

# THE PRINT



THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF QUEEN MARY STUDENTS' UNION

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# NAME THE GRAD CENTRE AFTER WILEY SAY STUDENTS

Students launch petition calling on QM to name the new graduate centre after Bow-born 'King of Grime', University say they're not ruling it out



Image QMUL PR

Davey Brett

QM students Susanna Mollah and Navaid Ghouri have launched an online petition urging principal Simon Gaskell to name the new graduate centre after grime star Wiley. Richard Kylea Cowie, known as Wiley, is an influential grime MC, songwriter and producer originating from Bow and according to the petition: "deserves the accolade of having the proposed graduate centre named after him as the 'Wiley Graduate Centre'. Wiley represents the drive and ambition that university is all about, and as our university is located in East London, we believe this is a fitting

tribute." The petition continues: "We believe that Wiley deserves the accolade of having the proposed graduate centre named after him as the 'Wiley Graduate Centre'. Wiley represents the drive and ambition that university is all about, and as our university is located in East London, we believe this is a fitting tribute. We are highly aware of the economic and social disadvantages in the area and want to raise ambitions. We want the local students to see the Wiley Graduate Centre and

believe that they can create their futures by working hard, just as Wiley did."

The petition highlights the poverty and education attainment gap present in Tower Hamlets and the QM students proposing the change believe the 'Wiley Graduate Centre' would "instil a sense of ambition, resolve and drive" into students in the local area. The £36m graduate centre is set to ready for the 2016 academic year and will provide 24-hour work areas for post-graduate students

as well as a 200-seat lecture theatre, 7,700 square metres of academic and teaching space as well as a ground-floor café.

At the time of writing, the petition has reached 430 supporters, garnering an impressive amount of online coverage with notable magazines including NME, Dazed and FACTmag reporting on the story.

In a recent blog post, one of the founders of the petition, Susanna Mollah revealed the motivation behind the

campaign:





"Education is everything. Wiley motivated me in the darkest times of A-Level winter revision when I was losing the motivation to revise. 'Evolving how many days will it take to hit another level...' he rapped in my ears. So I tried and I'm here.

I'm fed up of education just being for the rich. You've got a quiet place to study, maybe your own desk, parents who earn enough money to buy

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Any views expressed in The Print are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the paper, the editorial team, Queen Mary Students' Union or Queen Mary, University of London.

# Humans of QM

## What is it like working at Queen Mary?



Image Humans of Queen Mary

"We work from Monday to Friday - and some days can get very busy and long. But the people at Queen Mary, from the top to the bottom, are very nice, very friendly, good looking people... so it motivates me to get the job done."

## Queen Mary goes green

Jack Ramsanc

Green Mary Week is coming to Queen Mary from 9th to 13th February. This is the revamped and newly titled week full of eco-friendly goodness, all things green and delightful freebies. The aim of the week is to deliver action on climate change, raise awareness of environmental issues and showcase practical solutions for QMULs low-carbon future. QMUL & Queen Mary Students' Union are teaming up to deliver numerous activities and events. The highlight for animal lovers and veggie enthusiasts is "Meat Free Monday", with vegetarian food deals and cookery workshops

across campus. Cycle on in to "Travel Light Tuesday" which features free cycle training, maintenance and bike security. The middle of the week hump can be resolved with "Waste Free Wednesday" featuring a free stationary fair in Library Square, whilst Thursday sees us being asked to "Turn It Off" with interactive energy arcade games and prizes to be won in the Students' Union Hub. The week rounds off with "Make a Difference Friday", a day showcasing volunteering opportunities both on campus and in the local community. There will also be the return of the veggie theme with free vegetarian

cooking workshops running through the day. And if you want to make a difference in the community there will be food donation stall on campus throughout the week, with all donations going to local Foodbanks to help those most in need. The highlight of the week for us has to be the visit of little R2, the recycling robot touring around campus on Friday. Full details of all the events running, including information on bookings, can be found on [www.qmul.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/sustainability).

# Smithsonian Institute dino head arrives at Queen Mary

QMUL takes delivery of life-sized cast of a Tyrannosaurus rex skull to be used for school visits, public engagement and outreach

Rachel Barrow

Last week a 1.5 metre long cast of a Tyrannosaurus Rex' skull was delivered to Queen Mary's Mile End campus. The life-sized cast comes from the infamous 'DevilRex' which was originally excavated in Montana, USA in 1988, and has since been on display at Washington D.C.'s Smithsonian Institute. The animal would have weighed in at around 6 tonnes and measured 11 metres in length at just 18 years of age. Here at Queen Mary, the cast of the rare artefact will be used for school visits, public engagement and outreach. QMUL palaeontologist Dr. Hone comments: "The T. Rex will be an important addition to the collections in SBCS, and will be a huge plus for our

undergraduates".

The custom-made cast was produced in the USA for QM biologists Dr. David Hone, Dr. Steve Le Comber and Dr. Chris Faulkes with funding from QMUL's Centre for Public Engagement and the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences (SBCS). Dr. Hone runs a third year field course for QM students in Dinosaur Provincial Park in Canada where his most recent group of young palaeontologists discovered a rare Hadrosaur skull. With the newest addition to the School, Dr. Hone also hopes to give pupils in the local area a chance to get close to - and learn more about - prehistoric animals, and the sciences more generally.



Image: QMUL

## Meat victorious at Student Council

Eventful third Student Council of the year sees motions concerning halal food and Quest Radio pass whilst Meat Free Monday faces stiff opposition

Davey Brett

Meat was the word on everyone's lips at the first Student Council of the semester as students packed into the Blomeley Rooms for the penultimate council of the year. After an update from Sabbatical and part-time officers which included a video preview of a potential summer festival to be held in cooperation with other London University students' unions - motions swiftly followed.

First motion of the night, concerning union reimbursement for election candidates expenditure was proposed by Chris Smith and will see QM follow in the footsteps of other universities across the UK such as Manchester, UCL, Newcastle and St Andrews in removing the financial burden of running in student elections. Following on from the opening motion, the second motion of the night also faced minimal opposition. Put forward by Quest Radio station manager Lucy Furneaux and

seconded by student media officer Chierol Lai, the motion rightfully proposed Quest be broadcast in QMSU outlets across campus and passed to applause from the student media congregation at the back of the room. Station manager Lucy Furneaux was extremely happy with the result: "I would like to thank all the student council members that voted for it. Broadcasting across student union outlets is crucial for any university radio station and we look forward to sound-tracking the daily student experience across campus."

Motions on both clear halal food certification within QMSU food outlets and illegible handwriting exam guidelines also passed with the latter proposing amendments to the Queen Mary academic regulations, which state: "Students must write legibly. Illegible handwriting shall not normally be transcribed, nor shall students be permitted to dictate the contents. Any part of a script deemed illegible by an examiner shall normally be awarded no marks."

The motion was passionately put forward by current Mile

End societies officer Stella Tsantekidou.

The second to last motion of the night proved to be the most passionately argued and the reason behind the above average council attendance. The 'Student not suspect' motion concerns Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill (CTSB) which is currently making its way through parliament. According to those proposing, CTSB seeks to make controversial 'Prevent' and 'Channel' strategies statutory and is it feared by academics and campaigners that the bill will create a culture where students are unwilling speak out. The motion was debated passionately back and forth with the general consensus of the discussion disapproving of the parliamentary bill itself, but there was confusion as to enactment and finer parts of the wording. The motion was eventually passed.

Ending the night on a surprisingly contentious note, a motion for a regular 'Meat-free Monday' was emphatically opposed. The motion, which suggested an initiative in which QMSU outlets refrained from selling

meat on a Monday was greeted by those attending council with nothing less than utter shock. Humanities and Social Sciences faculty representative Matt Mahmoudi sprung up immediately to the front of council to oppose the motion with carnivorous gusto and a wave of fearful meat rhetoric was heard throughout the room. Points of information suggested the possibility of contraband meat being smuggled onto campus and the realisation that such an initiative seemed doomed in a part of London over-run with chicken shops. It is clear those proposing were merely suggesting the initiative as a way of highlighting animal cruelty, healthy living and sustainability but these factors were overwhelmed by a legitimate fear of meat-free enforcement. Sources suggest that a 'Meat-free Monday' motion has been proposed for the last four consecutive years and failed. For further in depth coverage check The Print's live-tweeting coverage as well as the hashtag: #QMCouncil

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the books and stationary essential for your course...I know there are kids round here like me who didn't have that, who miss out on unlocking their potential because of economic disadvantages, something they were born into and couldn't help.

Wiley helped me instil a sense of ambition, resolve and drive. I want all the local students to recognise that things don't have to stay as they are and that you can better yourself if the institutions are willing to support you."

A spokesperson for Queen Mary University of London has welcomed the petition:

"We are glad that some of our students have found support and inspiration through Wiley's music, and that they feel his work represents our local east London community - something we are very proud to be a part of.

When choosing a name for any building or new space at QMUL there is an agreed process to ensure that the ideas and suggestions of all staff and students are fairly considered. When the time comes, we would be happy to consider Wiley's nomination alongside any others as part of this process and we will work with the Students' Union to ensure students are aware of this.

The Graduate Centre will provide first-class facilities for all staff and students at QMUL, and we anticipate that there will be a number of people whose work in and around the university could be honoured in this way."

Wiley is yet to comment on the campaign. The petition is not the first in the area seeking recognition for the artist, in 2013 a petition was put forward to Tower Hamlets council urging them erect a statue of Wiley in Mile End park.

The petition can be found at: <https://www.change.org/p/professor-simon-gaskell-name-the-new-graduate-centre-after-uk-grime-artist-wiley-wiley-graduate-centre>



# Sabbs Update: The library survey you've all been dreaming of

VP Education Carolina Mantzalos talks postgrad study, elections and 24/7 library hours as well as updates on QMSU events

Carolina Mantzalos

Hey Everyone and Happy New Year! We hope you all had a great holiday and are super excited to be back at University, for a very exciting term lying ahead, perhaps not so much on the university workload side! So, I just wanted to update you all on what is happening over the next couple of months.

The Education Zone ran their annual survey until the 23rd January, on the motivations for Postgraduate Study. The response rate was that of 705 students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, which is an excellent response rate considering how many students are being SURVEYED OUT! The results of the survey will be presented to the

University by myself, some of the part-time officers and an external speaker. The purpose of this is to show where there is need for more provision in regards to offering the variety of choices available to students at QMUL, or any additional help available such as funding, or grants.

What about library provision? Are you a student who would like to have the Mile End Library opening hours extended to 24/7 all year round? A survey was released on Monday 26th Jan, reaching an amazing 800 responses within 2 hours. We need to push students to fill this survey to prove the demands for it, so if you have 1 minute then please go onto the survey and complete it before the end

of the first week of February: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BVSLYWF>

Another issue is QReview. I don't want to have to throw another survey at you, BUT, it is extremely important that students participate in a survey to show us how and why they need to use QReview. The good news is that QReview is now opt-out across the faculty of SMD, and the faculty of HSS.

**What this means is that all lectures are to be recorded automatically unless a lecturer chooses to opt-out.**

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Now, there are only a couple of schools left in the faculty of S&E, and thus we need your help to prove to the University that we need to be using QReview. The link to this survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LLD8YTM>

GENERAL Elections are nearing on the 7th May 2015, and thus the Sabbatical Officers have decided to go out to Halls across our campuses, over the last week of Jan and first week of Feb to try and encourage students to register to vote! We have managed to get a lot of people to register, and are hoping to get a voting poll in the HUB to make things a little easier for those studying and sitting exams in May.

Finally, a few dates for your calendar - RAG Week and Green Week will be running from 6th-13th February, with many fun events for all students to attend, and all for good causes. The week will finish off with QM International on the 13th February from 4-7 in The Octagon celebrating different cultures and performances held by our societies. Hope you are all excited for this term and hope many of you can attend our events!

Keep up to date at: [@EducationQMSU](http://EducationQMSU)

## QM Research Roundup: Revolutionary devices, Osteoarthritis repair and major research grant

Rachel Barrow

**Revolutionary device created to lower blood pressure**

According to research conducted by Queen Mary, University of London, and published in The Lancet, a revolutionary device has been shown to significantly lower blood pressure in high risk patients. The device - developed by ROX Medical and named the 'Coupler' - is a paper clip sized implant which is inserted between the artery and vein in the upper thigh, in a procedure lasting around 40 minutes under local anaesthetic. Compared with the usual drug treatments offered to patients with uncontrolled blood pressure, patients who received the 'ROX Coupler therapy' experienced a significant and durable reduction in blood pressure.

Dr Melvin Lobo, Lead Author and Principal Investigator of the study at Queen Mary, and Director of the Barts Blood Pressure Clinic at Barts Health NHS Trust, comments:

"This is an entirely new and highly promising concept in high blood pressure treatment.

The Coupler effectively targets the mechanical aspects of how blood circulation works - so it's a totally new approach to controlling blood pressure. Once the Coupler is placed, the results are also immediate, which again is unique to this treatment."

The study's findings show that blood pressure treatment with the ROX Coupler offers both patients and doctors an alternative option for treating high blood pressure in the future - particularly where standard therapies have failed.

**New 'microcapsules' have potential to repair damage caused by osteoarthritis**

A new 'microcapsule' treatment delivery method developed by researchers at QMUL, and funded by Arthritis Research UK and the AO Foundation, could reduce inflammation in cartilage affected by osteoarthritis and reverse damage to tissue.

The protein molecule C-type natriuretic peptide (CNP), which occurs naturally in the body, is known to reduce inflammation and aid in the repair of damaged tissue. However, CNP cannot currently be used in the

treatment of osteoarthritis because it is unable to target the damaged area even if the protein is injected into the cartilage tissue since CNP is easily broken down and therefore cannot reach the diseased site.

The researchers believe that injections of microcapsules in the future could be used to heal damaged cartilage in people with osteoarthritis. Dr. Chowdhury went on to say:

"CNP is currently available to treat other conditions such as skeletal diseases and cardiovascular repair. If we could design simple injections using the microcapsules, this means the technology has the potential to be an effective and relatively cheap treatment that could be delivered in the clinic or at home."

