Bangor University
Students' Union
English Language
Newspaper
@SerenBangor

SEREN

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PURRFECT CUPPA



SU ELECTIONS

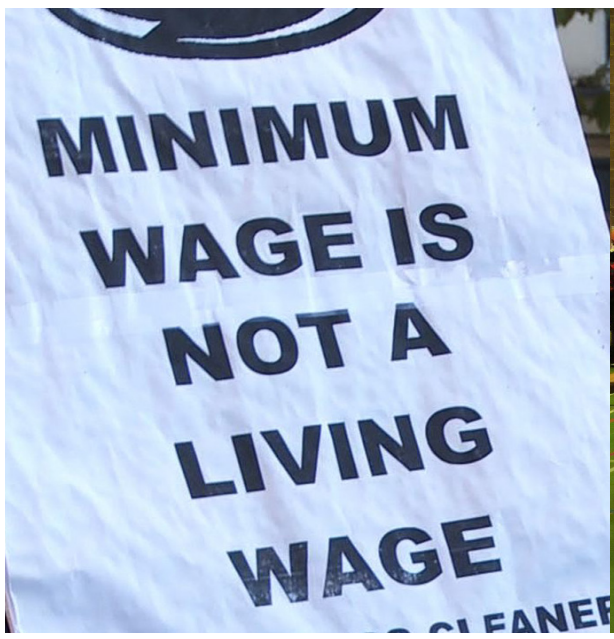


LUKE! I AM YOUR SPOILER



Bangor pays fair

■ University dedicated to providing a decent standard of living for its employees







by **ELEANOR HIRST**

From the 1st of this month, Bangor University will introduce the 'living wage' to its employees. What makes the living wage significantly different from the national minimum, is that the living wage takes into account the cost of living. This makes the living wage of £7.80, significantly higher than the hourly national minimum, £6.50. The minimum wage is a legal requirement for employers, whilst the living wage is entirely voluntary, but has received numerous amounts of support from many parties in parliament, including the prime minister. Bangor University is a major employers in the North Wales area and the move illuminates the universities dedication to providing a decent standard of living for its employees.

Not only will the living wage increase standards of living, decrease risks of poverty and reduce family stress, it also increases the chances of greater productivity and improved quality of service from staff members in the university. The concept of the living wage extends far beyond merely economic concerns, as it recognises that the minimum hourly wage is insufficient to live healthily and happily. In 2013, 200 Bangor University staff members were paid less than the living wage. According to the living wage website, it reports that 75% of employees reported increases in work quality as a result and 50% felt that it contributed towards a better work ethic.

Whilst the move towards the living wage signifies a change, there are still problems with the execution of the living wage. The living wage would not account for contracted employees that work for the university. For example, in London major employers have often cited that they provide a 'living wage' as part of their advertising, however, many of these employers often use contracted employees or employees from agencies. Consequently, the living wage still faces its problems and there are still issues with the way in which the living wage is carried out. Certain employees that are contracted by the university, for example employees that are building Pontio, will not benefit from the living wage. This raises concerns over whether the university will fully commit to the living wage, by seeking contracting companies that are dedicated to providing a quality life for its employees.

The success of the move to the living wage is down to the campaigning of the Students' Union at the university. It appears that campaigning by the Students' Union for the living wage began in 2012 and it has certainly proved to be successful. Rhys Taylor, Student Union President, has commented:

"Bangor Students' Union has long campaigned on the issue of a Living Wage, and we're extremely proud to see this become a reality this year. When students across the UK are choosing between heating or eating, when people's bills cost more than what they earn, and working people up and down the country having been struggling for years, the news that Bangor will become a Living Wage employer is a massive step forward. Our University is demonstrating that even in difficult financial times, ensuring that working people can afford a basic standard of living is a commitment that everyone can and should be making."

The close cooperation between the Students Union, Trade Unions and Bangor University had remarkable results. According to research by KPMG, one in four people in Wales are paid less than the living wage. As a major institution in North Wales, Bangor University has shown solidarity and commitment to providing a better standard of living for its employees.



Pontio ar y Lôn
Pontio on the Road

National Theatre Wales, Out of Joint & Arcola Theatre gyda Sherman Cymru yn cyflwyno / presents

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An English language production. Suitable for ages 14+

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Andy Robinson Suzi Ruffell & Phil Jerrod



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Clwb Pel-droed Dinas Bangor Bangor City Football Club

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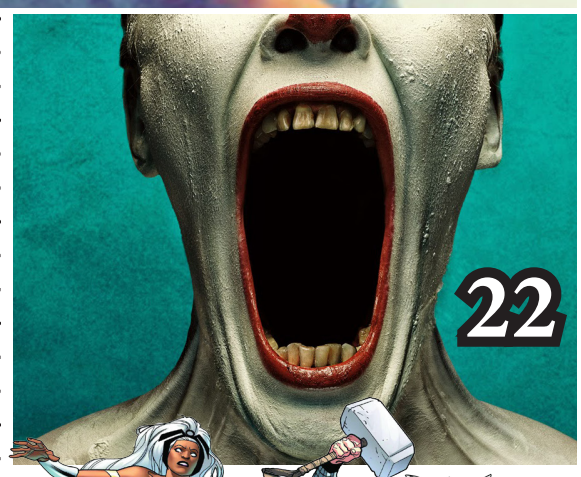







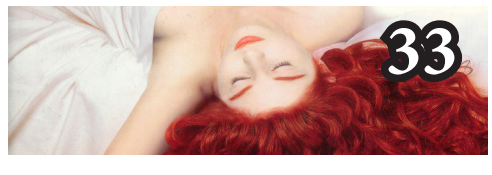

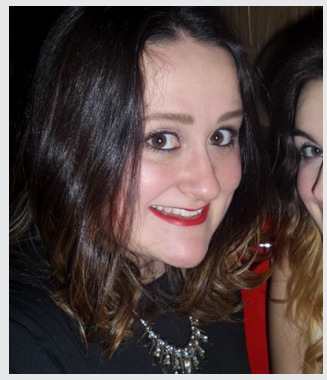

AMY BLACKWELL

EDITOR

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Hi guys! Welcome back to Bangor! Belated, I know, but this is my first opportunity to welcome you guys back. I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year, and that you all did well at your January essays and exams. Time to get cracking with semester 2!

For some of us it's our last semester here in Bangor and that's terrifying. This year has already gone so quickly. S**ts about to get real! It's really hit me recently how old I've got. 21 is old, man. I can't get over it. My friends are getting engaged, people I went to school with already have 2+ children and I still can't get out of bed without two hours of preparation and the promise of chocolate. I'm not ready to be a grown up! Good luck to all the third years with their dissertations this semester, and please wish me luck with mine!

Big thanks once again to all my team! This is a really great issue to start off the new year with. We're feeling the love all the way through the paper this issue with lots of V-Day-inspired content. Pages 8 and 9 have a big comment piece on spoilers and how they ruin your life; page 12 announces your SU election candidates; page 14 tells you of a vigil being held in March in honour of Leelah Alcorn; and on page 22 we announce the Seren Television awards. Also, big news! 90's NIGHT IS BACK. Keep your eyes peeled for posters and tickets around Bangor over the next month. Editor out!

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

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In Brief

Fears for the homeless as cold snap hits Bangor

BANGOR officials have spoken of fear for homeless people's well-being ahead of forecasted cold weather.

Cllr Chris O'Neal spoke of the perilous situation Bangor's homeless are finding themselves in this winter: "I am concerned there could be death in these freezing temperatures and I've been going out and referring them back to Gwynedd council because I believe they have a responsibility, all these people want to do is live."

An outreach team based in the Bangor office of North Wales Housing are on call providing help and support to the area's homeless population.

Post Office move plans

THERE are plans for the Post Office in Upper Bangor to close and move to another location.

The Post Office is currently located on Holyhead Road and there are plans for it to be moved to another location on Holyhead Road, Late Stop. This would enable the Post Office to be open for 66 hours per week and to open on Sundays.

The Post Office are holding a meeting regarding the move and inviting local residents to air their views on the matter.

The Post Office regional manager for Wales, Adrian Wales, commented on the plans, saying: "We understand how important having a local Post Office is to residents in Upper Bangor and we are confident that a new modern branch will make it easier for our customers to do business with us and also secure services for the future."

New noodle bar creates Bangor jobs

A NEW noodle bar is set to open on Bangor High Street, creating jobs in the process.

Wok & Go, a national chain, is set to open in the premises that were once occupied by Stead and Simpson. It is to be the second Wok & Go location in Wales, with the other being located in Cardiff City Centre.

Des Pheby, managing director of Wok & Go, spoke of the new opening, which will create twelve jobs:

"Bangor is a fantastic location for Wok & Go and we can't wait to open."

Wok & Go project director Tom Forster also commented on the opening, saying: "The team here have been working really hard on everything over the last few months and we can't wait to show it off."



Welsh NHS a 'national scandal,' says Cameron



by **EMILY HOULSTON-JONES**
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Almost a year after David Cameron said that the Welsh NHS was a "national scandal" at a Conservative party conference, he gave an interview to Good Morning Wales sticking by his original comments.

He expanded on his earlier statement, targeting UK Labour leader Ed Miliband, saying that he views Wales as a "Labour fiefdom," while maintaining that he and Welsh First Minister, Labour's Carwyn Jones, share a good working relationship.

He added: "We both want the best for Wales."

Cameron's comments have been blamed for a drop in confidence for the NHS among Welsh people, with two polls showing that public opinion of the Welsh NHS has plummeted over that past 16 months. A YouGov/ITV poll showed that patient satisfaction had dropped by 10% since 2013, and there was a 19% drop in confidence in the NHS over the same time period.

The results of these surveys were published amidst worries about the Welsh NHS, following increased waiting times and a warning from the Betsi Cadwalader Health Board that their hospitals are struggling with to cope with patients at their A&E departments.

A spokesperson for the Board released a statement, saying, "The Health Board's three emergency departments at Bangor, Bodelwyddan and Wrexham are all extremely busy with a high number of attendances.

"We would ask members of the public to help the Health Board and think before attending A&E and only attend if they are seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk."

This statement came just days after the Welsh assembly pledged an additional £40 million to the Welsh NHS to cope with mounting pressure during the busy winter period, following an outbreak of the flu and an increase in elderly patients. This brought the total amount of Welsh Assembly investment in the NHS to nearly half-a-billion pounds over the last two years, according to Welsh Finance Minister Jane Hutt.

Despite the added financial investment, David Cameron showed no sign of altering his position towards the Welsh NHS, adding: "The facts are there: that people have been dying on waiting lists because they haven't been able to get the treatments they want, partly because of cuts made to the NHS in Wales by the politicians in Cardiff."

Welsh Deputy Health Minister Vaughan Gething responded to the Prime Minister's comments, saying "David Cameron's decision to stick by his offensive line of death remarks will be a hammer blow to Tory candidates up and down Wales."

He went on to say, "This is the same old Tories who care not one bit for Wales and not one bit for our NHS."

Snowdon rescue: just in time

by **IDA VÄISÄNEN**

On 14th January a 19-year-old walker wearing a leather jacket, plimsolls and jeans had to be saved by mountain rescuers after getting lost in Snowdonia. The rescuers say only "pure fluke" rescued the walker as the weather conditions were so poor, with wind speed reaching over 83mph and snow on the ground.

Llanberis Mountain Rescue team arrived to Crib Y Ddysgyl, the continuation of Crib Goch, after the walker called for help. He had climbed Snowdon on his own via the Llanberis Path but got lost after following an extremely narrow ridge. The first search party to reach the ridge experienced winds so severe that the team was forced to retreat to safer ground. Only the temporary settling of the wind allowed two members of the rescue team to shout and make contact with the walker, rescuing him.

A member of the search party who was one of the first to reach the lost walker commented: "I'm certain that if we hadn't found him when we did we would have been recovering his body the next morning. He is very lucky to be alive."

Bangor University 90th in the world



- The university failed to place on table last year
- 90th most international university in the world
- Bangor ranked 1st in Wales

by **WILLIAM GURNEY**

In a new table released by the Times Higher Education Magazine, Bangor University was placed 90th in the world for most international university and coming 1st in Wales in the categories for internationality and research. This is a large improvement for the university, which failed to place in last year's table.

This success follows another, after the 2014 Research Excellence Framework results designated three-quarters of Bangor's research to be either world-leading or internationally excellent, the top two categories.

Bangor University is also a UK leader in student satisfaction, with the 2014 National Student Survey placing Bangor University in the top ten non-specialist universities in the UK, and first in Wales, for student satisfaction.

One of the reasons Bangor has received this new ranking in student satisfaction is the efforts of the International Student Ambassadors Program. This program was set up in 2008 in order to help international students adjust to a new culture, surroundings and in many cases to a new language. To this end Bangor has over twenty Student Ambassadors to support international students.

International Student Ambassador for the USA, Kayla Jones, said that "The program is probably one of the best in the university, we organise trips around the UK to places like Cardiff and Chester. We pick them up from the airport and generally help them feel more at ease within the new country."

When asked why he chose to study at Bangor University, international student Mansour Bagheri answered: "Bangor is one of the best universities, not only in UK but also in the world, to study Psychology. So, how could I not choose Bangor?"

Bangor has attracted many keen researchers from other nations, one such person being Hans-Peter Kubis, a renowned and successful researcher who currently holds a senior lecturer position within our Sports Science department. Kubris is just one of many successful researchers drawn to Bangor by its reputation for excellence in research and education.

In response to the new international ranking, Professor John G. Hughes, Bangor University's Vice Chancellor, said:

"Bangor University is really making its presence felt nationally and internationally, as an attractive destination for undergraduate and postgraduate students and as a workplace for some of the world's best researchers and lecturers. Attracting the best to Bangor provides education and research of high quality and makes a valuable contribution both regionally and on the wider stage."

In Brief

Bangor Sports Scholarships awarded

TEN Bangor University students have been awarded Sports Scholarships to reward their achievement and accomplishments in various sports over the past year.

The scholarships, which totalled over £20,000, were awarded to the following students: Hannah Powell, Fraser Ashman, Luke Hobbs, and Dean Horell, all of the School of Sports, Health and Exercise Science; Harrison Waterworth, of the School of Electronic Engineering; James Briscoe, of the School of Chemistry; David Parry, of the School of Psychology; Samantha Hemming, of the School of Law; Stewart Caldwell, of the School of Ocean sciences; and Owen Mitchell, of Bangor Business School.

Bangor professor made honorary member of society

A BANGOR University professor has been made an Honorary Member of European Society of Cardiac Radiology, after having helped to found it over fifteen years ago in Vienna.

Professor Michael Rees, is a Professor of Cardiovascular Studies at the University's School of Medical Science, is now a member of a society that has swelled in numbers and has members in every European nation.

Nicky Callow, Dean of the College of Health and behavioural Sciences at Bangor University, commented on the accolade, saying "I congratulate Professor Rees on this deserved recognition. His work with this Society has undoubtedly put Bangor University firmly on the international stage in the field of Cardiac Radiology."

Bangor University study 'sexist'

A BANGOR University study has been called "sexist" by the Telegraph newspaper, as well as being deemed "outdated."

The study in question measured the effect that cosmetics have on attractiveness, with Bangor University female undergraduates being used as subjects.

The study, conducted by Dr. Alex Jones and Dr. Robin Kramer of the University of York, found that cosmetics had a negligible effect on overall female attractiveness.

In Brief

Landlord fined for squalid flat

A COUNCIL officer was called out to view the condition of a flat in Colwyn Bay after a call from a member of the public complaining about the odour emitting from the premises. After the inspection the officer described the conditions among the worst that she had ever encountered.

The cleaning and repair job took five contractors, including an electrician and a plumber, and filled three skips. The contents of which included human faeces, rotten food and hypodermic needles.

Landlord Brent Burton, of Ludham, Norfolk, was ordered by court to pay the council's £3,147 bill for dealing with the squalor. He was also fined the maximum of £200 for failing to comply with public health standards.

Bangor burglary rates amongst lowest in the UK

NEWLY released statistics show that Bangor has one of the lowest rates of burglaries in the UK.

The analysis, conducted by insurance comparison website MoneySuperMarket.com, is also backed-up by official crime statistics, according to Brian Collis, chair of The People of Bangor Community Group.

Councillor Gwynfor Williams also commented on the findings, saying: "It's always great to hear positive things about Bangor and the low burglary rate is really good news for the city."

He added: "Two years ago we had a dispersal order in the city centre and, although it was criticised at the time, I believe it has had the right kind of impact."

Missing teen could be in Bangor

AN APPEAL has been launched to trace Daniel Burrows, who has gone missing from the Ruabon area.

Daniel Burrows was last seen in the vicinity of Ruabon railway station at about 4pm on Monday, 2nd February.

North Wales Police believe that the 17-year-old could be in Llay, near Wrexham, or Bangor, Gwynedd.

Daniel has been described as having short brown hair, and is 5ft 6in to 5ft 8in tall and of slim build.

He was last seen wearing a black hoody and black trousers.

Anyone with information is asked to call North Wales Police on 101.



Anglesey and Gwynedd home to the UK's youngest sex offenders

by **IDA VÄISÄNEN**

Anglesey and Gwynedd have the highest rate of sex crimes committed by children anywhere in the UK. Ministry of Justice figures show that last year 13 offences were committed for every 10,000 children living in the areas. This was a considerable rise from the year before, when only one offence was recorded.

Sue Walls, manager at the Prestatyn NSPCC centre, said that the figures for Gwynedd and Anglesey were "very worrying."

Walls added: "Sadly, for many older children, easy access to degrading and often violent pornography is now part of life, and we are concerned that this may be warping their view of what is normal or acceptable behaviour.

"When very young children, such as those of primary school age or younger, are committing these crimes, we have to question the environment in which they are growing up that has led to them behaving in this way.

"It could be that they have seen sexual activity that they are just too young to understand and are copying what they've seen.

"Prevention has to be the key and that means recognising warning signs early. If quick action is taken, these children are not beyond help."

Walls added that the problem was not just limited to North Wales, and was a UK-wide issue.

Any adult worried about a child or in need of help and advice can contact the NSPCC's helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Children and young people can contact ChildLine on 0800 1111.

Man jailed following Rascals' knife threat

- **A graduate of Bangor University was the target of the threat**
- **Perpetrator was drunk and under the influence of cocaine**



by **IDA VÄISÄNEN**
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On 27th January Jacob Taylor, 25, of Caernarfon Road, Bangor, was jailed for two years after holding the blade of a seven and a half inch long serrated kitchen knife against the throat of a stranger after a case of mistaken identity in Rascals pub, located on Holyhead Road in upper Bangor. The attack took place on 5th November, 2014.

Drunk and having taken cocaine, Taylor had gone home to fetch the knife and then returned to Rascals, confronting the victim, Daniel Rogers, in the toilet. Even though Rogers was able to fight Taylor off, he later suffered from stress symptoms after realising the seriousness of the events. Since the attack Rogers, a primary education graduate from Bangor University, decided to work in Wrexham rather than Bangor.

Anna Pope, defending in the trial said that Taylor, who suffers from Asperger's syndrome, felt remorseful and devastated by what had happened.

She added "It's clear he needs help – and he wants help,

"He has problems, particularly due to his condition and is extremely shocked by the offence and the seriousness."

Taylor has a ten-year history of convictions involving assaults.

Taylor's two year jail sentence will be reduced by 41 days because of the time he has spent on curfew since the attack. Taylor also received a two-year banning order from Rascals.

Zipworld opens new attraction



by **RACHEL DUNBAR**

Zipworld first gave us an adrenaline rush in 2013 when they opened Zipworld Velocity, the world's fastest zipline at Penrhyn Quarry, Bethesda. Last year, they created Zipworld Titan, the world's largest Zip Zone, and Bounce Below, which allows people to enjoy the world's first underground trampoline playground at Llechwedd Slate Caverns. Now Commercial Director Sean Taylor has announced some exciting new developments.

Bounce Below is to be expanded, which means more slides, tunnels and trampoline nets. A new attraction, Junior Bounce, aims to build on the success of Bounce Below and create a similar attraction designed for children aged 3-6 years.

The most exciting part of Sean Taylor's announcement has to be Zip Below. Another world first, Zip Below will enable thrill seekers to explore the caverns of Llechwedd Quarry at Blaenau Ffestiniog. Zipworld's new subterranean adventure will include sections of via ferrata – climbing routes - and adventure rope courses between ziplines.

Zipworld is fast putting North Wales on the outdoor adventure map, leading Taylor to say: "It's fair to say we are fast becoming the most fun place on earth."

Welsh Education spokesman protests at cut proposals

by **PHILLIP SUTCLIFFE-MOTT**

In an open letter to Gwynedd council, the chairman of the region's schools watchdog has criticised proposals to cut education spending. Dafydd Roberts claims the proposed £4.3 million reduction could have "totally negative and far-reaching effects" on Gwynedd's ability to maintain standards.

While he does accept "the serious financial constraints facing the council, and sympathise with the council's difficult task," the cuts endanger specialist staff and pastoral safeguards that encourage and consolidate pupil attendance.

Roberts, leader of both Ysgol Bryn-refail and the Gwynedd Secondary Schools' Chairs of Governors' and Head Teachers' Forum, is not the only source of protest. Headteachers, councillors, and parents are questioning why these cuts have almost doubled from a previously projected £1.9 million.

The council replied, stating limited government funding as the reason for their restrained approach to public spending. These cuts in particular will bring savings to £20 million out of the £50 million the council must trim in the next four years.

Mr. Edwards, the council leader, has assured the forum they will comply with a meeting of representatives to discuss any concerns and has argued that cuts to education are small compared to other areas.

Gwynedd continues to top national deprivation statistics, and, with lecturer payrises at just 1% and only 77.2% of A&E patients being seen within four hours, there are questions as to how damaging cuts could be to any local services.

This comes at a contentious time for educational reform. After a year of questionable curriculum shake-ups and Ofsted scandals, the government is now accused of ignoring inflation in its new education budget drafts.

The Education Secretary Nicky Morgan has in particular argued such limited investmenting can have potentially damaging returns and that "just enough is not good enough".

Wales' first cat café planned

by **EMILY HOULSTON-JONES**

A local resident is planning to fund and open Wales' first cat café, using the online crowdfunding website Kickstarter.

Linda Jones, a resident of Nantlle in Gwynedd, hopes that the café will provide a home for abandoned cats and allow people without the means to own a cat to spend time with them.

Speaking of her plans, she said: "There are a lot of people who live in supported housing or have special needs, or who love animals but don't get the chance to be around them.

"We will have up to 10 cats there at a time and they will all be of a good temperament.

She went on to add: "Cats actually like to stay up quite high, so we will be making allowances for that too.

"Visitors can see and be around the cats, but we won't be encouraging them to pick them up."

Ms. Jones will launch her fundraising campaign this month, after which she'll have 30 days to raise the funds required.

The café, which will be called the Cheshire Cat Café, would open in a Llandudno location, and would be only the third of its kind to open in the UK, with other cat cafes being located in London and Edinburgh. The first cat café was opened in 1998 in Taiwan.



In Brief

Cllr speaks of fire service worries

A COUNTY councillor has spoken of his apprehension over shortage of fire crews in Gwynedd and Anglesey.

Cllr Chris O'Neill has written to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service with his concerns, which have also been voiced by a representative of the Fire Brigade Union.

Speaking to The Daily Post about his concerns, Cllr O'Neill said: "There is undoubtedly going to be some kind of accident where they are not able to respond."

A spokesman for the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service responded to the criticism responded to the criticism, saying "We do not share [Cllr O'Neill's] concerns and would like to reassure the residents of North Wales that we always seek to provide the highest level of service to all those who live, work, and travel throughout the region."

Hospital workers help Ebola fight

STAFF members from Ysbyty Gwynedd are flying to West Africa to join the fight against Ebola, a spokesperson for the Betsi Cadwalader University health Board confirmed last week.

Professor Matt Makin, the Medical Director of the Board, said: "I think this is a very noble gesture," adding that staff members in question devised the idea themselves, with the support of their colleagues.

Pensioner rescued from river

A PENSIONER rescued after falling into a river has visited Conwy lifeboat station to thank the RNLI volunteers - Greg Donald, Pete Hughes and Alan Flood - who saved his life.

70 year old David Stocks, from Llandudno, fell in the River Conwy as he tried to board his boat.

He was quickly swept out to sea. Fortunately he grabbed onto a boat and managed to stay afloat till help arrived, after which he was barely concious.

David said: "I was attempting to reach my yacht to collect some tools. The weather was pretty rough, and some spray washed over me and I'm in the water.

"I'm not the kind of person to give up, but it got to the point where I just couldn't hold on any more. I just didn't have enough strength."

Speaking of his rescue, Stocks said: "They were just brilliant and kept talking to me and asking me about my grandkids to keep me conscious. I thought it was only right I went back to the station with a donation on Sunday morning. Apart from a few bruises, I'm alive and it really does put things into perspective."

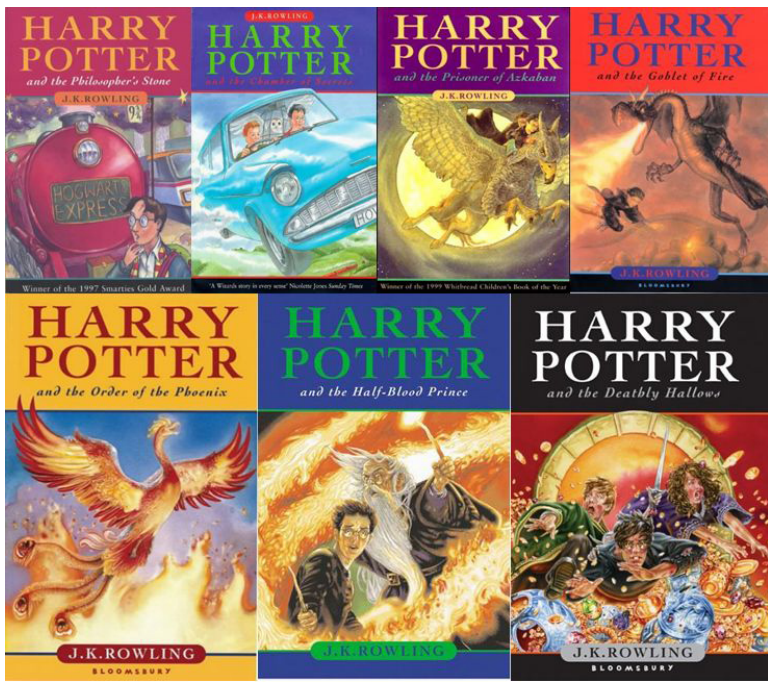
Spoiler Alert

Join Jack, Liam and Ryan as they explore what spoilers mean to them and how they have affected them whilst Amy and Ida enlighten us as to what knowing a spoiler can do to you.

Just what is a spoiler though?

For anyone lucky enough to have avoided this earth destroying, gut wrenching experience, a spoiler is when someone enlightens you to a vital plot point, an idea that the rest of the movie, book, TV show and pretty much everything is based around.

There are some classic spoilers out there that many identify as the original spoilers, I won't go over them just incase though. But, even these can be enough to ruin your day if you weren't already aware.



Book Spoilers

by **JACK UPTON**

No-one likes a Spoiler. Nothing is as worse as getting stuck into your new favourite TV series or starting to watch a film you've always wanted to see until suddenly out of the blue comes the dreaded "Oh, I've seen this! Doesn't he die in it?" or "Oh, there's a big twist at the end of this one!" Never have mankind's words been more abhorrent than in these instances.

However, I can't talk. For an avid book reader like myself, there is nothing better than the devious knowledge of knowing all the plot twists, dramatic moments and series of events in a TV or Film adaptation of a book. Knowledge is power, after all, even if it is over pop-culture. This of course makes us book readers perhaps the most notorious of all Spoilers out there! It's the perfect crime! We're like a lesser known Anonymous reaping justice on the world – except arrogantly punishing people who haven't read what we've read.

