desire to splurge. To manage your money and save yourself the sticky situation of being broke, there are several ways to make your money go further.

Winter is coming towards us at a fast rate

getting a new coat does not have to be an expensive task. If you are looking for new winter clothes going to a charity shop is the best solution. Charity shops have a vast collection of second-hand items just waiting to enter your wardrobe. Even better still, you can purchase an expensive coat for a fraction of its retail price and the money goes to charity too. The stigmatisation that going to charity shops is stingy, or gross, or sad is only held by those who have not searched the rails properly to find a good buy. So, tip one is to get yourself down to a charity shop the next time you need to update your wardrobe. To truly conquer the knack of student life the skill of budgeting must be

acquired. The best way to ensure you have enough money to last the entire term is to simply do the maths. Add up the essentials first so your rent, bills and average grocery shop for the next term. Minus this amount from your loan and whatever is left can be allocated into the fun weekly spend pot for clothes, socialising and other purchases. A good way to save a bit of money when grocery shopping is to bulk buy items that do not go out of date and to only frequently buy fresh items. So, tip two is do the maths.

Now, when considering the previous budgeting step, it is a lot easier said than done. A good way to stop yourself overspending is to separate your

MANAGE YOUR MONEY WELL

ALESSANDRA DIXON

money. There are a couple of ways to do this.

One way is to get mobile banking and within that app add a savings account. This allows you to transfer bills money into the saving section until it is needed and keep the money for groceries and socialising in your normal account. Therefore, you can see both your bills balance and spending balance separately.

Another way to prevent your splurging spree is to get a prepaid card, like Monzo, which allows you to add money to the card with an app that also monitors your spending. Another way to help your budget is to make sure you ask about student discount, yes sometimes

we feel anxious asking for a discount, but this money may buy you tomorrow's meal deal. So, tip three is don't just budget, budget smart.

Tip one, get yourself to a charity shop. **Tip two**, do the maths. **Tip three**, don't just budget, budget smart. With these tips, you are sure to make it to the next loan drop. Whether you are a new student, or an old student, remember to be money smart.

MARINA ABRAMOVIC'S NAKED LIVING DOOR

ALESSANDRA DIXON

Performative artist Marina Abramovic's latest piece has gained her a place in the Royal Academy of Art, where she will be the first woman to have a dedicated solo show in the main gallery.

Abramovic is known for her controversial and psychologically provoking pieces. One of her most known performances "The Artist Is Present" in 2010 entailed a seven-hundred-hour silent opera. For seven hours a day, six days a week Abramovic sat in a plain chair, in front of a plain table with bright lights in the Museum of Modern Art's towering atrium. This performance is one of the longest art pieces to exist and had one of

the largest audiences go to watch it. The Abramovic Retrospective, which included the "The Art Is Present", was visited by five hundred million people. The visitors could sit opposite Abramovic for minutes, hours or even a whole day if they wanted, while onlookers watched and waited for their turn. This performance is not the most unusual of her solo work. Abramovic has made some risky artistic decisions in the past. For another notable performance, she stood silent for six hours in a gallery and said that visitors could do whatever they pleased to her. One visitor held a gun to her neck, her eyes filled with tears,

but she did not flinch or move. Her performances aim to provoke, question, tempt and in some cases disturb her audiences. Abramovic's new solo show in the Royal Academy of Art follows this line of controversy. It is her "Imponderabilia" piece that will be the showstopper of her solo show in autumn 2020. Young men and women will be recruited to stand opposite each other in the nude to form a naked living doorway. Visitors will have to squeeze through the naked people to use the doorway.

This has sparked many questions in people's minds. Do you make eye contact? Do you go slowly through the doorway? Or

is speed the mask of discomfort? Should we even feel discomfort? Or should we feel comfortable with the nudity before us? Who knows? That's what Abramovic wants her audience to discover. Andrea Tarsia, the show's curator, said the work was a simple gesture which "proposed a confrontation with nakedness, with gender, with sexuality, with desire".

Nakedness is not the only thing to be explored in this show. Another highlight will be "The Lovers", which was created by Abramovic and Ulay to mark their relationships end in 1988. The pair walked for 90 days from opposite ends of the Great Wall of China, until

they met in the middle and ceremoniously parted ways. This piece explores ideas about devotion, love and commitment even when relationships come to an end. The London shows announcement has taken the art industry by storm and it seems to be worth a visit. So, make sure you leave a day or two free in autumn of 2020 for Marina Abramovic's retrospective journey into sex, gender, desire and nakedness. See for yourself how your body and mind react to the naked living doorway.