QM researchers constructed tiny microcapsules with individual layers containing CNP that could release the protein slowly and therefore deliver the treatment more effectively. In experiments on samples of cartilage taken from animals, they showed that the microcapsules could deliver the anti-inflammatory CNP directly to diseased sites

with injections which could be delivered easily by a GP. Lead researcher Dr. Tina Chowdhury from QMUL's School of Engineering and Materials Science, commented:

**If this method can be transferred to patients it could drastically slow the progression of osteoarthritis and even begin to repair damaged tissue.**

**QMUL researchers awarded £1.4m from Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research**

A group of scientists from Queen Mary, University of London have been awarded a £1.4 million Specialist Programme Grant from Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. The programme begins in April 2015 with an aim to uncover the cause of familial leukaemia and myelodysplasia blood disorders which cause life threatening drops in healthy blood cells in patients. The researchers include Professor Inderjeet Dokal and Dr. Tom

Vulliamy, based within Queen Mary's Blizard Institute and Professor Jude Fitzgibbon based within Barts Cancer Institute.

The laboratory research programme will include a range of cell and molecular biology techniques. The starting point for most of the experiments will be analysing whole and specific constituents of patient cells, such as DNA, RNA and proteins, obtained from blood and marrow samples and comparing them to normal controls, with recent advances in DNA sequencing technologies being crucial to the success of this programme. Professor Dokal and Dr. Vulliamy comment:

"This research award represents the most comprehensive and integrated programme to date internationally. We aim to provide a step change in the basic understanding of this group of diseases as well as in clinical management and outcomes. The research will be a collaboration, drawing on expertise across the medical school and we look forward to getting underway".

## Leading research universities not doing enough for global health

QMUL ranked 19th out of 25 based on their commitment to global health

Eden Gilby



Image: Laurence Livermore

Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) and Medsin-UK launched the first UK University Global Health Research League Table last month ranking the UK's top-funded universities research. The rankings were based on their commitment to global health research, including research in neglected diseases that affect primarily the world's poorest.

It was revealed that QMUL ranked 19th out of the 25 universities included. The low ranking was caused by the university only investing a small proportion of their research money in global health research. Oxford University, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Imperial College lead the rankings but, outside the top five, universities undertake little global health research in proportion to research budgets. Of the 25 leading UK research universities, only seven have committed to making their discoveries accessible in developing countries.

Despite widespread university policies aimed at making research freely

available online, the results of these efforts seem to have had mixed success. On average, 82% of research output across the 25 universities could be classified as free-access, however some universities were as low as 60%.

Dzintars Gotham, coordinator of the University Global Health Research League Table, said: "Our universities are in the unique position to work in the public interest. Their mission is to maximise societal gain through their research. But for universities to live up to their aspirations, they need to lead in equitable research. By investing in the areas of greatest need and sharing the benefits of our research, universities can ensure our research successes have the greatest impact possible."

Co-president of Medsin Barts, part of a national organisation who supported the project, said: "The results have revealed that QMUL is not doing enough, and it's our responsibility as QM students to try and push for a rise in investment and increased access to research. We hope with the release of these

results, QMUL will strive to improve their position and work towards advancing in areas where research is needed the most."

While more than 30% of new drugs are developed at universities, cost is a persistent barrier to accessing medication in the developing world. Policies that make research publicly available and medicines affordable in developing countries are key to having a greater impact on global health. Universities can use socially-responsible and cost-effective licensing to make sure that medicines, vaccines and diagnostics they develop are affordable in the developing world. Policies for using this approach have been adopted by over 40 universities worldwide, including Harvard, MIT and, most recently, University College London.

Nobel Laureate Sir John Sulston endorses the league table: "By making biomedical discoveries open to all wherever possible, by ensuring that they are licensed in a socially responsible way and by addressing needs of the poorest people, a university can make a unique contribution

## Nominations open for Student Elections

Four 24.5k starting salaries up for grabs, as well as a host of part-time voluntary positions

Aaron Lascelles

Nominations for the 2015 QMSU Elections are now open, giving students the chance to run for a variety of full-time and part-time positions within the Students' Union. Nominations close for all positions on Wednesday 18th of February, followed by a manifesto deadline on Friday 27th of February. Voting for the elections takes place at the beginning of March and will see the appointment of 54 voluntary roles across Barts and Mile End, as well as the appointment of four full-time positions, each with a year's salary of 24.5k. QMSU President Dola Osilaja encouraged all students to vote, commented:

"It's that time of year again... QMSU Election nominations have opened. These are always exciting times for QMSU, electing its new officers to represent and lead the union to even greater heights in the coming year. Candidates' image, resilience and, more importantly, policies, will be questioned but I would honestly encourage everyone who feels they can make a difference to nominate themselves. Be the change you want to see!"

Student Media will be covering the 2015 QMSU elections in depth across all outlets.

The full results are available online at [www.globalhealth-grades.org.uk](http://www.globalhealth-grades.org.uk)



# The Queens of Queen Mary

If your weekly routine of frequenting the same clubs playing the same chart hits from this time last year has left you desperate for new nightlife experiences, the Yeast London Cabaret can offer you a night of big costumes and even bigger performances that you won't find anywhere near Drapers.

Rachel Michaella Finn

Messing with gender binaries that a man has to dress like a man and a woman has to dress like a woman, Yeast London is a drag performance collective that aims to prove that punk's pretty much only still alive in queer transgression. It's a night where you can let loose in your most outrageous outfits, watch talented performers and leave covered in an obligatory layer of glitter.

A performance collective, made up of three third year Queen Mary drama students – performers Ben Stewardson and Jack Ellis and producer Finn Love – alongside founder and fellow drag performer Oozing Gloop, performed at Yeast London in the basement at East Bloc off Old Street, in September 2013. They've since left the weekly slot and now put on performances and parties all over the East End. And everyone's invited.

"Our events are aimed at literally anyone who is up for having a good time," producer Finn says. "I think a lot of the time people think drag performance is only for queer people when, in reality, if you're willing to take the plunge and risk having green makeup smeared all over your face, then you will have a good time. It's about being open and being accepting and enjoying yourself."

Members of the collective have also performed at festivals such as Beacons and Bestival and have their own performance careers outside of the group, but together their skills as performers, producers, stylists and performance makers all come together to create an eclectic mix of unpredictable and boundary pushing shows. Each performance begins with the team finding a venue, thinking up a theme, and then going away and coming up with a

performance routine, not to mention finding outrageous costumes and props. “We literally dive in bins for props and work on routines in a classroom in the ArtsOne building,” Finn says. “We turn up on the night, everything goes wrong but everyone still has an amazing time.”

*It's about  
being open and  
being accepting  
and enjoying  
yourself "*

Costumes are optional, but it makes for a more exciting experience. Previous themes have included everything from Pokémon and Disney, to Marilyn Manson and Madonna, so each night makes for an eclectic mix of performers and attendees alike. If you've ever wanted to dress up in the weird and wonderful and party the night away with a group of equally as fun-loving humans, Yeast London Cabaret's parties are one to look out for.

With Ben, Jack, and Finn in their final year, they admit “the pressure’s on” but with a set of ambitious shows set up for March and beyond, they don’t look set to stop anytime soon. And you’re their target demographic. “The only people that shouldn’t come to Yeast,” Finn admits, “are people who don’t enjoy having fun.”

For more information about future events, head to [facebook.com/theeastlondoncabaret](https://www.facebook.com/theeastlondoncabaret)

Image by Luxxxer, Sharpshock and  
Flora Bartlett



# One day in London

London is a breeding ground for crazy encounters, wild escapades and just plain weirdness. The Print gets QM students to share their best.

A cool thing about London is the casual encounters with 'celebrities'. Before moving here, I had thought nothing would ever top spotting Stewart Lee in a Winchester kebab shop before a gig. Browsing CDs in HMV Oxford Street next to Richard Ayoade came close. My favourite sighting, however, has to be Gary Numan checking my ticket on the Southwest Train service from London to Portsmouth. Context: not sure it was legitimately Gary Numan, but I kid you not he was the spitting image, and as he came closer down the aisle I discovered that his name badge did in fact read 'Gary Numan'. I feel there were 4 possible explanations. A) It's a massive coincidence, B) He's a huge Gary Numan fan and had surgery to look like him and also changed his name, C) Several people mistake him for Gary Numan (including whoever printed his badge), D) He was actually Gary Numan, venturing into the public transport business (you could say he was fed up of Cars... gedit?). Option D is my fave. - **Holly Burnham**

Once my flatmate met Will Young at an event and he invited a group of us on a night out with him the following weekend. It all seemed a bit of a joke until we were actually pre-drinking with probably the nicest guy in pop and his friends at a Wetherspoons in Peckham the following Saturday night. Will bought a velvet jumpsuit especially for the occasion and we headed to a soul and funk night at the Bussey Building warehouse. I'd accidentally bought the wrong ticket for the event and I had no cash, but Will bought me another ticket (nicest man in pop) so I didn't have to end my night early and get the bus home alone. Needless to say, my mum was super jealous. I didn't tell him I actually voted for Gareth Gates in Pop Idol back when I was about seven.

- Rachel Finn

Once again I had found myself on Brick Lane on a Sunday; fighting off hipster hairdressers and searching for culinary delights of questionable heritage. I happened upon what looked to be quite a nice bag on one of the vintage clothing stalls and took it upon myself to



Image: Flickr Stirling Ackroyd

have a gander. Not being one to follow the 'you look with your eyes not your hands rule' I opened the bag then closed it again. Then decided it wasn't nice enough to buy. This apparently greatly displeased the stall owner. As me and my friends tried to walk away, he sauntered over, rocking the typical east London lunatic aesthetic. "Why do people always do that?" We did the sensible thing and laughed it off whilst trying to walk away... but he had more to say. "People always come up and look inside then walk away, what do they expect to find in there?" Again we harnessed a fake giggle and shuffled aside. 'I'm going to put cockroaches in it'. This time our fake laugh was masking ultimate concern as we realised he was actually clearly quite irate about it. "Then the next time

someone opens it they will be like 'arghhhh!'" - **Gemma Meredith**

When on my way to see the *Cornetto* Trilogy at the Prince Charles Cinema, I neglected to check the TfL website, so found both Mile End and Stepney Green closed. I legged it down to Whitechapel, only to find myself stopping to wave and shout 'hiya' at someone I recognised, I assumed a friend. It wasn't until I got to the Tube that I realised that it wasn't a friend, it was Jonathan Ross, explaining why he looked a little scared when he walked away. At Leicester Square I got lost in China Town, but eventually saw the cinema across the road. I ran across the busy road narrowly missing a car that screeched to a stop behind me. The man that got out the car was *Cornetto* Trilogy director, Edgar Wright,

the man I had come here to see and, still cringing from the previous famous run-in, I dashed round the side of the cinema and found my seat. The next day I went to his signing thinking I had a funny story to tell, but he just looked shocked and couldn't stop apologising.

– Sarah Garnham

When looking for a place to live for second year, my friends and I came back to London for a couple of days and looked at as many places as we could in that time. Eventually we put down a holding fee on the last house we saw, but everyone still seemed nervous. I guess we expected a big moment of realisation where we all walked into a place and instantly knew it was where we would spend the next year of our lives. We just wanted a sign that we were making the right decision. The next day everyone went

their separate ways, while I stayed in London a little bit longer to go to a talk at the British Library by Bryan Lee O'Malley, author of the Scott Pilgrim books. Afterwards, at the signing, I said: "I have a strange request, could I record a video of you saying it's a sign?" The author considered for a brief moment and then agreed to do it without asking for any explanation. The next day I sent the video to my friends and felt better about everything because I'd come across an obvious, not at all manufactured, sign that we'd made the right decision. -

Jacob MacQuarrie





# The Big A: Why aren't we talking about it?

1 in 4 suffer from some form of mental illness in the UK including Anxiety – more needs to be done to address the silent problems people are facing

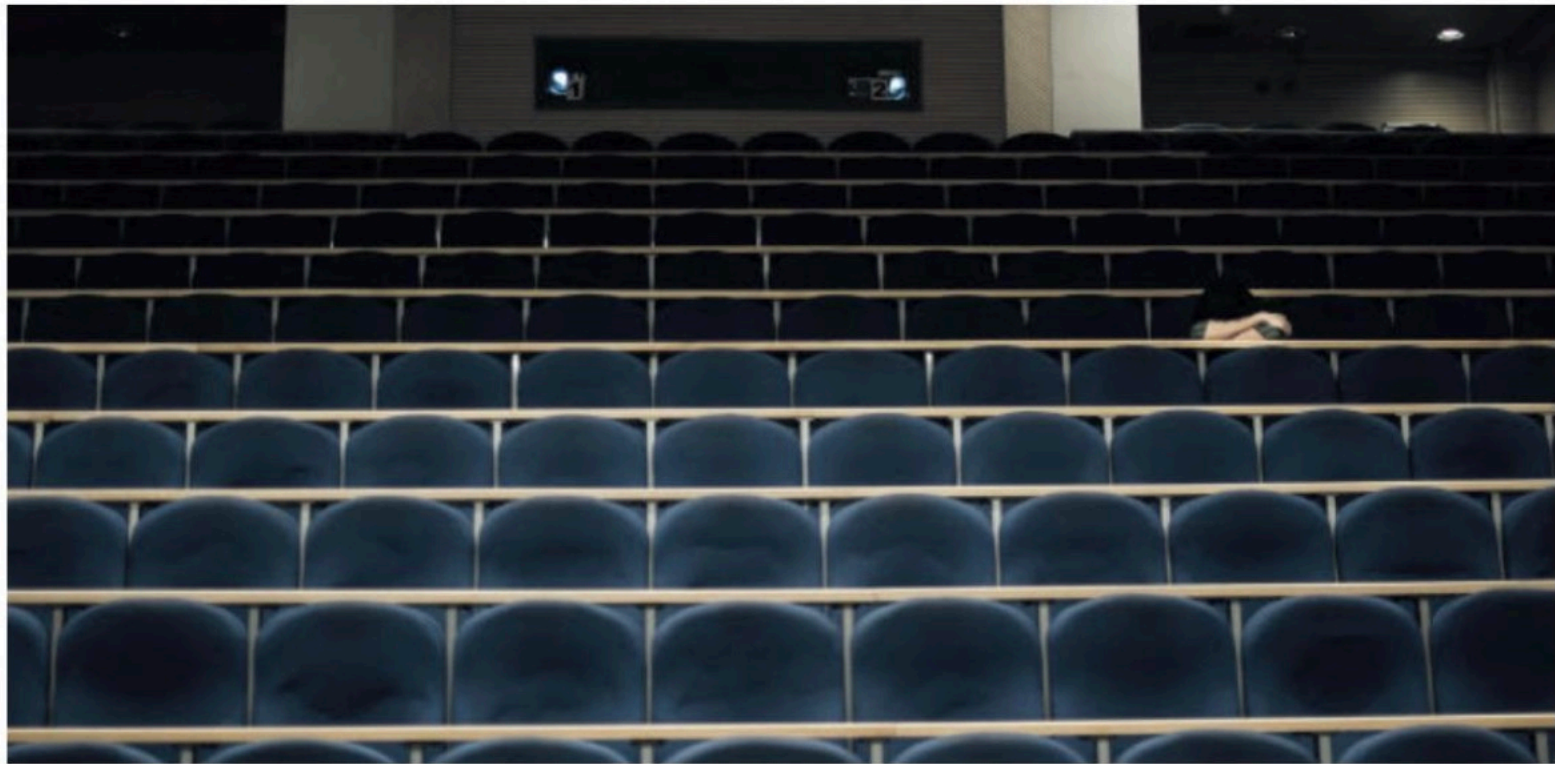


Image: Davey Brett

What did I do last night? Did I tell my flatmate I stole a road sign and left it outside his house?

