

- SOCIETY OF THE YEAR 2013 -

SEREN'S BUSINESS AWARDS

INTERVIEW: MATT HAYWARD

KYFFIN CLOSE UP



## New Faces, Going Places



### ■ New Sabbs will be first team to take residence in Pontio building

by BECKI WATSON

The Student Union Sabbatical team has been elected for the next academic year.

The recent election, which had the third highest voter turnout in SU election history with 1758 votes, saw the re-election of two current sabbs - Rhys Taylor and Nicola Pye - and the appointment of two new sabbatical officers into office.

The election caused some controversy when it emerged that Rhys Taylor, the current VP Education and Welfare, would stand uncontested for the role of SU President. However, Rhys won convincingly with 960 votes. Speaking to Seren about his election experience, Rhys said: 'It was great to

have the opportunity to speak to people about the Students' Union. Being uncontested gave me the opportunity to talk about what we are, what we do and why we're so important. It's been a totally different experience from my campaign last year when I was up against five other candidates! It'll be good to work with a brand new team and bring some change about, and I'm excited for the new opportunities we'll get as a Union working in Pontio. We've got a lot of exciting things coming up, it's going to be a good year!'

Nicola Pye, the incumbent VP Sports and Healthy Living, ran against two other candidates, and was re-elected with 840 votes. She spoke positively of the election campaign, saying: 'My highlight of Campaign Week was get-

ting all the feedback from last semester and speaking to all the clubs and societies, as well as students who don't really know what the SU is. I cannot wait for the brand new sports centre and working in the new SU building next year!'

Lydia Richardson, a Psychology Masters student, stood for VP Education and Welfare against three other candidates, ultimately winning the election with 557 votes after three rounds of voting. Speaking about her new role, Lydia said: 'I'm looking forward to working with students and the community, as well as just generally meeting new people and seeing what we can do with the university.'

The most fiercely contested election campaign was for VP Societies

and Communities, with a huge presence on social media and around election week. The closely run election went to three rounds of voting, with Mark Stanley eventually winning the election with 651 votes. Mark spoke about his hopes for the coming year: 'I'm looking forward to working with the new team next year, developing societies, and trying to get more people who aren't in any societies involved with at least one or two.'

Differing from the process of previous years, candidates could begin campaigning as soon as nominations were announced, resulting in a greater amount of social media exposure. Many candidates utilised resources such as Facebook promotion pages and YouTube videos publicising their

manifestos. This year also saw the debut of a newly restructured Question Time, which took place in MALT along with live music and entertainment from student bands, Storm FM, BU Dance and other performing arts societies, as well as a Minion Auction fundraising event for RAG week. The event resulted in a wider range of questions and greater engagement with the student body, which was received positively by the Union and students alike.

The new team will begin their terms as Sabbatical Officers on the 16th June; they will be the first sabbatical team to work from the new Student Union block in Pontio, and will oversee the transition of SU operations to the new building.

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# gcb

Gwobr Cyflogadwyedd Bangor



# bea

Bangor Employability Award

## Beth ydi Gwobr Cyflogadwyedd Bangor (GCB)?

### DY GYFLE DI I SEFYLL ALLAN!

Mae GCB yn gynllun sy'n cynnig gweithgareddau i ehangu dy gyflogadwyedd a chydabyddiaeth ffurfiol o dy lwyddiannau all-gysiol.

## Beth sydd gan GCB i'w gynnig i ti?

- Gweithdai a help i ysgrifennu dy CV, gwneud ceisiadau am swyddi, a darparu ar gyfer cyfweiliadau lefel graddedig
- Cyfleoedd i gael interniaeth broffesiynol (gyda chyflog) o fewn y Brifysgol
- Gweithdai hyfforddiant proffesiynol rhad ac am ddim yn cael eu harwain gan arbenigwyr yn eu maes
- Mynediad rhad ac am ddim i feddalwedd profilio personoliaeth, meddalwedd profilio gyrfa ac ymarferion profion dawn
- A llawer mwy...

## Pam fod GCB yn werthfawr i ti?

Oherwydd ei fod yn werthfawr i gyflogwyr!  
Pwy fyddai ddim eisiau ymgeisydd sydd:-

- Yn arddangos ymrwymiad i'w datblygiad personol a phroffesiynol?
- Yn gallu dangos **tystiolaeth** o sgiliau lefel uwch a sut y datblygwyd y rhain?
- Wedi cael eu gweithgareddau wedi eu gwrio gan sefydliad swyddogol, felly does dim angen iddynt gadarnhau dy CV?
- Efo CV rhagorol, portffolio eang o sgiliau, a sgiliau cyflwyno?

## Pa weithgareddau sy'n rhan o GCB?

- Gwaith Rhan Amser
- Cynrychiolwyr Cwrs
- Arweinwyr Cyfoed
- Gwirfoddoli
- Swyddi Haf
- Lleoliadau/Interniaethau
- Clybiau a Chymdeithasau
- Hyfforddiant Proffesiynol
- Darlithoedd Gwadd
- Trwydded Yrru
- A llawer mwy...

## Sut ydw'i yn cymryd rhan?

Rwyt angen mewngofnodi i "Hwb GCB" i ddechrau recordio dy weithgareddau, neu cysyllta' efo ni ar **CYFLOGADWYEDD@BANGOR.AC.UK** am fwy o wybodaeth!

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## What can the BEA offer you?

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- Free professional training workshops run by experts in their field
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- And much more...

## Why is the BEA valuable to you?

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- Demonstrates commitment to personal and professional development?
- Has **evidence** of higher level skills and how you've developed them?
- Has all their activities verified by an official institution, so they don't doubt your credentials?
- Has an excellently developed CV, skills portfolio and presentation skills?

## What activities can I include in the BEA?

- Part Time Work
- Course Reps
- Peer Guiding
- Volunteering
- Summer Jobs
- Placements/Internships
- Clubs and Societies
- Professional Training
- Guest Lectures
- Driving Licence
- And many more...

## How do I start?

Log onto the "BEA Hub" to start recording your activities, or contact us on **EMPLOYABILITY@BANGOR.AC.UK** for more information.



cyflogadwyedd@bangor.ac.uk  
employability@bangor.ac.uk

www.bangor.ac.uk/cyflogadwyedd  
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BECKI WATSON

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Doesn't time fly? It feels just like yesterday we were finishing off the Freshers' Issue, and now we're on our penultimate issue of the year.

Firstly, on behalf of myself and the team, a massive thank you to everyone who came along to 90s Night last month. We had an absolutely amazing time, and judging from the photos floating around Facebook you guys did as well! Check out our selection of the best photos from 90s Night on pages 20 and 21, and see whether you're the lucky winner of the best costume prize.

As we get closer to the end of the academic year, life inevitably becomes a lot more stressful. Seminar reading piles up, assignment deadlines get ever closer, and you can't even mention the word 'dissertation' around third years without causing mass panic. The Seren team are no exception, but despite this, we've managed to put together a great issue, and I'm so grateful to everyone on the team who have stepped up - despite the pressure of the time of year - to help make it happen.

We've got some great features in this issue. Music features some reviews of some great student bands on page 26, Politics is debating feminism on page 9, and head over to Travel if you want to read about my spontaneous trip to Paris a few weeks ago (yes, really).

Also coming up soon is this year's Varsity! Seren are heading to Aber to cover all of the action live on our website and on Twitter. If you'd like to get involved with some live sport coverage, or you're a club captain who'd be interested in a pre-match interview, get in touch with us at editor@seren.bangor.ac.uk.

We hope you enjoy the issue, and don't let university stress you out too much!

*The views presented hereinafter do not represent the views of Seren Bangor, Bangor Students' Union or Bangor University.*

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# In Brief SU President to cycle in aid of MS charity

## Student research paper published

THOMAS Turner, a recent Cancer Biology graduate from Bangor University, has had his paper published in a scientific journal of high international reputation. The work summarises the current understanding of how heat kills cancer cells, following the re-discovery of 'the healing power of heat'. Along with Dr Thomas Caspari, a researcher based in the School of Biological Sciences, they have published one of the first reviews of this topic in the Royal Society Journal Open Biology. Caspari said that the published work was a "good example of how Bangor University incorporates research into teaching".

## Masterclass from BAFTA Cymru winner

THE UNIVERSITY of South Wales has welcomed a BAFTA award winning Bangor University student to run a masterclass. Osian Williams, 22, who is studying a MA in filmmaking in the School of Creative Studies and Media, ran his own masterclass for students and lecturers to provide valuable insight into documentary filmmaking. Osian described the experience as "a privilege". Following on from his BAFTA Cymru Best Short award in 2013, Osian is currently developing a number of future projects during his continued studies including a short film.

## University to join 'Blackout Wales'

BANGOR University has joined other universities across Wales in "Blackout Wales". The university took part in a challenge to turn off all non-essential equipment in office areas that had been left on before the weekend. The University will compare energy usage during the 'blackout' with energy use on a comparable weekend. Dr Einir Young, Director of Sustainability at Bangor University said: "This event will be a way to engage and empower students and staff in sustainability actions, and raise the profile of sustainability issues across the University. Involvement in this high-impact event sits well with our commitment to 'Bring Sustainability to life' and with our reputation as Wales' Greenest University and one of the top Green Universities in the UK."



- 1,000 mile cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats
- Overall goal is to raise £10,000 for MS Society



by NICOLA HOBAN  
deputy@seren.bangor.ac.uk

Bangor University's Students' Union President is planning a mammoth 1,000 mile cycle in an effort to raise money for the MS Society.

After having already raised £5,000 for the society, which supports those who have multiple sclerosis, Antony Butcher is planning on raising another £5,000 by July, in time to meet his target of raising a total of £10,000 by his 25th birthday.

Along with the 1,000 mile solo cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats,

Antony will also be taking part in some extra activities which are helping to fundraise for the MS Society: the Bangor University Gaming League, Pokemon Society, Minecraft Society, and the Wargaming Society are holding a 48-hour Game-a-thon to fundraise for the cause, their target being set for £1,000. The BU Dance Society has also organised a 24-hour Dance-a-thon, with the money it raises being split between the MS Society, Hope House Hospice, and the Dance Society itself. Additionally, RAG has been doing street collections in Bangor and Conwy, and BU drama societies are running collections during their performances.

"I'm amazed at all the societies who are offering to get involved and help raise some cash," Antony said. "I have a feeling that if loads of people get on board we could absolutely smash

£5,000 for this worthy cause."

Speaking about the charity cycle, Antony explained his motivation for completing the challenge: "About ten years ago, my mum was diagnosed with MS. I've never been shy about my mum's illness, but it's always been somewhat harder to discuss what it actually means to me than what it is. It's only recently that I've come to terms with [it].

"As humans, we all want to make things better – and I know I can't do that. Raising money to go towards research and support is the best I can do."

With this being his second and last year as the SU President, Antony has had to try and schedule his training around work: "Being SU President is a pretty hectic job, and so I'm struggling to get enough training in. I've managed to get up to about 35 miles in a

day, but I need to keep pushing my fitness. An ex-Bangor student has kindly sponsored me some amazing Arbonne nutrition and body care products to help me along, and I'm planning to spend some time with sports scientists too in the near future, but the main issue is sitting on a saddle and pushing out the miles."

For those wishing to donate to the MS Society, Antony has set up a Just-Giving page at: <http://www.justgiving.com/antonybutcher> and for those that want to find out more about the project and Antony's story, they are welcome to go to his blog at: <http://antonyjcbutcher.wordpress.com>

# Living wage for uni staff

- Vice-Chancellor 'determined' to implement living wage for employees

by BECKI WATSON

The Vice-Chancellor of Bangor University has shown his interest in providing a living wage for all university employees.

Speaking at the Anne Marie Jones Memorial Lecture where Professor Kate Pickett was presenting a lecture entitled 'Inequality: the Enemy Between Us', Vice-Chancellor John Hughes announced that he was "determined to introduce the living wage" at Bangor University, which would have an enormous impact on staff across the university if it goes ahead.

A living wage is when the rate of pay, whether it is hourly pay or an annual salary, is calculated by taking the cost

of living in the UK into consideration. This is recalculated every year in order to account for the rate of inflation. Whereas the minimum wage set by the government is a legal requirement (and does not necessarily cover the cost of living), living wages are completely voluntary on the part of the employer, although it has received cross-party backing in Parliament, including support from the Prime Minister.

The debate surrounding the living wage has come about recently in light of recent pay negotiations between the university and the staff trade unions. The Bangor University press office stated: "The issue of the 'living wage' is being discussed as part of the national

negotiations with UCEA for the annual pay round."

Since the breakdown of the current round of pay negotiations there have been 6 strikes by University staff. The strikes were held in protest of the 1% pay increase offer which, due to rising inflation, means a real terms pay cut of 13% since 2008. As these have not been successful in getting UCEA (Universities and Colleges Employers Association, the group which negotiates on behalf of Universities on national pay deals) back to the negotiating table UCU, one of the Staff Unions, has announced their intention to hold a marking boycott later this year. The Students' Union Senate has discussed this matter in great depth, and will be

issuing a statement and FAQ about the marking boycott at its General Meeting next week.

Bangor University's Students' Union has supported the Living Wage campaign at the university for many years, as part of their belief that properly paid staff will result in a better quality of education for students. SU President Antony Butcher commented: "It's fantastic to see the Vice-Chancellor's support for living wages at Bangor University. The Students' Union has been lobbying for this for many years, and we look forward to working with the university in implementing this policy."



# Cheese marks the spot

## In Brief



### Cancer email hoax

EMAILS claiming to be from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) that are telling recipients that they may have cancer are scan emails, it has been stated.

The scam has targeted those who have recently had medical tests, but they have not necessarily been sent only to those people.

The email scam is a countrywide occurrence and North Wales GPs have confirmed that some of their patients have received them.

NICE are not involved with the care of individual patients.

Anybody who has received the email is urged to not open any of the attachments and delete it immediately.

### Aurochs horn found on beach

A MAN from Rhos Isaf has discovered an ancient aurochs horn near Caernarfon.

Derfel Hughes was walking at Dinas Dinlle in Gwynedd when he came upon an animal horn. Upon checking with museum experts it became clear that the horn belonged to a aurochs, a two metre tall wild cattle extinct since the seventeenth century.

Aurochs used to be found in many places in Europe, including Great Britain, but by the thirteenth century loss of habitat caused the animal's range to shrink to just some parts of Eastern Europe. The last specimen died in 1627.

Hughes has given the horn to a friend working for the Y Felinheli Greenwood Park tourist attraction so that it can go on show.

### Sea watchers urged to look for dolphins

THE SEA Watch Foundation is asking for the public's help in spotting dolphins in North Wales.

The foundation has received a grant to conduct a photo-identification survey and has asked the public to keep an eye out for the animals so that they can confirm whether they're in the area.

Individual specimens have been given codes based on distinctive features, and photo-identification allows experts to recognize individuals and their travel habits.

Last summer the foundation conducted a similar survey in Liverpool Bay, which matched nine bottlenose dolphins in the bay to a catalogue of population elsewhere.

## ■ New dairy products to put North Wales on the map ■ Produce could help support local Welsh businesses



by CHARLOTTE PARKER  
[news@seren.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:news@seren.bangor.ac.uk)

A new local dairy produce has been created in an attempt to put North Wales 'on the map'. Cheeses, cream and yoghurts have been made by staff at Coleg Menai's Food Technology Centre, Anglesey, to show just what can be done with locally produced milk.

Cadwyn Clwyd, a regeneration agency, have been working closely with the staff in order to try and create 'a thriving and diverse dairy industry'.

Robert Price, Cadwyn Clwyd's Food

Project Officer, spoke of how he believes there is a great opportunity to develop further dairy produce: "This area is one of the UK's top dairy areas with rich pastureland and high quality farms producing the very finest milk."

"There's no reason why it shouldn't also produce dairy products that are household names and we hope to encourage just those sorts of enterprise."

Cadwyn Clwyd have funded the project through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Price added: "We want to develop new products and create a thriving and diverse dairy industry which creates jobs and puts us on the map in the way that Cheddar, Camembert and Parmesan do."

"We asked the Food Technology Centre to come up with a range of

products which we could make here, which would be branded locally and for which there is a gap in the market."

Earlier this year, Anglesey sea salt won protected European status, meaning it can be classed in the same league as Champagne and Parma Ham.

Senior Food Technologist, Anne Marie Flinn spoke of how she and her colleagues surveyed the neighbouring area in order to avoid duplication.

"It is a rural area with a high level of farming and there's the potential to add value to local milk by making a high quality product and this is something that could get off the ground quickly."

"The cheese could initially be made here in Llangefni using our dairy development facilities which offer ideal support for new businesses."

The cheese that the Coleg Menai

staff have been working on is a hard cheese. They have also produced a Greek-style yoghurt and a clotted cream-style product.

Mrs Flinn added: "Through the project we can provide support for those interested in making one of these products."

"They would need access to a supply of milk but they wouldn't necessarily need to be a dairy farmer and we already have strong interest from a number of local people."

A special product development evening was held at Denbigh's Brookhouse Mill restaurant on Thursday 20th March where the new produce was presented.

A meeting is being held in Denbigh to encourage business support to develop the idea further.

# Time called on travellers

## ■ Judge orders eviction of travellers after council appeal

by CHARLOTTE PARKER

Travellers who have been living on a grass verge have been ordered to move their vehicles by a judge.

The group, which includes three young children, were ordered to leave their spot on Hendrewen Road after having already moved from the grounds of the old hospital at Minffordd.

Two caravans and a car had been permanently parked on the verge for over three weeks.

Gwynedd Council officers served orders upon the group to move but they failed to do so, District Judge Gwyn Jones heard at Caernarfon magistrates' court.

The hearing, which took place on Monday 17th March, was a resumption of the last case, after the group's solicitor sought an adjournment for more evidence to be heard.

The McDonagh family's reason for living on this particular spot was because the traveller's site just on the outskirts of Bangor was full, and they wanted their youngest children to be settled in a school in Bangor.

Despite being informed when the court case would resume, no-one from the group appeared and the case was heard in their absence.

A spokesman for Gwynedd Council said they were just informed about the traveller's presence by local residents complaining. Footpaths were needing to be closed due to the mess left by the family.

"The area was used as a lavatory and the council installed a portable toilet for their use," he said.

The grass verge in which they were living on was maintained at a public expense as it was part of Gwynedd Council's highway network.

Dafydd Jones, the council's spokesman added that the council had undertaken a balancing exercise in order to consider the needs of both the travellers and the local community.

"We consider the local authority has carried out its statutory requirements in this case," he said.

The court heard of all other attempts made to move the group on from the site, including a temporary area in Caernarfon being suggested. However, despite being served with an order to move by March 11th, the travellers

stayed on the verge.

The judge agreed with all actions that the council had already taken, and served a notice with immediate effect.

"They have assessed the interests of this group and the interest of the local community and I make the order to remove the persons and the vehicles from the land in question," he said.

After the hearing, Gwynedd Council's senior housing manager Arwel Wyn Owen said: "We are pleased with the court's decision today."

"We can confirm the council has 24 hours to serve the removal order and we will be monitoring the situation closely to ensure the respondents leave the designated land at Hendrewen Road, Bangor in accordance with the order."



## In Brief

## Wedding on hospital ward

## S4C pick Carmarthen over Caernarfon

S4C HAS announced plans to move from its current headquarters in Cardiff to Carmarthen, after also considering moving to Caernarfon. Chief Executive Ian Jones described the move as “a major step forward” for their plans to boost the economy and Welsh language in another part of the country.

The Carmarthen bid will be based on the Trinity Saint David University site campus, with the intention “to build a new centre which will be a hub for creative industries, for language-based projects and for links for education” according Huw Jones, chair of the S4C Authority.

Gwynedd council leader Dyfed Edwards described the decision as a major disappointment.

## Ofcom rejects Bangor TV bid

OFCOM'S Broadcast Licensing Committee (BLC) has turned down a bid from Bay TV Gwynedd for a city TV channel in Bangor. They concluded that it would not be sustainable over the proposed license period, due to the proposed funding model relying “heavily” on revenue generated by advertising.

In a statement, Ofcom noted “the inherent challenges” of covering an area with only 16,000 households. There were also notable concerns about the assumptions made about the advertising revenue per household, commenting that it was “unlikely to be achievable”. In their opinion, “the applicant would not be able to maintain the proposed service over the licence period.”

## Man charged with excessive speeding

SEAN Matthew O'Grady, 24, has been charged with dangerous driving. He is alleged to have been caught driving a Porsche at 111mph in a 30mph zone, with two passengers on the A5 at Menai Bridge at approximately 2pm on December 1st.

Appearing before Flintshire magistrates' court, O'Grady pleaded not guilty, but also faces two speeding offences, including breaking the 60mph national speed limit outside Menai Bridge boundary.

Prosecutor Tracy Willingham and defence barrister Dafydd Roberts recommended a summary trial, but magistrates said that their powers would be insufficient for “such a grossly excessive speed” if convicted and it should be settled by a crown court.



## ■ Chrones sufferer marries her childhood sweetheart.

## ■ Hospital staff create a beautiful setting for the service



by CHARLOTTE PARKER  
news@seren.bangor.ac.uk

Gwynedd childhood sweethearts have said ‘I Do’ in an Intensive Care Unit.

Hayley Ann Thomas, 26, married her fiancée David Clarke after spending the last six months at Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital.

Hayley, from Bethel, was diagnosed with Crohn's disease in 2005 and underwent an emergency operation last August. Complications lead to her

permanent stay in Intensive Care.

The couple had already planned most of their wedding when Hayley's condition became extremely severe.

The staff at Bangor's hospital helped the couple to prepare Hayley's room for the ceremony. A small group of friends and family gathered for the intimate service, and a buffet was prepared for later.

Hayley is due to move to Hope Hospital in Manchester to meet specialists in the hope of getting some further treatment.

Hayley's mother, Eirian Whittingham, said: “It was a lovely day. We had about 20 people in the room, family, friends and medical staff and the registrar did everything she would normally do. Nothing was different

apart from the location. The nurses had gone to great lengths to decorate the room and make it look really nice. Afterwards we had a small buffet in a room near to the unit.”

The wedding was the first of its kind to be held in this department of the hospital. The original wedding was planned to take place in May 2014.

New husband David said: “The wedding obviously couldn't go ahead as planned in the hotel but it was the nurses' suggestion that perhaps we could have a blessing in the hospital instead. It sort of snowballed from there.”

He added: “The nursing staff have been amazing and pulled out all the stops to make sure the wedding took place even though it had to be in the

intensive care unit.”

The couple's two daughters were VIP guests at the wedding. All the guests spoke of how incredibly proud they were of Hayley, saying how she showed great strength at the service.

Eirian said of her daughter: “She is small in stature, always has been and I don't know where she gets the strength from but she is a real battler.”

She added: “I was really surprised to find out it was the first time a wedding had taken place on Ward Cybi.

“We've come such a long way and have a long way to go. The Intensive Care Unit staff have been absolutely brilliant, I really can't praise them enough.”

## Hairdresser suffers heart attack

## ■ Armed man causes fatal fall for Llandudno hairdresser

by IDA VAISANEN

On 15th September last year, 58-year old Llandudno hairdresser suffered a heart attack and died after a man armed with a claw hammer knocked on her patio door, saying that his life was being threatened.

Carole Ann Wall, 58, of St David's Road, Llandudno, collapsed while making a 999 call to the police.

In a recent inquest held regarding Mrs. Wall's death, Home Office pathologist Dr Bryan Rogers said that the actions of Kevin John Chambers, 37, of Pen y Cwm, Llandudno, had “led to the event after which Carole Wall died”. Dr Rogers also said: “I

would like to see that put before a jury. The decision to charge is for the CPS.”

In his statement, widower Peter David Wall, 58, said that around 11.30pm on the night of the incident, he and his wife were watching TV at their home, when they heard “banging on the patio door.”

According to Mr. Wall they “both jumped up and it was pandemonium. I heard a male shouting: ‘He's trying to kill me! He's got a gun.’ I saw a male with a black claw hammer in his hand.”

Mr Wall said his son Neal, 32, came downstairs. He added: “We were all terrified. It was horrific.”

Neal Wall stated: “The man was agitated. I was scared of the possibility of these people coming into our house

and both being armed.”

While grandmother-of-two Carole rang 999, the man was still banging on the patio door. According to Mr Wall, “Carole collapsed on the floor while on the phone to the police.”

Mr Wall and his son placed her in the recovery position and tried CPR but there was no response. Mrs Wall was taken to Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in Bodelwyddan, where she died at 1.00am.

According to Dr Rogers, Mrs Wall had suffered from a “severe” heart disease with a blocked artery, which had gone undetected. She could have “dropped dead at any time” but may have “carried on for many, many years.”

Mrs Wall had sounded calm while

making the 999 call, but according to Dr Rogers “she could have been under psychological stress.”

Giving a narrative conclusion, North East Wales and Central coroner John Gittins said: “Although her death was due to a previously undisclosed condition, it is probable that the timing of her death was as the result of the stress put on her heart by the events of the previous evening.”

A CPS spokesman said Mr Chambers will face trial in June charged with criminal damage and possession of an offensive weapon. He has already pleaded not guilty.



# Arrests made over arson

## In Brief



### Flood appeal receives royal donation

THE RHYL Flood Appeal has been pledged a £5,000 donation personally from the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. This unexpected donation has boosted the fund to £50,000 and will be used to help families recovering after the freak wave attack last December.

The appeal has also received a £24,500 grant, a £250 contribution from the Victory Club, and is set to collect a further £350 from another organisation. Over 130 residents affected by the flood have benefited from the fund.

Rhyl Mayor Andy Rutherford was said to be “touched” by the continuing support and “gob smacked” to receive a personal donation from Prince William and Kate.

- Police arrest two young boys in connection with arson
- Investigations show the fire was started deliberately

### Snowdonia National Park job cuts

by NATHAN BULLEN

Two youths have been arrested by police, continuing their investigation on the fire which damaged a detached classroom at the school.

The boys, aged 12 and 14, live locally and were bailed following questioning to allow officers time to complete their investigations.

Investigation Officer DC Gerallt Davies said: “Despite arrests having been made this enquiry is still in its infancy with a number of outstanding enquiries to still be fully investigated and completed.

“I would like to hear from any potential witnesses who were in the area of the school during the afternoon or

early evening of Friday 28th February.”

Our Lady Immaculate RC School on Caernarfon Road reopened on Wednesday for all pupils except for nursery children whose room was damaged in the attack.

Teachers had spent the weekend tidying and setting up a temporary room for the classes affected.

A test was carried out to see if there was any structural damage to the classroom.

The fire started in a shed before spreading to the detached building. The heat was so intense that light fittings were damaged and the room also suffered from smoke and heat damage.

Fire fighters were informed of the fire at 7:30 pm and crews from Bangor and Menai Bridge fire services were sent to the scene.

A North Wales Fire Service spokes-

woman said fire fighters cut their way in through the roof to put out the blaze and were required to wear breathing apparatus due to the smoke.

After a thorough investigation it was declared that the fire was started deliberately.

Ms O’Hanlon, who teaches at the school, said: “This shed has no electrics or gas fittings so the fire must have been started deliberately in some way.

“We also have evidence of people on the playground in the hour or so from 6.00pm when the after-school club closed for the day.”

She said that another shed containing children’s bicycles was broken into and they were found when the fire service and police arrived at the playground.

A Facebook page called Our Lady’s

School Appeal has been set up following the fire in the hope that ex-pupils and residents will donate to help the school out.

Donna Jeffreys, who set up the page, said: “Following the recent fire at our old primary school of Our Lady’s, it has been suggested that this page be set up in order to show our support and to make a donation to the only catholic school in Bangor.

“Please add as many people as possible to the group in order for us to raise as much money as possible.

“Let’s get this appeal moving, in just one hour we doubled the group’s members!”

The group currently has over 350 members and has received pledges of over £500.

SNOWDONIA National Park Authority are looking to save £872,000 over two years by cutting jobs. The park’s chief executive admitted it was a huge financial challenge with “very difficult and painful decisions”. Presently, Snowdonia National Park Authority employs 160 staffs and its head office is based near Porthmadog. However, it is unknown how many jobs will be lost.

Grants to the authority from the Welsh government have reduced by 8.75% in 2014/15 and a possible further 4.31% cut is expected for 2015/16.

Applications for voluntary redundancies are being sought; eight people have asked to be considered.

### Police release CCTV image

POLICE have released a CCTV image of a man they wish to question in relation to an assault on an 18-year old woman. He approached her as she left Peep nightclub to walk home and assaulted her close to the city centre.

The victim described her attacker as 18-22 years old, slim, about 6’1 tall, with a southern accent. He also has tattoos on one arm and earrings in both ears. He was wearing light-coloured shoes, dark trousers and a light shirt.

Anyone with any information of the assault (late September 26th 2013/ early September 27th) should contact North Wales Police on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

# Kettle Chips surprise

- Couple find animal in shared packet of chips



by CHARLOTTE PARKER  
news@seren.bangor.ac.uk

A local couple have discovered a dead animal in a packet of Kettle Chips.

The small mole-like mammal was at first believed to be a mouse, however an investigation proved otherwise. The finding was made by husband and wife, John and Elinor Hughes from Conwy Valley.

Mr Hughes contacted Kettle Foods UK and was asked to take a photograph of the “foreign body” and to put

it in an envelope and send it to them.

Upon following these instructions, Mr Hughes received a call explaining that they had received his photograph and would be sending a courier to collect the animal immediately.

Kettle Foods conducted an in-depth probe and found that the animal did not enter the bag when the crisps were being packaged at the factory.

After investigations, a spokeswoman for Kettle Foods Limited said: “We pride ourselves on producing quality products and are always striving to provide our consumers with the best possible chips.

“We take food safety and quality very seriously and have stringent systems and procedures in place to ensure that every bag of KETTLE® Chips reaches our consumers in perfect condition.

“We have sought independent advice

from an expert Pest Control Company”.

The lightly salted crisps were delivered to the Hughes household by Sainsbury’s shopping.

The crisps were destined for the couple’s 9 year old son’s lunchbox.

Kettle Limited added: “Our investigations so far indicate that the shrew did not enter the bag at Kettle Foods, or during distribution, and therefore we need to understand how it came to be associated with our product.

Naturally we are taking this issue seriously and we will continue to liaise directly with Mr and Mrs Hughes.”

A spokesman for supermarket Sainsbury’s, where the couple say they bought the bag, were not available for comment.





# In Brief

## MP appears in court on rape charges

MP AND former Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, Nigel Evans, appeared in Preston Crown Court this month accused of rape, two counts of indecent assault, and six counts of sexual assault.

One witness and alleged victim, speaking in court this week, claimed that he was assaulted by the MP while drinking in the House of Commons Bar.

