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THE PRINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF QUEEN MARY STUDENTS' UNION

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"WE ALL WANT A SOLUTION, AND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION"

QM student, Devora Khafi, speaks the the Print about the UCL Israeli-Palestinian campus conflict

ELMIRA TANATAROVA

"I just wish people were more aware of the struggles pro-Israeli students and Jewish students face on campuses and across the UK... When I first moved here I didn't tell people I was Jewish and that I used to live in Israel...and it's hard to live in such an international city like London, you of course don't want to hide who you are, but you do it for safety."

Devora Khafi was one of the students to have experienced the upheaval felt at UCL on the 27th October, when Hen Mazzig, an ex-Israeli defence soldier and member of COGAT (Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories) who has famously spoken out for peaceful activism, was a last minute speaker at the campus. He was there to discuss ideas of conflict negotiation and resolution, in what Khafi describes as the attempt to deliver a "positive message" on the issue experienced by both sides. "I think at this point in time, everyone wants a positive message," she adds. However, as Mazzig was a Pro-Israel speaker, Palestinian solidarity protesters gathered outside the venue to protest the speaker, whom they saw as a war criminal. As the night progressed, the protests were reported to have become increasingly violent, with two students attempting to climb in through locked windows, two students being assaulted, and one suffering an anxiety attack. When asked about her



Image - Devora Khafi

thoughts, Khafi shares that it's "hard to explain" the "shock" she felt at the campus experience. "Having witnessed these issues escalating over the past year, year and a half, it was shocking to see it become as bad as this."

One of the main criticisms coverage of the story has received was that it portrayed the Palestinian solidarity protesters as villainous, and undermined their right to protest, as often can be seen on university campuses. To this, Khafi explains that she "understands that everyone has the right to a peaceful protest. I have been to events

where Pro-Palestinian groups have protested before in the past year," she explains, "and usually it was peaceful and everything worked out fine. However, I don't believe that anyone should violently protest, and that was the case at UCL".

Khafi also makes the point of emphasising the aspect of 'anti-semitism', which has been dubbed by the media as being confused with criticisms of Israeli policy. "So when you say things like 'I hate what the IDF does', that's not anti-semitic, when you criticise Israeli policy, that's not anti-semitic. But when

you say, Benjamin Netanyahu is like Hitler...that's clear anti-semitism." She explains the harsh undertones many Israelis feel at the infamous chant, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free. When they say they want that area to be free, what are they saying? To us, it's saying they want all the Jews in the area to leave, or get killed. I don't think that's a peaceful protest, and I don't think that's being pro-Palestine. I think that's just being anti-semitic... it's a hazy area, because nowadays people can get away with being anti-Semitic by being anti-Israel." On the general negative coverage Pro-

Israeli policy has received in the media, she explains that many people don't take the time to consider two sides of an issue: "A clear example is the wall. People have called it the apartheid wall. I call it the security barrier...It's sad to see an ugly wall in the middle of my country. It's not a nice thing. But it's something I'd rather have than war, and that's not a narrative we hear often."

In addition, she explains the fact that regardless of the coverage the conflict received, the issue is still misunderstood by many: "I just wish people would engage in more dialogue...People don't know that these communities are not as separated as people think. That there is a lot of interaction going on. Within the Palestinian community there are so many different societies... and then in Israel you have about ten parties as well... you just have so many different people that it's not a two-sided conflict. And it could never be a two-sided conflict. And I think conflicts in general are not two-sided."

However, Khafi believes that it is in the hands of our generation to promote peaceful negotiation and discourse: "At the moment we have a lot of organisations coming in and creating events for students, and I feel like students themselves should contact each other and come up with events for a positive and proactive message. The main point is that we all want a solution, a peaceful solution".

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

ANNA SAVAGE

Hello Printers,
Welcome to Issue 15 of The Print, the official newspaper of Queen Mary's Student Union. It's December which means it's time for mulled wine, cheesy Christmas movies and 2016 to finally be over.

Once again our contributors and editors have worked tirelessly to bring you a multitude of interesting articles. Take a tour of London's independent bookshops, discuss whether QM should be a part of the NUS,

find out if we can live on Mars, this issue is just overflowing with creative content.

You may notice a recurring theme as you flick through the pages of this paper. It's hard to ignore Donald Trump and the US Election certainly provided our writers with a lot of inspiration for their pieces. Who knows, maybe Donald will tweet about us at 3am? We shall wait and see.

It's a strange time for news. Trump has threatened to open up libel laws to make it easier to sue outlets for their content. He gathered some of

the most prominent members of the American press to shout at them for using a photo of him with a double chin.

To an aspiring journalist, this could cause some concern, some fear of getting involved in media. That is why I am so proud to be a part of an outlet which gives the students of Queen Mary a place to express their views and produces challenging and thought provoking content.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy new year. Goodbye 2016, it's been... interesting.

QMSU ATTENDS NATIONAL DEMO AGAINST HIGHER EDUCATION REFORMS

Students from QM joined a national protest against the rising cost of attending university

MAARIYAH DAWOOD



Image - QMSU

Queen Mary students joined protestors in central London on November 19th for the 'United for Education' demonstration, organised by the National Union of Students (NUS) and The Lecturers' Union, University and College and Union (UCU).

According to the NUS, 15,000 people marched from Park Lane to Westminster to demand a free education, more funding for colleges and better pay for lecturers and teachers. Students and university staff alike travelled from across the country to attend, with a group from Orkney beginning their journey to London at 4.30am the previous day.

The march culminated in a rally at Millbank, where the crowd was addressed by NUS officers, international students

and trade union staff. Owen Jones, author and Guardian columnist, also gave a speech and called the government's proposals for education 'vandalism to an industrial level'. Although the demo was primarily about education, speakers voiced their concern for the rise in fascism, crime and the impact of Brexit and Trump, arguing that all these issues are linked and should be fought collectively.

QMSU prepared for the demo by organising a placard making party the day before, and sabbatical officers were also visited by NUS National President Malia Bouattia. The demo was also promoted at this year's Freshers' fair. Miranda Black, QMSU President, told The Print, "I was so happy to see students from QM join us, particularly first years. The

demo highlighted a lot of the issues facing students today, such as the proposed reforms to higher education, which will damage education as we know it. Students are being priced out of education, new private providers will exploit students, and the proposed Teaching Excellence Framework not only uses flawed metrics but will encourage universities to cut corners.

"We're being asked to pay more for our degrees and I think this creates more pressure to succeed. This not only puts a strain on students' mental health, but also contributes to creating a cohort of students who are encouraged to compete rather than collaborate".

Grace Halton, a first year History and Politics student told The Print, "I attended the demo because I strongly believe everyone should have a right to free education and that it's important to challenge the stereotype of millennials not being engaged or aware of politics. It was the first NUS demo I had been to and I was impressed by the number of people, the creative placards, and speakers at the rally. It was a great feeling to end the march right outside Westminster where all the decisions we are fighting against are made".

The demo took place against the backdrop of the third reading of Higher Education Bill in the House of Commons, which proposes several reforms for higher education. It includes the introduction of a 'Teaching Excellence Framework'.

NEWS

US ELECTION: QM RESPONDS

A few of Queen Mary's students reveal their reaction to President Elect, Donald Trump

POPPY THOMPSON



Image - Gage Skidmore/flickr

We all know what happened on the 9th November 2016. It was declared that Donald Trump would be the next President of the United States of America.

Whether you are okay with that result or not, it happened, it is happening and will continue to happen for the next 4 years. Although Hillary, at the time of writing, is currently 1.7 million votes ahead in the popular vote, Trump won 289 electoral votes making him the 45th president of the United States. Donald Trump's policies and speeches have been controversial and have made him the cause of a lot of media coverage throughout his campaign, even managing to raise \$306 million. As a result people have very strong opinions of him either way, and so we asked Queen Mary students what they thought of the campaign, how they reacted to the result and what they think it will mean going forward.

From a 3rd year American Associate Student:

"Today I woke up and I was a faggot, a nigger, a spic. I was unwanted, hunted, targeted. I was disgusting, vile, a creature, an 'other'.

Today I woke up to my country's open declaration that there was no space in it for me or my loved ones. Being abroad during this election has been hard. At times I felt like a coward, running away from

a problem that I knew would just be sitting there waiting for me months later.

The funny thing about being in London straight after Brexit is that everyone has an opinion on Trump. Everyone wants to have a conversation, everyone wants to compare, everyone wants to relate. So I sit there with a smile and nod my head.

I never supported Hillary, but I guess I was with her only because the alternative just was not an option. It's funny because my response to all those who just knew Trump wouldn't win was always 'Let's not forget this is Ameri(kkk) a we're talking about, the country built on stolen land, with bloodied hands, at the expense of people of colour, women, and just about anyone else who isn't a straight white man'.

This isn't the fault of protest voters or people voting third party. This is the white supremacy rearing its ugly head yet again. Except this time, they took a page from our book. They rallied, they stood together, they held each other up, and they won.

Today I woke up unwelcome, but today I remember that I always have been. Today I remember that tomorrow will be no different. Today I remember that I have never lived, always just survived, but Trump and a Republican Congress will not be the end of me. They will not stop me, they will not stop us. We lost a battle yesterday, but we'll win the war. In four years, we'll show everyone that's

"I never supported Hillary, but I guess I was with her only because the alternative just was not an option."

"With the recently elected Trump, Americans seem to want to promote negative values and hatred."

"After the frustrating and divisive American campaigns, I am left feeling disillusioned with politics..."

on the outside laughing at us just how strong we are. Watch out Ameri(kkk)a, this brown faggot is coming for you, and he's not alone".

From a 1st Year Chemistry Student:

"As a fully legal immigrant who has lived in Britain for the past 15 years, I have had many personal conflicts in beliefs with the ruling government party, whether it be Labour or Conservative. Even with this doubt in the policies of the British government, I have

always believed that the people will prevail and that we will always work together in order to have a country that is proud, accepting and righteous. This is why the situation in the US baffles me. With the recently elected Trump, Americans seem to want to promote negative values and hatred. They do not seem to care that worldwide, every person from every nation was screaming 'NO!' with regards to Trump. There have been too many arguments as to why he should not have been elected, such as the blatant racism and sexism, and yet he still won over the hearts of many Americans.

The most confusing part of this whole election is why

Trump even ran for President. Severely unqualified and unfit to decide on important matters, the likely outcome of this situation in America is terrible. Whilst many people aspired to achieve the 'American dream' in the past, it will now most likely stay that way. For the people to elect such a person as president, America must have been desperate for change. Unfortunately, this change will probably be for the worst".

From a 2nd Year French and Linguistics Student:

"After the frustrating and divisive American campaigns, I am left feeling disillusioned with politics and worried about the intensely negative climate the election has left. It seems unbelievable that a man who has been openly racist, misogynistic, and ableist to name a few, will be President of one of the most influential countries in the world. The only positive thing about this election for me, is that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. This means that the majority of Americans don't agree with Trump's shameful and hateful rhetoric, and hopefully the world will only have to live through one Trump term".



Image - UNC-CFC-USFK/flickr

NEWS

UNIVERSITY STRIVING FOR GREATER GENDER EQUALITY

This November, QMUL submits application for institutional Athena SWAN silver award

BECKY CRAWFORD

This November, QMUL is marking its work towards greater gender equality by submitting an application for an institutional Athena SWAN Silver Award. The Athena SWAN charter recognises commitment to advancing women's careers and professional development in higher education and research.

The Equality Challenge Unit (ECU)'s initiative was established in 2005, originally to encourage higher education institutions to remove gender specific barriers to career advancement in Science, Technology, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM). Since 2015, the charter has been expanded to wider academic areas, including the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business and Law. Now it no longer only applies to women, but also men where appropriate, in academic roles

and as professional support staff, and it also includes trans staff and students.

The Athena SWAN charter celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women in higher education with awards of different levels. Queen Mary received the Bronze award in 2010 and this was renewed in 2013, for the institution's demonstration of commitment to progressing the charter and its principles by adopting these into their policies, practices, action plans and culture. To qualify for a silver award, the institution must be able to prove that it has taken action in response to previously identified challenges and can demonstrate the impact of these actions.