First came the wave of Spoilers who targeted films such as The Sixth Sense or The Shining revealing the events of the films from their original books. Then we condemned people's childhoods with the great Rowling Attack of 2001, where we spoiled the various emotional character deaths of the Harry Potter book series. But perhaps devastating of all our crimes has to be the great Game of Thrones Crisis of 2011, ongoing until this day. People around the world have suffered the wrath of Game of Thrones readers who've been spoiling plot twist after plot twist and death after death of the most beloved characters of the series and I doubt it will ever stop until the television series is taken off the air or if George R. R. Martin runs out of creative ways to dismember and kill off characters he knows people will love; which I'm sure is no time soon.

We are Spoilers.
We are Legion.
We do not forgive.
We do read ahead.





Film Spoilers

by **LIAM SHIPTON**

Bruce Willis is dead. He also shoots John Travolta. Darth Vader is Luke's dad, and Uma Thurman finally gets to kill Bill. If you didn't know those things, you do now, and I have joined the ranks of possibly the worst group of people on the entire planet: people who spoil the ends and plot twists of brilliant films.

I once had the misfortune to be sitting next to somebody in a cinema who had already seen the film that was showing before – the film was *that good* that he had come back to the cinema the next day to watch it again. It was the worst experience of my life. He kept talking to me. During the film. Who even does that?! I had never met him in my life, yet he felt the need to continuously lean over and comment on what was going on in the film. "She's such a good actress." "You know, this was written by the guy who made *Funny People*. Have you seen that?" He also kept laughing at the jokes before they happened. And the film we were watching was a comedy, so he did this a LOT.

But it gets worse; he took it upon himself to tell me what was going to happen in the film before it actually happened in the film. He told me that one of the main characters becomes pregnant and the other one ends up in hospital after being hit by a car (it was a black comedy).Being a calm and gentle person, I politely requested that he kindly keep his chatter to a minimum in order for me to fully enjoy the artistic potential of the film… or, words to that effect.

Perhaps just as annoying as people who spoil films for you, are the ones who want you to spoil films for them. We've all got that one family member (for me, it's my little sister) who can't go more than ten minutes without asking "What's going to happen to him?" Don't be that person: sit down, shut up, enjoy the film and let others do the same.



TV Spoilers

by **RYAN JONES**

With the ever growing popularity of social media, particularly Facebook and Twitter, we have become more vulnerable to one of the most hated things in existence: spoilers. They exist in almost every medium, but I would argue that they affect television fans more than any other. For films and video games fans are more cautious with spoilers. Most people won't post spoilers as they understand that many people may not have had a chance to watch the movie or complete the game. However, with TV, this kindness seems to go out the window

The difference is that TV shows have an official air time. The latest episode doesn't need to be purchased. In fact, you don't have to leave your sofa as you're merely required to change the channel or whack Netflix on. There's no sympathy if you missed it. That's your fault. If you really cared about the TV show you should have watched it live, so that gives me the right to discuss the latest episode of Game of Thrones on my Twitter account. You see how petty that is? Yet it happens regularly.

People don't seem to care that you were too busy in work to watch the new episode of Dr Who. Nobody gives you sympathy if you've fallen behind on The Walking Dead. Its your fault if you only started watching Breaking Bad last week. What people seem to forget is that its not always possible to keep up to date on these shows, especially with the difficulty of watching American shows without downloading them illegally. In fact, it is only possible to legally watch The Walking Dead in the UK 24 hours after its US broadcast, yet that didn't prevent AMC's official Facebook account from revealing its latest spoiler to the world immediately after its original broadcast!

Something needs to change. Is there really any point in posting spoilers on your Facebook or Twitter account? We need to stop judging those who are yet to catch up. Our life doesn't revolve solely on our favourite TV shows, we have other things to do in life, believe it or not. We shouldn't have to hide away from the internet if we missed an airdate. What's the point in catch-up television sites if everything is going to be ruined for us anyway? The first rule of Fight Club is: You do not talk about Fight Club, so why can't that apply to Game of Thrones too?

However, some people view spoilers a little differently...

Confessions of a spoiler

by **AMY BLACKWELL**

Yes, I'm that guy. I'm often physically unable to stop myself from spoiling things for people. I blame a long life of fandom-hopping and tumblr. Growing up I had a best friend that liked, read and watched the same things as me so we were constantly spoiling things for one another and that was completely fine; it was a consensual part of our relationship. What I never managed to learn is that this isn't necessarily okay with everyone else.

My first major offence was probably 'The Faraway Tree' books by Enid Blyton, which I spoiled for all my friends in primary school by inventing a playground game based on the series. Other crimes involve: spoiling Harry Potter for my mum at the cinema, googling historic facts whilst watching period dramas with my nan (namely 'The White Queen') and, my most recent heinous crime, dropping hints of the latest series of Game of Thrones to my boyfriend who's still on season one. At this point I really don't know how I have any friends.

As I get older I'm getting slightly better at keeping my mouth shut. I've not revealed anything too major about GoT to my unsuspecting other half and I've been really good recently about recommending films without revealing the ending. It's been a battle but I might finally (at age 21) be getting over my case of "spoileritis".

So, here's my public apology: I, Amy Blackwell, hereby apologise to anyone I have ever spoiled anything for. I am sorry that you've gone through life with me spoiling the great endings to even greater stories, I even apologise for spoiling the bad ones. However, on the upside, if you are a spoiler you hardly ever get caught out by spoilers. Think about that.



The powerful spoiler

by **IDA VÄISÄNEN**

My first experience of spoilers is the ending of the last Harry Potter book. Unlike my friends, I was able to read the original English version. Until the translation came out I held the intoxicating power of a spoiler. Alas, this power comes with backlashes. Just ask anyone I have begged not to tell me what happens in the Game of Thrones books. Spoilers pose questions of power and discretion; when coming across information of significance, your character is tested. Can you resist the temptation of telling? Enraging or astounding, it really depends on which side of the spoiler you are on.



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

by **IDA VÄISÄNEN**

On my holiday I did the same as what most of you guys probably did: filled out applications for my life after graduation. While doing this I ran into same phenomenon time and time again; I went astray to domestic job pages, toying with idea whether to apply for a job in Finland.

I didn't seriously consider it. I have (for the moment) made up my mind. I'm staying in the UK as long as it will have me. Making such decision is scary since studying abroad is temporary. You kind of lull yourself into thinking that it's going to be like this always: a few months in one country and a holiday in the other.

Still the real writ of summons takes place at the end of your degree, as you need to decide which country you prefer. Not for a semester or for a degree. You're deciding where to settle for a few years at least, possibly for good. It doesn't matter that I can always change my mind, at the end it's a question of preference: Where do I want to live and work? Setting down roots hurts, because you eventually need to pull them out again to move on.

Even though I have made up my mind it still isn't easy. Holidays at home make it even harder, when my friends and family are suddenly so close. As I sit in my friend's kitchen drinking coffee or have my cat fall asleep in my lap, I think I must be insane to even consider leaving for good.

Then I come back again. I sit at the airport station eating a cheese and onion pastry before boarding a bus. It's that moment, when my mouth is full of pastry, I realise it. You start growing new roots so swiftly you don't even notice it before they squeeze you around the heart. I realise I'm happy where I am right at that moment.

Then I think; this. This is why I want to stay.

The International Student Support is looking for performers to One World Gala on Friday 13th March in PJ hall. The closing date for performances is 6th of March. The Gala, open to students, staff and members of the local community, aims to raise funds for the Wamumbi Orphan care. All performances are welcome and only require a small contribution (10 minutes max). If interested, please email internationalsupport@bangor.ac.uk, ring 01248 388430, or get in touch on Facebook at BangorUniversityInternational.

In Brief

UKIP candidate resigns following offensive comments online

NEWPORT East's UKIP candidate Donald Grewar has handed in his resignation, writing in a letter to UKIP chairman Steve Crowther that he is "truly sorry" for his "foolish" comments.

Grewar's resignation was prompted by his leaving of offensive comments online, first lauding a message on the British National Party's website calling gay people "paedophiles" and "perverts", and later supporting the statement made by the English Defence League that "no surrender to militant Islam or political correctness", which was posted on Facebook.

Crowther has stated that he is sorry to lose Grewar, but believes he has "done the right thing" in resigning.

Miliband's riposte to Boots' boss

ED Miliband has responded to high street store Boots' chief executive Stefano Pessina's comments that a Labour government could be a "catastrophe" and would "not be helpful."

Miliband asserted that Pessina ought to "pay his taxes" rather than "lecture people" on how best to use their vote, reasoning that Italian Pessina does not live in the UK and that Boots does not pay its fair share of taxes. While some have applauded Miliband for the take-down, the Tory party have warned that he should not be attacking "wealth creators" as this gives the Labour party an "anti-businesses" appearance.

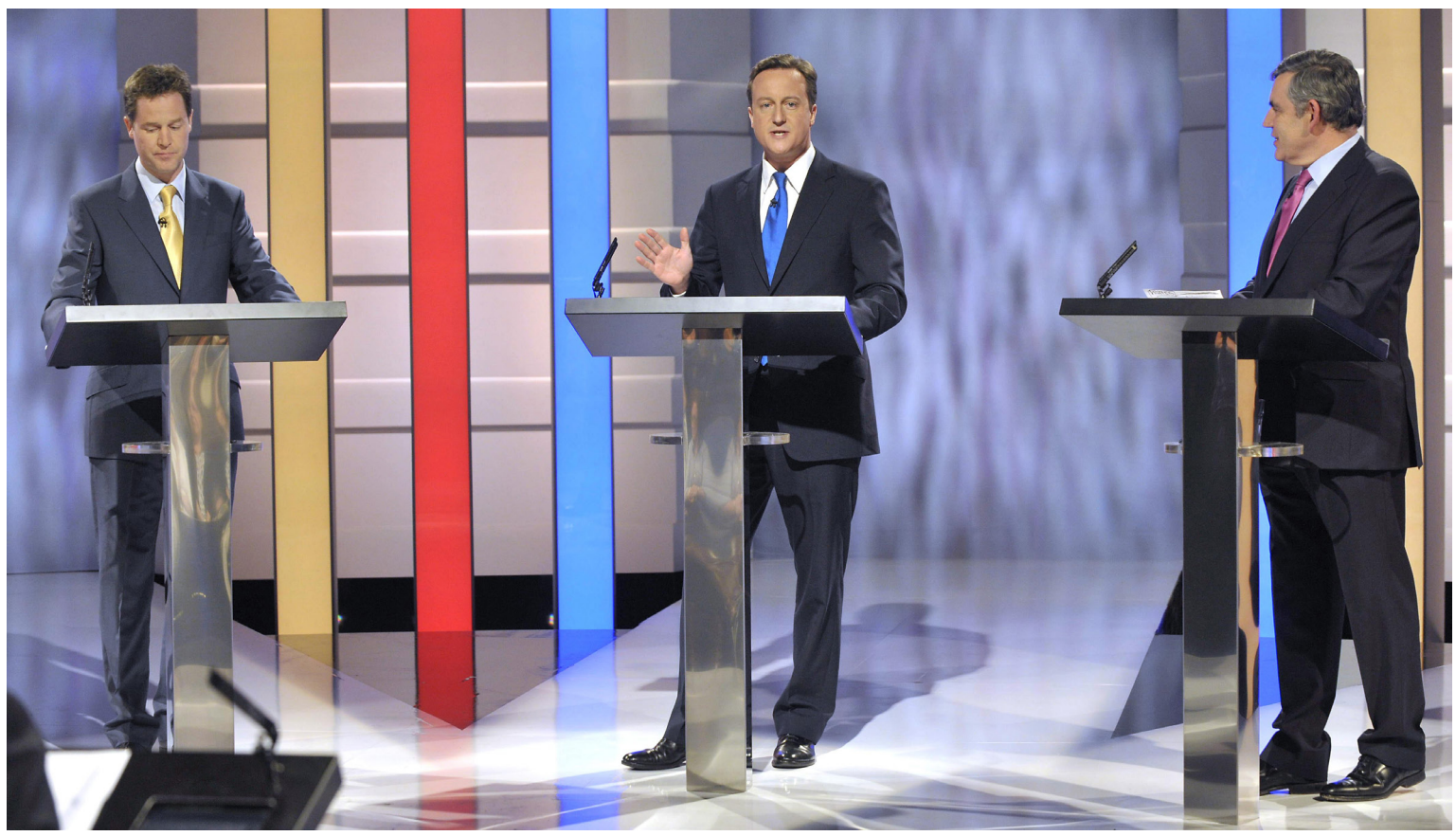
Cameron questioned over schools' budget promise

THE Prime Minister has said that were the Tories to remain in power after this year's election, schools would be given £7bn to account for the rising number of pupils, adding that hundreds of secondary schools would become academies.

This big promise from Cameron has been thrown into question by Labour's Tristram Hunt, who has expressed the opinion that the PM's claims are "unravelling" and that they represent a "real-terms cut". Hunt added that "The truth is that you can't protect schools when you have plans to take spending as a share of GDP back to levels not seen since the 1930s."

Mass-debate?

Seven-sided debate set to occur



by **J.P. BEBBINGTON**

It was reported that UKIP (UK Independence Party) was to be included in the televised debates while other parties with similar or greater electoral support were excluded.

Prime Minister David Cameron refused to join any debate that did not include minor parties - specifically the Green Party - calling it "unfair." Labour Leader Ed Miliband and UKIP leader Nigel Farage said of Cameron, whose dislike of televised debates is well known, that he "owed it to the people" to take part and that he was "running scared."

Since then, broadcasters ITV and the BBC have accepted Cameron's requests to include the Greens and have also extended the invitation to leaders of the other parties. The list currently stands at seven: the Conservatives, Labour, the Lib Dems, the Green Party, UKIP, the Scottish National Party (SNP), and Plaid Cymru.

Some critics say that this suggestion is too inclusive and "cumbersome" while others, particularly Northern Irish parties Sinn Fein and the DUP, claim it is not inclusive enough and ask to be invited. DUP leader and Irish First Minister Peter Robinson has called the decision "a further attempt by the broadcasters to marginalise Northern Ireland from the debate".

On the other hand, some leaders, such as SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon, are pleased by the inclusion of other parties and see it as a step towards greater democracy in the UK. Green Party leader Natalie Bennett also lauded the decision as an acknowledgement that we are "in an age of multi-party politics," going on to say that the decision was "perfectly fair and reasonable."

The debates are scheduled to take placed on the 2nd, 16th and 30th of April as part of the General Election campaign, ahead of Polling Day on the 2nd of May.

As always, remember to get involved and vote.

If you don't do politics, politics will do you.

Je suis Charlie

by **KATE BENN**

This January, the world was shocked by the shootings of employees from France's Charlie Hebdo comic, after they produced what were perceived by some as 'anti-Muslim' cartoons of the prophet Muhammad. Twelve people, including the magazine's editor Stephane Charbonnier as well a policeman, were shot and killed by masked gunmen later discovered to be brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi. Discussions online sparked like wildfire over ideas of censorship and the right to free speech, and Paris was thrown into turmoil with a spate of further incidents taking place.

In a siege on the Creation Tendance Decouverte printworks on the 9th of January, the Kouachi brothers were killed after asserting that they would die a martyr's death. In the weeks that followed, Charlie Hebdo released what was to be by far its highest selling issue to date, and funeral and memorial services were held for the victims of the shootings. Daily news articles kept Britain updated, and Europe and the rest of the world reeled from the events.

The attacks, almost a month ago, still have France in turmoil, with unrest and rallies still taking place in Paris and across the country. Divisions are still strong over "Je suis Charlie" ("I am Charlie"), the rallying phrase which many have adopted. The shootings have led to an outbreak of anti-Muslim discussion worldwide, much of which is taking place unchecked, online. In retaliation hundreds of Muslims have been forced to defend their religion with the assertion that "we are not all like them." What we seem to have ended up with is one extremist view pitted against another: the idea of the Charlie Hebdo editors and employees were worthy of death, versus the idea that the crime reflects the attitudes and beliefs of any and all Muslims.

The events of this January have, by many accounts, heightened what was already a climate of fear and suspicion in France and across Europe. Many are using words – articles, blogs, even posts on Twitter and Facebook – in an attempt to bridge the divide; to provide to the mix a moderate voice, but the effectiveness of these attempts in the currently fraught religio-political climate are still very much up in the air. The fear of many seems to be that fire will ultimately be fought with fire, and a feeling of outrage and unease prevails across Europe.

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MHRIF ADEILAD Y CELFYDDYDAU - NEUADD PJ - 11-3PM

UNDEB MYFYRWYR BANGOR STUDENTS' UNION

SERENDIPITY 2

NOT HAD CHANCE TO TRY OUT ANY OF OUR FREE UNION ACTIVITIES YET...?

COME AND MEET THEM ALL AND MAKE A PERFECT MATCH ON FEBRUARY 14TH

MAIN ARTS - PJ HALL - 11-3PM

Student union elections 2015
Your candidates

Choose your next student leaders, vote online at bangorstudents.com/elections 23rd – 25th February.

Unsure who to vote for? Read candidate manifestos on bangorstudents.com from Tuesday 10th February and come to the Candidate Question Time: 19:00, Wednesday 18th February, Main Arts Lecture Theatre.

PRESIDENT



VICTORIA ALLEN



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VP EDUCATION AND WELFARE



LYDIA RICHARDSON

VP SOCIETIES AND COMMUNITIES



MARK STANLEY



MATT DAY

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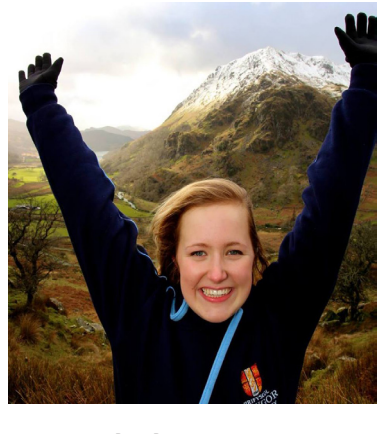
SCOTT WILLEY



TATENDA SHONHIWA



BECCA KENT



JAMES LLOYD



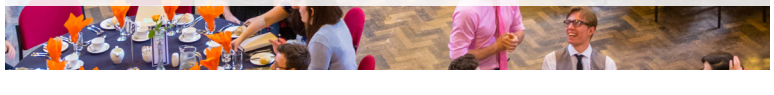
DANIEL BLANEY

The Student-led Teaching Awards 2015

The Student-Led Teaching Awards are back! After the success of last years' awards (300+ nominations, 15 awards given to staff at an event attended by 200+ people), the Students' Union, together with the University will be holding the Student Led Teaching Awards & Course Representative Awards 2015 on Friday 1st May!

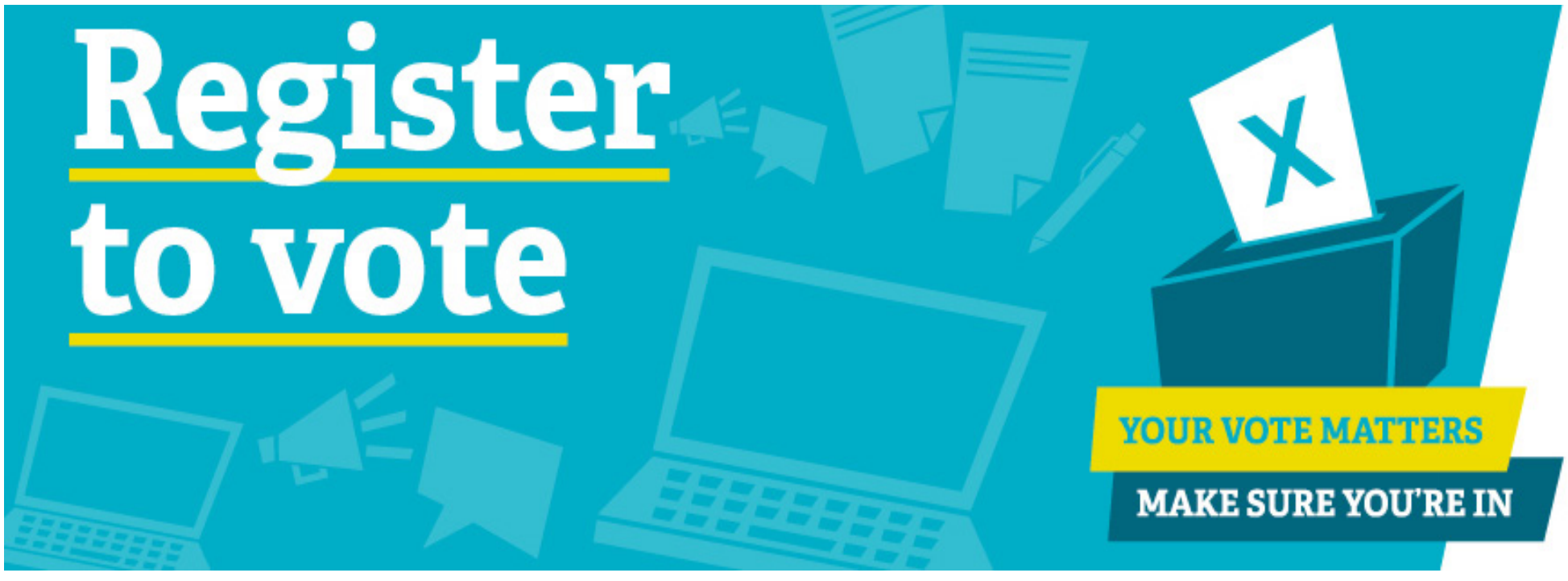


To vote in the SLTA's go to bangorstudents.com



CATEGORIES 2015

- Award for Outstanding Pastoral Support
- Award for the Promotion of Welsh-Medium Education
- International Award
- Dissertation/Thesis Supervisor of the Year
- Innovation Award
- Support Staff Member/Team of the Year
- Student Service Department Award
- Postgraduate Teacher of the Year
- New Teacher of the Year
- Fantastic Feedback
- Teacher of the Year
- Sustainable Thinking Award
- Open Award



by **RHYS TAYLOR**

On May 7th millions will head to the ballot box to determine who will govern Britain for the next five years. Yet on the 7th of May 2015, young people up and down the country won't turn out to vote. Our voices will go unheard by a system that continues to let us down. So it would be easy for us to give up and believe that our voice doesn't matter.

In 197 seats across the UK, students could hold the balance of power, and we are using this potential power to demand that we're listened to, and to put the things that we are about front and centre. We want 2015 to be a new start for young people's place in our democracy, and see it as an opportunity for politicians to start rebuilding their trust with an entire generation.

Generation Vote is Bangor Students' Union priority campaign in the run up to the most important general election in a generation. It's a campaign to challenge ourselves, students, young people, and politicians. A campaign to recognise the collective power of students, and empower students to hold power at the election, shaping a new deal for the next generation. This is because in 2010 only 44% of people under the age of 24 voted, and in in 2015, just 1 in 8 under 25 year olds intend on voting.

Our generation is distinctive in that we are the first generation in modern history to face the possibility of being worse off than our parents. The future of the next generation will be decided at this election, and it's our responsibility to make sure that young people are involved in shaping that future.

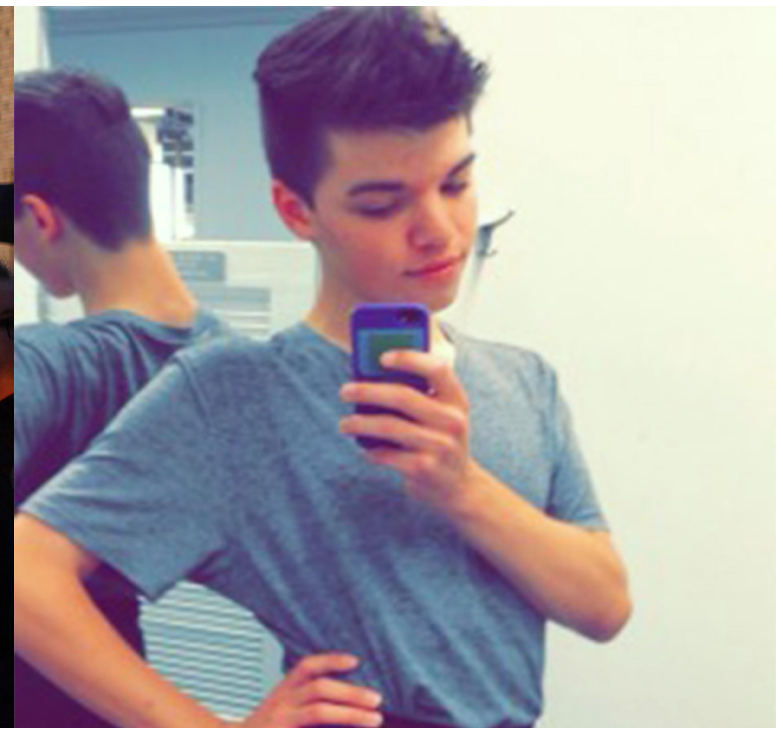
Our Manifesto for Students will outline Bangor students' demands of politicians not only here in Arfon, but across Wales and the UK, clearly articulating our vision for the future. A passport to education no matter what our background or personal circumstances. Sustainable jobs that afford a decent quality of life. Healthy communities that forge connections and civic responsibility. A free and accountable education system, a living wage, paid opportunities to take internships, and a student maintenance system that covers the cost of living at all levels of education.

The way that we'll achieve our aims is though registering students to vote, shaping candidates and parties' manifestos and mobilising students to vote on May 7th.

New Deal 15, a national hub for students in the general election, allows students to compare constituencies and their candidates in order to make an informed decision about where they cast their vote. Our campaign focuses on providing students with the information they need to determine where they vote and how they vote, based on the issues that politicians choose.

Our message to students is clear; politics works in the interests of those who vote, those who turn out get the best deal, and if we're going to put an end to the raw deal that we're routinely offered, we have to challenge ourselves to make a difference.





Leelah Alcorn vigil

by **JASPER MURPHY**

On 28th December 2014 Leelah Alcorn, a trans girl from Ohio, was found dead. In the widely publicised final words on her Tumblr blog, she gave the cause of death as a lack of access to trans-related healthcare and the associated sense of helplessness in the face of transphobia. The main cause was systematic transmisogyny. Transmisogyny is the combination of transphobia and misogyny directed toward trans men and women and gender nonconforming people on the feminine end of the gender spectrum. In her suicide note, she wrote "the only way I will rest in peace is if one day transgender people aren't treated the way I was, they're treated like humans, with valid feelings and human rights. My death needs to mean something. Fix society. Please."

The trans community have experienced such a collective sense of loss at the death of a sister and I would like to see people, regardless of gender, come together in solidarity. The sad truth is that there are so many more Leelahs than we can ever have vigils for and until we attack the root causes of this oppression our loved ones will continue to die. But this is a start.

On 6th March 2015, I will be holding a Vigil for Leelah Alcorn in Bangor. This event will be open to anyone and I would urge you all to come. The event will take place at 6pm in Main Arts Lecture Theatre with speakers talking about personal experience in regards to unaccepting family, transmisogyny and the impact this has had on them. The event will then proceed to the courtyard of Main Arts where candles will be lit in memory of Leelah. Throughout the event we will have a donation box. Proceeds will be split equally between three trans youth support groups and charities, as this was Leelah's wish: Mermaids, transmediawatch and Gendered Intelligence.

The vigil serves four purposes. First, it is there simply to remember a life cut so short by someone who faced struggles caused by systematic transmisogyny. Second, it is there to remind people that her death was a political death, that when a member of the trans community is brutalised at the hands of oppression we must all fight back. Third, it is a reminder that we are more than just individuals in this struggle, that as a community we are stronger and that we can create positive change. It is deeply saddening that Leelah's parents are still refusing to give her the basic respect she deserves, even in death, and so the fourth purpose of this vigil is to do what they will not and mourn a sister.

I hope you will join me in showing support for Leelah, along with other trans youth who face rejection from those who raise them.



Books and Quills presents

by **AISLING HARRISON**

"Can't repeat the past? Why, of course you can!"

Bangor Books and Quills are excited to present The Great Gatsby Ball! Hopefully it will be the first of many. The night, 26th February, will feature live jazz music on the stage of Powis Hall. Later on, and as people arrive, there will be playlists of the best jazz musicians of the 20s and the more contemporary electro swing – look it up, it's good. As well as music you can dance the Charleston to, there will be a 20s themed photobooth complete with props – feather boas galore! The photos will be posted online afterwards on our Facebook page where you can tag and take. And what's a party without a little food and drink? True to the 20s there will be a selection of finger foods to eat alongside cocktails of anything we can smuggle in. The theme is 'Roaring Twenties' so get out your most beautiful shirts and your pearls, and who knows, you might win a prize. So if you want to party like Gatsby then buy a ticket for £3 – information on how to buy a ticket is on the event page on Facebook.