Did anybody see me trip over my two left feet and spill a double JD & Coke over the infamous Pooley girl?

Such thoughts after a standard Hail Mary will be familiar to most of us. But you can't help but feel that you've made the events of last night into a CSI investigation, even though you know it'll pass. Diagnosis: Hangover Anxiety.

The commonality of mental illness struck me on Facebook, when I shared a post entitled '10 things anxiety sufferers want their loved ones to know'. Whilst not an unusually low number of friends 'liked' the post, enough liked it to display their sense of mutual understanding, even if they can relate the 10 things to just a mild case of Hangover Anxiety. I don't think it's unreasonable to suppose that some of those friends are sufferers too.

1 in 4 suffer from some form of mental illness,

according to the UK's mental health charity, Mind. They state that it is "something we all experience" and that anxiety is the most commonly reported issue. They go on to say that it is part of human nature, and protects us from danger – hence the 'fight or flight' reflex. However, high levels of this for a prolonged amount of time can lead to severe anxiety, and this can lead to a panic attack.

The short term effects of anxiety range from muscle tension and headaches, to rising blood pressure and light-headedness. The long term effects can be more severe, like a weakened immune system, digestive difficulties and sometimes depression. Mentally, anxiety can make you feel irritable, alert, and unable to relax or concentrate. But if it really is so common, and can affect those who suffer with it so much, then why aren't we talking about it?

A lot of misconceptions surround mental illness. Whilst of course some days are

better than others, suffering from an anxiety disorder is like living the morning after day by day. Whilst extreme anxiety can mean that even having a basic conversation is terrifying, relationship worries, occasional self-identity thoughts or procrastination ideas are pretty common among students. According to Queen Mary's Advice and Counselling service, problems with anxiety arise when we start to feel anxious more often and more intensely, when there is no real danger and it seems to happen without reason.

There are a number of aspects of university life that contribute towards this – perhaps it's a fear of rejection, paying back that 60k of student debt, or a fear of underachieving academically. Living away from home, or housemate issues may be familiar for all of us. Living with severe anxiety can make this worse, as Mind state that you may be unable to hold down relationships, jobs, or even enjoy leisure time.

Yet despite this, there's significant reluctance to get support. I remember one friend responding "what's that for? How come?" Like the 'C word' was some form of forbidden word, after it came up in conversation that I had a counselling appointment the following day.

I was surprised by the amount of people in the waiting room, all with their own issues they felt they too needed help with. If mental illness is so common, then why aren't we talking about it?

People seem to be afraid to label their worries as anxiety. "Why are you worrying?" sometimes means it's something we are supposed to 'snap out of', like anxiety is a choice. Mental illness is a term people are afraid of. There are social stigmas and negative connotations attached, but these are created by us. Mental illness is something that needs to be recognised more, in others and yourself. As prolific blogger, Jack Harries, says in his most recent video entitled 'Let's Talk About

Mental Health', "[mental illnesses] are an illness, not a weakness. They are an issue, not an identity. It's okay to be suffering from a mental illness, but it's not okay to not talk about it, because then we achieve nothing."

Mental illness is anything that is a behavioural problem that affects our ability to function in ordinary life, outside of regular norms.

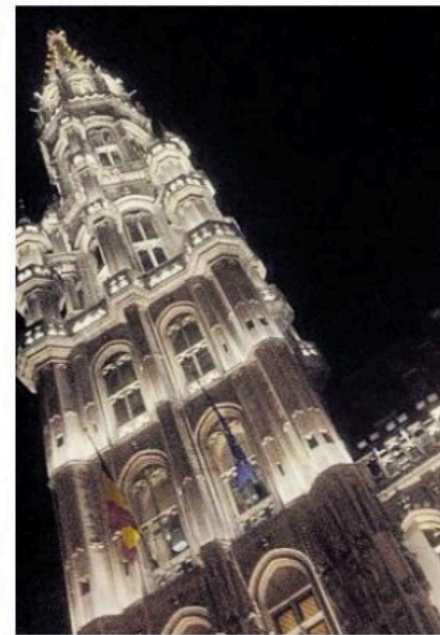
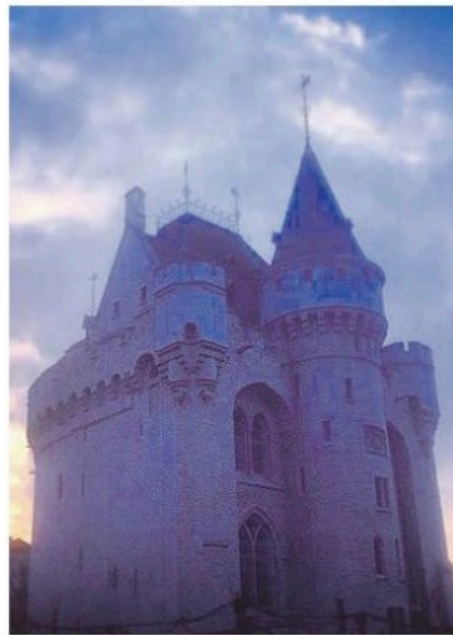
The good news is that help is on offer. QM's Advice and Counselling Service is ranked 1st in the Russell Group and 1st in London by our students (i-Graduate ISBSB Autumn 2013). Advice and Counselling offer a number of services, from workshops to group therapies and Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy.

Further information can be found at <http://www.welfare.qmul.ac.uk>, or by telephoning Advice and Counselling on 020 7882 8717.



# Foreign Correspondent: Brussels

This week's Foreign Correspondent, Brandon Walsh-Alexander, welcomes us to Brussels. The city that sleeps. All the time.



Images: Brandon Walsh - Alexander. Top left: Porte de Hal (Medieval City gate). Above: Grand Palace. Top right: Gardens near Bozar. Bottom: Brussels Metro

## Brandon Walsh-Alexander

I've been living in Brussels now for over 6 months and it's been a very rocky relationship. It started off very promisingly. Everything was cheaper than London: rent, bills, beer, cigarettes. It was very multicultural and multilingual, and it was a place that I knew nothing about, and neither did my friends or family.

It was to be the start of a new chapter, a year of adventure and self-discovery. However, shortly after moving into my short term room rental and my partner visiting me for a couple of days, things started to go downhill. I lived in the European part of the city where everyone spoke English, I was surrounded by bureaucrats and European Association boffins and lobbyists – the nearby 'Association of Fruit Juice' being one that made me question everything about the world.

I then moved to the up and coming area of Saint Gilles – essentially the East London of Brussels – which was heavily French-speaking and rather arty. Things started to look up – but there was no getting

away from the annoying and, essentially, ridiculous parts of Belgian culture.

Want to go and buy some last minute bits from the supermarket having worked overtime? No chance. All supermarkets close at 8pm. Do you fancy going to the gym on a Sunday afternoon after a weekend of eating too many Belgian frites? Nope. Want to go and have some retail therapy after a heavy day at work? Again, you've guessed it, nope. All shops close at around 6pm during the week. Even H&M. Nothing opens on the Oxford Street equivalent, Rue Neuve, on a Sunday!

My best friend visited me in Brussels this week and I warned her not to come in the first half of the week – Brussels is famous for being dead from Monday until Thursday evening, but nonetheless she came and, lo and behold, nothing was happening. We went into the centre at 8pm to grab a bite to eat, alighted the metro at the station closest to the centre and there was no one in sight. No one. If only

I had saved the Snapchat so I could show you!

Nonetheless, as I have said to so many people, the weekend is a great time to be in Brussels – during the summer there are so many different kind of festivals: Jazz, Italian, Spanish Beer, and any other festival you could think of. And because a lot of French students come to study in Brussels, there's a very heavy techno scene and quite an underground music scene. There are some pretty decent parts to Brussels – it's full of culture and greatness and warrants a visit or two. But I wouldn't advise living there.

There are two quotes that stick out to me from talking about Brussels with my friends, summing up the place – "Brussels is not where you want to settle down, it's a city of nomads" and "Brussels is a city of bureaucrats, corporates and politicians".







# A Question of Sport: what's stopping you getting active?

The Print looks into the ever-popular New Year's resolution to exercise more, and asks if a healthy mind is being overlooked in favour of a healthy body

Tierney Amber Cowap

As the New Year rolls around, many of us resolve to banish the booze and commit to healthier habits. For most, this means taking up a more frequent exercise regime – but it's not always easy to stick to this resolution with the pressures of university. The stresses of student life, from a lack of time to divert away from studies to a lack of spare cash to cover the cost, can play a factor in the breaking of good habits.

Worryingly, however, research conducted by Sport England suggests that there is a further reason for lack of student participation in sport: 40% of respondents claimed they did not regularly participate in sport as a result of 'self-consciousness and embarrassment' about their bodies. More worrying still, of these students, the vast majority were female. In light of these statistics, it appears that issues of poor self-esteem and body image, particularly among female students, present a barrier to the myriad of health benefits that regular exercise can bring.

Fortunately, several campaigns have recently been launched, targeted at university students and at the wider community, which aim to increase involvement in physical activity. The QMSU Get Active campaign and the government initiative This Girl Can (backed by Sport England) both encourage young people to participate in sport. Get Active is "the Union's fun, convenient and affordable sport programme", which offers a wide range of 'turn up and play' activities. The itinerary ranges from traditional sports such as football, cricket, and basketball, to more radical activities including diving, archery, and BMX cycling. With sessions costing an average of £2, this campaign offers students at Queen Mary a cheaper way of trying out new activities and discovering new passions, making regular participation an achievable goal. Finding a sport or activity you are enthusiastic about arguably goes some way to combatting and overcoming

feelings of self-consciousness. If you find something you enjoy doing, it doesn't feel like such a chore.

On a more public stage, the This Girl Can campaign focuses specifically on the issue of female reluctance to participate in sport for reasons of body confidence. Their website addresses many women's self-consciousness and fear of looking less-than-perfect whilst exercising, and thereby failing to get involved. The campaign aims to assuage their fears, claiming to be "a celebration of active women up and down the country who are doing their thing no matter how well they do it, how they look or even how red their face gets." Taglines such as "sweating like a pig, feeling like a fox" cut to the heart of the matter, demonstrating that This Girl Can is about getting active, regardless of your appearance. Though targeted primarily at women, the message that the way you look whilst exercising doesn't matter and should not prevent you from taking part is undoubtedly positive for students, irrespective of gender.

However, getting students involved in regular exercise is arguably only half of the battle against poor body image. Though campaigns such as QMSU's Get Active and This Girl Can demonstrate that the health benefits of participating in sport are undeniable, being active does not necessarily address the root cause of self-esteem issues. The same survey conducted by Sport England also interviewed those who did take part in regular sporting activity: of the respondents, 39% admitted that they exercised in order to 'feel more confident about their body image'. Such statistics raise the other side of this debate: though poor body-confidence can present a barrier to exercising, an unhealthy use of exercise can simply paper over underlying issues of body-confidence, or even aggravate them. In order to address issues of self-esteem, both physical and mental aspects have to be covered.

Fortunately, services which



*"Sport England suggests that there is a further reason for lack of student participation in sport: 40% of respondents claimed they did not regularly participate in sport as a result of 'self-consciousness and embarrassment' about their bodies"*



Image: From Top- Flickr Leon G Bottom- Flickr The Big Lunch

target this aspect of body-confidence can be found just around the corner from Queen Mary. Based in The Canvas Café and Creative Venue in Shoreditch, the BodyGossip campaign promotes the need to cultivate a healthy attitude to one's own appearance. It aims to "empower everybody to be the best version of themselves". Focusing their efforts on teenagers and young people, BodyGossip uses a combination of Arts (short films and live theatre) and Education Programmes to deal with the challenges the modern world presents against feeling confident and secure in oneself, regardless of physicality. Ruth Rogers, from BodyGossip, said: "Every day, we are being told we're ugly by industries who are making money by preying on our insecurities. The first step towards feeling better about your own, individual beauty is to see it as just that – you are unique...so before you try and change yourself to emulate the billboards and magazine ads, remember that the best person to look like is yourself." In this way, well-being is addressed from a perspective of inner confidence, not outer modification.