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin was also a witness at the trial, saying before the jury that he did not believe that Evans should have to resign over a "drunken pass" given "the nature of the complaints."

The trial continues.

## Sir Alex to star in anti-Scottish independence adverts?

IN THE run-up to the referendum for Scottish independence, Prime Minister David Cameron has publically said that he wants former Manchester United manager, Sir Alex Ferguson, to star in a series of anti-Scottish Independence advertisements.

The premise of the proposed adverts, which were suggested by the head of Marks and Spencer, would revolve around the tagline "we don't want to break up family," and would also star Sir Alex's siblings.

Sir Alex previously criticised Scottish First Minister and proponent of Scottish Independence, Alex Salmond, for "silencing" Scottish people living outside of Scotland. He has also donated to the 'Better Together' campaign, which is in favour of a continued United Kingdom.

## Former Plaid Cymru leader fired

PLAID Cymru has fired Dafydd Elis-Thomas, the party's former leader, following comments he made criticising current party leader Leanne Wood.

He questioned Wood's attack on UK Independence Party, claiming that her statements were "facile." She previously told UKIP party members that their politics "had no place in our country, not now, not ever."

Elis-Thomas, who also served as Transport spokesman and the Chair of the Welsh Assembly's Environment Committee prior to his sacking, has said that he may challenge the removal.

Plaid Cymru confirmed the sacking in a statement released on March 13.



# Crisis in Crimea

by JACK WILLIAM NICOL

Ukraine has lived through a troubled past. Crimea, which is to undergo a Russian-backed referendum on March 16, was originally a part of the Turk Ottoman Empire until Catherine the Great annexed it as part of Russia. It was then gifted to Ukraine by the Soviet Union in 1954. This move wasn't of great importance as it was all Soviet territory. In 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed and Ukraine and Russia became separate countries. Since then, the country has been pulled in two ways. The West of Ukraine has favoured and has ties to Europe. Stalin deported many Crimean Tatars after WW2, and Ukrainian nationalist perceived Stalin as a larger threat than Hitler. For this reason Putin continues to decry what he calls a fascist and right wing plot in Western Ukraine. However, the further east you go the more you see more Russian influence. Kiev was the birthplace of the Russian state a thousand years ago, as well as the of Russian Orthodoxy.

This is one of many reasons why Russia does not want Ukraine to become more independent. The current Crimean referendum, which has been denounced as illegal by the European Union and the United States of America, only has two choices: To join in union with Russia, or to increase self-government of Crimea. There is no choice to simply stay part of Ukraine as things stand currently. There are also other issues with the referendum. Only Crimeans are allowed to vote; whereas the Ukrainian constitution states that all Ukrainians have to be allowed suffrage on national matters.

While the idea of allowing a referendum, in a similar way to that of Czechoslovakia, is good in principal, it lends itself more to Russian interest than that of the people of Crimea. Gone are the days of racial self-determination.

Woodrow Wilson once suggested redefining Europe, Poland for Polish, Serbia for Serbians, and by this logic Crimea for Crimeans. However lets not forget Yugoslavia, and what racial determination to separate a country created there. This brand of logic,

one of racial homogeneity, has only led to violence. Another example is Georgia in 2008. It was annexed to Russia, allowing Russia to increase its military presence and cement its territorial presence in the country. There are striking similarities between this and the Crimea. Both, Russia argues, have Russian natives that it needs to protect. In the Ukraine, Russia claims Russian speakers have been targeted by recent proposed law changes that would remove Russian as an official language in schools, courts and government institutions.

The Russian propaganda machine has created a false idea, suggesting that hundreds of thousands emigrated from the Ukraine to Russia in a month. The photo used however was not migrants, but of a daily commute.

Russia has also created a façade regarding those who overturned the regime of previous Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich. It is claimed that they are a gathering of fascists, who only seek to persecute the Russians. This is clear propaganda, as the rising was not one linked to any political party, but a rising of ordinary people

from all ideologies against a corrupt and repressive regime. It was multi-ethnic.

Then there is the issue of the western reaction. The US has called for harsh economical sanctions against Russia. They can do this due to their own increasing isolationism. Furthermore it is in US interests to ignore the situation.

For Europe it is much more of a tricky matter. The UK is reliant upon Russian money coming into the city of London, as well as gas imports from Russia. France has just signed a very lucrative military deal with Russia. And Germany needs gas lines from Russia. Europe cannot cope with placing extremely harsh economical restraints upon Russia and therefore need to be much more diplomatic about the matter. The UK has decided to impose economical sanctions, but only to certain people. The likes of Roman Abramovich will feel the effect, but not ordinary Russians. It seems unlikely for a new cold war to begin, but a diplomatic end may be some way away yet.

96%

The percentage of Crimean voters who support a union with Russia (according to Russian officials.)

78

The number of Crimean politicians who voted for Crimean independence (out of 100.)

6

The amount of time, in hours, that the U.S.A. spent in talks with Russia, without resolution.

58%

The percentage of ethnic Russians living in the Crimea, according to the 2001 census.

# March 17th, 2014

The date on which the Crimean parliament announced the establishment of the Republic of Crimea.



# Debate

## Two students debate the big political issues



# Do we still need feminism?

Is feminism still relevant in 21st century Britain?  
Tom Andrew Munro and Becci Jameson discuss.

Tom Andrew Munro is a second-year student studying English Language and Linguistics with Media. He is arguing **for** feminism in the 21st century.

Becci Jameson is a third-year student studying English Literature. She is arguing **against** feminism in the 21st century.

**D**o we still need feminism? To answer this curtly, I believe we do, despite women in the UK striving for and achieving prominent and diverse roles in our society of 'equality' - possible examples of this including Margaret Thatcher and J.K. Rowling. Even though their fields are not linked they have both achieved great things, and the common denominator that has allowed them to achieve such success is feminism.

J.K. Rowling has achieved in what many female writers in the past could not, the recognition for her work in spite of being a woman. Emily Brontë, a Victorian author, wrote under the pen name "Ellis Bell" so that her novel 'Wuthering Heights' would achieve recognition in a world dominated by the prevalence of male dominance, one where women were deemed second class citizens; a major theme present in 'Wuthering Heights,' her only published novel.

In spite of this 'equality' women are still under-paid in certain fields, or deemed inappropriate, not by law but by demeaning societal constructs that are still firmly held in today's society.

The definition of feminism given by the Oxford English Dictionary is "the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes." A simple concept, but one which many people have trouble with.

'Sl\*t shaming' is also still a serious problem in today's society. In a society where it is deemed okay and sometimes even celebrated for men

to have an array of sexual encounters, women are in many instances widely shunned and shamed. This inequality in the sexes may not seem extreme, yet how many times have you heard, in reference to a sexual assault case, something along the lines of "but look at the way she dresses, she's not doing herself any favors," or "she was asking for it"?

In popular culture 'sl\*t shaming' can be witnessed all across the internet in memes, one example being "Hey Girls. Did you know that you spread Nutella...not your legs." This is a meme that has frequented many Facebook users news feeds.

Women are certainly still more critiqued in their actions than men, whether it be "sleeping around" or going into fields of work deemed "inappropriate," they are constantly under the watchful and judgmental eye of not only the male sex; but also their fellow women.

A great quote from the film 'Mean Girls' seems appropriate here: "You all have got to stop calling each other sl\*ts and wh\*res. It just makes it ok for guys to call you sl\*ts and wh\*res. Who here has ever been called a sl\*t?" This quote summarizes what most teenage girls, and a worrying number of adult women have been doing and shaming one another for their sexual choices, whether real or imaginary.

As the equality between the sexes has not yet been fully realised, there is still a need for feminism, potentially more than ever in the every changing modern society of 2014.

**W**e have a lot to thank feminism for: Women can vote, they are not oppressed in the workplace or at home, and it has levelled the playing field between men and women. But enough is enough. Many of the problems that plagued women's rights in the 1920s - 1960s are just not an issue any more.

Many people, including myself, believe that the feminist movement is outdated and old-fashioned. It presents an image of an overbearing woman who want to dominate rather than promote equality between the sexes. I believe it is unacceptable.

Feminism is just too aggressive to be taken seriously these days. We have enough strong female role models to inspire the next generation that we don't need publicity stunts like burning bras and chaining ourselves to government buildings. In politics we have had Margaret Thatcher, and although she was not popular with all, was a strong politician who was re-elected for a third term - something which is rare in modern politics. Germany's Angela Merkel, who has been their Chancellor for nine years is also a strong example. These women have paved the way without overly addressing the views of feminism, instead being chosen because they were deemed the right person for the job.

There will always be sexism but it is becoming less of a problem. In my opinion, sexism is just an excuse for lazy women not to try. In the past, inequality meant that women needed to be brave in order to voice their

opinions. That is not an issue now, strong women do not need to be feminists to do well in a high powered job.

Feminism is constantly pushing the issue too far and has lost sight of the natural roles of men and women. It is good to fight for equality but we also need to celebrate our differences, otherwise there will be a lack of discussion or changes of opinion. We need to celebrate what women can bring to business rather than expect them to be just like the men who are the current majority in that field. I am not saying a woman's place is in the home but if she wants to be there, then that is her decision and one we should not criticise. I feel like feminism tries to force young mothers to abandon their children in order to dominate their workplace.

I don't want to be labelled as a feminist - we need to celebrate our femininity rather than run around masquerading as a man in a male-centric world. Women are exhausted trying to conform to the masculine version of power.

'Netmums' recently released a survey that showed that many modern women believe feminism is irrelevant now. Only 1 woman in 7 who completed the survey describes herself as a feminist. The focus now in our modern world needs not to be on what is wrong and what we need to change but on what is already right and what we want to truly achieve. The first step forward is for women to be women and to embrace the feminine qualities they naturally possess.

## In Brief

### Gove criticizes "Etonian" Cabinet

EDUCATION Secretary Michael Gove has called the amount of "Old Etonians" - alumni of the prestigious private school Eton - in Prime Minister David Cameron's cabinet "ridiculous".

David Cameron attended the prestigious private school, as did Chancellor of the Exchequer David Osborne, Mayor of London Boris Johnson, and numerous other Conservative MPs in Cameron's inner circle.

Gove, who was educated at a state school before winning a scholarship to a private school in his teenage years, was speaking to The Financial Times when he made the comments.

David Cameron has yet to comment, though the Labour Party have, saying that it is a reflection of the Conservative government under Cameron.

### Death of Labour Party stalwart

FORMER Labour MP Toby Benn passed away in his home on March 14, surrounded by close friends and family, aged 89.

The stalwart left-wing politician retired from parliament in 2001, after a political career spanning more than 50 years, beginning in 1950. He was also a prolific writer and diarist, publishing 8 volumes of diaries and 5 collections of speeches and writings. He was also a vocal and prominent opponent of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, having been president of 'Stop the War Coalition' from 2001 until his death. He is also known for having covertly installed plaques for women's rights advocates in the Houses of Parliament, most notably one for Emily Davison in a cupboard.

He is survived by his four children.

### £500 million overpaid in housing benefits

OFFICIAL government figures released this week show that the current government overpaid nearly £500 million in housing benefit between April 2010 and September 2013.

The Labour shadow government have commented on the figures, with shadow Work and Pensions Secretary Rachel Reeves commenting: "It's staggering that when families are facing a cost-of-living crisis, the amount of Housing Benefit which is overpaid has gone up under David Cameron's government to £1.3billion."



## In Brief

### Sea turtles tracked

SCIENTISTS have recently received data from tracking devices attached to baby loggerhead turtles, animals near top of the endangered species list. Dr Mansfield, the lead scientist of this particular study, said that the data received showed some unexpected information about the places the turtles had travelled. Mansfield and his colleagues harmlessly glued 17 satellite trackers to baby sea turtles, which would drop off after 220 days, and set them into Florida's Atlantic coast. The study expected to find the sea turtles staying close to the surface which was validated by the data received.

The unexpected data received concerned the movement of the turtles. A large percentage were seen in the large circular current of the North Atlantic Ocean and half the group migrated to the Sargasso Sea at the centre. The Sargasso Sea provides refuge with floating seaweed making it an ideal habitat for the young loggerheads to find shelter and forage.

### Light affects bat foraging

A RECENT study has highlighted the negative effect that light pollution has on the behaviour of seed dispersing bats and consequently the health and regeneration of tropical rainforests. The study, conducted in Costa Rica, found that the bats avoided foraging in artificial light, thus limiting seed dispersal within the forest and forest growth.

### Fracking support tumbles

A POLL conducted recently by YouGov, on behalf of the University of Nottingham, has shown a second fall in public support for controversial fracking and shale gas extraction in the last 6 months. This fall, from 58% in favour of fracking (18% opposed) in July 2013, to 53% in favour (24% opposed) in January 2014, shows that David Cameron is slowly losing the battle to sway public opinion in favour of fracking. The Prime Minister has made several high profile speeches in the past few months, affirming his belief that the UK needs to "embrace the opportunities of shale gas", however, public opinion is being heavily hit by the recent and high profile protest against fracking, at Balcombe for example, where Caroline Lucas, Green MP for Brighton Pavilion was arrested along with dozens of others.

Meanwhile in the United States, during his State of the Union Address, President Obama stated that natural gas (extracted by fracking) could be a "bridge fuel", providing lower carbon electricity as an interim step, buying more time to develop renewable energy sources. Shale gas, when burnt, releases approximately half of the emissions of coal, possibly aiding the US in reaching emissions targets, while developing, refining and implementing renewables energy systems.



## Mass orca stranding

by GEMMA SIMMONS

Earlier this month scientists around the world were shocked to learn that 9 orca whales had stranded and died in southern New Zealand. Single stranding orcas are not rare however mass strandings aren't, forcing this to be declared as an unusual mortality event (UME) under the marine mammal protection act. The biggest mass stranding of orcas was in 1955 when 17 animals were euthanized and there hasn't been any since the 1980s.

Dr Naomi Rose of the Animal Welfare Institute said "It isn't all that com-

mon for orcas to mass strand like this. It suggests that there may have been an external factor at play". Rare stranding of this magnitude are often linked to underwater noise from seismic surveys for offshore oil or military exercises which are proven to have a negative impact on cetaceans, often causing strandings. Both the oil industry and the military are known to be active in the area suggesting they may have played a role in the deaths or that some other major event occurred.

Founder of Orca Research Trust, Dr Ingrid Visser was immediately called in but initially only allowed to examine photographs and take measure-

ments while scientists awaited permission of the Maori tribe to take samples as orcas are believed to be sacred by many indigenous cultures. Visser said that she did not recognize any of the individuals from her New Zealand population ID catalogue but that they seemed "to be in very good condition when living". This suggests that the orcas came from elsewhere and initial observations of their teeth resemble a pod from the North Pacific that feed predominantly on sharks.

It was hoped that when researchers arrived they would be able to perform tests to determine the causes of death, however they were unable to do so be-

cause of the condition of the bodies. Wildlife pathologist Stuart Hunter explained "they are far too decomposed" to determine cause of death. Blood tests may still be useful in determining whether heavy metals or pollution had a role in the deaths and these along with measurements and blubber samples have been sent away for analysis. The calf of the group was airlifted from the scene and taken to Massey University to be studied.

If the orcas are local to New Zealand these deaths will represent a loss of 5% of the total population so scientists are eagerly awaiting the results and findings.



## Killer starfish threaten reef

by LAURA DOODY

Humans have been damaging Australia's Great Barrier Reef since the mid-1800's, but now there is a new threat in town. The crown-of-thorns starfish is a species native to the barrier reef but its population numbers have recently rocketed due to human activity.

The starfish travel large distances across the barrier reef consuming and damaging coral. They feed by inverting their stomachs onto coral to dissolve and digest the tissue. They can

grow to become as large as a dinner plate, and so can generate quite an appetite. They are also covered in sharp spines making them a tricky meal for other species.

Each female can release up to 20 million larvae each year however only 0.0001% of larvae survive, currently the survival rate is 10 times that. This means the numbers of starfish are increasing rapidly.

One reason for this is the removal of predators by fisherman including the giant triton snail, a significant preda-

tor. Many fish species that eat the starfish larvae have also been removed by fishing.

An increase in the volume of nutrients in sea water also plays a part, as the chances of larvae survival are greatly improved. Nutrients get washed into rivers from agricultural land following heavy rain and get transported into the ocean. Phytoplankton, that the starfish larvae feed on, are also becoming more populous because of the nutrients, and this is helping more starfish to survive. As

the quantity of nutrients reaching the ocean continues to increase so does the frequency of starfish outbreaks.

Coral reefs can recover from bleaching events caused by temperature changes and other stresses, however this recovery is being prevented in many places because of the crown-of-thorns starfish. Continuation of the removal of predators and the flow of nutrients is likely to cause even more frequent outbreaks of starfish, which will continue to damage an already threatened coral reef.





## The flooding blame game

by RACHEL DUNBAR

The MET Office has announced that this winter has been the wettest on record with the provisional figures showing that between 1st December 2013 and 19th February 2014, an average 486.8mm of rain fell across the UK and 691.8mm fell on Wales, smashing previous records with winter yet to end. Due to the jet stream the UK has been hit hard after a storm resulting in around 6500 homes being affected by flooding. The highest profile flooding has been in the Somerset levels due to campaigning from residents who believed that if the river had been dredged their

homes would have been unaffected.

Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles, apologised on behalf of the government for listening to the advice from the Environment Agency stating "we thought we were dealing with experts". Lord Smith, Chairman of the Environment Agency, defended his staff saying that they know "100 times more about flood risk management than any politician ever does". He continued, explaining that treasury rules state they cannot spend above £400,000 on any flood defence and with no further funding available the proposed dredging could not go ahead. Other politicians entered this flooding blame game resulting in an exasper-

ated Prime Minister stating "this is a time for everyone to get on with the jobs that they have" and praising the Environment Agency, emergency services and the army "who are doing a brilliant job". During Prime Minister's Questions, Cameron identified that dredging has worked for centuries and that it could be "good for many more places".

Dr Hannah Cloke, a flooding expert from Reading University, stated that Cameron's opinion shows "short term politics has trumped long term scientific and economic evidence" and that dredging would not have prevented the Somerset floods due to the amount of rainfall. She also believes

that other flood prevention measures need to be considered above dredging. An opinion that is reflected in the post-2007 floods 'Pitt Review' which also advised the use of a range of soft-engineering techniques. Pitt also recommended that homeowners should flood-proof their homes improving resilience to future flood events however a survey undertaken by the review showed "46% of people would not change their homes; it was up to the authorities to protect them from flooding". Should it be down to the authorities to keep your home safe from flooding? Or should homeowners take responsibility for where they choose to live?



## Something a bit fishy about Tesco

by ALEX HULLEY

The supermarket giant Tesco have recently been accused of stocking unsustainably caught fish. Despite their own products adhering to animal welfare ethics, Tesco have been suspected of having shares in companies that still practice trawling (i.e. the low-cost Oriental and Pacific brand). This activity leads to a substantial amount of by-catch alongside mass destruction of the seabed.

Tesco however deny all these claims and reiterate the fact they have moved faster than any other supermarket to

makes sure all their own tuna products are caught 100% sustainably. A spokesman said: "many of our competitors continue to sell non-pole and line caught tuna. Customers have a great choice of sustainable tuna at Tesco." Although it is admirable that Tesco's own products are sustainable, Greenpeace's response is that Tesco must try harder to stock all sustainably sourced tuna because other chains such as Sainsbury's are miles ahead. Ariana Densham, Greenpeace UK oceans campaigner, reiterated this point stating, "Morrisons joins Sainsbury's as a market leader on tuna sustainability. They have eliminated unsustainable tuna from their prod-

ucts, which is great news for sharks, turtles and rays." In an interview La Doria Ltd, which owns Oriental and Pacific, a spokesperson said, "at least 85% of the tuna we sell is fished using the pole and line method; our O&P brand skipjack tuna is caught using the purse seine fishing method, which accounts for 63% of all tuna caught around the globe. Credible scientific research by the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations shows that stocks of skipjack tuna are healthy. All of our tuna suppliers are members of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation and support its research-led initiatives for long-term conservation of tuna

stocks." The purse seine method is very environmentally damaging and accounts for over half of the tuna caught by Oriental and Pacific therefore it is not surprising that celebrity chefs and campaign figure heads such as Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall are urging Tesco to back away from such organisations in order to win back the customer and push for a more sustainable supermarket product future. In the long run Tesco have claimed that they hope to increase their sustainability by distributing sustainable tuna stocks into their pastas, salads, sandwiches and other products.

## In Brief

### Greenpeace grows

BANGOR welcomed the arrival of the Greenpeace society earlier this year. The society is a branch of Greenpeace which is local to Bangor. The aim and purpose of the Greenpeace society is to represent, present and educate ideas about current hot topics to the general public, through the medium of environmental lobbying and campaigning; the Greenpeace society recently participated in the Bangor Science festival in order to achieve this. The society is currently student led however is welcoming and open to the public. Greenpeace is currently looking for a Welsh translator and social se-

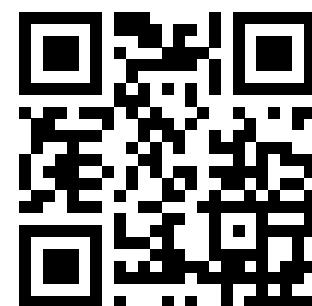
### Earthquake lightning

A PHENOMENON regarding the appearance of lightning when earthquakes strike has been unravelled. Before the occurrence of an earthquake mysterious lightning flashes can be observed, acting as a natural early warning system. These electrical charges have been observed and recorded for 300 years but have previously been dismissed as hearsay, however with the increased use of social media more sightings have been recorded. Recorded sightings of these "earthquake lights" include the 2009 Fukushima earthquake, and 2009 L'Aquila earthquake. The lightning occurs due to shifting soil layers along geological faultlines, causing the generation of millions of vaults of electrostatic charge.

### Stop the block

BANGOR University and Welsh Water are teaming up in a 'Stop the Block' campaign, in an attempt to put an end to the misery caused to thousands by blocked drains. Welsh Water spends £7 million a year clearing blocked sewers that can cause damage to homes and pollute rivers, coasts and the wider environment. Through the campaign, the two groups are aiming to re-educate people on what should and shouldn't go in to the sewer systems, particularly in relation to disposing of fat, oil and grease. The campaign is being run in the lead up to World Water Day on the 22nd March, and information will be available at stalls around bangor stalls around Bangor.

Scan this code with your phone to find out more:





## In Brief

### Good news for Welsh science

WELSH scientists' research is better than that of comparable countries, according to an independent report.

The report looked at the impact and cost-effectiveness of the research produced by Welsh universities and research institutes. Despite Wales receiving relatively low levels of funding, it performed not only above the UK average but also was one of the most efficient countries in the world.

Julie Williams, the Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, said: "Researchers in Wales deserve a big pat on the back, and just think what could be done with greater numbers of scientists. There is much talent here already but the report also highlights the need to strengthen in areas such as Engineering, Medicine and the Natural Sciences. I want to see us strengthen our capacity in those areas and this report will be valuable in providing a baseline to measure our progress against."

## "Brain zaps" as brain-damage treatment

PEOPLE with brain damage in a minimally conscious state have been able to communicate again – through having electrodes applied to their brain.

15 patients that had suffered brain trauma and were in a vegetative state had their prefrontal cortex electrically stimulated for 20 minutes. Soon they began to show signs of awareness, such as being able to answer questions or doing simple things like moving their hands when asked. Some of these patients had not been responsive for years beforehand.

The effect lasted for about two hours, at which point the patients slipped back into their previous state. The scientists who led the study, from the University of Liege in Belgium, are now trying to get the effect to last longer with a view to turning it into a treatment.

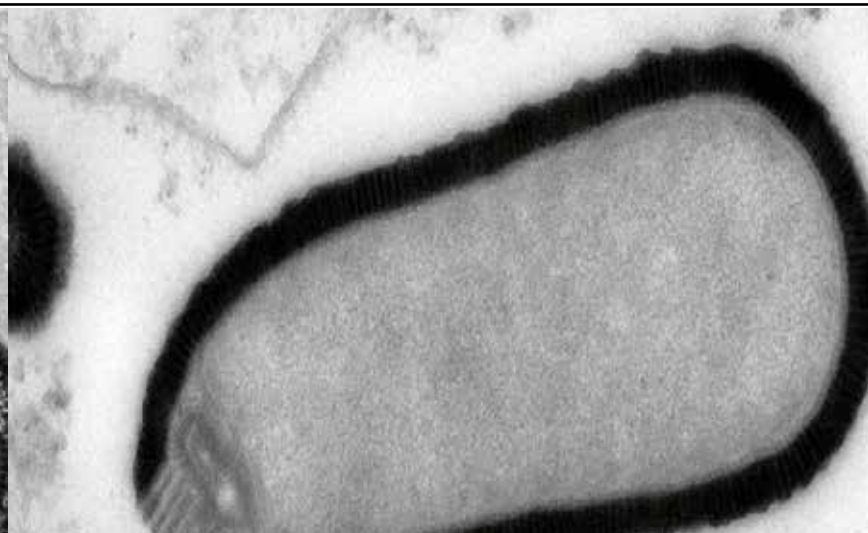
## Oldest piece of Earth found

GEOLOGISTS say that they have found the oldest piece of Earth at a sheep farm in Western Australia.

Researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison study the decay of radioactive uranium which dated a crystal called a zircon at 4.4 billion years old – meaning that the rock's "only" 100 million years younger than Earth.

Scientists had previously thought that the early Earth did not have rocks at all – rather, it was covered in a global "sea" of lava because of the heat from meteorite impacts. The new research suggests that not only were there rocks then, but also the Earth had a crust and maybe even oceans.

It also suggests that the history of the earliest life on Earth might have to be rewritten as it is thought likely that life started soon after the first oceans developed.



# Ancient giant virus reactivated

by DESIRÉE VILLAHERMOSA-CABALLERO

Many have taken a chance on the discovery of an ancient virus' reactivation to create alarm. However, we should handle facts carefully and not let ourselves be misled.

This already renowned virus, Pithovirus Sibericum, infects only amoeba, a unicellular organism with no definite shape, quite different from us, and 290 billion base pairs in its genome--while the human genome count is two orders of magnitude less (2.9 billion base pairs).

A lot of discussion has been stimulated by this old virus, discovered in a Late Pleistocene sediment, more than 30,000 years old in Siberia, Russia, in-

cluding the threat of a release of more dangerous viruses as a result of global warming or industrial exploitation.

We have to be aware that although there might be other viruses frozen, that could somehow affect other organisms or even humans, they would have to overcome numerous obstacles, freezing-thawing is a very damaging process, and the virus would need to find its host immediately. This virus was only viable thanks to its protein coat, whereas a regular lipid envelope wouldn't have preserved it. Also, this virus was reactivated only in the laboratory. Professor Jonathan Ball, a virologist from the University of Nottingham, commented "How long other viruses could remain viable in permafrost is anyone's guess. It will depend a lot on the actual virus. I doubt they are

all as robust as this one."

Although some means of communication claim the virus has been resurrected, viruses are not considered within the 'alive' biological structures. There is the Plant kingdom, the Animal kingdom and Fungi, Chromista, Protozoa and Bacteria, but there is no a Virus kingdom of life. In order to be alive, you have to follow certain rules, and the virus, despite adhering to natural selection, do not have a cellular structure, nor their own metabolism, they always depend of a host cell.

Pithovirus sibericum is around five times larger in size than the biggest ordinary viruses (from 20 to 300 nm), and 50% larger than the Pandoraviruses, the previous largest known viruses. It has a thick oval wall with an opening at one end, measures around

1500 nm in length and 500 nm wide and can be seen under ordinary optical microscopes, unlike other viruses.

It is similar to two other known types of giant viruses, belonging to a class of giant viruses discovered 10 years ago, the Pandoraviruses, though the difference in its genetic material makes it a distinct genus and species. In fact, P. sibericum has a much smaller genome than Pandoraviruses, with only 467 distinct genes. Other peculiarities are that "While Pandoravirus requires the participation of many functions in the amoeba cell nucleus to replicate, the Pithovirus multiplication process mostly occurs in the cytoplasm – outside the nucleus", said Dr Matthieu Legendre of the CNRS' Institut de Microbiologie de la Méditerranée,



# What you *really* need to know about flying

by EDWIN PYNEGAR

It has all the makings of a Hollywood thriller – a 200 tonne Boeing 777 on a routine flight disappears into thin air, two passengers are travelling on false passports, and the latest news (at time of writing – maybe it'll all have changed by the time you read this!) is that it was deliberately turned around by persons as yet unknown.

The story of Malaysian Airlines flight 370 doubtless has lots of secrets yet to be revealed. But what about "normal" flights? What's the technology behind knowing where the thousands of commercial flights every day actually are? And how dangerous is flying really? Science investigates...

How can we possibly lose something,

in our 21st century networked world, as big as a jetliner? One of the little secrets of the aviation industry is that air traffic controllers don't actually use GPS – instead, they rely almost totally on radar. One of the radar systems, the "primary" one, works the same way radar has done since it was invented back in the 1930s – radio waves emitted from the radar station bounce off planes and then the detected reflections are used to work out the plane's location. But this only works up to 240km from the nearest radar station, meaning that the plane wasn't covered in the middle of the South China Sea where it vanished. The other one is the "secondary" radar, where the plane's transponder emits signals which are picked up by the radar station. This has a greater range but relies on the plane actively signalling – so as soon

as someone in the cockpit turns it off, the plane suddenly vanishes.

Those are not the only way that planes communicate with the outside world. There's also a system called ACARS (Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System) which sends signals out every half hour about how the plane's systems are working. MH370's sent out a signal at just past 0100 Hours as planned, but the next one never came. Turning off the ACARS is not easy – it requires climbing down a trapdoor and flipping a circuit breaker – but investigators think that it is what must have happened.

Despite the massive media coverage whenever an accident happens, flying is hands down the safest way to travel. When you get on a plane, your statistical odds of dying in a crash are about

one in seven million – that's to say, less than your chances of being killed by a bee sting (1 in 5 million) or by being struck by lightning (1 in 1.9 million). And compared to the car or train, the plane wins hands down: a study in the USA found that a 727 full of passengers would have to crash, with no survivors, every single day to make flying as risky as travelling by car.

Statistics like these, though, won't do much to help anyone with a fear of flying. It's pretty common – it's estimated that between 20 and 30% of the population are apprehensive about getting on a plane, and 2 to 10% are outright phobic. And many psychologists think that mass media coverage whenever a plane crashes is partly responsible for this. Will we, after the mystery of MH370, see another spike in cases?