The Great Gatsby Ball will take place Thursday 26th February in Powis Hall at 7:30.

Come on, a little party never hurt anyone.



Bangor Linguistic Society

by **CONOR GLACKIN**

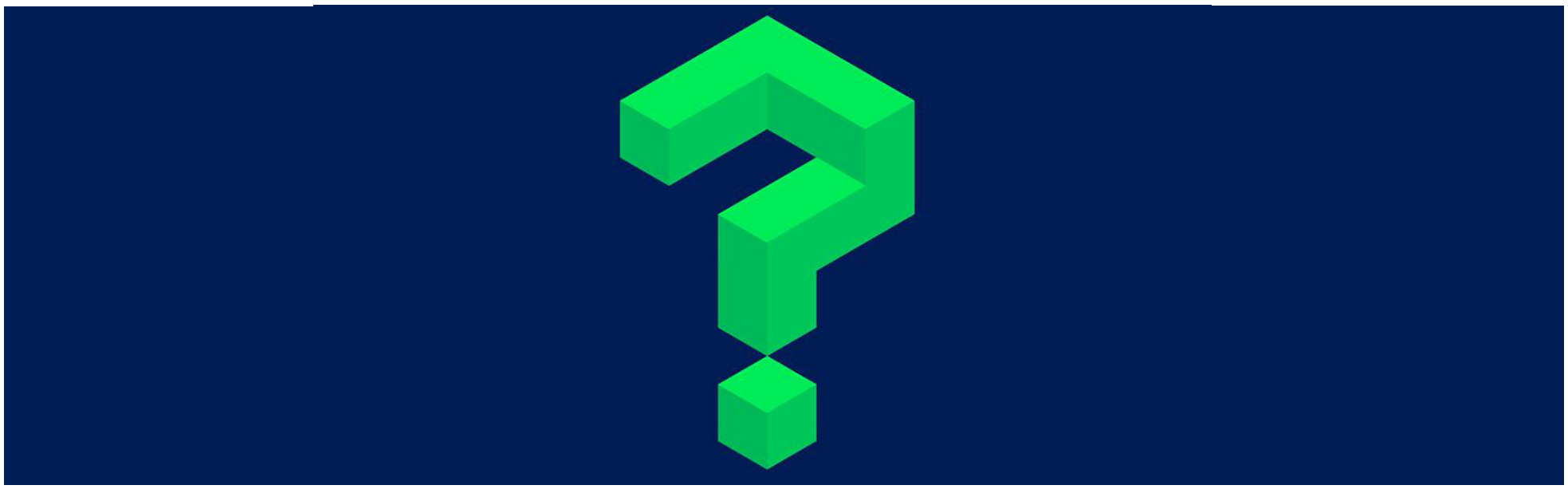
Bangor Linguistics Society (BLS) is the society for students who love language. Not a specific language, but all languages. We have the largest student-run linguistics library in the UK, with nearly 1000 books and journals on language. Our library is located in the 31-35 Brigantia Building, in the basement. If you are interested in linguistics as a side hobby, or want to know more about languages then feel free to pop down and have a browse of our library.

Over the next semester we have lots of plans, from increasing our library to have all the most up to date books, to organising conference trips. We are planning on attending the (ULAB) Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain Conference at York St John University in April. If you are interested in attending the largest conference for undergraduate linguists in the UK, then let us know.

Alongside this trip, we are also hoping to arrange other conference trips for post and undergraduates alike. If there are any linguistic based conferences that you know of, let us know and we will try to get a trip together to attend it.

We also work in tandem with the linguistics department. We aid in the running of the major events; such a David Crystal Day, where the leading expert David Crystal delivers talks.

Besides the large trips and huge library, we also run an open office space, where linguistics lovers can work and read about languages in all of its forms. It is the hub of the society, located conveniently next door to the library. The office is open 10-4 Monday to Friday; a wonderful team of volunteers who are the true bedrock of the society runs it. Any and all linguistics and language lovers are more than welcome to join us, browse our shelves, attend conferences and help us run the library.



What is the Christian Union?

by **KATIE MIDDLETON**

You may have seen the Christian Union (CU) around Bangor in the last week armed with handfuls of flyers and questionnaires asking 'If you could ask God one question, what would it be?' When Stephen Fry was asked the same question in a recent interview, he said 'How dare you create a world in which there is such misery that is not our fault? It's not right. It's utterly, utterly evil. Why should I respect a capricious, mean-minded, stupid God who creates a world which is so full of injustice and pain?' And he's right. The God that we believe in isn't like that.

You may be wondering why we've been choosing to spend our free time standing out in the freezing cold and the answer is simple. We want to tell you about the God we do believe in. You see, the CU believe in a God who is the Creator, the ultimate Father and completely loving. You may think that you're not worthy of his love, but you are. The reason that we do what we do - flyering in the freezing cold, handing out toast in the middle of the night - is because we want you to know the same love that we know.

You may have objections to Christianity - what about suffering? Science? Women? Or you may have questions: who is God? Should I trust the Bible? This week (and every week for the rest of the term) we've been answering some of the questions you'd ask God if you had the chance. So come along next time you're handed a flyer and you might just be surprised.

If you want to find out more, check out our Facebook page or drop us an email at cu@bangorstudents.com

Part of a society? Want to be featured in Seren? Maybe you have a big event coming up? Maybe the event has already happened? Whatever your society news you should definitely get in touch!

All you have to do is send us an email: editor@seren.bangor.ac.uk



by **IDA VÄISÄNEN**

Nobody is immune to it. You don't even need to live abroad. Culture shock can sneak up on you anywhere but it's a phenomenon that will be faced especially by international students at some point in their studies.

Some of the various symptoms of culture shock include feelings of sadness, loneliness and confusion. You can feel overwhelmingly homesick or suffer a variety of physical symptoms, like headaches. The simplest tasks, like buying a train ticket, can suddenly feel like you're asked to wrestle crocodiles.

The experience of culture shock differs on an individual level. Some skip stages or rush through them all. Others can get stuck on a certain stage To mix it up further, some may experience certain stages more than once, and others the stages in a different order. Everyone faces culture shock differently but it hopefully always leads to the same result: the feeling that you have successfully integrated into the new culture.

If counted in five stages, culture shock includes the Honeymoon, Disintegration, Reintegration, Autonomy and Independence. You can also experience reverse culture shock when returning to your home country. All the stages can last from days to several months.

During the Honeymoon stage everything is charming and new. You are excited about everything: food, people, weather, school and your accommodation.

At the Disintegration stage you start noticing even the slightest differences between cultures. It might feel there is a wall preventing you from experiencing things.

During the Reintegration stage the differences that first were charming can become a major annoyance. The food is weird, it's always raining and the house is cold. You might start idealising life "back home". Even though at this stage you might feel like you made a mistake, this is considered a very normal reaction when adjusting to a new culture.

When reaching the Autonomy stage you start to accept the differences between the two cultures and feel like you can begin to live with them. The feeling of isolation starts passing and you're able to appreciate where you are now.

At the final stage of Independence, you begin to embrace the new culture and see everything in a realistic light. The feeling of isolation passes as you start feeling more comfortable in your new surroundings.

There is no way to prevent culture shock completely but there are ways to help yourself integrate more easily into the new culture. Look into volunteering opportunities, clubs, societies at the Student Union, as it is a great way to make friends and make you feel more connected with your surroundings.

Even though things can feel overwhelming, it's very likely that everything you feel is absolutely normal. Still, you shouldn't isolate yourself; talk to a fellow student or the staff at the International Student Support Office or the counselling service. Even though you might feel the opposite, culture shock is a common phenomenon and you are not alone.

WHO ARE OUR INTERNATIONAL AMBASSADORS?

by **KAYLA JONES**

If you go to Bangor, you know there are quite a few international students. An eclectic bunch, we come from all corners of the world and each have a different, unique experience here at Bangor.

As International Ambassadors, one of our biggest focuses is making new students feel comfortable. Any time a prospective student has a question, or an international student is having trouble with something, we are available for anything from "How do I apply?" to "Where can I find the best American junk food? "

This year I was able to give a tour to an American student thinking of coming to Bangor, and was able to show her and her father around Main Arts, Fridd Site and the pier. I also was able to Skype a potential Masters student who went to my old University about how grades match up, what societies she would be interested in and what her course would be like. Being able to help someone ad make their transition to Bangor easier and less scary for a new student.

Many of the ambassadors are there right from the moment new students land off the planes. Many come for airport pick ups to Manchester to greet new students, help them with their luggage and see



what things they might need as they settle in at Bangor.

Our Ambassadors are from many different countries, and all across different courses as well. Anywhere from undergraduates to PHD students. If I cannot answer your question about classes in your law degree, then another ambassador can!

Throughout the year we are there to help for many of our cultural events, like the One World Gala and the Chinese Cultural challenge. We also join international students on trips that the international office holds each month such as the Christmas market in Manchester and a trip to Cardiff planned for the spring of this year. Some ambassadors travel back to their homelands to tell prospective students about Bangor University. At student fairs and in schools, ambassadors are able to tell students like them what it is like tostudy in the UK.

Transitioning to living in a new country can be hard, and sometimes scary but with our ambassadors no student has to be alone in the process. So are you an international student and have a question? Or even someone from the UK? We have an ambassador from here too! Get in touch with us on the international students page on the Bangor website.



"I have been an ambassador since 2013 but I have been associated with the International Student Support since my joining Bangor in 2011. I believe its been my best decision to join the scheme - I got to meet so many people, made lovely friends, overall its been an enriching experience - one I would recommend international students to join."

CHARU DADA - INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AMBASSADOR FOR INDIA

LIVED IT, LOVED IT
COME BACK TO IT

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

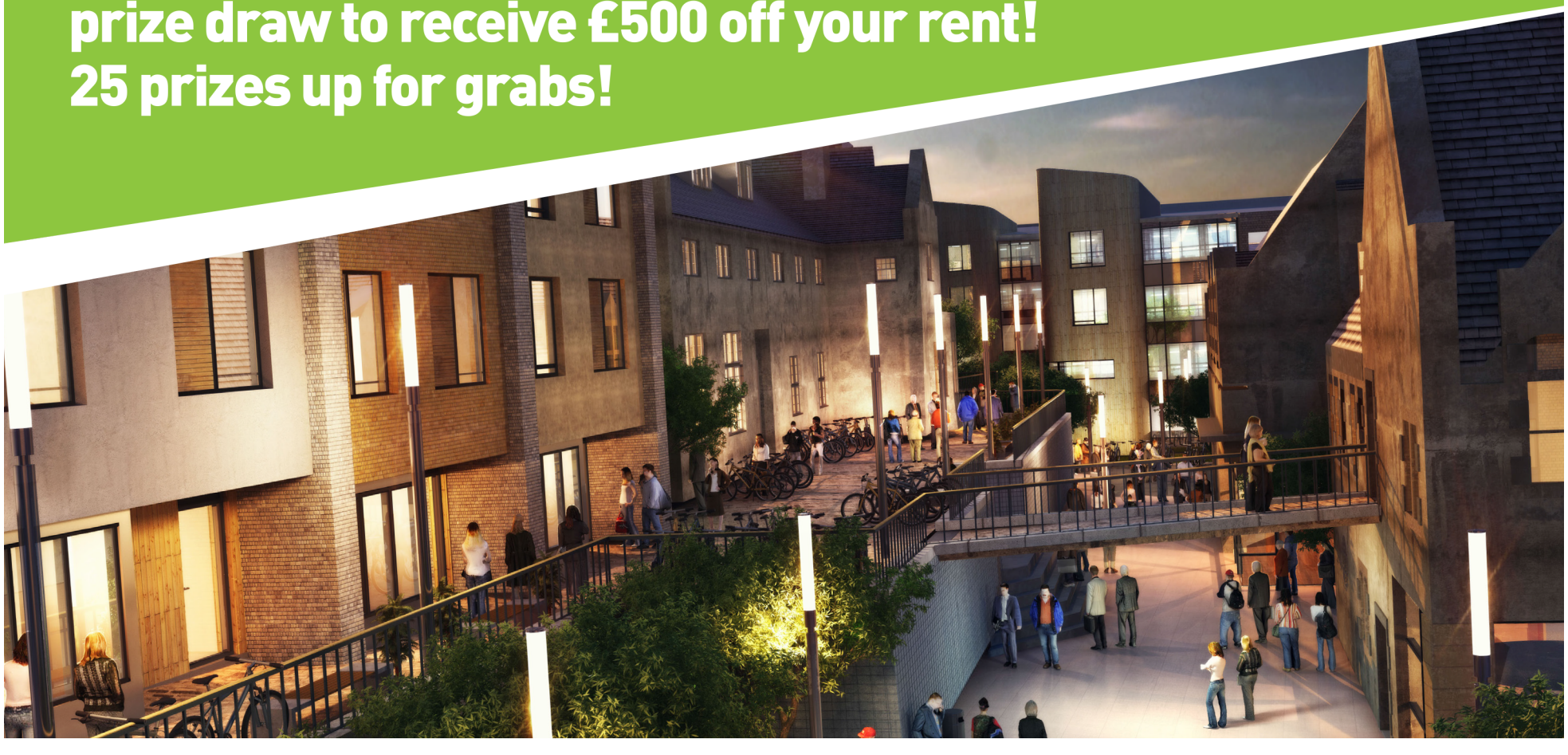
Halls, not just for Freshers!

LIVE IN ONE OF OUR MODERN STUDENT VILLAGES NEXT YEAR.
BOOK NOW!

COME AND SEE US

HALLS OFFICE, FFRIDDOEDD VILLAGE, MONDAY - FRIDAY 9-5PM

All contracts signed by 31st March 2015 will be entered into a
prize draw to receive £500 off your rent!
25 prizes up for grabs!



In Brief

Dippy's departure

A SERIES of remodelling changes have recently been announced at London's Natural History Museum. The main change which has been announced involves the removal of the iconic Diplodocus skeleton (named Dippy) from the main entrance hall at the museum. Dippy has called the entrance hall home since the 1970's. However, is now being replaced by a 25m long blue whale skeleton. The cetacean has been at the museum since 1881 after curators of the museum paid £250 for the body after it was beached in southwest Ireland at Wexford.

Although acquired in 1881 the animal was not displayed until 1935, where it still remains hanging in the mammal gallery. Although dippy is loved by everyone, it remains only a model and the Natural History Museum believes that the blue whales skeleton, which is complete and one of the largest of its kind, better reflects the research which is ongoing by the institute.

It must be noted that Dippy will not disappear, as it's likely to feature in a larger exhibit illustrating how dinosaurs lived in their larger environment.

Two dragons lecture series

A SERIES of academic lectures has started which celebrates the botanical link between Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden and our very own Treborth Botanic garden. The lecture series kicked off on the 2nd February with a lecture given by Daniele Cicuzza, who spoke about conservation challenges in tropical China. The series will continue over the coming months, covering various aspects of biodiversity.

NASA funding increased

PRESIDENT Obama has requested $18.5bn to run NASA in the fiscal year 2016. This request is an increase of $519 m of what NASA has received for 2015. The increase in funding will allow the development of NASA's new space shuttle, which is hoped to be in operation in 2017. The increase in funding would also allow the continuation of the Mars Rover Opportunity project, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and also the continuation of the Landsat project, which has provided a continuous record of the earth's surface change since 1972.



2014 confirmed as hottest year

by **RICHARD DALLISON**

Scientists at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) confirmed last week that 2014 was globally the hottest year on record, temperatures being 0.69 °C higher than the average for the 20th century, and the highest since systematic records began in 1880. The year has seen long held temperature records shattered all over Europe, as well as heat waves in South America, Russia and China. According to the Central England Temperature data set, in England the hottest temperatures in three and half centuries were seen.

The historic average temperature high (14.67 °C) is being blamed on human activity, which is especially effecting ocean temperatures, these being cited as the main driver the year's record temperatures. 2014 beat 2005 and 2010, the previous joint record holders, by 0.04 °C and is now the 38th consecutive year where temperatures have been above the 20th century average. According to the Climate Central research group, the odds of the temperature increase being caused by natural climate variability is less than one in 27 million.

Gavin Schmidt, director of Nasa's Goddard Institute of Space Studies said, "Any one year being a record warm one is not in itself particularly significant, but this is one in a series of record warm years that are driven by the continuing underlying long-term global warming." Schmidt also added, "We expect that heat records will continue to get broken – not everywhere and not every year – but increasingly, and that does not bode well for a civilisation that is continuing to add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere at an increasing rate."

The record breaking year has renewed urgency in the need the need to tackle climate change and its causes across the globe, with Thomas Karl, director of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center saying, "Every continent had some aspect of record high temperatures" in 2014. If current emissions trajectories are not changed, the world would see a warming of 4-5 °C by 2100, considered by most scientist to be catastrophic. This year alone environmental catastrophes have been observed due to warmer temperatures, especially in the oceans; in April, heat that had been stored in the depths of the oceans for decades was realised when westerly winds began spreading the very warm water out along the equator to the eastern Pacific and around to the Gulf of Alaska. The unusually warm waters shifted hurricane tracks, weakened trade winds, and led to widespread bleaching of coral reefs in Hawaii.



Migratory mystery solved

by **CHRIS GLASS**

The mass migration of bird species is a necessity in order for survival, one very important question regarding this has recently been answered.

Along with the cold and picturesque beauty, winter also brings with it the iconic image of V-shaped flocks of migrating birds. However the puzzling question of why migrating birds fly in a V has finally been answered. A scientific study, conducted by a collaboration of researchers from the UK, Germany and Austria, studied the migration of the Northern Bald Ibis.

This critically endangered bird has a wingspan of 130cm and each year makes the 1500km journey from Austria to Italy. The lengthy migration is very strenuous, not only to the health of each individual bird, but also the overall species population. The mortality rate in the juvenile population is extremely high, with 30% not surviving their first migration.

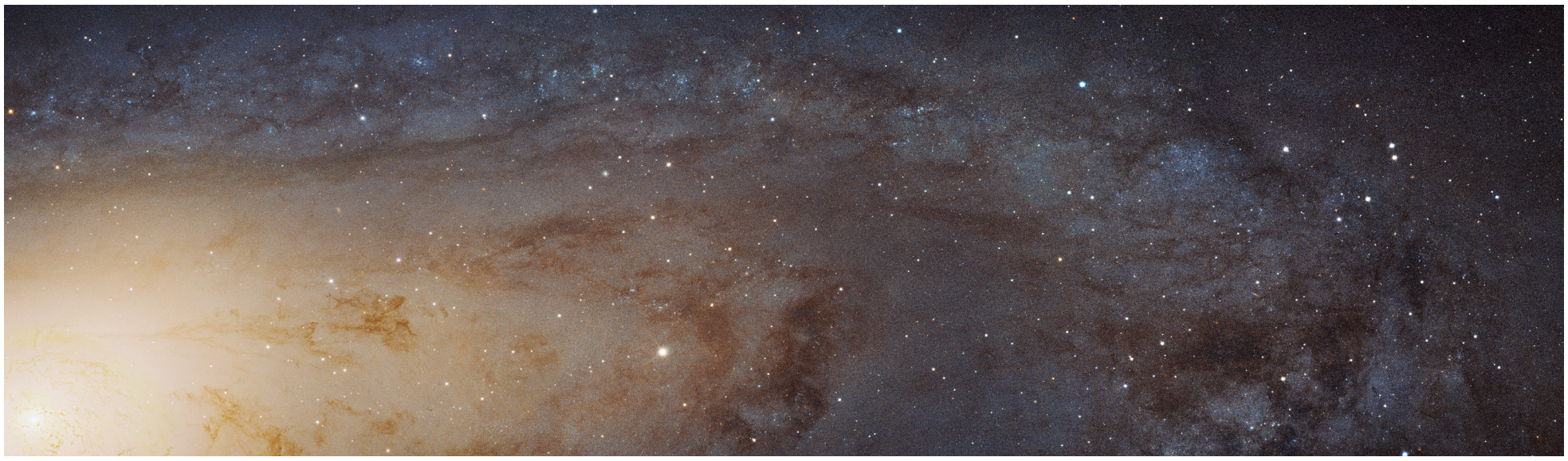
One way in which the Ibis (along with many other species) try to remediate the exhaustion which is encountered during migration is by flying in a V formation. Researchers discovered that by flying in formation the bird's conserved energy by sharing the energy-depleting lead. When a bird flies the downbeat of the wing produces extra lift for the bird flying behind. The V formation allows each bird to take advantage of the extra lift produced.

Bernhard Voelkl, the lead researcher from Oxford's University zoological department, explained how the birds cooperate: "The time bird A is in front of bird B correlates almost exactly with the amount of time it's the other way around – they're taking it in turns". He later went on to explain how the mechanism demonstrated increased the chances of survival due to the amount of energy which was saved.

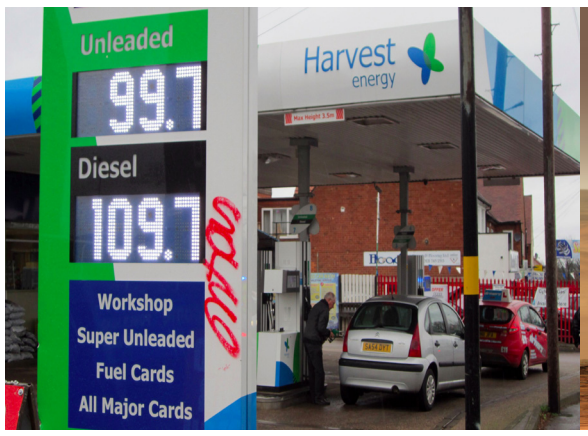
The Ibis which were used in the study were raised in captivity as part of a conservation project by Waldrapp-team in Austria. The projects aim is to reintroduce the Northern Bald Ibis in Europe, where they were once wiped out by hunting pressures. The project aims to do this by training the birds to fly behind a microlight aircraft which was retracing the migration route previously used by this species. GPS tracking of the each bird within the flock allowed researchers to track the changes with the flock, allowing the observations to be made.

2015 so far

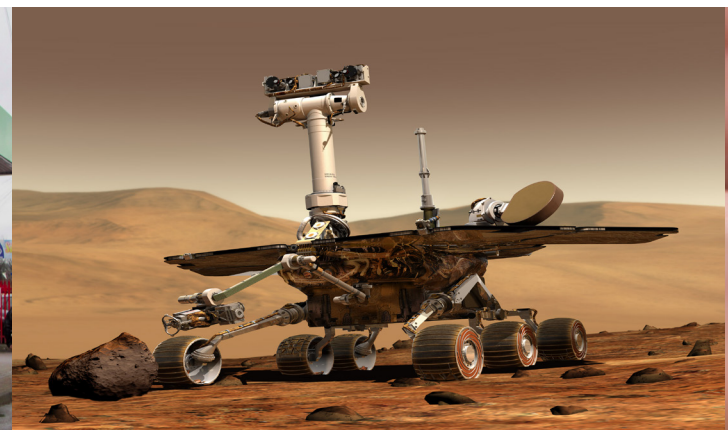
by **JANE KELLY**



Hubble's largest ever image of Andromeda shows more than 100 million stars stretching over 40,000 light-years and suggests that the galaxy may have been battered by a collision with another galaxy two billion years ago.



2015 welcomed a large fall in petrol prices, with prices at one Birmingham garage falling to less than £1 per litre.



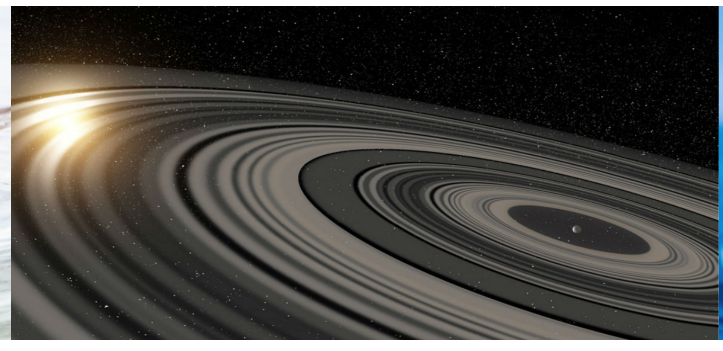
The Curiosity rover on Mars has started drilling a fifth rock sample after the completion of a software upgrade.



A new horned dinosaur skull has been found in Montana, US, belonging to the earliest known horned dinosaur species in North America which has been named Aquilops americanus.



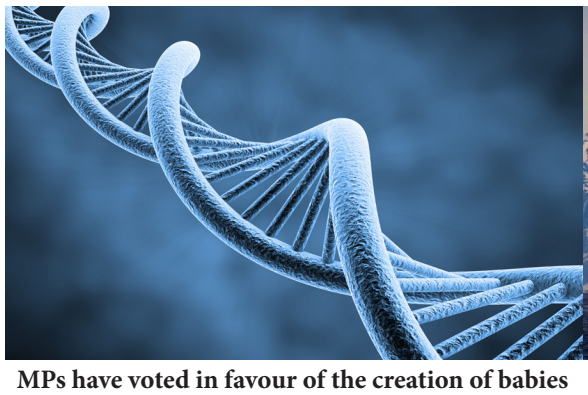
Beavers found living on the River Otter in Devon will be allowed to remain living in the wild after being trapped and tested to ensure they are a European species and free from disease. This is the first time permission has been given to re-introduce a mammal previously extinct in England.



Astronomers have discovered a planet with a gigantic ring system, the first outside of our solar system, which is 200 times larger than that around Saturn. The researchers have estimated there to be more than 30 rings, each measuring tens of millions of kilometres in diameter.



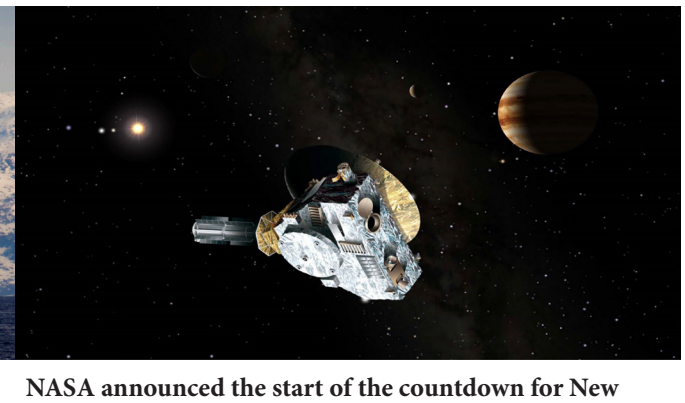
Physicists in the US have created metal surfaces that repel water causing droplets to bounce. The material is "self-cleaning" and could therefore be used to produce hygienic, easily maintained devices - from solar panels to toilets - that do not rust or ice up.



MPs have voted in favour of the creation of babies with DNA from three people. The technique hopes to stop genetic diseases being passed from mother to child. Critics say they will continue to fight against the technique due to too many ethical and safety concerns.



Royal Dutch Shell is reviving plans to drill for oil in the Arctic, which Greenpeace have called a massive risk to a pristine region, with work expected to begin in the summer.



NASA announced the start of the countdown for New Horizons close encounter with Pluto, 9 years after Plutos demotion as the 9th planet.

In Brief

Beavers are back

A FAMILY of beavers in Devon have been allowed to remain living in the wild after they colonised part of the River Otter last year. The family consists of at least eight adults and three young kits. Beavers were hunted to extinction around 500 years ago in the UK and local authorities had, at first, considered the animals as a threat to public health and the environment, recommending that they should be taken into captivity. However, after campaigning from locals and charities, Natural England have given the Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) permission to manage and study the animals for the next five years on the basis that the animals are a European species and are free from tapeworm. DWT must now manage the beavers' habitat and ensure any negative impacts are mitigated.

Bitterns make resurgence

BITTERNS, which were once extinct in the UK are making a strong come back; current levels being the highest recorded since 1800, before their reed bed habitats were drained for agricultural use. The birds are typically well camouflaged by reed beds which means they are often overlooked, however the mating call of the males can be heard from several kilometres away which has enabled researchers to count them. 140 males have been recorded in England, up from just 11 in 1997. The increase is thought to be partly down to the restoration of quarries, 14 of the 61 sites where the birds are present are quarries. The birds remain on the RSPB's Red list of threatened species.