In November 2016, Queen Mary as a whole university is submitting an application for an Athena SWAN silver award, as the next step in

“The Athena SWAN charter celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women in higher education”

the institution's attempt to remove all barriers to anyone progressing in their career because of their gender. Sandra Brown, Diversity Manager at Queen Mary, highlights the importance of the charter and says that it is a “framework that aims to engage students and staff in promoting gender equality and to create an inclusive study and work environment for all.”

Sarah Hawkes (ECU) is positive about the impact the Athena SWAN charter is having. She says, “Within universities and departments change is happening: organisational structures and practices are being improved, there is a greater awareness around culture and gender equality, and the importance of good communication is being highlighted.” The intention is that this will have a trickle-down effect on students, which Hawkes articulates, “For individuals, Athena SWAN has

been valuable in encouraging aspiration, identifying and exemplifying role models, and illustrating potential academic career pathways and opportunities.”

Queen Mary's application for Athena SWAN silver marks a noble endeavor towards greater gender equality, but some students highlight other existing gaps in equality at the university. Dushant Patel, School of English and Drama, is one such student who argues, “Conversations around diversity too often ignore or offer token efforts to ethnic minorities without addressing chronic issues like the appalling diversity of academic staff.”

However, with QMUL preparing to submit an intention to apply for ECU's Race Equality Charter in 2017, we may soon be looking at a more egalitarian and diverse university environment.

STUDENT COUNCIL VOTE AGAINST BOYCOTTING NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

The proposal to not take part in NSS as a stance against the government's Teaching Excellence Framework was not passed by the council

ANNA SAVAGE

On 15th November various members of Queen Mary Student Council gathered in Blomeley Room 2 of the QMSU Building to debate new motions put forward by the students of QM.

The evening was dominated by a heated discussion regarding the boycotting of the National Student Survey in light of the government's higher education reforms. The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) has caused the most controversy. The scheme would evaluate universities based on certain criteria such as how many students are employed after graduating, class sizes and NSS feedback. The better a university's score, the more it is able to charge for a degree programme. The worse the score, the less the university

can charge. Monty Shield, QM's NUS Delegate, voiced the concern of the National Union of Students that such a system would lead to the further increasing of fees, reduce the amount of funding available for smaller institutions and encourage people think of university as a big business.

Laura Potter, Welfare Representative, argued that the NSS boycotting had successfully made university boards, such as that of the University of the Arts London, reject TEF. Miranda Black, QMSU President, was quick to state that Birmingham University was able to use the threat of a boycott to open up discussion and that could be just as effective.

Will Atkins, VP Barts and The London, voiced his concern that a boycott could torpedo

talks with the university and that QMSU should instead focus on educating its own students about TEF rather than taking part in a national campaign. After a long debate the motion was eventually denied with a view to discuss it more at the next meeting of the Student Council.

NSS and TEF were not the only subjects discussed at the meeting. The QMSU Executive Officers gave their regular updates. Miranda mostly focused on current discussions with the university board to halt the rising of tuition fees to £9250. VP Education, Sumeera Ahmad, updated attendees on her aim to secure the Octagon for Friday prayer space as well as discussing the importance of course reps and plans for Islamophobia Awareness Month. Adam Sparks, VP

Welfare, was unable to attend and technical difficulties prevented his update video from airing. Finally, Will mentioned his plans to build up a young alumni scheme for Barts students.

Many members of the council were anxious to know when the construction work at QM's Mile End Library would be completed. An exact opening date for the new section remains unknown.

Student Media Officer, Anis Islam, put forward a motion to alter certain definitions in the student media by-law which was passed.

A motion regarding the implementing of lockers was debated despite the creator of the motion not being present. Disabled Student Representative, Matilda Marcillo, spoke on behalf of

the motion but reference to current lockers that are already on both the QM and Barts' campuses caused some confusion.

The council also debated whether QMSU should affiliate with Stand Up To Racism despite its controversial links to the Social Workers Party who have been accused of systematically covering up sexual assault cases within the organisation. The motion wasn't passed, instead the council agreed to tackle racism and get involved in national schemes, separate from Stand Up To Racism.

The next meeting of Queen Mary's Student Council will take place Tuesday 24th January 2017.

FEATURES

AMERICA'S HEROIN EPIDEMIC HOW A SUBSTANCE GRIPPED A NATION

Sophie Mitchell traces how this drug has become a prominent killer in the USA

SOPHIE MITCHELL

Heroin is certainly amongst the most taboo, mistrusted and condemned drugs in society.

It isn't casual, or flippant. It is seen to be the most addictive, altering and lethal substance in comparison to its other drug counterparts. Heroin has gripped America, being branded as an epidemic in society. However, it doesn't discriminate, with humans of all ages, from birth to death, being heavily affected by the increasing use of heroin in American society. Today, almost 50,000 American people annually die due to drugs. This figure exceeds both death by car accidents and gun use, placing America's grievous abuse of heroin in a global spotlight of concern.

For some, it begins from birth. In the United States alone, studies have revealed that from the years 2000 to 2012, there has been a five-fold increase in the amount of babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). This syndrome is a direct result of pregnant mothers using opiates such as heroin, causing the drug in their system to affect their foetus, leaving it with a drug withdrawal as soon as it is born. With an estimated 21,732 babies being born during this twelve year study, this equates to one baby suffering from NAS born every 25 minutes. These children, brought into the world with the burden of an addiction that is not their own, will feel its affects for a lifetime. Imminently, babies who are born with NAS experience intense shaking, vomiting, slow breathing and an naturally slow heart rate, typical symptoms of opiates. If they recover from this initial wave, their heightened chance of birth defects will leave 1 in 10 suffering from Hepatitis C in their lifetime.

Others may suffer from a lifetime of frequent seizures, psychological abnormalities, and an increased risk of becoming heroin users themselves.

It can't be said for certain what drives people to use heroin, but in the case of Huntington, West Virginia, with one in three residents living in poverty, heroin is a means of escapism from social and economic pressures. Huntington's number of babies born suffering from NAS annually exceeds the national rate, existing at fifteen times the national average. This figure partially illustrates the fierce grip heroin has on this community alone. The painful reality of this American town is that amongst its 49,000 inhabitants, approximately 12,000 are struggling with a heroin addiction. That equates to one in four people, in Huntington, hooked on heroin or a similar opioid substance. The danger is only set to be exacerbated, with substances such as fentanyl (a painkiller fifty-times stronger than morphine) and carfentanil (a tranquilliser nearly a hundred times more powerful than fentanyl) being laced into heroin; creating new lethal strains of the drug. Thus, West Virginia exists as America's leading state for heroin abuse. But the town of Huntington is just a small piece in the bigger puzzle of drug use in the United States.

Across the globe, and in America particularly, the over-subscription of medical drugs such as antibiotics and painkillers is leading to addiction and antibiotic resistance, the result being 'superbugs'. The intensifying grip of heroin in the United States can be attributed to many causes; socio-economic, environmental and political factors. However, one of the

most influential is the rise of prescription painkillers, such as Oxycontin and Vicodin, being overprescribed to patients who are not always in need of them. The opioid quality of these painkillers makes them particularly addictive when used irresponsibly. Thus, as the amount of prescription drugs in America faced a decline, with healthcare providers becoming wise to painkiller abuse, patients turned to heroin to continue their habit. From this, the rise in number of heroin users is climbing daily; with demand soaring to a level where supply is being increasingly sourced from countries outside the United States. AUN report has revealed that a drastic global decline occurred in opium production in 2015. This, heightening demand and enhancing the risk of heroin being mixed with other substances, has made the drug climate in the United States, and across the world, increasingly unstable and unsafe.

Unfortunately, there is no easy fix for this. Addiction and substance abuse, like many other psychological issues, can be the result of a biological disposition. The burden of social, economic and political uncertainty in the United States is a further stress threatening the USA's battle against heroin addiction. It appears the only way to try and reverse this disturbing trend, to prevent unnecessary loss of life, is to target the root causes. Enhancing the funding and functionality of healthcare systems, particularly mental healthcare; integrating these systems to tackle both substance abuse and the wider issues surrounding it. Only this way, will the ache of addiction be lifted from those suffering, and restore a sense of hope to communities like Huntington, West Virginia.

“Today, almost 50,000 American people annually die due to drugs. This figure exceeds both death by car accidents and gun use...”



Image - nadjarobot/flickr

FEATURES

A BOOK LOVER'S

Take a journey with The Print into the magical

KAV RODRIGO

Bookshops are a means of escape from the mundane, and an exploration of the unknown.

Like London, they can take you to the most beautiful or eerie of places. In my search for the best that London has to offer, it became evident that my arduous journey revealed more about the city than mere tour guides and trips to the popular tourist destinations. From visiting a portable book haven to a converted crypt, it is clear that this city has many hidden treasures. Thus, the lucky few that grace this guide are sure to find somewhere that will please the pickiest of readers.

Word on the Water

Open: Monday - Sunday 12:00pm - 7:00pm, Location: York Way, Granary Square

Word on the Water is a second-hand bookshop on a 1920's Dutch Barge. It is now permanently moored on Regents Canal Towpath, Kings Cross. As a small

bookshop that's at the heart of the city, Word on the Water epitomises the idea of village-esque London. The clever use of space allows for a surprising number of books to be displayed for customers to purchase, both on the deck and in the cabin. The first thing that I noticed about this bookshop, aside from the obvious, was the tranquillity of the cabin. With seating having been built in, and the distant hum of music, I could imagine being transported to far lands and battling sea monsters. Not only is the idea of a bookshop on a boat ingenious, but it also provides the perfect setting for dreamers to conjure up adventures. Being a second hand bookshop, Word on the Water showcases a large variety of very well priced books, £3 paperbacks and £4 hardbacks. With the colder months upon us, a visit to this cosy bookshop would be highly suggested. An evening perusing books with a hot chocolate is an ideal way to spend the weeks leading up to

“Not only is the idea of a bookshop on a boat ingenious, but it also provides the perfect setting for dreamers to conjure up adventures.”

Christmas and this is the place to do just that.

The London Review Bookshop

Open: Monday - Saturday 10:00am - 6:30pm Sunday 12:00pm - 6:00pm Location: 14 Bury Place, WC1A 2JL

It is universally known that the best way to enjoy a good book is with a pot of tea and a slice of cake. The London Review Bookshop combines our love of food with book, presenting an airy shop with a café in the adjoining room. This bookshop is a short walk from the British Museum and is a great place to stop and rest after hours of walking. Downstairs, there is a large poetry section and a seating area so customers can read and take their time choosing different books. As well as it being a bright and welcoming place, this independent store is particularly inviting due to its enthusiasm, if not quirky, staff (does anyone say cheerio these days?).

I particularly love the way this bookshop encourages customers to try new genres through their wall of recommended reads. This is especially useful for avid book lovers as there are reviews from staff and customers attached to the suggestions. This bookshop is also great for students who may find themselves near the British Museum or the Senate House Library. The London Review Bookshop gives the perfect excuse to browse non-academic texts whilst also enjoying some cake.

Skoob Books

Open: Monday - Saturday 10:30am - 8:00pm Sunday 10:30am - 6:00pm Location: 66 The Brunswick, WC1N 1AE

Skoob Books is described as a 'temple for used academic books' and rightly so, as it boasts a large variety of books that are incredibly cheap. With a further 10% discount for students, this second-hand bookshop is a bibliophile's



Images - Katie Campbell

FEATURES

GUIDE TO LONDON

world of London's independent bookshops

dream. The bookshop itself is a 2-minute walk from Russell Square station and is in a basement of a building. It has everything from a large collection of Penguin classics, to the Memoirs of Hillary Clinton and The Shakespeare Cookbook. Nestled amongst the shelves is a piano, and unsurprisingly the shelves surrounding it have books on music and various musicians. It is very easy to spend a couple of hours in this basement bookshop as chairs are scattered everywhere and we are welcome to sit and read. However, like all second-hand bookshops, Scoob Books may not always yield results and you may leave with very few to no books. Nevertheless, your patience could be rewarded as you could find yourself with a first edition for as little as £10. Therefore, this bookshop is definitely worth a visit.

