13/11/15 The day that Paris stood defiant

The world mourns as Paris recovers from co-ordinated terrorist assault by international ISIL sect

Friday’s attacks on Paris were so sudden and so violent that the actual facts were mixed up in my head. Information was numerous and ever-changing. Figures of bombings and shooting kept increasing, not to talk about those of deaths. Then everything went really fast: a state of emergency was declared on the whole of France. In contrast with the opinion piece you can find in the Paris feature, here is a factual sum up of the events.

In the Stade de France, crowds were rather cheerful, as France was winning the football game against Germany. At 21:20 – Gate D – the first explosion could be heard. People thought it was fireworks and the game continued. It was actually a jihadist, wearing a highly explosive bomb vest, committing suicide. Another person was killed due to the explosive blast. Ten minutes later – Gate H – another suicide bomber killed himself using the same kind of bomb vest.

At 21:53, 400m away from the stadium, a third man died after turning on his bomb vest.

Meanwhile, in bar Le Carrillon and restaurant Le Petit Cambodge, shootings occurred at 21:25, killing 15 people and severely injuring 10.

At 21:32, further away, in cafe A la Bonne Bière, another shooting killed 5 and severely injured it.

At 21:36, in bar La Belle Equipe, a third shooting happened, killing 19 and severely injuring 9.

At 21:40, in restaurant Le Comptoir Voltaire, a terrorist wearing a bomb vest severely injured one person. At the same time, three men entered concert hall Le Bataclan, shooting everywhere in cold blood. They took hostages and had a brief talk with authorities outside. They invoked Syria and Iraq, then began to kill more people. More than two hours later, at 00:20, police entered the building. One jihadist was killed and the two other detonated their bomb vests. At least 89 people were killed.

French prosecutor of the Republic, François Mollins, reported a total of 130 deaths and 352 injured, including 99 in a critical state.

There were similarities in the equipments of the terrorists. The vest bombs were all the same. The guns, Kalashnikovs, too. Due to the simultaneity of the attacks, it is highly likely that they were coordinated. ISIL published a video, a written communiqué, and a vocal message claiming the ownership of the attacks.

It was discovered that one of the Bataclan’s terrorists was French. He was formally identified as Ismaël Omar Mostefai, 29. He had been arrested several times and was known to French services for his radicalisation in 2010.

Presumed instigator of the attacks, Abdelhamid Abaaoud, 28, was killed in the St.Denis assault the 18th of November.

Right after the events, French president François Hollande declared, for the first time in France’s history, a state of emergency across the whole of France. Recently, the Senate stated that it will last three more months.

It means the circulation of people and vehicles is now restricted, with the closing of some public spaces. Day and night, police search without control from a judge and monitor press publications. Re-establishment of border controls, prohibition of protests, and enhanced security in stations and airports are other measures that were taken as a reaction to some of the worst terrorists attacks in French history.
GWOBRAU LANDLORDIAID LANDLORD AWARDS 2016

AI EICH LANDLORD CHI YW’R GORAU O’R GOREUON?

ENWEBWCH NHW AM WOBR LANDLORD!

Bydd y cyfnod enwebu’n agor 30 Tachwedd ac yn cau 26 Ionawr 2016 am 4pm.

IS YOUR LANDLORD THE BEST OF THE BEST?

NOMINATE THEM FOR A LANDLORD AWARD!

Nominations open on the 30th November & close 26th January 2016 at 4pm.

Mae pum categori ar agor ar gyfer enwebiadau:

Five categories are open to nominations:

- Cynig gorau’r flwyddyn
- Value deal of the year
- Landlord bach y flwyddyn
- Small landlord of the year
- Landlord mawr/asiantaeth reoli’r flwyddyn
- Large landlord/managing agent of the year
- Landlord ymatebol y flwyddyn
- Responsive landlord of the year
- Gwobr Amryddoniaeth
- All Rounder award

Enwebwch nhw ar y wefan Undeb Myfyrywr
WWW.MYFYRWRBANGOR.COM/WELFARE/LANDLORDS

Nominate them on the Students’ Union website
WWW.BANGORSTUDENTS.COM/WELFARE/LANDLORDS

Cynhelir y Seremoni Wobrwyo ar 10 Chwefror am 5pm yn Ystafell y Teras 3 (Prif Adeilad y Celfyddyau)
The awards ceremony is on the 10th February at 5pm in TCR3 (Main Arts)
You will have already seen our front page. Marine, our News Editor, a French international student, and her story of the horrors of Paris in recent days is a testament to the evocative powers of journalism. She reminds us that human stories told by the clear exposition of facts rebel against the distorting ignorance of extremism. We also took the time to cover local cases of communities standing up against hatred.