Saving the Northern White Rhino

ONLY five Northern White Rhinos remain in the world, they now all live in a zoo in the Czech Republic. Experts have been attempting to breed the animals for several years now with little success. There are concerns over inbreeding due to the number of animals remaining. As a last attempt to save the species, scientists have harvested sperm and eggs from remaining animals and are freezing them at an institute in Berlin. According to Jan Stejskal, from the Dvur Kralove zoo, where the animals live, "after harvesting, experts will wait for a time when the IVF techniques will be developed and tested enough to give us a reasonable chance that usage of samples would lead to a successful embryo transfer."



Increase UK marine protection

by **LAURA SUTTON**

The UK government have come under fire from conservationists for not adequately protecting marine life off the coast of England. The department for environment, food and rural affairs (Defra) had originally short listed 37 of the original 127 recommended sites which were recommended by regional groups. These were then narrowed down to 27 candidates. This week Defra gave the go ahead for only 23 which has caused conservation groups to accuse the government of dragging its feet over conservation issues.

The Marine conservation zones would create a network of protected areas that support important marine life including part of the Cumbrian coast which contains blue mussel beds and rare living reefs. However conservationists believe that these measures do not go far enough, they say by rejecting some sites Defra have created gaps in what should be a coherent network of sites in order to fully protect marine life. Areas left at risk include sea grass meadows in Dorset that are home to rare breeding sea horses and juvenile species of fish including bass and bream which are both harvested elsewhere as adults, meaning that this site in particular is important for the sustainable fishing of the species and a stable long term fishing economy. It has hopes that the sites that have currently been shelved will eventually be given conservation status by government.

Defra have responded to criticism by saying that there are already 27 marine conservation zones in effect and the additional 23, which are now subject to public consultation, cover an area of more than 10,000km2 and a quarter of inshore waters are protected by the government.



Pesticide report 'buried' by EU

by **RICHARD DALLISON**

The EU has come under pressure this weeks after it was revealed that a report detailing methods of identifying dangerous hormone-mimicking chemicals in pesticides was suppressed by top EU officials. The report, if published, would have resulted in as many as 31 pesticides being banned in the European Union, these being products that contain endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), which are worth billions of pounds to chemical companies. EDCs have been linked to foetal abnormalities, genital mutations, infertility and other adverse health effects ranging from cancer to IQ loss.

It is reported by commission sources that the EU dropped the report due to pressure from large chemical firms, this is despite studies that suggest that hundreds of millions of Euros are spent every year on health care in the EU related to the chemicals which are also used in toiletries, plastics and cosmetics. The report had outlined categorisations of EDCs, along with a strategy for implementing them, however, a commission source said, "We were ready to go with the criteria and a strategy proposal as well but we were told to forget about it by the secretary general's office, effectively the criteria were suppressed. We allowed the biocides and pesticides legislation to roll over." However, the commission did retaliate, a spokesman stating, "The commission is under no obligation to publish internal working papers; and acts in full independence and in the general European interest."

The revelation of the subterfuge has angered environmental groups, "If the draft 'cut-off' criteria proposed by the commission had been applied correctly, 31 pesticides would have been banned by now, fulfilling the mandate of the pesticide regulation to protect humans and the environment from low-level chronic endocrine disrupting pesticide exposure," said Angeliki Lyssimachou, an environmental toxicologist for Pesticides Action Network Europe (PAN).

The EU has faced criticism on this front before, court proceedings currently taking place in Sweden against the European parliament and council are based on the EU's failure to honour its mandate to adopt EDC controls, something that was supposed to have happened by the end of 2013. The delay has been blamed on poor communication on the part of Sanco and Envi (the commission's health and environment departments respectively). Catherine Day, EU Secretary General said of the departments, "They were working in different directions, which made no sense so the secretariat-general did intervene to force them to do a joint impact assessment with the aim of coming up with one analysis on which the commission could base itself."



An increase in extreme weather?

by **CHRIS GLASS**

Recent research conducted in collaboration with Exeter University has strengthened the link between a warming world and an increase in extreme weather events. The research study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, was an international effort incorporating teams from the Met Office, CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) and various teams from Australia, China, the US, the UK and Peru.

The paper explained how various parts of the world would, in future, experience weather patterns with extremes of wet and dry weather. In particular the study focused on the climate phenomenon known as El Nino and La Nina.

The phenomena known as El Nino and La Nina are complex weather patterns which can cause global changes in both weather and climate. This natural variation has the ability to cause extreme flooding as well as drought. Climatic models have explained how the warming climate has the potential to increase the rate of the El Nino effect and in turn double the frequency of La Nina events, from 1 per 23 years to 1 per 13 years. The increase in the number of El Nino events would cause increased periods of drought in Western Australia and increased levels of flooding in America.

The effect of global warming on El Nino events has been known for some time, however the relationship with La Nina has not been known until now. Professor Matt Collins, the co-researcher on the study, commented on this, saying, "Previous research showed a doubling in the frequency of extreme El Nino events, and this new study shows a similar fate for the cold phase of the cycle". He later went on to state that the study emphasises how the consequences of global warming are still only being realised.

Dr Wenju Cai, who was the lead researcher on the paper stated how the changes in the frequency of extreme weather events would have an detrimental effect on social economic aspects of human life, causing increased pressures on the resilience of humans to adapt to increased periods of flooding and drought.



Fracking block for Scotland

by **RICHARD DALLISON**

Scottish Energy Minister Fergus Ewing has announced a block on all planned fracking operations in Scotland until further notice, pending additional enquiry. While full control on the controversial extraction technique is due to be devolved to Scotland after May's General Election, the current block means that all non-traditional energy extraction development requests will be refused based on planning grounds.

The technique is however backed by industry in Scotland; the announcement coming just a day after the Tom Crotty, from Ineos, who own the Grangemouth chemical plant in Scotland, said the UK must embrace shale gas, stating, "High energy prices are damaging the industrial sector."

The announcement has caused widespread discussion and action, in Wales Plaid Cymru has demanded that Wales gets the same power as are being promised to Scotland, in being able to decide whether or not to allow shale gas extraction via hydraulic fracturing. This demand comes shortly after a planning application by Australian iGas to frack near Wrexham was approved by the Planning Inspectorate after having previously been denied by the local planning council. Llyr Gruffydd, who represents North Wales, said, "There are alternatives to committing another generation to fossil fuels. Wales can be a world pioneer in renewable energy; it is all a choice between energy production for the good of the people and environment or energy production for short-term profits by large corporations."

The coalition government however continues to back fracking as a cleaner form of energy, despite opposition from bodies including Public Health England and Natural England. Recent compromises have included agreements to restrict where fracking can occur which includes banning the process in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

With the general election looming the main parties seem to roughly agree on fracking. The Conservatives have openly supported fracking during their time in government and have said they would continue to do so. The Liberal Democrats have stated that their party line is to support fracking however there is open disagreement within the party. Labour again support fracking however they are the only of the main parties to state that they would push for tougher conditions including further pre fracking checks and monitoring post fracking. The only party to openly oppose fracking is the Green Party, meaning that they could possibly attract some protest votes in May.

In Brief

Obama's expansion plan

PRESIDENT Obama has proposed to expand the Alaskan wilderness area, this would mean that oil exploration and drilling in the area would be banned. Currently, seven million acers are classed as wilderness; under Obama's proposal a further 21.3 million acers will be added to the area. If congress were to agree, this would be the largest area set aside since the wilderness act came into force in the 1960s. The proposal may face tough opposition in congress from republicans, who support America's energy independence plan, a large part of which includes drilling for oil in Alaska. Opposition also comes from within Alaska itself where politicians claim that Obama is attempting to destroy the economy of the state.

Increase in tiger population

ACCORDING to its most recent census data India's human population isn't the only one that is growing. In the past four years India's tiger population has increased by 30%, rising from 1706 in 2011 to 2226 in 2014. India is thought to be home to 70% of the world's tigers, however global tiger numbers are falling which makes this increase in India essential to the survival of tigers all over the world. The Indian government put the success down to initiatives to streamline conservation. However, some experts are cautious over these figures claiming that country wide estimates are inaccurate and could be up to 30% out. While the increase is promising, there are worries about the availability of food for the growing populations which could restrict their growth in the future.

Increased volcanism for Iceland

RESEARCH has shown that melting ice, due to climate change, is causing an uplift of Iceland at up to 1.4 inches every year. These changes could bring serious consequences to the island and region; scientists believe that this could result in an increased amount of volcanic activity in the country. Iceland has experienced three major eruptions in the past five years, most famously the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in 2010. The increased eruptions would be caused by deep seated rocks rising to lower pressure areas and melting into magma, the increased amount of magma allowing for further pressure to build and volcanos to erupt.

THE 2014 SEREN AWARDS

Overall, 2014 was a pretty great year for television. There were many great debutants such as True Detective and Fargo, and many other television shows that carried on with fine form such as Game of Thrones and Orange is the New Black. As the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild have announced their winners, the Seren team has decided to pick who we thought derserved the awards.



Best Drama

Game of Thrones

by **EMILY HOULSTON-JONES**

Game of Thrones won this category by a landslide, and it's no surprise given the popularity of the show. Nearly everyone I know - including myself - was skeptical when they first heard of the show. For me, the mere mention of a fantasy TV show dredged up uncomfortable memories of being made to watch the full Lord of the Rings trilogy. What sets Game of Thrones apart is its unpredictability. Even book readers like myself have no idea what's coming next. Game of Thrones represents the new breed of TV show, with its smart writing, amazing locations and top-notch acting, with enough plot twists to keep M. Night Shyamalan on his toes.



Best Comedy

Orange is the New Black

by **KATE BENN**

2014 saw the return of Netflix's Orange is the New Black, and the second series certainly didn't disappoint. Adapted from Piper Kerman's memoir of the same name, the show follows Piper (Taylor Schilling) after she's arrested for drug trafficking and winds up in a minimum security prison with her lesbian ex Alex (Laura Prepon). Witty, bold and honest, OitNB boasts one of the most diverse casts on current television. If you sniggered at the tampon-bagel in season one, season two will have you in stitches, because the ladies of Litchfield Prison just got a whole lot nastier, and the results are darkly hilarious.



Best Mini-series

American Horror Story

by **AMY BLACKWELL**

American Horror Story won Seren's TV award for "Best Mini Series" because it's a genuinely well crafted, well written and well acted series. As one of the best series I've seen in a long time, American Horror Story combines supernatural aspects, humour and gore to highlight the horrors of the human condition. The superb acting from Jessica Lange and co is only a portion of what makes this series so fantastic. You never know what's going to happen next, never know what's around the corner. Having a new story to dig your teeth in every series is really refreshing. There is nothing else out there like American Horror Story.



Best Actor

Peter Dinklage

by **IDA VÄISÄNEN**

Peter Dinklage's win as the best actor in this year's Seren TV awards was well deserved. Dinklage has been rocking his role as Tyrion Lannister from the very beginning, but during season 4 we truly saw his versatility as an actor, delivering one of the most awesome monologues in the show's history. Tyrion is one of the most well-liked characters of the cast, also his storyline is one of the most interesting of Game of Thrones at the moment but Dinklage's great acting is another reason that keeps us rooting for Tyrion as long-awaited season 5 dawns upon us.



Best Actress

Uzo Aduba

by **ELEANOR HIRST**

The actress, Uzo Aduba, most famously known for her portrayal of 'Crazy Eyes' in Orange is the New Black, won best actress of 2014. Why, you ask? When you look at Uzo Aduba in interviews, compared to her role in the show, you can see just how much determination and effort goes into acting her role. Uzo Aduba is also part of a larger movement and trend of 2014, which saw the rise of black actresses being cast in more diverse roles in TV shows and films. Her role as 'Crazy Eyes' is fantastic and I cannot wait to see more in the next season of Orange is the New Black.



Why you should watch Fargo

by **RYAN JONES**

TV Miniseries are rapidly growing in popularity and 2014 showed this better than most years. With both American Horror Story and True Detective earning massive fan bases, Fargo appears to be receiving a bit of the cold shoulder in comparison. Of course it has received large amounts of praise from critics and even won a few awards at the Golden Globes, yet I find it shocking how few people have seen the show. Despite having being broadcast on Channel 4 and having a stellar cast including Martin Freeman, Bob Odenkirk (Saul from Breaking Bad) and Golden Globe winner Billy Bob Thornton, most people answer me with a confused look when I ask them whether they have seen Fargo. Even at Seren we have voted against Fargo in favour of American Horror Story, which I find almost blasphemous. The only action I can take here is to encourage readers to watch Fargo as soon as you can, for you shall not be disappointed.

The Fargo TV series is inspired by the film that shares the same title which was released in 1996. However, despite being a good watch, the film is nothing in comparison to the TV series. For those of you putting off watching the TV series because you haven't seen the film, then you needn't do so for any longer. There is little connection between the TV series, as the similarities between the two act more like easter eggs than actual plot devices. Even if you wish to watch the film first, its currently on Netflix, so you have little excuse.

Fargo is set in North Dakota, accompanied by an amusing accent. The show focuses on Deputy Molly Solverson, as she tries to track down a serial killer. The premise offers very little originality at first glance, but with amazing performances from multiple actors, Fargo becomes something very special. Billy Bob Thornton's performance alone, as the serial killer Lorne Malvo, is a must watch. His chilling charisma and callous heart make him one of the best antagonists on television to date. Comparisons to the Devil are hard not to make, as he makes religious commentary between each killing. What makes Malvo so utterly terrifying is how grounded his character is. The show's false claims that "This is a true story" does get you thinking that it conceivable that such a character as Malvo could exist in reality and this is what strikes the most fear into the viewer. His manipulation over our very own Martin Freeman is difficult to digest. Freeman slowly becomes more cold hearted as the series progresses, which is most unlike previous characters he has played such as John Watson and Bilbo Baggins, yet this is arguably his best performance yet!

If any other incentive is needed to watch Fargo, then it is that Season 2 has been announced with an even greater cast including Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Plemons, Ted Danson, Patrick Wilson and Jean Smart. If Season 2 is anything like its predecessor, than it likely that we're in store for a treat. Until then, do yourself a favour and stick Fargo on.



VPN Crackdowns and TV piracy

by **RYAN JONES**

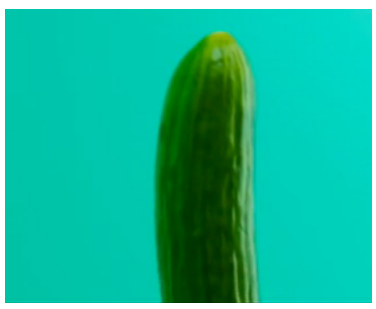
On the turn of the new year, Netflix users were faced with the possibility of having their accounts blocked for using VPN tools to bypass geolocation restrictions. Reports claimed that the video streaming site was being pressured by various movie studios who were unhappy that Netflix users were breaching the license agreements. Many people were distraught by the news and even threatened to cancel their subscriptions. However, Netflix soon reassured its users that it had not changed its policy on VPNs. Despite being against VPNs, Netflix has made no plans to punish users for using them. Many claim that this is simply because Netflix is worried of losing a large percentage of its subscriptions. But why are people so bothered about the potential banning of VPNs?

Many British subscribers of the streaming site have voiced their concerns of the limited video library compared to America's. Many films and TV shows are only available on the American Netflix due to license agreements. This has led to the British customers using VPN tools to widen their library. Many other users have done the same, as Netflix is not yet available in their countries. However, Netflix has decided to turn a blind eye in fear of losing a significant amount of money. This is especially a problem with the return of Pirate Bay, as despite multiple efforts by officials to close the site down, it's back and running, providing free access of media to millions of users. With this in mind, Netflix is well aware that its users can have all the content it provides for free on other sites. Although this is illegal, it has done nothing to prevent the increase of popularity regarding video piracy. But is there anything wrong with this? Are pirates damaging the television industry?

Many people defend piracy by saying that it causes minimal damage to rich companies. This maybe true, but it is not the television companies that we should worry about. Kickass 2 was a perfect example, as Chloe Moretz and Christopher Mintz-Plasse suggested that a sequel would be unlikely due to the film's disappointing box office performance. This was not due to a lack of interest in the film however, as it was revealed that Kickass 2 ranked second as the most downloaded film of 2013. This shows that piracy can have negative implications on the future of your favourite film. Admittedly, the setup for television funding is vastly different, but that doesn't mean your TV show won't get cancelled. The television industry is ran by viewing figures, which makes companies extremely ruthless. Firefly fans can vouch for this and with piracy increasing rapidly, it may only be a matter of time until the next beloved show faces the axe.

But its not only the consumer that needs to change. TV broadcasting is out of date and has yet to adjust to global audiences. Breaking Bad took a couple of years to reach UK televisions, leaving piracy as the only method of watching the series. Of course Netflix picked it up eventually, helping it become a widespread success, but this doesn't hide the fact of the initial broadcasting failure. In a world where spoilers run amok on the internet (*see the Comments section)* people want to see the latest TV episode as soon as possible, but this can sometimes only be possible through illegal downloads. I am not saying this is a reasonable excuse for piracy, as it may still lead to your favourite show being cancelled, but if TV studios have any complaints, then maybe they should sort out their own flaws first.

What on this February?



Cucumber

by **RYAN JONES**

RUSSELL T Davies has finally emerged from the shadows to give us a new television series in the form of Cucumber, released alongside Banana and Tofu. Named after the stages of hardness of male erection (I kid you not), the new Channel 4 show tackles themes from the LGBT community. However, this does not mean that Heterosexual people will not enjoy this show, as it has plenty to offer. From the two episodes that have aired so far, Cucumber has shown many signs of promise as it follows a middle aged gay man, whose reluctance to engage in sexual intercourse has put his relationship at risk. It will be interesting to see how the story plays out and with Russell T Davies at the helm, its definately one to look out for.



Broadchurch

by **STEPHANIE YEABSLEY**

WARNING: SERIES ONE SPOILERS. The 'whodunnit' drama which kept everyone on the edge of their seats in its first series, returned at the end of January and continues to broadcast all throughout February. Series two has continued where it left off with Joe Miller behind bars and ready to enter his plea. But shock! This is Broadchurch, of course he pleaded 'not-guilty' and suddenly our 'whodunnit' drama has become a courtroom drama. Add to this Alec Hardy's continuing health problems, a defence lawyer who has just become the most hated women in Britain, more shady characters, and the unsolved case of Sandbrook, series two has got itself off to an explosive - and incredibly complicated start…



The Walking Dead

by **RYAN JONES**

RICK Grimes and Darryl Dixon are set to return to our screens this month as Season Five of the Walking Dead continues where it left off. With shocking revelations and tear-jerking ends, Season Five has shown many signs that the show is back on form but after seemingly reaching an impasse in the story, the writers must now come up with a new plot for us to sink our teeth into. From judging recent trailers, it seems they have done just that and the anticipation is killing us. Perhaps one of the most tense television shows on air, The Walking Dead should definitely not be ignored this February. You'll be able to watch the next episode of The Walking Dead on the 9th February at 9pm on FOX.



Better Call Saul

by **LIAM SHIPTON**

THIS February will see the first episode of the long-awaited series Better Call Saul. The Breaking Bad spin-off will show the life of the criminal lawyer in the years before he is introduced to everybody's favourite anti-hero, Walter White. Saul Goodman was introduced in the second series of Vince Gilligan's Breaking Bad and rapidly became a fan favourite. His silver-tongued eloquence and complete lack of morals made him one of the most popular television characters of our time. Fellow Breaking Bad alumnus Jonathan Banks will be reprising his role as Mike Ehrmantraut, however no other stars from the hit show have been confirmed. Watch Better Call Saul on Netflix on 9th February; you won't regret it.



Fortitude

by **RYAN JONES**

A new British drama has come to our screens on Sky Atlantic and its name is Fortitude. Set in a fictional town above the Arctic Circle, Fortitude has plenty of snow, polar bears and even some Wooly Mammoth remains. The close-knit community has little to worry about (besides the odd polar bear), but after the increasing fever of a young boy and the murder of one of the citizens of the community, the incompetent police can do little to calm the public down. The brilliant cast including Michael Gambon, Stanley Tucci, Richard Dormer and Christopher Eccleston manages to light up the cold and desolate settlement of Fortitude and will ensure that this will be a great watch throughout February.

PATRICK STEWART SHINES IN 'MATCH'

by **LIAM SHIPTON**

Oscar season always brings forth a flurry of "must-see" films, with writers, actors and directors bringing their A-game to the party in order to claim the most coveted awards in Hollywood. As a film critic with only two pages worth of space to fill, this makes it an incredibly difficult time of year to choose what to write about.

This year however, the most stunning film that I've seen has not in fact been nominated for an Oscar. The film is called 'Match', and it is 90 minutes of proof that all a film really needs in order to make a lasting impact on its viewers is good dialogue, actors who know their craft and a director to bring the two together.

'Match' revolves around Toby Powell (played by Sir Patrick Stewart), a world-renowned dancer and choreographer, who in his advanced age is teaching at the esteemed Juilliard School in Manhattan. Being somewhat of an introvert, Toby enjoys his solitude and thrives on his daily routine. He is therefore reluctant when approached by Lisa (Carla Gugino) and her husband Mike (Matthew Lillard), who say that they wish to interview him for Lisa's dissertation. Although apprehensive and even socially awkward, Toby agrees to meet with the couple and answer their questions. But before long it becomes clear that their reason for tracking him down is very different from what they originally claimed, and as certain truths are brought into the open, the lives of all three characters begin to change drastically, and the end of the movie sees them become very different characters than they were at the beginning.

The only thing I'll say against this film is that the plot twists are fairly predictable, but the performance of all three actors more than makes up for this. The script was written by Stephen Belber, who adapted it from his own play, and that's exactly what it feels like when watching this film; it feels like watching a play. The characters are portrayed so strongly that you just can't look away. The film is so powerful, so moving and thought provoking that once it had finished, I had no choice but to sit in silence for a few minutes to process what I had just seen.

So if the wanton violence of 'American Sniper', the CGI overload of 'Guardians of the Galaxy' or the presence of Ben Affleck in 'Gone Girl' is too much for you, then do yourself a favour: don't blindly watch whatever the Academy tells you to – there's plenty of talent to be found off of the red carpet as well.



CLASSIC FILM OF THE MONTH

ROMAN HOLIDAY

by **STEPHANIE YEABSLEY**

A Cinderella story, but in reverse. Audrey Hepburn stars as Princess Ann, who whilst on a European tour visits Rome. After becoming increasingly frustrated with her demanding and tightly scheduled life, she secretly leaves her country's embassy to explore the city alone. Whilst out, Ann falls asleep due to a sedative and is found by a reporter, Joe (Gregory Peck) who, not recognising her, tries to give her money so she can get a taxi home. At work the next day, Joe recognises Ann as the Princess and proposes the idea of an exclusive interview with her for his paper. With the help of his photographer friend, Joe convinces Ann to let him show her around Rome. This leads to the two inevitably beginning to fall in love, but will Joe betray her?

A modern fairytale, Roman Holiday is nothing without the incredible backdrop propelling the romance story forward. Filmed on location in Rome, the film features Hepburn (whose performance won both the Academy Award, BAFTA, Golden Globe and New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best Actress) and Peck exploring the city on a vintage Vespa, every bit the picture perfect postcard image.

Shot in black and white, I know this film isn't everyone's ideal romantic comedy. But forget Ryan Gosling, and the awful teen romcom's that are produced today; Roman Holiday is so beautifully shot, it oozes charm. It is quite simply, a lovely film.



FILM FRANCHISES: GOOD OR BAD FOR THE INDUSTRY?

GOOD

by **KATE BENN**

Ever been to a midnight showing for the latest release in your favourite film franchise? If you have, you'll know the familiar feeling of anticipation, of "I hope they don't miss that bit out!" and "I hope so-and-so looks the same as they do in the books!" You'll have seen people queuing up in costume as their favourite character – maybe you even dressed up, yourself – and you'll remember the buzz of conversation after leaving the cinema; the feeling of knowing that everyone is talking about the exact same thing.

Unless you're Ebenezer Scrooge himself, you can't resist partaking in these new-release festivities. Whether your preferred world is that of Marvel Cinematic Universe, The Hunger Games, X-Men, Star Wars or Harry Potter, most of us have fictional places we love to get lost in again and again. Sure, you can moan about the exploitative merchandising or relentless promos that most – if not all – of these franchises shamelessly employ, but that doesn't change the fact that film franchises have the rare power to excite people over the world; to bring together fans and generate a kind of mass enthusiasm that's difficult for even the most cynical to resist. I have met some of my closest friends by striking up conversation purely because they happened to be sporting merchandise from one of my favourite franchises. This proves that while Universal Studios, Warner Brothers & co. might be mostly concerned with raking in the big bucks, they also manage to bring people together. Film franchises make movie-going a social event rather than something you do on an awkward first date. There's a reason franchise releases are often the most highly anticipated of the year, and it's that we're with these characters from the beginning; we follow them on a journey. Even if it is all a big, drawn-out moneymaking scheme, you can't deny that there's been a bit of a hole in your life since Harry Potter ended, or that you can't wait to see what MCU are going to do with the Cap and Bucky story arc.



BAD

by **LIAM SHIPTON**

I guess I'm going to have to play the part of Scrooge here, but I've grown pretty accustomed to that role. Here goes:

Yes, I actually can deny that the end of Harry Potter left a hole in my life, because it didn't. And that's not to say that I don't like Harry Potter; I was the first of all my friends to start reading the books back in the '90s and I looked forward to the next book coming out every year. But somewhere around the release of the fourth Harry Potter film, I switched on to the fact that the whole thing was one big con. At some point, it stopped being about art, the creative process was abandoned. Just look at what J.K. Rowling has been up to recently: she tried writing a book for adults, it failed miserably, so she said she'd probably write another Harry Potter book. Because she needs more money, apparently.

The Marvel films are another example: they have their releases scheduled 20 years in advance. That's just obscene; but they get away with it because people are idiots. And that's what it all comes down to in the end: people will blindly go and see these films, buy the t-shirt, rave about the special effects and spend the next six months annoying you by continuously posting trailers of the next piece of factory-made Marvel tripe all over your Facebook feed.

Now, let's deal with that exploitative, money-grabbing sell-out, George Lucas. Are you excited about the new Star Wars film? Why shouldn't you be? After all the last three were so brilliant. That's sarcasm, by the way.

The last three Star Wars films were an abomination, a collection of excrement not fit to stick to the shoe of the original three. But wasn't everyone just jumping with joy when it was announced that they'd be making yet more stories of the galaxy far, far away? And they knew that you would; George Lucas hasn't even seen the trailer for the new film yet, and this speaks volumes: it tells us that for these filmmakers, it has stopped being about being artistic and creating something of substance, and more about answering one question: How much money can I make?

Just like the people who make the FIFA games know that people will buy the newest version every year on the day it comes out, the makers of Star Wars, the Marvel films and every other franchise like it knows that as long as they keep churning out these fast-food equivalent of the film world, people will always be queuing up to buy tickets. The whole thing leaves me feeling… well, disenfranchised.



GAMES AND GADGETS

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

GAMING ROUND UP OF 2014



The third, and last, instalment of the Arkham trilogy will see Rocksteady's take on Batman and Arkham in all its glory, this time featuring the bat mobile. The game looks likely to increase the amp size, possibly expanding on the existing Arkham city map, or at least putting that world into far more detail. Due to pin you down with batarangs on June 2, expect this game to suck you in with an engrossing storyline and deliver that knockout punch for an excellent trilogy.



With one of the greatest trailers of E3 last year, the second instalment in this series looks set to go even bigger and better than the first. With the first coming up on games for gold on Xbox a few months ago and over 2 million players worldwide, the game received a good reception and was a fantastic game, albeit slightly clunky at times. With the title shifting developers from Techland over to Yager, creators of brilliant *Spec Ops: The Line*, it will be interesting to see how much the game changes from the first. With a rough guide of an August release, keep your eyes peeled for this one.