Brompton Café & Bookshop

Open: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm Sunday: 9:00am - 9:00pm Location: The Crypt, Holy Trinity Brompton Road, SW7 1JA

The Brompton Café & Bookshop caught my attention for all the unusual reasons. Situated in the basement of the Holy Trinity Brompton Church, you take the staircase that leads to the Crypt. My morbid curiosity led me to do some further research on crypts and I was fascinated at how well they modernised a space, which historically held coffins and sacred items. The interior is spacious, well lit and welcoming despite it being beneath the church. Furthermore, whilst it prides itself on being a café and bookshop, it is more a café and social space. The 'book' aspect comes from the religious and spiritual texts that are available on relationships etc. However, they have done a brilliant job in making the brick chamber as inviting as possible. For example the comfy armchairs, desks and music that filters through the rooms provides

“It has everything from a large collection of Penguin classics, to the Memoirs of Hillary Clinton and The Shakespeare Cookbook.”

the perfect environment for students to study in. Moreover the relaxed atmosphere and the fairly priced coffee gives people a great space for group meetings and discussions. The only downsides to the Brompton Café & Bookshop are the limited books and its odd opening times.

South Bank Centre's Book Market

Open: Friday - Saturday 12:00am - 8:00pm Sunday 12:00am - 6:00pm Location: A301 Waterloo Bridge, Lambeth, SE1 8XX

A book lover cannot travel to London without visiting the South Bank Book Market where there is a great view of the river and the city itself. Home to the winding coils of secondhand and vintage books, this fair is hidden under the Waterloo Bridge on Queen's Walk. Like most vintage shops, secondhand book fairs are difficult to navigate your way through. Patience and perseverance could lead you to "wasting" several hours at the same table

but there is no doubt that you will find numerous books that you will treasure. This option is so unique as open book fairs are uncommon, especially in London. For a city that prides itself on all different types of markets, the South Bank Book Market offers an alternative to those that sell food or trinkets. So, this market would be ideal for those who enjoy digging their way through plots and yellowing pages.

From my tour of London's bookshops and book fairs I can safely conclude that no space is the same. It is also clear that the bookshops I visited would appeal to a large variety of people. Whilst this guide calls to all book lovers, I have no doubt that most readers would thoroughly enjoy places like Word on the Water and the London Review Bookshop. The beauty of London is that it offers constant variety. Each place you visit will be distinctive for a thousand different reasons and for that I favourably recommend these places when beginning your own journey around the city.



Images - Katie Campbell

FEATURES

IS SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSIBLE FOR TRUMP AND BREXIT?

More than ever we can pick and choose what kind of news we access but that is leaving us dangerously blind to the political reality which surrounds us

SOPHIE MITCHELL



Image - Jason Howie/flickr

Once again, the human race has managed to stumble into a social, political and intellectual black hole.

As Hegel artfully stated, 'We learn from history, that we do not learn from history'. This has been proven most profoundly by the recent events of Brexit, and the American Presidential Election. Whilst a degree of political debate occurs in the streets, social media outlets have risen to be perhaps the most prominent and influential vessel for reflecting the political views of the general public.

We've all experienced it. You open up Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc, and are bombarded with a wave of opinions, rants, jokes, and memes. The sphere of social media is a bubble, a platform for ideas and emotions to collide and clash, bouncing off each other's momentum. Whilst this is constructive for connectivity and general exploration, social media can be problematic. It is volatile and turbulent, unexpected and unknowing. Social media has risen to encompass almost

all forms of communication: news outlets, letters, telephone calls, face-to-face conversation; all enveloped by Facebook and Twitter. From this, it becomes vital for social media and news outlets to be objective, fair and productive spaces. But this is not the case, and perhaps never will be.

Instead, social media has created a skewed impression of reality. In the case of the American Election, mainstream media almost exclusively endorsed Hillary Clinton as a preferable choice to be the next President. According to Media Lens, Clinton had the support of 57 of the United States' 100 most prominent newspapers. Worldwide, she had the backing of approximately 500 news outlets. Trump, on the other hand, had the support of a mere 26.

One absorbed in the bubble of social media would think it absurd, unjustified and borderline impossible for a raging racist billionaire like Trump to win the election. I know I did. But nevertheless, it did happen. Although it seems like it, this result wasn't a cruel

act of the Gods, a sick joke, or a stunt for mind-numbing reality TV. Instead, the election of Trump is the mirroring of an exhausted, confused and desperate society, turning to a powerful figure for guidance. The prevalence of support for Hillary on social media appears in complete antithesis with the reality of how the election panned out; suggesting a clear disconnect between the perceived political system of America, and the people it represents.

A similar situation can be seen with Brexit. Mainstream media outlets advocated for staying in the European Union, highlighting the logical benefits of social connectivity, political prosperity and economic growth. Once again, a disenfranchised, dissatisfied society chose to ignore the sway of the media, and carve their own path of independence. When examining the trail of events that caused Brexit, it is essential to note the role of Facebook in particular. It is known that Facebook uses an algorithm to assess what your interests are, in order to present you with tailored

adverts, and to suggest items on your newsfeed that are sympathetic and subjective to you. This, as Forbes magazine claims, is 'Spoon-feeding us information that reinforces our existing opinions, damaging our ability as humans to think rationally, and to consider an opposing point of view'. This perspective is interesting to consider, as it may indeed be more productive for our society if social media allowed for logical debate, discussion, and an accurate representation of what society is really thinking.

What can be concluded from all this? The apparent disconnect between the views expressed by both corporate and social media outlets, and the real views of the public. It is unclear how this separation has occurred, with factors of social fluctuation, religion, economic status, and many more coming into play. Nobody can say for sure how the mainstream media failed to foresee, or predict the election of Donald Trump,

and similarly the outcome of Brexit. But what it clear, is that the opinions of the public were not aptly reflected through the majority of news outlets. Media has tried to persuade the public to take the logical options: Americans voting for Clinton, and UK members voting to remain in the EU. Yet, the public have not listened, and have actively rebelled against corporate journalism. This disconnect between the public and the multi-faceted media needs to be remedied, so the world can at least attempt rationality.

Thus, it seems we have been cast into a deep, dark hole, from which memes can no longer save us. They have been a prominent coping mechanism of the younger generation, but memes cannot cure the world of eternal ignorance. We now must rely on mutual spirit, activity, education and determination to evoke change, and ensure everyone's voices are heard.

“Worldwide, [Hillary Clinton] had the backing of approximately 500 news outlets. Trump, on the other hand, had the support of a mere 26.”

COMMENT

THE GREAT DEBATE

WHY TRUMP WON THE PRESIDENTIAL

THE ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT VOTE

A disenfranchised electorate did not vote for Trump, they voted for change

FARHEEN AKHTER

Donald Trump's election has rightly shocked many across the world. Now that he will officially be the 45th President of the United States, it's time to stop treating him like a joke and examine how and why America has come to this point.

There is no doubt over what comes to mind when we think of Trump - racism, sexism and bigotry. They played a major role in his quest to be president. That rhetoric, however, may not be what swayed voters to Trump's side.

The fact that Trump won Ohio and Iowa, states that had previously been won by Obama during both his campaigns,

suggests racism wasn't the most significant determinant for voters.

An ABC News exit poll found that the most significant quality a person looks for in a presidential candidate (38 per cent of those polled) was someone who can 'bring about needed change'. And Trump is certainly a departure from the norm. When Trump said America was broken, and blamed immigrants and Muslims, people took notice of him. This thirst for a break from the neoliberal policies which have impoverished millions of Americans has driven the rise of the Right, and paved the way for Trump's victory. Much like Brexit, the election of Trump as president has revealed the strength

of the anti-establishment rhetoric.

The existence of this rhetoric is so strong that people are willing to overlook the disgustingly vulgar propositions and opinions put forward by Trump regarding immigration, Muslims, women, etc. In a series of exit polls around 20 per cent of people who said they voted for Trump also said they did not like him. But to them, he represented change. A break from a system that has been failing them. A vote for Trump was almost a form of protest, an attempt to let the people on top know that their rule had a deadline, and that deadline was fast approaching.

It is perfectly possible that if Bernie Sanders had stood as the Democratic candidate that he would have beaten Trump, simply because Sanders also invoked cries for change. Sanders, who ran in the primaries as a 'democratic socialist' and called for a political revolution, could have offered the change the public have yearned for. This is a massive part of the reason why Clinton lost, not solely because of the personal hatred she invoked; rather, because she represented a system that

people so desperately wanted a break from.

In all fairness this isn't a rejection of the claim that Trump won because people resented Clinton, that did play a part in it. Trump won because people resented what Hillary represents - a system that has made tens of millions of people bitter, angry and frightened. Decades of widespread inequality, falling living standards and unending wars abroad have given birth to the age of Trump.



Image - Halima Begum

THE ANTI-HILLARY VOTE

ALISON SIDGWICK & ANNA MCKIBBIN

Remember, remember the 8th of November, the night many of us stayed up to watch the US election result roll in live and got a nasty surprise. So why did 61.2 million Americans vote for the most hated man in the media, and are they really that horrendous?

Two Trump voters, who wish to remain anonymous and will be referred to as Voter A and Voter B, reached out to share their thoughts. Both expressed their intense distrust of the media's portrayal of Donald Trump. Voter A claimed, 'the media in the US is grossly slanted towards the left, or the liberals,' while the other said she 'chose to focus more on the debates' rather than

other outlets. Indeed, with an average 84 million viewers watching the debates, it was undoubtedly a turning point for the undecided American voters. While political correspondents generally agree that Clinton won the first debate, the following two produced a less clear victor.

There seems to be two sides of the Trump voter spectrum. On one side are the engaged and rational, and the other consists of the controversial, and often offensive. Social media plays a powerful role in uniting such supporters. One popular Facebook page called 'Nation in Distress', that has almost 2 million likes, takes joy in the Republican

The public wariness of Hilary Clinton and her political past overshadowed Trump's abhorrent policies

Party's upcoming control of the Senate, the House of Representatives and the White House.

In Virginia, Asra Nomani, a single mother and immigrant, also voted for Trump. Although she identifies with the Democrats on many social issues, she cites what she sees as the failure of Obamacare and the refusal of the Democratic Party to use the term 'radical Islamism' when discussing terrorism as reasons to vote for the Republican Party. Another one of her reasons, that she saw as hugely significant, was her distrust of Hillary Clinton. Crystal Meyers also voted for Trump out of hatred for his opponent. Fiercely anti-abortion, she dubs Clinton a

'baby killer' and is not alone in turning to Trump as the alternative option.

Indeed, even Voter A and Voter B had such attitudes, both agreeing that he was a far superior choice to the 'crooked, power-hungry and evil' Hillary Clinton. Voter B said he felt afraid of the prospect of the Executive branch under control of Clinton, with Voter A arguing that had it been any other American, 'they would be in jail or hiding in another country like [Edward] Snowden.'

It is almost as though asking someone why they support Trump is really asking them why they hate Clinton. There

is a distinct and noticeable lack of enthusiasm for Trump's (few) actual policies, and any such support is vastly overshadowed by the intensity of dislike towards Clinton.

There seems to be varying reasons why Americans voted Trump, but one thing nearly all these citizens had in common was hostility towards the Democratic nominee. Ultimately, the more the Left feels it's appropriate to hurl generalisations and labels at right wing voters, the more likely these citizens will retaliate in the voting booths. If there's one lesson to be learned from November 8th, in 2016 love failed to trump hate.

COMMENT

THE CORBYN ENIGMA

A man of the people but not of parliament, Alexander Karensky explores the confusing popularity of the Labour leader

ALEXANDER KARENSKY

Jeremy Corbyn has been recently re-elected as Labour leader, much to no-one's surprise. On the surface, it is easy to understand his popularity among some of the Labour electorate; a pariah of left wing politics, he has attracted wide-spread support among those on the brighter side of 30 - so-called Corbynistas. His popularity among his parliamentary colleagues, however, is pretty low, signalling an opening rift between those who voted him to party leadership and those who form that party in the Commons.