Going to the gym regularly should not be the only reason you feel happy and secure within yourself. Missing exercise sessions should not inspire guilt and self-loathing. If this is the case, Queen Mary Advice and Counselling can offer support to students struggling with issues of self-esteem and body-image, and help to work through the root causes of these issues. Having the courage to overcome insecurity in pursuit of a healthier lifestyle is an admirable thing, but so is remembering that you are not defined by your last gym session: remembering to work on the health of both mind and body this year could be the best resolution you make.

More about QMSU Get Active: <http://www.qmsu.org/getactive/>

More about This Girl Can: <http://www.thisgirlcan.co.uk/>



# Drinkers who clog up A & E are a pain, but spare them the arrests

A & E specialist claims fines and cautions aren't enough, but everyone has their bad days says Louise Bracken

Louise Bracken

Recently, Dr. Cliff Mann, a prolific A & E doctor and the president of the College of Emergency Medicine, urged stricter measures to be taken into account for dealing with the drunken multitudes that crowd emergency departments most Friday and Saturday nights. He argued that such patients, whose illnesses are self-inflicted, divert medical attention from other patients who are "more deserving" of treatment. The treatment of alcohol in hospitals is also costing the NHS around £21 billion every year and this figure is rising. These measures, however, seem to be incredibly harsh. Mann has rejected the idea of fines and cautions in the way of arrests and criminal records to those who have one too many at the weekend.

Many have voiced criticism at this idea. The heavier involvement of the police is at no relief to the tax-payer, it is simply displacing the problem of weekend drunks onto another area of the emergency services, whose main priority is to ensure the safety of our streets and our people. A lone girl who is so

inebriated that she can't stand is surely at far less risk in a hospital, receiving care and shelter under supervision, which disputes Mann's claims. Unless it is a case of drunk and disorderly, police action is not something that can help the binge drinking problem in our hospitals.

As a student who is a proud alumnus of Queen Mary's greatest school (Monday's Calling), and also as someone who has worked behind a bar for three years, I have had no lack of experiences with alcohol. Tuesday mornings are now a painful haze of medieval literature lectures, I've made the walk home carrying my heels and hibernated in bed for the entire weekend, and have had to be poured into a taxi more times than I can count.

And I have, on one unfortunate occasion, ended up in hospital. Picture it: the night is young (in fact, it wasn't even night, around 7pm in June so the sun was still shining), several bottles of vodka had been swilled and by around 7:45pm, I blacked out, hit the deck, and woke up in hospital to my parents' concerned but disapproving faces, with a bust lip and

vomit in my hair. The next day I had to face all my friends at college who attempted to be supportive through their giggles and I even received a nomination for a prize for the "Biggest Fail" at the end of Year Thirteen, although I lost to the boy who attempted to lead a uniform coup by wearing shorts to school.

My personal experience with alcohol and A & E has meant that Mann's call for punitive measures have utterly repulsed me. There is no pride in ending up in hospital at the end of a night out, and honestly it's not on many party-goers list of places to hit up. Mann appears to be unsympathetic to many of those who end up in hospital without meaning to: those who don't know their limits, those who accidentally hurt themselves, and those who are unlucky enough to be spiked. A few mistakes, that may not even be the fault of the drunken patient, are, if Mann were to have his way, enough to have them condemned for life with a criminal record. Worryingly, Mann also ignores one of the main concerns I have: that alcohol poisoning is a medical issue and can lead to death in some cases; it



Image Flickr - Lydiashinningbrightly

demands medical treatment, and although that may take up an extra bed in A & E, surely this is better than that patient occupying a newly dug grave in the cemetery.

Yet, I'm not blind to the problems that drunks in A & E cause; I understand Mann's concerns about the issue. However, there has got to be a better way to solve the issue than to introduce such harsh measures that would also affect other areas of the emergency services. Binge drinking is a social problem

that cannot be resolved by the possibilities of an arrest; we need a better and more conducive solution. One idea could be to open late night clinics that are solely for the treatment of inebriated patients who need to sleep off the alcohol with an IV in their arm. Perhaps alcohol taxing and licensing hours need to be taken into consideration, or the problem needs to be approached via education. But Mann's suggestion is harsh, unforgiving and ultimately unsafe.

## Medicine: Thinking outside the box rather than just ticking it

Third year Medic Luisa Peress reminds us that there is more to medicine than just the medical

Luisa Peress

Faculty members, relatives and acquaintances repeatedly tell medical students that they are 'different'. They are not merely inferring that, once graduated, we will most likely be employed within six months and have a higher than average salary. I believe people tell us 'we are different' in reference to the gift we are given at such a young age, of people opening up with us and offering us their trust. We are different because we are given the opportunity to bear witness to life and death, joy and suffering, to develop kindness and compassion whilst simultaneously acquiring remarkable amounts of knowledge.

However, in recent years the shift has been towards academic knowledge as the

ultimate goal, rather than part of learning medicine as a way of life driven by our personal values. The application process to study medicine significantly focuses on A-level results, and less value is given to extra-curricular activities and personal interests. Various seniors often tell me that the general atmosphere within the Students' Union is different to what it used to be. Students are less prone to do anything that is not accompanied by a certificate that can be added to our CVs, forgetting that life does not offer us documentation for every time we perform a good deed.

I firmly believe that everyone should continue striving to be academically successful as, ultimately, it is medical knowledge that

saves lives. However, this is not the whole picture; the fine line between empathy and professional detachment, learning to be knowledgeable and humble and important life lessons cannot be learnt solely from books. I have seen a few incredibly knowledgeable doctors lacking basic decency towards patients and colleagues, doing things "to the patient" rather than "for the patient".

The result of this increased academic spin at university – which seems to be particular but not unique to medicine – has implications beyond students contributing less to social activities. Due to this spin, students go through medical school making sure that each task they perform is simply another ticked box

in an almost-endless list of expectations. Many of us forget to immerse ourselves in the many learning opportunities we are offered. Doctor Zubin Damania, in his TEDMED 2012 talk, expressed better than I can what this can lead to: "If we just kept our head down, followed the rules, we progressed to the next step; but each time we did that we lost a bit of our autonomy, we lost a bit of our ability to take risk, we lost a bit of who we were."

Three years ago, at the time of my medical interview, I was enthusiastic to start a course that would allow me to grow – both by attaining invaluable knowledge and growing as a person. I believe this was the case for most of us students and yet, once accepted into

medical school, we became too busy following strategies. We focused almost entirely on academic success, forgetting that medicine is not only about how we perform in an exam. We lost ourselves between routines and boxes to tick to proceed to the next stage of our careers. We kept becoming more perfect but less human. It is true, pursuing a career in medicine definitely means making sacrifices, but it doesn't require us to sacrifice our passions, humanity, and who we are. I believe that we can and should be academically successful alongside doing things we enjoy. We should learn medicine from actively doing medicine.

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# Snoopers Charter

Your favourite apps could soon be banned under David Cameron’s new initiative Snapchat, WhatsApp, iMessage and FaceTime all at risk with PM’s proposals

Tierney Cowap

Many of us have awoken the morning after the night before, checked our phones, and asked ourselves why on earth we thought sending a friend a Snapchat of the Dixie’s we ate (or worse) was a good idea. However, if David Cameron wins in the next General Election, you may not even have the choice to send one, let alone regret it afterwards.

Speaking in Paris in the wake of the gruesome terrorist attacks, Cameron pledged to introduce legislation that would ban forms of communication that encrypt their data and therefore prevent it being read by security services. Snapchat, as well as WhatsApp, iMessage and FaceTime all fall into this category and are unreadable, making them vulnerable to what is being termed Cameron’s “Snoopers’ Charter” – under which they would be rendered illegal. The Prime Minister’s concern for the need to step up security in response to an increased threat of terrorism isn’t, in my opinion, unwarranted. I can understand how a medium of communication that cannot be accessed by security services is, for Cameron and for the general public, a worry and a threat. I can sympathise with him because of the public outcry that inevitably follows terrorist attacks on such a public and violent scale, and his desire to want to be seen to do something that looks like a preventative measure.

But that is exactly the point; banning apps like Snapchat, WhatsApp and iMessage would simply be an illusion of action, not a real step to increase security. For a start, it seems unlikely that terrorist groups who carry out these planned and deadly attacks cannot find a more sophisticated medium for interacting than via Snapchat. It seems dubious to me that they are sending sensitive information via WhatsApp, which could be accessed by anyone who picked up their phones. Agreed, passing legislation to cut off these apps would provide a short-term solution, but only assuming that terrorists actually use them; furthermore, if these forms of encrypted communication are

being employed by terrorists to plot attacks, banning them would not overcome the threat they pose. Technology evolves at a staggering rate: if these apps are blocked by Cameron’s “Snoopers’ Charter”, another means of communication would undoubtedly surface which could be manipulated by those wishing to cause terror.

“ Making it legal for the government to access any message sent by any person at any time is a worrying precedent to set in Britain ”

It is worth considering, however, the threat to freedom of speech that such a measure would elicit. Making it legal for the government to access any message sent by any person at any time is a worrying precedent to set in Britain, and one that smacks of state censorship. I’m not suggesting that I fear Britain would immediately descend into a totalitarian regime; I’m just suggesting that it seems hypocritical for our government to necessitate a total invasion of privacy, when it condemns regimes that do exactly the same thing in other countries. Rather than banning them entirely, could a compromise not be reached between our governments and the businesses in charge of running these forms of communication, whereby access to the data could be granted under certain circumstances or where a warrant is obtained? For many people, apps like iMessage, Snapchat and WhatsApp provide a great service, a free way of communicating with those close to them, and sharing their day to day lives when they cannot perhaps see each other in person. To totally ban innocent people from this life-enhancing technology would need to be considered thoroughly, because it seems to me an unnecessary and ‘showy’ political tactic, made in response to a terrible tragedy.

# Je Suis Charlie?

How far can freedom of the press be used as an excuse, or reason, for publishing offensive content?

Caity Dalby

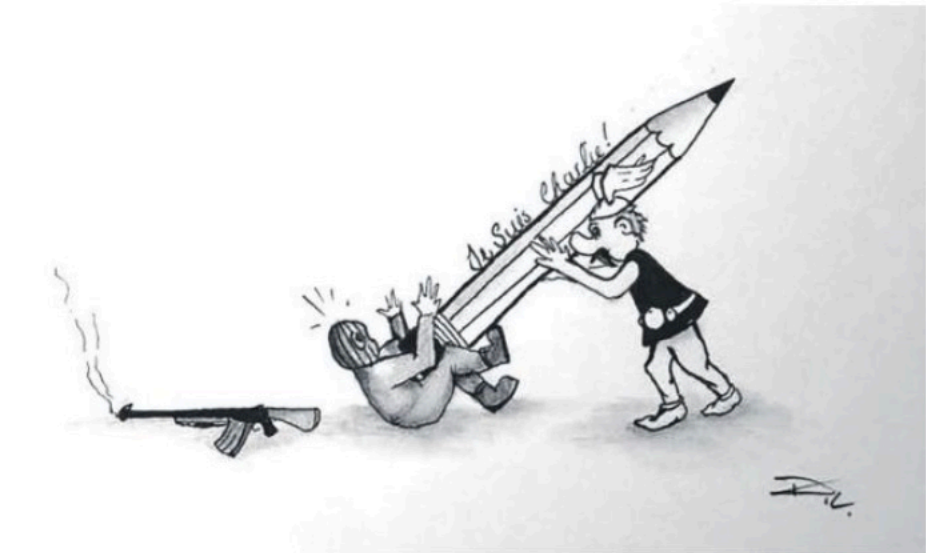


Image David Choo

On 7th January, twelve journalists, cartoonists and police officers were killed in an attack on the Charlie Hebdo offices. These shootings continued throughout Paris over the next two days, a further five people falling victim. The political aftermath of these shootings has divided the press throughout the world, with public opinions ranging from cries demonising the shooters, to anti Charlie Hebdo marches happening all over the globe. One of the most publicised and apparently appropriate reactions to the horrific shootings has been the highly Western-centric focus on actors, directors and other miscellaneous celebrities showcasing their ‘Je Suis Charlie’ badges at award ceremonies. This inadvertently lead to a highly public, although silent protest, that resulted in the shutting down of Iranian Newspaper, Mardom-e-Emrooz, for simply publishing a photograph of George Clooney wearing his ‘je suis’ badge. However, as the attention dies down and the public are left reeling in the aftermath of the tragedy, we are still left with one question that almost everyone seems to be failing to answer: how far can freedom of the press be used an excuse, or reason, for publishing offensive content?

The weekly satirical

magazine, Charlie Hebdo, is part of a secular French tradition of satire that has left nothing not critiqued or criticised since the 18th century. Its subject matter has moved from the Royalty-mocking days of the French Revolution, into a significantly more international and potentially offensive portrayal of heads of state, racial stereotypes, and religious figures. It is this racial and religious element that has been highlighted in lieu of the recent events; the shooting at the magazine’s offices being carried out by apparent self-proclaimed Islamists, who cite a cover depicting the Prophet Mohammed as the reason for their actions. Yet, the fact that their actions were reprehensible does not eliminate the offensive nature of the cartoon. Just because something is labelled as satire does not mean it is appropriate to print. Furthermore, regardless of political or satirical intent, there is a condemnable continuing theme of racist portrayals of ethnic minorities, and a particularly offensive focus on Islam in Charlie Hebdo’s satire. One of the defences of this is that the magazine, due to its typically French and extremely secular approach to politics and religion, also frequently satirises the Pope. Yet, due to his position as a

white European, the satire condemning his position, power and religion, is more generally applied to Catholicism as a whole and what he personally does as the current head of the Church. You cannot definitively compare Charlie Hebdo’s portrayals of the Pope and the Prophet, as the latter is a long dead, particularly religious figure that plays a significant role in Islam. There is also the extremely telling factor that their depiction of the Pope is not racially charged, unlike the stereotypical depiction of the Prophet as what they deem to be a ‘typical’ Muslim.