# Science Meets: Dr Matt Hayward

Ever wanted to get to know your lecturers a bit better? What do they do when they're not teaching? *Science* met up with SBS and SENRGY's Dr Matt Hayward and talked lions, hunting, and how to get a job working with wildlife...

by EDWIN PYNEGAR

**What's your job here in Bangor?**

I'm a lecturer in Conservation, which means I deliver modules on conservation-related subjects, and my research involves looking at conservation issues. For me that tends to mean large-predator related topics and looking at threatened species, but I also look at broader issues such as the role of fences in ecosystems and how the IUCN Red List is put together.

**Tell us a bit about yourself – how did you come to be here? I know you've had a lot of jobs in a lot of different (and exciting) places!**

I think that as I've travelled through life I've taken jobs that helped redirect me into places I wanted to be. After I finished my honours degree I spent three years working as an environmental consultant, and one day I was out working in the middle of the Outback and staying in this really remote hotel, and I got a phone call. It was my supervisor from uni – I have NO idea how he got my number – and told me about a PhD opportunity over in Western Australia, working on a little animal called the quokka. It sounded great and I moved across the continent and studied the quokka for three and a half years. Then after my PhD, life took me to South Africa, Poland and back to Australia, working both in research and as a reserve manager, and then I came over to Bangor last year, and am loving it!

**So tell us about your research. What was your project in South Africa?**

So I'd moved over there originally to study small carnivores. But that didn't go ahead and so soon I found myself working on a project studying the blue duiker, which is a kind of antelope. The study was a bit "average" though, and also I didn't get paid for six months, and so instead I went to study the reintroduction of large



## MATT REINTRODUCING LIONS TO THE ADDO ELEPHANT NATIONAL PARK IN SOUTH AFRICA

hunt, basically just had an intensive view into the lives of six lions. One of our projects was to find out what lions actually eat: before our project, people had thought that lions ate basically anything, but that's really not true. Over their entire range they definitely prefer just five species. Actually some of the third year dissertation projects I'm supervising this year are trying to do the same for other big predators, jaguars, pumas, jackals, bears...

that's to say how many of an animal you can fit in there given the amount of prey there is. People's previous estimates were way off and so we used our work to look at how density of preferred prey in a reserve would affect density of the predator. It gives far more accurate predictions now, we've tested it in a number of locations, and it's being used by conservation managers throughout South Africa.

**One of the most controversial issues in conservation is hunting. Can big game hunting of the kind they have in South Africa contribute to conserving wildlife?**

Yes, it definitely can and does. In southern Africa, well-regulated hunting has led to the massive expansion of areas that are protected, and then in them some species are hunted but the rest of the species are protected. And you've got to remember that for a hunting reserve to be economically viable you can't buy your animals in every year, you've got to maintain your population and then harvest them sustainably. Actually, in South Africa 13% of the entire country is

**“DO WHAT YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT, BECAUSE IF YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT YOU'LL DO BETTER AT IT AND YOU'LL GET MORE OUT OF IT**

protected by private landowners and that's all down to hunting. There are very bad aspects of hunting, things like canned lion hunting are pretty shocking – but I think the evidence is there that it does work because it gives wildlife a value that otherwise it wouldn't have.

**The debate on this is really polarised, isn't it? I mean, many people say hunting is morally wrong in all circumstances...**

I've never hunted and never will. But unless the people who like wildlife alive are prepared to pay for the conservation of that wildlife, which right now isn't happening nearly enough, the hunters are the people who are paying for it to exist really. And until that changes, I don't think I've got the moral right to say that it

shouldn't happen.

**OK, so what do you think about the future of wildlife? Are you an optimist or a pessimist? We hear so many depressing stories about poaching and extinction, but do you think there'll still be lions and elephants running around Africa in fifty years time?**

Yeah, I do, I'm generally an optimist. I think that the longer Africa's game persists, the better chance it's got. As countries develop, they become more urbanised and so people move to the cities, meaning that there's more and more land available for wildlife. Also tourism will become more and more important. I think it's just this intermediate period we have to get through now – currently there are shocking levels of mass poaching of rhinos and elephants. In the long term things are looking pretty good but in the short term it's far more concerning.

**So what's the best thing, and the most frustrating thing, about what you do?**

The most frustrating thing... I really can't think of anything! I guess just not having enough time to do the things I want to do. As for the best thing, well, I get to travel the world, I met my wife who also loves travelling the world, and I've got to study some amazing animals! And hopefully I've made some kind of contribution to the conservation of wildlife around the world.

**“THERE ARE VERY BAD ASPECTS OF HUNTING... BUT I THINK THE EVIDENCE IS THERE THAT IT DOES WORK BECAUSE IT GIVES WILDLIFE A VALUE THAT OTHERWISE IT WOULDN'T HAVE**

predators in Addo Elephant National Park. They'd just reintroduced six lions, twelve hyenas, and a leopard and our aim was to look at their impact on the species that already occurred there. So we followed the lions around in a jeep, watched them

**Did this change the way that National Parks are run in South Africa?**

Yes, definitely! One of the offshoots of our research was used to calculate carrying capacity of these parks –

**Last question: what would you say to any students reading this who might be thinking about a career working with wildlife, whether in research or management?**

Follow your dreams! Do what you're passionate about, because if you're doing something you're passionate about you'll do better at it and you'll get more out of it. And get out there and do things!

**So volunteer, travel...**

Definitely volunteer. Go and work on projects. Actually I feel that in my career a few opportunities were closed off to me because I didn't get enough experience early on. Do it!





# Whatever floats your vote

by CALLUM HULME

It's that time of year again, where we usher in a new era for the Students' Union. The campaigners are done campaigning, and the successful candidates get ready to assume their new roles in the Union with the turn of the academic year, with the opportunity for those on their way out to pass on some helpful hints and tips to the newcomers.

A new student team has been elected, and the chosen sabbs no doubt celebrated their success while simultaneously pondering what their first steps as Union team members would be. First of all, a big thank you has to go out to everyone who voted – the SU Student Team appreciates it.

Rhys Taylor, the newly elected President of the Students' Union, had this message to share: "I would like to give a big personal thank you to everyone who not only voted to elect

me but took part in the SU election process. SU elections are far easier to make a change. When you vote in really local elections, you can make a change and see a change when you cast your vote. Every year for the next four years, there's an opportunity to cast your vote – students need to be heard, and young people need to take an active part in determining not only who leads, but what issues they concentrate on. The turnout gap between the oldest and youngest in Britain is the largest in Europe – it's around double. Only 32% of 18-24 year olds say they are absolutely certain to vote in the next general election (compared with 74% of those over 65). Disconnected governments and mislaid promises have left a dent in our belief in politics, but by engaging with the process of electing representatives to be our Course Reps, our Sabbatical Officers, our Assembly Members or MPs, even our European Parliamentarians, we can make a change."

Mark Stanley, the newly elected VP for Socie-

ties and Communities next year, has also said:

"I want to thank everyone who voted for me, but I also want to thank everyone who voted. Voting is one of the best moments to have your voice heard, because the people who have won elections have introduced the 24/7 library and free societies and sports clubs. You have yourself a good one Bangor."

These quotes are evidence enough that the new Student Team are sincere in their thanks to those that voted, and they stress the message that your vote can-and has-made a difference.

Unfortunately, as effective as their election campaigns proved to be, the latest election drew in far less votes than the Students' Union would have liked, and there are still a large number of students that didn't vote at all.

Bangor University is home to some 15,000 plus students-over 8000 of which are undergraduates-and as such have a daily presence living and working in the local area.

With so many people capable of voting, you'd

think voter turnout would be in the thousands every year – unfortunately this isn't the case, and despite Ash Kieran's confirmation that this was Bangor University's third highest turnout ever, the number of voters is still damningly low.

The statistics are quite telling – 1121 valid votes were made to the election of President, 1099 were made for the VP of Education and Welfare, 1349 were made for the VP of Societies and Communities, and 1403 were made for the VP of Sport and Healthy Living.

Less than 10% of Students who are eligible to vote actually voted, and similar statistics are found year on year. Are students ignorant of the Student's Union and its elections, despite the work the SU does for the students of the University? Or, on a more innocent note, do they all just forget about it until it's too late? Speculation is rife as to why we have such a poor voter turnout year on year, yet anything conclusive is elusive.

## Tinder: The swipe gripes

by CALLUM HULME

In the brief time I spent with Tinder-the semi-dating phone app that connects to your Facebook account-I found it difficult to get 'the point' of it.

For those of you that don't know, Tinder is an app that matches you with people in your area. Linked with their Facebook profiles, it shows you a picture of them, and two buttons that allow you to either register your interest in said person or skip them entirely. Should you like somebody's picture, and they like yours in return, you are matched, and given the opportunity to start a conversation.

Simple, plain, and easy to use, Tinder is little more than a glorified sex app, promoting matches with complete strangers and judgmental attitudes. Would you rush over to a complete stranger in public and tell them you found them attractive? Probably not, and you

run the risk of horrifying the stranger in the process.

There's something disturbing about the level of anonymity with it all – I found myself 'liking' photos and 'passing' on others absent-mindedly, not paying much attention to the person in the picture itself, before realising that judging people on a drunken profile picture is a horrible thing to do.

It's this level of judgmentalism that horrified me about the app. I don't want to call its users desperate – as many people like myself could have simply been using it out of a sense of morbid curiosity – but the fact that some users most definitely are using this app to find 'love', albeit from the shadows where they can anonymously pass judgement with the press of a button, adds a sinister twist to the idea of online dating.

What would once be considered stalking online has, with the release of this app, become a down-played and seemingly innocent norm.





# Parents on facebook

by HEATHER BOYLES

Before social networks, the equivalent would have been your Mum or Dad coming into your room when you had friends around, trying to be “down with the kids.” It would have been embarrassing but brief, and over in a few minutes, unlike a comment on one of your photos stuck there permanently for the foreseeable future. In the past couple of years the demographic of Facebook has changed, and now research has shown that more middle aged and older people are using the site than ever before. Now, here is one phenomenon that we can’t seem to change no matter how much we want to - parents on Facebook. It’s not just parents but also aunts and uncles, older cousins, even grandparents. If you have a great relationship with your parents, and they know their boundaries on the site, then great! It can be a good way to stay in contact when you’re away from home. However, if they see it as a good way to check

what you get up to at university it can feel more like they’re breathing down your neck. This article is aimed at those who suffer from embarrassing comments or are even being policed by their family on the site. I have noticed this year in particular when pictures of nights out or flat parties are uploaded, that there is nearly always an awkward comment from a mother or auntie with the very common “Hard at work studying then!”. Whether meant in jest or not, it’s annoying and not funny, especially if said relative then shows the rest of the family without your permission. Do you wake up late to an email saying you’ve been tagged in X number of photos, causing an inner panic as you race to Facebook to see if you can detag yourself, or beg your friend to delete the picture before your mum sees it? If so keep reading, because there are a few steps you can take to minimise the amount they can see allowing you to take control of the situation. You may already have these privacy settings in place, but for those who don’t...

### Step One

For hiding all posts, go to the padlock button next to “Home” and click on privacy shortcuts. Then on “Who can see my stuff?“, click on Custom. Facebook allows you to select not only just the “Friends” option but also a “Don’t share with these people.” Here you could type in each relative you want to hide stuff from. Or before doing this step go into Friends and make a list of your relatives, give it a name like Family. Now in the Don’t Share box you can type Family and the list will pop up.

### Step Two

From the same padlock, click ‘See More Settings’. On the left review your Privacy settings.

### Step Three

In the same place underneath, “Timeline and Tagging” is “Who can see things on my Timeline?”. To the right there’s “Who can see posts you’ve been tagged in on your timeline?” When you edit you can do the same thing as Step 1. Friends but “Don’t Share with”, and add the list/people. You can do this Custom step with many settings/posts.

### Step Four

To review posts friends tag you in, and to review tags friends add to your posts. They can now be viewed using the Activity log, which is located above Settings on the main menu. Hopefully everything will be clearer once you see it on screen. It is worth checking your settings for every status or new photo album, but once it becomes habit, it’s a small price to pay to ensure your own privacy. This is a new generational problem, but boundaries need to be set. If they notice a lack of activity from you, they may think you’re finally studying too much to have a social life, and you can have some privacy back.



Ida is an international student working in liaison with the international office . Every issue she'll write about her experiences in Bangor.

## Where are you from?

Last week, after almost two years in Bangor, I hit a milestone by creating my first Finnish character in a creative writing piece. My tutor wouldn't believe me at first. How come I haven't done this before? The answer was hard to come up with even for myself.

When abroad, a person becomes the representative of their country. All the presumptions (and possible prejudices) of your country are now tested, especially if you're the first national of your country the person meets. If I'm cold, it's a matter of public interest. How can you be cold? You're Finnish! I don't mind though. Curiosity helps to understand other cultures.

But why haven't I created a Finnish character before? Why have I not celebrated the cultural richness my nationality brings to my creative work? Because, in a way, I have become a Finnish character myself. Finland is a small country and often I have been the first Finn people have met. That creates a certain responsibility. I need to make a great impression so that the entire nation isn't judged alongside me. I don't know if that's true or not, but that's how I feel.

Before studying abroad I didn't really understand the effect your cultural background has to your personality and preferences. Sometimes while abroad your personality unfortunately shrinks into just your nationality. You're that foreign person. My nationality is often brought up in everyday life, usually because of my accent. Even though it happens out of good will and curiosity, it shows that you stand out.

Let's be honest, being foreign isn't always fun. Everything is weird, you speak weird and the simplest things are sometimes overwhelmingly difficult. Sometimes it would be nice just to blend in. I wish that during those moments I would remember to cherish my cultural heritage. I'm not just a Finn but it's a part of me. And I should be proud.

The One World Gala is going to take place on Friday 28th March at 6pm in PJ hall. Its free entry but fundraising for the Red Cross-Syria appeal is also organized. So in addition of supporting your fellow students, you can also support a good cause! Some fantastic acts are already lined up for the event, including singing and dancing, but until March 23rd it's still possible for you to join in! Just email [internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk) for more information.



# Oh God why (-fi)

by NATHAN BULLEN

It appears to be the case that many students living in halls of residence are unhappy with the internet service the University provides. Eduroam Wi-Fi was introduced to the halls last summer, but students are suffering from slow speeds and disconnections. Chapa Kalawo, 19, who lives on the Ffriddoedd site said: “If I knew the internet was going to be this bad I wouldn't have come to Bangor. I've been disconnected from the internet 5 times today and it's really frustrating. I have to wait until late at night to be able to use the internet at a good speed which is an issue when I'm trying to do work. I can't wait to move into my house next year with my friends so I can get a good internet connection.”

Halls Warden Michael Perrins, 21, has defended the internet service: “I have heard a lot of students having difficulties with the internet around Ffriddoedd site. It does have its off days where you can hear half of Ffriddoedd site raging at their screens. But it is pretty good since it is included in the price of halls.”

He was a student at Bangor before Wi-Fi was introduced and thinks the service is better now than it used to be.

“Back in the day we only had wired connections which were better, but really got annoying after a while. I'm personally happy to give up a little bit of internet performance for portability.”

Any improvement to the internet service is likely to cause a rise in the weekly rent of accommodation.

Good internet is an essential part of many students' lives but a rise could cause financial prob-

lems.

“£111 a week isn't the cheapest to be paying when the vast majority of students don't have an income to help with this and heavily rely on their student finance. If they do want to increase the performance of internet, say if they upped the prices by £1 a week for everyone, I imagine it would go a long way when there are roughly 2200 students on the site”, Perrins Added.

The internet connection is also causing problems for people situated on Normal site.

Danielle Nunnerley, 19 who lives on the site said: “The internet service here is awful. I can't watch anything online without constant buffering and lagging.” This is less of a long term problem as there are plans for Normal site to be replaced by the rejuvenated St. Mary's site by September 2015.



Various Bangor Students



## UNION

NUS Wales  
awards

WE'RE delighted to announce that we've been nominated for a whole host of awards at the annual National Union of Students' Wales awards ceremony.

For the second year in a row, we have been nominated for the Higher Education Students' Union of the Year award, alongside Aberystwyth, Cardiff, and the University of South Wales. We're up against a number of fantastic Unions who have done some brilliant work over the last year, but we'd love to bring home this award to recognise all of the fantastic work that goes on in Bangor.

On top of this, Hannah Rettie from the School of Psychology is one of three students nominated for Wise Course Rep of the Year – an award won last year by Bangor Student Martyn Curzey. We also have two students nominated for Student of the Year – Trefor Alun and Christopher Bibby (who is now nominated for the second year in a row).

If that wasn't enough, Alison Roberts from our Finance and Admin team has been nominated for the Simpson/King award for staff member of the year. To be nominated for 5 awards across 4 categories is already fantastic. We'll know the final results by Wednesday the 26th fingers crossed until then!

We're also up for a number of awards at the annual Green Impact Students' Unions awards ceremony, and we're hoping to secure Gold in our environmental audit. We'd love to bring back the "non-commercial Students' Union of the year" award, and our "one-minute garden" is one of up for the Ecologist Communications Challenge award, which will be decided by public votes.

General  
meeting

THIS upcoming Tuesday (the 25<sup>th</sup> of March) Bangor SU is holding one of our regular General Meetings. As well as having presentations from your sabbatical officers, updates on our annual survey, and the ability to ask any questions of your Students' Union, we've arranged for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor to come along.

He'll be giving a brief update on the University, which will be followed by an open forum. This is **your** chance to ask any burning questions you have about University. This is a fantastic opportunity, and I'm looking forward to hearing loads of questions on the night. If you can't make it, you can submit questions in advance to [antony.butcher@bangorstudents.com](mailto:antony.butcher@bangorstudents.com).

We'll be kicking off at 7pm – doors will be open from 6.30. Last time there was standing room only, so I'd encourage you all to get there early. We'll be having some live music from The Ridgways whilst we sign everyone in and get you all seated – what more could you want! Clubs and Societies are reminded that they must send at least two members in order to be eligible for their SU grant.



## Immigration Bill action

**T**his week the House of Lords will be discussing the Immigration Bill. This has a number of regressive measures which would have a significant impact on International Students, including charging to use the NHS, removing appeal rights, and requiring landlords to check immigration status. International Students make a massive economic, social, and cultural contribution to our society, and we believe that these proposed changes are simply ridiculous. International Students are increasingly telling us that they feel unwelcome in this country – let's not shut the door on them. We've written to members of the House of Lords who we have a connection with to protest against these changes (we've stuck a copy on our Facebook page). If you'd like to get involved, head to <http://www.nus.org.uk/en/take-action/welfare-and-student-rights/dont-shut-the-door-on-international-students/> where you can sign a petition and write to your MP.

For international students, there is also a template letter you can send to your embassy asking them to support your rights by lobbying the UK Government on your behalf. The immigration football is one being increasingly used by politicians in an attempt to try and counter the worrying rise of rise in popularity of groups with nationalistic views. In a recent survey, NUS found that the overall 51% of non-EU students surveyed think that the UK Government is either not welcoming or not at all welcoming towards international students. We've seen first-hand how international students here in Bangor contribute to a wonderful, diverse culture. Below is a piece

from Rhys Taylor, VP Education and Welfare and President elect, based on a presentation he gave at a European Parliament event to re-iterate our calls for international students to be taken out of migration statistics, and to highlight the damage caused by vit-

riolic nationalistic views on sensible discussions about migration:

"It's hard to separate discussions based on politically held nationalistic views, with intelligent discourse on the impact and effect of migration. The academic and public pulpit has been used responsibly. I will approach this from the aspect of a student, and the importance of migration in education, and education as a vehicle for migration. We also hold the view that we now live in a global village - whilst we need a sensible approach to immigration, we cannot allow discussions about the world and global society in which we live to be hampered by nationalistic sentiment.

To ignore and reject migration is to ignore and reject a consensus that our global village is yet to achieve equality, fairness, democracy, human dignity and liberty, and a respect for human rights...

Since 2011/12 13,663 UK students have used the ERASMUS programme to study abroad, contributing to the sharing of our culturally embedded values and beliefs that are embedded in our education system, contributing to the values and beliefs of human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights on which the European Union is founded.

Those students coming to Wales from poorer countries who return home are highly beneficial to those left behind, enriching and diversifying our education system, and greatly contributing to young people's understanding of the global world in which we now live. Students however are not only net beneficiaries of migration.

As a country we are net beneficiaries, and therefore our movement, the student movement, is calling to see international students removed from

net migration figures altogether. The Conservative's intention to reduce the net migration figure for Britain would almost certainly leave a large black hole in our Higher Education system, which is now highly dependent on students paying higher fees since the UK Government's policy change in 2010. 39% of postgraduate students are from outside of the EU, contributing £237m to Wales' GDP, and over 9,000 jobs. A report commissioned by the University of Oxford showed that international students bring a net economic benefit of £120.3m to the Yorkshire and Humberside region alone, far less than those EU migrants on jobseekers allowance, or on housing benefit.

Beyond our education system, European students studying in Wales take part in a wide range of cultural activities such as drama and sports, diversifying and expanding the views of young people beyond those of modern Wales and modern Europe. Eisteddfod Llangollen is a perfect example of how Wales has embraced a fast globalising world, celebrating music, dance, costume and culture from nations around the world, enriching a Welsh cultural tradition that dates back to the 12th Century.

In his 1968 speech Rivers of Blood, Enoch Powell said that "We must be mad, literally mad, as a nation to be permitting the annual inflow of some 50,000 dependants, who are for the most part the material of the future growth of the immigrant-descended population. It is like watching a nation busily engaged in heaping up its own funeral pyre."

Paul Collier (a Professor at the University of Oxford) said that the passion underpinning opinions on migration is fuelled by identifies and fears. However, we cannot grant vitriolic views of immigration, where the gulf between the strength with which opinions are held and the depth of ignorance on which they managed to remain afloat, a place in our society.

We cannot stop talking about the world as a global village, with small countries such as Wales fast globalising. We have to keep in mind the wide gap between poor and rich countries which sees many people migrate. This gap has been called the moral horror story of our times. To ignore and reject migration is to ignore and reject a consensus that our global village is yet to achieve equality, fairness, democracy, human dignity and liberty, and a respect for human rights.

Professor Collier said that the difference in the incomes is ultimately due to differences in political and social structures, and these dysfunctional systems persist because they are embedded in the identities and narratives of local cultures - people migrate to seek a better life. Like every other human being, it's all about survival. The migration in and out of Wales and the UK allows us and almost forces us to share the story of equality, liberty, and dignity across the world - migration allows us to stand taller when talking to countries across the world about the values that we all take for granted.

To conclude, the ultimate message is that the social effects of immigration outweigh the economic, so they should be the main criteria for a field of policy which is widely lost in 2014. We should be proud to champion the diversity that exists in our society and communities, and proud to champion values of liberty, equality, and dignity."



## Clare Brass, BEA Co-ordinator, answers some key questions about the Bangor Employability Award and shares the Team's Top 5 student queries – complete with time-saving answers!

### So, what is the Bangor Employability Award exactly?

It's a free, bespoke scheme that has been exclusively designed to enhance your employability and boost your career prospects. It can benefit you whilst you're still studying, in securing your first graduate job, and potentially for the rest of your working life. The Award is achieved by gaining XP (experience points) for Activities you complete whilst a Bangor University undergraduate. There are 3 levels of award – BEA100, BEA150 & BEA200.

### You say it's free - what's on offer?

We offer loads of resources that are available online and as regular scheduled workshops throughout the year.

Our resources include:

- a scheme structure uniquely designed to help you develop, monitor and articulate your own employability
- regular employability skills workshops delivered by experienced facilitators, including training professionals, employers, alumni and expert staff

- expert careers advice & interactive workshops covering CV writing, application forms, interviews, assessment centres and much more
- free practice-versions of professional psychometric and reasoning tests, used by key graduate employers across all sectors
- opportunities to meet and question employers and alumni on a range of topics
- support and guidance from the BEA Team in all aspects of the Scheme

In addition to the free training and support we provide, we also award XP for all other employability-enhancing activities you complete whilst an undergraduate, whether that is here at Bangor or anywhere in the UK or abroad. This can include:

- part-time/vacation work
- work experience
- club/society membership
- training courses
- volunteering
- representative roles
- conferences
- guest lectures

### Sounds interesting. What do I get if I complete the

### Award?

As well as the employability-development potential of the Scheme, you'll also receive an Award Certificate and a transcript of your Activities. All of the things on your transcript are formally verified by us so you'll have official proof of all your achievements in one handy place – perfect for presenting to employers!

### Okay – where do I go to find all this stuff?

You can get in touch with us at [employability@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:employability@bangor.ac.uk) but the best thing to do is to log into MyBangor and click on the 'Employability' tab. This will take you to The BEA Hub.

The Hub is your personal BEA portal where you can:

- see which Activities are eligible
- access all free resources and claim your XP
- submit evidence of your Activities
- find out what events are coming up, including workshops
- download quick guides and other helpful documents
- check your XP total and your

ongoing progress

### I'm in! When does it start?

The Scheme is available from the day you register as an undergraduate at Bangor Uni until the last official day of your final semester. You can complete and submit activities whenever suits you best (although we do suggest certain things at certain times), so you can dip in and out, or work at a steady pace, depending on your availability and preference.

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An important part of the BEA Team's work is responding to student queries. Here are The BEA's Top 5 Student Queries...

#### 'How do I sign up?'

WE get asked this all the time, I suppose because in life we are so used to signing up for things, especially online. However, all students are effectively signed up already through log into the BEA Hub via MyBangor, and start completing Activities.

#### 'Can I log stuff from my 1st/2nd year?'

THE quick answer is yes! So long as you can provide evidence of your participation/completion, you can backdate everything you've done since registering at Bangor. If you completed your 1st/2nd year in another institution, check with us first by emailing [employability@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:employability@bangor.ac.uk).

#### 'Is it a lot of hassle providing evidence?'

ONE of the major attractions of the BEA for both students and employers is that all your Activities are formally verified by us. The BEA transcript is a valuable document that employers can have complete confidence in, so we need to have a verification system they can trust too. For this reason you must provide official proof of your activities. Sometimes it's easy to provide evidence, such as uploading a photo of your driving licence or a certificate, but sometimes it takes a bit of effort – however it's always worth it because once it's verified it lasts forever.

#### 'I can't see my Activity on the list – is it not worth XP?'

WE'RE fully committed to recognising the wide variety of activities students get involved in and work hard to seek new activities out, but we often need students to simply bring them to our attention! If you are involved in something and you can't find it in the Hub, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you. Personally I'm always noticing posters on noticeboards around campus and thinking 'that would be worth XP!' but I need students' help to gather the necessary information.

#### 'Do I have to commit to finishing the Award when I start it?'

THE answer is no you don't. It might initially seem daunting to achieve 100xp, but you'd be surprised at how quickly the points add up. The key thing to remember is that it's what you do, and what you do with it that's important, even if you don't manage to complete the award itself. If you're still unsure as to whether the BEA is for you, why not dip into the Hub and try some of the free Activities – you won't be asked to commit to completing until just before Easter in your final year.



## In Brief

### RAG week results

BANGOR 'RAG Week' was held between 21 February and 3 March. Amongst the events was the return of the Harry Potter Feast, sponsored leg waxing and a 'minion' auction.

Over £2,600 was raised for RAG's charities for the year – Ynys Môn and Gwynedd Mind, St David's Hospice, Prostate Cancer UK and Children with Cancer UK. The RAG Committee would like to thank everyone who took part in any way that helped make the week a spectacular success.

Bangor RAG will be running 'Jail-break' – where you get as far away as you can from Bangor in 48 hours without spending a penny, as well as a sponsored skydive closer to Easter. For further information please e-mail [rag@bangorstudents.com](mailto:rag@bangorstudents.com)



## GeogSoc's 10th anniversary!

by BEN GRIFFITHS

2014 is the Geographical Society's 10th Anniversary! This semester we have lots of exciting events, socials and academic talks planned in order to celebrate this major benchmark for our society. We have united with Women's Football (BUWFC) to raise money for Cancer Research UK. There are a few exciting plans; firstly a Pink Social, and both GeogSoc and BUWFC are also organising bag packing at one

of Bangor's supermarkets and a charity football tournament to raise yet more money!

After the great success of our inaugural academic talk, we have another two organised for March. The first will be given by Dr Bethan Davies of Aberystwyth University on glaciation. The second will be from Dr Dan Venables on people's perception of nuclear power, a very contentious issue, especially within the vicinity of Wylfa B. We hope these not only contributes towards your studies but are also of in-

terest to non-SENRGy students!

Proposed events include a trip to Alton Towers and other exciting locations locally; why not

utilise the great landscape of North Wales? Our socials have been more popular than EVER. Ideas in the pipeline are Noah's Ark, G social (always a laugh) and foxes, hounds & huntsman. We will finish the year off in style with our amazing Summer Ball! All those who attended the Christmas Ball had an unforgettable night, and we hope to build on that this summer.

Important dates for your diaries! (watch out for further ones)

Sport Relief SENRGy Staff vs Student football match: 19th of March (TBC)

Academic talk from Dr Dan Venables 23rd of March

Llandudno Fieldtrip Bowling/Cinema: 26th of March

Alton Towers Fieldtrip: 5th of April

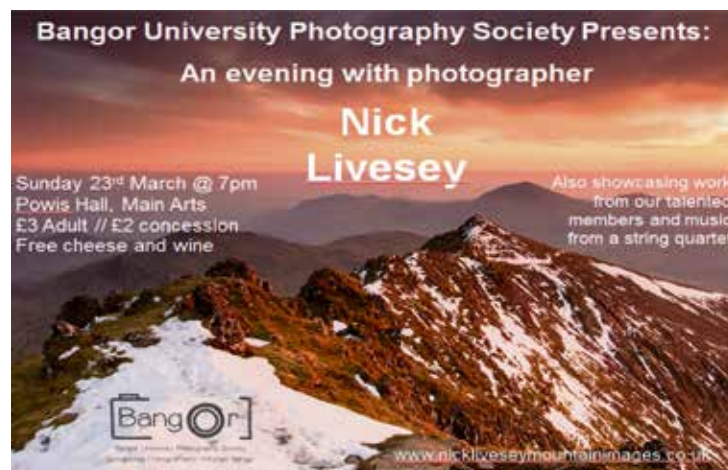
SUMMER BALL: 9th of May (TBC)

### Music Society concert

THE Bangor University Music Society will be holding their annual Spring Concert on Saturday 29th March at 7.30pm in PJ Hall. Come to a fun evening of music for orchestra and choir including works by Vaughan Williams, Sullivan, Debussy, Jussu Chydenius, Eric Whitacre, Jack Shaw, John Williams and Queen! Tickets will be £5 (£3 concessions/students)

### BUGL at Varsity

THIS year, Bangor University Gaming League (BUGL) will be competing in varsity against Aberystwyth Community of Gamers (ACOG). The competition will see 14 gamers from both societies compete over 7 different games. These gamers are: Smash Bros Melee, Mario Kart Wii, Divekick, Call of Duty: Black Ops 2, CounterStrike: GO, Age of Empires 2 HD and League of Legends. We plan on live streaming the event, so you can watch online and cheer on your fellow Bangor gamers. If you want to keep updated with varsity, on find out what else the society is doing, join our facebook group at: [www.facebook.com/groups/BangorUniGamingLeague/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/BangorUniGamingLeague/)



## PhotoSoc gallery event

by LISA IRWIN

Bangor University Photography are hosting a gallery evening on Sunday 23rd March 2014 at 7pm in Powis Hall, Main arts building. The night is focused around a talk from local celebrated photographer Nick Livesey as well as an exhibition of work from our talented members.