A seemingly genuine and principled character, politicians like Corbyn are hard to come by in Westminster. Living in a small terraced house in North London,

collecting manhole covers and neglecting overgrown vegetation obstructing his doorway, he certainly appears to be a character (even if a little odd) more in tune with the majority of working Britain, than other big names in government. Corbyn's history is a constructed image of a British Che Guevara, with it being easy to find pictures of him protesting similar ideas in his younger years, as he does now. This all stands in good stead in appealing to working-class voters both young and old.

His stubbornness may be the undoing of the party. He refuses to step down, despite, as many people would agree, it being the best course of action for the party. He won't resign under popular opposition

because he feels it would be betraying his voters. In an increasingly right-wing world he is a flagship for socialism, attempting to return Labour to the left. By not uniting his party he is fundamentally failing the British political system by not providing a strong opposition to the ruling party. This arguably, in a period of so-called "valence politics" (meaning parties finding most support in their pragmatic appeal) makes for his dire professional support. A party ruling unopposed can potentially be very dangerous, wherever they reside on the political spectrum.

Corbyn embodies a figure of resistance by characterising himself as the voice of ordinary working people. He therefore may owe as much

to a largely youthful dislike of the current centre-right climate, as he does to his own agency. This can explain this popularity enigma. He is undoubtedly a controversial figure, many believe in the changes he intends to bring to the political order, while many are passionately opposed. Fundamentally however, many may acknowledge his policies and support them, but do not believe in his ability to implement them - this leads to lack of parliamentary support which is crucial in doing anything in government. Whatever you argue, an idea means really very little if it cannot translate into a de facto change.

Leaving me only to say he's probably just come at the wrong time. He's got his diary

dates mixed up or something. He seems like the kind of guy to still have one.



Image - PaulNUK/flickr

FINDING A CULTURAL IDENTITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

In an increasing globalised world, Danial Naqvi investigates the impact of multicultural world

DANIAL NAQVI

Culture is what once gave countries their flavour, that exciting spark which foreigners envied and desired. Whether that be the language, music or the food, countries used to exist individually and separate from each other. But do these cultures actually exist singularly in today's society?

Globalisation is a beautifully evil phenomenon; it has advanced our globe in a matter of decades, much to the surprise of everyone who has lived through the change. However, as the Occidental Transnational Corporations (TNCs) seep into the oriental sphere, with processes such as McDonaldisation, the West has tempted Eastern economic migrants to shift their lives to the 'promise lands'.

In many cases, the affluent and prosperous generations have concluded life in these Western countries would better suit them and allow them to live comfortably and with little worry.

So what's wrong with that? The TNCs have supposedly helped these people move to a more prosperous and opportunity-filled land.

There is just one small caveat - these migrants bring culture with them, all the traditions and all the values don't leave them. Culture crosses borders and fuses with others creating new and unique identities. Integration and immersion of differing cultures is often a task fraught with contention and danger, which can make migrants feel afraid. This fear and uneasiness can make it difficult for the marginalised to openly show their culture, ultimately leading to resentment and a want to reverse the past. This is one outcome, that cultures disappear and to integrate, one must engage in new cultures and forget about their own. However, there is a less sinister alternative where culture thrives separately but also collectively, to highlight the importance of singularity.

London is the capital of the United Kingdom and the home of our university. Just like our QMUL family, the capital is culturally diverse. Co-existing for the same purpose, to prove that British culture has become a conglomeration of identities. Migrants from all across the globe have settled here. From Kenya to Ukraine, Thailand to Brazil. When is the last time you had a takeaway, recently right? Was it pie and mash? Or was it Chinese, a pizza or a curry? British culture has adapted to the migrant's values and traditions. Something which has happened to many Western cities.

So... yes, to an extent, these cultural differences exist separately, and if you go to enclaves you will find more traditional practices of the East. But, ultimately you can see the change in two lights; one highlights that Western culture is active and the other is that culture doesn't exist separately and exists as a vacuumed, singular entity which we call society today.



Image - Sandra Ylikkangas/ flickr

COMMENT

WHY QUEEN MARY SHOULD LEAVE THE NUS

The role of the NUS is to represent and better the interests of students – instead it has been ripping us all off!

QM FRESH START

NUS membership will likely cost our Student Union over £50,000 this year, next year, every year. In return, we receive only a few petty discounts, but we get ripped off with unaffordable fees, rent and loans. Without this large financial burden our Student Union could invest this money more wisely into our societies, sports teams and vital support services. In conversation with many different groups on campus, money is often a concern and funding can be difficult. An extra £50,000 would go some way to alleviating these pressures.

Much of the NUS is shamefully ineffective. NUS leaders rarely work with politicians, instead often resorting to squabbles on social media. The NUS needs to be able to work with politicians of all colours, leaving behind dogmatic views in favour of compromise, it's the only way to bring about real change. Students have been downtrodden in recent years;

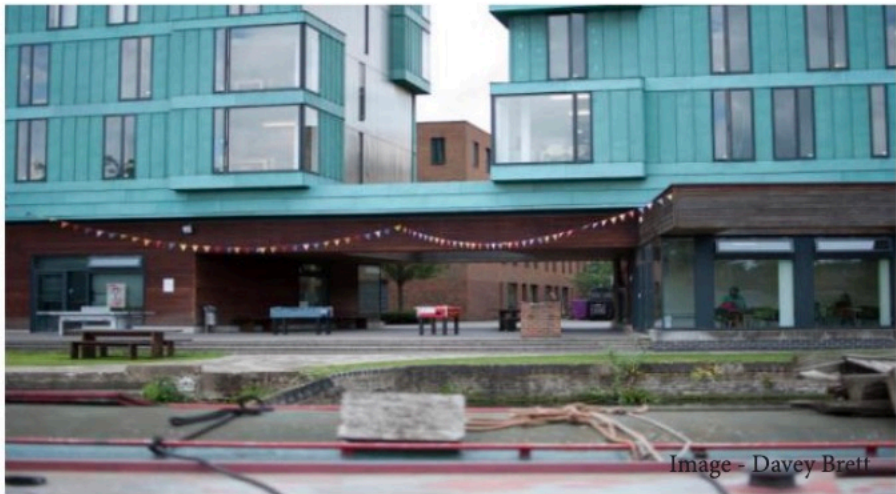


Image - Davey Brett

the hefty NUS team has had little success in influencing important elections and referendums. The NUS claims to represent millions of students nationwide, and yet it has failed time and time again to influence national politics. Just look at the Brexit debate, the tripling of tuition fees and previous elections. With the large resources and size of the

NUS it should have no trouble mobilizing and campaigning to ensure the student voice is heard loud and clear.

The NUS faces a crisis of legitimacy. Leading figures have been accused of making highly inflammatory comments, and even of 'outright racism' by an all-party parliamentary report.

Students did not elect the individuals espousing these views and they are not what student's want or need. The public face of students must be better than this. Unfortunately, the NUS is increasingly run as a clique, with little care for students across the UK. There is little democracy when picking the top job and many prefer

quarrelling, censoring and banning rather than achieving meaningful change.

Worryingly, all attempts for major reform have quickly ground to a halt. It would appear that the NUS is satisfied with the status quo, happy to be expensive, ineffective and illegitimate. We think otherwise!

More than a dozen universities have decided to leave the NUS. The University of Southampton, Imperial College and Newcastle University are among the Russell Group universities who have decided to leave the NUS with success. Ask yourself, would you want to join an expensive, ineffective and undemocratic organisation like the NUS?

If you'd like to get involved in our campaign or have any questions, get in touch on Facebook at Fresh Start QM

WHY I CHOSE TO WEAR A POPPY THIS YEAR

Lest we forget the true significance of the poppy

My history teacher once remarked that the only movie scene which depicts war in its truest sense is the Omaha beach scene in Saving Private Ryan. Thinking back to it with the added lenses of a history student, he could not have been more right. But the war was more than just blood and men screaming their last words. In the First World War, thousands of boys were sent to their slaughter by a government who saw them as expendable largely because they were poor and under-educated. Thousands of families took the king's shilling because of the lack of an alternative, or in many scenarios because their employers bullied and pressured them into enlisting. After the war the families and

“Perhaps what’s even more horrifying is the fact that this pacifistic symbol is being subverted to make militarism an acceptable and even respectable, political option.”

the few that returned were still very much entrenched in their sorrows and shortly after, the poppy was adopted as a symbol of remembrance. The poppy epitomised regret and a deep mourning, a reminder to all generations that war must never happen again.

The British poppy, however, has been a failure. Those who first wore the poppy, yes the red poppy not the white one, carried it as a declaration that was should never happen again. But today the poppy and the remembrance traditions are being used to sanctify wars across the globe. Perhaps what's even more horrifying is the fact that this pacifistic symbol is being subverted to make militarism an acceptable and even respectable political option. The poppy amongst other symbols is being used to justify our stupidity in Iraq, our amoral, and in all respects dubious, War on Terror as well as the breach of individual privacy. As a result, those in opposition to the government have shunned the poppy, from

the vile burning of the poppy by extremists to the complete divorce of the poppy by the Left.

Yet the message of what the poppy really stands for has not been buried completely by the lies of our politicians. The poppy is marked for its ability to flourish in soil churned up by war and shelling. True to its nature, amidst the false portrayals and erroneous glorification, the true notion of the poppy is once again flourishing. We cannot allow the poppy to be tarnished by the hand of the chauvinistic extreme right, nor be appropriated by fraudulent jingoistic MPs who wear poppies whilst cheering as the government passes bills to allow the bombing of Syria.

Our refocus should be in line with the first wearers of the poppy, a solemn national reminder of the horrors of war, and the reminiscence, and indeed appreciation, towards those who have died.

Hence why I wore a poppy this year, because the poppy must be reinstated as a sign of hope that there will be no more wars. It must be retrieved by us, the progressive side of society, to make sure that the memory of the young working class men who were lost in this horrific war is not tarnished and abused by the faction of people who drove them to their slaughter in the first place.

COLUMN

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

Fresher's Guide to London - From a Northerner

The only article you'll ever need as you cross the divide and venture down south

KERRY MAXWELL

Being a fresher is a struggle for anyone. It's been three months now, and we're still getting our heads around how toilet roll doesn't magically appear when required and why food use-by dates are an actual thing. But for my fellow northern freshers, I must extend my deepest congratulations. We have broken that divide: we proudly stepped out of our stereotypically honest gravy-loving, chattier, Thatcher-hating comfort zone and have embarked upon a journey to distant lands with a reliable public transportation system and a more tropical climate – did it rain at all here in October?

Here are four things you have already/will experience in your time 'daaawn saarrrrfff'...

The big question: "Whereabouts are you from?"

In the same way that anything south of Junction 15 on the M6 is a mystery for any northerner, a southerner's geographical knowledge of The North can be quite limited. You can say you're from a small town – like Leigh. When the brow furrows and the mouth drops slightly, then you reply with a less specific region or borough,

like Wigan. And finally, when the eyebrows raise, the lips purse with embarrassment and the shoulders shrug with an "I-don't-know-nor-do-I-really-care" attitude, you sigh and awkwardly reply with "near Manchester." Learn to expect that London is the centre of the universe, and familiarise yourself with the exasperation you will experience when people claim anything north of London is The North.

Accent and dialect

You thought your accent was barely noticeable, but to your flat mates, you're essentially the lovechild of Peter Kay and Liam Gallagher. Immediately, you become aware of the accent you didn't know you had through the constant scrutinising of the pronunciation of vowels – just to clarify, it is "bath" not

"barth."

Delicacies

It is a bold but true statement: food has evidently bridged the North-South gap. Warburton's bread originated in Bolton, but now provides many a Chip Barm throughout the country and mops up that smooth gravy excess smeared across Nan's best Sunday china. And when the nasty hangover/hunger pangs strike, never fear, for Gregg's

pasties are always here.

The pride you have for your hometown

"What did tha just say about Manchester?" You will undoubtedly become fiercely protective whenever anyone is anything short of complimentary about home. London may offer all the history and culture your heart may desire, it may be home to the coolest of bars and restaurants, place of palaces and parliament. Yet, still your heart beats for your small-town local where a 3-course meal on a Sunday costs £7.99, and you know that you will always have the "best night ever" in your local nightclub.