We can promote and fight for freedom of the press, and expression, whilst also condemning racist publications that abuse their position as a satirical magazine to publish insensitive and racist content. This isn’t a call for the end of satire, or for the censorship of the press to accommodate religious views, however, there needs to be an awareness of the appropriateness of what we are publishing and consuming. As well as a realisation that, whilst many cartoonists may be dismayed at this artistic ‘censoring’, there are still societies in which people do not have the right to freedom of expression in their own homes.

# The Fresher Reality

We always hear about people going wild within their new freedoms, the huge nights out, epic sexual conquests, and the relentless use of alcohol. How much of that really happens at QM?

Joseph Morel

Living in halls is likely to be an experience. For those who didn’t gap year, it’s the first time you live away from home, family, old friends, and everything familiar. For those who did, it’s a chance to talk about just how surreal and mind-expanding Thailand was. Comparatively few freshers actually live on campus – from mid-August onwards, people were desperately seeking flat-mates on Facebook and applying to massively expensive private halls. Fresher Jack, 19 from Kent, moved into Scape, opposite campus, after being rejected for QM halls. Despite paying more than he would for campus halls, Jack has a new studio with masses of facilities and “easy access to Drapers”. If money is less of an issue and you care about meeting new people whilst at uni, don’t start panicking if you don’t live on campus. He went on to say; “I also met more people from QM here so it was easier to make friends”. The general consensus is that for a ‘typical’ Fresher’s experience, living in halls matters, but they don’t have to be within QM.

Other unis have legendary stories that make it online



Image QMSU

through Spotted: pages or Tell Him/Her, but nothing’s come out of Queen Mary that comes anywhere near matching Southampton’s Jesters stories, or the paralegal happenings in Maple Bank at Birmingham. This year’s Queen Mary equivalent ‘QMUL Confessions and Proposal’ actually began as a fake page; its creators now get more real submissions than fakes that they initially made up, although it’s about “half and half” on whether they’re believable or not. Other experiences are less impressive; anyone who went

to see Katherine Ryan and Rob Beckett at the Griff Inn, you’re in the minority. There were more people still outside waiting in the queue to try and get places than there were people actually let into the venue. Friendships for life were forged in that line; comedy bridged Mile End and Whitechapel, as medics and linguists met for the first time. Mixed reports came out of the Zane Lowe and Ms Dynamite night at Fabric – it turned out to be a UCL takeover as it kicked off their Freshers. They don’t know how to Fresh properly either – there were more people outside

begging cigarettes off each other than there were dancing, being told to “get your hands where I can see them” by a vocally hyperactive Kiwi who didn’t take requests.

Is it just because there’s too much other stuff to do? Shopping, cooking, laundry, clearing up the wreckage from the night before and treating the £9000 tuition fees as an investment in education definitely get in the way of red beer, instant noodles and sucking face. Or is it just too embarrassing, expensive and knackered to go out every

## The Green Party; Victim of the media’s morbid UKIP fascination

Why it’s a disgrace that it took David Cameron threatening to back out for the Green Party to be invited to the leadership debates

Megan Gurney

Up until this week Ofcom had formally excluded the Green Party from the televised debates in the run up to the general election. Apparently, the Greens have not been considered a major party in the same way that UKIP have, as they have not “secured sufficient support in previous elections and current opinion polls”. This seems far from the truth; not only do the Greens have an MP but they have nearly as many councillors as UKIP. Furthermore, they gained a higher share of votes in the European Parliament Elections than the Liberal Democrats did, and have just surpassed both the Lib Dems and UKIP in membership figures. Even Cameron, whatever his reasons, spoke out against the

exclusion saying “they beat the Liberals in the European Elections; they have got a member of parliament. I don’t see any logical argument for excluding the Greens if you are going to include UKIP”.

So, why then have the Greens been side-lined for so long, while UKIP have enjoyed not just an easy invite into the TV debates, but a vast amount of media coverage? Could it be a further example of the main stream media’s inability to recognise them as a legitimate challenge to the status quo, in continuously presenting them as a single-issue party? (PSA: they’re not). We can’t deny that the attention afforded to UKIP far surpasses that given to the Greens; for example, Nigel Farage has been a panellist on BBC’s Question

time 25 times, with he and other UKIP representatives being invited to join more than double the amount of times the Greens were.

As far as I can tell, the reason for the media’s incessant obsession with covering both UKIP and their annoyingly charismatic leader, Farage, is the entertaining way in which he seems to oppose Westminster’s political climate. He’s like a bull they can throw right into the china shop; Farage is a well-spoken populist who knows how to control his media image, and distance himself from the private-school-educated-Bullingdon-club-initiated repetitive elite that voters struggle to identify with (Another PSA: emphasis on the ‘distance himself

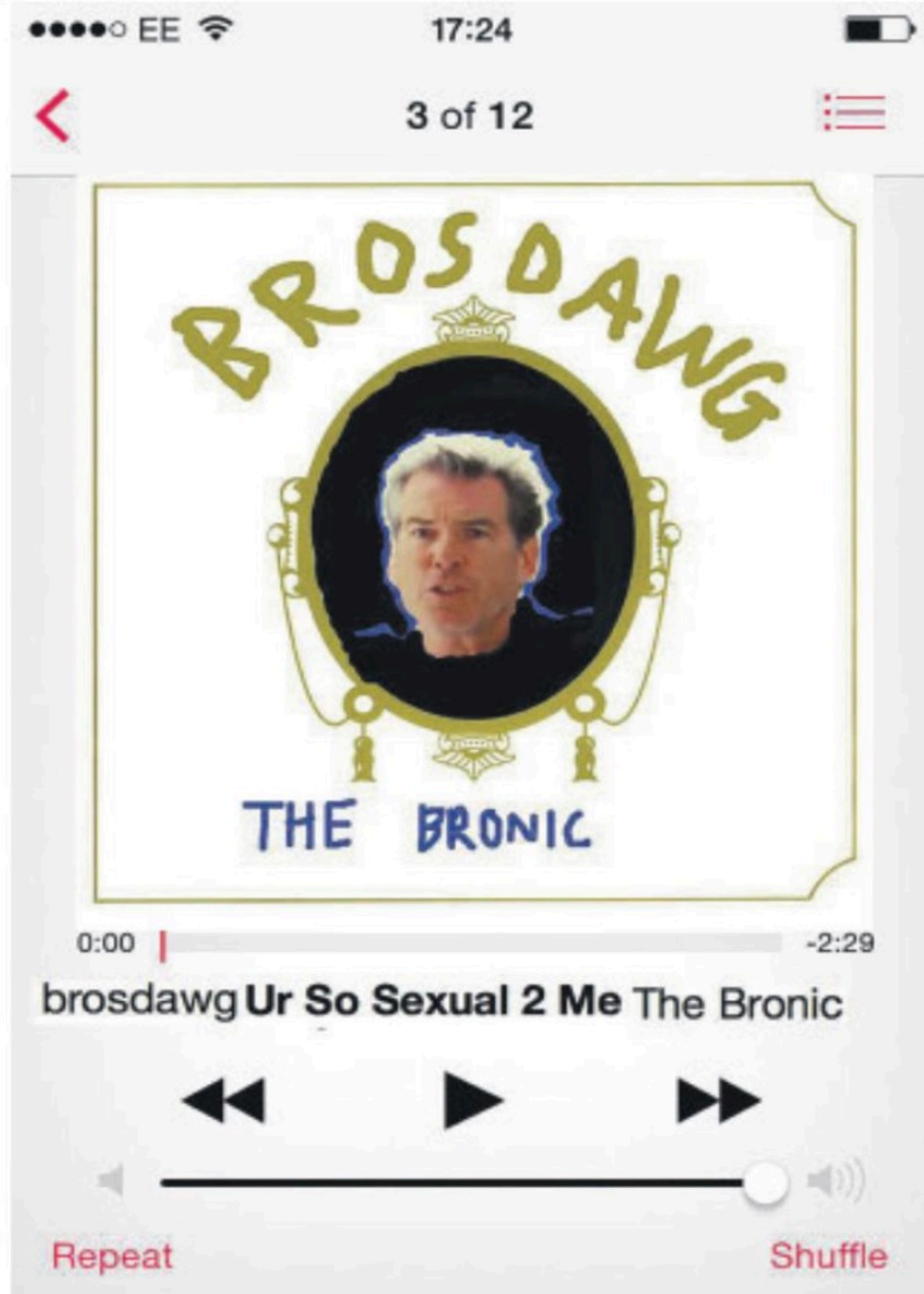
from’). We’ve all heard of that Black Mirror episode right? Well Farage is Waldo: he speaks to the disillusioned mass of bored voters in a way they understand and find intriguing. I can’t blame media moguls for wanting them on; they want to produce television that people will keep watching, and in the case of UKIP, most people really can’t look away.

I’m not defending this attitude, but suggesting that the Green Party have unfortunately not been afforded the same luxury. Without a doubt, more people would recognise an image of Farage than they would Natalie Bennett. Not because UKIP have exhausted themselves with gritty campaigning, but because they have been given

more airtime, more interviews, and more attention. Inclusion of UKIP without inclusion of the Greens would dramatically move discourse to the right of the political spectrum; an unrepresentative portrayal of the voting habits of the British public. Hopefully I’m not the only one who becomes slightly offended at the thought of a party who seek to undermine the progress done in legalising gay marriage for example, being given more attention than one developing policies aimed at political and environmental stability for future generations.



# THE GUILLOTINE



On repeat in the Satire office

Image J.H.

## Hackney Wick tit conference turns ugly

Community Centre Page 3 conference marred by raspberries and grimacing

A.R.

The Sun newspaper has recently been embroiled in a culmination of discontent about the sexist nature of Page 3, its long running campaign for the mass dissemination of pictures of pert young titties. The future of the forty-year-old feature currently hangs limp in the balance, where once it stood firm and proud.

Owner David Dinsmore addressed the issue during a press conference held at Hackney Wick Community Centre on Tuesday.

Mr Dinsmore began the rather sparsely attended conference by projecting a large picture of the pert young titties of a woman onto the tallest wall of the building, while leering into the crowd, visibly erect, rubbing his thighs and grunting whilst periodically addressing the nipples of the young woman with a laser-pointer, raising his eyebrows and winking.

After five or so minutes of the attended being subjected to the pert young titties of the woman in question, Mr Dinsmore clicked on to the next slide of the slideshow, revealing a toned young man with spread legs, scantily clad in white briefs, within which the contours of the

gentleman's plonker could rather clearly be seen.

Upon revealing this image, Dinsmore huffed and swiftly grasped his nostrils closed with his thumb and forefinger, grimacing and blowing raspberries while striding around the stage indignantly, occasionally stamping his feet angrily against the boards.

The rest of the conference continued in the same manner, no words were spoken and an eyewitness claims, "He would not be reasoned with, my husband and I tried to shout him down but Mr Dinsmore just mimicked the sound of our protest with nasal noises, then his press agent told me that if we didn't 'get the fuck outta here' he would 'deck' my husband".

The images were continually switched from one to the other and Mr Dinsmore's mimes were repeated until the entire congregation disbanded.

Despite the venue being empty, locals have claimed that the conference lasted for a further three hours, throughout which Mr. Dinsmore's distant grunts and woofs could be heard issuing from the building and all along the A12.

Outrage ensued over the incoherent and offensive

nature of Mr. Dinsmore's initial conference. Dylan Sharpe, head of PR at the The Sun, was prompted to respond by holding a further conference that was re-convened on Thursday at the same venue.

Appearing on stage, nervous and sweating, to jeers and cheers from a divided crowd, Sharpe addressed the congregation and proceeded to pose solutions to the Page 3 problem.

"Right, the way I see it, we've got three options" he began, to a somewhat skeptical audience. "One: page two is devoted to a pretty young man with rock hard abs and only somewhat concealed genitalia or arse." The divided crowd responded in a typical fashion, respectively conciliated and appalled.

"Alright, how about this then" he continued. "Number two: Instead of girl tits we get a big picture of a pig or something all spread eagle on its back. Pigs have got billions of tits haven't they, like, a mental amount. Imagine that, all shit loads of pig tits, they've just got way more of them." Before even finishing the proposal, Sharpe was unanimously shouted down and condemned as a pervert.

Exasperated, Sharpe struggled on: "Okay! Last one, Number three: For some reason people are offended about Page 3, mainly women or whatever, so what I propose is, and hear me out; We keep the pert young titties." And murmuring began. "Wait! We keep the pert young titties but we just cut the woman off." The crowd at this point was visibly confused. "So what I'm saying," Sharpe went on, "is that we just cut the woman off, no Photoshop, like all cut off with a knife type job, analogue, all real stuff, just flesh, that's where the business is, the tits business, you cut off the woman and you cut off the offence. Disembodied tit flesh, no bullshit."

By this point the crowd had grown visibly uncomfortable with Sharpe's lack of empathy. Many, suspecting psychosis, had left, and those who stayed had congregated around the door or began to conduct their own conversations on other matters. Sharpe meanwhile became more desperately infuriated on the stage, repeatedly screaming "This is what you want!" until all those who gathered had disbanded.

## Arms will "Double in length" if selfie culture persists

Top QM evolutionary biologist pens report in Lancet on "catastrophic" effects of selfies on upper limbs

D.B.

A report penned by prestigious QM evolutionary biologist Dr Nigel Smegwart OBE has warned of the dramatic evolutionary dangers of "selfie culture" on the length of people's arms in the future. The report, which has been featured in the Lancet medical journal, claims that younger generations can expect to be born with arms up to "double their current length" due to the arm stretching requirements of "above average selfies" - ones in which the camera is held at arm's length to allow for the optimum ratio of

background to face.

Dr Smegwart OBE explains: "What we are seeing now is a generation obsessed with 'the perfect selfie'. Although some are able to employ devices such as the 'selfie stick' to create better images, we have observed that many who cannot afford proper equipment find themselves stretching their arms repetitively throughout the day. With the average youngster taking between fifty to a hundred selfies a day, this is an extensive amount of 'optimum-extend' stretching."

"Studies have shown that

those with better selfies are more likely to find a mate and reproduce. This, combined with the 'rabbit-like' reproduction seen in today's youth, means that, in simple scientific terms, stretched arms will be a feature carried forward as a desirable genetic trait for natural selection, and thus future generations will be born with longer arms to aid their survival."