A LITTLE ABOUT THE QM HINDU SOCIETY

AMAN KAPOOR

As a branch of the National Hindu Student Forum (NHSF) UK, NHSF Queen Mary Hindu Society is a student society that is motivated by the aim of creating a 'home away from home environment' for students as well as opening opportunities for social, sporting, cultural, intellectual and professional exploration.

We take social responsibility seriously which is why we are set to be the first Hindu society to make environmental and sustainability issues the focus of our fundraising and charity work, whilst still maintaining a strong emphasis on the community around us.

Each year, our calendar is filled with exciting events and activities and over the years we have continued to grow and have become trailblazers for creating innovative and engaging models of engaging with students. We boast a multitude of daily, weekly, monthly and termly activities and events, featuring sport, culture, education, and socialising. From spirited debates discussing current affairs, weekly charity work, playing competitive sports, to performing arts classes, we are one of the most active and diverse student societies on campus.

Our calendar boasts a multitude of daily activities and events, encompassing culture, education, and socialising. From spirited debates discussing current affairs, weekly charity work, playing sports, to performing arts classes it is apparent that we provide a bank of outstanding opportunities. Our ultimate purpose is to protect, preserve, practice and promote

Hindu Dharma amongst the student population, 'Dharma' being our values, morals and duties. Through our events, our members come together to learn more about their culture and themselves.

Semester one is extremely busy, especially in the early weeks of the year as we try to maximise our exposure to new students. We will be putting on several events in the first month of the year in order to help familiarise our new members with the society. Throughout these events we will be continually promoting our sponsors. The flagship event of semester one is the Diwali Ball, our biggest event of the year.

Semester two is less intense in terms of events and more about connecting with the members that we have gathered in the first semester, with weekly aarti meetings continuing in which we discuss and learn about key facts of Hinduism. There are many events in the semester to continue our goal of creating a diverse, exciting environment for our members at university whilst away from home. Our committee is a dedicated, hard-working group, who will work hard to help your improve student life at this university.

More information about our society can be found at:
<https://www.qmsu.org/hindus tudents/>

Aman Kapoor is a member of NHSF at QMUL

CALLING ALL THEATRE MAKERS

Are you a playwright, director, actor, stage manager, technician, all of the above or none of these things but interested in finding out more? Then Queen Mary Theatre Company is the place for you! QMTC is one of the most active societies on campus, putting on over 30 shows a year alongside taking 4 shows to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (the world's largest arts festival) every August. We're always looking for new talent to showcase, whether you've written your own work, have an idea for an old show or a play that no one knows, fancy a go at acting or maybe you're just interested in what happens behind the scenes. However, like any other society, we also hold multiple socials throughout the year, a chance for everyone in the company to socialise, relax and have a bit of a laugh.

Our first social of the year will be on Sunday 29th September (the day after our first festival) which will be a chilled-out picnic in Victoria Park. We also host an annual Rocky Horror Screening on the Monday before Halloween, followed by a group outing to Monday's Calling at Drapers, but this is just first semester, we have a lot more coming!

You may be thinking, 'well, membership is £20, so what does that cover?' To put on or be in any QMTC show, you must be a member. All members are able to pitch shows to put on, vote at pitch nights and get involved with a show. Pitch nights happen about a month before each festival, and it's where all directors or playwrights interested in putting on a show around the theme of the festival pitch their idea to the rest of the company, who then vote for

which shows will be put on. All technicians, stage managers and actors, plus anyone else involved in the making of a show must pay the £20 membership once the cast and crew has been decided (this is usually by or in the week following the casting meeting). Members also get exclusive discounts to all QMTC events and will be invited to attend various socials throughout the year, including our Annual General Meeting, where members decide what four shows will be taken to Edinburgh Fringe and next year's committee will be announced, also voted for by our members. All members will also be invited to attend workshops under our DA (Developing Artists) Programme, which includes playwrighting, pitching and QMTC alumni panels who can answer your questions on breaking into the industry, amongst other topics.