Home may be where the heart is, however, right now you're in London. London: a world centre in art, culture, finance and history. A world of opportunity is waiting, so forget wasting time moping about home. Home will always be there, but you're only a fresher once...or twice, or three times, depending on how much you miss Drapers' events come September. Now is the time to grow and embrace everything this fantastic city offers, starting with your degree and finishing...who knows where? Who knows what lies ahead and what is to come? Think of London like Blackpool rock: it's impossible to fully chew through and complete, but it's addictive taste means you will always want more.

Image - barnyz/flickr



do something
PRINTeresting.



read something
PRINTeresting.



write something
PRINTeresting.

SCIENCE AND TECH

ELECTRODES:

A POTENTIAL CURE FOR PARALYSIS

Implants and robotics can now mimic senses

DIVESH PRITHVIRAJ

The feeling of touch is remarkable. It allows us to sense danger as well as communicate with other human beings on a more complex level, distinguishing us from many other creatures. Yet, most of us take this ability for granted as we have always had it since we were born.

For some individuals though, this is not always the case, such as Nathan Copeland, a 28-year-old American man, who lost this ability at the age of 18 when a car crash damaged his neck and spinal cord. For 10 years he could not feel anything and could only dream of a

possibility of having his sense of touch restored. Through the use of micro-electrodes scientists were able to make a breakthrough and return the feeling of touch to him.

How was touch restored in a paralysed person?

Scientists first identified the parts of the brain associated with touch in the hands, namely the primary somatosensory cortex (touch sensing areas) located in the parietal lobe of the brain. Two electrodes were implanted in this region of the brain and two additional ones were placed in the motor cortex controlling the movement

of the prosthetic hands. The wires from these electrodes were then connected to a computer and a robotic arm.

Stimulation of the somatosensory cortex allowed Copeland to experience the sensation of touch once again as he was able to sense pressure being applied to the fingers on the robotic arm and identify which fingers specifically were being touched. However, limitations presented themselves as Nathan only experienced a basic feeling of touch; he could not feel more complex sensations, such as temperature or pain. The brain regions corresponding to these areas are harder to access according to scientists. The brain is a complex network of different neural circuits. It is therefore very difficult to create artificial nerves that connect the different sensory inputs (pain, touch, temperature) to the appropriate neural circuit. This poses physical barriers to what we can achieve through this technique. Development of flexible electrodes are being looked into in an attempt to further the sensations delivered.

Potential risks associated with treatment:

The possibility that the electrode implants may stop working after they have been placed in a person is only a minor danger in relation to the complexity of this procedure. There is a high chance that during the surgery itself the micro-electrodes could puncture a blood vessel. Bleeding in the brain may lead to the development of stroke-like symptoms, such as visual impairment and numbness.

Alternatively, psychological conditions may also be exhibited if the surgery

interferes with cognitive circuits, for instance depression. Introducing a foreign object into the human body can increase the risk of an infection. This is an even greater concern as individuals who have a greater inability to experience touch-like sensations will require more electrodes, increasing the risk of infections, such as meningitis and could result in death.

What does this mean for the future?

The use of electrodes to act as an interface through which sensory information can be transmitted and relayed to other parts of the body paves the way for a realm of alternative possibilities to treating disability. These artificial nerves could potentially cure paralysis and be used to give a sense of touch with prosthetic limbs.

Scientists can further refine this state of the art science to

"For 10 years Nathan Copeland could not feel anything and could only dream of a possibility of having his sense of touch restored."

overcome the limitations and produce the most effective and safe solution for complicated disabilities. However, this should naturally be treated with caution as complications can occur during the surgical procedure as well as after once the electrodes have been implanted. But aside from this, trying to replicate the inner workings of the human body still remains the biggest issue as the signals circulating throughout the sensory and motor pathways are incredibly complex.

Thinking of writing for Science and Tech? Email scienceandtech@theprintnews.co.uk with your ideas.

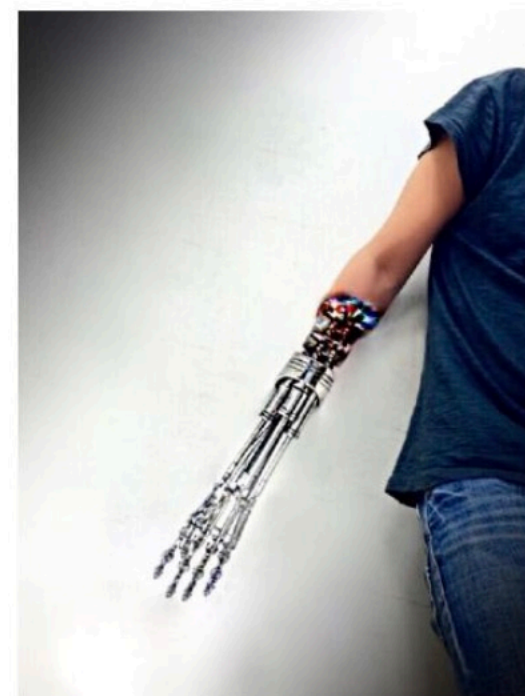


Image - Ken/flickr

SCIENCE AND TECH

WHAT'S THE BUZZ AT QM?

Bees are smarter than you think

SIMON MUNRO

Scientists at Queen Mary have made a ground breaking discovery investigating the behaviour of bees. Despite having a brain 5000 times smaller than humans, a study recently published in PLOS, links human learning with insects closer than ever. They have found bees having the ability to use tools to access food, and then being able to spread the learning across the colony. This is the first case of it being found in invertebrates.

How did they do it?

Pulling strings to access an award has been used in many previous studies to test the intelligence of animals. The team, led by Dr Sylvain Alem, used bright blue discs with a sugary reward in the centre as a comparison to flowers. These were placed underneath a small transparent table. In the first group, 24 of 40 bees were able to be trained to pull on the string. This was

achieved by progressively moving the flower and string at different places in the table. These bees were then labelled so they could be identified. Using a group of 110 bees, the team investigated whether naïve bees (ones that had not seen how to use the string) would be able to access the sugar by pulling the string. Of the 110, 2 bees were able to solve the problem spontaneously. This indicates that without training finding a means to tackle a challenge is difficult and rare in occurrence. Naïve bees were then allowed to observe the trained labelled bees pulling the string at a distance. Of the new set of naïve bees, 60% of them showed the ability to access the sugar by pulling on the string. The new skill was not based on insight but rather a series of trial and error attempts. This was seen with the naïve bees stopped pulling the flower if they could see no movement. The lack of this instant visual feedback was caused by the uncoiling of the string.

Could all bees do this?

Once naïve bees had seen a previous generation of bees successfully access the sugar, they gained the knowledge of how to pull on the string. The originally trained 24 bees mentioned earlier were then removed from the population and a new set of naïve bees added. These bees learned to pull on the string as the previous naïve bees had now become demonstrators.

The results suggest that the spread of a non-natural task can be learned through entire colonies of bees and without the initial trained bee after the skill has been passed onto another.

What is the significance of this?

It was previously thought that the use of mechanisms were set to complex vertebrates such as humans and apes. However, the study suggests that as long as an organism



Image - Wilson/flickr

has a basic toolkit of learning processes, such as instant visual feedback, they are capable of spreading processes within large populations. Professor Lars Chittka, project supervisor for the research explained "we find that often, exceedingly difficult tasks can be solved with extremely

simple neural circuits." This creates questions about the evolutionary origins of this complex behaviour, suggesting that these skills may have been developed from an early ancestor and that the bees were not just winging it.

QUEEN MARY TECH TEAM TRIUMPHS

ADNAN SALEHIN



Image - Reply U/ Facebook (From left to right) Adnan Salehin, Ayush Verma, Aniruddha Ray and Giorgi Karkashadze.

On the 4th November QMUL students took part in Reply's Student Technology Clash.

Reply asked students to come up with innovative ideas to take advantage of the ever-growing Virtual Reality (VR) platform (augmented reality/mixed reality solutions were also accepted). The competition was massive, with universities taking part from Italy and Germany.

Our team of 4, Ayush Verma, Aniruddha Ray, Giorgi Karkashadze and myself chose the topic to work with - VR in Education and I was in love with the idea. It was achievable, executable, revolutionary in terms of changing the way we learn and extremely useful. After a lot of brainstorming and note taking, we started to work on our presentation.

We did not have much time to work on the

presentation so we started working simultaneously on PowerPoint Online as a means of collaborating together, effectively making the process a lot faster. This was one of the key reasons why we were able to produce a more detailed presentation than many others - we were able to work together as a team. Our heads were full of ideas when we were talking to each other and we were able to effectively present our ideas through the presentation, and in the end our teamwork paid off.

Some of our extraordinary ideas are bringing historical events to life using VR (as you may have seen in the Assassin's Creed games), arranging tours for students to dangerous places like volcanoes or rainforests using VR, using augmented reality (AR) to conduct dangerous scientific experiments e.g. experimenting with

explosives, and many more. The main idea was to use VR & AR in education to achieve things that are not possible due to health and safety regulations. Our aim was to use virtual reality in an interactive and fun experience while being more informative at the same time.

We were ecstatic when we were announced as the winners between all the QMUL teams! We were declared as the winners of the entire European competition as well as "The Best European Case Study". Despite fierce competition amongst the large number of students competing across European Universities our team emerged victorious, winning a HTC Vive VR headset courtesy of the competition's sponsor Reply as a reward.

Adnan Salehin reports from The Student Technology Clash

SCIENCE AND TECH

MICROCHIMERISM AND THE END OF THE INDIVIDUAL

How foreign cells live inside each of us

MATYAS BUBNA-LITIC

Until now you may have been unaware, but you are actually partly made up of other people's cells. It has been shown that cells that have a different genetic makeup happily live inside of us all.

This does not just refer to the trillions of bacteria residing in the gut or living on the skin, but also cells of a different human being incorporated in various tissues. This is caused by a process called microchimerism

What is microchimerism?

Microchimerism is the co-existence of cells of different genetic composition inside the body and it happens before we are born. Imagine the early stages of our lives, the embryo is developing and stem cells divide and differentiate to form a human being. It was found

that some of the stem cell that form the foetus migrate into the mother. Likewise, some maternal cells are transferred into the developing foetus. This means that all of us had exchanged cells with our mothers. Strangely enough cells are also exchanged between twins and in blood transfers (if the recipient is immunocompromised). In some cases, twins can have more than 10% of their blood cells from their sibling. Transfer from a vanished twin (one that has failed to develop) also takes place and if you have an older sibling, you may also have received their cells via your common mother.

Microchimerism is not just a quirky isolated phenomenon. This has implications on our lives. Research has shown that as much as 85% of mothers have foetal stem cells

present in their bloodstream. In mice, these microchimeric cells seemed to repair and help maintain tissues of the mother and this is likely happening in humans as well. It may be one of the reasons why women generally live longer than men - faulty cells could be replaced by new and healthy foetal stem cells. Furthermore, this effects our ability to perform certain genetic experiments as the mother's cells can be mistaken for foetal cells. This becomes even more complicated with chimerism.

What is chimerism?

Although not as common as microchimerism it does happen. Chimerism is when two early embryos fuse and create an individual who is then composed of two genetically different cell lineages. I.e. two non-identical twins fuse

into one. This means that the two cells that fuse are not genetically identical, coming from 2 different egg cells and sperm.

This can complicate genetic identity of chimeric individuals. Depending on how different the two twin embryos were. There have been several famous cases relating to chimerism. For instance, when Lydia Fairchild ended up in a legal battle over children that she probably gave birth to. DNA analysis of parentage is considered foolproof and it is very precise. The problem was the investigators didn't anticipate Fairchild's chimerism which manifested itself in the fact that her egg cells were in fact those of her would-be sister. It is an extraordinary event, but it exists and the failure to recognise that almost led to a

family tragedy.

Are we individuals?

At this point it is time to question the concept of the individual. We are a mixture of biological material; at tissue level, we see chimerism. At the cellular, we see microchimerism. On the molecular scale of genes, we seem to contain DNA from viruses and bacteria. We have as many as 145 genes that we incorporated to our genome that come from other organisms.

Observations from recent times show us that a simple individualistic approach does not illustrate how intricate and complex biology is, and how the concept of an individual is more complex than we ever imagined.