A research team comprising members of prestigious university biology departments throughout the world are thought to be presenting a similar report at an international evolutionary

biology event later this year in Toronto, Canada.

Dr Smegwart OBE adds: "Selfies may seem harmless, but anything in excess can prove dangerous, even Cheerios, or dare I say it - water. It is a humorous image to have in mind, but in the future, if selfie culture persists, we could have a generation fresh out of the womb resembling Mr Tickle. We'd have to change every aspect of life to accommodate them - from clothing to space on public transport."

## ANNA NICOLE SMITH IS BACK WITH TONED LEGS AND NEW BOO

J.S.

And boy, have we been waiting patiently! After a long absence from the public eye, Anna Nicole was seen today with a new beau in Venice Beach, CA, strolling, shopping, and showing off her toned legs.

"We're so glad she's back" says Memoreigh Leigh, chair of the Anna Nicole Smith Film Collective. "We loved Anna in Wasabi Tuna and we can't wait for her to start filming again! But who knows what's gonna happen," added Leigh of the Naked Gun 33: The Final Insult star.

Experts confirm to The Print that Anna Nicole's legs have never been in better shape. In fact, one of those guys went even further and said that Anna Nicole's legs were "so damn toned you could see the slightly bronzed bone beneath." Lapping up that beautiful Venice sun! Super!

And as for speculation on Anna Nicole's new piece, we just don't know! We honestly don't know! And her prolonged absence from the limelight suggests Anna Nicole wants her privacy upheld, and we respect that. So The Print contacted eye-witnesses from the scene who describe the mystery hunk to have been draped in a long, black cloak, and clutching a long, sharp scythe. So mysterious!

Even though this hunk of beef was covered completely by his gown of night, a variety of possible identities were suggested, spanning from Robin Williams to Phillip Seymour Hoffman. Anna Nicole was herself unavailable for comment.



Image David Choo



# Chaucer’s Tale with Paul Strohm, Terry Jones, and Marion Turner

## A review of the recent History Department gig

M.B.

Queen Mary were very proud to present Paul Strohm, on a talk about his exciting new book on a man long dead; a surprise to Paul Strohm himself, as the History Department cleverly rearranged the letters ‘QMUL’ to form ‘UCL’, tricking all but the most astute patron at the cabaret. There, the stage was set for some enlightening conversations on Chaucer, a man famous for being dead.

First port of call was Paul Strohm, who decided to read from his book like an episode of Jackanory, but a Jackanory of the dead. His arguments have provided much discussion in the academic world, not least in his fevered arguments that Chaucer was in fact Christ and that he freed the Earth from Satan by using a “big stick”. Unfortunately, Strohm was forced to self-censor his own work due to the sheer amount of profanity that lay within the pages, including one page that simply read “Fuck Apple Strudel” with a crayon depiction of a cock without the balls. Therefore, Paul censored his own sentences through pretending to have a cough which unfortunately led to a myriad of confusion, with simple points becoming more marred than a horse with a pig drawn onto it. There were certainly some eyebrows raised when Strohm declared “Chaucer \*cough\* all his \*cough\* money on a \*cough\* horse race and lost it all to some blonde \*cough\*. What a \*cough\*.” As I am an English student, I saw this as him being Avant-Garde, and sharply applauded.

Second to take the slightly raised pedestal was a one Marion Turner. Turner, evidently slightly perturbed by Strohm’s profanity and staunch anti-Semitism, provided the most conventional talk of the evening through her cunning use of words. I’d say that Turner used at least 3,026 words at which point I lost count. Unfortunately, the talk was not on a man long dead, but instead appeared to be

based around the work of David Almond’s seminal biography ‘Skellig’. Turner appeared to be keeping her eye on the clock and would often chew sunflower seeds as if she was nervous. Indeed, she appeared to cut her last sentence short as she ran out of the building with her chained briefcase shaking as it went. As I am an English student, I saw this as her being Avant-Garde, and sharply applauded.

Third to take the now slightly sunken pedestal was national treasure Terry Jones. He appeared drunk, and would often pour vodka from a cleverly disguised bottle of sparkling water. He kept referring to Paul as ‘Eric’ and Marion as ‘Connie’ and opened with a rendition of the Monty Python sketch ‘Nudge Nudge Wink Wink’, but unfortunately due to the lack of Eric Idle, the rendition became more like a finger painting of the macabre. It became increasingly clear that Jones was unsure who the, now dead, Chaucer was. Proceedings were not helped by the simply unprofessional conduct of jailbirds Anthony Ossa-Richardson and Peggy Reynolds, who were smoking at the back of the cabaret, throwing paper aeroplanes and shouting such juvenile and hurtful lines as “What is your name? John Cleese! What is your quest? To be the best Python! What is your favourite colour? Terry Jones’ mum!” and the rudimentary yet somewhat poetic “Richard Coulton can’t read, Richard Coulton make the tea! YOU FAT FUCK”. As I am an English student, I saw this as them being Avant-Garde, and sharply applauded.

Solid 6 out of 10.

# FROM THE HORSE’S MOUTH!

## New resident columnist John Horse gives a wry look at the horror that is the world outside

J.H

Have you heard about this “A and E Waiting Times Improve” news story? Don’t get me started on that one!! Okay, ya got me by the gonads, I’ll spill my guts.

As long time readers will know, my hag of a wife has recently given birth to quadruplets, or as I call them, the HORSEmen of the apocalypse. This meant we had to go to the hospital, despite my demands that it be a homebirth (apparently my mate Keith was “not a qualified witchdoctor, let alone a qualified doctor”). Anyway, when we were at the A and E I began internally satirising the situation. There was a big fat man in front of us and I nudged my wife and said, “Glenda, what do you think of that?” She stared at me in a way I can only describe as queringly. “I’ve got some thoughts,” I continued, “don’t you think big fat men should be denied healthcare? I mean, they’re so big and fat I’m sur-

prised there’s any space for diseases anyway!” The people around me began to listen, and this spurred me to shout. “I mean, for God’s sake, these men are so big and fat that they probably can’t even get ill, they’re so big and fat!”

Later I went to the vending machine to get some Skittles. I don’t know where my wife was at this point because I’d forgotten about her. As I approached the vending machine I thought, hold on, aren’t Skittles bad for me? Why are they selling these at a hospital?! Shouldn’t they be selling salad or something?! I mean for God’s sake, what’s going on in A and E when I can just waltz around chomping on Skittles just waiting to get a disease! No wonder the waits are so long, when you come in you haven’t even got a disease, but then you eat so many Skittles you do get a disease! I mean come on guys! Can’t you do anything right!

Later when I was eating my

Skittles (I say eating, I was sucking on them and spitting them across the hospital floor) I thought to myself, why don’t they just make the hospital in our house?! Imagine that, “hello Doctor do you want some bacon and eggs for breakfast? Oh no they’re high in cholesterol are they? Well Mr Doctor I think you’re being very rude!” It would be mad! I began writing my script there and then. If Charlie Brooker can get Black Mirror commissioned, why can’t a fellow satirist like me get a TV show? Mine would at least be funny. It’s called Hospital House and it’s about a hospital being in someone’s house. They say things like “hello Doctor do you want some bacon and eggs for breakfast? Oh no they’re high in cholesterol are they? Well Mr Doctor I think you’re being very rude!”

Brothel House premieres on Tuesday on BBC Three.

# Orwell to blame for Oxfordshire tremors

## George Orwell found spinning in his grave as Oxbridge and QM geologists locate epicentre of recent quakes

D.B.

Earthquakes affecting much of Oxfordshire in recent weeks are the result of George Orwell spinning in his grave, claim a team of Oxbridge and QM geologists. The quakes have been felt across the region, one of which reaching an unprecedented 2.6 on the Richter Scale, causing up to tens of pounds in damage. The epicentre of the quakes has been traced to Sutton Courtenay, a small village close to Abingdon. The village church yard is the final resting place of famous literary figure

George Orwell, the author of novels including 1984 and Animal Farm.

The team of geologists were shocked at what they found when tracing the epicentre. Head of Geology at QM, Sally Calpol said: “I thought I had seen it all last year when we were investigating submerged granite formations near Grimsby and we found the skeleton of a small (as yet) unidentified Pokemon, but what we unearthed in Oxfordshire tops that! As we dug deeper, there he was, just

It is not clear yet as to the frequency or speed of the spins, but it is thought that the spinning will continue. The cause of the spinning is unclear, however a source close to Orwell’s estate claims the current state of the left is to blame:

“From Russell Brand calling Owen Jones ‘Our Generation’s Orwell’ to Ed Miliband dribbling bacon booty over himself. It was only a matter of time before he started turning. I can’t see him slowing down come May either.”

# Quidditch Tournament #2

After some major and minor setbacks, including a missing team, the snitch being taken ill, and a hole in the ground, the 2nd Quidditch Tournament of the year finally took off.

Talhah Atcha

After some major and minor setbacks, including a missing team, the snitch being taken ill, and a hole in the ground, the 2nd Quidditch Tournament of the year finally took off.

Despite the sun gracing us with its rays, the pitch was still quite muddy. The ground took a while to set up as the committee contemplated the merits of having either some massive puddles for people to slip in, or to have a hole in the ground for people to fall in instead. After half an hour of deliberating, it was decided the puddles and consequential mud would be far more fun to watch...I mean...play in.

We set up our new goal posts, which had brand new bases to prevent them from falling, but also allowed for them to swivel. This is technology at its best! And now all we awaited was the Ravenclaw Team, yet to turn up. Unfortunately, after waiting some time, it was decided that the Ravenclaw Team must have been kidnapped and, as the Snitch had mysteriously taken ill, it was decided that my Co-President, Wilf Mountfield, must have kidnapped them for his entertainment.

With all concern due, as much as could be afforded, we decided to carry the tournament out anyway, and let the Ravenclaw Team fend for itself (I assure you that Wilf is a gentle creature despite his demeanor, so do not worry for them, we have been assured they have had a social since then and so therefore must be alive). The tournament then turned into a double round robin, with a lunch break in between.

The first match was between Gryffindor & Slytherin. Due to the Slytherin Team also having had some members kidnapped (or, knowing Slytherins, they probably helped Wilf with the kidnapping - he incidentally is also a Slytherin), my Head Boy Wimpy, as the “unbiased” (he may also be a Slytherin) non-presidential committee member, substituted in for them. Seeing as how this severely handicapped the Slytherin Team, I allowed them to choose which side of the field to play on by which they wisely chose the side where their backs would be to the sun but unwisely where the massive puddle of mud was.

Whilst I would love to tell you the match was close, Slytherin were trounced.

The subsequent five matches saw the Slytherin Team on such a tight upward trajectory the next destination for them could only be the Andromeda Galaxy. The Gryffindors played valiantly but, despite their strength and determi-

nation, were unable to beat the aggressive Hufflepuffs (I was just as surprised as you, Hufflepuffs displaying such character is undignified). And so, despite the many setbacks at the beginning, the tournament overall was quite successful. Join us for the next tournament on 7th February. 2015!



### Quidditch Round-up

Gryffindor	110	Gryffindor	90
Slytherin	0	Slytherin	50
Hufflepuff	110	Gryffindor	60
Slytherin	20	Hufflepuff	90
Gryffindor	40	Hufflepuff	90
Hufflepuff	120	Slytherin	40

# ACS Ignites the Conversation

## QM Afro-Caribbean Soc hosts inspiring night of debate and performance

Afolabi Adekaiyaoja & Omowunmi Koiki

On the Friday 16th January 2015, Queen Mary African and Caribbean Society (ACS) hosted students, guests including our sponsors, performers, and speakers for a night of debate and performances titled ‘Ignite: The Conversations’. The event, presented by Ra’ifah Rafiq, loosely modelled on the ‘TED’ format, whereby external guests speak on a variety of themes and topics for 18 minutes, was sponsored by QMUL ACS sponsors Linklaters, Clifford Chance, and the QMSU Arts and Culture Fund. A great deal of effort went into the planning and execution of the event, with the ACS committee staying up late on Tuesday evening painting the boxes that would become the props and stage design for the day, and filling the gift bags with souvenirs kindly donated by Linklaters and Clifford Chance.

Ignite: The Conversations was divided into three speaking segments – Heritage, Today, and Legacy, with an additional section entitled Provocations. Heritage had two performances by Jolade Olusanya, a spoken word performer, and Margaret Rwegasira, a QM alumna and performer. Both pieces were anchored on how to overcome current stereotypes as well as dealing with how to keep track of the cultural progress we have made. This section was followed by a short intermission whereby our audience enjoyed canapés and drinks in the foyer whilst continuing to discuss and ‘ignite conversations’. After the break there was one of two ‘provocations’, whereby guest moderator Solomon Olukoya led the debate amongst audience members about the issue of assimilation versus integration.

The next segment was Today, in which another QM alumna, Funmi Abari, took to the stage first. Funmi dealt with how to overcome obstacles and not find excuses for failures but instead work through them. Her talk left the audience

buzzing ahead of the next speaker Claud Williams. Claud is an entrepreneur and founder of DreamNation which is a social enterprise helping to groom ‘practical dreamers’. He addressed the idea of ‘culture’, which was based on how it has a dynamic nature and the ways in which we can use this as an advantage. This led to another provocation, this time dealing with the Baga killings in Nigeria and the lack of Western media coverage in comparison with the widely reported Charlie Hebdo killings. Once more, Solomon Olukoya was able to carefully navigate the discussion, engaging many audience members to share their opinions on the sensitive issues – this brought about heated yet insightful exchanges.

The QM Ignite Team tactically kept the identity of guest speakers a secret ahead of the event, therefore when Olympic Champion Christine Ohuruogu arrived took to the stage, the audience was visibly excited. Still, this did not deter members of the audience from asking very provocative and challenging questions after Christine’s motivational speech regarding how to be determined and not subdued by opposition.

The last segment was Legacy, and the two speakers Junior Ogunyemi, an entrepreneur, motivational speaker and QM alumni, and Dr Gbadebo Ogunlami, a lecturer and powerful speaker, really brought Ignite: The Conversations to an amazing finish.