So, you made it to the end of the article! The final question from us is, does any of this take your fancy? If so, check out our freshers events and come and see us in person! They are as follows: Wednesday 25th September – Welcome Meeting, Saturday 28th September – Sketch Festival, Sunday 29th September – Picnic in the Park

To find out more information about these events, check out our Facebook Page,
[facebook.com/QMTheatreCo](https://www.facebook.com/QMTheatreCo)

For even more, connect with us on our other social media:

Twitter:@QMTC

Instagram:@qmtheatreco

This article was written by a member of the QMTC

THE QMUL LEBANESE SOCIETY

MOHAMMED ISSA

The Lebanese society welcomes all Queen Mary students to join this year and enjoy our numerous events! The committee and I are proud and excited to meet both the Lebanese and non-Lebanese students and we guarantee that the events taking place this year will be unmissable. The Lebanese society offers Queen Mary students a taste of the Lebanese culture which includes the delicious Lebanese cuisine, traditional Lebanese culture as well as Lebanon's rich history. The events taking place this year include Dabke night which is a prominent Lebanese dance that all Arabs know of! The workshop will include professional external dancers who will lead the dabke night. Today, the Dabke is a recognised dance which has spread throughout the entire Middle East and it is performed in big occasions such as weddings and parties. The meet and greet will be a great opportunity for Lebanese and non-Lebanese students to get to know each other while at the same time enjoying fine Lebanese food. Talk and connect with your fellow friends over hummus and taboule! Not to forget, our movie night taking place this year can guarantee original Lebanese comedy. Within this event there will also be food and drinks, so you should not worry about leaving the event hungry. One of our objectives for this year is to raise money for a Lebanese charity and we will be dedicating our games night for this great cause. Last year was the year that the Lebanese society was founded, and it was successful in allowing international Lebanese students and British Lebanese students to connect and get to know one another. This year, this particular aim will continue as we want to make foreign Lebanese students to feel at home through the Lebanese orientated events. The importance that we place on welcoming non-Lebanese students into our society is a fundamental aspect which makes our society all-inclusive and diverse. As committee members, we place high importance on educating everyone about Lebanon and its diverse history. Therefore, we will utilize this society in order to educate everyone about Lebanon and also host events that will promote modern Lebanese culture. Another objective of ours is to gain more popularity amongst Queen Mary societies. Last year our society was up and running in semester two meaning that we did not have a full year to promote and carry out events. This year we have a very enthusiastic and hardworking team who are working to bring to you events that you will enjoy. Our team have planned an exciting year ahead of us with events which will promote the Lebanese culture including a taste of the finest Arab cuisine, a political talk by the Ambassador Rami Mortada himself and finally collaborations with the Palestinian society, Arab society and other LebSocs over London. The Lebanese Society at Queen Mary welcomes everyone.

Mohammed Issa is the Treasurer of the QMUL Lebanese Society

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & ROBOTICS SOCIETY

The Artificial Intelligence and Robotics society is one of the best places in the University for Students to meet, design, build, and program robots. The society hosts weekly workshop sessions where we have projects for our members to participate in. These can range from building a robot hand out of basic materials to the design of a remote controlled Santa mannequin on wheels to be driven around campus. For our projects, we welcome people from all backgrounds and skill levels. We like to encourage a collaborative atmosphere where people can help each other and pool resources together to make amazing contraptions. Whether you already have a personal project you'd like to work on or want to join in on the society ran projects, the robotics society is the place for you. The society also has access to a university workshop where you can work on your projects allowing access to facilities and services such as 3D printing, laser cutting, and many more. There will be an industrial robot arm available for some members to control and work with, plenty of components and sensors for testing and practice as well as various development boards such as RaspberryPi, Intel Edison, and Arduino. The society also encourages competition, whether it be within the society such as our Robot Wars tournament or international competitions such as PiWars and Eurobots. If you join our teams you'll be representing QMUL at robotics tournaments against people from all around the world. This year there will be collaborative tutorials with the Design Engineering society to teach people how to 3D model their Robot Wars robot designs and how to make them. Here are some of the events being held in the upcoming weeks:

Welcome back session
15/10/2019 - 18:30 Bancroft Building, Room 1.13a

Arduino Tutorial - Controlled Robot Hand Tutorials
Session 1 01/10/2019 - 18:30 Bancroft Building, Room 1.02.6
Session 2 08/10/2019 - 18:30 Bancroft Building, Room 1.02.6

Introduction to Robot Wars
15/10/2019 - 18:30 Bancroft Building, Room 1.02.6

The society is entering its second year of hosting its Robot Wars tournament where our members can design, build and compete with their own machines.