SEA CUCUMBERS INFORM ADVANCES IN COSMETICS AND MEDICINE

SYED MOHAMMED SHUAIB

Conjuring up an image of the vast web of aquatic life, one's mind does not immediately turn to the humble sea cucumber.

What makes this little marine animal so interesting (apart from its impressive phallic appearance), is that it has the ability to rapidly change the flaccidity of its body.

Collagen, the compound that allows for this rests in the mutable collagenous tissue (MCT) on the outer portion of the body. As the collagen fibres are very strong, it is the changes in cross-linking and uncross-linking in the matrix between the individual ones that is changed to achieve mutability. Under neural control of ion movement

and concentrations, a sea cucumber can rapidly change its body shape from that of a rigid tube to a jelly-like pool, allowing it to evade predators and get out of tricky spots. It has also been demonstrated that flexibility in body shape plays a role in reproduction, movement and defence.

Lead author Dr Himadri Gupta of the Institute of Bioengineering said: "The sea cucumber's MCT may serve as a template for bio-inspired materials, which can mimic its remarkable properties. These could be useful in flexible scaffolds for tissue engineering, cosmetic treatments against skin ageing, implantable biosensors, and materials for soft robotics."

The research was carried out on samples of sea cucumber at the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, where micro-tensile lasers fired X-rays at the substances, and the diffraction patterns analysed to detect changes in the fibril structure of the MCT, while testing was done on the tensile strengths of the MCT.

Professor Maurice Elphick, from the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, said: "Sea cucumbers are amazingly flexible and this study shows that their ability to shape-shift is not a result of any changes within the collagen fibrils themselves, but in the interfibrillar scaffold that cross-links with them."

It is hoped that this new

Salads will never be the same again, as QMUL scientists discover how sea cucumbers change the rigidity of their bodies



research can inform advances in cosmetics and medicine, especially in the fields of plastic and reconstructive surgery, where biomaterials that have the properties of flexibility are hugely sought after.

Image - Jerry Kirkhart/flickr

SCIENCE AND TECH

CAN HUMANS REALLY LIVE ON MARS?

Elon Musk turns his ambitions to the red planet

ALEX RICHARDSON

Elon Musk, the real life Tony Stark that has brought us self-driving electric cars and the futuristic Hyperloop transport concept; has big plans to save the human race from extinction.

Back in late September Musk unveiled his plans for the Interplanetary Transport System, a massive fully reusable rocket designed to transport hundreds of people to Mars with the intention of setting up an entire city on the Martian surface.

What's the big fuss?

Although this idea has been talked about for the last decade, the biggest shock of the presentation was how Musk believed that we could have our first settlers on the surface of Mars by 2025, with more

colonists launching every 26 months as Earth and Mars align correctly. Musk also kept stressing that anybody was able to take the trip to Mars, no matter their profession, age or race; as long as they could cough up \$200,000 for the ticket.

The trip would take around 3 months to get to Mars before finally landing on the red planet. On Mars replacement fuel would be extracted from the rock, allowing the ship to return back to Earth, while the passengers would use building supplies sent ahead of them to start building a settlement on the Martian surface.

The Problems

This sounds great in theory, however there are many problems that Musk did not men-

tion in his presentation which will have to be dealt with before such an ambitious mission can begin.

Planetary protection is a concept developed in the 1970s that everything that humans send to other planets should be sterilised from bacteria, spores and the like with the intention of preventing other planets from being infected with life from Earth, potentially destroying any ecosystem they may have. NASA has been following this diligently since its inception, with missions such as the Curiosity rover having millions of dollars spent on clean rooms and sterilisation.

If we send hundreds of people to Mars, this entire concept will be ignored or broken. It is impossible to prevent such

contamination as bacteria are vital for our physical well-being. Bacteria live in our gut and skin, protecting us from more harmful pathogens. This means simply touching a spacesuit could deliver millions of bacteria onto the surface of the planet. We as a species therefore need to decide whether we wish to continue following the planetary protection concept or ignore it and accept the risks in an attempt to make progress.

What happens when we get there?

There are many more practical problems, such as how we would generate breathable air and be protected from the UV rays from the sun, as well as health concerns associated with differences of gravity on Mars. Unfortunately Musk

doesn't seem to have a strong vision of what needs to be achieved before mass colonisation. The billionaire's view was that it was his job simply to get humans to Mars and not to create some existing infrastructure prior to lift off.

The first few missions are likely to be dangerous, possibly ending in failure, so much that Musk has admitted that he has not considered taking the trip himself. Although there is still much more planning to be done and the small \$200,000 fee, colonising the red planet is not a million miles away!

Have you got an idea for a science and tech article? Don't forget to join 'The Print Contributors Group (2K16/17)' on Facebook.

QUANTUM COMPUTERS

The next step in computational powers

ADNAN SALEHIN

Computers keep getting faster with each passing year but our hunger for speed is insatiable. We have come a long way: from computers that take up all the space in a building to smartphones, and now smart watches.

As a matter of fact, today's smartphones can perform more operations per second than the computers that landed Neil Armstrong on the moon.

So, what's the next big thing?

The answer is most definitely Quantum Computers. A quantum computer is one which uses quantum mechanics to their advantage to perform calculations.

How are they different from traditional computers?

They use qubits (quantum bits) as opposed to the usual binary bits, to process information. Qubits are different from binary bits because they have more than 2 possible states, whereas with binary bits it is always 0 or 1. This allows for computation with a lot of variables to be done extremely quickly. In some instances, quantum computers are capable of performing calculations which we would in fact never be able to do with classical computers.

Where do parallel universes fit into all of this?

Quantum computers take advantage of the quantum mechanical phenomenon of a particle having multiple possible states (known as quantum superposition). This disappears after the state is actual-

ly measured and it is seen to have actually one state after the measurement (either 0 or 1 like normal bits). The multi-verse theory suggests that the other possibilities that were there before measurement are actually outcomes in other universes. This means that quantum computers are actually tapping into the outcomes of other universes while performing calculations for us, as it needs to be in this undetermined state to perform operations.

What can you do in this newly emerging field?

Current students at QMUL who are pursuing a degree in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science or Engineering related subjects can certainly think about having a career in this field. You can be specialised on the topic, teaching

others about this technology as we embrace it fully in the coming decades. You can be an engineer who designs the quantum computers of the future or you can be a quantum computer programmer, someone who would write software that these amazing machines can run. There is a company in the UK that contributes in the quantum computing software sector already - Cambridge Quantum Computing Limited. This is a rapidly developing technology sector, with new job titles being created at an ever increasing rate and has the potential to revolutionize the way we use computers.

Where can you learn more?

If you are interested in learning more about quantum computers, attending seminars at QMUL is definitely the easiest way to get started.

Keep an eye out for the Theory Group research seminars to learn more about quantum computing. A variety of topics are covered in these seminars, have a look at their website for the title of the next discussion, which will tell you whether it is about quantum computers or something similar. The latest seminar was about "Quantum Coins - a provable advantage for quantum randomness processing" by Professor Terence Rudolph from Imperial College London.

Currently, there are a few quantum computers in operation. The computers were bought by NASA, Google and the University of Southern California. One day, quantum computers will possibly be as popular and in demand as our phones.

SATIRE

THE GUILLOTINE



SATIRE

A BREXIT BROMANCE

Nigel Farage edges uncomfortably close to the world’s most powerful leader

BEN SUTHERLAND



Image - Gage Skidmore/ flickr

In a time when Britain has broken up with the EU, and Trump is building a wall between America and its neighbour, Mexico, it's hard to see any comradeship in the two countries now more isolated than ever. However, there is a new relationship blossoming...

and no, I'm not talking about Joe Biden and Barack Obama. I'm referring to a love far more star crossed, and yet somehow more nauseating. It's Donald Trump and Nigel Farage. It seems that the dreams of Millennials have been crushed into a fine powder, which has worked as an aphrodisiac

for isolationists. Not only was Farage the first British politician to see Trump after his election victory, but he's moving Britain's old furniture back into the oval office in the form of Winston Churchill's bust. This is all while Theresa May at No. 10 was tenth to be called by the new President-elect, a day after the results were announced. The fact that she is so against using Farage as an intermediary only gives reason for them to redouble their affair. Two buffoons we love to hate, are still making a mockery of established politics well after the political earthquake has hit.

While half of the globe is up in arms about the radical change that the world has faced and is going to endure, can we not take the time to at least crack a smile when we see two grown men argue over who truly claims the title of Mr. Brexit? Or when we see

Farage giggle like a school child whenever anyone asks if he's going to become Trump's European advisor? Let's be honest, half of the world wants to see these two thrown to the wolves, so their friendship is probably more an instinct of survival. However, in all fairness, Nigel has been with him all the way through his

journey. He's given speeches at Trump rallies and dared to defend his 'locker room talk' when nobody should have. I admit, it hardly rivals the bromance of J.D. and Turk from Scrubs, but it certainly gives Nigel something to do other than play truant from European Parliament.



Image - Europe Realist Newsletter/ flickr

COOKING WITH KEITH VAZ

With his newly found free time, Keith Vaz offers up his culinary expertise to help the gastronomically challenged students of QM

ANNA SAVAGE

Keith my man, I'm really struggling. Been at uni almost three months studying chemistry and the most adventurous thing I've cooked was a chicken tikka masala ready meal that was three days past the use by date. My flatmate held an intervention because of the amount of baked bean cans in the recycling bin. So I need you to go full Ainsley Harriott and teach me how to make a meal out of some baking powder, pickles and a can of Budweiser.

Cheers pal,
Hector Blumenburg

Dear Hector, I was delighted to receive your letter in my daily correspondence. It's just been so much of the same recently. This Scottish bloke keeps going on about investigating his yard? I'm not 100% sure I'm pretty hi... hideously busy with government stuff. Faxes, am I right?

Anyway, let's return to the matter at hand which is getting you on the path to haute cuisine. Personally, I think you should make this meal a group affair. Really get other people involved. If your friends aren't up to job you could always hire some outside help. I have these two guys who really are just tops. Once I got them on

board they couldn't do enough for me. Always there to lend a helping hand.

So you've got your crew and you're ready to go. Head on over to the shops a pick up some supplies. Personally, I usually get a delivery but you do whatever suits you. So now you've got supplies you can start on that sweet sweet co... cooking.

Pop open all the jars you have. You're going to want to be popping like there is no tomorrow. It's important to keep this up for as long as you can to really keep the party, I mean prep, going.

Grab some veg - I'm very

concerned with public health - and start cutting them up. What veg you ask? Doesn't really matter. Just grab a knife, or a grater, or a credit card, whatever you have to hand, and start chopping. Cut them up really fine, too big and they may hurt your no... now clearly amazing dish.

So you've got some open jars and finely diced veg, perfect. Now it's time for the final stage. Take all those ingredients and just throw them all over the room. Break the cooker, throw the cutlery out the window. Turn that kitchen into a complete and utter mess.

Then your mates will come

in an appoint you head chef and chief health and safety officer. Sorted.

I hope I have helped with your little cooking conundrum. But let's talk a little more about you. So you're a chemistry undergrad huh? Really would love to chat to you about any side projects you might be working on, anything you might have in the popper line, ugh I mean in the pipeline. My email is thevazman@parliament.gov.



Image - CounselmanCollection/ flickr

SATIRE

A CHRISTMAS CAMERON

The Print presents a cheering Christmas fable for you to read with your loved ones this holiday

HARRIET CORKE

David Cameron's reputation was dead: he knew that. He'd made savage cuts, angered almost everyone, employed Jeremy Hunt. So I must reiterate, Cameron's reputation was as dead as a door-nail.

It was Christmas Eve, 2015. David was sitting in one of his houses reminiscing about how terrible this year had been. Everything from ISIS to the economy had given him sleepless nights. But there was no point worrying now. Time to enjoy some pork (his favourite) and have a relaxing Christmas.

And yet there was still something troubling him.

Something very strange had happened that evening. His peace had been interrupted by a ghostly figure emerging from the fireplace. David had wondered if it was just George Osborne trying to scare him again - but when it spoke,

he realised it was something much, much worse.

'Hi, David? It's Tony Blair.' He couldn't remember what was said exactly...something about the EU referendum? Warning him? All he could remember was that three people were going to visit him to try and show him "the error of his ways" - whatever that meant.