The heavily anticipated third instalment in the franchise has finally released a very rough date to work with, sometime in 2015. However, this is great news for people who have been waiting eagerly since the second game's release in 2005 as developer Dice, known for *Battlefield*, has been linked with the project and is looking to hold onto key elements that made the predecessors as good as they were. Expect this game to be coming late this year with no in game material available with the probably of a push to 2016 occurring looking to be a possibility.

by **JOE KEEP**

So, with 2014 officially over it is time to reflect on the year in terms of gaming and where it stands as a whole. To me, three words jump out when I think back over the past year: Broken, Disappointing and Unfinished.

I choose these words mainly in association with the AAA releases we have seen in 2014 not living up to the quality many were expecting. There was an air of anticipation, this was the time where consoles would prove they could handle what a PC could and show that they are ready to stand toe to toe. However, with endless amounts of bugs being reported and major performance issues across the board, it wasn't meant to be.

I have always believed video games to be more than just a game, something that you can look at and appreciate as much as you would if you visited an art gallery or be able to comment on how a game works technically and is a smooth to play. However, when you're staring a game that doesn't load in character skins leaving just a floating set of eyes and jaws (yes, that is you *Assassin's Creed Unity*) or faces intense online issues despite already having a server setup in place (I'm looking at you *Grand Theft auto V*) it's easy to see why people don't see them in such a way.

However, this has overlooked the little guys, the indie developers of the year who have created some wonderful masterpieces throughout 2014. I point you towards *Screencheat* a game that actively encourages watching other peoples screens because you are all invisible. There is also *Drawful*, a wonderful little game that has you draw images of a phrase or word for a group of people to guess what they think it is and then choose from the answers with the correct one mixed in.

Still, these little gems are not enough to cover over what many feel is a lacklustre year in which promises and targets have been missed. I'd it was epitomised when the game of the year, *Dragon Age Inquisition*, still suffered from performance issues and other bugs that need work.

SEREN'S GAMES OF THE YEAR

by **IDA VÄISÄNEN**



by **JESSE YOUNG**

In thinking of possible choices for my stand-out game of the year, it struck me that what excites me most in a game is when it tells a story in the way only a game can. To that end, even though my actual official Game of the Year is *Super Smash Bros.*, the game I feel is most worthy of a personal recommendation is *Virtue's Last Reward*. It's a late 2012, underappreciated 3DS/VITA release that I got around to this year after experiencing the brilliant *999: 9 Hours, 9 Persons, 9 Doors*.

These two games form two volumes of the *Zero Escape* series of Visual Novels. Think *Ace Attorney,* but instead of lawyers, it's nine people trapped in a building, forced to participate in a game of life and death. There are puzzles throughout, interspersed with a LOT of text (they're novels for a reason), and both games masterfully exploit the medium to deliver mind-bending twists. *Virtue's Last Reward,* for example, explores thought experiments such as Schrödinger's Cat, the Prisoner's Dilemma and the Butterfly Effect. To say any more would be going into heavy spoilers, but if that at all sounds like your cup of tea, seek out *999* and *Virtue's Last Reward*. They're worth your time.

Virtue's Last Reward, which I played at the very beginning of the year (and, again, is a 2012 release), renewed my excitement for computer games as a storytelling device. It's notable that throughout the rest of 2014, no other game even came close. Even *Shadow of Mordor*'s potentially revolutionary Nemesis system is solely a gameplay advancement, and the core storyline barely bears mentioning. Other AAA titles had stories ranging from passable (*Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare*), to barely existent (*Destiny*), to just plain awful (*Watch Dogs*). That's not to say every single AAA story was bad – it's just to say that I didn't get anything out of those I came into contact with.





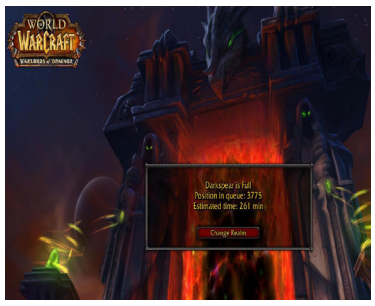
The smaller games fared better, overall, but not by a huge margin. *Transistor* was cleverly told and gorgeously presented, but lacked much-needed payoff. *D4: Dark Dreams Don't Die* provided delightful absurdity in a way only the mind behind *Deadly Premonition* could, but as an episodic game has not yet quite had the chance to spread its wings. I grow steadily more disappointed in Telltale Games' *The Walking Dead: Season Two* each time I think about it. 2014 was a letdown for a computer game story enthusiast such as myself, but I'm holding out for an announcement of Zero Escape Volume 3 in 2015! I'm seriously surprised that's the thing I anticipate the most in gaming right now, but that's what I've come to.

by **ELEANOR HIRST**

2014, in my opinion, was the year where the classic 'point and click' games were dramatically reinvented. Telltale Games are one of the leading game development companies specializing in this genre, and both The Walking Dead and Game of Thrones game series by this company are fantastic. Both of these games have fantastic storylines, where the gamer has a direct impact upon the storyline. The games strike a successful balance between TV drama and 'adventure' gaming, where you have to make many difficult choices. There are cliffhangers at the end of each episode in these game series, which leave you waiting for more.

While not the best addition to the franchise, who doesn't love themselves some Sims? Gameplay-wise, Sims 4 returned to its Sims 1 roots by removing several things at either the joy or despair of players: Toddlerhood is gone but so is the terrifying burglar music that gave you nightmares. Even though Sims 4 didn't live up to hype, the ingeniously simple idea behind the franchise - the freedom to make the game into anything you want - raises Sims 4 to amongst the best games of 2014 and will keep fans entertained while waiting for the next instalment. Judging by the amount of games just on PC (4) and expansion packs (29), that's sure to come.

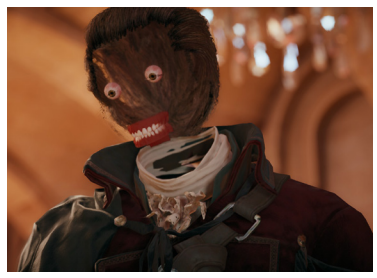
FIVE BIGGEST GAMING ISSUES OF 2014



With the release of a new game,developers should be prepared for a massive influx of gamers, especially when you are releasing expansions for an already popular game. However, with the release of the latest *World of Warcraft* expansion, *Warlords of Draenor*, Blizzard seemed unable to cope. With waiting times to login into servers creeping up to around 6 hours, players were left without the ability to try out the expansion without a little patience.

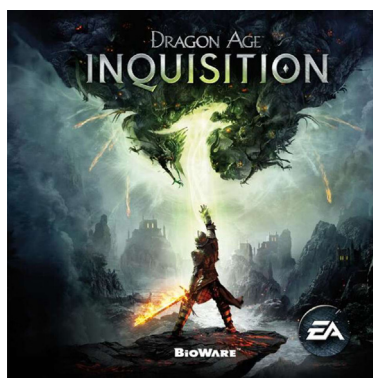


When you buy a game and you're offered certain content but you load up the game only to realise that it isn't there. This is made even worse as a company promises to patch in the thing that is missing yet it keeps on getting pushed back with each patch, sometimes even another version of the game is released, yes *Grand Theft Auto V* this is aimed at you and your heists. We're left waiting until 14 December 2014 after an original release date of 13 September 2013!



Games that ship with issues is something every gamer fears. But when a game is failing to render characters within cutscenes and you're left with a floating set of eyes and jaw that are wearing clothes, that isn't worth your £40 a game. A system that sees players acting as the quality assurance isn't something gamers want and it will see them start to refuse to partake.

There is nothing worse than making excellent progress through a game only to run into a game breaking bug or glitch that means you either have to weather the storm and hope it fixes itself or return to the home screen and start up from your last save. I encountered this issue with Dragon Age: Inquisition as the main HUD remained in a cutscene not allowing me to select any options off of the radial menu to progress through the scene.





The amount of remastered games being released is starting to approach a ridiculous level. The fact that *Final Fantasy 10* and *10-2* are being remastered again for the PS4 after getting the facelift for PS3 seems ridiculous to me, and I loved both the games. The major problem this is creating is a lack of new IPs as teams are left to touch up the graphics and clear up the audio as best they can.

PC PORT PROBLEMS

by **JESSE YOUNG**

The past year has been a weird one for PC gamers. In many ways, it's been a weird year for gaming in general, with countless PR and QA gaffes attached to major releases. None of these gaffes, however, are more confounding than certain studios' slipshod approach to PC ports.

Let's be clear: PC ports are, in general, becoming more polished and complete products. Controller support has become almost universally integrated. Online distribution services like Steam are booming. Even games such as the well-loved yet obscure *Valkyria Chronicles* are seeing new life, ported to the PC years after console-exclusive release.

In the midst of this PC boom, however, we have a number of developers accused of prioritizing console releases at the expense of their PC equivalents. There was a great furore, for instance, over *Watch_Dogs*' marked visual downgrade between reveal and release, especially when code was discovered in the PC version that enabled enhanced visuals. *Dark Souls 2* also axed visual features before release. *The Evil Within's* initial release had forced letterboxing and a cap of 30 frames per second.

Why all this nonsense in a time where the PC market is more viable than ever? The sentiment behind the outrage directed towards these cases is simply this: people believe that the PC versions are being held back to boost console game sales. By dulling the advantage of a good PC over the new generation of console hardware, the PC looks like a less attractive alternative, in essence.

This approach to sales seems counterintuitive, but the official responses don't necessarily hold water either. The official Ubisoft response to the *Watch_Dogs* furore was predictable yet questionable: They referred to the graphical effects as "old, unused render settings" that "subjectively [enhance] the game's visual fidelity in certain situations but also can have various negative impacts" – essentially, performance issues and instability. Tango Gameworks, developers of *The Evil Within*, had a more vague approach at release, discouraging players from even using console commands to remove the limit and suggesting "everyone play the game as it was designed and intended for the best experience". This was somewhat undermined when a patch was later released, allowing PC gamers to enable these options within the game's settings.

It's a conflict where neither side presents a convincing argument or explanation. The only conclusive aspect is the weirdness of it all. Chalk it down to the underwhelming, underpowered nature of the new generation of consoles that this kind of debate is even possible. Then sigh a little bit. That's what I'll be doing.







ROUND UP OF 2014

by **JOE KEEP**



2014 saw major leaps and bounds for gadgets. Upgrades in the technology have seen advances from 1080p up to 5k in the visual elements, an ever purifying sound in both cinemas and personal speakers whilst all the while making it more compact. All of this is just upping the anticipation of what is going to be offer next, but, the thing that many people don't realise is that technology and the gadgets they are using are fast approaching the limits of the human body.

The human eye can detect different picture qualities better from certain distances, so, if you were viewing both a 4k and 5k laptop screen for example, the difference would be barely noticeable. However, if you transferred this to a much larger screen, say a 100 inch one, that quality difference would be far more noticeable.

It is this point that makes me ask: Is there any point in pushing the technology in our phones, music players and the like? If we won't get the benefit from them because our bodies physically can't process it, there is no need for this advancement surely. Yes, for the grandiose experience, these elements will massively enhance it, but the day to day it no longer has an impact.

Despite this, there were some really interesting moves in the gadget world throughout 2014, the main of which saw lots of interest converging on virtual reality. With Facebook spending $2 billion on Occulus Rift and Sony announcing project Morpheus, it seems that virtual reality could be the next step in entertainment. However, I look at this and think back to Google Glass, the project working with Augmented reality and how there has been very little news of progress on reaching a release date on that front and fear that this may meet a similar fate.

Overall though, 2014 is a hugely positive year for gadgets and technology. Despite the technological and performance components reaching a peak, the investment and interest in both augmented and virtual reality could see a new angle taken with development into these areas.



Review: James Gilchrist & Sholto Kynoch - *Winterreise*

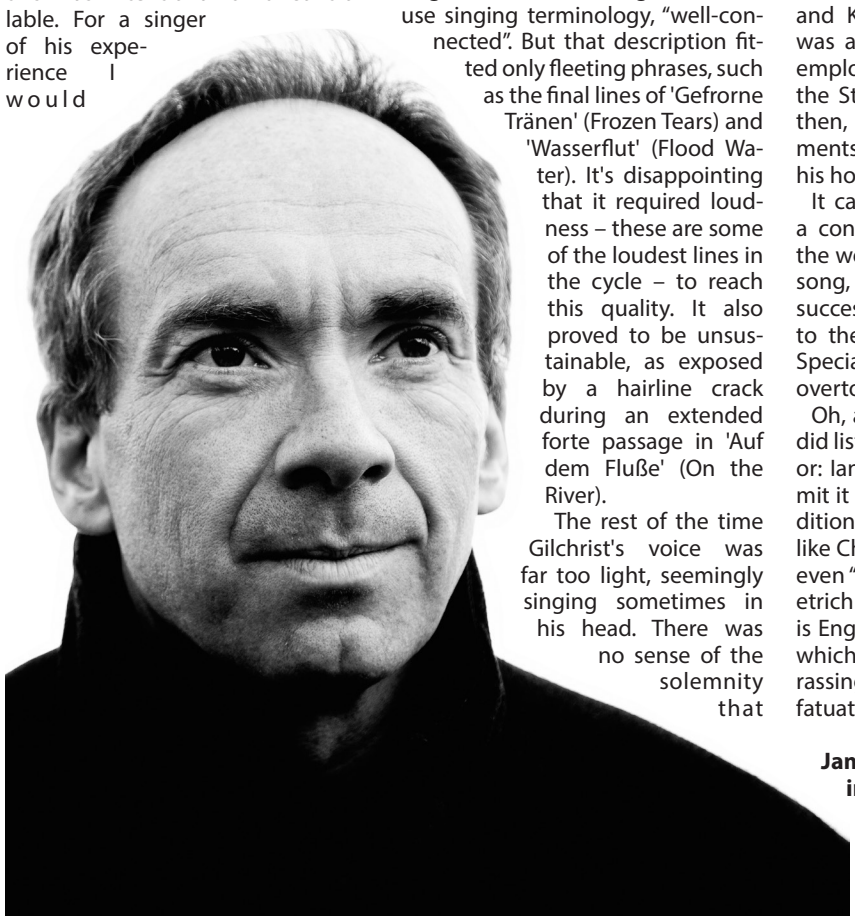
by **HEDD THOMAS**

Last year, tenor James Gilchrist visited Bangor University to perform Franz Schubert's song-cycle *Die schöne Müllerin* (The Fair Miller-Maid). He returned last Thursday (29th January) to a three-quarters-full Powis Hall to give a recital of that composer's other and great - many would say greater - song-cycle, *Winterreise* (Winter Journey).

Gilchrist used to be a doctor before turning to singing full-time some twenty years ago. I just hope he never had to do surgery or go poking in any orifice, as the first thing I noticed was his hands. They just could not keep still. They'd reach out as if to embrace the world and all its problems. It could have been expressive had the hands not been retracted just a second later, cupped to the breast as if in realisation that no, the world isn't to be embraced after all. It hurts the heart.

Then they'd go out again. Then in, out, in, out, you shake it all a... you get the picture. Gestures like that can be very effective if done with confidence and purpose. The equally effective alternative is to keep hands at the side at all times. Halfway between the two is just distracting.

The hand bone's connected to the arm bone, the arm bone's connected to the shoulder bone, the shoulder bone's connected to the neck bone, the neck bone's connected to the head bone, and it's this head bone that was also grooving to the beat. During the second song, 'Die Wetterfahne' (The Weathervane) there were two consecutive triplets, and on each note Gilchrist changed the angle of his head: up, left, left, up, right, up. Six twitches in half as many seconds. Again, it's difficult to tell if this was intentional or uncontrollable. For a singer of his experience I would expect the former, but it looked so out of place that I can only assume the latter.



Bizarrely, twitch as the tenor might throughout the seventy-five minutes, he barely made eye contact with his audience. With head up, he strained his stare towards the ground; with head down, he looked up at the ceiling. We might as well not have been there.

I understand the need to "do" something, to "show" something. When standing alone on stage with just a pianist for support, there's a tendency to want to give too much, to throw your emotions at the albeit well-behaved mob. Except for the inconsiderate lady whose desire for a sweet from a crinkly, crackly wrapper takes precedence over the music and everyone else's desire to hear it. There's always one, and there's always the urge to throw something much more solid than emotions in her direction.

But I digress.

You want to give too much. But the reason why Armani's are the best perfumes for men is not because they assault the senses with their pungency but for the precise opposite: they lure you with their subtlety.

The same is true for a recital. Intimacy is the goal; charm and subtlety are key. Stand your ground and let your voice alone do the work. A calm, crystal, careful voice will bring even the most dentist-doting sweet-sucker to silence and make the whole room enthralled, leaning forward on the ends of their seats. Head-twitching, arm-stretching and hand-cupping done half-heartedly and ad nauseam are, in translation, distracting, intimidating and over-compensating.

What of Gilchrist's voice? It was bright, bold and strong. It was, to use singing terminology, "well-connected". But that description fitted only fleeting phrases, such as the final lines of 'Gefrorne Tränen' (Frozen Tears) and 'Wasserflut' (Flood Water). It's disappointing that it required loudness – these are some of the loudest lines in the cycle – to reach this quality. It also proved to be unsustainable, as exposed by a hairline crack during an extended forte passage in 'Auf dem Flußе' (On the River).

The rest of the time Gilchrist's voice was far too light, seemingly singing sometimes in his head. There was no sense of the solemnity that *Winterreise* demands, no gravitas to anchor the hero's feelings to his fate. Gilchrist was vacant and the hero, consequently, vague.

Being a baritone myself, I suspected some typical anti-tenor bias was at play so vowed to listen to a recording of a top tenor when the concert was over, just to check. I gave Gilchrist the benefit of the doubt and blamed it on the acoustics of Powis Hall. But come 'Der Lindenbaum' (The Linden Tree), voice and song suited one another perfectly. Why? Because the music is slow and sweet. It's the lightest lied out of the twenty-four, and Gilchrist's wispy tones gently floated over the frosty winter scene about which he sang. And the other twenty-three? Instead of treading cautiously into the crisp, white snow, Gilchrist's voice was simply swept away by the wind.

Accompanying Gilchrist on piano was Sholto Kynoch, an Honorary Research Fellow of Bangor University and a regular at concerts here. He played strongly and steadily with little sense of rubato - give-and-take in the timing of the music - that characterises much music of the romantics. It meant that although Gilchrist and Kynoch were very much together and connected during the whole seventy-five minutes, they were "connected" like a sidecar is connected to a motorbike: by a steel rod. And with solid step-wise movement and an unforgiving drive even when a lighter touch was called for, Kynoch was most definitely the motorbike; Gilchrist was relegated to sidecar. A less rigid, more forgiving material, such as a rope that tethers two mutually free ships closely together, would have been more appropriate.

Despite this rigidity - indeed, because of it - there was no deeper musical relationship between Gilchrist and Kynoch. The only relationship was a physical one, with the tenor employing the cliché of holding onto the Steinway frame every now and then, presumably in those rare moments when he became conscious of his hopeless, hapless hands.

It can't be denied that Gilchrist is a considerable singer, especially in the world of early music and English song, where he has achieved such success. No doubt his success is due to the special quality of his voice. Special though it may be, it's one overtone short of Schubertian.

Oh, and in case you're interested, I did listen to a recording by a top tenor: Ian Bostridge. I'm loathed to admit it but must: I now prefer his rendition to those of German baritones like Christian Gerhaher, Olaf Bär, and even "The King of Lieder Singers" Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. But Bostridge is English. And a tenor. I don't know which of those is the more embarrassing feature of my newfound infatuation.

James Gilchrist will be performing the role of Hyllus in Handel's *Hercules* at Birmingham Town Hall on 1st March and at the Barbican Centre, London on 4th March



Caspar David Friedrich, *Winter Landscape*, 1811

Journey of a Winter Journey

by **HEDD THOMAS**

After the rationale of the Age of Enlightenment, Middle Europeans were feeling a bit detached from their feelings and from their place in nature.

Instead of grand architecture and fancy portraits, artists like Caspar David Friedrich began depicting fearful mountains and lonely woods. People were painted as tiny figures in an overwhelming environment, as in *The Chasseur in the Forest*, or with their back to the viewer, as in the famous *Wanderer above the Sea of Fog*, a painting that epitomises the period.

Instead of celebrating society and civilisation, poets likewise took an introspective focus on man's individual hopes and fear, his accompanying vulnerabilities and failures, and, most of all, his utter isolation.



Franz Schubert, 1797-1828

Such was the world of Wilhelm Müller, a dashing young German poet writing after the end of the Napoleonic Wars. Towards the end of his life, which was cut tragically short by a heart attack at the age of 32, he wrote and had published a collection of twenty-four poems entitled *Winterreise* (Winter Journey).

The poems tell the story of a young man. He starts in the bedroom of his sweetheart but talks of leaving: "I came here a stranger, As a stranger I depart." Why? Wanderlust. The need for chance and change. The irritating failure to feel at home. "Love loves to wander - God made it that way - From one to the other, My dearest, good night!" Without waking his lover he whispers these words in her ear before softly closing the door behind him and leaving in the dead of night for whatever wild, wintry world awaits.

The following twenty-three poems are all about this man's solitary journey through the cold, unforgiving landscape. He walks past a weathervane, a linden tree, a stream, a signpost and an inn. The inn is full so he has to continue walking. He hears a post horn and a crow. He feels his tears freezing and his hair greying.

Finally, he meets another human being: a hurdy-gurdy man. His fingers are frozen, his begging bowl is empty and no one is listening, but the musician plays a tune nonetheless. The final stanza reads, "Strange old man, Shall I go with you? Will you play your organ To my songs?"

Franz Schubert, a young composer living in Vienna and a contemporary of Müller, had already read a previous collection of the poet's and set them to music: *Die schöne Müllerin* (The Fair Miller-Maid) was composed when Schubert was 26 years old. Also about a wanderer meditating on the nature of love and the love of nature, the moods of the songs vary from comic to tragic, joyful to mysterious, calm to thoroughly impassioned. The musical style was revolutionary, changing the direction of song forever.

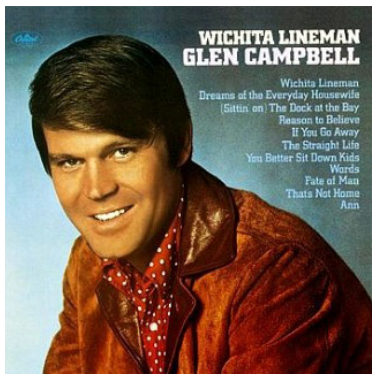
Four years later, Schubert was slowly dying of syphilis. Through his pain, while waiting for his own winter to pass into spring, he somehow managed to compose *Winterreise*. The music is altogether more sombre in character yet hauntingly beautiful. Indeed, mezzo-soprano Elena Gerhardt said, "You have to be haunted by this cycle to be able to sing it."

A year later, and while still editing *Winterreise* for publication, Schubert died. Yet nearly two-hundred years later his legacy and that of his last great work endures. It's frequently performed and recorded all around the world. It's a centrepiece in the history of music. And for singers, wanderers and lovers alike, it has a special place in our hearts.

To start your own winter journey, try ***Ian Bostridge's 2004 recording on EMI Classics*** with piano accompaniment by Leif Ove Andsnes. Bostridge has also recently authored a book, ***Schubert's Winter Journey: Anatomy of an Obsession***, which delves into the song-cycle and his own personal reflections to give an insight into Schubert's world and mind.

Seren's St. Valentine's Day Playlist

With the big day only a week away, Seren's Music Editor, Hedd Thomas, asked his fellow students to help compile the perfect playlist for your perfect night. Seren accepts no responsibility for any sore feet, sore heads, ringing ears, lost voices, lost shoes, lost pride, lost partners or pregnancies incurred as a result of enjoying these tracks too much.



Glen Campbell: 'Dreams of the everyday housewife'
Chosen by Jonathan Roberts
"Because it's a beautiful song in quick ¾ time. I loved it as soon as I heard it for the first time, as it reminds me of how one day I'd love the perfect everyday housewife."



t.A.T.u: 'Show me love'
Chosen by Ida Väisänen
"I think there is a time in everyone's life, conveniently as a teenager in my case, when the only sound you hear is your own feverish heartbeat and nothing else matters but your larger-than-life feelings. I'm not a teenager anymore but this song has stuck with me, reminding me what it was like to be a high schooler and in love."



Jason Mraz – 'Long Drive'
Chosen by Martyna Piątkowska
"Because it's meltingly beautiful, modernly angelic and filled with good vibes. It makes you feel like a teenage couple again, having marvellous fun and taking the long way home..."



Madness: 'It Must Be Love'
Chosen by Vikki Stanners
"Because it's a slightly less conventional show of love for someone. My mum got me into ska and the likes of Madness and The Specials, and it's one of my favourites!"



Taylor Swift: 'We are never getting back together'
Chosen by Rachel Hinchliffe
"Because we aren't, sorry."



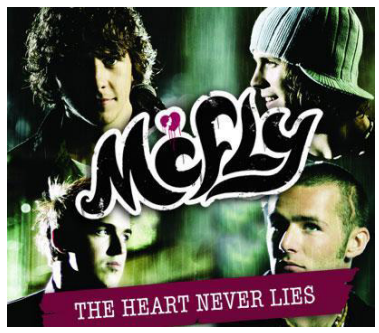
The Beach Boys: 'God Only Knows'
Chosen by Hannah Burgess
"I know, really cheesy! But because it's in Love Actually and never fails to make me all mushy and happy! It's a brilliant Song!"



Aerosmith – 'Don't Wanna Miss A Thing'
Chosen by Jack Upton
"Because I'll never be able to sing it properly but constantly sing it at my girlfriend and end up crying because the song is too emotional for me to handle."



The Beach Boys: 'Wouldn't It Be Nice'
Chosen by Phoebe Wright
"Because it's fun and catchy and seriously cute. I have special memories of it, but unfortunately only ones with my ex! But it's a fab song to dance to.



McFly: 'The Heart Never Lies
Chosen by Maddie Chitty
"Because I love Mcfly! They are amazing! Tom and I will marry one day! When they play this live I always cry."



The Stranglers: 'Golden Brown'
Chosen by Tom Lazell
"Because when I hear it I think of my girlfriend. She's got golden brown hair. And it's open to interpretation."



Taylor Swift: 'You belong with me'
Chosen by Albert Ventayol Boada
"Because it's a little bit corny and sentimental. It's nice to believe in true love."

Organs in Space: An overview of Hans Zimmer's *Interstellar*

by **JAMES GREEN & JO ARVANITIS**

Christopher Nolan's latest blockbuster Interstellar tells the story of a futuristic dystopia where unexplained crop failures leave the remains of NASA no choice but to find an alternative to earth. Against this backdrop, our attention is brought to the poignant separation of a father and daughter caught up in this interstellar adventure.

Hans Zimmer's soundtrack for Interstellar is only the latest instalment in the composer's collaboration with Nolan, which also includes The Dark Knight trilogy and Inception. The score features extensive use of the pipe organ. Zimmer worked closely with the organist Roger Sayer and was wowed by the versatility of this unusual instrument and its potential within a cinematic score.

Interstellar's organ-heavy soundtrack is a far cry from the family-friendly sweeping melodies heard in typical space-based films such as Star Trek and Star Wars. This is likely the result of the composing approach. Zimmer was brought on board unusually early: not only two years prior to the film's release but even before Nolan had finished writing the script. Due to Nolan having heard Zimmer's initial drafts whilst completing the script, there is a very strong link between the music and the characters.

During the conception of the main theme, Zimmer was only given the fable at the centre of the story: the father-daughter relationship. There was no mention of the setting nor that the film was to be a sci-fi. So Zimmer created an emotive chord sequence thematically removed from the setting, giving the film an original sound twist. It was only after these themes were composed that Nolan revealed the sci-fi aspect of the film and Zimmer began orchestrating with a more typical space pallet, bar one feature: the ever-present sound of the church organ.

Even though there is no ecclesiastic theme to the film, Nolan said he wanted some feeling of religiosity, as it represents mankind's attempt to explain the mystical and metaphysical. Zimmer responded with the pipe organ. Besides its religious connotations, he felt this was a human instrument. It needs air to make it sound, and the composer felt that each note was like a breath.