The evening will be accompanied by

the music society's string quartet and complimentary cheese and wine will be served throughout the evening. We hope to engage both the university and the local community at this wonderful event, giving a platform to aspiring photographers to showcase their talents. Entry costs only £3 (£2 concessions).

PhotoSoc look forward to seeing you there!



## Storm FM

by MARK STANLEY

Hi there Bangor! We're StormFM and we are the official radio station here at Bangor University! We have our own studio where presenters can create radio at a time that suits them, whether that's a news show such as "Have You Heard" with Thomas Bickerdike and Paul Rooney all the way to the dub-step and drum and bass music show "Frequence" with Mark Stanley and Rhys Jones.

StormFM has been running for 10 years now after it was set up by Student Union President Niall Duffy in 2001, with the first show going on air on March the 19th, 2003. Since then we've moved online to [www.stormfm.com](http://www.stormfm.com) whilst still keeping our FM License to broadcast Storm all

across the Ffriddoedd Site on 87.7FM! StormFM are moving into the new studio in the Pontio Building next year along with the Student's Union, with state of the art equipment and to celebrate this we want as many students on student radio as possible! You and your friends could a show about Film, Sport, Music, Cooking, Technology, Drama, Fashion or even a show about your student led society and what it gets up to! You might never have done anything like this before, but we want as many enthusiastic members as possible!

The possibilities are endless when it comes to StormFM, if you email our programme controllers Mike Bainbridge or Ben Dickinson at [PC@StormFM.com](mailto:PC@StormFM.com) then we can get back to you as soon as possible with what time you'd like to show to be on, and what you'd like to talk about!



# SEREN PRESENTS



WHICH LOCAL BUSINESS HAS THE BEST STUDENT DEALS?

WHERE'S THE BEST PLACE FOR A PINT AFTER LECTURES?

WHERE'S THE FRIENDLIEST LOCAL PLACE TO SHOP?

TELL US WHY YOU LOVE YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL BUSINESS!

NOMINATE YOUR FAVOURITE VIA OUR  
WEBSITE: [SEREN.BANGOR.AC.UK/AWARDS2014](http://SEREN.BANGOR.AC.UK/AWARDS2014)  
AND THEY COULD WIN A TOTALLY COOL AWARD.



# 90s NIGHT



## THE TEAM



A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME TO 90S NIGHT AND EVERYONE THAT HELPED WITH ORGANISING IT, IT WAS A GREAT NIGHT. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

## BEST COSTUME



CONGRATULATIONS! HERE AT SEREN WE DECIDED THAT COOL RUNNINGS WON BEST COSTUME! IF THIS IS YOU PLEASE CONTACT:

**EDITOR@SEREN.BANGOR.AC.UK**  
FOR DETAILS OF YOUR PRIZE!







90s  
NIGHT



90s  
NIGHT





## In Brief

### Big Bang Theory extended for three series

BIG Bang Theory is now due to air until at least 2017. The most recent series, which is shown on Channel 4 and E4 in the UK, was seen by almost 20 million viewers in the US. According to Hollywood publication Variety, the stars of the show are currently in negotiations to renew their contracts. Big Bang Theory, which is currently in its seventh season, was the top-rated sitcom on US television in 2012-13.

### Modern Family's house on sale for £1.41m

THE home of the fictional Dunphy family in the hit series Modern Family is up for sale for \$2.35m (£1.41m). The exterior of the four-bedroom Los Angeles property is often seen in the show, but the interior scenes are filmed on a sound stage. The Wall Street Journal reports that its current owner is paid a fee by ABC Studios each time the building is filmed and the new owner would be entitled to the same agreement. However, the new owner would also have to put up with fans of the show knocking on the door for tours and photos. Modern Family is shown on Sky 1 HD and available on Demand.

### Simon Cowell launches a 'Dragons' Den'?

SIMON Cowell has reportedly had enough of talent contests like The X Factor and Britain's Got Talent and is planning to launch a new show in the spirit of Dragons' Den. According to The Sun, a panel of 'benefactors' will listen to the pitches before viewers at home vote to decide whether or not the entrepreneurs get any cash. If all goes as planned, the viewers can vote via mobile application and will be able to decide how much money do the entrepreneurs deserve.

### Family Guy and American Dad! banned on iPlayer

SETH MacFarlane's animated shows, broadcast on BBC Three, will not be allowed to be moved to the on-demand viewing service by 20th Century Fox Television, after the decision came to turn the channel into an online one. Broadcast claimed that the studio is concerned with iPlayer's security levels. The BBC are hoping the US network will turn around their decision. Danny Cohen, director of BBC Television, wrote on Twitter last week: "Family Guy and American Dad! are so important to BBC Three. We plan to continue showing them."



## "Who's hungry?"

by TOM BICKERDIKE

Last year, creator Bryan Fuller took perhaps literature's most famous cannibal, redefined him and shocked the small screen. Now, he is doing it again. For those of you who are unaware, *Hannibal* is adapted from the series of books by Thomas Harris, set before Red Dragon, the first in the series. Will Graham (Hugh Dancy) is a criminal profiler for the FBI, who has the ability to empathize with murderers. Troubled by visions and losing touch with reality, he goes to see a psychiatrist – Dr Hannibal Lecter (Mads Mikkelsen).

The episodes in the first season were named after elements of

French cuisine (e.g. 'Apéritif' and 'Amuse-Bouche'); the second season has a Japanese motif ('Kaiseki' and 'Takiawase').

At the end of the first series, Will had been arrested for murder – crimes that were committed by Hannibal – and is presently in Baltimore State Hospital for the Criminally Insane. Whilst he struggles to prove his own sanity and his innocence, Jack Crawford (Laurence Fishburne) recruits Hannibal as a replacement profiler for the FBI. However, Hannibal seems to have some remorse, and some may say an obsession, for Will.

Mikkelsen's portrayal of Hannibal is equally as powerful as Anthony Hopkins in *The Silence of the Lambs*. By contrast, he has made the role

his own with a calm, sophisticated character. It is somewhat refreshing. This coming series, he shows some aggression and a savage/feral side to him (he certainly does in the trailer). Hugh Dancy's portrayal of Will offers the perfect counterpoint, being strong yet also vulnerable at the same time.

The first series certainly had a sense of creativity about it, such as having mushrooms growing off bodies, a totem pole of corpses and a man being able to be played like a cello. The series certainly contained surprise, suspense and shock. The presentation of the food was so elegant and artistic that you sometimes forget that it is actually humans that they are eating. Plus, there was enough violence and gore to go around. It

certainly was not a case of style over substance. Let us hope this continues into the second season. What we do know though is that there will be a bloody confrontation between two of the leading characters.

Last series featured numerous cameos, including Lance Henriksen and Eddie Izzard. This coming series will once again feature a cameo appearance from Gillian Anderson; also making appearances this series are Cynthia Nixon, formerly of *Sex and the City*, and *Boardwalk Empire*'s Michael Pitt as Mason Verger.

Season Two has already begun in the US and will be available in the UK during the spring on Sky Living. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm having an old friend for dinner...



by WYATT WARNER

Too often a TV show will have a great first season, creating a unique if incomplete identity for itself, fumbling its way into the mainstream, only to crumble from the attention and expectations heaped onto it in its second season. This is not the case with House of Cards. The showrunners moved nowhere but forward with the Netflix original's 13-episode second season, following villain-protagonist Frank Underwood (Kevin Spacey) and his rising power in the American government.

The second season is bigger in scope than the first, without seeming melodramatic or forced, expanding naturally into more settings and viewpoints to further flesh out the

House of Cards universe. The pace is faster than the preceding season as well, eliminating one of the show's few downsides, but the emotional impact, if anything, is even more forceful.

A popular theme in modern high-end television is that of ambiguous morality. Shows like Game of Thrones and Breaking Bad have proven that characters don't have to have to fit into the categories of good and evil. House of Cards takes it even further—Frank Underwood is a straight-up psychopath. He falls deeper into villainy the higher he rises in the government, and yet it's still hard to root against him. Even at his most deplorable, Frank remains spellbinding, thanks partly to the writers and partly to Kevin Spacey's acting skill and magnetism.

If that isn't your style though, there

are plenty more characters to root for—Frank Underwood makes and loses allies and enemies with the frequency of any politician and for the good or bad characters come and go. Season two introduces many new characters, each one dynamic, flawed, relatable, and human. The characters of House of Cards are as full of twists as the plot and each one has some value, even the most surprising ones—two of the characters I support the most are a prostitute and a cyberterrorist.

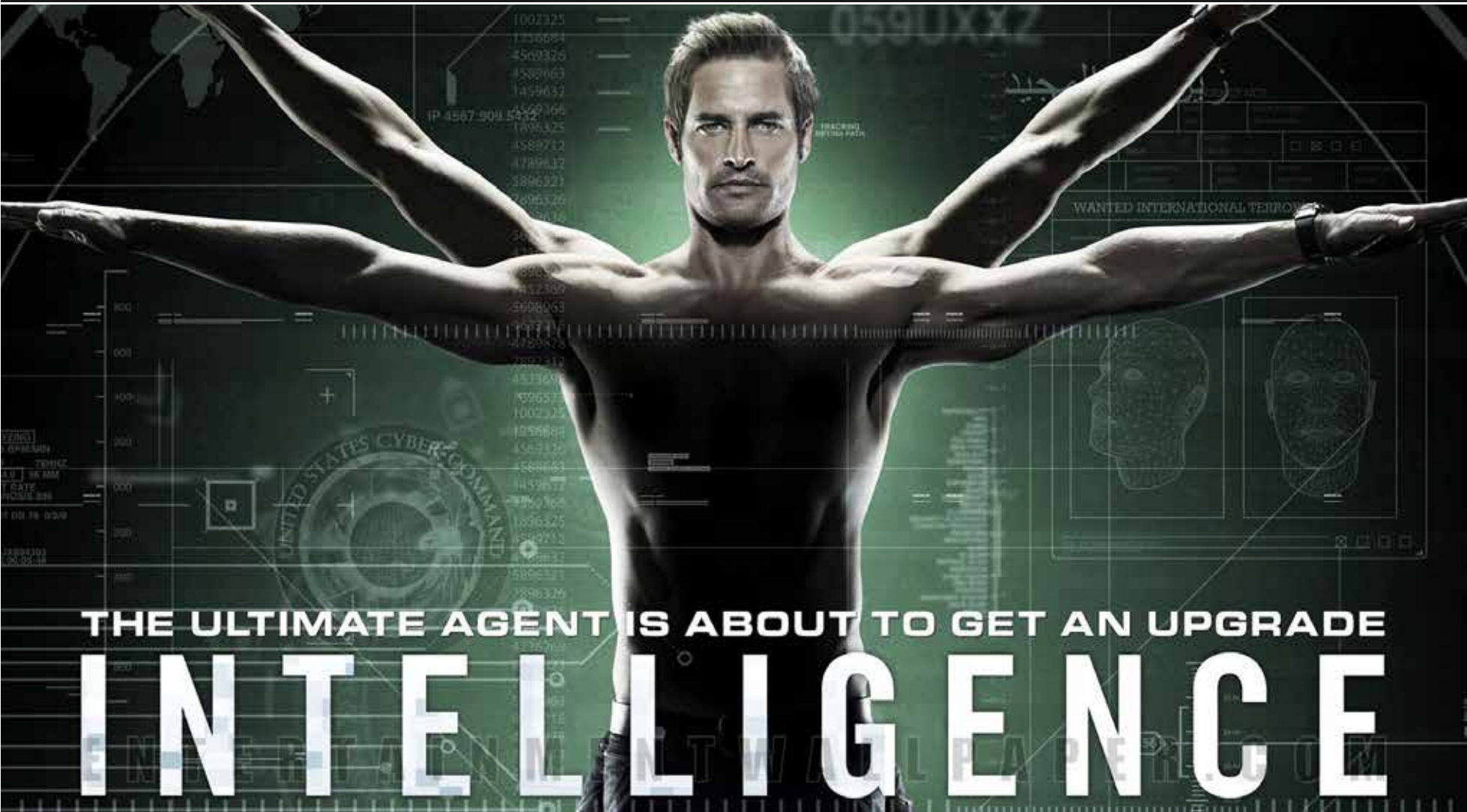
Ignoring the fantastic dialogue, characterization and story, the show would be worth watching just for the visuals. The look of House of Cards is simple but elegant. There aren't many cinematography tricks or funky camera angles, just beautiful people wearing immaculate clothing in luxurious settings. Frank

Underwood claims that power is better than money, but damn does money look good.

Of course, the series isn't perfect—where would a Netflix original show be without racial stereotypes and gratuitous lesbianism? Luckily, the emergence of both in Season two isn't too distracting. The stereotypes are at least somewhat respectful and the lesbians are for plot more than pornography.

While jumping in might be daunting for British viewers (the show does assume a fair amount of knowledge about the US government), it's well worth the effort. House of Cards isn't a show designed to wash over you, it's one that pulls you in. It's smart TV in the vein of Breaking Bad, and it's every bit as good.





by **NICOLA HOBAN**

US television network CBS has hit gold with its new TV show *Intelligence*. A cyber-themed action-adventure series, the show follows ex-Delta Force soldier Gabriel Vaughn and his protector, Secret Service agent Riley Neal, on their missions with the elite government cyber-security agency Cyber Command. Fans of the show *Lost* will recognise actor Josh Holloway, who played James 'Sawyer' Ford on the six-series

show, as the high-tech intelligence operative Gabriel who is enhanced with a super-computer microchip embedded into his brain, which connects him to the information grid (telephone, internet, satellite, etc.). Possessing a rare gene that allows him to have the chip, Gabriel is the prototype for the project and is constantly at risk of landing into enemy hands who will use his abilities to their advantage. Hence the protective detail – *Once Upon A Time* fans will recognise Red Riding Hood actress Meghan Ory as Riley Neal, who

shows Gabriel on his missions. While their partnership gets off to a rough start in the pilot episode, the two characters are soon taking bullets for each other and the chemistry between them is amazing. Since the beginning, *Intelligence* has hooked viewers with its intriguing plot lines and intricate character backstories, and even though there are only eleven episodes so far, the fans have already started to form their ships (the main one being Gabriel and Riley, of course), which I think is a testament to just how good

the show is. And it is not just the main characters that people are loving; Dr. Shenendoah Cassidy, Nelson Cassidy and Lillian Strand are all beloved characters on the TV show, and what is brilliant about this show is that it doesn't just cover the backstories of Gabriel and Riley, but that it also includes storylines which add an extra-dimension to supporting characters. However, since it is a new TV show, the question remains as to whether CBS will renew it for a second season. Whilst it does have an ever-growing

fan base, that doesn't guarantee that the show will continue, so there are fears surrounding that notion. If it is cancelled, it will be a great loss to CBS as the show has so much potential and it feels like the writers have only scratched the surface. So let's hope that *Intelligence* is renewed for a second season, because otherwise not only will it be devastating to the fans but also CBS will have lost the opportunity to create something superb.



by **HEATHER BOYLES**

Series 1 saw Rae Earl attempting to integrate back into normal life after several months in hospital. Her best mate Chloe introduced her to a gang of friends who she grew close to over the summer, ending with her finally admitting to them about her illness. Series 2 begins at the end of the summer, with

Rae happy and finally feeling accepted, however the end of summer means start of college. The thought is enough to send anyone into a panic. How to fit in? How to make friends and how to survive the social minefield of college? Rae's background only amplifies these anxieties setting her off to a shaky start. She's not the only one having troubles; Archie is doing his best to conceal his homosexuality and tries

to teach Rae the art of fitting in and staying under the radar. Unfortunately for Rae, dating Finn puts Rae very much on radar, especially since Finn is dubbed the hottest guy in college. Meanwhile Queen Bee Chloe is struggling to get noticed, and is willing to go to extra lengths to ensure a ticket in with the popular girls. A new character called Liam intrigues Rae, especially when she finds out he's also in her therapy group, but is

he really good or bad for her? Set in the 90s it allows you to perhaps get a bit nostalgic about those bands you liked when you were younger and that make the soundtrack to the series. It also allows you to go back to a simpler time when internet or mobile phones weren't invented mainstream yet. It does cover serious issues concerning young people but there are also lighter moments. With the help of

her mum, friends and her own courage, Rae tackles and survives many things college throws at her. Sometimes with better outcomes than others, but she always does the right thing or what is right for her and you have to like her for that. Series 1 (only 6 episodes) is now available to catch up on 4OD, or watch series 2 Mondays at 10pm on E4.



## In Brief

### Oscar winner Given Honorary Citizenship

OSCAR winner Paolo Sorrentino has been acknowledged as an honorary citizen of Rome for success at the Academy Awards. The Napolitano native and director of *La Grande Bellezza* has been given an honorary citizenship of Rome for making the city and the country proud, said the city's mayor. The *Great Beauty* (*La Grande Bellezza*) became the first Italian film to win a best foreign language film since Roberto Benigni's *Life is Beautiful*.

### Three shortlisted for lead in Star Wars EP VII

STAR Wars Episode VII casting has picked up its pace, as three male actors have been shortlisted for the lead role. Jesse Plemons, from *Breaking Bad*, John Boyega from *Attack The Block* and Downton Abbey's Ed Speelers are believed to be included. Little is known of the role or story as the plot is being kept a guarded secret. It is thought that the film will continue on from *Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi*. Rumours also include a return for Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher, although Hamill seems unlikely due to his prominence in recent years as a voice actor and lack of feature films.

### Pastor claims Frozen promotes 'Homosexual culture'

A U.S. pastor has accused *Frozen* of promoting, what he calls, 'homosexual culture' as well as beastiality. Pastor Kevin Swanson, of the Reformation church made the claims on his radio show, denouncing the film as evil and claimed Disney as the most pro-homosexual organisation in the U.S. The controversy follows accusation that *Frozen* is Disney's most Christian film of recent times.

### Noah banned in three countries

DARREN Aronofsky's *Noah* has been banned in several Middle Eastern countries for its depiction of religious figures. Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE have so far refused to show it and Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait are expected to follow suit. The claim is that it offends Islamic faith for its dark showing of certain religious figures. Aronofsky claimed that the film is the "least biblical" biblical film ever made.

## CHANCE FOR VIDEO GAME FILMS TO LEVEL UP



by CALLUM LEWIS

With the announcement of a new film based on the highly successful, highly creative *Minecraft* marks the latest in a curious trend, a rocky sub-genre of small success and great failure more often than not. Videogames are a great source of inspiration for many film-makers, and it can be very tempting to translate their stories from one medium to another. But which of these have made the transition successfully, and which should have been left on the console?

And boy were we off to a bad start. *Super Mario Brothers*, released in 1993 was the first major film release based on a video-game, and had almost nothing in common with the well known franchise beyond familiar names and vaguely familiar costumes. In fact, beyond including the brothers themselves, it seemed to be going out of its way to not include anything remotely recognisable. Nowadays its only saving grace is its 'so bad it's good' quality, and trying to guess what part of the Koopa Kingdom they'll screw up next.

With spirits dashed thanks to the year before, the world was pleasantly surprised by a film that actually took its source material to heart. One of the greatest adaptations of a game that could have gone so terribly wrong, *Street Fighter: The Movie* (1994) embraces its often absurd source material to bring a wonderfully campy cast of characters to life, from Jean Claude Van Damme's barely comprehensible attempt at an American accent, to Raul Julia chewing the scenery as the absurdly puffed up M. Bison, *Street Fighter* knows it's all about fun, and while it can hardly be called a cinematic masterpiece, it is perhaps the earliest example of how to do a game movie right.

Building on the success of *Street Fighter*, *Mortal Kombat* (1995) was another film based on the popular

fighting game genre. Unfortunately, it is the lesser product for taking itself a little too seriously. What it does have, though, is a plethora of stunning fight scenes only lessened by a lack of fatalities. And a catchy theme song. It spawned one sequel in 1997 that was universally panned, leaving gamers to wait out the next four years without another attempt to crack into what was at the time a growing genre.

Although *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within* (2001) was not exactly the reawakening that people expected,

“*Street Fighter: The Movie* (1994) embraces its often absurd source material to bring a wonderfully campy cast of characters to life

this was nonetheless a highly anticipated production due to both its source material, and its sky-high production values. The most ambitious CGI film of its time, *The Spirits Within* was plagued by gargantuan costs and a lukewarm reception. It tanked, hard. But despite doing terribly at the box office, and lacking the elements of a true *Final Fantasy*, it does have a very intriguing story. *The Spirits Within* is the biggest example of being a good film, but not a good adaptation. That said, if sci-fi soldiers battling ghosts from another world doesn't appeal to you, you may want to skip over it.

2001 saw new life breathed into the flailing sub-genre, with three major releases. Notably, *Tomb Raider* (2001) was the first film based on a distinctly British series. Angelina Jolie plays Lara Croft, the iconic first woman of videogames, as she raids mystical tombs in this world-hopping action-adventure. Despite its plethora of action scenes it was all in all pretty forgettable, but commendable for staying somewhat

true to the games without taking place entirely in musty old tombs. Two years later saw a similarly received sequel, marking a distinctly average offering (which is more than could be said for a lot of these films)

*Resident Evil 1-5* (2001) was our final (and best) film-game release of 2001. Likely the most successful and certainly the longest running franchise adaptation, *Resident Evil* continues to be the go-to thing to watch if you're in the mood for badass heroines kicking zombie ass. Milla Jovovich is a thrill to watch in

the role of Alice, and while we have seen some hiccups (tut, tut, *Retribution*), it's clear this series

is full to the brim with a remarkable passion for its mother games. A combination of shlock sci-fi and action-horror (with increasingly more of the action), the series is set to be capped off soon with the announcement of its final sequel in 2015

Several low budget entries into the genre came and went within the next four years, but it was *Doom*

only saving grace is Dwayne Johnson's performance as the menacing Sarge, a twisted vision of the 'Doom Guy' persona.

If there was anything the *Resident Evil* films taught us, it's that horror games do seem to make decent horror films. *Silent Hill* (2006) distills much of the essence found in the games, while also providing its own take on how the dreaded town came to be. Bonus points for transferring some of the most iconic monsters of the videogame world to the silver screen, without making them feel too ham-fisted or out of place.

As sequels to the few successful game-films became all the rage, one studio dared to break into the back catalogue of classic games and find something new to bring to the big screen. Why Jake Gyllenhaal was cast as an Arabian prince is anyone's guess, but questionable casting aside, *Prince of Persia* (2010) is a solid film. A light-hearted take on the time-travelling acrobatic rogue, this action-adventure tells the story of a prince who must solve the mystery of his father's death, and master the power of his mystical dagger. Solid performances from Ben Kingsley and Alfred Molina, and all tied up in a great family package.

The latest in this troubled sub-genre, *Need for Speed* (2014) stars Aaron Paul in what can only be described as *The Fast and the Furious's* copycat cousin. Uninspired and underacted, this seems to be a

case of slapping a well known name on a film that is mediocre at best. Far from doing anything new with a franchise that has even less of a plot than *Doom*, *Need for Speed* went the lazy route and disappointed us once more.

Nothing much is known about *Minecraft* the movie, a new project from the makers of *The Lego Movie*, but it seems to be in good hands. The only thing left to ponder is the plot of this sandbox world, and how many times we'll all be scared by those hissing Creepers.

“*Doom* is yet another example of trying to inject too much story to a concept that really doesn't need it.

(2005) that brought the world's attention once more as an adaptation of the grand-daddy of shooters. As soon as it was released, however, we all realised why the classic series never really had much of a plot. *Doom* is yet another example of trying to inject too much story to a concept that really doesn't need it. As portals to hell spewing techno-demons onto Mars wasn't considered 'cool' enough, the film adaptation is bogged down with a backstory about ancient civilizations, teleportation and genetic engineering. The





By JACK NICOL

The Lego Movie is a fantastic family film for a wide range of ages. It has enough whiz and bang to entertain the younger viewer, with enough smart social commentary and satire of brands for the older viewer. The co-writers and directors, Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, are most well known for Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. Its can be seen in the nature and humour of this film, and it plays into the feeling and comedy which Lego's 21st century rebrand has allowed itself to. It plays upon this brand recognition, but still maintains its sense of a reputation for good entertainment. Although it could have come off as a soppy romantic film, it maintains enough humour to undermine the corporate element. It could have easily fallen into a feature length advert for toys, but really creates a world full of humour and drama. Its vibrant digital animation creates several worlds brick by brick. It uses a large cast

of Lego characters; the bland unimportant every man Emmet, a sage called Vitruvius (Morgan Freeman), a Female resistance fighter who goes by the name Wyldstyle, Superman, Batman, Green Lantern, a Unicorn Kitty named Unikitty. The narrative is slightly light at times, but is maintained by its editing and pace. The use of pop culture is a key feature to the film. It picks from a great number of pop culture, from 2001: A Space Odyssey, to Batman and the Matrix. However it never just uses these references for no reason. There is clear thought to every time Batman or Superman and Green Lantern appear. There is reason for each interaction that these characters have. The voice cast did a superb job, although Liam Neeson grates after a short while. With a 100 minute run time, the pace of the film is, neither too quick nor too slow. Just as with the editing, it shows a great range. You'll find that the main song 'everything is awesome' stays in your mind all the way home.



by EMILY HOULSTON-JONES

The Academy Awards, held annually, are renowned for their dullness. This year's televised ceremony clocking in at a whopping 3 hours and 34 minutes - and that's not including the technical prizes, which are awarded off-camera. Needless to say host Ellen Degeneres, America's favourite harmless comedian, had her work cut out for her.

Among her many stunts, designed to make the telecast feel a little less endless, was the now-iconic Oscar selfie, a seemingly spontaneous picture taken and then shared on Twitter during the televised ceremony - integrating aspects of modernity to an awards ceremony which has essentially become the byword for "old-and-stuffy". Because all young people love Twitter, selfies and smartphones, apparently.

The selfie crashed Twitter and earned a record amount of favourites and retweets. And no wonder. A description of the twitpic reads like a who's-who of recent film history: Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence cuddles up to Oscar-winning actress Meryl Streep, who nearly

blocks the view of Oscar-winning actress Julia Roberts. The head of Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey looms menacingly behind Oscar host Ellen Degeneres. Oscar-winning actor Brad Pitt smoulders in the distance, ignoring his Oscar-winning fiancée, Angelina Jolie, as she eagerly waves next to her new BFF, Oscar-actress Lupita Nyong'o, who is accompanied by her sibling, Not-Famous-Brother Nyong'o. Admittedly, Bradley Cooper (the selfie photographer - selfographer?) hasn't won an Oscar, but he did win Entertainment Weekly's Hottest Man Alive Award in 2011, which is close enough.

Thus viral perfection was created. It was the perfect mix between the unattainable glamour of Hollywood and the relatable nature of the selfie. "Famous people are just like you," the picture screams (tactfully ignoring the fact that when us mere mortals take selfies we usually don't look as good as Jennifer Lawrence, at least not without some clever angling and impossible lighting). "They take selfies and order pizza and fall over a lot too! You're practically famous."

We lapped it up. Numerous paro-

dies were created, from a Simpson-sized version to a Pete Wentz'd version (Google it - you won't be disappointed.) Every single major news outlet, both online and offline, ran articles about the selfie.

Most news outlets took special care to mention the phone which was used to the shoot the now-ubiquitous selfie: a white Samsung Galaxy Note 3, which the camera very slowly panned over during the broadcast. Incidentally, ABC (the television network which broadcasted the ceremony) received \$20 million for advertising during the Oscar ceremony. The illusion was shattered. What was seemingly a celebration of the normality of Hollywood turned out to be a pre-planned opportunistic corporate stunt.

Despite this revelation, I propose that we raise a glass to both the Oscar selfie and all those who participated (even poor Oscar-winning actor Jared Leto, who was cut out.) Who cares if it turned out to be an ode to capitalism instead of an ode to normality? At least now whenever someone makes fun of me for posting a selfie to facebook, I can reply with the simple, yet cutting "Meryl Streep did it."

## Harold Ramis Obituary

By JACK NICOL

Actor and Director Harold Ramis, best known for Ghostbusters and Groundhog Day has died aged 69.

He died from autoimmune inflammatory vasculitis, a rare disease that causes the swelling of blood vessels. The illness is thought to date back to 2010, though he maintained silence about it.

There has been an outpouring of tributes. Billy Crystal, who starred in Analyze This and Analyze That said: "Sad to hear that my good friend Harold Ramis has passed away".

Friend and colleague Bill Murray honoured Ramis in an impromptu manner while awarding the Academy Award for Best Cinematographer. Murray said after announcing all the nominations: "we forgot one... Harold Ramis for Caddyshack, Ghostbusters and Groundhog Day."

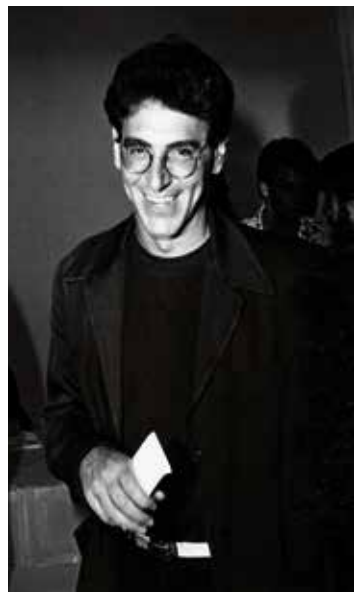
Born in Chicago, he attended Washington University in St Louis. He began his career penning art stories for a local newspaper and editing the jokes pages for Playboy.

He appeared as the straight and scientific foil in Ghostbusters, which was a hit in 1984, and spawned a se-

quel in 1989.

After the films, he took a long period of his career behind the camera as a director, influencing a great many contemporary directors and film-makers, including Judd Apatow.

He is survived by his wife Erica, three children, and two grandchildren.