Drifting into sleep, David hoped it was just another Blair lie. But sure enough, at midnight, a voice announced 'David Cameron...I am the Spirit of Referendums Past'.

David was taken aback. 'Mrs Thatcher is that you?' he exclaimed.

'Yes, it is me. David I am here to warn you - referendums are always a bad idea, the people will hate you! You MUST listen to me David, for I am the country's most beloved Prime Minister!'

Oh, Margaret, thought David with a wry laugh. Your

optimism is admirable, but you're not very in touch with reality. He shut the door in the old lady's face, his mind not changed in the slightest.

An hour later, the second Spirit was announced. Luckily, this encounter didn't last long. Its name was Boris so, as you can imagine, David was soon asleep.

He only awoke when the third Spirit tapped him on the shoulder. It was a severe looking woman in a beige trouser suit. Dear Angela Merkel, how glad he was to see her! But soon things took a turn...what was this wasteland she was guiding him round? What was a "Brexit" and why did the UK have one? Why were all those world leaders snubbing him - wait, what did they mean ex-Prime Minister?! And what on earth was that orangey figure doing in the White House? He looked at Angela, but even she had turned her back on him...

When David woke up, everything was clear. He opened the window and shouted to the world - he would scrap the referendum!

Full of joy and good will, he ran forth into the street to donate to a local food bank. His conscience clear, he went home to enjoy Christmas. David had a wonderful day with his family watching Love Actually and listening to his favourite album, The Best of David Bowie. He was happy, and safe, and knew that 2016 would be a great year.

HILLARY CALLS FOR TRIAL-BY-COMBAT

As the year draws to a close, and Donald Trump is just weeks away from entering the White House, Hillary Clinton throws a Game-of-Thrones-shaped spanner into the works

MADDIE TYLER

It looks like Christmas may have come early this year for Hillary fans as everyone's second-favourite Clinton announced this week that she would be challenging the Presidential election results. It is reported that Hillary called President-Elect Donald Trump personally to call for a re-election, this time to be decided by trial-by-combat.

The fact that the result had been determined democratically was of little importance to Hillary, who was more concerned with channelling her inner "Cersei Lannister" who is supposedly her "Girl Power" idol.

Insiders have informed The Print that over the past few days Hillary has been heard having phone-calls with Game of Thrones super-fan "Barry Ohana" (it beats us who this could be but feel free to email suggestions to satire@theprintnews.co.uk) to analyse Game of Thrones reruns and discuss battle strategies from

the confines of her wardrobe.

In preparation for the fight, which, by the way, is still not officially confirmed, Hillary has been attempting to contact Gregor "The Mountain" Clegane in order to appoint him as her champion. Sources say Hillary refuses to be dissuaded by husband Bill, who continues to reiterate that Game of Thrones is just a TV show and proposing a trial-by-combat just makes her look like a "disillusioned sore loser".

Hillary, however, remains hopeful (or rather, delusional) and believes that this plan will see her into the White House before the year is over; 'power is power', she is heard shouting. The only thing that stands in her way is Donald Trump.

'Trial-by-combat?', asked Trump, when we quizzed him over this latest development and whether he'd accept Hillary's request. 'I may be Donald Trump but even I'm not that stupid. I won fair and square and that's that.'

Image - DonkeyHotey/flickr



HOROSCOPES

<p>Aries</p> <p>One night you will arrive home and be greeted by a mysterious bright light. Your flatmate has left the kitchen light on. Turn it off before you get a big bill.</p>
<p>Taurus</p> <p>This is your month! Seize the day; seize the opportunity; seize the means of production.</p>
<p>Gemini</p> <p>This month will be one of mystery, suspense and intrigue. You will be plunged into an unknown world full of danger - you'll never be the same again. Remember to eat more aubergines.</p>
<p>Cancer</p> <p>You reconnect with an old friend. You find out they hate dogs. The connection is severed.</p>
<p>Leo</p> <p>Reading these horoscopes inspires you to write for The Print. Who knows, maybe you'll write the horoscopes...</p>
<p>Virgo</p> <p>You turn to the horoscopes section, hoping to finally find something that doesn't mention Donald Trump. Oh.</p>
<p>Libra</p> <p>Mercury is rising, but Neptune is waning. Tweet Brian Cox and find out what this means</p>
<p>Scorpio</p> <p>You are very much the same, but colder.</p>
<p>Sagittarius</p> <p>You will become the most celebrated Sagittarius of your generation. Wield your power wisely.</p>
<p>Capricorn</p> <p>The postman is the scariest thing this month. You will flinch 27 times.</p>
<p>Aquarius</p> <p>You will find love on the Northern Line. Alternatively, you will find a glove on the Northern Line. Take your chances and find out.</p>
<p>Pisces</p> <p>You are wondering what those mysterious noises are. Don't worry - it's just your neighbour sighing in an existential way.</p>

SOCIETIES

BIGGEST SOCIETY IN SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES

With guest lectures by the doctor from a BAFTA-winning reality show and the pioneer of IVF himself, it's no secret how the BioMedics' Society is now the largest society in SBCS after just four years

VYSHNAVIE KIRUPAKARAN AND HANIF DARYANAVARD MANTZALOS

The BioMedics' Society is a multi-award winning society that was established four years ago and is now the largest in the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences. Our committee comprises students from all year groups, with the majority being second or third year students. We organise many different events throughout the year open to everyone and not just biomedical students. These range from educational to social to charitable and everything in between. As a society, one of our aims is to incorporate university life and future prospects. We strive to have academic as well as social elements within a unique blend in one society. Our society places emphasis on current events within the university and enhancing university life whilst simultaneously supporting the future career prospects of students. We are constantly looking at how

to improve our society; therefore, we looked at last year's very successful events and listened to feedback from students. The BioMedics' society collectively holds workshops during the semesters for every year group to give student advice and aid with any upcoming challenges they might face during term time. We also take part in the buddy mentoring scheme and PASS sessions, both of which are aimed at improving the academic experience of students. Guest speakers, we believe, play a large role in encouraging students to engage with scientific concepts beyond the curriculum and are therefore very important to us. Previous events that we successfully organised include a lecture by the prolific Dr Dawn Harper from the successful TV show Embarrassing Bodies, and Lord Robert Winston, the pioneer of IVF treatment. Starting this year's series of lectures and panel discussion is the Doctors' Panel Talk

where we have invited seven doctors and surgeons from various fields to come in and speak about their careers and their medical specialities. We hope that this will be a wonderful opportunity for students to pose their questions to the some of the most experienced people in their respective fields and benefit from their personal advice. This event will take place on Monday 12th December, 4-6pm in the G.E.Fogg Lecture Theatre, and is open for everyone. Our society is also involved in charitable causes and knows the important challenges that the local community faces. We hold fundraising events to raise money that will go towards many charities and raise awareness, not only to our members, but among all university students. Earlier this semester, the BioMedics' Society hosted a MacMillan coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support and raised over £100.



Get in touch! Email: queenmarybiomedics@gmail.com Facebook page: QM Biomedics Twitter: @QMBiomedics Image- Biomedics Society Committee and Dr. Rachel O'Callaghan with Dr. Dawn Harper

ISOC PLACES 3RD IN CHARITY WEEK

Charity Week 2016 saw Queen Mary Islamic Society (ISOC) and Barts Muslim Medics and Dentists (MMD) team up to pull out all the stops

MARIYAAH DAWOOD

Charity Week is a volunteer-led campaign which sees Islamic societies across the country raise money for orphans and needy children for the international NGO Islamic Relief, for one week every year. Initially a UK venture, it has since expanded to the US, Canada, Germany, Qatar, and this year to Australia. Universities, colleges and schools engage in a friendly competition with each other to see who can raise the most, whilst at the same time organising joint events in the spirit of 'unity', the principal ethos of Charity Week. The committee organised a wide range of events and challenges, from movie nights and inter society quizzes to football tournaments. Whilst street and tube collections, tea parties and daily cake stalls are regular features of

Charity Week, this year saw some exciting new activities organised such as a calligraphy class, cultural fair and a 'Beast Mode' cardio and conditioning session in Mile End park. The societies also teamed up with local dessert shops like The Crêpe Shop and Sweet, with the proceeds from crepes and milkshake sales going towards the total. "This mission for us on campus was to reach out to new crowds outside of the ISOC", the Charity Week reps told The Print. "The theme this year was 'Going Further Together' so it was a great opportunity to work as a larger unit for causes that many feel strongly about. We teamed up with other societies, like the Baking and Moroccan society, and even had SU officers take part in challenges". The cardio training was not the only physical challenge for fundraisers. The sisters began

Charity Week by travelling to Hastings for a 12km sponsored trek along coastal cliffs, whilst the brothers took on Scafell Pike, the highest mountain in England. Hira Javaid, third year Biomedical Sciences student, took part in the Hastings hike and said it was a "refreshing experience and a great break from work. I'm not exaggerating when I say the day was absolutely perfect. We were expecting it to rain so we wore our raincoats but it was one of the sunniest days with the brightest blue skies that I've seen in all my time in England". Perhaps the most exciting but bizarre challenge came in the form of the 'Head Shakes' challenge. A battle of the sexes, the head brothers and head sisters were each tasked with raising the most in online donations on their individual fundraising pages. Whoever lost had to drink a milkshake

"At the time of writing, the ISOC and MMD had raised a staggering £41,552 online..."

made from ingredients suggested by donors, with creative suggestions like Marmite, raw egg and Brussel sprouts. The race was tight, with £8000 being donated in the space of 30 hours. In the end, the brothers were victorious, raising £4093.58 over the sisters' £3944.60. Highlights for the team included a cake being auctioned off for a whopping £12,000 and the Queen Mary sisters beating the brothers in a bid for a prayer mat for £3520 at 'The Big Event', the three course dinner that culminates the jam packed week. "It was amazing to see people so willing to volunteer, and just enjoy themselves. The Cultural Fair in particular was a wonderful collaborative effort with other societies. Great sums were made, as well as great memories." At the time of writing, the ISOC and MMD had raised a staggering £41,552 online, placing them third on the UK leadership board, behind Kings College, London and UCL, with the final total to be announced at the International Charity Week Annual Dinner in late November.

SOCIETIES

ANTI-SEMITISM IS WELL AND TRULY ALIVE

QM Young Greens raise awareness of the modern threats to London's Jews

JORDAN SMITH

Anti-Semitism is an issue we've all covered once or twice in history (or if you went to my school, every year in history class). However there is one simple problem with this. It isn't history. Anti-Semitism continues to plague the Jewish community both here in London and across the world. The modern realities of the threat facing London's Jews had never quite hit me until I visited the Jewish Museum London the day before we held a panel event on the problem within the Green Party and the British Left. Before even entering the building, security were present outside to greet and search visitors at the entrance, and the door had extra thick glass windows, which in turn had to be opened

by another security guard inside the building. This level of security was much higher than any other museum of its size, highlighting the growing concerns over the safety of Jews here on our door step. Security at places of Jewish interest is being stepped up right across our capital. This is why our event was a critical step forward in raising the subject of increasing anti-Semitism across the UK. According to Joel Salmon, the Parliamentary Officer for the Board of Deputies of British Jews, there has been a 33% increase in the number of reported anti-Semitic incidences since the Brexit vote this June. This is why, as a society we collectively felt the need to open up the discussion surrounding anti-Semitism, a move praised by Devora Khafi, the President of QM Jewish

Society. "It's great that the Young Greens, a non-Jewish student group have reached out to us to talk about anti-Semitism and we need more societies across universities to do the same and engage in dialogue surrounding this issue. We should be getting involved in far more inter-faith events and tonight has been a good step forward for all of us", she added during her participation in the panel discussion. Alongside Joel and Devora, we had contributions from the former Green Party spokesperson on equalities, Benali Hamadache, and local Rabbi, David Barnes. Together, our panellists outlined the problems facing London's Jews and gave strong and credible solutions on how to eradicate anti-Semitism from British Politics and our communities. The problem is,

"According to Joel Salmon, the Parliamentary Officer for the Board of Deputies of British Jews, there has been a 33% increase in the number of reported anti-Semitic incidences since the Brexit vote this June."

people fail to recognise when they have said something anti-Semitic - and us 'lefties' refuse to accept criticisms of being discriminatory, because we simply can't handle not living up to what we preach: equality. To truly begin tackling this issue head on, we must educate one another on what anti-Semitism really is. Only through inclusive, open education on religion and religious discrimination can we (whether that be the Green Party or the British public) educate our young people to accept and acknowledge differences that other people from different backgrounds have. And fundamentally, the Left needs to stop mixing anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism. A clear distinction must be set and reforms to disciplinary procedures within the Green Party and other political parties must be carried out to make them more robust and effective.