PiWars 2020
15/10/2019 - 18:30 Bancroft Building, Room 1.02.6

The society is also participating in PiWars - an international challenge-based robotics competition. Skill level doesn't matter but your willingness to learn does! We look forward to meeting you all!

This article was written by a member of the AI & Robotics Society

A DAY TRIP TO PARIS IS POSSIBLE

JACK MCARDLE

A single day in Paris doesn't seem like enough time, or even worth the cost, but you'd be surprised.

A return ticket on one of the many coaches that leave London for Paris every day, can cost less than £30, if you book far enough in advance. It's much quicker to reach Victoria coach station than one of London's airports. You don't need to arrive three hours before take-off either, the checks at the port of Dover don't take nearly as long as airport security. Once you arrive in Paris, you're in the centre of the city, close to the metro and only a short ride to the city's many famed attractions. And as you're only in Paris for one day, you don't need to pay for a hotel either.

My journey to Paris be-

gan at Victoria at half-past-nine, late last April and I arrived in Paris just before 8am the following morning. The trip comprised the journey to Dover, the Channel Crossing and then the trip from Calais to Paris. Sleeping on the coach is strongly advised, but since this was an overnight trip, that wasn't too difficult. Everyone on the almost empty coach, was pressing their coats into service as pillows and trying to get some rest. The channel crossing did interrupt my sleep, as everyone had to step off, but it did give me the chance to avail myself of the ferry's facilities - a shop that seemed to specialise in empty shelves. Still, the crossing itself was perfectly calm and so vomit-free. Once the ferry had docked, I returned to the

coach and then returned to sleep.

Once in Paris, I headed to the Louvre Gallery (after a quick coffee and croissant, of course) and due to my early arrival, was one of the first admitted that day (for free, as I was under 25 and an EU citizen), after only a short queue. As it was still early, the gallery was not yet busy and so I was able to get vaguely near the (smaller-than-expected) Mona Lisa, although my personal favourite was 'Liberty Leading the People' by Eugene Delacroix and their Egyptology section. I spent three hours there before moving on to the Musee de l'Orangerie, a must see for impressionist works, where I spend two-hours admiring the huge panoramic canvases by Claude Monet's water lilies, al-

though there are works by other artists.

I must admit, I regret not buying a Napoleon hat for when I play the board game: 'Risk' from Bonaparte's Tomb or the Army Museum, but they were both good visits, nevertheless. An Ice Cream later, which I ate as I walked to the Eiffel Tower, I was sitting on a park bench in front of that most famous of Parisian monuments. By this time, I wasn't in any great hurry, most of the museums were closed, so I just sat and watched for few moments. One place was still open, however, a unique English-langue bookshop opposite the then recently scarred Notre-Dame Cathedral. Called Shakespeare and Company, the shop was originally founded in 1919 and was once frequented by many famous writers, including: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein and Ernest Hemingway.

A trip down literary lane later and as I was alone and quite tired by this point, I decided to wait in a McDonald's near a metro station before returning to Bercy, where a minor panic later, (as I had confused Bercy coach station and Bercy train station), I was heading back to London. The ferry neared the white cliffs just as the sun was coming up and soon, I was back where I started, albeit with the memories and photographs of a truly memorable day.



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QMUL INVESTS IN CHARGEBOXES – BUT AT WHAT COST?

HUGO CHEEMA-GRUBB

Twenty “ChargeBox” phone charging stations have been installed on QMUL campuses over the summer, allowing students whose devices have run out of power to recharge them securely using the in-built cables. The “ChargeBox 3” stations are sturdy, stylish and constructed in the UK, and have become a common sight in large buildings like airports and shopping centres since the company launched in 2005. Students may recognise them from the Westfield shopping centres in Stratford and White City, whose managing group were one of the first investors convinced by the manufacturer’s confident advertising material. ChargeBox’s internal research asserts the stations’ ability to “increase footfall and dwell time” and claims they are proven to “increase customer spend and basket size”. Quite how this research was done is not clear, but evidently QMUL believes the stations will be useful to developing a campus atmosphere, presumably aimed at the large proportion of students who commute and don’t have ready access to charging facilities nearby.