## Forget the Oscars - here comes the Kermodes

By THOMAS BICKERDIKE

Every year, it does appear that there are some glaring omissions from the Oscar nominations. So, is it possible to come up with a better list of winners than them? That is where the Kermode Awards come into play.

Created by and named after the BBC film critic Mark Kermode, the Kermode Awards acknowledges the films and filmmakers who have been notably overlooked by the Academy Awards that year. They were first started back in 2006 and the winners are chosen by an utterly impartial and unbiased jury of one. The rules are simple - you cannot win a Kermode for a category in which you have been nominated for an Academy Award.

That is why some of the previously winners have included:

2007 - Best Director and Best Film: Guillermo del Toro, Pan's Labyrinth

2008 - Best Actor: Sam Riley, Control

2009 - Best Actor: Michael Fassbender, Hunger

2011 - Best Director: Christopher Nolan, Inception

2012 - Best Director and Best Film: Lynne Ramsey, We Need to Talk About Kevin

2012 - Best Documentary: Senna

2013 - Best Director: Sam Mendes, Skyfall

This year's winners included Tom Hanks for Best Actor for his performance in Captain Phillips and Emma Thompson for her performance as P.L. Travers in Saving Mr Banks. One of the things the Kermodes especially acknowledges is the home-grown, small independent films that the Academy Awards would probably have never heard of. That is why The Selfish Giant's Clío Barnard shared the award for Best Director (with Captain Phillips' director Paul Greengrass) and the winner of Best Film was Good Vibrations, a heart-warming film about Terri Hooley and the Belfast punk-rock movement.

Other winners were American Hustle for Best Hair and Makeup, Saving Mr Banks for Best Screenplay, Wadjda from Saudi Arabia for Best Foreign Language Film and 12 Years a Slave for Best Cinematography. For the first time ever, there was also Turkey of the Year and, if you listen to Mark Kermode on Radio 5 Live

this will come as no surprise, the inaugural winner - Michael Bay's Pain and Gain.

Most winners say the same thing about the Kermode Awards - how proud they are to receive an award that looks like Richard Nixon with no neck.





## In Brief

### UK Eurovision entrant announced

MOLLY Smitten-Downes, 26, will represent the UK at this year's Eurovision Song Contest in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 10th May. The little-known singer-songwriter from Leicestershire has supported acts including Tinie Tempah and Jake Bugg. Her Eurovision entry is entitled 'Children of the Universe'.

She got involved through BBC Introducing and gained support from BBC local radio in the East Midlands, before the corporation's Eurovision producers noticed her. BBC executive producer Guy Freeman said: "BBC Introducing provided us with an extraordinary range of talent to explore and in Molly we found the perfect combination of contemporary songwriting and real vocal quality."

### Coldplay announce album release date

COLDPLAY have announced their sixth studio album 'Ghost Stories' will be released on 19th May. The band included a link to the album lead single 'Magic' on Twitter. 'Ghost Stories' will be a follow-up to their 2011 album 'Mylo Xyloto'.

The previous week, the band released a video for another track to feature on the album – 'Midnight'. On 11th March, they performed at the opening night of the first US iTunes festival.

All of Coldplay's previous studio albums have reached number one in the Official Album Chart, including 'A Rush of Blood to the Head' and 'X&Y'.

### England World Cup song announced

THE OFFICIAL England 2014 World Cup song has been announced. A 20-strong group of faces from football and music will perform a cover of 'Greatest Day' by Take That. They will be led by Gary Barlow and former England captain Gary Lineker.

The group will feature musicians such as Katy B, Emma Bunton and Pixie Lott, as well as former England internationals like Glenn Hoddle, Peter Shilton and Michael Owen.

The video will premiere on Sport Relief night on March 21st and proceeds from sales will go to Sport Relief. It will not be released until nearer the tournament in June.

### We Will Stop Now!

THE HIT musical 'We Will Rock You' will come to an end in the West End this summer. The show is based on the songs of Queen and written by comedian Ben Elton. The final curtain call is 1st June 2014 and will mark the end of the show's 12-year run, making it the longest-running production in the history of the Dominion Theatre.

Despite critics, it has been seen by over 16 million people in 28 countries. It ranks amongst the top 10 longest-running musicals in West End history.

Queen recently announced a 19-date US tour, including singer Adam Lambert.



## Beck: Morning Phase

By THOMAS BICKERDIKE

Beck's last album 'Modern Guilt' (2008) received mixed reviews. Filter and Allmusic liked it, whereas The Guardian called it "a vanity project". Since then, he has become a producer for artists including Thurston Moore, Stephen Malkmus and Charlotte Gainsbourg. He also wrote music for the 2010 film Scott Pilgrim vs. the World and released the 'Song Reader' project in December 2012. The project was 20 songs presented solely as sheet music.

'Morning Phase' is Beck's twelfth studio album and the first from his new label Capitol Records. It is a

"companion piece" to 'Sea Change', his critically acclaimed album from 2002. It "harkens back to the stunning harmonies, song craft and staggering emotional impact of that record, while surging forward with infectious optimism". Many musicians who worked on Sea Change have assisted with this as well.

The opening track 'Cycle' is only a 41-second orchestral swell, making a subtle transition into second track 'Morning'. This is a track that conjures images of the sea, especially with the faint sounds of what appears to be breaking waves. This is a slow-natured and thoughtful piece that you could easily lose yourself to and that is why it is perhaps my favourite

track.

'Blue Moon' was the first single released from the album back in January and begins with the words "I'm so tired of being alone". Even though it appears to be somewhat lamenting, especially with the repetition of the words "Don't leave me on my own", the bridges are certainly more upbeat especially with the inclusion of a choir. There is also a very noticeable mandolin and drumbeat throughout.

With some of his albums, Beck has been experimenting with a variety of different genres. In 2006, 'The Information' had a hip-hop feel to it, but now he seems to have gone back to that late 60s and early 70s era. For

'Morning Phase', he wanted to embrace the music of his youth, which included artists like Neil Young, The Mamas & The Papas and Crosby, Stills & Nash.

I have never been a huge fan of Beck in the past. I listened to 'Loser' and liked it - that is pretty much it really. However, since I have been Music Editor, I have tried to not be so dismissive of new music and instead listen to it with an open mind. I certainly will go back and listen to his other works. 'Morning Phase' is by no means a perfect album, but is comforting to hear compared to the fast nature of some modern albums. Beck has matured and wisely has not rushed this. Time well spent.



Photo by What The Dickens?, Facebook

## What The Dickens?

by BEN DICKINSON

Friday 28th February at The Me-nai was the scene of the biggest day in a student band's career. What The Dickens? (nearly two year veterans of the Bangor music circuit) were releasing their first ever album, celebrated by a three-band gig.

First on the bill were The Confessions. Acoustic guitar wielding frontman Geoff seemed to possess what can only be described as an unfair amount of talent, a vocal savant and a supremely nifty guitarist. Together the three-piece (with Andrew and Sam making up the rhythm sec-

tion) rattled through a half hour set of covers to confidently kick off the night's entertainment.

Second up was Wild Abandon, a motley crew of English Literature students and a Music student, who were playing their first ever gig together. It's safe to say that if they hadn't mentioned it you'd never have known. Vocalist and rhythm guitarist Archie was seemingly plucked straight from an 80s indie band and lead guitarist Tom's riffs swooped between heavy and angelic. Sounding like the love child of the Pixies and Franz Ferdinand, the future is certainly bright for the ec-

lectic four piece.

It was, however, time for headliners and gig organisers What The Dickens? to take to the stage. For the last 2 years of the band's existence, the formation and sound have taken many twists and turns, from acoustic to an indie 4 piece to the 3 piece that took the stage that night. They rocketed through the first 3 songs of the 40 minute set before disaster struck and James (vocalist and bassist) blew out an amp, evoking memories of November when Ben (guitarist) blew out his amp in the exact same venue. Small interval over and they proceeded to see out the rest of the

night in a raucous punk manner, songs like 'Student Finance Song' and 'Seaside Indecision' going over particularly well with the crowd.

What The Dickens? swing musically from softer and slower songs such as 'The Upshot', to a satirical indie song named 'Uniform Indecision' and all the way up to the heavier reaches of rock with songs such as 'Marietta'. Finding a band that truly encapsulates their sound is tricky, a key suggestion being the Buzzcocks. It's safe to say they've come a long way from an acoustic open mic in a pub in Leyland nearly two years ago.





Photo by Hettie Beales-Cox

## Band Night with Storm FM

by **BETH HOWLETT**

On 13<sup>th</sup> March Bangor's student radio, Storm FM, along with Bar Uno, hosted yet another successful Band Night.

The evening began with second-year student, Adam Williams. Let's say he was the 'calm before the storm'. His solo performance with guitar as accompaniment was perfect. He has such a unique voice that overpowering instrumentation would have ruined it. His entire set

left a sense of mellowness to the atmosphere in Bar Uno.

Next up was a slightly more upbeat band, What The Dickens?. Being veterans of the Band Night scene, they clearly had the audience's attention. They appeared very confident, which for a band that have just recently released a debut album, 'They Don't See The Half of You', is perfectly understandable.

Imagine what the child of Noel Gallagher and the lead singer of The Kooks would sound like and you have Memory Clinic. This was the

third act of the night and were the personification of 'indie', buttoned up shirts and all. These third-year students clearly loved every second of their time on the stage. Talking to them after their performance, the band seemed really excited about their new EP - 'I Seek Shelter'. As the kids would say, 'props to these guys'.

Last but not least was Atlas Will Atone. You just knew where this band was heading. The long swishy hair, only appropriate for some serious head banging, gave it away. This rock band performed what I would

call "angry at your mum" music. The lead's singing (and screaming) skills were amazing. They reminded me of a young, pre-chart Deaf Havana. Their extremely energetic set was very well rehearsed and was a great end to a good night of music.

What the night lacked in audience numbers, was more than compensated for by the music and atmosphere created by the performances of such a diverse and talented group of musicians.

## Reverend and The Makers: Thirty Two



by **SCOTT WILLEY**

An album called 'Thirty Two' could be reference to any number of the obscure things in life - and yet this is Reverend and The Makers - making the album name decidedly less cryptic. Constantly down to earth - Jon 'The Reverend' McClure even tells his fans to stop moshing at the band's gigs - they decided to simply name the album after his age. Ironically, this is also the average age of a Radio 1 listener, although you won't be hearing any of this album on that station (due to a long-standing feud over playlist selections).

You may be tricked into thinking that this album kick-starts with 'Detonator'. However this is just Reverend and The Makers warming up their engine, as it is during 'The Devil's Radio' the car really starts. A track about rumours and gossip, this song is one that will spread and spread. Fast-paced and with a raucous beat, the Reverend's signature northern whines permeate this track.

'The Only One' is the first single to be released from the album and, although it is not my personal favourite, it is more likely to appeal to the masses, with its love related lyrics. Having said that, it is a grower and after a few listens its catchiness grabs me a little more.

Next up is 'Nostalgia', which takes on a more off-beat reggae influence, its message being that we simply regurgitate and recycle old trends and see them as the next best thing. To me, this track and 'Play Me' (which uses a string section for the first time in the band's history) demonstrate how much more rounded and diverse Reverend and The Makers have come since their earlier work, whilst still retaining their bass-thumping, festival bouncing, feel-good sound.



## As grungy as Bangor student housing

As we approach the 20th anniversary since the tragic death of Kurt Cobain, our resident American and Seattle-native Wyatt gives us a lesson into grunge music and its legacy today.

by **WYATT WARNER**

Punk music is like particle physics—observation fundamentally changes it. It's rare for a punk band to enter the mainstream without adjusting its music; for example, by incorporating pop influences to sound more like the music on the radio, or polishing the genre's trademark roughness to appeal to a wider audience.

That's why it was so impressive when a few bands from Seattle rose to stardom in the 90's without compromising their roots—most famously Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, and Soundgarden. Known collectively as grunge, these bands

and others like them rejected the clean, poppy and colourful image of the time and played rough, punk-inspired music on stages much bigger than the garages in which they started. Grunge fans navigated the brightly coloured 90s in their flannel shirts and ripped jeans, smelling like teen spirit—if teen spirit smells like body odour and marijuana.

Grunge is characterized by the contrast of mumbled and yelled lyrics, grumbly guitars, repetitive structure and as much emotion as can be squeezed out of angsty young adults in the early 90s—that is to say, a lot. The whole aesthetic brings to mind amateur musicians in their late teens, performing in a garage to an

audience of themselves, breaking rules of music because they don't know them and wouldn't care if they did. It lacks the technical ability of more polished pop or rock, but contains all the fire that can be lost with processed music. Grunge brought an honesty to the 90s that it so badly needed.

Washington state is still very proud of that part of its history. Seattle Center still has the same iconic gritty yet artsy vibe as the music which it spawned and the sign welcoming visitors to Nirvana singer Kurt Cobain's hometown of Aberdeen, WA includes the phrase "Come As You Are," in reference to the band's hit. I grew up in the Seattle area, which

meant that though I wasn't part of the "grunge generation" (I was born six months after Cobain's death) I was exposed to the aesthetic from a young age.

That's not the reason why I like grunge though. I like grunge because I'm in my late teens and occasionally get bored of the top 40. I like it because I can sing along with the raw, fiery voices of the singers and relieve stress. While I may not smell like it, I still have my teen spirit. That's why I like grunge, that's why it's still popular, and that's why it will always be relevant to somebody.



## BOOKS

BOOK  
NEWSCampaign to end  
gender-specific  
children's books

CHILDREN'S laureate Malorie Blackman is supporting the National Campaign to stop promoting books as "for girls" or "for boys" along with poet laureate Carol-Ann Duffy, Philip Pullman and leading bookstore Waterstones. The campaign is called "Let Books be Books" and is campaigning to end gender stereotyping. According to the organisers, "telling children which stories and activities are 'for them' based on their gender closes down whole worlds of interest." So far the campaign has reached 3,000 signatures. Author Laura Dockrill says, "children should have the right to choose their own literature... It is ignorant, old fashioned and ugly to isolate anybody from the beautiful freedom and escapism of the mind that reading for pleasure brings."

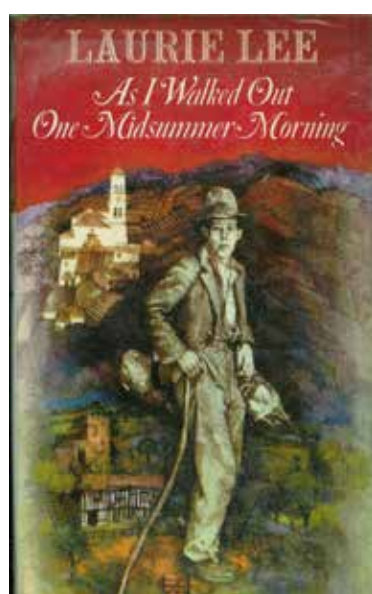
Chimamanda Ngozi  
Adichie wins US  
NBCC award

CHIMAMANDA Ngozi Adichie novel 'Americanah' has won the National Book Critics Circle award, a prestigious award in the US. The novel is about a Nigerian blogger who returns from the US back to her home country and meets her childhood sweetheart again. The book is also in the running for the Baileys Womens Fiction prize along with works by authors such as Evie Wyld, Elizabeth Gilbert and Booker-winner Eleanor Catton. The Washington Post said of the novel "it is a ruthless honesty about the ugly and beautiful sides of the United States and Nigeria."

Lestat rises once  
again

AUTHOR Anne Rice has revealed that forty years after 'Interview with the Vampire', Lestat is set to rise again in her new novel 'Prince Lestat' much to the delight of avid fans. Rice says that the novel will be "All about Lestat and all about the vampires, and what they are doing right now, how they are coming to terms with everything that's happened to them, how Lestat is dealing with the demand from all sides that he steps forward and becomes some sort of leader of the tribe". Rice condemns current Vampire writers saying she "feels sorry for vampires that sparkle in the sun." She evidently feels the rest of the genre need a lesson from its queen. The novel is set to be published in October and is a sequel to the first five Vampire Chronicles stories and novel one of a new series.

## Seren Reviews

A SELECTION OF OUR FAVOURITE BOOKS THIS  
MONTHLaurie  
Leeby TOM EMLYN  
WILLIAMS

LAURIE Lee's 1969 memoir, which depicts his bohemian ramblings in the years following the First World War, is a satisfying and engrossing read. Lee walks to London from his Cotswolds home, scraping together a living playing his violin. He does manual labour in London before travelling to Spain becoming caught up in the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War.

The book is ostensibly a sequel to the somewhat better known 'Cider with Rosie', Lee's memoir of his childhood in rural Gloucestershire, but arguably surpasses that book due to the wider range of experiences that it covers.

Lee's descriptions of Spain are some of the most entertaining sections of the book – he captures the bleakly squalid scenes of poverty, along with moments of rhapsodic pastoral beauty similar to his descriptions of rural England.

The book explores human connections across cultures, and investigates the similarities in human experience, no matter the situation. It is also an evocative portrait of a specific point in history, and of a transient, nomadic way of living that is arguably no longer possible in quite the same way today, captured by the subtle precision of Lee's prose style.

2014 is the centenary of his birth, so it is a good time to read this book, which in the 21st century is, perhaps, overlooked.

Jim  
Butcher

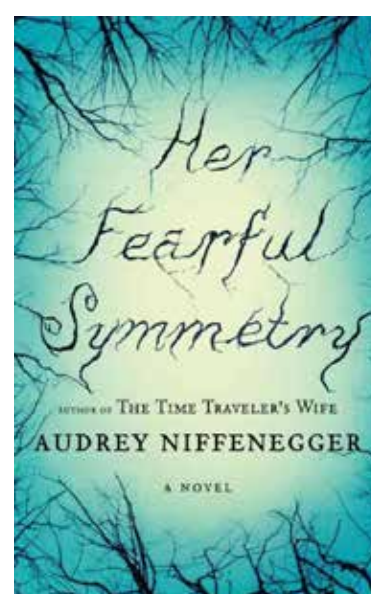
by CALLUM LEWIS

THE Dresden Files is a fantasy crime series by Jim Butcher centred around detective wizard Harry Dresden as he recounts supernatural cases in modern-day Chicago. And though the first volume was published in 2000, the series has certainly not gone stale. Fourteen books in and everyone's favourite paranormal detective is still at the top of his game.

Dresden finds himself once again at the mercy of the Winter Court, naked and alone without any of his usual weapons. With nothing but his wits and the assistance of some unlikely allies, he must reunite with his friends and find an answer to one very dangerous question: How do you kill a god?

This is Dresden like we've never seen him before. The revelations come thick and fast. Old friends and new enemies come ready to throw a spanner in the works. And after all is said and done, you may find yourself questioning the motives of just about everyone you thought you ever knew. Author Jim Butcher has never been afraid to deviate from the formula of his detective wizard for hire, tricking his fans in the most ingenious of ways. The same is true of Cold Days, which aims to tie up a lot of the old questions, but it wouldn't be a Dresden Files book without asking a million more.

Look forward to the next instalment in the long running Dresden Files: Skin Game, coming 27th May.

Audrey  
Niffenegger

by JASMINE BOCCE

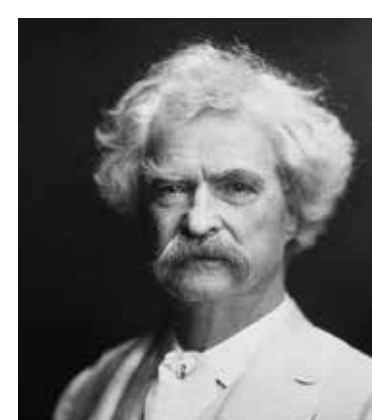
I FELL in love with Audrey Niffenegger after reading her first and most famous book, The Time Traveller's Wife, and was intrigued with what she was going to do with her second book.

Her Fearful Symmetry is in many ways a typical ghost story. It is centred around two sets of twins; Elspeth Noblin, who died of cancer at forty four, and her sister Edie and her twin daughters, Julia and Valentina, who arrive from Chicago to live in Elspeth's flat after her death. Elspeth finds herself trapped between worlds and unable to interact with the twins.

It does take a little while to get into gear as we are introduced to other members of Elspeth's family including her skinny, haunted partner Robert who struggles most with the loss and with his guilty attraction to the twins.

Niffenegger's love of sci-fi in everyday life really shines through and the story is just intriguing enough to keep my brain ticking. The novel deals with the issue of grief, the power of human relationships and the difficulty of identity and individuality, especially when you are a twin. There is a heightened sense of magic in the story which makes it stand out from other ghost fiction.

The twist at the end is really worth waiting for and immediately makes the tale darker, trickling in something genuinely frightening just to confuse us at the end.

Mark  
Twain

by BECCI JAMESON

BEING an English Literature student I get to read all sorts of weird and wacky things, some that are better than others and some that I will never look at again but one shone out of the pack of my reading list last semester.

It may have been written nearly 150 years ago but it is still bizarre, funny and downright tongue in cheek. It is essentially a historical novel based on no actual historical fact that transports a nineteenth century American, in the midst of the Industrial Age, to 528 AD and surprise, surprise right into King Arthur's court.

Hilarity ensues as this middle class Yankee gets the knights riding bikes instead of horses, shows Merlin to be a doddering old fraud, blows up buildings, starts all-out war and swiftly gains power by sheer coincidence and moderate cleverness.

Mark Twain is in his element, thoroughly tearing the Middle Ages to shreds but at the same time showing it to be a simple and lovely place. This is one of his most cynical works as it reflects his belief that the nineteenth century as an age of exploitation and greed compared to the values of the medieval era.

I love anything that involves time travel and a playful look back at the past. It's not too long and is clever without being overbearing.

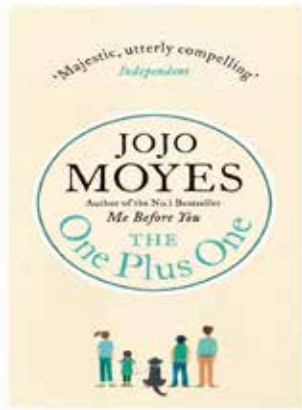
Satirical and a little deep at times, a great Sunday afternoon adventure.



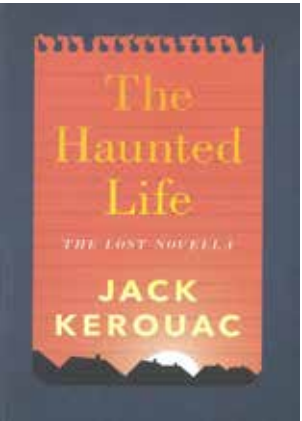
NEW  
BOOKS

And Crocodiles Are Hungry At Night

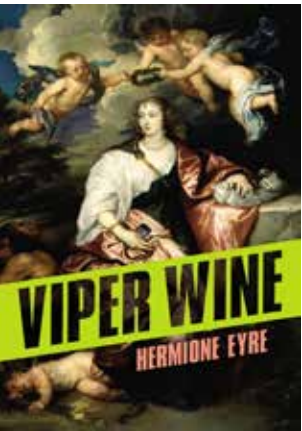
WRITER AND POET, JACK MAPANJE COMES TO BANGOR



JoJo Moyes  
*The One Plus One*



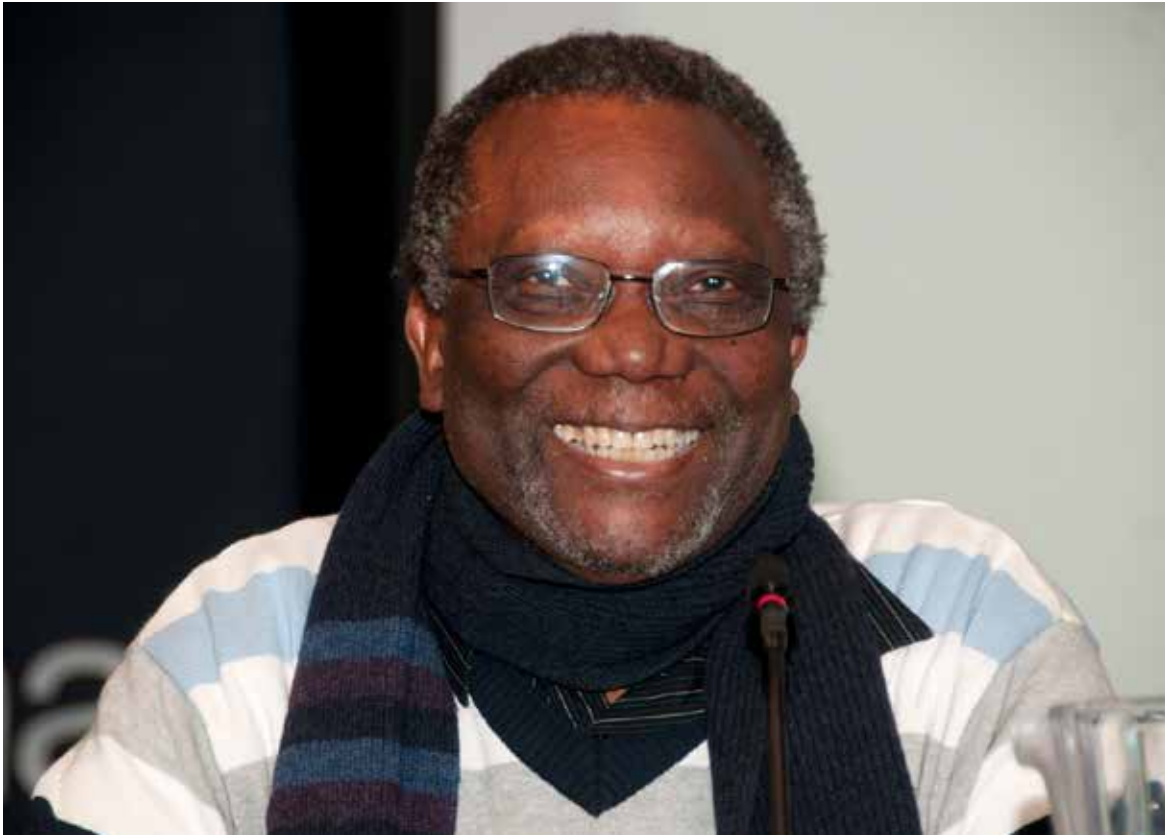
Jack Kerouac  
*The Haunted Life*



Hermione Eyre  
*Viper Wine*



Hannah Kent  
*Burial Rites*



by EMILY  
HOULSTON-JONES

As Malawian writer and human rights activist Jack Mapanje shuffled to the front of Main Arts Lecture theatre to read from his body of work on March 10th, I was struck by his age and frailty. Such thoughts were swept away when he began to speak, his strong and imposing voice barely needing the microphone attached to his front.

It is not just Mapanje's voice that is imposing. During Bangor lecturer Kachi Ozumba's introduction, I was awed by Mapanje's achievements and life experiences. Not only is he an accomplished poet and writer – having published five poetry collections and a memoir – he has also edited several collections of African writing, been the head of English and Linguistics at the University of Malawi, and been imprisoned, without charge, for nearly four years.

The topic of his imprisonment was a recurring topic during Mapanje's talk.

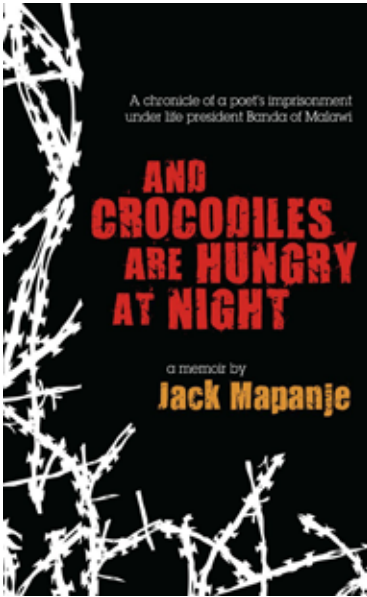
His awareness of the exact length of his imprisonment – exactly 3 years, 7 months, 16 days, and 12 hours – served as a reminder that the recollection of his incarceration is still fresh in his mind.

His imprisonment began in 1987 and ended in 1991. He was never charged with any crime, nor were his alleged "offences" investigated at any point. Upon being taken in for questioning, Mapanje was told that he was not a subject of any filings or investigations, and the police themselves were unaware of the reasons for his imprisonment. This information was relayed by Mapanje as he read from his prison memoir 'And Crocodiles Are Hungry At Night', published in 2011. These revelations made the au-

dience startlingly aware of the injustice of Mapanje's imprisonment, and of the dictatorship which endorsed it.

That is not to say that Mapanje is self-pitying. On the contrary, his optimism and idealistic nature were obvious. At one point, while speaking to a hushed room about the "horrible" conditions of the Malawian prison which was his home for nearly 4 years, he observed that "the spirit of man cannot easily be contained". Simply, he added, "I wanted to survive." And survive he did.

While discussions of Mapanje's imprisonment made up a large portion of the talk, they did not dominate it. Peppered in the talk, amongst the talk of injustice and wrongful imprisonment, were thoughtful references to his wife and family. There were laughs



in the room too – most notably when Mapanje, upon being asked two questions by Ozumba, answered "I'll take the first one – cause it's easier", and when describing his prison memoir to the audience at the beginning of the talk: "It's a big book...but you must buy it."

To say that I enjoyed the talk would be an understatement. This was not simply a reading; it was an insight into the life and mind of one of the most truly fascinating people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Despite having the attention span of a hyper-active toddler, I was alert throughout Mapanje's talk. That's how engaging it was. I can say with certainty that I will be buying Mapanje's memoir, even if it is a "big book".

“THE SPIRIT OF MAN CANNOT EASILY BE CONTAINED”

BOOK OF THE  
MONTH

by AMY BLACKWELL

I first read 'The Handmaid's Tale' when I was sixteen and it has since been one of my favourite books, with Margaret Atwood as one of my favourite authors. I would even go so far as to say that this book set my foundations in feminism and made me truly interested in the world of women in both fiction and reality.

The novel is set in a dystopian future in a place called Republic of Gilead, otherwise known as the USA, and is centred around the handmaid Offred. In this world there are alarmingly low reproduction rates due to a chemical

spillage and so it is Offred's sole role as a handmaid and one of the only fertile women left to conceive for her elite employers.

The novel can be read as a unique criticism of a modern patriarchy; Offred is not her real name, all handmaid's names begin "Of" followed by their owners' name, therefore, she is "Of-Fred".

The novel depicts a disturbingly controlled female sexuality, in which handmaids are completely restricted and their every move is monitored by the secret police. The novel frequently

uses flashbacks to show the freedom of the old world, in stark contrast to that of the current.

The book also critiques things such as pornography, prostitution, and violence against women that was not only relevant when the novel was published in 1986 but is also relevant today.

The novel is both gripping and harrowing and really makes you think. I would go so far as to say it is a life changer and should be on everybody's must-read list.