If there was ever a film that needed to be experienced on the big screen, this is it. All the elements - the visuals, the sound effects and the music - are united as one large-scale epic roller coaster. Sitting in the audience, you truly feel you are being taken on the journey with the characters; you feel the loneliness of interstellar travel and the heartfelt emotion of a father-daughter relationship. This cinematic experience owes much to the emotional script, the realistic visuals and, perhaps most of all, the distinctive music.

Dates for your diary

FOLK
Meinir Gwilym & Gwenan Gibbard
Saturday 7th February, 7.30 p.m.
at Galeri, Caernarfon,
£8 for students

ACOUSTIC
Songbird: The Music of Eva Cassidy
Sunday 8th February, 7.30 p.m.
at Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl,
£18 for students

MOTOWN
The Magic of Motown
Saturday 7th February, 7.00 p.m.
at William Aston Hall, Wrexham,
£16.50

ELECTROACOUSTIC
CelticSonic
Thursday 19th February, 8.00 p.m.
at Reichel Hall, Bangor University,
£3 for students

CLASSICAL
St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra
Friday 20th February, 7.30 p.m.
at Venue Cymru, Llandudno,
from £14



Gwenan Gibbard

IT'S BACK...

10th MAR

SEREN



Palas Print Closure

Last month beloved independent Welsh language bookshop Palas Print closed on Bangor High Street. The owners, Eirian James and Selwyn Jones, who have another store in Caernarfon said:

"Sadly, we have to admit that despite our best efforts, and the continued support of a small but faithful group of people in the area, we have not succeeded in developing the business in Bangor.

"Over the past few months I've had to face the harsh reality that the Bangor shop is not sustainable, and therefore with a heavy heart, and apologies to all those who have supported our venture in Bangor, I have to announce that the Bangor shop will close on 24th January at 5.30pm.

"It is important to note that we will continue trading in Caernarfon, that the Caernarfon shop is viable and thriving, and though in the short term, it is sad to admit that I have failed in Bangor, our aim is to secure the long term future of the business on the high street in Caernarfon.

"Even though we will no longer be on the High Street in Bangor, we would very much like to continue, where possible, to offer a service to our faithful customers in the Bangor area who are unable to make it to Caernarfon or other shops in the area regularly.

"We are also looking into the possibility of having a drop off point for customer collections in Bangor."

The shop was host to many cultural and literary events, including the book launch of Hazel Manuel's novel 'Kanyakumari" which was reported in Seren this past August. They even had a regular bookshop. Bangor Universities English Literature department had close ties with the store and hosted a book sale for the shop in the past week. Students often used to the store to order core module readings. The store will be greatly missed, it is always sad to see independent businesses close. Fortunately the Caernarfon store does quite well:

"We are happy to report that 2014 has been a successful year in Caernarfon, that the shop and the whole street continues to flourish, develop and improve every year.

"We have held a number of successful events in the shop and in the street, and we are already planning a programme of events for 2015."



Lady Windermere's Fan

by **PORTIA DODDS**

They say that there are no small parts, only small actors. Well, BEDS proves this statement to be absolutely true. Lady Windemere's Fan, by Oscar Wilde, has four main protagonists; Lady Windemere (Asher Humphries), Lord Windemere (Tom Hetherington), Lord Darlington (Tim Pattern) and Mrs Erlynne (Sarah Phillips) and so one expects them to take the limelight and overshadow the support roles purely because of their vast amounts of lines and prominent stage presence. For me, however, it was the supporting roles that really stole the show.

Although, the aforementioned really showed their acting abilities, it must be noted that it is not always the protagonists that get all the credit. Where the gale force winds and blizzard-like hail could have distracted the audience from the action, a few non-protagonist actors really captured my attention. First, Matt Lobo's flamboyant chortling Cecil Graham was incredible to watch; his gestures and voice were simply hilarious and fitting to Mr Wilde's stereotyped 'aphorism-esque' personality. Secondly, another character only in a few scenes was Duchess Berick played by Anna Skvortsova. She truly was a stunning duchess who held herself with that expected grace of a Georgian duchess, despite the directors (Chib Alexander and Rhiannon Daye) setting the play in a later time period of the nineteen fifties. Skvortsova delivered her comic lines with such precision and clarity that the audience lapped her comic timing. Combine this with Lady Agatha's (played by Jenny Perkins) perfectly timed and certainly recognisable teenage eye rolls and lip pursing, the audience were kept captivated. With such a talented, large cast, it is impossible to pinpoint all their strengths (of which there were many). One comment must be made that as a whole, the ensemble of particular tones and address of voices, physicality and a certain Etonian middle class air really brought a dramatic feel to this comedy. As the play is about a woman blackmailing her (revealed) daughter's husband into keeping her financially comfortable, there was a dramatic edge to it. However, in true Oscar Wilde taste, lines made infamous over time brought laughter and poignant bobs of heads from the audience. Once again, BEDS produced a play that meant they were certainly "looking at the stars" as there was not only a lot of talent, but another example of BEDS' near professional ability to deliver.

WRITER'S COLUMN

Chocolates and Flowers
by **JON TUPACK**

Empty gifts to be scoffed at will,
Flowers sniffed, Rot on the sill,
Fat and pungent
Is THIS love?

Maybe jewels will do the trick,
After your chocolates have made you sick,
Shining rock on your neck
Is THIS love?

Or maybe we should stare into each other's eyes,
Real jewels unlike these lies.
You see yourself in reflection adored.
This is love.

Yearn
by **DRACO BAYLE**

Let roses be red and these violets be blue,
But all colour drains when I see you.
The world slows down and fades away
Until pass not a second nor day.
If I could stop the moon and stars
And let this moment forever be ours,
Then I call mighty Chronos or Father Time
Or even Roman Saturn to let thy wish be mine.

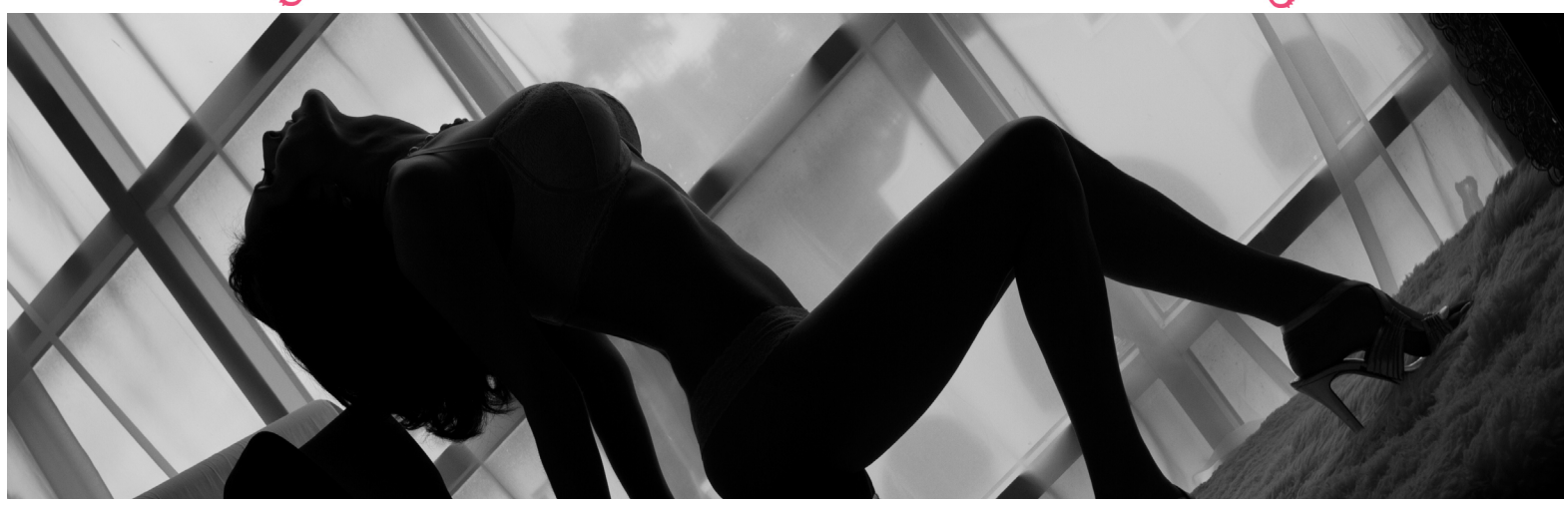
If you want to see your work in Seren's 'Books' Pages, feel free to send any short poems, short stories or creative pieces of any kind to:

books@seren.bangor.ac.uk

I'm looking for budding writers out there to spread their talents. Even if you don't want your work to feature in the paper, feel free to send me a copy of your work labelled "Read Only" and I'd be happy read and edit it.

- Jack H. Upton
Books Editor

Valentine's day special



Erotica: I read for the plot

by **SHANNEN STONER**

I am the first to admit that women with troubled pasts, sexually frustrated billionaires and steamy raw sex scenes seem to be at the top of the check list for erotic novels nowadays, but there is more to reading erotica than '50 Shades of Grey' would lead you to believe.

As a girl who finds her guilty pleasure in a good steamy beach read, I have read my fair share of trashy novels. From the 'Crossfire Series' by Sylvia Day to 'The Passion' by Jeanette Williams, the diversity in the erotica genre is surprising given that 50 Shades is what most recently set the bar for such novels. The other side of erotica reveals just how diverse the genre is, just how many sub-genres it has dipped its tentacles in. There are Sci-Fi novels like 'Kushiel's Dart' by Jacqueline Carey about a spy who is also a courtesan, and the paranormal or fantasy novels such as 'The Undead' series by Mary Janice Davidson which makes use of a race of vampires. There are even authors out there who have used shape-shifters and elves in their work. No matter your literary interest, there will be an erotic book out there to match.

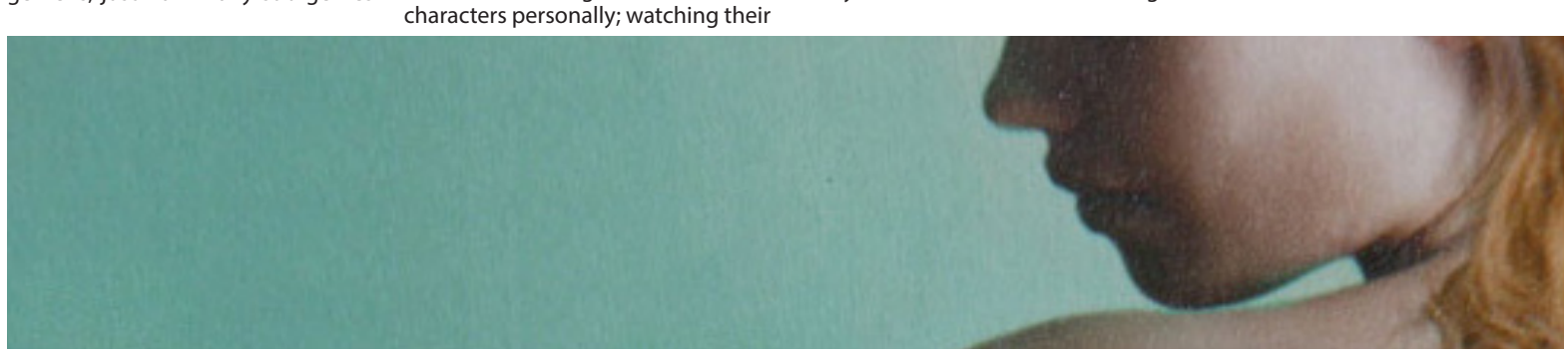
But it doesn't just have to be about the sex! Yeah it makes for a saucy read but, in all honesty, who can say that they don't get bored when they start reading more sexy shower scenes than natural for the number of showers people take in a day? No, I am in it for the story. I love nothing more than feeling like I know the characters personally; watching their relationships blossom, watching them find themselves. It's the same kind of hook that people get from watching Emmerdale. Don't get me wrong, I am well aware that as a genre erotica is not meant to be full of poetic and romantic euphemism, but if you remove the sex from the mix, there is often still a story to be told. Unlike the 'cousin' of erotica (pornography), that is about as exciting as watching paint dry; you can feel the sexual heat, the tension between the two people as they start to become more romantically involved than just a few flirtatious glances. It is hot.

For those who are still convinced that erotica is unhealthy I would like to draw your attention to the literature of the 1800's. A poet named Emily Dickinson wrote the following:

Come slowly—Eden
Lips unused to thee—
Bashful—sip thy jasmines—
As the fainting bee—

Reaching late his flower,
Round her chamber hums—
Counts his nectars—alights—
And is lost in balms!

…Blatantly a sex poem. This shows all the sceptics that there is nothing to be ashamed about. Erotic writing has been happening for hundreds of years. Even the Bible has some pretty raunchy stuff in it! Just give it a chance. I promise you once you find your erotic genre style, you will never avoid the erotica aisle.



The Russian Concubine

by **AMY BLACKWELL**

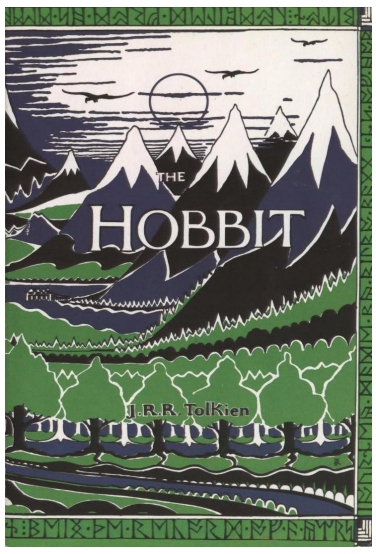
As a cynic I'm usually pretty allergic to romance as a rule but 'The Russian Concubine' series by author Kate Furnivall broke all of those rules. There are three books in the series: 'The Russian Concubine', which was the first to be published in 2006; 'The Concubine's Secret', published in 2009; and 'The Jewel of St Petersburg', which acts as a prequel to the first novel, published in 2010.

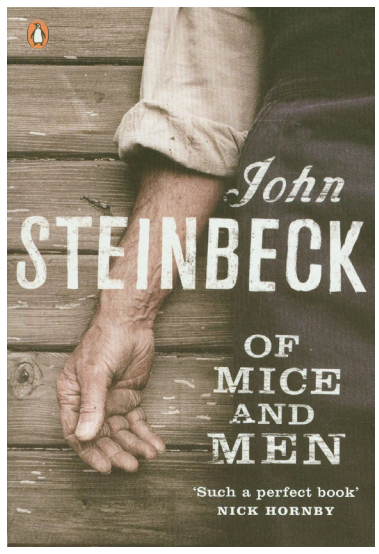
I chose to read the series in chronological order instead of by their publishing dates so I started the series with 'The Jewel' and, I'm glad I did! This was easily the best of the series and the reason I kept going with it. I instantly fell in love with the charms of the old Russian aristocratic life, I've always been fascinated by pre-communist Russia which was one of the reasons I picked up the book in the first place. I found myself really enjoying reading about young Valentina Ivanova in 1910's Russia and really connecting with her forbidden romance with Danish engineer Jens Friss. The story is cloaked in the folds of the Bolshevik Revolution, a time of change and disruption in Russia. The political thill of this novel combined with encapsulating romance really made this book stand out for me.

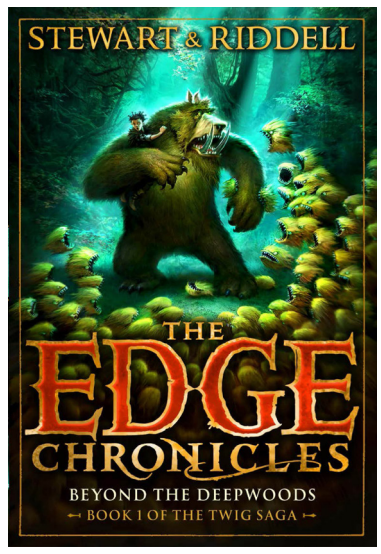
The other two novels; 'Russian Concubine' and 'Secret' follow the life of Lydia Ivonova, daughter of Valentina after their escape to China in the wake of the revolution. In 'The Russian Concubine' Lydia is sixteen and living in Junchow with her mother, to feed herself and keep her mother afloat Lydia must enter a life of thievery. One which leads her to future lover Chang An Lo, a communist activist. His political stance automatically puts Lydia in danger. Their relationship wasn't as captivating as that of her mothers in the previous book and I found myself losing interest in the historical parts of the story. I still enjoyed it but not as much. The last installment was much better!

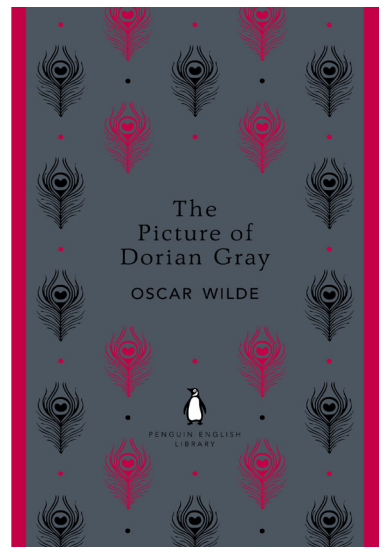
In 'Secret' Lydia travels to Soviet Russia in search of her father and along the way Furnivall rediscovers the magic lost in the previous novel. Perhaps its my interest in Russia that lead me to find 'Concubine' a tougher read, or perhaps I wasn't as involved in Chang An Lo and Lydia's love story. But with a return to Russia there was a return to my interest in the series. For a romance-a-phobe like myself these books were great! Perfect amount of history, action and love!

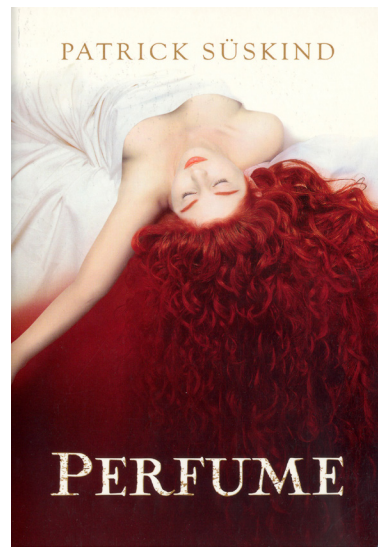
Life's bookmarks











by **JACK H. UPTON**

With 2014 dead and gone everyone looks forward to the up and coming year with fresh ambitions and New Year's resolutions, but for me it is equally as important to remember the time that's gone as well as to look forward to the future.

I'm a strong believer that, if you're a keen reader or even if you read on occasion, then books quickly become strong markers of moments and memories of around the time in which we read those books: their influence or even their presence at important moments allows them to become bookmarks of our lives in their own respect.

For example, on a basic level, most of us will have had books read to us from childhood or read specific books which meant a lot to us. For me, I recall the illustrated version of 'The Hobbit' by Tolkien. As an artist in my own right, I consider The Hobbit as the founding for a lot of the imaginative or fantasy work I do today. My Dad used to read me book after book of folklore, fairy-tales and fantasy fiction and I'd always get caught up in the illustrations of enormous giants, dainty fairies and ferocious dragons.

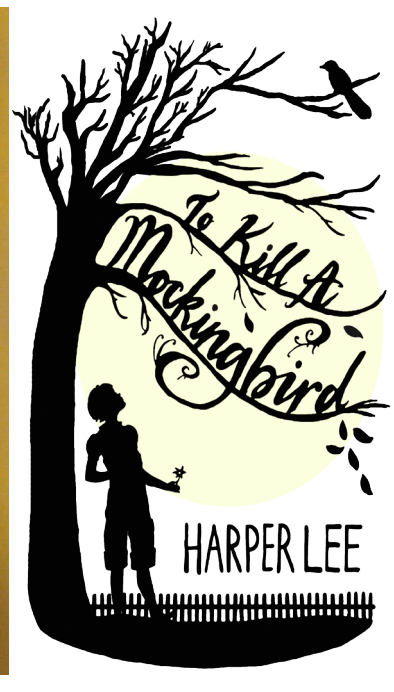
Then of course most people have had to endure an English Literature GCSE. A lot of us will have had to study 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare or read 'Of Mice and Men' or 'Lord of the Flies' or perhaps 'Pride and Prejudice' and so on, but regardless of which one you had to study I'm sure if you look back and remember that text it'll be accompanied with various memories of your time at school. For me two books come to mind in my secondary school years: 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck and 'The Edge Chronicles' by Chris Riddell and Paul Stewart. 'Of Mice and Men' I remember fondly for its intriguing characters and foreshadowing but also because we used to satirise the characters and joke about the poor film adaptation. It was also one of the first books I enjoyed analytically.

'The Edge Chronicles' on the other hand, further pushed my love of illustration and artwork. The story was filled with ingenious ideas, frightening or comical characters and highly imaginative wild beasts and landscapes; all of which was illustrated to perfection by Chris Riddell. I used to spend hours copying his style or drawing my own characters – kind of sad looking back, but at the time I loved it.

Which brings me the past few years. Through college and my gap year I'd grown, matured and gained new friends along the way and, amongst these clichés, I discovered my favourite book 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' by Oscar Wilde. For me this book summarised my intrigue into humanity and how we conduct ourselves socially and in our own desires, but it also showed me how far I had matured to appreciate the subtleties in the text and how ideas for paintings and illustrations sprung to mind as I read it. It was dark but beautiful and captured my imagination. It was the first book I can genuinely call a favourite.

I could go on further by exemplifying 'His Dark Materials' by Philip Pullman or 'Perfume' by Peter Suskind or 'Chronicles of Ancient Darkness' by Michelle Paver but I'll save you the time. I suppose what I'm trying to say is that what we read and absorb as our lives tick on by are far more significant than we perhaps realise, and I'd invite you to think about texts that have signified moments in your life. If you'd like to send me your thoughts or ideas about the subject feel free to send them to books@seren.bangor.ac.uk.





Harper Lee to publish new novel

by **HANNAH MCFADYEN**

The news of Harper Lee's upcoming release of new novel and sequel to 'To Kill a Mockingbird' has left many astonished. The much-loved book, set in post-depression America, has always been known as the only published novel of this Pulitzer Prize-winning reclusive author.

Her new novel, 'Go Set a Watchman', is due to be released this summer on the 14th of July. It will be set in the same town and will focus on the same characters but is set twenty years later. The young and idealistic protagonist, Scout from 'To Kill a Mockingbird', is now a grown woman who returns to her hometown to visit her father Atticus, the lawyer who defended a black man accused of rape in the heart-wrenching events of the first novel.

Despite the novel being a sequel it was actually written by Lee in the mid-1950s prior to her first release. Her publisher was captivated by a flashback scene that Scout has, and convinced Lee to write a novel from the perspective of Scout as a youngster from that time. The new release will be an unedited version of her first novel.

While this news will be greeted with enthusiasm by many, there are some concerns about how the novel came to be published after Lee's years of recluse. Up until two months ago Lee's sister, lawyer Alice Lee, had defended her sibling's estate and right to privacy. Harper Lee has not accepted any interviews or publicity stunts since 1964. Some suggest that Harper Lee may have, in some way, been forced into the deal. There are also concerns about the lack of editing in the new release - it was apparently discovered alongside the much-edited early drafts of To Kill a Mockingbird,

Despite these concerns, most are excited at the prospect of discovering what happened to the treasured characters from Lee's original novel. Even Lee herself modestly describes her new release as, "a pretty decent effort."

Dare to Flare? The Seventies trend and you

The key to having a stylish and fashionable 2015 is all to do with preparation. I have compiled a selection of predicted trends to hit the high street this year, along with some good old advice.

1. Suede:

2015 is the year for suede. Whilst leather seems to have been a big winner for the past few years, suede is making its comeback in seventies style force. Unlike leather, suede can be tricky to style. It should rather be used as an accent piece in your wardrobe. A simple pair of suede knee high boots is one way in which you could take part in this trend. It is also essential to look after your boots, especially suede, due to how the material is damaged quite easily over time when compared to leather.

2. Flares:

Whilst seventies fashion has made some appearances over the past few years, 2015 is definitely the year for seventies style. Large, wide-brimmed hats and flares are going to be a staple in this spring/summer season, but this trend may be off-putting to some, due to the nature of flares.

3. The Psychedelic:

Men should be donning their shirts in effortless chic with the rise of this style. Think Adam & the Ant meets Jimi Hendrix. Wait until the upcoming warmer months to start sporting this style.



River Island, Brown Fedora, £22



ASOS, Suede Western Jacket, £50



River Island, Green Botanical Print Tassel Kimono, £35



River Island, Black Fluted Sleeve Bardot Top, £18



ASOS, Flared Trousers in Geoprint, £28



TOPSHOP, Suede Tassel Hobo Bag, £56



H&M, Twill Trousers, £14.99



TOPSHOP, Lena Suede Platform Sandals, £56

Can models be 'body positive'?

by **ELEANOR HIRST**

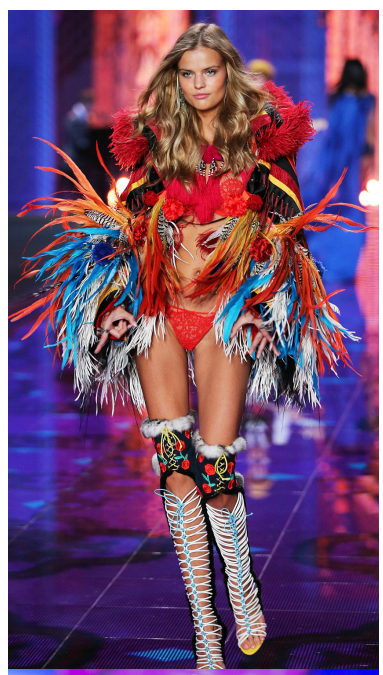
The modeling industry has been heavily criticized over the last 10 years for promoting unrealistic body expectations. Modeling agencies are continuously accused of pressuring models to lose weight or to look a certain way. What may appear as a glorious route to beauty and fame, and supposedly a 'simple' route, has in fact a darker side.

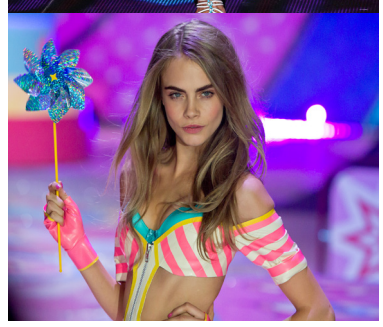
An important aspect of modeling that is not emphasized enough, is how agencies control a model's body and the way it looks. In extreme scenarios, a model's body is essentially owned by an agency. The shape of your eyebrows, the width between your hips; these simple things are all in control of an agency and how it determines you to look for a brand. We are very familiar with how models are photoshopped in photographs to look a certain way, but we do not consider how the models in everyday life have to adapt and change their lifestyles to fit with agencies standards.

Models cannot be body positive, as they are part of an industry where their bodies are owned by agencies. Body positivity is defined by how you learn to accept and love your body the way it is. Your own personal values are part of body positivity and it is having the choice to change and own your body to these values, whether it is to be a heavy weight lifter or an accountant.

The extent to which agencies own model's bodies is still unclear, however it can definitely be said that agencies do have some impact upon the model's lives. It is difficult to admire models as 'body positive role models', when at some point, they have most likely had their personal looks determined by an agency. It is important to emphasis that this is not a personal attack upon models themselves, but rather is a critique of modeling agencies in general.

VICTORIA'S SECRET





by **CLAIRE BENNETT**

The reality of the situation is the image models present to us is an unattainable ideal. As a person of the public it is unrealistic to believe that we can achieve the tiny frame and beautiful faces of women in the fashion industry. Through the history of fashion and art the ideal body has fluctuated in size from the curvaceous naked bodies of the Pre-Raphaelite period to the American size zero bodies that we see on today's runways. This variation in the female ideal creates uncertainty in women's perception of what is beautiful.

We continually hear people telling each other what body is acceptable to be a women in the 21st Century. As the Fashion industry presents us with a body image that fewer than 3% of females can naturally achieve we are also presented with the polar extreme in plus size models such as Tess Halliday. In my opinion on either side of the spectrum we are presented with unhealthy and unachievable body ideals. A size zero model seems to promote malnourishment and a size twenty two model appears to advertise overeating. These extremes are not healthy and they are not desirable.

Modern day's excessive preoccupation with the 'right' look has created more confusion than clarity. This is not helped by the increased use of Photoshop as people are airbrushed into impossible body shapes. The way in which the consumer responds to these images depends completely on the individual and their attitude towards themselves.