What is surprising is the amount of money that QMUL has invested in their ChargeBox stations. The total spend on the twenty stations the university has had installed, the majority of which are in the Mile End campus, was £119,005. Surely academic department restructuring and budget restrictions could put this money to better use by hiring more staff, or financing the crucial research for which we have received Russell Group status? That £119,005 fee works out at around

£5,950 per station, and the concentration of these stations in Mile End concentrates that investment, with a disproportionate £83,300 of the money going to QM students versus only £29,750 spread across three Barts campuses. From a different angle, had the funds allocated to this project been divided up between the student-run sports clubs, which contribute so much to QMUL’s student environment, each would have received an extra £2,975 in this year’s budget. They could then have invested this in the facilities, training and equipment that are crucial for them to compete in BUCS leagues, representing QMUL around the country. I know that I QM sports club I belong to had an extra £2,975 to spend training the students who compete for us.

If the misallocation of resources has not become clear already, let us have a look at exactly what service these ChargeBoxes provide. Each “ChargeBox 3” station has six boxes, five of which can charge both Apple and Android devices, and the top one only Apple. The reasons for this are not apparent, prioritising as they do those in possession of more expensive Apple devices, but the principal issue with these stations should already be evident. QM boasts on their “facts and figures” page of an enrolled population of 26,000 students of whom 4,000 study abroad. This leaves 22,000 students who study in London to some capacity. Multiple university sources confirm numbers in this area, including the official World University Rankings

page, where QM claims its London campuses are “home to more than 20,000 students”. All of these students pass through and make use of the campus facilities where these ChargeBoxes have been installed. Twenty ChargeBoxes, each holding six devices maximum, can serve a grand total of 120 students at once. This is a tiny fraction of the total student population, about 0.55%, for which we have all collectively paid £119,005. Presumably, however, this investment was not intended for all students – otherwise the paucity of ChargeBoxes on Barts campuses would begin to look negligent. So then why was £119,005 invested in devices that a significant proportion of students will never get a chance to use? Why was this money not spent on the worthy causes that benefit all those studying here, like the academic departments from which every student gains? More questions stem from the rest of the data the university has provided. Why was £7,000 spent on “customised branding” for only twenty stations? Must the £8,300 annual running costs of the twenty stations be paid for the devices’ entire service life, and how long is this? Does this mean that QMUL will be paying almost the entirety of someone’s tuition fees to ChargeBox every year until they realise their mistake and scrap the stations? Was the university contacted directly by ChargeBox, or was the project begun internally based on a poorly targeted desire to make the campus better for students? Whatever the answers, this titanic waste of

university funding indicates a fundamental lack of accountability, oversight and basic common sense among those allocating money at QMUL.

The financial figures in this article were obtained from a FOI request to QMUL.



SUMMER RESEARCH: WHAT DO THE ACADEMICS GET UP TO WHILE WE'RE AWAY?

ALEX RICHARDSON

While most of us students through their mouths, which pigs."

have been enjoying a few is normally done to break down their prey (normally oysters or mussels) before ingesting it. This discovery therefore shows that molecules similar to oxytocin have been important in the nervous system of animals for over 500 million years.

The hormone Oxytocin is well known to play a role in building strong relationships, but a study has been published in the journal BMC Biology showing that the hormone also plays a role in the feeding behaviour of the common European starfish (*Asterias rubens*).

Professor Maurice Elphick, of the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences here at QMUL, said in a press release:

"Our study has provided important new evidence that oxytocin-type molecules are important and ancient regulators of feeding in animals. So oxytocin is much more than a 'love hormone' – perhaps especially for animals like starfish that don't fall in love!"

The study found that a few minutes after being injected with the hormone, the starfish would adopt a 'humped' posture similar to the one used when feeding. They would then evert their stomachs

Meanwhile in a joint study with the University of Oxford, a paradox surrounding the ancestry of the modern pig has been resolved. Previously, archaeological evidence of early domestication suggested that modern pigs should resemble wild boar found in the Near East. However, the genetics of modern European pigs is far closer to that of the European wild boar. So, what gives?

To find out, researchers analysed over 2000 mitochondrial DNA samples from across Europe, of which over 1300 were ancient samples, to try and find the cause of this discrepancy.