To conclude, the ACS committee received applause from the audience after a very thought-provoking experience. Guests from other African and Caribbean Societies, alumni and friends were quick to praise the team and the unique format used to execute this event. It is our hope that this will be the first of many Ignite: The Conversations hosted by Queen Mary African and Caribbean Society.





# Queen Mary Pro Bono Society

## Get your foot in the law door

Lena Von Eyern

The Queen Mary Pro Bono Society (QMPBS) is a student-led non-profit organisation, which has a primary focus on increasing understanding of justice and the law itself in a vast array of areas, by engaging members in volunteering, fundraising and networking opportunities. Members can participate in various placements with London based firms such as Reed Smith and Clifford Chance, as well as participate in our international placements all across the globe reaching from Australia, to Ghana, India, Singapore, and Cyprus. Furthermore, QMPBS offers an internship with the Foundation for International Environmental

Law and Development, whereby members can gain legal experience concerning this niche area of law.

Members also have the incredible opportunity to volunteer at local charities like Whitechapel Mission and the Holy Cross Centre, as well as help the Pro Bono Society continue to work together with the Tower Hamlets Community Church to provide guidance and legal support.

In addition to our placement and volunteer schemes, we host numerous events concerning contemporary legal and political issues. Over the years, we have hosted various events ranging from talks with barrister Toby Cadman, lectures on Domestic

Violence with Refuge, presentations on Surviving Death Row with Amicus International, and conferences concerning cuts to legal aid with former Chairman of the Commercial Bar Association, Robin Knowles. Other events hosted include: 'How to get a first', Speed Networking, and Women at the Bar and the Judiciary.

Overall, QMPBS is a very busy and lively society, offering lots of invaluable opportunities for its members, while providing incredibly important services to local and international communities.

## What is commercial awareness and where do I get some?!

### New society getting students clued up on current affairs and their consequences

Matt Price

The Queen Mary Commercial Awareness Society is a new society that aims to improve our members' understanding and awareness of current affairs, and their consequential effect on legal and commercial sectors.

This will be done primarily through informal fortnightly meetings. Here, members will be able to bring up and discuss current affairs, whereby critical discussions of relevant commercial issues, their impacts and significances will be addressed. Furthermore, commercial workshops (done in partnership with our increasing list of sponsors) and guest speakers throughout the year will allow you to enhance your grasp on the legal and commercial context of current affairs.

For example, there are several interesting upcoming talks that we have scheduled. The first is a talk with Reed Smith, one of our partners, discussing US and EU trade controls and sanctions aimed at Russian activity in Crimea and Ukraine. The situation in eastern Ukraine has become

increasingly intensified, with Russian and Western relations becoming strained, and measures becoming simultaneously as complex. It is this rapid development of tensions and measures, the need for it to be closely monitored, and its rippling effects on business, that will be essential to becoming commercially aware of the issue.

Another talk taking place aims to address and elaborate on the consequential issues of David Cameron's statement about wanting the UK to be the centre of Islamic Finance. This talk will be held with the Islamic Finance Council, a specialist advisory and development body established to promote and enhance the global Islamic and ethical finance industry. Cameron's statement opens the UK to more methods of project financing in the UK, primarily compatible with Middle-Eastern and North African countries for deals, potentially increasing international trade, for both small and large businesses alike. As such, there will also be a visible pressure

on law firms to increase their finance departments reach to accommodate Islamic finance deals and litigation if they want to remain competitive. This talk will be of particular benefit to anyone hoping to do a vacation scheme or training contract, particularly as training contracts normally include a seat in banking and finance departments. The talk is also of valuable insight to anyone wishing to undertake a training contract with a secondment in the Middle-East, such as Dubai.

Membership to this new and exciting society is open to all Queen Mary Students. To join us, simply go to our website, <http://www.qmcas.com/join-us/>. The price of membership is £5, which enables you to attend our fortnightly meetings, partake in workshops, and attend lectures by commercially aware guest speakers. For any more information, contact us via our website.

<http://www.qmcas.com>

# European Law Students' Association Takeover

## Secretary General details the impressive and the upcoming

Anastasia Kalinina

The European Law Students' Association (ELSA) is a global network comprised of more than 41,000 law students and legal professions all around the globe. Our aim is to contribute to legal education, to foster mutual understanding, and to promote social responsibility of law students and young lawyers on an international level, all in the spirit of critical dialogue and academic co-operation.

We engage in active collaboration with other ELSA local groups such as our own, located in over 40 other countries, in order to provide a platform for the development of soft skills and professional and academic knowledge, in the form of events and activities held all around Europe. Our Student Trainee Exchange Programme is a chance to get paid legal work experience abroad, whilst short-term summer law schools are a great way to deepen your academic knowledge in a niche area of the law. Institutional and Study visits, as well as delegations, can help you get acquainted with the international legal community and its functions. We also offer our members the opportunity to participate in prestigious international competitions, such as the ELSA Moot Court Competition, and the Human Rights Moot Court Competition the finals of which are held in the ECtHR and WTO, respectively. We are currently in the process of forming a team whose participation fees will be fully covered by ELSA QM.

Founded last year, ELSA QM has already grown to be a large society within Queen Mary, with over 120 members having joined in the first three weeks of this academic year. We attribute our success to the exposure that we were able to receive, through representing our group at the Freshers' Fair and holding separate introductory events for both undergraduate and postgraduate law students, where we outlined all that we will be offering for the following academic year. Our

social event also provided us with the opportunity to connect with our members directly, and we were very pleased to see the scope of diversity present amongst us. This will give us the opportunity to further our goals even more. For this reason, our next social will revolve precisely around this idea of an "International Café" where we will be able to share some ELSA spirit over a casual cup of tea or coffee.

“Our Student Trainee Exchange Programme is a chance to get paid legal work experience”

All this means working closely with ERASMUS students and creating projects catered specifically to them, such as our Student Handbook; the first of its kind to be distributed by any ELSA group. It proved so popular that it was made available for all newcomers to Queen Mary, School of Law, through our society. We have also already set up an International ERASMUS Buddy Scheme program with which we aim to match current QM ERASMUS law students with law students from the respective EU universities, thus building a network from the very start of their course

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# ISoc and Barts Muslim Medics and Dentists host record-breaking charity week

## Charity week surpassed all expectations and inspired students unite to raise a record £46,779.44.

Amber David & Irshad Gooljar

Charity Week was first started in 2004 by a small team of university students from London. Initially, the project was organised by the University of London Islamic Society (ULU ISoc) in partnership with Islamic Relief (a member of UK's Disaster Emergency Committee). Charity Week provides us with a dual purpose: to raise awareness for orphans and needy children, whilst anticipating a reward as a result of fulfilling one's obligation or the voluntary action of giving charity - known as Sadaqah.

Now in its 11th year, Queen Mary Islamic Society (ISoc) and Barts Muslim Medics and Dentists (MMD) brothers organized a mountain trek up the tallest mountain in England and Wales, Mount Snowdon, which involved 60 people, whilst the sisters organized a skywalk over the O2.

The week kicked off with the 'Intersociety Quiz' where over 15 societies competed to win the coveted Intersoc quiz trophy, which was won by BL Carrom society! There was also the 'Queen Maryam' Football Tournament, which hosted 32 teams.

'Unity is Key', the core team, which was made up of six members representing QMUL and Barts campuses, managed and supported more than two hundred volunteers. Multiple sub-teams were arranged to manage different aspects of the organisation - key areas included finance, media, logistics and events teams. Thus, those involved in managing such teams have definitely developed many transferable and employable skills they can apply once they graduate.

This cause has brought a



Image ISoc and Barts Muslim Medics and Dentists



Image ISoc and Barts Muslim Medics and Dentists

lot of people together. New friendships have been formed, the unity between QM and Barts has grown and many people are aware not only of Charity Week, but of several other societies at QMUL and Barts. We relied on one another, trusted each other, and most importantly, worked around individual strengths and weaknesses in order to get everyone involved and become an effective team.

There were a handful of people who smashed their fundraising target for the mountain trek and ended up raising £1,000! We also had donors of £1,000 at the dinner.

The ultimate vision of Charity Week is to become a vehicle to inspire students to become active, socially engaged, and united upon

Islam. Our aim was not just about raising money, rather it was about creating unity, and once unity is achieved, we found that the fruits became apparent through donations and support. We are convinced that the solution for the suffering of so many across the world is not a temporary hand-out, but a permanent and stable nation that is both productive and protective of its citizens. In essence, the solution does not lie in a box of medicine, but it lies in a stable economy.

## Equip Africa Society: Medical Do-Gooders

### Looking south, south, south, south...

Ogagaoghene Sim-Ikere

Equip Africa is a fundraising society that aims to raise awareness and promote the cause of the Equip Africa Charity, which is now officially registered as a non-profit organisation, founded by the medical student Ogagaoghene Sim-Ikere in 2013. Its main goal is to improve the condition of healthcare facilities in Afri-

can countries by providing key medical equipment and training to underprivileged hospitals. The vision of the Equip Africa Charity is to make a real impact on the precarious situation of many hospitals around Africa, making sure the equipment is used for the right purposes. The most recent project has been directed to the State

Emergency Service (LASEMS) in Lagos, Nigeria. Through fundraising events the charity has succeeded in obtaining medical equipment to send to Lagos.

After the successful events and campaigns of the Equip Africa Charity, the Equip Africa Society was created, to further support these and many

more projects. The society will act as the bridge between the charity and Queen Mary students by holding regular events and meetings on campus open to everyone. The new committee of the Equip Africa Society is determined to reach and engage a broad range of students in a fun and relaxed way to make sure the cause of

the charity is well heard. To know more about the Equip Africa Charity visit

<http://www.equipafrica.org.uk/>

And to join the Society go to

<http://www.qmsu.org/groups/9916/>



20 NOMINATIONS 15

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Queen Mary University of London Students' Union

QM Women's Basketball game abandoned after third quarter



Image: Olivia Meme

Veronique Ivory-Johnson the site, the game was unable to be completed. At the end of the third quarter QM were trailing by twenty points, with Oxford proving to be one of their most difficult opponents to date. Having won both the BUCS Cup and the league last season, QM are still adjusting to the fast-pace and skill of the top league. However with the new appointment of coach Santi Santos, the team are confident that they can quickly turn around their season. Team: Ivy Lim, Anne Sofie Sigvardt, Oona Paavolainen, Rochelle Pierre, Ana Santos, Guiditta Trinci, Jessica Snaas, Resma Rajbhandari, Anika Jakobsen, Maddie Jessel

This week in sport

The latest news from Get Active & Club Sport

Club Sport Martial Arts: "Not sure which martial arts to try? QMSU Get Active can help! Before committing to paying a club membership for a martial art that you are not sure about, we are giving you the opportunity to attend up to 18 sessions to any of the 6 martial arts at QMSU for just £5. Activities include : Aikido, Capoeira, Jitsu, Judo, Karate KDS & Kung Fu. Memberships can be purchased at QMSU Student Hub reception, BLSA Box Office or online. Upon purchasing a 'Try Martial Arts' membership you will receive a business card at the reception of your choice. This card is required for you to gain access to each club session that's valid on your membership. Get Active From 2nd February onwards there have been the following changes to the regular Get Active timetable: - Tuesday Cricket has been moved from 10am - 12noon to 5pm-6pm - An additional Women's Only Badminton Session takes place on Wednesdays, 10am - 12noon - Charterhouse Square Table Tennis has moved from 1-3pm on Wednesdays to 5-7pm Get Active Memberships are now available for the rest of the academic year. At just £30 for an unlimited membership, or £15 for access to all Women's only sessions. Memberships can be purchased at QMotion Reception or online at www.qmsu.org.getactive Women's Only Sessions: Take part in a range of Women's Only sessions through the Get Active programme. Sports include Basketball, Football, Swimming and Badminton. All Women's Only sessions take place in a female only environment and are run by female staff members. The full Women's Only timetable follows: -Mondays: Badminton, 7-8pm Football, 8-9pm -Tuesdays: Swimming, 1.30-3.30pm.Badminton, 3-4pm -Wednesdays:Badminton, 10am - 12noon. Swimming, 12 - 1pm -Thursdays:Swimming, 7-10pm

QMRFC victorious over UCL

QM 2XV clinch narrow win over London rivals in first game back after winter break

Michael Petty

QM	12
UCL	8

The first game after Christmas was between QMRFC 2XV and UCL 3XV with both looking to progress to the next stage of the BUCS South Eastern Conference Bowl. The boys from the East end travelled to UCL's home, fielding a strong squad despite a large number of injuries and unavailable players particularly in the back division. Back row players Rory Slee and Callum Breslin moved into the centres whilst Chris Hull started at prop. From the outset QMRFC struggled to gain composure and missed numerous early opportunities due to handling errors and penalties given away at the break down. A desperate QM defence managed to deny the first points to UCL, big efforts from Adam Parmenter, Slee and Breslin shut down any attacks through the midfield but poor drift defence meant a lot of territory was conceded on the wings. The first try of the game came from a penalty leading to a lineout deep within the UCL half, QM piecing together a couple of phases before Fredrick Akinbobola broke through a number of tackles to go over the line. Breslin narrowly missing the difficult conversion. After this score however QMRFC lost their heads and were forced back up the field and defended within their own 22 metre line for the rest of the first half. This sustained pressure from UCL 3XV culminated in a penalty near the QM try line, and despite a valiant effort from Fred Akinbobola to tackle the opposition's big number 8, UCL were able to level the score with a try of their own a couple of phases later. UCL were unable to convert the try and the first half ended 5-5. Both teams were evenly matched when it came to lineouts and QM were able to win most of their own balls after a couple of poor lineout throws in the first half. Scrums however were QM's pretty much all day, pushing the UCL pack back on almost every scrum and stealing a significant proportion of the possession from them. Usual flanker Chris Hull held his own at prop but following a knock to the knee he moved to the back row and was replaced by Austin Rose. Following a gash above the eye Hull had to leave the field with 3rd year Adrian Arevalo coming on as a replacement. Despite good individual performances from many players neither team seemed to be able to put together enough phases of play to look like scoring, the deadlock only being broken by a penalty kicked by UCL to bring the score 8-5 in favour of the home team. QM's eagerness to score as they entered into the last quarter led to even more mistakes, trying to force passes and running without support. Flanker Dan Barter decided to punt the ball and was immediately reminded of why he hasn't in every other game. A man was needed to step forward, especially if said man could prop, and it was Akinbobola who did so. Whilst in the UCL half, Akinbobla charged forward once again to break through two weak challenges and score his second try of the match. Breslin slotted the conversion leaving Queen Mary a narrow 12-8 lead. As they entered into the final minutes of the game UCL put increasing amounts of pressure upon QMRFC, but they were denied that all important try due the staunchest defence QM had put up all game. At the final whistle QMRFC had a hard fought 4 point victory, and all were rewarded with a lot of red beer courtesy the ever graceful Simon Craig.