## FASHION

## FOR THE LADIES

## FLORAL PRINT

by JAMES HOLMAN

Floral print is the new hot thing for women's fashion this spring with celebrities from Beyoncé to Scarlett Johansson wearing it left, right and centre. Welcome in a burst of feminine floral patterns to your wardrobe for a refreshing update that is perfect for this season.

If you have a long list of party invitations for the Easter holiday or even if you just have a night out planned in Academi, you can partner floral with a whole variety of clothing to dress it up or down. If you are

wearing one item that is this pattern, make sure that you vary your other clothing so that you don't look too flowery. Some patterned shorts with a block colour t-shirt would be a good night out combination. Alternatively, a floral dress looks very flattering and gives you an elegant look, perfect for a relaxing day in the sunshine. Keep your colour light and easy on the eyes so that it either doesn't clash with your floral print or look too loud.



Topshop - £19.99



Topshop - £32.00



River Island - £28.00



River Island - £25.00



Topshop - £36.00



Topshop - £24.99



River Island - £20.00

## SUNGLASSES

by JAMES HOLMAN

Now that we have had a couple days of sunshine, it is safe to say that spring is finally on its way. So, let's talk about the spring/summer essential which is a decent pair of sunglasses. Thankfully, the reign of the bumblebee effect design of eyewear seems to have slipped off the radar with designers preferring a classier, more elegantly shaped structure to keep your eyes safe from the sun. However, you should still proceed to the eyewear section with caution, it remains possible to get a pair of sunglasses that are too big for your face and this isn't flattering or fashion-forward. When choosing your new pair of sunnies, make sure that you try them on and look at the width of the frames

and the height of the lenses; this is where it is easy to go wrong. You don't want frames that stick too far out to the sides of your head as this will make your face look thin and if you do not have a long face, then go for a medium lens height as if they are too long, they will make your face look round as well as give you the look of a flying insect.

Here is a selection of my favourite sunglasses that the shops around Bangor have to offer.



Debenhams - £16.00



Debenhams - £18.00



Topshop - £16.00



River Island - £15.00



Topshop - £14.00



River Island - £10.00



New Look - £5.99

## MODELS WANTED

Seren are looking for female models to take part in a charity fashion show after the Easter holiday. If you would like to be a part of this event, helping to raise money for worthy causes, then please let us know. You can get in contact by emailing: [fashion@seren.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:fashion@seren.bangor.ac.uk)



# FOR THE GENTS

## BLAZERS

by JAMES GRIBBLE

Blazers are a spring season must have, featuring extensively in Paris Fashion Week with Chanel adorning almost all of their models in this type of stylish, sleek jacket.

They offer a unique look and can be worn to a variety of different occasions. A fabric or wool material can offer a more relaxed and rugged look incorporating different design patterns such as checks or stripes that enable the blazer to act as an alternative to a smart sweatshirt or jumper. To achieve a more sophisticated look, a blazer that is cotton and polyester with a slim fit design is the best choice; this can be accompanied by a trim on the collar and/or pockets to finish off the look. The slim fit moulds to the wearer to give a sharp finish. If you do opt for the additional trim, it will complement the main body colour of the blazer and enable you to wear bolder colours that offer an eye catching look.



This Saint Laurent cotton and polyester blazer in navy blue features contrasting white trim that gives that sharp finish. Accompany this with a white shirt, navy slim fit design trousers and black sleek shoes to finish off the sophisticated look.



This Mr porter wool-blend blazer is a more relaxed and rugged option for the wearer as it can be worn to a variety of different occasions, yet still offering a smart look.



H&M- £29.99



New Look - £49.99



New Look - £54.99



H&M- £34.99

## SHORTS

by JAMES HOLMAN

The time is almost here gentlemen! It won't be long now before you can store your jeans for the summer and replace them with some trusty pairs of shorts.

No matter what the weather, it is always more comfortable to slide on a pair of shorts as opposed to trousers. Let's face it, they are easier to get on when compared with skinny jeans and they let you breathe, allowing you to feel a lot less restricted.

This spring welcomes back the denim shorts and the chino material shorts. Thankfully, these are the easiest to pair with other items of clothing and they look effortlessly stylish. But don't just take my word for it, try them yourself! The shops around Bangor are packed with these summer essentials, from River Island to New Look there is a lot to choose out there.

If you do opt for denim shorts, then make sure you pair them with t-shirts that you would normally pair with the same colour jeans. You will look and feel instantly more summery and won't have to buy any new clothes to cover your upper body.

If you instead choose to wear chino material shorts then pair

them with t-shirts that work with the shorts colour. I find the most fashionable chino colours are often pastel colours, therefore, you should look for t-shirts that are more of a standard shade.

If you do find yourself getting stuck then it is always a good idea to have a look at the mannequins around the shops that you are in. They get styled by professionals so have no fear about not looking stylish.

Roll on summer!



River Island - £25.00



River Island - £30.00



River Island - £25.00



River Island - £35.00



River Island - £28.00

## MODELS WANTED

Seren are looking for male models to take part in a charity fashion show after the Easter holiday. If you would like to be a part of this event, helping to raise money for worthy causes, then please let us know. You can get in contact by emailing: [fashion@seren.bangor.ac.uk](mailto:fashion@seren.bangor.ac.uk)



# OSCAR BEAUTY

By SARA LLOYD WILLIAMS



KATE Hudson defined Hollywood Glamour at this year's Oscars. The blonde beauty is a native Californian and this usually translates to a much more relaxed look on red carpets, but at this event Kate was sleek and elegant. Despite this her look was quite simple, beginning with a flawless foundation base; she chose to follow the age of rule of 'eyes or mouth'. She wore a nude lipstick on her lips that allowed the focus to be grabbed by her stunning eye makeup. She created a smoky eye look using the classic white, grey, black colour pallet and stood out from the majority of Oscar looks by not donning a feline flick at the end. She finished the look off with tumbling shiny curls; swept to one side (the one sided hair look was very popular at this year's Oscar's).

**Overall verdict:** While still wearing her trade mark effortless look, Hudson manages to remind us what Oscar beauty should really be about, simple, sexy and timeless.



I THINK we can all accept that beyond winning the Oscar itself, Lupita also won in the fashion and beauty stakes as well. While she channelled the big look of the night with her barely there makeup Lupita bought a glow with a dewy finish to her foundation that stood out in the dry matted looks of everyone else on the red carpet. Her pretty Coral lipstick added a pop of colour that worked well by complementing her skin tone as well as contrasting her baby blue dress. Having such short hair as Lupita it is almost impossible to bring a new style to any event, but for the Oscar's Lupita succeeded by accessorising her look with a simple silver headband adding instant glamour to her hairstyle.

**Overall verdict:** Lupita succeeds where Jennifer Lawrence failed. Her use of fun youthful colours and accessories bring a fresh look to the Oscar's and succeeds in making her the bell of the ball.



AS has been mentioned a natural look was the name of the game at this year's Oscars, so Kerry Washington's sharp contrast to this was a welcome relief. The actress walked the red carpet with a gorgeous glow due to being 7 months pregnant but this didn't stop her from also bringing the glam! Kerry worked a dark eye, dark lip combination opting for a light cherry lipstick and heavily eye-lined lids. The final effect was a much harder look than many of her counterparts on the carpet, but the decision to finish the look with loose curls, loosely pinned at the back of her head created a much softer finished products.

**Overall verdict:** Despite how gorgeous (almost) everyone looked on the night, the nude tones seen everywhere needed Kerry's strong look to stop the repetitive cycle and give us a wider range of makeup inspiration for nights out.



JENNIFER Lawrence is a human being that I never thought I'd be able to criticise, but here I am! I've been frankly underwhelmed with her look ever since she cut her hair last Autumn. While I think the original pixie haircut suits her, she's not been able to convey any real glamour on the red carpet since she cut it off. Jennifer's hair at the Oscars was well constructed and I can see someone like Emma Thompson or Meryl Streep looking fantastic with the same hairdo, but Jen is 20 years their junior and no matter how many times I look, it still feels like a hairstyle much too old for a 23 year old. Her make up look is again simple. Jennifer has flawless skin and can get away with very little in terms of makeup, but this was the Oscars and I can't help feeling she could have (again) bought a bit more of a youthful colour pallet to this look.

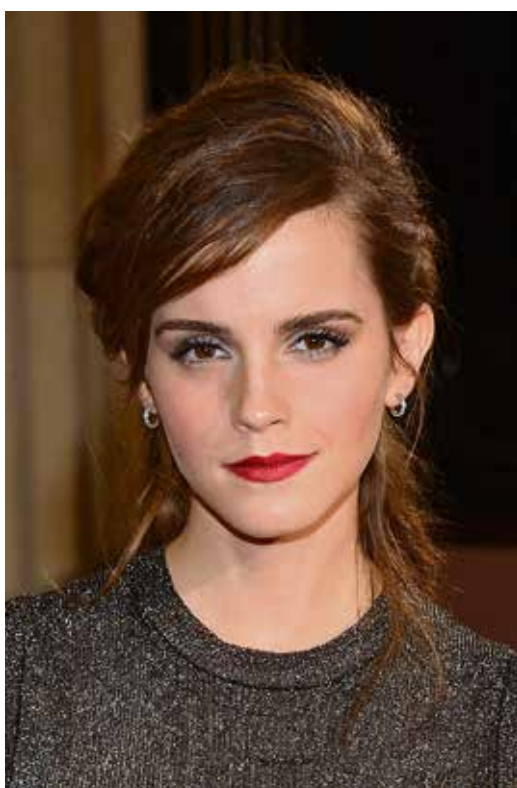
**Overall verdict:** If Liza has to give up trying to be young, Jennifer please give us a more age appropriate, fun look next time.



LIZA Minnelli is undoubtedly a Hollywood icon. With a career spanning over five decades she has been at the forefront of fashion for the majority of this time. Despite this knowledge she still managed to unfortunately seriously miss the mark at the 2014 Oscars. Instead of aging gracefully Minnelli tried to combat the aging process in a variety of ways. First was her makeup look – the natural, 'barely there' makeup look was a popular trend seen in abundance across the red carpet at all the award shows this season, but Minnelli's attempts fall flat with the look conveying 'no effort' rather than 'effortless'. The second issue with the look is the chunky blue hair streak she sported. While blue has become a popular choice for many girls in the last year mainly thanks to pop stars Demi Lovato and Katy Perry rocking the trend, it all looks a bit desperate on Liza.

**Overall verdict:** Liza Minnelli, I still love you, but please next year, bring a more appropriate look to the Oscars.

## Some cutting remarks



by EMILY HOULSTON-JONES

Emma Watson has the world at her feet. She is beautiful, young, and talented. She has access to the most prestigious and talented stylists, make-up artists, and hairstylists in the world. Yet she turned up to the Oscars, the most important showbiz event of the year, with a hairstyle that screamed "I just came from the gym and forgot to shower."

No Emma Watson. No. You can do better. We all know you can do better than a hairstyle that somehow makes you look like you've borrowed your dad's toupee, and then forgotten to wash said toupee.

It's a misstep for the usually flawless Watson, which makes it all the more egregious. If Lindsay Lohan had turned up this hairstyle, I wouldn't have batted an eye. But this is Emma Watson, and the event was the Academy Awards. If I'm perfectly honest, I expected more.

Looking at the other celebrity attendee's hairstyles just made the contrast more stark. One example was Kerry Washington, whose shiny shoulder-length hair showed us all just what a relaxed and informal Oscar hairstyle should look like. Pity Emma Watson didn't get the memo.

## Miss Manga mascara

by IDA VÄISÄNEN

When L'Oréal launched their Miss Manga mascara, it was received with high hopes. With so many western youngsters seeking inspiration from Japanese popular culture in their style, it was encouraging that such a major brand was acting towards the demand. This didn't show only in the name, but also in the colours of the mascara, which were purple and blue besides the ordinary black. I bought the original black one. Was the manga effect reached? Well, it could have been worse.

As someone who wears dark-rimmed glasses, it's no use for me to even try on mascara if it doesn't lengthen my eyelashes significantly. Miss Manga did just that, working wonderfully especially on my lower lashes. However, the consistency was very wet and lumpy; making applying the mascara quite difficult. The verdict? No harm in buying it, but you could look for the manga effect elsewhere.



3.5/5



# How to deal with hay fever

By SARA LLOYD WILLIAMS

With the arrival of spring, people begin to prepare themselves for the inevitable change in the air, specifically the change that brings about hay

fever. Hay fever is a common illness and affects millions of people in Britain every year, but this does little to comfort those who suffer every year. Hay fever is an allergic reaction to substances in the air, mainly pollen

which becomes more prominent once spring begins. The amount of pollen in the air will usually trigger the reaction and this is why some people may only experience hay fever for the first time when they come

to Bangor. Compared to many larger towns and cities Bangor is very green and therefore this can lead to large amounts of pollen in the air when conditions are right.

## Common symptoms include:

- Sneezing
- Watery eyes
- Itchy throat and nose
- Blocked/runny nose
- Severe symptoms may include:
  - Sweats
  - Headaches
  - Loss of smell and taste
  - Facial pain caused by blocked sinuses
  - Itchiness spreads from the throat, to the nose and ears

## How to Prevent Hay Fever

The key way to avoiding hay fever is to reduce your exposure to pollen, despite how difficult this can be. Here are a few tricks:

- If possible, try to stay indoors when the pollen count is high (over 50, check the Met Office website for daily forecasts).
- Keep windows and doors shut in the house. If it gets too warm, draw the curtains to keep out the sun and keep the temperature down. Explain the situation to your housemates and make sure they don't leave doors or windows open, especially if the weather picks up outside.
- Don't keep fresh flowers in the house.
- Vacuum and dust regularly to rid the house of any pollen that may have come in through open doors or windows.
- Don't smoke or let other people smoke in your house. Smoking and breathing in other people's smoke will irritate the lining of your nose,

eyes, throat and airways, and can make your symptoms worse.

## Avoiding pollen outside

Sometimes going outside is inevitable, from socials to lectures and exams we all need to get out of the house sometime. Here are some tips to help you survive:

- Avoid areas where grass is being, or has recently been cut, particularly in the early morning, evening and at night when pollen counts are highest.
- Wear wraparound sunglasses to stop pollen getting in your eyes.
- Change your clothes and take a shower after being outdoors to remove the pollen on your body.
- If your going for a drive make sure to keep windows shut as the pollen can still get in no matter how fast you're driving.

## Curing hay fever

There are a variety of treatments for hay fever including tablets, eyedrops, nasal sprays and injections. Finding which works best for you will help you stay symptom-free through the summer.

### Antihistamines

Histamine is a chemical released by your body after it's been exposed to a trigger such as pollen. It produces symptoms of hay fever such as

sneezing or itchy, watery eyes.

Antihistamines block the action of histamine in the body. This is the most common form of treatment and is easily available at most pharmacist or chemists, though in some more severe cases a doctor's appointment might be necessary.

### Steroid nasal sprays

Steroid nasal sprays are often more effective than antihistamines at treating some symptoms of hay fever, the main one being a blocked nose. Antihistamines can often con-

tain a lot of steroids to boost your body, and nasal sprays reduce your body from absorbing the full impact of this drug. There are also almost no side effects when used correctly, and can therefore be used for long periods of time without any risk. They take several days to act and need to be taken continually for several weeks as their effect builds up with time. But the limit of their affect does mean that they often need to be taken with other treatments to feel full relief from all symptoms.

### Hay fever injections

A more extreme option, this should be considered if symptoms persist or get worse after several weeks. You cannot buy injections over the counter; you must see a GP to get a prescription. Initially you have to have an injection every week or fortnight at the clinic and then regularly for up to two years. This treatment involves injecting pollen into your body, forcing an allergic response so that you build up anti-bodies to combat the allergen in your body.

# In Brief



MAC  
LORDE

## Lorde @ MAC

SEVENTEEN year old pop star Lorde has recently announced that she will be teaming up with MAC cosmetics to release a limited edition makeup line with the company, based on her own personal style.

The songstress said in a statement "I have loved MAC Cosmetics since I was a little kid. I remember saving up to buy my very first MAC lipstick [the pale pink Snob] at 14, and it was used by about twenty of my friends."

The line is expected to include dark lip shades and pale eye shadows in accordance to her signature look. (Release date: Summer 2014)

## Forget the hat

PHARRELL Williams has become a constant presence in our lives over the last year. Beginning with his triumphant return as the lead vocals on Daft Punk's 'Get Lucky' he's dominated all award shows in 2014 with his signature hat. But now the starts taking things one step further, confirming the launch of his first scent later this year.

The scent entitled G I R L (like his new album) will be unisex and the singer has remained tight lipped on what the final product will smell like, but judging by the last twelve months we'll all be 'Happy' with the final product.

## Run away

A NATIONAL survey running into its fifth year has discovered that doing 'vigorous exercise' for two and a half hours each week can cut the chances of getting the flu.

The survey ran by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, asked 4,800 people to answer questions about their lifestyle to try and understand why flu affects so many of us year after year.

Dr Alma Adler, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said: "We need to treat this result cautiously as these are preliminary findings. However, they are consistent with findings for other conditions and really show the health benefits of exercise."

# Hairbond Distorter hair clay

by LJ TAYLOR

**Product: Hairbond Distorter**

**Price: £16(ish) for 100ml**

**Where: Amazon (other internet places), some hair salons**

With so many different choices on the market these days it's not only difficult to decide which brand to choose but what type of hair product to buy. I've gone through every possible hair product yet never really known what was best for my hair.

Recently I decided that it was time for yet another change after putting my trust in VO5 was proven to be the wrong way to go (when will I learn?). I discovered the Hairbond brand last week and whilst it definitely costs a lot more than the ones I find on the high street I thought I might as well give it a go.

Hairbond, which is a British brand, have a few different versions available. I went for "Distorter." First off, Distorter smells amazing. And honestly what more do you really want in a hair product? Whilst it smelt really good, it was definitely a shame that after about an hour the smell was mostly gone - though I think Hairbond is aimed primarily at men and I suppose they don't tend to opt

for a hair product based on its smell.

Hairbond had pretty cool, though slightly excessive packaging (that looks pretty classy on your bathroom shelf to be honest). I especially like how when you unscrew the top you come face to face with a little secondary cover.

This presumably is to stop the product from drying out (a nightmare if its ever happened to you) but I found it does get in the way when you're in a rush to sort your hair in the morning.

The first time I used my new hair clay, it didn't go as well as I'd hoped. I'd followed the instructions and applied to dried hair, but things just ended up a bit of a mess really. The second time I went for towel dried hair and the results were much better. Usually I straighten my fringe before applying product but have found that with Hairbond I really don't need to do

that - in fact, I'm much happier with the more natural, textured look that it gives my fringe without needing straighteners.

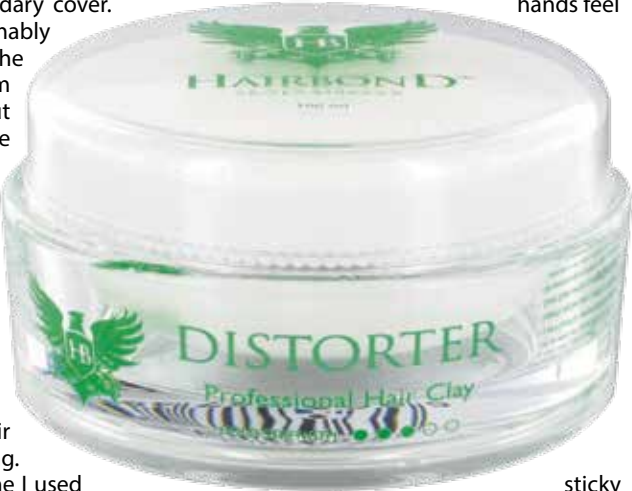
Another small, but particularly good feature of Hairbond is its feel. With a lot of hair products your hands feel

hit by a gust of wind, then the style seems to remain throughout the day. It also has quite a matte effect, and adds a very slight shine to your hair that looks healthy rather than greasy.

Distorter is recommended for short to medium hair, and is really good for thick hair. I use it on my fringe and just add a little to the back and sides but it allows much more versatility in styling.

The brand is pretty up and coming and already has a lot of celebrity users, namely sportsmen (Like Yohan Cabaye - which is not at all why I wanted it...). For the shorter hair style it seems to give a pretty neat and dapper look.

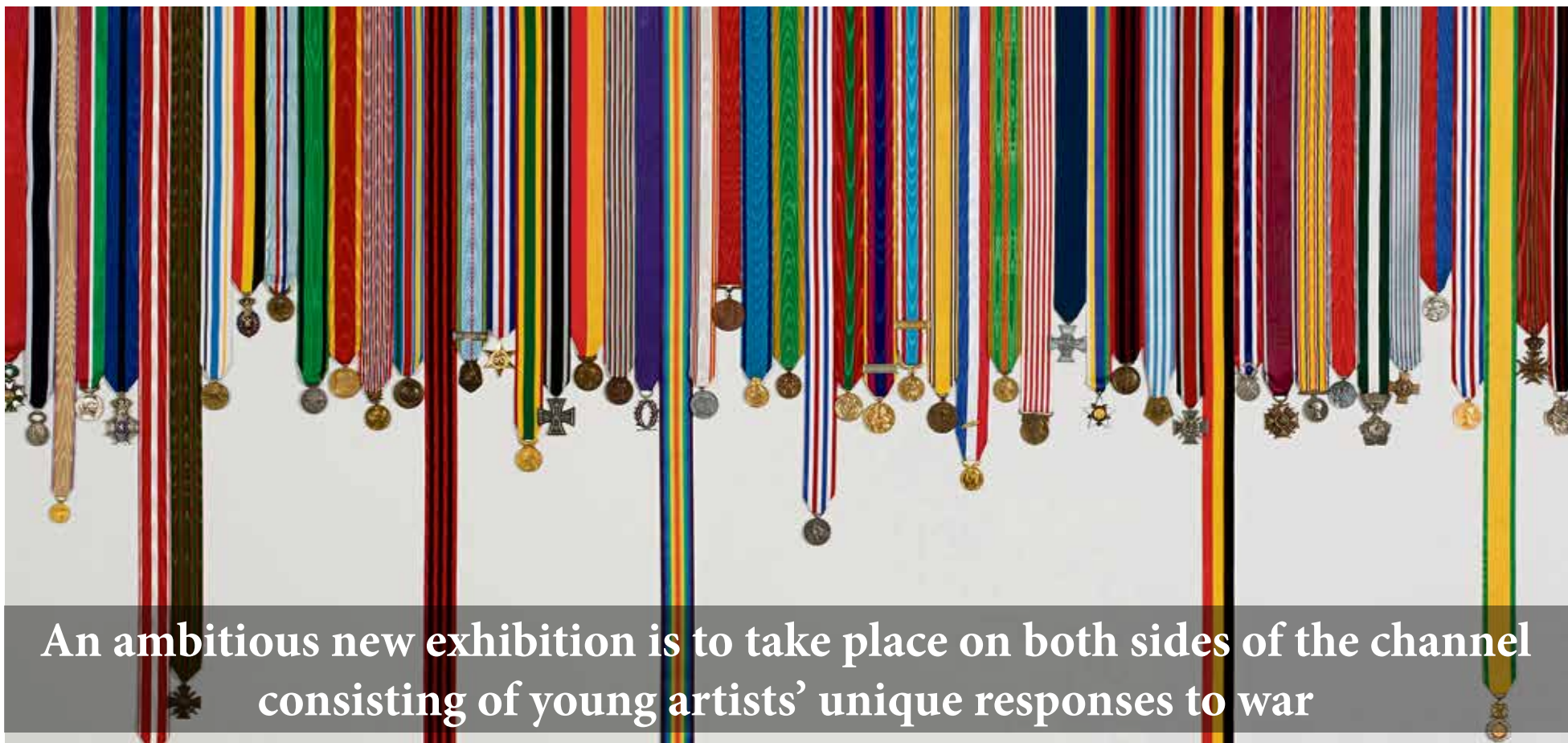
I've only been using Hairbond for a few weeks but I'm already really impressed and looking forward to doing more with it once my hair is cut. I think a lot of getting the best out of it definitely comes from the way you dry your hair (my fringe dried in a forward direction) and the way that its applied (scrunched in, right to the roots) but I imagine similar results could be gained from an off the shelf brand also. At the price a lot of half decent brands go for this days I didn't mind paying a little bit more for something that I knew at least contained better nutrients for my hair.





## ARTS AND CULTURE

# Can we battle war through art?



An ambitious new exhibition is to take place on both sides of the channel consisting of young artists' unique responses to war

by MEGAN TOWNSEND

A new exhibition is due to hit Britain consisting of artworks and sculptures formed from war relics from World War One and Two. The exhibition will include sculptures made from corroding metal scavenged from a First World War French battlefield, a wall of ribbons bearing wartime honours, even including nazi achievement medals. The occasions this year are the centenary of the end of the First World War and the 70th anniversary of the Normandy landings in 1944.

Curators from cities that suffered major destruction in the two world wars such as Norwich, Caen and Calais have collaborated on the ex-

hibition after an international call for submissions. Artists from France, England, Ireland, Israel, Germany and Switzerland were among those chosen to contribute.

The show is based at the Basse-Normandie Centre of Contemporary Art in Caen and the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Calais and both began their exhibitions earlier this week. On the other side of the channel, a third exhibition will start at the end of this month at the Sainsbury Centre in Norwich, before moving to the "Undercroft" a brand new gallery created in the space beneath the city's war memorial.

Many of the artists are young, and most of their work is strikingly pacifist. Léa Le Bricomte, 27, whose work

with bullets, missiles and real medals has often caused problems with international transport, has attached skateboard wheels to first world war shells. Her art installation is accompanied by background music played on Tibetan flutes made from human bones.

Barbara Forest, curator and director of the Calais gallery said. "For these artists there is no triumph or militarism in the anniversary; there is a tone of irony, of questioning."

Many of the artists have been inspired by the estimated 30,000 war memorials found in the towns and villages of France. Valérie Collart has taken a black-and-white photograph of a towering memorial built into a cliff face in Nice, set fire to the print of the tree that partly hides it, and re-

photographed it, to startling effect.

Antoine Durand has photographed some of the few anti-war monuments and reproduced them as postcards: one, at Yonne in Burgundy, is inscribed "guerre à la guerre", make war on war. As these are little known even in France, the gallery has printed thousands of copies of his cards for visitors to take away.

A Swiss artist Leo Fabrizio, actually photographed all of the countries, remarkably camouflaged bunkers, one even disguised as a Swiss chalet, another covered in strange metal branches with ambition to blend into the nearby forest.

In fact, there is a whole section of the exhibition dedicated to bunkers. Another artist, Virginie Maillard, has

photoshopped signs on to bunkers suggesting new, more inviting uses for the grim concrete hulks, transforming them in coffee shops or marriage centres.

The bunkers have special resonance for Calais, which remains circled by German bunkers, many of them enormous and virtually indestructible. "We see them every time we go to the beach, but they are so familiar they are invisible to us," Forest said. "The evidence of the war is still surrounding us."

*Exhibition in Caen is open until 13th April, in Calais until 16th November, in the Norwich Sainsbury Centre 29th March-27th July and at the Norwich Undercroft from 14th June until 8th August.*

## Edinburgh International Festival to concentrate on war



The long shadow of war will hang heavily over this year's Edinburgh International Festival, opening in August marking the centenary of Britain entering the First World War from the festival logo of bluebells tangled in barbed wire, to plays, poetry, dance pieces, operas and symphonies.

Among hundreds of events performed by 2,400 artists from 43 nations in the £10.5m festival, reflections on human combat will include events as recent as South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, startlingly reimagined by the Handspring Puppet Company, and stretch all the way back to the Trojan

wars of ancient Greece.

Festival Director Jonathan Mills said his programme also "elliptically and subtly" took in another looming political event, the Scottish referendum, which will happen weeks after the end of the festival. Many of the events, including the James Plays, three new works by Rona Munro on James I, II

and III – which can be seen separately or in one long day – reflected on Scotland itself, its identity and its future, he said, "as part of a nation or part of a different nation, whatever it will be".

The festival – dwarfed as usual by the gigantic fringe event which opens on 1st August – starts on 8th August and will close in a spectacular fireworks concert on 31st August.

Friends and patrons booking opens on Wednesday, and for the general public, including half-price tickets for students and young people, on Saturday 29th March.

More at: <http://www.eif.co.uk/>



# What's going on in Bangor?



## A review by the real Clara

by PORTIA DODDS

“I’m fine” was the most used phrase within this play and yet it was most incorrect. The plot of this play was about Clara, played by Sarah Murray, sixteen years old and tumbling into depression and yet is unaware of what is wrong. She doesn’t understand why she is constantly crying, why she gets suddenly very angry and why she just can’t help but push everyone away – her parents, played by Leighanne Mayall and Owen Lynch, her best friend Alice, played by Lyndsey Waite, and her boyfriend Peter, played by Conor Glackin, and

with the very best efforts to push her teacher, Miss Berry, played by Rhianon Daye, away too. Although they try to find out what is wrong, she is adamant that nothing is wrong and yet with the amount of lengthy monologues she delivered, everyone can beg to differ with her.

The play was short but poignant as the overall message was that not one thing was the cause of her depression but a collaboration of many things. The message was that one in four people will suffer with some form of mental illness and yet it is not just that one person who suffers, but the people who love them and interact with

them. As this was a somewhat autobiographical play, it was very exciting to watch but also very emotional and moving; seeing a big part of my life put on in an amazing production but certainly an unforgettable experience.

Directors Leila Gwynne and Nicola Hall created an intimate and yet intimidating space by making the audience and actors as close as possible. Tall flats towered us and the different instrumental music played during Clara’s dramatic/cathartic/emotional moments really sucked the audience in. By keeping the message simple, that mental health is something that should be discussed more

often and treated as something not to be ashamed of, I think everyone who watched the play was touched in some way and was able to relate. Not every member of the audience has had depression but surely knows someone affected by it in some way, and this play may have depicted my own experience with it but it was not exclusive. Writing *Ten Letters* started off as a piece of therapy and a way of dealing with my own emotions and experience. After watching these performances, I have seen how it can be made better to project more messages but for now, the message was brought across simply and effectively: depres-

sion is ten letters that a lot of people do not understand and they should because just because someone is depressed doesn’t mean that’s it. It was emotional to write and emotional to see and I want to thank once again BEDS for voting it in and putting it on. It portrays only one account of how someone can become depressed, although the events were not completely autobiographical in the sense presented, but in that ambiguous way it allows others to relate and learn which was an aim I think the cast and directors were able to bring across.