When asking a group of girls their opinion on whether they are affected by models I was surprised by the overall response. All of them agreed that they consider the face and hair more desirable than focusing on a model's body. It was also suggested that they don't really compare themselves to models as there seems to be more of an awareness of the extents in which airbrushing can alter the appearance.

One suggested that she preferred the body image promoted by underwear models such as Victoria's Secret as they appear healthy and toned rather than bony. There was also a unanimous agreement that both designer and high street stores should use more models in sizes 8-12 as this shows a more realistic representation of the every-day woman. Realistically we cannot expect the Fashion Industry to change over-night and we as consumers need to remember that models are only human and have insecurities like anyone else.

The Diversity Dilemma



by **CLAIRE BENNETT**

As a response to Black History Month many people have commended the contribution of the black community in various areas of society. There are however aspects of life that still present challenges not only to people of African-Caribbean descent but to other racial communities as well. The Fashion Industry still shows worrying signs of racial preference. Fashion appears to be an industry that continually refuses to accept diversity and equality in the individuals they employ. Considering the ethnic diversity of today's society it is shocking to see a lack of racial difference in modelling.

There are however well established and emerging black models who have challenged these expectations of fashion. Most recently the success of Jourdan Dunn and her appearance on the front cover of February '15 Vogue. She is the first solo Black model to grace the cover in 12 years, as well as recently being announced as the new face for Burberry alongside Naomi Campbell. Significantly, Burberry is also debuting a solely black line-up of models to promote its new line.

Naomi Campbell can be considered one of the most iconic Black models of our life time. Since debuting in 1986 Campbell has remained one of the most famous supermodels to grace the catwalks and multiple covers of Vogue since the late 80's. As one of the first Supermodels to appear it is unsurprising that Campbell has remained within the public eye not only as a celebrity but as participant in pro-diversity campaigns. Along-side Iman and former model agent Bethann Hardison these individuals have dubbed themselves the 'Diversity Coalition' who target companies who use only one or no models of diverse ethnicity. Questions are raised on whether black models are used only as a fashion trend. hough there appears to be a step forward in the popularity in black models, in the greater scheme of things this will only be a success when it is no longer breaking news to see black models on the cover of magazines and on the runway.

Black history month

Rick Owens bares all at Paris Fashion Week





> *Who else can get away with that kind of stuff? It's a corporate world.*



> *Nudity is the most simple, primal gesture.*

by **HANNAH YOUD**

You could be forgiven for thinking the catwalk had nothing so daring left to shock us anymore. Rick Owens has proved us wrong in his AW15 collection, which featured menswear that allowed the model's genitals to be on display. The arch shaped cuts in the hemline of the tunics was very subtle, but nevertheless allowed the front row to catch an eyeful. Assuming this trend is not about to catch on with your average male in a chilly January, it raises the question of why Owens has brought this look to the catwalk.

His collections have been controversial in the past – think back to his 'Vicious' SS14 womenswear collection in which all of his models were actually plus size step-dancers, who stomped around the stage with trainers and a fierce look on their faces only equal to Beyoncé. So why the nudity? Of course, women have posed topless on the catwalk countless times, so it is possible Owens is trying to address what it is like for women to be objectified by putting men in the same situation.

The rise of 'Meninism' on social media sparks debates about 'double standards' for women, and the (rather ill-informed) view that feminism is purely about female rights rather than equality. Owens subverts traditional gender boundaries with his collection, and whether you are in camp feminism or camp Meninism, this can only open the minds of those who still see gender as completely fixed.

The issue of feminism is rather in fashion itself at the moment; many celebrities including Emma Watson and Beyoncé have had their say recently, as well as the page 3 debate causing a stir.

Fashion is one of the only industries where a display of male nudity is seen as acceptable, but is also a difficult industry to trust considering the designers have consistently chosen super-skinny and predominantly white models to show off their clothes. It is hard to believe that designers are not just shaking up their shows on the catwalk to sell their product. However, anything this headline-grabbing can only be positive for encouraging people to talk about issues like feminism. Let's see how long the trend of feminism in fashion lasts.

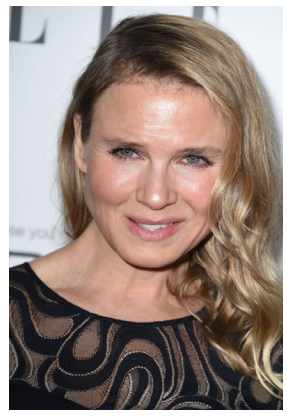
'What are you wearing?'



by **KELLY NORMAN**

It is certainly the most common question that a celebrity finds him or herself being asked by the media; whether they are simply out and about or attending events such as the Oscars. This is what fills the gossip columns in newspapers and magazines, from The Guardian to Hello! magazine.

It is a question that is perceived to be a light hearted, but one that has nonetheless become a recurring theme as our growing excitement for not who is going to win what award, but to see the extravagant and luxurious creations that have been especially tailored for our favourite actors and actresses to model on the red carpet is what has helped turn events like the Oscars into the glamorous events that they are today. Therefore, these events also not only celebrate and provide publicity for the celebrities, but it is an opportunity to give much of the same for the designers behind the creations and their respective fashion houses.





Therefore, you would have to ask the question; surely any publicity is good publicity? It isn't when it comes at the expense of ignoring the accomplishments of the person modelling the outfit, especially female celebrities.

In the age of the HeforShe campaign, only this week when Human Rights Lawyer Amal Clooney when appeared in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg representing Armenia in their case against Doğu Perinçek, the leader of the Turkish Workers' Party and convicted of denying the 1915 Armenian genocide in 2007. The glamorous lawyer, now married to George Clooney naturally attracted a great deal of the publicity to the case. However, instead of the expected questions about the high profile case and her vital role within it were abandoned in favour of questioning her fashion choices.



Award season beauty steals

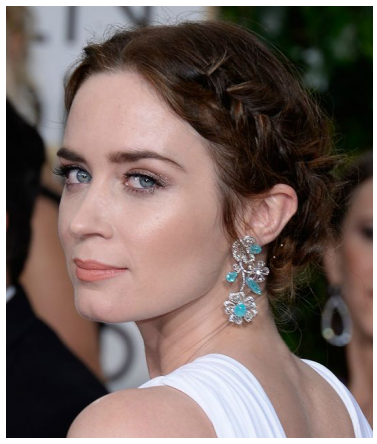
Award season has just kicked off at the beginning of January with the crème de la crème of celebrities putting in the effort to look better than ever. We have already had a taster with the Golden Globe Awards and the Critics Choice Awards, and with the BAFTA's and the most prestigious of them all, the Oscars coming up in February, we are bound to see some flawless hair and make up. Lets take a look at the amazing jobs done so far and some of the works in progress to see if you can't steal the look yourself?

Jennifer Lopez



Jennifer Lopez stunned at the Golden Globes looking super sexy with larger-than-life hair, smoky eyes that could kill and let alone her flawless glowing skin. She also used the time old rule to choose your lips or your eyes to make an impact, this made the look classy and not just a hot mess. To recreate this intense volume to your own hair use a cocktail of L'Oreal Paris Advanced Hairstyle Boost It Volume Inject Mousse to give it that extra bounce and the creation spray to hold it in place.

Emily Blunt



Emily Blunt kept it simple at the Golden Globes, wearing simple makeup such as her shimmery bronze eye shadow and a rose lip, which compliments her pale skin tone completely. But what I am most obsessed about is the messy French Braid crown that she has managed to make something your can wear on a night out, not just for the casual bed head.

Emma Stone



Everyone knows the time-old rule; choose either your eyes or your lips. Emma Stone was the exception to the rule at the Golden Globes where she chose to make the eyes and the lips stand out. She took a beauty risk by making her eyes smoky and by having a bright pink lip. Along with her effortless waves, the whole look paid off and added to her cool-girl vibe.

Rosamund Pike



Rosamund Pike kept it simple and sleek at the Critics Choice Awards with minimal make up that only enhanced her natural beauty and a sleek pulled back bun with a deep middle parting. This look is easily done by wetting a brush and pulling it through your hair and then simply hair spraying to excess to give that wet, sticky look.

Sarah Hyland



Sarah Hyland usually plays the teenager on Modern Familes but at the SAG awards this month she was all grown up. With dark smoky eyes and a nude lip she played it safe but it paid off. Her eyes pop and her lips look beautiful and natural against her skin tone. Sarah still kept some of her youth by having her hair in a modern 'prom-style' up do. The deep side parting gives it that edgy look, while the twisted bun at the back still looks youthful.

Top 6 foods for healthy skin

Now that Winter is upon us, our skin really takes a battering from the elements and while expensive beauty products are all well and good, when it comes to getting the perfect skin, a cheaper and much more effective way is to simply eat the right foods! If you want to eliminate spots or create smoother skin, these six foods are the answer to your problems!

1. Red bell pepper

One red bell pepper contains more than 100% of your daily vitamin C needs. It also contains significant amounts of dietary fiber and vitamin B6. Moreover, it is rich in carotenoids that can help prevent wrinkles and increase blood circulation to your skin, helping it look more youthful. Due to their carotenoids, red bell peppers are also great to fight acne. Red bell peppers are high in vitamin A, which helps to support healthy eyesight, especially night vision. So when it comes to bell peppers, seeing red is a good thing!

2. Dark chocolate

Dark chocolate is rich in antioxidants, fatty acids and flavanols that promote glowing skin. The antioxidants in dark chocolate will help reduce roughness in your skin and protect it against sun damage. Moreover, cocoa relaxes arteries, increasing blood circulation that leads to healthier skin. BUT warning, only eat one ounce a day otherwise it becomes unhealthy.

3. Salmon

Salmon is an excellent food to fight stress, anxiety, and depression. Salmon is also rich in omega-3 fatty acids that are excellent for fighting inflammation, wrinkles and acne. Its high omega-3 content also helps hydrate your skin from the inside out.



4. Green Tea

When the tea is hot, the bionic brew releases catechins, a kind of antioxidant with proven anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory properties. Green tea may also reduce your risk of developing high blood pressure. Drink 3 or more cups of tea every day for better results.

5. Celery

Another food to eat daily for perfect skin is celery. Many of us underestimate this veggie, but celery contains Vitamin K that keeps the blood circulation healthy and helps to reduce high blood pressure. This can reduce your stress level, and as you know stress can cause bad skin, migraines and even cancer.

Celery also contains natural sodium, potassium and water, and can help to prevent dehydration. I hope you know that dehydrated skin means dryness, flaking, wrinkles, and even breakouts.

6. Carrots

Carrots are good not only for your eyes, but also for your skin. They are especially good for clearing up breakouts. Carrots are rich in vitamin A and they help prevent the overproduction of cells in the outer layer of the skin. Another great reason to snack on some carrots is because Vitamin A reduces the development of skin-cancer cells.

The top knot takeover

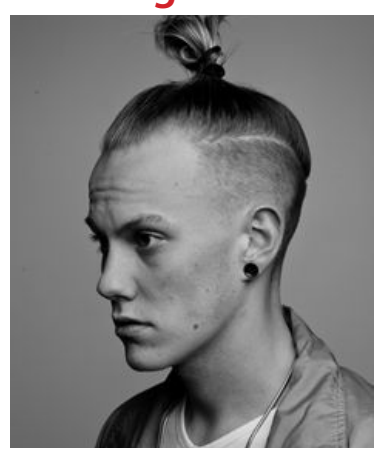
For



by **EMILY RIMMER**

The undercut bun or what most call it 'the top knot', is the combination of the two trendiest hairstyles for men of last year- the undercut and the man bun but should they carry on into 2015? This hybrid style is hard to pull off but if you can, you are sure to stand out for good reasons. We are used to associating long hair with rock gods and wash outs, coupled with unattractive piercings and tattoos. But now men everywhere are willing to grow out their hair to get this unique look but its not for the faint hearted. In my opinion, the top knot is for more rugged looking guys with slight facial hair and naturally unruly hair. If you are unsure that it will look good take into consideration all the celebrities jumping on the band wagon including, Jake Gyllenhaal, Bradley Cooper, Proudlock from 'Made in Chelsea' and Matthew Healy from the indie rock band 'The 1975'. Now all these guys can't be wrong!

Against



by **AMY BLACKWELL**

Manbuns are the latest hair trend among "fashionable" crowds of young men. They're usually paired with t-shirts that say "hype" on them, a shiny pair of New Balance trainers and represent everything that's wrong with the world. I'm all for men sporting longer hairstyles, a previous boyfriend of mine had longish hair, but the manbun/topknot is not the way forward guys! If you insist on having one it's also not an excuse to not wash your hair gentlemen, the amount of greasy topknots I've seen is awful. Plus they just look kind of arrogant… if hair can look arrogant. The only good thing to come from top-knots is it acts as a public safety warning: I am a hipster who wears flannel and pretends to have deep and meaningful conversations about how Jack White reinvented post-modernism. Top-knots are fortunately a fashion, because they sure as hell aren't stylish.

Show me your makeup bag!

by **EMILY RIMMER**



Every issue I will take a look inside friends and readers make-up bags to see what stories lie within and what they look for when buying their makeup. To continue the feature I will take you inside my housemates Hannah, Becky and Laurens makeup bags and tell you all its secrets.

Show me your…favourite make up brand

Becky: My favourite brand is Estee Lauder as it is good quality and has a wide range of products to choose from so I'm always spoilt for choice. I've had it for years and its never let me down.

Show me your… everyday makeup

Lauren: I don't' really wear make up during the day but when I do; I wear concealer to make me look more awake in the morning, foundation so I don't look matted from the concealer and mascara to just define my eyes.

Show me your… night out makeup

Becky: I wear concealer and foundation as my base, I put bronzer over the top of my cheekbones to give them definition, blusher to highlight my cheeks, eye shadow, eyeliner and mascara to make my eyes look big and stand out and then a little bit of lip gloss to make my lips shine.

Show me your… favorite piece

Becky: I always use my 'Double Wear Light' by Estee Lauder. It's the best concealer I've used as it doesn't make my skin and gives me a good finish.

Show me your…essentials

Lauren: My eyebrows are my life so I can't leave the house without putting them on. I use a pencil to outline the shape of them and then some brown eye shadow to fill them in.

Show me your… one off piece

Hannah: I bought a 'Naked Urban Decay' eye shadow palette once because there was a big hype about them. The product itself was good I just thought it was a little over priced.

Show me…what you've just bought

Hannah: I have recently purchased 'Rimmels Wake Me Up' concealer from a friend's recommendation. Its great for everyday use, especially in the morning as it makes you look fresh and glowing. I would recommend it to anyone else.





Mood Changers



A NEW in-shower beauty product has landed with apparent super powers. The organic rich body wash fresh from New York city is a blend of essential oils which as known to help calm you down, make you happy, wake you up with that morning shower or make you feel a bit frisky in the bedroom. The all-natural honey-like gel is only made with 8 simple ingredients and comes in all sorts of scents from ginger and lavender to rosemary and lemongrass. With its healing powers, its definitely a cheaper source of help than therapy.

£12.50 a pot
Urban Outfitters

Avon colour attract magnetic nail enamel

CALLING all nail art fanatics! Avon has just launched their new take on the magnetic nail wave. If you think that they are a bit late joining o the bandwagon think again.

Beauty giant Avon are about to release their own unique nail varnish range, arriving fashionably late to join in the magnetic-look nail varnish trend. They are making up for this by giving us a selection of eight shades from Gold Rush, Lavender Lure and Blue Attraction. This also includes the introduction of the magnetic wand that produces the pattern on the nail. With the wand they are spoiling us with a range of four patterns; star, wave, chevron and diagonal!

The process is simple, apply the varnish and hold the magnetic wand over the wet nail until the pattern appears. What's unique about this product is that the wand allows you to apply the magnetic pattern to any part of the nail, from the corner to the centre! With such a selection of colours and patterns you feel like you get more for your money, starting from £3 for the varnish and 99p for the wand.

What are you waiting for!



Wipe away the day

Seren revews the top four makeup wipes on the market

Most of the time it's putting the make up on that's the hard part but taking it off can be just as difficult. With the right make up wipe this process can be quick and painless, so that's why I'm going to give you a run down of the best make up wipes topping the shelves. I asked 3 girls to be the judges and this was their verdict:

Clean and Clear 3 in 1 £2.16
Girl 1: "Not quilted but very moist" **5/5**
Girl 2: "Takes off most of the make up" **1/5**
Girl 3: "Have to do a couple of wipes" **3/5**



Garnia Skin Natural Wipes £3.35
Girl 1: "Makes my skin feel fresh" **4/5**
Girl 2: "Can get away with using one wipe for your whole face" **3/5**
Girl 3: "Does the job very well" **4/5**



Winner: *Garnia Skin Natural Wipes*



Nivea Refreshing Cleansing Wipes £2.99
Girl 1: "All stays on the wipe" **2/5**
Girl 2: "Takes it off very easily" **4/5**
Girl 3: "Smells nice" **3/5**



Johnsons face wipes £3.29
Girl 1: "Takes a few more rubs on the eyes" **4/5**
Girl 2: "Very soft" **5/5**
Girl 3: "Doesn't really take anything off" **1/5**

FOOD FOR THE LONELY

WHY EVEN GO OUT ON VALENTINE'S, WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY GREAT READYMADE MEALS TO CHOOSE FROM?

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NEWLY SINGLE BUT NOT BITTER IDA VÄISÄNEN



PIRI PIRI CHICKEN SOUP ASDA

I usually have my suspicions towards ready-made chicken soups because the quality varies so much, but this is a great tasting soup with just the right tangle of chili. Add some crusty bread on the side and you're set for the evening! The soup comes in quite a plentiful portion as well, so you can save some for the next meal.



POT NOODLE BOMBAY BAD BOY

Can you handle the heat? There are as many Pot Noodle flavour preferences as there are Pot Noodle lovers. This one is the favourite of our editor Amy. The Bombay Bad Boy includes the classic noodles in an incredibly hot curry-flavoured sauce with soya pieces, vegetables, and a little sachet of hot fire chilli sauce on the side. Just add hot water on top and head back to your Netflix!



TAKEOUT CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA MORRISONS

For us who don't like it too spicy! This meal includes tasty marinated chicken breast pieces in a creamy, lightly spiced sauce. This dish still requires some effort, as the rice doesn't come pre-cooked on the side. Still this rare delicious pearl of ready-made Indian meals is well worth your effort!



NEW COVENT GARDEN TOMATO &BASIL SOUP MORRISONS AND ASDA

A good ready-made tomato soup is hard to find, whether you prefer chunky or smooth. A great chunky soup is the New Covent Garden one. Even though slightly pricier when compared to other tomato soups, you really get what you pay for as it tastes fresh and juicy.



MIGHTY BUCKET FOR ONE KFC

Stuff your face, it's Valentine's Day! The KFC bucket for one includes two pieces of original recipe chicken, two hot wings, two mini breast fillets, regular fries, a dip of your choice and a regular-sized drink to wash it down with. So much greatness, and all just for you!

DRINK OF THE MONTH

The CHERUB'S CUP

drinkaware.co.uk
for the facts about alcohol



The Cherub's Cup is a cocktail of angelic proportion and can very easily become a new favourite for just about anyone. This drink is both sweet and dry, with a tinge of flavors that are both intriguing and refreshing and it is ideal for any romantic celebration.

1 part St. Germain elderflower liqueur
2 parts vodka, citrus vodka, or Hendricks Gin
3/4 part fresh lemon juice
1/4 shot simple syrup
1 part muddled strawberry
Brut Rosé to top
Strawberry for garnish

Shake and strain over fresh rocks in a collins glass.
Top with Brut Rose or Brut Champagne.
Garnish with a strawberry.











SEREN'S CHOICES FOR VALENTINE'S DATES IN BANGOR

1815 ££

HOW about a lovely Valentine's lunch over a fresh tapas platter? This place has great quality food including jacket potatoes, burgers and big portions of salad, served by friendly staff. Located just off Bangor high street. You may need to book a place as it tends to get busy, call 01248 355969.

NOODLE ONE ££

A long-standing favourite amongst the student community. A lovely atmosphere, great food and generous portions make this the place to spice up your Valentine's night! Who needs a special Valentine's menu when you can just pick and choose your favourite? Make your booking at 01248 354418.

THE BRIDGE INN £££

A bit on the pricier end but definitely one of the most high-quality restaurants in the area. Located in a picturesque setting by the Menai suspension bridge. Booking is recommended for special occasions such as Valentine's day and you are required to pre-order and pay a £10 per-head (non-refundable) deposit, to secure your booking. Phone: 01248 716888.

KYFFIN CAFÉ ££

A special Valentine's Day Menu for £20 per person.
Starter: Fried aubergine topped with spiced labneh & pomegranate seeds on a rich tomato & pepper sauce.
Main: Baked Tomato Risotto served with winter pesto & parmesan crisps.
Dessert: Melting Chocolate Pudding with berry caulis.
Call 01248 355161 to book. Advance bookings only.

PULCINELLA RISTORANTE ££

EVEN though not serving a special Valentine's menu, Pulcinella definitely holds the title of the most romantically situated restaurant in Bangor. Located just by Bangor pier, the restaurant serves high-quality Italian food in an intimate setting. A table can be booked (which is recommended!) by phoning 01248 362807.

FINNISH VALENTINE'S DAY BEETROOT HEARTS



BECAUSE NOTHING SAYS LOVE LIKE ROOT VEGETABLES!

3 Beetroots
3 (or so) Potatoes, depending on the size of the beetroots
1 Onion
1 Large garlic clove
1 tsp Olive oil
2 Eggs
2 tbs breadcrumbs
½ tsp of salt
Black pepper

Boil and peel the beetroots and potatoes beforehand.

Once they have cooled down great the beetroot and mash the potatoes. Don't worry about getting your mash super smooth as everything can be quite chunky to give the steaks some texture.

Peel and mince the onions and soften them in a pan with some oil. Mix all the ingredients together and put the batter in the fridge for a few moments to allow the spices soak in.

Cover a baking tray with greaseproof paper and drizzle some olive oil over the paper. Divide the batter into balls on the tray and shape them into steaks using wet hands. You can shape them into hearts for St Valentine's Day! This recipe usually makes around 12 round steaks or 9 hearts.

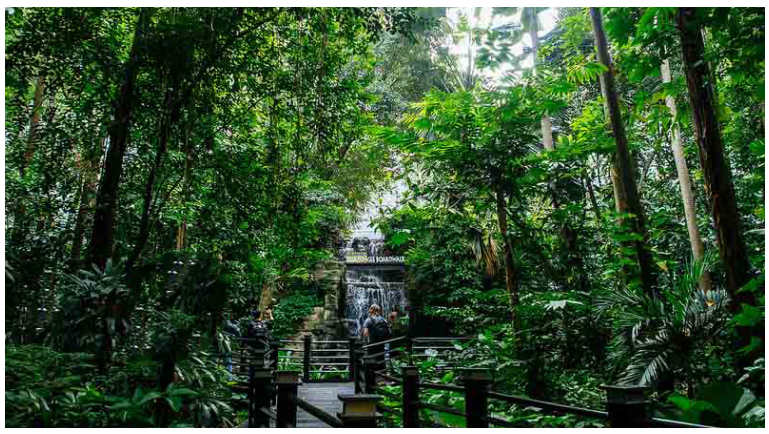
Bake at 225° Celsius in the oven for 15 minutes. Then, turn the steaks over and cook for a further 10 minutes.

Can be served with a side of your choice, usually served with rice or boiled potatoes.



TRAVEL

INSIDE THE AIRPORT: BEAUTIFUL MAYBE-SPACES



by **EMMA DEBNEY**

Sometimes airports are the only view you get of a country, a snapshot of a place blurrily imprinted on the back of your eyes as you try to get some sleep in uncooperative airport chairs. It's a maybe-space… a little bit of isolation-temporal and temporary, not quite as real as the world beyond airport security. You do odd things like: buy ten bottles of wine and a Toblerone bar at duty-free; fit yourself and an unfeasible amount of luggage into a toilet cubicle; worry cyclically whether you've brought enough pairs of underwear.

Dubai is one of my favourite maybe-spaces. I've only ever been there at night, so I don't even get the normal joy of staring out of huge glass windows at the surrounding country. It means the isolation is extra pronounced, and instances of fatigue-induced weirdness are extra common. I remember spending an hour wandering round the airport trying to find somewhere to sleep and finding nothing but bright lights and perfume shops. Dubai has a strange aesthetic: all gold and cream for the most part, with the occasional green flash of a palm tree thrown in, characterised by towering ceilings, graceful columns and enough reflective surfaces to make the room seem double. The main event is a gently slopped artificial waterfall, larger than a house and no louder than a whisper, with small, pale humanoid figures peppered above its surface like the world's most ghostly synchronised swimming team. The entire thing feels like you're on the inside of some flash James Bond set. Except the seats.

The seats, wonder of wonders, are in primary red and blue and sit utterly incongruous with the rest of the surrounds. Rather than a movie set, these look like they've been selected straight out of an IKEA catalogue. All moulded plastic and no flash. The chairs in Main Arts library are not dissimilar. But they are comfortable enough that at the end of my hour of searching I'd settled in one of the more suitable chairs – laid back like a sun lounger, not quite good enough for sleep, but better than the floor – and done my best to doze. It's strange, being around other people in an airport. It's one of those large communal spaces where you're alone, but you're alone with other people. It leads to a half-formed sense of camaraderie among half-asleep travellers, flopping on chairs and trying to quiet children and manoeuvring luggage trolleys. Airports come with a hyperawareness of strangers with the same purpose that you find, to a lesser degree, at sports events and libraries and in the terror of exam rooms.

Just so you know, the shared panic of an exam is not unlike the shared panic of people checking bags in and dealing with customs.

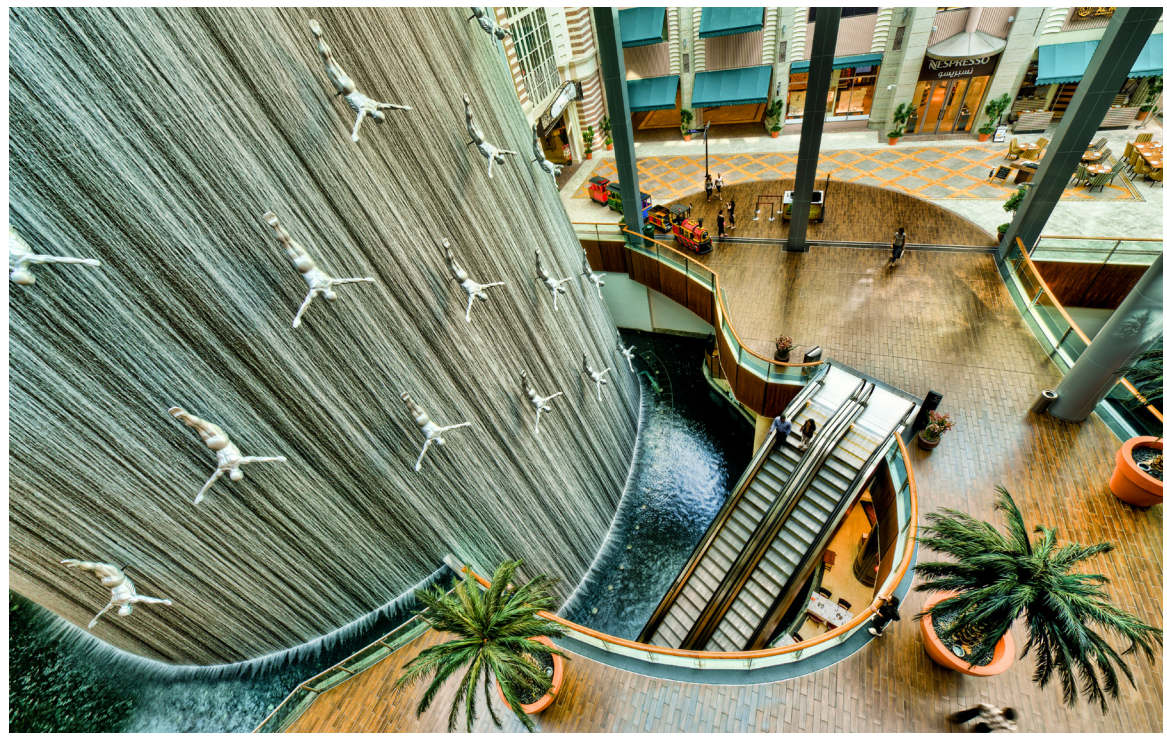
Kuala Lumpar's Satellite Terminal A feels more like a high class shopping mall than an airport terminal. It's full of prestigious boutiques and massage lounges. And in the middle of all that – in the middle of Mango and Starbucks and an honest-to-goodness Burberry – is a rainforest. In miniature. In. An. Airport.