Team News: Forewords: 1) Chris Hull 2) Michael Petty 3) Frederick Akinbobola 4) James Davies 5) Austin Rose 6) Tom Main 7) Dan Barter 8) Patrick Hatcher (C) Backs: 9) Alvaro Huguet Gómez 10) Adam Parmenter 11) Axel Lange 12) Callum Breslin 13) Rory Slee (VC) 14) Mahfuz Karim 15) Connor Everett Replacements: 16) Adrian Fuentes Arevalo 17) Max Edwards


Next fixture: Away Kings College 28th January



# Heads in the Game

This week, in the first of our special Merger Cup editions of Heads in the Game, we pit two sets of East London footballing titans against each other to preview the pinnacle of their respective seasons

Matt Collins & James Reeves QM



ROLE	President & Vice President
Nickname	Moon & N/A
Merger in 3 Words:	Better than Christmas

I know that for us, we're looking for 4 wins this year at Merger. All the boys know that it's the biggest day of their life so far.

Interview by Pollyanna Benson

How are the clubs doing this year in their leagues?

Rhys: Pretty well, we're all top 2 or 3 in our BUCS leagues tables and all still in the LUSL cup so we're hoping for a 1,2,3 final in LUSL so that would be a big day out for the boys.  
Alex: The 1s have got 4 wins on the bounce currently as well  
Matt: On our side in terms of BUCS the 2s are top of their BUCS league, and the 1s are coming second  
James: Above Barts...  
Matt: Yeah, very important.  
Rhys: Well we have had a lot of key players injured  
Matt: Very happy with all the teams, we're hoping for a top result all round.  
Rhys: We've also got the University Hospital Cup coming up, which is huge for us  
Matt: Is it bigger than Merger?  
Alex: Nothing's bigger than Merger.  
James: You had a player end up in hospital last Merger didn't you?  
Rhys: We did, from some filthy play by the opposition  
Matt: I mean, how I remem-

ber it is, I got fouled and in the process... he broke his collarbone. I hope he's completely recovered now though!  
Rhys: He's fine - hell of a scar though!  
Generally how is the committee spread throughout your squads?  
Rhys: It's totally spread throughout all teams, we have the president Theo Perkins and the captains from every team are on the committee as the team representatives and then a few social secs thrown in the mix.  
Matt: Same with us, we have the captains on the committee and then the other positions are mixed throughout the squads.  
James: President and vice-president are 1s and 2s and the social secs are both on the 3s... they take the social side more seriously than the competitive side  
Looking back to last years Merger cup: Reflections?  
Rhys: Sadly the 2s didn't play because we were in the LUSL cup final so this will be my first merger cup. LUSL won't interfere this year because the dates are different  
Matt: So no excuses then!


Rhys: For us this year, if we get the full 11s out then it could be a very interesting game, and we're really going for the win  
Have you guys played each other yet this year in BUCS?  
James: The 2s played Barts earlier this year and won 3-1. We dominated from start to finish and I was man of the match.  
Matt: He was waiting for that question!  
Rhys: I did win a penalty though  
Alex: Oh yeah that was a ferocious foul, I thought you were a gonner.  
Rhys: I'm looking forward to hopefully getting our main 11 out at Merger to give them more of a game and hopefully challenge QM for the win.  
Finally, when the game is over will you two join together with a joint session or is it full-blown warfare to the end?  
Matt: It's hard to say how it'll pan out because we can sit and have a laugh beforehand but on the pitch anything could happen.  
Rhys: Exactly right, if anything sparks it doesn't matter who you're playing whether it's in the park or against an arch-rival, if something sparks then you hate them.  
Matt: Obviously at the end of the match we always shake hands and I think it's very likely that we'll join each other for a beer in Drapers.

Do you have any words of warning to each other?  
Matt: All of our boys are incredibly up for it, I just want Barts to know that we're going to be there on the day and we're ready.  
James: I'd like to echo that sentiment and tell these Barts boys that they'd better turn up a lot better than they have done previously  
Rhys: I just want to say that we're on a good run of form; big players, all enthusiastic and motivated and we're coming to win.

Do you have any words of warning to each other?

Twitter: QMFC @QMfootball-club

Alex George, Rhys Jenkins & Charlie Ryan Barts



Role	Social Secretary & Fresher
Nickname	N/A
Merger in 3 Words	World's largest event.

For us this year, if we get the full 11s out then it could be a very interesting game, and we're really going for the win

# Queen Mary Intramural League

Semester One Review: One term after its creation, we take a look back at its triumphs

Nicholas Finch

Last semester saw the creation of the QMFC Intramural League. It was created to provide those who missed the cut for the Queen Mary Football Club, and for those who want to play 11-a-side football to a high standard, but in a relaxed and positive environment.  
Many turned up to the trials week not having any friends involved within the set-up. Nine weeks on from the first trials, the league had its first winner, QM Plus FC, and all the teams have developed close friendships, both within teams and the league.  
It has been a great season by all the teams involved. Despite the cold weather putting a few people off as the semester wore on, all teams have put out competitive teams on a weekly basis. All have been improving week-on-week, as they play more as a team.  
From the beginning, QM Plus FC showed great team-play, and narrowly secured a one-goal victory in the first game of the league, against QM Flyers FC. Coincidentally, this is how they secured the title, another one-goal victory in the final against QM Flyers FC.  
QM Flyers FC picked themselves up from their narrow loss to work their way back up the table, with some solid team performances to win their remaining games and finish second; with the help of the league's top goalscorer Kirill Grigorian's 13 goals in 5 games. Despite a valiant effort in the final, they lost to the well-drilled QM Plus FC.  
QM Bayerneverlosin FC looked like the team to beat in the opening round of fixtures, with a strong 9-1 victory over QM Underdogs FC. But unavailability and university commitments meant that they were missing key players in key games and although they were the only team that QM Plus FC didn't beat, they did not show up to other games with the same attitude, culminating in some poor results.  
QM Kings FC have had an indifferent campaign. Following a narrow, high scoring loss in the opening round, they managed to get some good results, including a 12-3 victory over QM Bayerneverlosin FC. But with the team swapping and changing every week,

inconsistency cost them, and in the 3rd place play-off QM Bayerneverlosin FC got their revenge, with an 11-2 thrashing.  
QM Rockets FC started the season well with a close victory over QM Kings FC, but tailed off as the season wore on. They faced similar issues and could count no less than 6 players unavailable every week, making the job harder for their teammates. They will be looking to get a consistent team for next season, to build upon the season just gone.  
QM Underdogs FC looked as though they would struggle throughout the season, but they have improved hugely as the season has gone on. They suffered a narrow defeat to QM Plus FC, but secured a point in the most entertaining fixture the league had, an 8-8 result against QM Rockets FC. They both met again in the 5th place play-off and won 3-1. The crowning moment was when goalkeeper Jonny Barret was allowed to take a penalty and score in what was his last game before he joins QMFC 3XI.  
All teams have really got themselves into the spirit of football, and teams have been more than willing to lend



Image: Nicholas Finch

players in competitive league fixtures to even the teams up.  
Some players have also helped QMFC by coming to their aid with last minute call-ups due to injury. The league provides those players in reserve a chance to keep both match fitness and skill.  
A big thank you to all the captains who have helped to make the league run as smooth as possible.  
Alternatively, you can contact league co-ordinator Nicholas Finch. No prior footballing experience is needed, just a positive attitude and willingness to make new friendships. We hope to see you there soon.  
Contact Nicholas Finch via email: [nicholas\\_finch@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicholas_finch@hotmail.co.uk)

## QM Netball steam through to the final eight

QMN 1st team defeat UCL (RUMS), 2nd to advance through to the Cup quarter finals

Pollyanna Benson

On Wednesday 14th January in the QMotion sports hall, the QM netball first team competed for a position in the cup quarter finals against strong UCL(RUMS) opposition. With a tight first quarter, consisting of no turnovers from either side and with a 7-7 finish, the match looked set to be a fight to the end. With a large crowd of QM supporters in the gallery, the atmosphere was certainly tense.  
A strong start in the second quarter spurred QM to push further ahead, and with some swift goals from shooters Tass Siracusa and Polly Fletcher it wasn't long before they effortlessly brought the game out of sight for the struggling RUMS team. Co-captain Fletcher tells us, "I'm really happy with how the girls played today, after a shaky start we built some solid foundations and I believe we took off from there really. All round great play, well done girls; bring on the final eight." Centre, Sarova Aujla, was named player of the match, and the final score was a brilliant 40-22. Their quarter-final match will take place at 2:45pm at the Rob Lowe Sports Centre on 18th February.  
Team Line-up: Tass Siracusa, Polly Fletcher (co-captain), Jess Lewis, Sarova Aujla, Nuran Ozyurt (co-captain), Hazel Ijoma, Faye Dench, Ely Watson  
@qmulnetball

## All in the name of charity!

To kick the semester off in style the boys of QMRFC strutted on court in netball dresses to take on a Rugby kit wielding QMN

On Wednesday 7th January, club sport members arrived in their droves, undeterred by the cold weather, to watch the first netball match of the season.  
This was no BUCS league match, it was QMRFC vs. QMN. The match was set up by the clubs with the aim of raising money for the charity Marie Curie, and overall managed to accrue over £125 from the day's play. Both clubs provided a 1st and 2nd team and the tournament commenced shortly after a quick run through of the rules.  
For the rugby first team it would appear that height was indeed might, as the boys shot into the lead bowling the girls over with their new found court-skills. The story for the second team was another matter, as they didn't entirely grasp the concept of a non-contact sport in which one cannot run with the ball. The netball second team, unfazed by their opposition, clinched the match to take second place overall and to advance into the charity match final against the rugby first team.  
After some swift changes from both clubs, who, with fighting faces on, put their best feet forward, they stepped out to defend their honour on the netball court. With a big crowd, both teams were keen to prove themselves from the first whistle, and the game was tight throughout, with QMN just snatching the win with a final score of 15-12. As the afternoon came to a close, rugby president Louis Muncey tells us, "Unfortunately Rugby couldn't quite bring it home on the day but raising £125 for Marie Curie and watching the boys enjoy wearing netball dresses was definitely worth it. With some of the boys feeling bemused at certain 'contact' or 'footwork' calls from the QMN appointed umpires, I'm sure they will look to get revenge in the summer".  
QMN refused to comment on the accusations of biased umpires, but Club Captain Esme O'Hagen was extremely pleased with how the day went: "We're really looking forward to setting up another competition in the summer that all sports clubs can get involved with, hopefully resulting in even more money raised for charity."



# Sport



Image: Olivia Meme

## QM halt Imperial march

QMUL beat Imperial 74-68 after nail-biting fourth quarter. QM now second in the league with a game in hand

Veronique Ivory-Johnson

**Q**ueen Mary Men's Basketball team kept their league hopes alive with a narrow win over Imperial College.

Although an important win, QM got off to a slow start after Imperial proved to be clinical in their attack, taking the lead to 7-0 after seven minutes. Despite the slow start, QM soon came into their own, with playmaker Florian Dampthey proving relentlessly strong through the middle of the court and as he secured QM's first three points of the game after nine minutes. By the end of the first quarter, thanks to the leadership of Captain

Christian Ardeu, QM had closed the gap to two points finishing 18-20.

Continuing strongly into the second quarter, QM produced some fantastic team work, taking the lead to 31-30 after a brilliant shot from Samuel Lei after some impressive dribbling from Dampthey took the ball past five Imperial players. It was in the fourteenth minute of the quarter that Marc Cano-Bret showed some individual brilliance with a shot on the break, powering through the court, taking the lead to 36-32.

In the third quarter QM continued to assert their dominance over a flagging Imperial. Fabio Confalone

without a doubt the most important player throughout the quarter. Nimble and quick, Confalone glided down the side-line and across to the three point arc, passing to Massimo Boero who finished with a fantastic shot, taking the score to 41-37. Eimantas Alejunas came into his own during the third quarter, with a fantastic effort hitting the back board, followed by a basket from the three point line finishing the third quarter 60-50.

The fourth quarter proved to be somewhat of a struggle for QM. Whilst starting off strongly, with a slam-dunk forty seconds in from Ali Matour, QM suffered a

controversial sending off. Matour was sent off the court for two technical fouls, however the referee and umpire were unsure whether they had blown their whistles for the same foul or two in quick succession. This proved to be a turning point in the game, as a late surge from Imperial made the final quarter a tense affair. QM were under constant attack, and with only ninety seconds to go the score was 69-68. However, cool and collected amongst the chaos, with forty-five seconds to go, Ardeu's shot from the three-point-line took the score to 71-68. QM slowed down the pace of the game in final few seconds, allowing them to

control the final moments, with a fittingly stunning shot from Dampthey, finishing the game 74-68.

After the game I spoke to captain Ardeu to get his thoughts on an important win for the team: "Even if we had a slow start, we managed to come back due to our great defensive effort. We knew we were facing a good team, probably the best in our league, so we really wanted to win this one. This win gives us an advantage in the race to promotion. Our next game is against Essex so we're just taking everything step by step."

MOM Florian Dampthey