## Time to Talk: Understanding the Ten Letters

By LEILA GWYNNE AND SARAH MURRAY

When *Ten Letters* was voted in we had no idea how it played into a dialogue happening nationwide. Time to Change is a campaign that approaches Mental Health issues with honesty, humanity and great humour. To open the Time to Change website is to be confronted

with the image of a devoted boyfriend struggling to engage with his depressed partner – while dressed as a Fairy Godmother. Their message is, “being a fairy godmother would help, but Emma just wants to talk.”

When performing *Ten Letters*, what became apparent to all of us is the importance of opening channels of communication. Free discussion between

those who are fighting mental illness and the people around them is often the healthiest and most comforting path to recovery that is available, not only to those who suffer from chemical imbalances but for their loved ones too.

Time to Change and the Time to Talk campaigns are not about a cure. They are about removing stigma, em-

powering those who are or have been mentally ill in any way and spreading understanding amongst the 3 in 4 people who know and love someone in the grips of mental illness.

In our play, “I’m fine” was repeated to the point where the central character spent a lot of time talking and saying nothing. It is only in the end, the cathartic final five minutes of honest

communication between characters and with the audience that we truly listen and believe our heroine. “I’ll be fine and... yeah... I’ll be fine”

*Ten Letters (You Don’t Understand)* will be broadcast on Youtube. For more information check out [www.timetochangewales.org.uk](http://www.timetochangewales.org.uk) or Bangor Students Union Health and Wellbeing.

## Coming up...



## Powis comedy night

In association with Bangor comedy, comedians Romesh Ranganathan and Nathan Caton will be appearing in the Powis Hall for a hilarious night of comedy.

Romesh developed his cynical wit as a secondary school maths teacher, having appeared on BBC1’s *Live at the*

Apollo, Channel 4’s *Stand Up for the Week* & Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He was even recently crowned the 2013 Leicester comedian of the year.

Nathan Caton is likewise an up and coming comedian with regular appearances on *Mock the Week*, Russell Howard’s *Good News* and his own

sitcom “Can’t tell Nathan Caton nothing”, Nathan is definitely a personality to watch.

The event takes place Monday 24th March, at 7:30pm, tickets start at £8, or £5 with a student card.

## Damned Nations

Another big appearance at Powis Hall is the *Damned Nations*, featuring singer Sian James and guitarist Gai Toms, alongside traditional Nubian frame drummers Nuba Nour from Egypt.

His first time collaboration which promises to be an enchanting and engaging evening of music from Wales and Nubia. The concert will also fea-

ture solo sets by each of the artists along with a special collaboration which aims to draw awareness about the plight of the drowned cities Aswan and Tryweryn.

Takes place Friday 21st March, at 9pm, tickets start at £12, or £10 with a student card. A cash only bar will be open from 7pm





by GARETH MONK

A quick warning for the uninitiated; this is **SEASON TWO** of The Walking Dead. As in there has been a Season One before this. As in you should go play that before reading this review.

Also **SPOILERS!!!**

It's been over a year since we wrapped up the tale of Lee in The Walking Dead Season One, a man convicted of murder who becomes a surrogate father to a young girl named Clementine. Regardless of the decisions players made during the course of Season One's five episodes, it was pretty clear that by the end Lee was no longer with us.

The first episode of Season Two, aptly titled "All That Remains", picks up two in-game years after the end of Season One. We take control of

Clementine who is a little older and a little wiser. I won't spoil too much of the set up and execution of the episode, but it's safe to say that everything goes downhill quickly for Satsum... I mean Clementine!

For those of you who haven't played a Telltale adventure game before, the gameplay in The Walking Dead Season Two is largely unchanged from previous entries; you walk around, talk to people, pick up stuff, and do things with that stuff.

Oh sweet Christ, the things you can do...

Let's contextualise this for a second. You are playing as an eleven year old girl. **ELEVEN!** Can you even remember what you were doing at age eleven!? Maybe playing with sand, and...sticks and...

My memories of age eleven are hazy.

Whatever you were doing, I bet it wasn't nearly as bleak and harrowing as some of the stuff that you can have Clementine do. But that's the point; stuff you **can** have her do. Clementine as a character is shaped by your choices as a player, the individual you built her up to be vicariously through Lee. Is your Clementine merciless or forgiving? Cold and calculating or warm and caring? The beauty of presenting this harsh and bleak world through the eyes of an eleven year old girl as opposed to those of a jaded twenty something man is that you as a player experience events with a certain innocence. You let your guard down and then...

Let's just say that there are two significant events in the game. Two unavoidable hellish peaks to overcome. One made me nearly cry and

the other made me feel physically sick. This is not a game for the faint of heart. But do you pay £4 just to be miserable for approximately four hours?

In my opinion; Yes.

Whilst the final decision you have to make at the end of this episode (ultimately affecting how Episode 2 begins for you) is somewhat predictable and the game suffers from many of the technical problems previous entries have also run into, it is a deeply emotional and worthwhile experience. By shifting events to Clementine's perspective, we as players experience a fictional world through a perspective rarely utilised in video games and the game is all the richer for it. This isn't Call Of Duty 86 Shaggy Ghost Dog Ops, or FIFA 20AREYOU EVENPAYINGATTENTION ANYMORE. This is a game that

asks you to think carefully about the choices you make and the person you shape Clementine into.

I will spoil one moment for you. There's a point right at the beginning of the game in which you have to keep a fire lit, and you as Clementine can look through the contents of your rucksack. In it you find a picture of Lee that you as the player gave to her whilst playing as Lee. You can choose to throw that picture on the fire. You can choose to have an eleven year old girl completely obliterate the memory of a man she considered a father and the memories you have as the player of guiding her and shaping her as a character.

Like I said, there are cheerier ways to spend an evening.



by LEWIS JENKINS

South Park: The Stick Of Truth is the latest offering from Obsidian Entertainment, a company renowned for their ability to create high-quality role playing games as evidenced by Star Wars: Knights Of The Old Republic 2 and Fallout: New Vegas. Combined with a script written by the duo responsible for the original TV series, Matt Stone and Trey Parker, this leads to a wonderfully crafted and hilarious RPG game.

You start the game as "The New Kid", a boy the same age as the main cast who has only just moved to the small town of South Park, tasked by his parents to go make

some friends. After meeting a few of the boys dressed up in medieval attire, you quickly become dragged into a game of fantasy make-believe that is being taken way too far. You pick a class, get your gear and get ready to go on an adventure in the mystical realm of South Park.

The main part of the game consists of roaming around the town, interacting with different characters and doing quests for them. These quests can range from playing hide and seek with toddlers to pretending to give a man an abortion to trick FBI agents. Evidently, the shocking and crude humour that the South Park series is known for is still very much intact, mainly due to the high level of involvement

by the show's creators. As such, this game is definitely not for young children or the faint of heart and is in fact censored on console versions in Europe and Australia. Fortunately, the PC version remains untouched.

The writing style in general is a mix of these crude jokes and references to the 17 season's worth of South Park episodes. A ton of the items you pick up in the game are recognisable from the show such as the Okama Gamesphere or various chinpokomon. This works to appeal to fans of the show but may slightly alienate those unfamiliar with the references. There are also parodies of video games in general. For example, in one level you can collect recorded audio logs which admit

that they are "entirely pointless", a send-up of the recent trend of their inclusion in many new games.

Combat plays a large role in the game and is in the style of the Mario RPGs, primarily turn based with small button prompts to do bonus damage or mitigate incoming attacks. It works well as there's enough depth in your different options to plan out your moves ahead of time, while retaining enough reaction based gameplay to keep you on your toes. The windows to block attacks are tight but fair, adding challenge without being frustrating, while the special moves all feel satisfying to use and execute. Overall, the combat is enjoyable and not really too difficult but if you don't pay

attention, you can die pretty quickly.

The one gripe I did have with the game is that the UI is pretty unintuitive, meaning that selling items becomes a real chore of clicking back and forth repeatedly. It's clear the interface is more designed for console than PC so maybe it works better on those systems, though you would have to deal with the censorship of some key scenes. Overall, however, South Park: The Stick of Truth is a refreshingly colourful and funny RPG after a long period of grim, brown shooters. We definitely recommend it, as long as you're fine with a ton of swearing and fart jokes.





## Super Smash Brothers documentary

by ADAM SHARPLEY

**S**uper Smash Brothers is a party style fighting game series which saw its first release in 1999 on the Nintendo 64 with twelve playable Nintendo characters. The game has popular Nintendo characters such as Mario and Link battling it out with unique fighting styles reflecting the games they come from. Super Smash Bros Melee is the second game in the series, released in 2001 for the GameCube quickly becoming the best-selling GameCube game by a large margin. The new game featured 25 characters ranging from the well-known Donkey

Kong to more niche characters such as Ness from Earthbound.

In Smash Bros, the objective of the game is to knock your foes off the stage. Instead of health bars, characters have %s of damage taken, which increases the speed and distance a character travels when they are hit. Like most Nintendo games, the design was a party game that could be quickly picked up when going round to a friend's house. There was also plenty of challenges and a story mode which mixed up the gameplay and made further references to the games the feature characters came from. However, a core of the player base pushed the game past the games design to create an incredibly

fast paced competitive title.

The Smash Brothers is a documentary that follows the competitive SSBM scene from the grassroots tournaments held in houses to the MLG and Evo championships. From the first episode, the series makes it quite clear that Melee is much more complex than it first seems. KoreanDJ, one of the best players' worldwide, single-handedly defeats 3 opponents working as a team without losing a single life in two minutes. How can a single player dominate so strongly over enthusiasts of the game?

Through years of playing the game and experimentation, the competitive players found that there were

many techniques that can increase the speed and control a player can have over the game. Techniques such as Wave dashing, Dash dashing, Directional Input (DI), L-cancelling, short hopping and edge guarding increase the options a player has and are all explained well throughout the series. A standout fact in an early episode is that the average competitive Smash players has 8-9 button inputs per second, the same as professional StarCraft players.

Old videos, dating back to the origins of the competitive scene back in 2003, showcase how far the game has come to this day. For a few years, the game was in the Major League Gaming circuit, before

being removed in 2007. Smash also made an appearance at Evo in 2013 (the world's biggest Fighting game championship), when the game raised \$95,000 to be placed in the tournament. As of writing this article, it has just been announced that Smash Bros Melee will be appearing at Evo 2014 and will be placed back on to the MLG Circuit, replacing its Wii sequel Smash Bros Brawl. The game is also one of seven to be played in the Bangor vs. Aberystwyth varsity.



## Amy Hennig: Gaming's finest

by LJ TAYLOR

**W**hen it first surfaced that Amy Hennig had left Naughty Dog, earlier this month, I couldn't quite believe it. My favourite writer, of my favourite game leaving my favourite games company. It was upsetting news, certainly with Uncharted 4 on the horizon; what was to be the future of Nathan Drake?

And then came the rumours that Amy had been forced out by fellow Naughty Dog directors, and duo behind the Last of Us, Bruce Straley and Neil Druckmann. Naughty Dog has of course denied the rumours with co-Presidents, Evan Wells and Christoph Balestra, releasing a statement which wishes Amy luck with

the future and which defends Straley and Druckmann. You wouldn't expect Naughty Dog to say "Yes, they forced her out", but the lack of reason for her departure does leave you wondering. However, whatever has happened has happened and the most important thing really is that Naughty Dog continue to make the very best games as they always have and that Amy gets the recognition she deserves for her work over the last decade.

After graduating from the University of California, Berkley with a degree in English Literature, Hennig went on to film school. However, she soon dropped out and joined the gaming industry as a freelance artist working on an unreleased game for the Atari 7800 - quite the unexpected career path.

At first she was mostly working as an artist or animator and landed the lead designer role at EA for Michael Jordan: Chaos in the Windy City. Amy slowly started to build up her reputation began taking on producer and director responsibilities at Crystal Dynamics. It was here where she worked on the popular Legacy of Kain series; the franchise with which her game writing career began.

In 2004 she joined Naughty Dog as a creative director. Amy was a part of the team that worked on the popular Jak and Daxter series before penning what has become one of the Playstation's biggest franchises; Uncharted.

Uncharted is perhaps Hennig's best and most notable work to date and have received praise from not only the video game industry but

the wider entertainment world. The game's second instalment, Among Thieves, not only earned Naughty Dog awards from across the world but Amy picked up two Writer's Guild Awards for her work on the game.

In an industry dominated by men, Amy has been cited multiple times for being an influential woman within the gaming world and was named in Edge Magazine's Top 100 Influential Women in Gaming list.

Perhaps the most loved aspect of her writing style is how she really puts the emphasis on the game's story. Uncharted has been likened to being a 'playable film' on multiple occasions for not only its stunning graphics but it's dramatic, well-padded, narrative. She has criticised other games for focusing too much on the graphics and believes that

the way for video games to improve is for writers to focus on their creative expression.

Her narrative-driven style of work is something I have come to admire the most about Amy. The high calibre writing in her Uncharted franchise rivals, and often surpasses, that of major Hollywood blockbusters. Games have started to follow suit (The Last of Us in particular) and no doubt the best is yet to come from Amy and her writing talents!

Her departure from Naughty Dog looks likely to leave Straley and Druckmann to take over the upcoming Uncharted 4 development and whether they can live up to her is yet to be seen. Amy's future in the video game industry, on the other hand, is something that I definitely cannot wait to see.



## FOOD AND DRINK

# A world away from Bangor at Kyffin

Everything you need to know about the hidden gem on Bangor's highstreet: Kyffin Cafe

by HARRIET WELLER



Tucked away at the top of the high street is a place where you can leave the stresses and strains of Uni life for a while and relax. It's a little place called Kyffin, which will have you dreaming of far-off lands in no time as you sample their world-inspired menu and breathe in the scents of over 40 different teas and coffees.

*We are here to give you the mouth-watering Kyffin story.*

Kyffin café has been in the heart of Bangor for over 6 years, but has been in the making for many more. If you wander up the high street you will discover two more shops which are working together with fairtrade projects in Nepal and India to produce quality and unique interior design products and clothing. The owner Jo is pas-

sionate about these projects, having worked in Nepal and India for over 25 years, and was inspired by the success of these two shops and her love of food to create a unique place in Bangor that has flourished ever since.

Every day, a new menu appears that aims to use the freshest and most seasonal ingredients, many sourced from Kyffin's own garden, and is all home-made on site. It is a great place for vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike, as they aim to serve up quality, tasty, and innovative vegetarian food combining flavours from all over the world. Many of the dishes served up are also vegan and gluten free or can be adapted, so there is something for everyone.

If it's just a quick revision break you are after, then you can come along and attempt to choose from their impressive array of teas and coffees from across the globe that will have you wanting to come back and try them all. No revision break is complete without a slice of delectable brownie, scrumptious lavender cake, or some-

thing else equally as tempting so why not choose from their ever changing cake display?

## Take Kyffin Home

You can even continue your Kyffin experience at home as they will offer to bag up tea or freshly ground coffee for you to take away, and if you are struggling to choose, then the friendly staff are on hand to offer their advice. The delights do not end there though, as you can spread the Kyffin love through the many tantalising chocolate options they have on offer as well as other fair trade gifts.

## More than just a café

Kyffin goes beyond simply being a café, and opens its doors to many groups both within the university and beyond. If you are looking for a venue for a society event that will be unique and inspiring then Kyffin is the perfect place, allowing you step into a world away from Uni. You may even stumble across the grand piano, which is just waiting for customers to fill the café with music. If you are feeling cultural then watch out for their regular events such as art exhibitions and film nights.

## And even more, you say....

If you not already running out the door to discover the delights of Kyffin, you will be soon as you hear about one of the tastiest and most food experiences you can have in Bangor: The Kyffin Supper Club.

## Introducing the Supper Club

Once a month Kyffin transforms itself into a sumptuous dining room, serving up a lovingly prepared, restaurant style 4 course dinner to its lucky guests.

Every supper club is inspired by creator Jo's love of reading and collecting recipes, leading to a menu each month inspired by a different part of the world, aiming to provide diners with delicious food they wouldn't normally expect or find on other menus. With a love of experimenting, all the dishes can be made to suit every diner, for example many are made vegan. This is all served up with Italian wine in the cosy candlelit surroundings of Kyffin's lovingly decorated upstairs dining room, ensuring you have a fun, tasty and memorable evening.

The 4 course dinner which kicks off at 7:30pm costs just £25, and understandably is booked out quickly; so early pre-booking is essential. This month's menu is inspired by Cuban criollo cooking combining flavours and styles from the Caribbean, France, Spain, and Africa; producing earthy but exotic dishes.



## Supper Club Menu

### 1<sup>st</sup> course:

*Pastelitos. Puff pastry parcels filled with tomatoes, olives, raisins & cheese served with quinoa & vegetable salad.*

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### 2nd Course

*Sweet Potato and orange soup.*

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### 3rd Course

*Moros y Cristinanos, a dish of black beans and white rice with tomato & avocado salsa and zesty Mojo sauce.*

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### Dessert

*Chilli & Lime Parfait.*

This will be happening on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March, and would be a great way to end the semester so what are you waiting for? Head to the café at 129 high street which is open 9:30am-5:30pm Monday to Saturday, their facebook page: Kyffin Café Deli, or phone them on 01248 355161 to book.





# Chocolate Egg-stravaganza

With Easter just around the corner, that wonderful time of year when we have the excuse to bask in all things chocolatey, Seren is here to help you unwrap a whole bunch of chocolate delights to get those tastebuds squirming so sit back and grab those Easter eggs.

By **HARRIET WELLER**



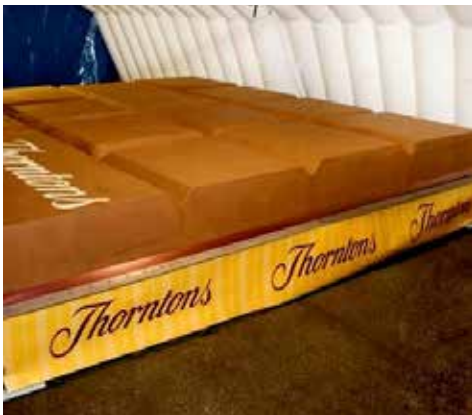
**Chocolate revision break anyone?**

For those who can't resist the call of glorious chocolate, we have something wonderful for you to try right here in Bangor. Kyffin, alongside its huge range of over 40 teas, coffees and hot chocolates has extended their menu and added three more hot chocolates from across the globe. Choose from:

- White Chocolate 31% cocoa from the Dominican Republic, Milk Chocolate 42% cocoa from Veneuela, or Dark Chocolate 71% cocoa from Ecuador.
- All of these are made with the finest artisan chocolate flakes and contain 40 grams of chocolate in every drink offering the ultimate chocolate experience for just £2.85! For those seriously addicted to the chocolate experience they even have the same chocolates in bars ready for you to dunk in your drink for only £1.65.

(\*warning\*, may cause drooling)

**A FEW THINGS YOU WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO KNOW ABOUT CHOCOLATE**



The biggest chocolate bar in the world was created by Thorntons in celebration of their 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2011 and weighed almost 6 tonnes. Not a bad way to celebrate!



The first Cadbury's crème egg was made in 1923 and now if you stacked the number of crème eggs made a year up they would be ten times the height of Everest. Anyone fancy climbing Mount Crème Egg?

According to science, chocolate makes us happy as it contains tryptophan, which helps release endorphins and increases the level of serotonin, which is related to euphoria. Not only that but it also contains many antioxidants, especially dark chocolate, which are proven to improve health, giving us the perfect excuse to get scoffing!



## THE ULTIMATE CHOCOLATE EXPERIENCE

If you are looking for somewhere exciting to go over Easter and are a true chocolate addict then why not head to the Chocolate Festival happening this April in four different venues across Britain?? It's the biggest chocolate festival in the UK is coming to London, Bristol, Brighton and Oxford for a mouthwatering few days of chocolate galore. There is everything on offer from Tasting lounges to Cocoa Spas and there are sure to be some famous chocolate loving faces around too. To find the nearest one to you then head to [www.festivalchocolate.co.uk/](http://www.festivalchocolate.co.uk/)



## Drink of the Month

It's that special time of year again. A very happy time. That time when everyone comes together, over not spring, not daffodils, but crème eggs! That's right guys, crème egg season has arrived. They are popping up in every shop, on every till, screaming: 'goo' on, you know you want me....

In celebration we thought we would transform the humble hot chocolate into something that will have you breaking that Lent chocolate ban in no time, so we introduce to you the one, the only, the heavenly, the sumptuous, the mouthwatering, the heart stopping....

### Creme Egg Hot Chocolate

The simplest of recipes, which calls for just two ingredients

- 2 crème eggs
- A mugful of milk.



- And to create the masterpiece
1. Grab yourself a microwavable jug (or anything big enough to whisk your milk in) and a whisk.
  2. Pour your milk into the jug and pop into the microwave for approximately 30 seconds
  3. Take out your milk and start whisking, until you have frothy milk
  4. Repeat until your milk is hot and then remove from the microwave
  5. Unwrap the crème eggs and place in the hot milk
  6. Whisk away until you have smooth chocolatey goodness
  7. Pour into a mug and then sit back and enter into crème egg heaven as you drink your creation
- If you don't have a microwave then heat your milk on the hob and whisk until hot, and if you want to make it even more decadent we recommend topping it with squirty cream and



## International corner

After all that chocolate we thought we better chuck in a few vegetables. So this week we are introducing you to a recipe coming all the way from the shores of South Korea, the Kimbap. A perfect sandwich alternative that will have you looking super trendy on those dull library days.

### Kimbap

By **KYOUNGMI KIM**

Kimbap is a very common food in Korea and is enjoyed when we go on picnics with family and friends. When I was a child, my mum would wake up early and made special Kimbap for me. It is also often especially made by girlfriends to take their boyfriends on picnics, the perfect date food!

- Serves 2
- Ingredients**
- Sushi Rice (you can find this in most supermarkets now, check out the oriental sections)
  - 4 Gim (aka Seaweed, again you can

- find this in most supermarkets)
- Sesame oil
  - 4 eggs
  - 2 carrots
  - 1 Cucumber
  - 8 Crabsticks
  - 1 can of Tuna
  - Mayonnaise (or sliced cheese, ham) (or 1 yellow radish)
  - Bamboo mat ( just 99p from Asda)
1. Cook the rice according to packet instruction
  2. Allow rice to cool and mix in 1 tablespoon sesame oil, ensuring sticky consistency
  3. Whilst the rice is cooling, cut cucumber into 8 equal parts and remove its watery middle
  4. Spread 3 tablespoon of salt on it and set aside for 30 mins, then wash with cold water
  5. Beat the eggs and fry in a pan until an omelette like consistency
  6. Slice the egg into thin strips
  7. Fry the Carrots lightly in oil for three minutes
  8. Drain the can of tuna and mix with 1 tablespoon of Mayonnaise
  9. Divide crab sticks in half
  10. Place a sheet of seaweed onto a

- bamboo mat.
11. Spread a quarter of the rice onto the seaweed sheet, ensuring evenly spread
  12. Layer all ingredients onto the rice in a line at one end, about 1 centimetre from the short edge
  13. Using the mat carefully roll the kimbap together
  14. Sprinkle with sesame oil and slice into sushi style pieces
  15. Enjoy your fantastic kimbap with your friends and family
- The best thing about Kimbap is you can pretty much put any combination of ingredients, so if you fancy trying something different to this traditional recipe then why not try creating your own? We recommend ham and sliced cheese. Happy rolling guys!





# Seren Down Under

## - Reflection



by JOE KEEP

As another year comes to a close, a period of reflection begins. Be that remembering the first A you got, being put as the head of your club or society, or even just surviving the year, you all deserve a pat on the back. I can associate with the first years a lot, moving from home to somewhere completely new, not knowing anyone or what the general feeling of an area is. Those bonds forged through circumstance that grow and flourish into some of the best friendships you've

had, coupled with those crazy stories that could only happen at university, are what defines university and sets it apart from the rest of your education. All these things I've enjoyed; the

but, like everyone else, I will have the stories of the past year that I can fall back on to remember the highest and, in some cases, the lowest points of the year. These stories will hope-

versity begins again, or on an exciting excursion during some down time. The odd part for me is, all the amazing people I have met this year are figures that I will likely only be-

us means the travelling could be the end of a great friendship.

So, despite the coming of July seems like the end of a chapter, it is more the beginning of the next. Those stories from the last year can always be revisited and passed on to those around you, but you never quite know what is waiting for you on that next page. All you can do is approach it with an open mind, take everything in your stride and make the best of every opportunity that comes your way.

“

**...my story will hopefully be enticing enough for you to consider the study abroad scheme or just travelling in general...**

”

main difference being, I'm half way round the world.

So, as everyone looks back on their year, I'm more looking to July. Flying back home and trying to resettle into a life that I have all but forgotten how it works could be a difficult thing,

fully be enticing enough for you to consider the study abroad scheme or just travelling in general.

Like every year, we leave behind the new friends we have made, but return to old ones, with the prospect of seeing the new ones when uni-

ing seeing this once. Heralding from all around the world such as North Carolina, Venezuela, Japan, Australia and so forth, it will be difficult to see many of them again. Albeit the use of Skype and social media will keep us talking, the long distances between

## Home or away? - Student travel at Easter



### LAKE DISTRICT, UK

by THOMAS BICKERDIKE

EASTER always seems to be the best time of year to visit the Lake District. It is an ideal attraction for anyone interested in outdoor pursuits.

Of course you can hire a boat and take it out onto one of the many lakes, such as Windermere, Ullwater and Derwentwater. Me and my sister would always want to do that and pretend we were characters in a Arthur Ransome book. Easter also offers the opportunity to climb Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain, or other treks. The Lake District does offer such a diverse landscape.

Of course all this depends on the weather...



### BERLIN, GERMANY

by ABBIE & JOSH WILLIAMS

HAVING visited Paris and the major cities of Italy last year, this Easter we have booked a trip to the German capital of Berlin! We both love to travel and never having visited Germany before we can't wait to go and explore another major European capital. Writing a Berlin 'bucket-list' there's so many things we want to see/do, to name but a few: (probably a bit stereotypical/predictable): we plan to - go to the Brandenburg Gate, walk the Berlin wall/East Side gallery, go up the Reichstag Dome, visit the holocaust memorial, go to Berlin Zoo and try 'currywurst'. Counting down the days!



### POREC, CROATIA

by STEPHANIE YEABSLEY

THE Athletic Union gives Bangor University students the opportunity to travel abroad at Easter on sport 'Tour'. This year Women's Rugby are visiting Porec, Croatia.

A small town set around a harbour Porec transforms during this week as it fills with students from universities around the UK - admittedly there for socialising and having fun, less than experiencing the culture of Croatia.

After the horrors of a 28 hour coach journey, I'm looking forward to a week of beach rugby, ticking another country off my bucket-list and what ultimately promises to be a fun week with a new group of friends.



### KRAKOW, POLAND

by HARRIET WELLER

THE history department are venturing further than they have ever ventured before this Easter to discover the sights and sounds of the 2nd biggest city in Poland. A beautiful and very affordable city steeped in history that has ensured it has made it on to Unesco's world heritage list for its beauty. An emotional trip is sure to be had as we make our way through the nearby Auschwitz, tour around the Jewish quarter, meet a holocaust survivor and take on the dazzling heights of the Unique Salt mines. The perfect place for a long weekend away.



### ROAD TRIP, UK

by ROBYN WYNN

930 MILES is the distance I will be travelling this Easter as I embark on a road trip to some of the more obscure corners of the UK.

Bangor, to the Isle of Wight. The Isle to London Ealing. London to Scarborough (of all places, this is where my family converge) to Manchester to visit more cosmopolitan family and back home to the relative tranquillity that is North Wales. There is a reason why I choose to live in the sticks, and this road trip is the reason.

For anyone going abroad, Enjoy your holidays. I will be indulging in 2p arcades and curry and chip butties.



# Spontaneous travelling on a budget;

*or, “that time I abandoned my responsibilities and went to Paris”*

by BECKI WATSON

There's no way to write about Paris without sounding clichéd. The Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, walks along the river... it's all been said and done a million times. But strangely, it's exactly these things that drew my housemates and I to Paris in the first place. The only time any of us had been to the French capital was on school trips, an environment that tries to open your mind, but in reality is kind of stifling. There are definitely good reasons for this

(I can picture my old Head of Year's horrified face at the idea of any of us wandering around Montmartre at two in the morning), but the thought of being able to traverse the city at our leisure was extremely appealing to us. And so, ignoring our dissertations and upcoming assignment deadlines, we booked our flights and were on our way to Manchester airport within the week.

In order to save money and do Paris on a budget, we used TripAdvisor to find our hotel, which turned out to be an invaluable resource when a hotel we'd considered booking had a review talking about bullet holes in

the wall. The hotel we ended up with wasn't anything magnificent, but was clean and comfortable, and the staff were incredibly friendly and helpful, despite our language gap. We avoided using the Metro and walked around Paris instead to save cash and get a better feel for the city, although the direct train from Gare du Nord station straight to the airport was a Godsend and saved us about 40 euros that we would've spent on taxis.

We also bought most of our food on the move, either from the supermarkets or from the endless array of street vendors selling baguettes, hot dogs, pannis and crepes. We had it

in our minds that we would spend the entire holiday drinking copious amounts of French wine, but unfortunately it turns out that alcohol in French restaurants is hideously expensive. We had to make do with a bottle we picked up from a supermarket for €4 that tasted like something you'd get off the bottom shelf in Aldi, but I guess you can't have everything.

But despite the stunning Notre Dame, the awe-inspiring Louvre, or even the amazing experience of standing at the top of the Eiffel Tower, my favourite part of the trip was walking round Montmartre. De-

spite an uphill walk that rivals Bitch Hill, the views of Paris from the Sacre Coeur are absolutely worth it, and the church itself is gorgeous. Walking around Montmartre, there are dozens of quirky shops selling everything from original artwork to glittery Eiffel Tower figures, and with artists and musicians on every corner, as well as the ubiquitous crepe stands, it was an amazing way to spend an afternoon.

All in all, it was an amazing trip, and an experience I'd recommend to anyone - although maybe pick a date not as close to assignment deadlines.



# Change, Live, Grow

- Project Pamplona, Summer Charity Concert

by ELISE DAVIES

If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of the world. If you have money in the bank, your wallet, and some spare change, you are amongst the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million people who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the agony of imprisonment or torture, or the horrible pangs of starvation, you are luckier than 500 million people alive and suffering. If you can read this article then you are more fortunate than 3 billion people in the world who cannot read it at all.

Pamplona Alta is a shanty town located in the suburbs of Lima, Peru's capital city, and is home to approximately 20 000 people. The community faces extreme poverty on a daily basis which is only one of the many causes of high mortality rates in the

area. As well as this, the poor infrastructural development puts the residents of Pamplona in danger every second of every day.