Professor Greger Larson of Oxford University, who was the senior author of the study, said, "Having access to ancient genomes over such a large space and time has allowed us to see the slow-motion replacement of the entire genome of domestic

The results showed that when pigs first arrived in Europe approximately 8000 years ago, their genetics were very similar to those of the Near Eastern wild boar, as the archaeological evidence had suggested. However, over the following 3000 years the pigs interacted with the wild boar enough to replace nearly all of their Near Eastern genes. A small amount of this heritage still remains; which is believed to be where modern pigs get their coat colour from.

The team now hopes to use the genetic timeline they have created to identify which genes in modern European domestic pigs have kept their Near Eastern heritage, in order to try and determine whether artificial selection efforts by early farmers over 10000 years ago have left any lasting legacy in the pigs we see today, outside of the colour of their coats.

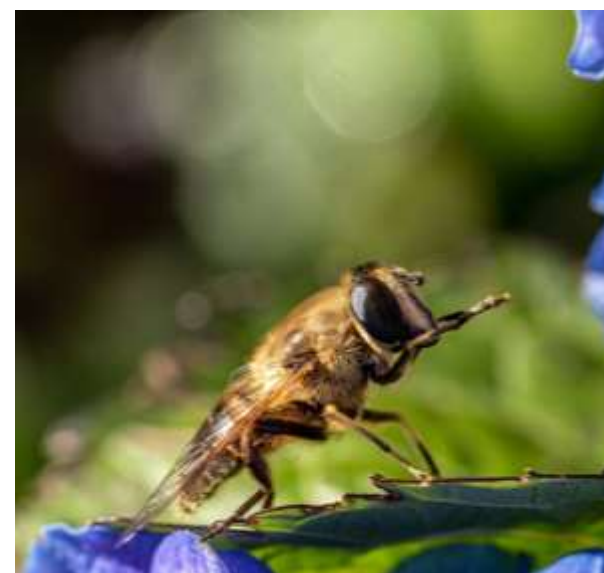
One professor, however, has decided to spend his summer in a slightly different manner. Professor Lars Chittka, who has the reputation of being the top-rated expert in bees in the world, has released a rock album. Alongside musicians Katie Green and Rob Alexan-

der, he hopes to bring attention to the creatures in a new light as he explores different aspects of bees throughout the album.

"It was important for me not to write sentimental texts about quaint summer meadows and buzzing bees. As I am learning every day as someone who studies the psychology of bees, the world of pollinators and flowers is full of manipulation and trickery"

said Professor Chittka. You can purchase the album at

killer-beequeens.bandcamp.com, where all proceeds will go to Buglife: an insect conservation charity that works to protect and preserve insect habitats, raise awareness to the importance of insects to modern society and to help preserve endangered species.



The Dental Mirror

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STARTING SPORT AT UNI

CLAIRE PERCIVAL

When I started at Queen Mary I hadn't played club sport for 4 or 5 years and had never been to the gym, so the thought of picking up a sport was pretty terrifying. I thought that everyone who played sports would have been doing so for years and I would be completely out of my depth. Little did I know that university is actually a great time to start playing. I end up spending the most time with and end up being some of your closest friends. For some, university can be an incredibly isolating and lonely time; but joining a club could be one way of connecting with other people on a regular basis and it is a great way to get to know people across all years and all courses that you may not get to meet otherwise.

No matter what your fitness level, ability or sporting background, university clubs welcome everyone. Maybe the future Harry Kane is at training with you, but there will also be people there who have never kicked a ball before. Most clubs will have several different teams, so they can cater to all levels and you can train with people in a similar position to you, improving together. For me I found that this made joining a club much less intimidating. This also means that you do not have to play competitively if you do not want to; the first and second teams may compete against other unis but you could join the third team and just go along for fun and without any pressure. Amidst the hectic schedule of uni going to training every week is a great way to get away from studying for a few hours and just have fun. Taking a break, particularly during exam time, is so important, so spending a few hours doing exercise while having fun with your friends is a great way to do this. You can spend the first few weeks trying out as many sports as you want by going to the taster training sessions before you commit to anything. Make the most of this, as there are so many sports to choose from, including many you haven't done before and many you may not get the chance to do again. Perhaps sport has never been your biggest passion and isn't something you ever would have considered doing when beginning university, but it could also be a way to discover something new that you end up loving.

University sport also has a huge social aspect, so it is a great way to get to know new people. From going to the pub after training, to all going to the monthly sports club night, the people you meet at training could be the people you

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