The temperature change can disorient you something fierce – depending on the time of year, you can hop from the air-conditioned indoors to a clime of nearly 40° – and the open air design means you can potentially get caught in a sudden shower, but it's a must-see if you ever get the chance. It puts anything Heathrow has to offer to shame. Speaking of which, forget those cramped and always slightly dirty



buses you have to get to move between terminals: Kuala Lumpar, and Dubai, and a dozen other places that aren't Heathrow, have trains. Which, yes, most every airport is connected to trains, thank you, that's not at all what I mean. Kuala Lumpar has an indoor train, which gets rid of those abysmal buses and takes you in high-tech elegance from terminal to terminal like this was all some spiffy sci-fi movie with robots and an inexplicable 90s aesthetic.

So all in one airport you can technically engage with three different types of transport – a train, one of those little security buggies, and the actual plane – all without really going 'outside'. Unless, of course, you explore the indoor rainforest.



SO YOU WANT TO STUDY A YEAR ABROAD?



Games & Gadgets Editor Joe Keep answers FAQ from his year abroad in Australia about what happens once you take the first steps to spend a year abroad.

Q. Are you interviewed to study abroad?

A You are interviewed. It is a group interview that looks at what sort of person you are and what would you get out of the study abroad program. They also want to know if you'll be able to cope with spending a year that far from home.

Q. How long did it take for Bangor to get back to you?

A They get back to you about interviews in December, just before the Christmas break, with the interviews set during late January/early February. The overall decision on whether you are selected takes about 6-8 weeks as they have to narrow down some 300 applicants to about 80 and also decide on what university they'll offer them.

Q. What was your most challenging obstacle when applying to study abroad?

A The most challenging aspect of applying to study abroad is being able to narrow down where you want to go. There are so many awesome places to go and you get one choice.

Also, once you get accepted, the amount of paperwork and emails you end up doing is insane! Be prepared to spend a lot of time on your laptop sorting out your visa, health insurance and other paperwork as well as just deciding on your course and modules abroad.

Q. Does Bangor help you financially or in other ways to study abroad?

A No, but you are still entitled to Student Finance which goes a long way. They will also cover the cost of the visa, health insurance and the flights over £300, don't forget to apply for those either when you get home or during your studies broad, However, be wary, extra finances may be needed if visiting somewhere with a much higher living cost like Australia. If going to a EU country, you are entitled to an Erasmus grant so make sure you apply

Q. What made you choose the country you went to?

A Australia had fantastic journalism courses. With this being my chosen career path, showing that I am aware of the journalistic situations around the world should grant me an extra step over other applicants. Also, it's Australia. I'm pretty sure that's on everyone's bucket list, so why not move there for a year and really explore it?

Q. When should you start planning to study abroad?

A As soon as possible. Applications open up in November so knowing where you want to go and what you'd like to do is a real bonus. Also, reading up on the country will help you prepare for when you accepted and applying for visas and the overseas university.

Q. Do you think it was worth the extra year?

A It was definitely worth the year out. I met some absolutely amazing people who I would consider some of my best friends. I also feel I grew more in myself, I have proven I can take care of myself that far away from home and now nothing can stop me as I go through life.

WHERE SHOULD YOU GO THIS VALENTINE'S DAY?

TAKE THIS QUIZ TO SEE WHERE AROUND BANGOR YOU SHOULD BE WHEN CUPID AIMS HIS ARROW

1. Are you single?
A. Yes! Going out with my girls/guys.
B. I have a significant other. Going somewhere romantic.
C. I've got someone, but we hate all that mushy stuff.
D. I hate Valentine's Day, leave me alone.

2. What does "love" mean to you?
A. YOLO.
B. Broes before Hoes.
C. Netflix.
D. All You Need Is...

3. What do you want to eat on Valentine's Day?
A. I don't know, I'd rather be outside all day, so I'll grab a snack.
B. Fish and chips? Pizza? Whatever my mates want to get.
C. I'm stuffing my face and chocolates, party rings and Doritos.
D. Somewhere with candles. Me in a dress, and him in a tie.

4. The best symbol for Valentine's Day?
A. Cupid with a bow and arrow.
B. A bleeding heart.
C. Pizza.
D. Heart candy.

5. What kind of drink do you like?
A. Gatorade.
B. Tequila.
C. Milkshake.
D. Hot Chocolate.

6. What word is Valentine's Day To You?
A. Surprising! Anything can happen today!
B. Idiotic. I would rather do anything else than celebrate this.
C. Lazy. I don't wanna bother getting Cheetos stains off my face.
D. Romantic. Sue me, today is my day.

7. Favourite Spot in Bangor?
A. Climbing Snowdon.
B. Varsity or Peep.
C. My house. Specifically my bedroom.
D. Walking on the Pier.

8. What is your Valentine's Day Song?
A. Born To Be Wild-Steppenwolf.
B. Run This Town-Rihanna and Jay Z.
C. All By Myself-Celine Dion.
D. I've Had The Time Of My Life-From The Dirty Dancing Soundtrack.

9. If You Did Have the perfect date, he/she would be like?
A. Spontaneous, flowers and chocolate are too predictable.
B. Into the night life. They could hang with me and my friends all night.
C. Low key, he/she would want to hang out with a movie.
D. Pull out all the stops. I want to feel like I'm on The Bachelor.

10. What Couple Would You Be?
A. Elizabeth and Will-Pirates of the Caribbean.
B. The Cast of Friends.
C. Nick and Jess-New Girl.
D. Noah and Allie-The Notebook.

11. The best thing about Bangor?
A. The sports clubs.
B. The nightlife.
C. Nothing.
D.The beautiful sites.

12. If you got a gift for Valentine's Day, it would be…
A. A snowboard or a surfboard.
B. Tickets to a concert.
C. A doughnut. Obviously.
D. Jewelry. So fancy.

13. If you had unlimited funds this Valentine's Day, what would you do?
A. Fly somewhere cool or hike Kilimanjaro with the Bangor team.
B. Fly my friends to Vegas.
C. Buy out Dominoes and Ben and Jerry's. Close em down!
D. Fly to Paris for the weekend. The most Romantic City in the world.

14. Choose a Valentine's Day Movie to Watch.
A. Indiana Jones.
B. The Hangover.
C. Every episode of Breaking Bad.
D. Pride and Prejudice.

15. If you got a tattoo, what would it be of?
A. Full Back Eagle with fireworks and a howling wolf.
B.Matching tattoos with my friends.
C. Psh. Too lazy/don't want one.
D.Butterfly or my girl's name.



If You Got Mostly A's

Go on an adventure date to the National White Water Centre in Bala or bungee jumping in Manchester!

You should go to the National White Water Centre in Bala or Bungee Jumping in Manchester. Both places are offering packages for couples or just you and your adventurous bestie to get away from Bangor for a while and experience some adrenaline rush. Ride the grade 3-4 rapids in Bala by rafting or kayaking, just for one day or the whole weekend! Both are only about an hour and a half train ride from Bangor, and last a good amount of the day so your not pretending to do work in your pajamas on a Saturday morning. And what better way to get to know a date than to strap them to yourself and jump 160 feet into the air.



If You Got Mostly B's

Go with friends on a Shiverpool Tour and then to a comedy club in Liverpool.

The clubs in Bangor have got to get old sometimes. Liverpool has got some cool stuff going on during Valentine's weekend, and why not do something really anti-valentine's with a ghost tour around the city? Marketed as an "anti-date" event, go to the My Bloody Valentine Tour and get a free drink from the Philharmonic club after the tour. After that, you and your buddies can go to one of the many comedy clubs and feel better about yourself after hearing self-deprecating comedians talk about their pathetic love lives.



If You Got Mostly C's

There is no hope for you. Go sit in the back of the opening of 50 Shades of Grey at Llandudno Cinemas.

Get out of your nasty room. Just because your single, or don't feel like celebrating the sappiest holiday ever doesn't mean you can't get out of the house. People watching hundreds of women standing in line for this preordered movie will give you a chuckle and be a good dose of people watching. Sit in the back where no one will recognize you and stuff your backpack with junk food and a blanket so you can feel right at home. You know you secretly want to know what all the fuss is about. Turn off Netflix for a night and at least get out of your onesie.



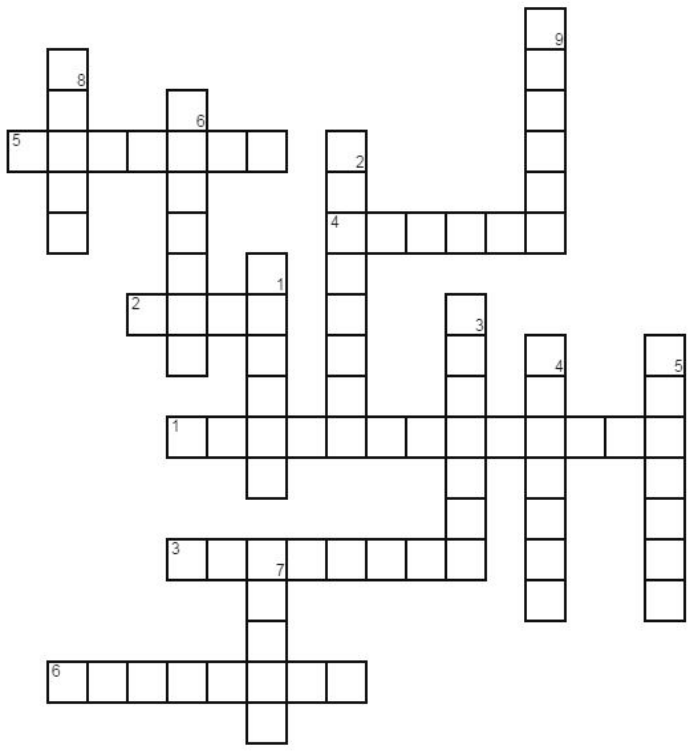
If You Got Mostly D's

Go to Portmerion Village and be wined and dined.

Don't be ashamed, you're in a couple! Whetherspoons isn't exactly the most romantic location in the world, and who wants to walk all the way to Dylan's in heels? Plus, you want to feel like you have been to some romantic place in Italy or France without it costing a bomb, so what do you do? You go to the fake Italian villa that has a Piazza, spas, restaurants and shops. Portmerion has a lot of Valentine's day deals for the weekend, so grab some wine, a nice date and a little extra cash to go on a date in Europe without having to take out another loan on your student loan.

BREAKTIME

THE SEREN CROSSWORD



Across

1. Who are our .... Ambassadors?
2. A show that continues in April, ... of Thrones
3. Can models be body ....?
4. This veggie can give you a great skin!
5. Bangor University cheerleaders, the Bangor ...
6. A composer

Down

1. Check out the Award season beauty steals from Health & ...!
2. On another veggie note, why not watch ... on Channel 4!
3. Anyone can suffer from ... shock
4. A skimpily dressed walker was rescued from ...
5. What's on this February? The ... Dead
6. This month's Classic Film, Roman ...
7. Seren's game of the year, ... Smash Bros
8. The TV page tells you why you should watch ...
9. Kayla is not only an Ambassador, but our .... Editor!

SUDOKU!

EASY

9					3		1	
				2		7		5
1		3	5			9		
		6			1			3
3			6		8			2
2			3			4		
		5			4	3		7
8		1		5				
	4		9					8

HARD

		9	5					4
	1				4			
					7		2	
1				3		9	5	8
8	6		7		9		4	3
2	9	3		5				1
	8		9					
			6				8	
7					2	3		

BEFORE

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Look at the 'identical' photos of our team at last years 90's night, can you find the six differences?

AFTER





February 2015

SEREN

						1
2	3	4	5	6 NEW SEREN COMES OUT!	7 BANGOR BIRDING SOC: BIRDWATCHING DAY @ ANGLESEY TRAMPOLINE BOUNCE-A-TRON	8
9 HEALTHY LIVING WEEK	10 HEALTHY LIVING WEEK	11 HEALTHY LIVING WEEK	12 HEALTHY LIVING WEEK EVENING FOR BOOBS	13 STORM FM + RAG BLIND DATE BEDS: THREE MUSKETEERS HEALTHY LIVING WEEK	14 HEALTHY LIVING WEEK BEDS: THREE MUSKETEERS	15 STORM FM BAND NIGHT @ BAR UNO! FeBRAry NETBALL TOURNAMENT
16 HEALTHY LIVING WEEK	17	18 UNVERSITY MENTAL HEALTH DAY	19	20	21	22 MIX N MATCH LACROSSE GAME STORM FM BAND NIGHT @ BAR UNO! FeBRAry LACROSSE GAME
23	24	25 AU NIGHT FeBRAry THEME	26 BOOKS & QUILLS: GREAT GATSBY BALL	27	28 BOOB BALL TOURNAMENT	

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

FeBRAry
ALL MONTH

Healthy
Living Week
9th - 16th



CAMPUS LIFE

CAMPUSLIFEBANGOR.CO.UK

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

WHAT'S ON SEMESTER 2

CHECK OUT THE BANGOR CAMPUS LIFE WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ALL OUR LATEST NEWS.

WWW.CAMPUSLIFEBANGOR.CO.UK

LOOK OUT FOR OUR WEDNESDAY FLASH COMPETITIONS

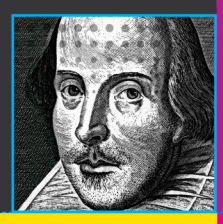
WELCOME BACK TO CAMPUS LIFE!

Check out our great line up of events and flash competitions. Get involved, keep your eyes peeled & look out for full event details on our facebook page.

TUESDAY
27TH JANUARY

POETRY COMPETITION

Get your bard's cap on and get creative. Winner announced 12th March.



WEDNESDAY
4TH FEBRUARY
FLASH

POST A BANGOR PICTURE

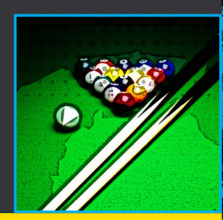
Best typical Bangor picture of the day wins a FREE pizza at Bar Uno!



FRIDAY
6TH FEBRUARY

POOL TABLE COMPETITION

So who's the sharp shooting hustler in your block? Get over to Uno – prizes to be won!



WEDNESDAY
11TH FEBRUARY
FLASH

CHEESY CHAT UP LINE

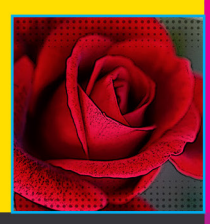
Give us your cheesiest line and win a valentine's day meal for 2 in the Teras!



THURSDAY
12TH FEBRUARY

VALENTINE'S DAY BRING A BUDDY DINNER

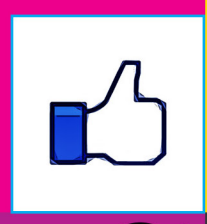
Campus Life loves a bit of togetherness!



WEDNESDAY
18TH FEBRUARY
FLASH

LIKE & SHARE OUR STATUS

Win yourself a voucher for some top nosh!



SUNDAY
22ND FEBRUARY

BOUNCE BELOW

Another trip to the mighty caverns of Blaenau. Book early, as we sold out last time!



WEDNESDAY
25TH FEBRUARY
FLASH

WACKY RACES!

Get yourself to the Halls Office first and win a goodie bag!



THURSDAY
26TH FEBRUARY

MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

Whodunit? A night of drop dead fun!



WEDNESDAY
4TH MARCH
FLASH

THE VIP MEGA SELFIE

Cram your mates into this "selfie" and win FREE VIP entrance to Academi end of term party plus FREE bar tab!



THURSDAY
5TH MARCH

CAN'T COOK WON'T COOK

Follow our Chef Bruno's tasty master class, in our "how to" guide!



WEDNESDAY
11TH MARCH
FLASH

WIN YOURSELF A GIANT EASTER EGG

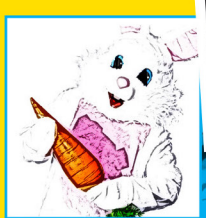
Get yourself to the Halls Office first and win the giant egg!



SUNDAY
15TH MARCH

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter bunny has come early. Take treasure hunt round campus and snaffle as many chocolate delights as possible!



JOIN OUR CAMPUS LIFE CREW

WE'RE LOOKING TO APPOINT A TEAM OF DEDICATED, SOCIABLE & ENTHUSIASTIC STUDENTS TO PROMOTE, DEVELOP & RUN OUR EVENTS. CAN YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN...?

HEAD ONLINE & SIGN UP NOW.

WWW.BANGOR.AC.UK/CAMPUS-LIFE/INDEX

Handball playing students make Great Britain universities squad





by **SCOTT WILLEY**

Bangor University students Reid Piggott and Aaron John have been selected to tour with the Great Britain Universities Handball team. Reid, who is studying Music Technology and Electronic Engineering, and Aaron, who studies Law, are two members of a 14 player squad, selected for the tour to the Netherlands after impressing at a trials weekend in Warrington.

Reid, who plays as a goalkeeper, and Aaron, a winger, first started playing handball two and a half years ago, when they began university. Reid originally started in the second team but quickly progressed to the first team, while Aaron was placed in the first team from his first match. At the end of their first year at Bangor, both players were in the team that won the Glyndwr University regional tournament. Spurred on by this victory, the men's first team finished 8th in the UK at national competition in his second year, and won a regional tournament hosted by Liverpool John Moores University in October this year.

The duo, along with three other Bangor University players (Michael Gregson, Sam Little and Scott Willey), were scouted for the GB university trials at a qualifying event for a national tournament. The five players attended trials spread over two days, with Reid being selected for the full squad, and Aaron John initially being named as a reserve, before being called up to the full squad.

When Seren spoke to Reid, he said "I genuinely didn't think I'd make it, so when I saw my name on the list, I was super surprised. But no, I'm over the moon with it, and I couldn't be happier with myself." Aaron said "I couldn't believe when I heard the news that I'd been selected as reserve, let alone when I was called into the full squad."

We wish Reid, Aaron and the rest of the GB universities team success in the Netherlands, where they will play representative university teams from other countries.

February? Don't you mean FeBRARy?

by **BECCA KENT**

The month of February has been taken over yet again by the Ahletic Union and renamed FeBRARy. For those of you new to the term, FeBRARy it is a fundraising extravaganza led by our own clubs. The aim is to raise awareness about breast cancer for all genders. The money raised will go to charities supporting those affected by breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in the UK, with approximately 55,000 people diagnosed with breast cancer each year. This year's FeBRARy line up isn't going to disappoint:

Saturday 7th:

The month starts with the Trampoline Bounce-a-thon. Running from 8:30am until 8:00pm in Hall 2 Canolfan Brailsford. Hosted by Trampoline Club, all are welcome and for a £2 donation to Coppafeel you can have an hour long bounce. For more information check out the event: https://www.facebook.com/events/394538027382749/

Thursday 12th:

An Evening for Boobs follows next at 18:30 in Main Arts Lecture Theatre. This is an evening to celebrate boobs as part of Uni Boob Team Bangor's fundraising week. The evening will consist of a presentation by one of the amazing Boobettes that give up their time in order to share their personal experiences with breast cancer. We will also have some entertainment for you, and finally be hosting a minion auction, in order to raise some money for this brilliant charity. Head to the event page: https://www.facebook.com/events/1526283550966203/

Sunday 15th:

The annual FeBRARy charity Netball tournament takes place in Canolfan Brailsford from 11-3pm. Entrance is £2 per player with all proceeds going to Breast Cancer Care. The teams need to have a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 12. To enter a team or get more information head to: https://www.facebook.com/events/790156561056345/

Sunday 22nd:

Lacrosse host a mix 'n' match showcase game 5–7pm on the Fridd site astro pitch. The club will swap kits with their opposite gender and face-off against each other. A £2 donation by each member of the Lacrosse club will be made in order to play - all money going towards Breast Cancer Care! For more information see: https://www.facebook.com/events/400602503446470/

Wednesday 25th:

AU Night does FeBRAary in Academi from 10pm onwards. Entry is free with FeBRARy t-shirts that are on sale throughout the month from the Students' Union for just £5. All the money is going to Breast Cancer UK.

Saturday 28th:

Boob Ball commences at 1pm in Canolfan Brailsford. This event is in aid of raising money for the breast cancer awareness charity CoppaFeel. Boob Ball is Dodgeball with balls shaped like boobs. Boob dodging teams need to be made up of 6 players. It is £1 entry per person and fancy dress is welcome. To enter see: https://www.facebook.com/events/882339571817257/

Keep an eye out for more information on Bangor AU News: https://www.facebook.com/BangorAU

League leaders defeat Bangor



by **SCOTT WILLEY**

Men's Basketball looked to close the gap between themselves and third place in BUCS Northern 2A last Tuesday against Chester. Unfortunately for Bangor, league leaders Chester had other ideas, winning the tip off and immediately scoring a long range three points to quieten the strong home support. The opening few minutes were tough for the home side, with the unbeaten Chester countering twice to create an eight point lead.

The home side then got their game started courtesy of a nice three pointer from team captain Lewis Organ. An interception lowered the gap between the two sides, but Chester's clinical shooting allowed them to stay ahead.

Bangor started to settle into the game more, using their set plays to set up Organ for a three pointer which put them ahead for the first time in the game. Multiple free throws were exchanged between the two teams, but Chester's shooting was much more clinical, and they led at the end of the first quarter 13-20.

Chester came out all guns blazing in the second quarter, and rushed to a 15 point lead. Bangor tried desperately to get back into the game, but their shooting was below their usual standard, and Chester were again clinical with their attacks. Bangor did however pull some points back from free throws to make it 19-33 at halftime.

Chester's no. 13 was causing Bangor problems all night, breaking through the defence to force his way to the basket for another two points this time, as well as regularly collecting rebounds to keep the scoreboard ticking over. Rebound collection was key to a Chester three pointer minutes later. After missing both free throws, Chester collected the rebound, missed again but recollected and finally scored.

Bangor turned the bench, bringing on Tom Bate who made an impact in defence blocking multiple Chester shots, as well coach James Daniels who led the team on offense. Despite the changes in personal, Bangor still trailed at the end of the third quarter, 30-50, with the score finishing 43-65 at the final buzzer.

Despite the defeat, Bangor can take many positives from the game. At the end of the last semester Bangor lost many of their key players who were international students, and have yet to reinforce their squad with new players. This result is also an improvement to the reverse fixture in the first semester when they lost away to Chester, who have now made it six wins from six and have surely won the league.



Get involved, get active!

by **DANIEL GALLANT**

This year the University and Students' Union are bringing you a bigger, better and more beneficial Healthy Living Week than ever before. This is just a quick reminder of what is happening and how you can get involved. The week commencing the 9th of February until Sunday the 15th is the university's Healthy Living week. For those who do not know, this is a week where the University and Students' Union provide free activities and facilities to engage in you in to help you live your life a bit healthier!

Throughout the week we have a smoothie bike which will make a tasty and healthy smoothie using the power of your legs! This will be travelling around Bangor, details of which can be found on the Facebook event. On the Monday evening there is a quiz in Bar Uno at 8pm, raising money for Marie Curie.. There is also a Healthy Living Fair in Main Arts on Wednesday, with lots of local businesses showing off what they do,

On Friday night Athletic Union Circuit Training will be going ahead as usual (7-8pm in Canolfan Brailsford Hall 1) and it would be great to have an even better turnout than usual - its free! This will be closely followed by the first of our FeBRAuary events, a sponsored bra-wearing swim hosted by Bangor University Swimming Club. All money raised is in aid of FeBRAry, which raises money for Cancer Research.



Dragons impress at pre-competition showcase

by **SCOTT WILLEY**

Earlier this week, Bangor University's Cheerleaders, the Bangor Dragons, held their annual showcase event, inviting spectators to watch their routines ahead of their first competition of the year.

Bangor Dragons compete in four different categories across their events; group stunt, pom, all-girl, and co-ed. With only two weeks to their first competition, Future Cheer, the showcase was an opportunity for the Dragons to display their training efforts whilst raising some transport funds. Overall, the club raised £264.11 by charging a small entry fee, selling cakes and holding a raffle.

Vita Luna, the Dragons' Club Captain, spoke to Seren and said she was confident of a good performance at Future Cheer: "I reckon we will do well. Our squad this year has a lot of new members and I'm really pleased of how far we've come already, regardless of our performance on the day. We all work really well as a team and always have good attendances at training which is important for our development as a squad". Recently the squad suffered some setbacks and last minute changes, as a member of the squad broke their wrist and is now unable to perform. This meant a reshuffle of personal and the re-training of members in different roles and squads. Despite this, the Dragons impressed at the showcase and go into the competition full of confidence.





BUCS Scores 3/12

Basketball

Women's 1st's 50 - 19 Leeds 1st's
Men's 1st's 68 - 63 Liverpool 1st's

Netball

Women's 1st's 34 - 44 Edge Hill 2nd's

Hockey

Women's 1st's 3 - 1 Keele 1st's
Women's 2nd's 0 - 2 Lancaster 3rd's
Men's 1st's 1 - 4 Chester 1st's
Men's 2nd's 2 -2 Chester (Warrington) 1st's
Men's 3rd's 0 - 0 Lancaster 3rd's

Football

Women's 1st's 0 - 8 UCLAN 1st's
Men's 2nd's 1 - 0 Cumbria 3rd's

Lacrosse

Men's 1st's 6 - 8 Chester 1st's

Squash

Men's 1st's 3 - 2 Keele 1st's
Women's 1st's 4 - 0 Manchester 2nd's

Badminton

Men's 1st's 6 - 2 Manchester 3rd's
Men's 3rd's 4 - 4 Man Met 4th's
Women's 1st's 4 - 4 Man Met 1st's

Tennis

Men's 2nd's 4 - 8 Chester 2nd's

Volleyball

Men's 1st's 1 - 2 Manchester 2nd's
Men's 1st's 2 - 0 Edge Hill 1st's
Women's 1st's 1 - 2 Salford 1st's
Women's 1st's 2 - 0 Keele 1st's

Golf

Mixed 1st's 4 - 2 Sheffield Hallam 1st's

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SPORT

Women's Basketball crush University of Leeds to remain top of Northern 1A



Main: Emily Dunn counter attacks
Inset: Zoe Shingler scores a layup
Photos by Scott Willey

by **SCOTT WILLEY**

Bangor University Women's Basketball continued their good run of form with a 50-19 victory of the University of Leeds last week.

The club, which are currently the highest ranking regular season BUCS team in the university, made it six wins from six to put themselves six points clear at the top of Northern 1A.

The game looked to be tough, with Bangor losing some of the international players in their squad at the end of the last semester and were facing a mid-table Leeds side.

Bangor secured the first points of the game after a scrappy opening few minutes. The home team looked strong in defence, shutting out Leeds for almost five minutes. Unfortunately, Bangor could not extend their lead and Leeds eventually broke through to level the scores. Club captain Emily Dunn lead the team well from point guard, intercepting multiple times throughout the game to breakaway and score. Fast counter attacking plays combined with stout defence from Bangor increased their lead, with Leeds often forced to shoot from distance as the shot clock ran low.

More points from Dunn and vice captain Zoe Shingler extended the lead to 17-3 as the first quarter ended, with Bangor looking comfortable.

As the second quarter started, Bangor became more clinical with their shooting, scoring more three pointers to further impose their dominance on the away side. Leeds, with only five players and no substitutes or coach were struggling with the fast paced style of Bangor's play, and trailed 33-9 at half-time.

Sloppy passing from Leeds again allowed Dunn to intercept and add more points for the home side as they opened up a 30 point lead over the visitors.

Leeds seemed to come out refreshed in the final quarter, scoring four points without reply, but it was too little too late. A fast passing play from Bangor soon restored their comfortable lead as Leeds continued to tire. Bangor made it six wins out of six to sure up first place in the league, with the final score 50-19.