As if poverty were not already enough, the families of Pamplona typically live in shacks the size of a regular garden shed and have zero access to clean water supply and in many cases, electricity. One of the main concerns that the Peruvian government currently face is the stability of Pamplona's buildings and land in such a seismically active area of the country. Despite the danger of landslides, structural damage, and death, the people of Pamplona Alta continue to live in these conditions that the majority of the developed world cannot imagine.

If this article has had an impact on you and you would like to help the people of Pamplona Alta, Change Live Grow, a UK student run charity are currently fundraising to build a nursery school in Pamplona Alta in order to improve the living conditions and therefore the quality of life of Pamplona's residents. Your help could enable children to go to school, parents to work, and literacy

rates to rise. With your help we can make a difference.

On 5th June 2014, there will be a charity concert in Powis Hall in order to raise money for the building of such educational institutions in Pamplona Alta. The concert will consist of a variety of different musical genres played by university bands and musicians from the local area. Having taught English to children in Pamplona I strongly believe that something can be done to provide an education and a comfortable and healthy lifestyle for the residents of this Shanty town. So please come and support the concert or give a donation. Every little helps!

For more information about tickets and donations please contact [mlu02a@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:mlu02a@bangor.ac.uk).





CREATIVE



Poetry Submissions

by Roland Andujar Adala

THE FULL MOON

No constellation stars. No clouds.

Your light is like the sun  
that lights up the valley tonight,  
and I feel very warmth inside.

I feel I'm safe,  
but also I have a bizarre feeling.

Whilst I'm here, on my own,  
I am exhausted hiking this hill.

But you're such a beautiful thing to see.  
That no man should miss

Because you're light is so radiant,  
And that I want to see you closer.

So I'm up here, only thing to discover your new  
stars.

They have these distinct bright lights  
But accompanied with clouds that are thick and  
black

And in fact just tonight,  
you have showed your true light.

And that, I'm afraid to trust your lively light.

IN THE AQUARIUM

He used to live in the blue ocean before,  
But now I put him in a big glass bowl.

You can see him, but you cannot touch him  
He ain't like a year ago, wild and free.

I looked at him in the eyes  
but I cannot feel him.

He's moving towards every direction to escape  
but he has nowhere to go.

He wants to jump. I can feel it.  
But ain't he's zone, sure he won't survive.

He's scared shitless.  
Imprisoned. Confused. Petrified.  
Agonising what he has done.

I've been observing him for months  
Then I put another fish of the same kind.

I looked at him again.  
Red and watery eyes.

They bounce there and there  
as they spill the water.  
But eventually they realise the boundaries.

Then, there I was, in a room of my reflections.  
And I realised I'm feeling them for real.

They are my pleasure,  
but I was selfish to put them in a cage  
without much thought and without putting my  
flip flops on them.

And now, I am guilty.  
I am arrested.  
I am convicted.  
And I am sentenced to death.

I'm really sorry.





# Cerddoriaeth *Music* AT BANGOR

## Cyngerdd Pedwarawd Llinynnol Benyounes

Iau 20 Mawrth // 8pm  
NEUADD POWIS,  
PRIFYSGOL BANGOR  
£10, £7 gostyngiadau, £3 myfyriwr

## Benyounes String Quartet Concert

Thursday 20 March // 8pm  
POWIS HALL,  
BANGOR UNIVERSITY  
£10, £7 concessions, £3 student

## Ensemble Cymru

gydag aelodau o Bedwarawd Mavron ac aelodau o  
Gorws Cenedlaethol Cymreig y BBC

Iau 3 Ebrill // 8pm  
NEUADD POWIS,  
PRIFYSGOL BANGOR  
£12, £9 gostyngiadau, £3 myfyriwr,  
tocyn teulu: £25

## Ensemble Cymru

with members of the Mavron Quartet and  
members of the BBC National Chorus of Wales

Thursday 3 April // 8pm  
POWIS HALL, BANGOR UNIVERSITY  
£12, £9 concessions, £3 student,  
£25 family ticket

## Sir Willard White Eugene Asti

Mercher 16 Ebrill // 8pm  
NEUADD POWIS,  
PRIFYSGOL BANGOR  
£14, £12 gostyngiadau, £3 myfyriwr

Wednesday 16 April // 8pm  
POWIS HALL,  
BANGOR UNIVERSITY  
£14, £12 concessions, £3 student

## Cyngerdd Gala Diwedd y Flwyddyn

Gwener 6 Mehefin // 7.30pm  
NEUADD PRICHARD-JONES,  
PRIFYSGOL BANGOR  
£12, £9 gostyngiadau, £3 myfyriwr

## End-of-Year Gala Concert

Friday 6 June // 7.30pm  
PRICHARD-JONES HALL,  
BANGOR UNIVERSITY  
£12, £9 concessions, £3 student

## CABARET PONTIO

Gwener 21 Mawrth, 9pm  
Neuadd Powis, Prifysgol Bangor  
Friday 21 March, 9pm  
Powis Hall, Bangor University

## CENHEDLOEDD DAN DDYFROEDD DAMMED NATIONS

NUBA NOUR • SIAN JAMES • GAI TOMS

£12/£10

## FFILM GWENER FRIDAY

Prif Ddarlithfa'r Celfyddydau  
Prifysgol Bangor

Main Arts Lecture Theatre  
Bangor University

28/3/14, 7.30pm

## LE WEEK-END

Jeff Goldblum, Jim Broadbent, Lindsay Duncan £4/£3

Llun 24 Mawrth, 7.30pm  
Neuadd Powis, Prifysgol Bangor

Monday 24 March, 7.30pm  
Powis Hall, Bangor University  
£8 / £5

## NOSON COMEDIWR STAND-UP COMEDY

## ROMESH RANGANATHAN NATHAN CATON

Sadwrn 5 Ebrill, 11am – 1pm, Am ddim  
Siop Pontio, Stryd Fawr, Bangor

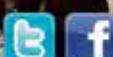
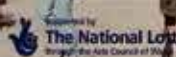
Saturday 5 April, 11am – 1pm, Free  
Pontio Shop, High Street, Bangor

## CEREBELLIUM BACH ANTURIAETHAU'R YMENNYDD, I BOB OED MINI CEREBELLIUM MIND ADVENTURES FOR ALL AGES



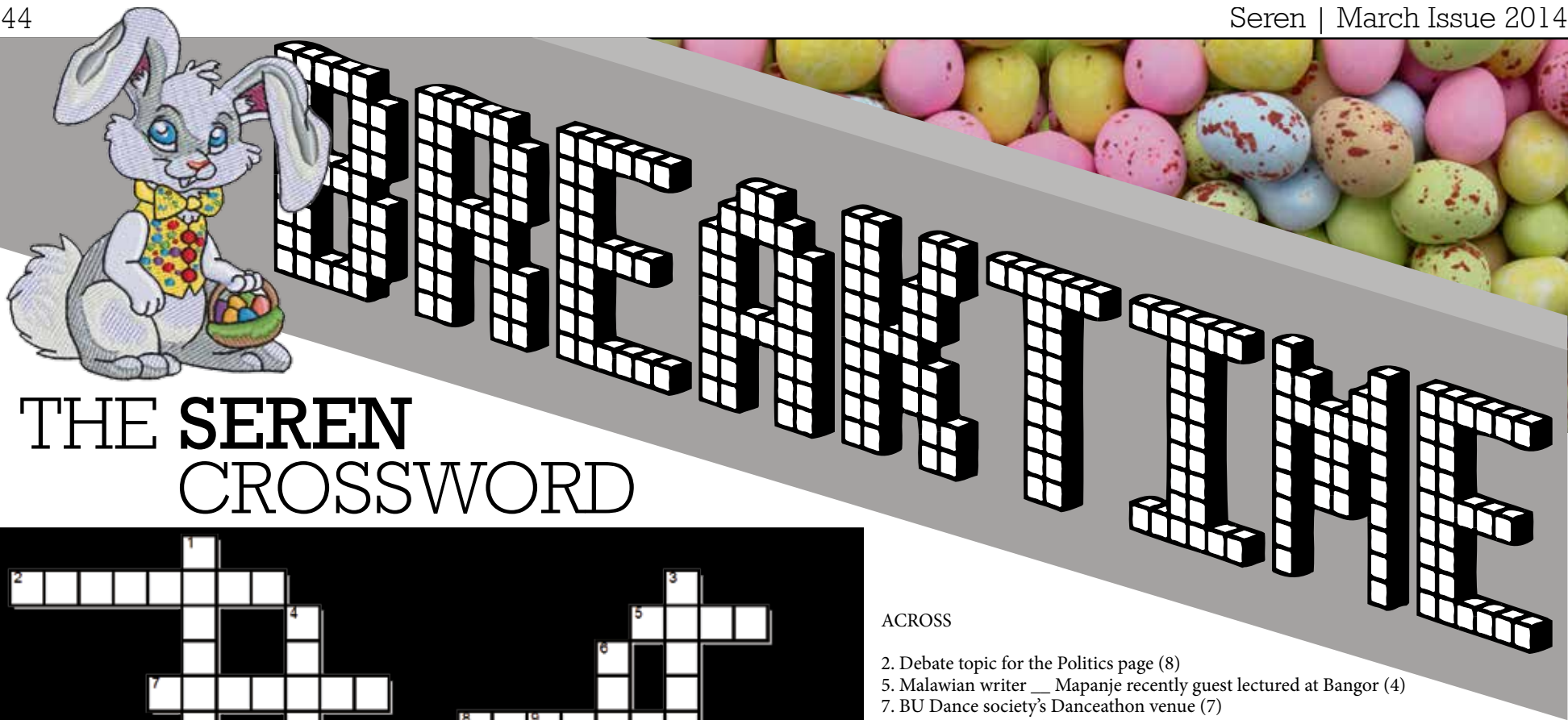
# Pontio

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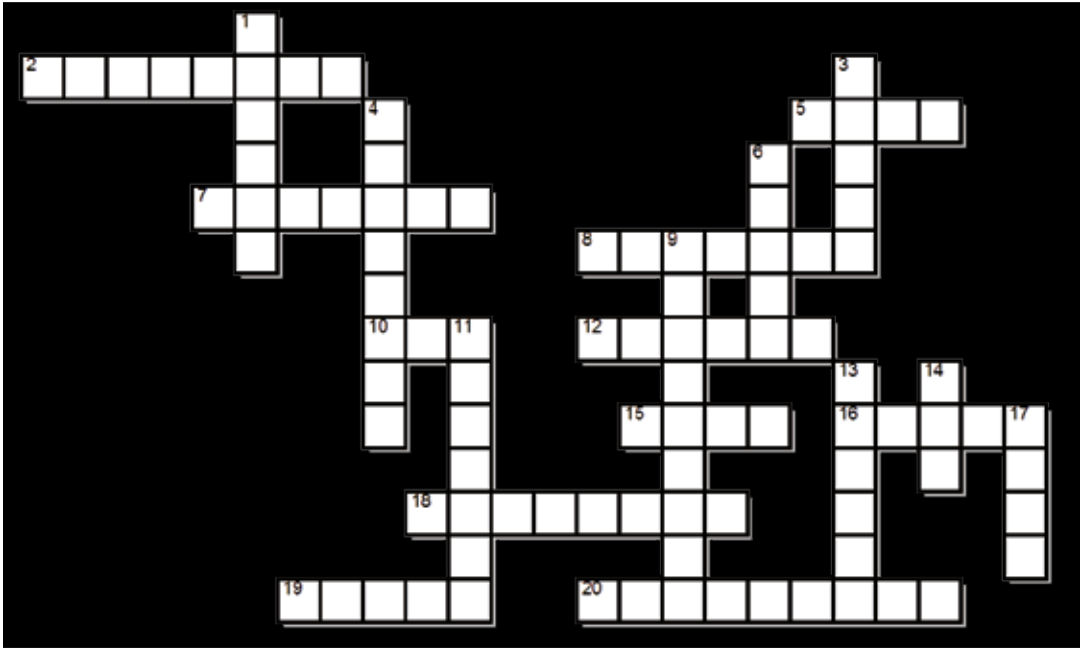


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THE SEREN  
CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 2. Debate topic for the Politics page (8)
- 5. Malawian writer \_\_ Mapanje recently guest lectured at Bangor (4)
- 7. BU Dance society's Danceathon venue (7)
- 8. Local Bangor band What The \_\_ (7)
- 10. The first chocolate Easter \_\_ was made in 1873 (3)
- 12. Oscar selfographer Bradley \_\_ (6)
- 15. \_\_ Friday comes before Easter Sunday (4)
- 16. A presidential Easter Egg Roll is held at The \_\_ House annually (5)
- 18. Series based on The Silence of the Lambs (8)
- 19. Lent lasts for \_\_ days (5)
- 20. Easter 2014 is on the \_\_ April (9)

DOWN

- 1. Korean food, popular at picnics (6)
- 3. Where our Editor spontaneously travelled to? (5)
- 4. The \_\_ World Record for the tallest egg is 34ft (8)
- 6. Over Easter, Cadbury's make 1.5 million gooey \_\_ Eggs everyday (5)
- 9. Most kids at Easter make themselves sick with too much \_\_ (9)
- 11. The Easter Bunny originated from which efficient, beer loving country? (7)
- 13. Musical 'We Will Rock You' has been running for \_\_ years (6)
- 14. The world's heaviest chocolate bar weighed \_\_ tonnes (3)
- 17. 76% of people eat the \_\_ first on a chocolate bunny (4)

SUDOKU!  
EASY

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
|   | 8 |   | 6 | 1 |   |   | 9   |
|   |   |   |   | 7 | 2 | 4 |     |
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| 3 |   |   |   |   | 6 |   | 5 7 |
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| 5 |   |   |   | 4 | 7 |   | 9   |

HARD

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 3 |   |   | 9 | 1 |   |   | 4 |
|   |   |   | 7 | 9 |   |   |   |
| 6 |   |   |   |   |   | 2 | 9 |
|   |   | 8 |   |   | 3 | 4 | 1 |

BEFORE



AFTER

Look at these 'identical' photos from 90s night- can you find the nine differences?







**Main:** Les Davies in action against Newtown  
**Inset:** Jamie McDaid celebrates scoring against TNS  
**Photos by:** LJ Taylor

# Bangor bounce back...but is it too late?

by LJ TAYLOR

The race is on for Champion's League and European glory in the Welsh Premier League. As it stands Bangor City sit in third place, a fraction above Rhyl who have a game in hand. It's been a difficult start to the second phase of the season for the Citizens, with a difficult run of games which has seen them play TNS and come up against Airbus a number of times (in both the league and cup matches). The January transfer win-

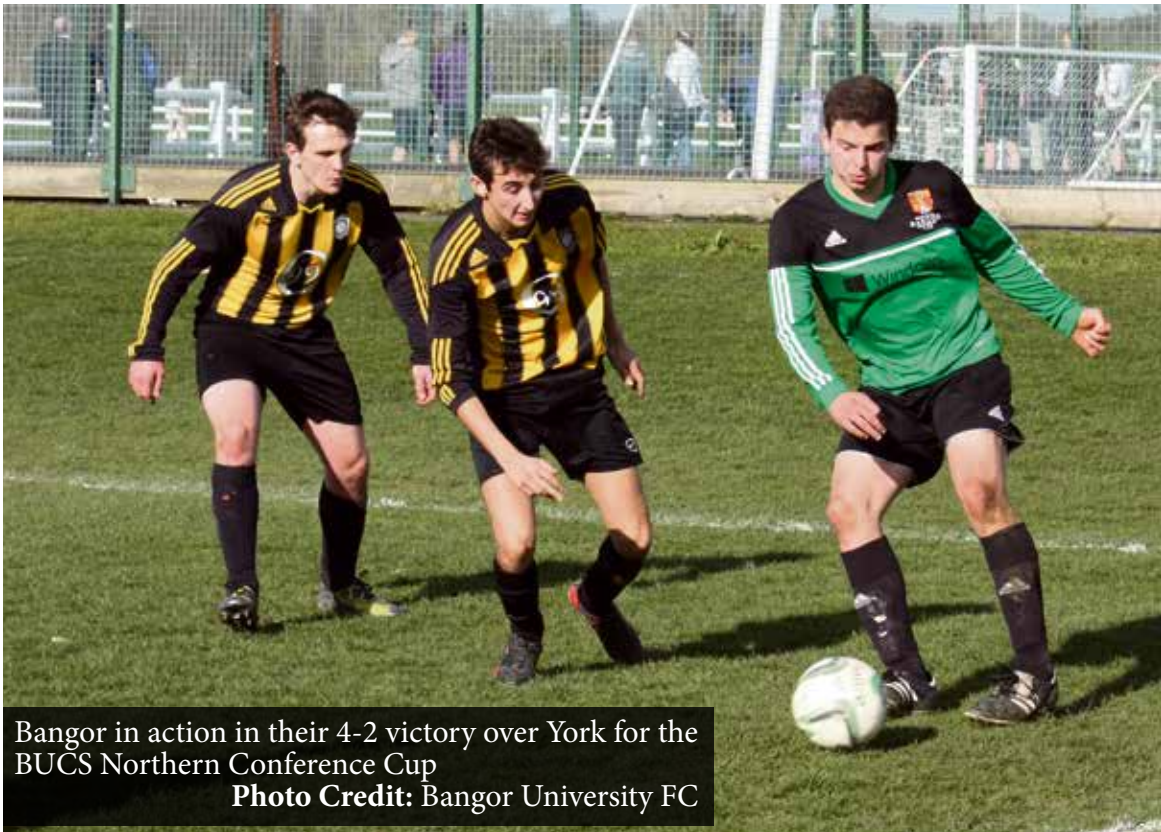
dow saw a few new additions to the team with the likes of Gerwyn Jones and Jay Colbeck. The former made an immediate impact, solidifying the Bangor defence. Colbeck on the other hand had his promising start taken away from him after a controversial sending off in Bangor's 4-2 defeat to Airbus. The youngster had just lifted Bangor's hopes with his debut goal for his new side before being shown red. That same Welsh Cup match was goalkeeper Lee Idzi's final outing for the blues after deciding to leave the club

due to personal reasons - suspected to be due to his living in South Wales. Bangor managed to sign 23 year old Jack Cudworth from Nantwich Town at the end of the window. Cudworth however suffered an injury in his debut for Bangor against Airbus that left the Citizens worried that he had broken his ankle. Luckily Prestatyn Town were willing to loan out Dave Roberts for the remainder of the season. Bangor's goalkeeper problems weren't yet over though, with Roberts receiving a straight red card for coming out of

his box to make a challenge against TNS last month. Despite a string of bad luck and difficult matches, Bangor seem to be getting their campaign back on track and are playing much more fluently as a team. As always Sion Edwards is putting in some great performances, and youngster Jamie Petrie is really coming into his own on the pitch. In fact Petrie, as of late, seems to be taking away some of the glory from fan favourite Les Davies! Bangor's form is slowly improving as they hope to continue their chase for European

football though it may be a little too late. TNS currently top the league with 57 points and Airbus just below them with 54, whilst Bangor hold third place with 38. Its looking now as though Bangor's real battle is to keep a hold on their spot above rivals Rhyl. Whilst Bangor's loyal fans are likely feeling a little underwhelmed and disappointed with this turn of events there's definitely still a lot of exciting football to be seen in the closing stages of this campaign.

# Successful season for Bangor University footballers



Bangor in action in their 4-2 victory over York for the BUCS Northern Conference Cup  
Photo Credit: Bangor University FC

by NICOLA HOBAN

Four Bangor University footballers will be representing Welsh Universities in the University 'Home Nations' Tournament. Chris Davies, Josh Stadnicki, Jamie Steel and Tom Wood, who are all students from the School of Sport, Health and Exercise Science, have been selected to be a part of the 23-man Welsh squad. They were chosen for the Welsh Universities Men's football team after two days' worth of trials were held at the University of South Wales, and are expected to compete in the tournament, which will see them pitted against both Scottish and Irish Universities. Bangor University's Men's football team head coach Sion Rowlands said of the selection: "Having our players chosen for Welsh Universities is great chance for them to be recognised on a national stage. Chris [Davies] has represented Welsh Universities before, but for the others it will be a new experience and I'm looking forward to seeing them in a Welsh shirt." The news follows what has been a great year for Bangor University's

football teams; the teams have become champions of both the Women's and Men's leagues. Earlier in the year, Bangor University's Men's football team won their league with two games in hand, which is the second year in succession that the team has gained promotion, and on Wednesday 19th March, the team won the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Northern Conference Cup after playing York University, where they won 4-2. Just this week the Women's team recorded a spectacular 12-0 win against University of Cumbria Women in what was their last game of the season, securing them the top spot in their BUCS North 3A league. "I have really enjoyed working with the student team and I hope the league win is the first step towards getting us into the highest division of student football," said Mr Rowlands. The Welsh Universities squad will be playing Ireland at Dragon Park, which is the home of the Football Association of Wales, on Wednesday 2nd April, after which they will be setting off to play Scotland in a match scheduled on Monday 14th April.



# Kings and Queens of the North



by JAY LOUIS HOLMES

The Northern Squirrel Cup is a meeting of all of the Quidditch teams residing in the north who then battle it out, broom to broom, to be crowned Kings and Queens of the North. This year was the first of its kind and was hosted by Keele, who bested Bangor in the British Quidditch cup.

So Bangor were going in with something to prove. Bangor had a magnificent start, beating their opponents York 280 - 0, with first year Jay Holmes proving himself by catching the

Snitch for Bangor, ending the game and earning Bangor thirty points.

However the rest of the day did not go as brilliantly as Bangor had hoped. Their second game against Loughborough, a University known for its athletic prowess, was a tough one and Bangor were narrowly beaten. This then led into the game against Keele, a game that gathered crowds due to the hype surrounding it and the friendly rivalry that Bangor and Keele share.

It wasn't going to be an easy game. Bangor got off to a flying start and showed a strong offensive line which Keele countered with their trademark defensive tactics. The game was a hard one with strong tackles and missed

goals, you could tell both teams really wanted this win. Then, when it seemed as if Bangor had the lead, Keele caught the snitch. The result of the first day of the Squirrel Cup was not what Bangor would have wanted, they went home worn down and tired but still with fight within them.

However, something changed in the second day and Bangor dug in and rallied their hopes and brought that something extra to each game. First game was against Bangor's protégés Chester, in a light hearted game but one that proved tough none the less. A disallowed Snitch catch for Bangor added extra tension to the game and even though Chester eventu-

ally caught the Snitch, Bangor were through on points. One down, two to go. The second game against Keele was one that was packed with even more tension than the first day with both teams digging in deep and fighting hard for the place in the final.

Intense chasing and beating from both teams meant that it wasn't going to be a high scoring game. Yet Bangor found that something extra and managed to plough through on points and then catch the Snitch. A feat that any team should be proud of when playing against Keele. Bangor were in the final. The final had the atmosphere of any major sporting event and it was Bangor VS Nottingham, the crowd

were screaming, both teams were ready.

The fight for the Northern Squirrel Cup was on. Bangor came out fighting scoring hoop after hoop and controlling the game from the start, Bangor were in control and Nottingham could sense it. Nottingham managed to wrangle the Snitch eventually but it was too late and Bangor were already ahead on points. Bangor had won.

After the ceremony Bangor received their medals, their cup and a small stuffed squirrel named Quirrel. Bangor have come home Champions of the North.

## Quaffling to the Top! Eight Players Chosen for Team UK



### Andrew Hull

THIS mountain of a man is not only a brick wall on the defense but is a near unstoppable force when on a counter attack breaking down the pitch.

### Sam Davies

ONE of the biggest names in the Bangor Broken Broomsticks, which is a statement of its own. Other beaters fight over playing alongside him. With a bludger in his hand this beater makes any opposition his puppet.

### Lee Marsh

AS Bangor captain Lee really knows

how to control a pitch. His team say it all in his photo, they have such confidence in his capabilities that they are more than happy to leave him as the sole defensive component of their play at times.

### Sally Rachael Higginson

ONE of few female keepers in the UK. Her height is of massive help in this instance, and her speed and endurance help a hell of a lot too. Sally has excellent judgement on whether to go on the brake or slow it down and keep possession after re-obtaining the quaffle, demonstrating excellent on

pitch leadership skills. She also doubles as an equally incredible chaser, committed and fearless in the face of any opposition.

### Anna Barton

BANGOR player Anna was brought up to 'play rough or go home'. Although she is not always the most attacking of chasers, she provide a key aspect in the transition from defense to attack which quite often leads to her team having a good shot on goal.

### Emily Oughtibridge

THERE really is only one Yorkshire

Dragon. Some say that Emily forged the pure physicality that we today know as the 'broken broomsticks'. She is fearless on and off pitch, and how shown massive potential in coaching so will be an asset to getting team UK to work as one.

### Tom Heynes

ONE of the most athletically fit players in the UK right now. This man is so dedicated to his objectives -whether chasing or seeking- that he just rolls with all the punches and carries on regardless on his personal health. With his combination speed and both

physical and mental strength Heynes can rarely go wrong on pitch.

### William Johson

A UKULELE playing Bangorite, a towering inferno of a man. His long reach and natural physicality makes him an unprepared snitch's worst nightmare. Along with his seeking capabilities, you also don't want to run into him as an opposing chaser and his songs will always keep team morale on a high.



# Lacrosse Mixed Tournament



## Team place third overall despite never playing mixed before

by AMY BLACKWELL

On Saturday 15th of March Bangor's Lacrosse club competed in a mixed tournament organised by Liverpool University to raise money for Coppafeel and Prostate Cancer UK.

Ten teams in total competed and Bangor took two teams with them. As a club Lacrosse usually have two teams

a men's team and a women's team, but this weekend they had to join forces and play mixed. For the boys this meant resisting the temptation to tackle their opposition to the ground, as mixed, like women's is a non contact game.

The tournament was a great opportunity to experience a different side of the game for everyone and club captain Zoe Roseby has said "It was great to get the men's and women's teams

playing together." The teams played twelve a-side with a six players of each gender.

The tournament ran from 9:30 am until 4:30 pm with awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd at the end of the day, following that a social organised by Liverpool for the teams.

Both teams that Bangor entered did really well one team winning four out of six games and the other six out of seven, the latter winning 3rd place

over all. Though they will be back to their separate men's and women's teams, after this tournament the club is looking forward to representing the university against Aberystwyth in the weeks to come. One of the players Ailish Bumpus commented "it was a lot of fun, although still competitive. There was a great atmosphere and everyone got stuck in, raising money for a great cause was the icing on the cake."

FROM noon 22nd March until noon 23rd March, the BU Dance society will be hosting a charity fundraiser in Varsity in Lower Bangor. The event will be a 24 hour Danceathon with all money raised going to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Hope House and the club itself. There will be a new performance every hour. That way, someone will always be dancing. During the day-time, the club will be hosting mini workshops for people who want to get involved in dance. For any children at the event, they will also have facepainting and hair-braiding. The dancers will also be out around the bar selling jelly shots to everyone too, so it is an event that cannot be missed!

## Superstars at Bangor University

BEN Butler and Gabby Szarowicz became Bangor's 2014 Superstars last Sunday. A test of strength, agility, speed and endurance, events included press-ups, the plank, the Illinois agility test and the bleep test.

## Allan Marsh Throwing Competition

HELEN Hanstock and Robert Healey won the inaugural Allan Marsh Throwing Competition. Held in memory of Allan's contribution to university athletics, competitors took part in shot put, javelin and discuss events.

# VP Marathon

by NICOLA PYE

On Sunday 13th April, I will be running this year's 2014 Virgin London Marathon. I will be running the 26 miles all in aid of the English Federation of Disability Sport charity (EFDS). The EFDS have a vision that disabled people are active for life. On Sunday 13th April 2014, I will use the most active day of my life to help provide more opportunities for disabled people to be active too.

Although I am the VP for Sport and Healthy Living, long distance endurance running is not one my strengths when it comes to sport and activity. I know that each of the 26 miles will be a significant personal challenge for me, an achievement that I will overcome and complete.

Not only is disability in sport something that is close to me and my story as to why I am running for this charity, but it is also a project that I am hop-

ing to build into the University about the awareness and access of disability sport for our students.

The EFDS events programme provides participation opportunities for disabled people to take part in sport at whatever level they choose. As a self-funded programme, Disability Sport Events relies on generosity through grants, donations and other fundraising initiatives to continue the much-needed work that they do.

The past 12 weeks have been occupied with early morning runs, evening conditioning and weekend runs to ensure I am ready to complete this challenge, and it is getting even closer until I will be at the start line.

If would like to read about my story or sponsor me for this worthy cause, you can visit my just-giving page:

<http://www.justgiving.com/nicola-pye1>

"You must do the thing you think you cannot do." E.Roosevelt.







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# SPORT

## Bangor Handball Top Eight in UK



### Men's Firsts reach National quarter-finals

By SCOTT WILLEY

Bangor University Handball Club's men's first team recently became one of the top eight university handball teams in the country. Leaving at 4a.m. on Saturday morning, and arriving only five minutes before their first game, the team first faced Leeds Metropolitan. Despite the hasty warm-up, a composed Bangor side led throughout, the game ending in a

16 – 4 thrashing. Eventual runners-up Loughborough were next, and they proved too strong for Bangor to contain, losing 11 – 5. Subsequent strong wins against Bath and Manchester Metropolitan confirmed Bangor's progress to the round of 16. In their final group game, Bangor lost to a tough Liverpool John Moores side, meaning they placed 3rd in the group. In the round of 16, Bangor faced Imperial College London, last year's 3rd placed team and a well-drilled, confident side.

Bangor started well, shutting Imperial out for most of the first half and gaining a 5-0 lead, with brilliant individual displays from Jaber Almulla and Charis Tsangaridis. As Imperial rallied, Bangor looked to be losing their grip on the game, with their lead rapidly diminishing. With only five minutes of the game remaining, Bangor employed a man-to-man defence, a tactic that many teams are uncomfortable playing against. However, in the last minute of the match, with Bangor leading

### Club surpassed all expectations

12 – 11, they were exposed at the back with Imperial running through 3-on-1 and heading down on Bangor's goal. A brilliant tackle from Andy Coombs slowed Imperial's play and allowed for other Bangor players to get back and shut out Imperial, winning the game 12-11 and progressing to the last eight of the competition. Bangor had defied all expectations reaching this stage of the competition, and were suffering heavily from injuries to key players. In the quarter-finals, Royal Holloway

proved too much for them, defeating Bangor and dumping them out of the competition. The weekend was still a tremendous success however, and Bangor University Handball Club can now boast to being one of the top eight university sides in the UK, continuing the success of the 2012 - 2013 season, in which Bangor won their first trophy at the Glyndwr Invitational Cup.

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