FOR THE LOVE OF BIOLOGY, TEA, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

The Biological Science Society is here to offer support to Biosciences students on revision, module choices, friendship, and more

CLAUDIA SELIN BATZ

The Queen Mary Biological Sciences Society brings together students across all year groups that study or enjoy Biology (and related subjects). Our main aim is to expand the knowledge of our members on academic and extra-curricular matters, as well as to allow students the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals. It is important to form a core friendship group at university—which can be particularly challenging—and as a society, we intend to make this process just a little easier. Since being appointed the role of Vice President by the former president and my best friend, it has been great to watch the society develop as a whole. We have held various successful events such as our Freshers Icebreaker meet up, a collaboration with the Genetics Society to visit the Science Museum, and 'Tea

with the Academics'. It is also amazing to see how we have gone from a committee of only three people at the start of the year to a current committee of eight, with one being a First Year Representative. The rest of the committee consisting of third years are able to give advice to individuals on particular modules they will undertake, career options, and work management. I was particularly happy to notice that students at our events were not only from Biology, but from a wide range of related degrees such as Zoology, Medical Genetics, and Biomedical Sciences. In the remaining part of the semester, we have one of our most anticipated events—the Christmas Formal—which will be held at Drapers on the 9th of December. We are also planning several talks by academics themselves as well as a trip to Kew Gardens

and the London Zoo in the second semester (which will be officially announced soon). It may seem far away at the moment, but we will also be holding a session to give advice to first and second-years on choosing elective modules and various revision strategies. I would like to say a big thank you to: Hana Merchant, our President; Fidan Kulbassova, our Treasurer; Mina Idris, our Secretary; Neil Dizon, our First Year Representative; and lastly to our Publicity and Social Media Officers—Balraj Phull, Lauren Ferguson, and Lauren Handy—for being such an amazing team to work with. If you would like to find out more, please feel free to have a look and join our Facebook page (QMUL Biological Sciences Society). We can't wait to see you all soon!



Image- Queen Mary Biological Society

SPORT

CATCH UP WITH MEN'S HOCKEY

With a new season underway, Thomas Hingston tells us how the team is getting on

THOMAS HINGSTON

The men's hockey season is underway! During Freshers' Fair the club managed to recruit many promising players; replacing some of the third years who sadly left us last year.

The early training sessions and meet-and-greets were a roaring success and it looked as though we were going to have a good season with a good bunch of lads (the fan's favourite fresher being Will Griggs (I kid you not!)). The squad has players who have played at county level alongside those who have never picked up a stick before and each and every player has improved noticeably and it's great to have such a wide involvement from all skill levels. However, despite this rigorous training and team-bonding we unfortunately lost our first game 1-2 to Imperial.

Not to be discouraged, the team also entered a pre-season competition; played just after the season had started... which included Barts. They happened to be our first game to whom we lost a miserable 0-5; the less said about that the better. But as

the tournament progressed we gained confidence, beating UEL and RUMs in two cracking games for the spectators, finishing 6-0 and 1-0 respectively. The tournament was designed to lift team spirits and get used to each other's playing styles so it was a bonus when we came fourth in the overall standings.

We took this confidence into our next league fixture and despite going 0-2 down to VETs we managed to claw ourselves back into the game and come away with a 3-2 win, getting the winning goal in the last seconds of the match! Unfortunately this could not be replicated against Essex the following week, losing 1-0 and knocking the team's confidence a little.

However, refreshed after reading week; with a new coach and intense training sessions, the squad goes into our next fixture full of confidence (despite Star Forward Thomas Hingston being injured for the match) and it should be a really great match to take three points from against

"The early training sessions and meet-and-greets were a roaring success and it looked as though we were going to have a good season with a good bunch of lads..."

Hertfordshire.

Aside from the league, the team also has a little cup-run going and have made it to the final 16. Our fixture is against St George's University (who?) which should be a close encounter considering they are in the league above. By the time you are reading this article I imagine that we have already progressed past them into the quarter finals!

Please feel free to come to any of our games at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre on Wednesdays where both the men and women play their games! Follow us on Facebook/Twitter/Instagram for more information on upcoming fixtures and results!

Facebook - Queen Mary Hockey Club
Twitter - @qm_hockey
Instagram - @qmulhockey

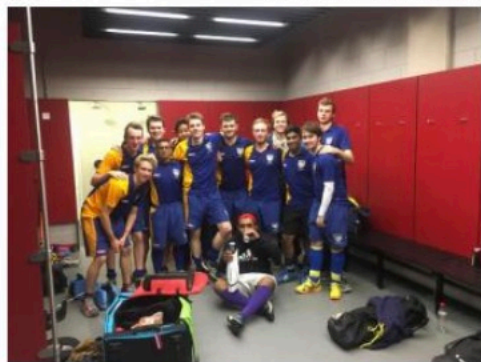


Image - QMUL Hockey

achievements". It's important to remember sport is not all about competition but is more about you.

Passion; a strong word used by both fresher Lucy Durrant and third year Rayna Sidhu in different contexts. Lucy describes that "coming together as a team for not only physical activity but something they are passionate about", shows the strength and importance of congregation and community spirit. Rayna highlights that sport is "such a huge part of my family and the way we've bonded". Her families joint passion for sport has really brought them together. Although different, both Lucy and Rayna prove that the adrenaline sport

brings is vital to create and then preserve networks.

University has brought us altogether, and because of our love of sport we can act as one extraordinary unit. We're all unique, have our own opinions and own values, but seeing sport unite us is an incredible feat and one that must not be undermined. So after all this, sport... what does it mean to you?

Enjoy reading about QM's sporty achievements? Visit www.theprintnews.co.uk/category/sport to read more.



Image - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade/flickr

WHAT DOES SPORT MEAN TO YOU?

A quest to find out what defines our relationship with sport

DANIAL NAQVI

Six students. Three years of undergraduate study. Distinctive backgrounds and varying degrees. What does sport mean to them?

Sport has no boundaries, as explained by fresher Frankie Cenci: "Sport to me means freedom, it's a universal language". Sport has the power to bridge race, religion and creed, and the simplicity of it can be taken for granted. If you were to go to a country where you couldn't communicate through language, you could still engage with people through sport, such as a game of football on the beach. Everyone has some connection to sport and in this sense sport overcomes language barriers, and such that Frankie alluded to, is in fact its own language.

We all struggle with self-esteem or motivation issues from time to time and sport

can help us. It's a tool that can aid our development, as second year Arshad Mozumder shares: "Dance has given me such a confidence boost... dance has allowed me to improve myself". A recreational activity can enable someone to become more extrovert and fearless.

Self-motivation is the hardest emotion to maintain, in my opinion. I need the drive of others to push myself, but as third year Aziz Koç reveals, "sport teaches that you can go get whatever you want as long as you put the time and effort into it". It is such a simple lesson to learn. So, if you are ever lacking the drive to complete a task, take this advice: play sport, it might just help. Similar to Aziz; second year Joyce Yeung mentions that within sport: "You can never be a failure as everyone has different goals or

"Sport has the power to bridge race, religion and creed, and the simplicity of it can be taken for granted."

SPORT

SPORT IN SUMMARY

A selection of competitive results from across campus

RAYNA SIDHU

Sport at Queen Mary has been widely successful recently in the competitive sense. Here are just a few results from some of our university teams...

Women's Rugby

The women's rugby team, QMBLWRFC, played UCL and won with a strong result of 24 to 12, with Faith Viney being awarded back player of the match and Caitlin Milliken earning forward player of the match.

Badminton

Badminton also did QM proud with the women's team beating Brighton 8-0 and the men's team drawing 4-4 against City University. Unfortunately, the Badminton second team lost 5-3 in a close game against Barts: an unlucky result but still one to build on.

Men's Basketball Team

The men's basketball second team played Birkbeck University and won with a close result of 48-31. Women's football also had a great result by beating Roehampton in the BUCS league 5-4, with Emma Duus being awarded player of the match too.

This was just a selection of some great results in the past few weeks, keep at it QM!

If you would like your results printed, please contact one of the sports editors. You can contact us through Facebook or email sport@theprintnews.co.uk

ARTHUR WINT: BARTS' JAMAICAN ATHLETIC LEGACY

Jamaica's first Gold medallist in Olympic Games and Barts alumnus who accomplished many exceptional feats in his lifetime

Shakir Hussain

This summer Jamaica won six gold medals making it fourteen in the last eight years. We remember Jamaica's first Gold medallist and Barts Graduate, Arthur Wint, the man who paved the way for the likes of nine time Olympic champion Usain Bolt.

Wint was born in Plowden, Manchester, Jamaica in 1920. From an early age his talents in athletics were obvious. At the age of 18, Wint won the 800 meters at the Central American games in Panama. The first of many accolades, he won the sporting title of Jamaica Boy athlete of the year.

Wint was not only an athlete he was a servicemen. Wint came to Britain during the Second World War and served for the RAF and reached the rank of flight lieutenant with wings.

After the war, Wint quickly got back to business in athletics and in the 1948 Olympics would make history. Wembley was the venue, he won the 400 meter race beating his compatriot Herbert McKenley

to win Jamaica's first gold medal in Olympic Games. He won in style too equalling the existing world record of 46.2 seconds.

John Parlett the British runner who competed with Wint in 1948 said, "People used to gasp when they saw him running because people that were running behind him looked as if they were doing two strides to his one."

Wint further cemented his legacy in athletics when he and close friend and rival McKenley along with Les Laing and George Rhoden won the 4x400 in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, beating the United States in a track classic. United States and Jamaica were on a different playing field; distancing themselves away from the other teams. The lead would change numerous times but it would be Jamaica who would take the win and take their places in Jamaican folklore.

Former Jamaican President Michael Manley praised Wint "The single most important element of the influence of Arthur on my generation was

JOIN A RUGBY TEAM, JOIN A SISTERHOOD

Vice Captain Laurie explains the joys of being a part of QMBL Women's Rugby team

Laurie Ranft

Being part of a sports team when you start university, and through out the rest of your time there, is a really great decision to make

Rugby is a game which challenges you to push yourself physically to keep running, keep tackling, and to keep pressing forwards to get to that try line, but more importantly to support your team mates along the way. When signing up to Women's Rugby you're not only signing up to play a game, you're signing up to become part of a tight-knit group of friends who have got each other's backs.

As the QMBL Women's Rugby team we pride ourselves in being inclusive and accepting of anyone who wants to join

in, welcoming anyone to be part of our team. A large majority of the girls that join our team at the beginning of the year have never even considered playing rugby before they were pounced on at the fresher's fair, but they all end up with the same fate: an addiction to the game and rugby withdrawals over the weekend. So whether you've played before and are itching to get those boots back on, or you're looking for something new and exciting which you haven't tried before, we'd love for you to get involved.

Away from the pitch we can be found drinking and eating far too much, and singing and laughing far too loud - we take our social lives very seriously. In fact, our captain Jo would say that the most important

thing to us as a team is to have a good time (and she's the most feisty lady on the pitch on game day, so that's a big statement). Last year we had the biggest social year yet for our club with more members than ever, a weekend away in second semester, and a tour to Lisbon in Portugal. This year is only going to get better. Our social secretaries, Ruby and Nadine, have the best ideas stored up and loads of socials already lined up which we're all very excited about. If this all sounds fabulous but you really don't think that muddy knees are for you, then don't you worry - some girls join purely for the social-side of our club, so if you want to be wearing pink with us on a Wednesday night then you're more than welcome.

ADVERT



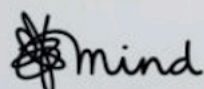
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