On the page that follows it, you’ll see how people are still responding to the attacks, including the world of social media and our own team of writers and editors.

A tour of the rest of the paper will reveal to you an abundance of discussion about what’s getting people talking in the world of science, culture, and sport.

In keeping with this month’s major story, our Books section looks at how writers like Anne Frank and H.P. Lovecraft can be used to understand the roles of both racist and victim in culture today.

Our Games section takes a look at the two big games of this season, Fallout 4 and Assassin’s Creed Syndicate. The former centres on the afterlife of nuclear weaponry ethics while the latter has narrative that reveals the moral choice every individual must make about how they live in society.

If you head over to the Sport pages, we’re proud to show off the success of Bangor University’s athletes. I’d like to take this opportunity to congratulate both the swimming and basketball teams for their recent achievements.

Finally, we’ve interviewed a rising star from the student body, a scientist involved in some groundbreaking research, and even Mark Stanley, your very own VP for Societies & Communities.

This issue was put together during a testing moment for all, so we’ve spent time ensuring space for reflection. My message to our readers is therefore as follows: go about your business with the spirit of Paris and all those who still stubbornly stand against those who would have use silenced by fear. Be clear and be kind.

The views presented hereafter do not represent the views of Seren Bangor, Bangor Students’ Union or Bangor University. Seren is printed by NWN Media.
Llandudno Christmas Fayre Market 2015

by MARINE DESSAUX

Llandudno’s Christmas Market has doubled in size, compared to 2014, with 140 food, drink, craft, and bric-a-brac stalls. It has thus become one of the largest in Wales.

This year’s Christmas fayre expanded it to Trinity Square in addition to the usual Madoc Street. From the 19th of November to the 22nd it is expected to have attracted more than 30,000 visitors.

For £1.50, visitors could access about 140 stalls, which is 60 more than in Liverpool. The increasing quantity of stalls, however, made it less coherent, with stands from regular vegetable selling to bric-a-brac. Santa’s Grotto actually consisted of a small wooden cottage and cost £5!

Still, there were good quality stalls and a great display of Welsh craft. The best part of the market being the Christmas chorus, composed of ladies dressed in Victorian fashion.

“I find Llandudno’s Christmas market quite nice,” says Eloise, 21. “Everyone can find their happiness and do some Christmas shopping thanks to the numerous and variety of stalls: food, craft, Christmas decorations... My favorite part was the food tasting. It is too bad this event only lasts four days.”

Icing on the cake: Llandudno’s city is the perfect setting for a Christmas Fayre. It is encircled by mountains, on the edge of the sea with an atmosphere described as ‘Dickensian’.

Other Christmas Markets to come:

Bangor University: Students will be running a Christmas Fair of 75 stalls in PJ hall, Main Arts Building. It will take place December 4th from noon to 5.

Manchester: With over 300 stalls, Manchester’s Christmas Market will take place until Monday 21st December 2015 in Albert Square, Brazennose Street, St Ann’s Square, Exchange Street, New Cathedral Street, the Corn Exchange and Corporation Street. It is open from Monday to Sunday.

Chester Christmas Market: Situated outside Chester’s historic Town Hall, Library and Cathedral, the Christmas Market will be running all week until 20th Dec 2015.

Colwyn Bay: Celtic Christmas Fayre at St Paul’s Church on November 27th and November 28th between 10am and 2pm.

Far right protesters outnumbered by counter-demonstrators in Llangefni

On Saturday 21st November the extreme right-wing group, The In/defilts of North Wales, attempted to stage a protest rally against immigration and the ‘Islamisation’ of the UK.

It meant that the small Anglesey town of Llangefni was described as a ‘ghost town’ with many businesses and shops closed and the weekly market cancelled for fear of disruptions. The High Street was also closed off to traffic.

“I’m extremely angry that the unwanted visit of this extreme right wing group to Llangefni resulted in so many businesses having to close for the day including the Saturday market” said Llangefni’s Deputy Mayor, Cllr Dylan Rees.

“Local businesses could ill-afford to lose much needed trade on what should have been a profitable Saturday for them in the run up to Christmas,” he said.

At 2pm, around 50 members of the far-right group turned up only to be heavily outweighed by about 400 counter-protesters—with hundreds of onlookers also on the streets.

The counter-demonstrators were joined by Plaid Cymru leader, Leanne Wood, and Anglesey’s Labour MP, Albert Owen.

“Anglesey is a tolerant, forward looking and proud community,” said Mr Owen, speaking about how they disagreed with the protestors.

A heavy police presence was in the town, keeping both the protestors and the counter-demonstrators away from one another, with a helicopter circling above and numerous police vans nearby in case they were needed.

Chants of ‘no more refugees’ were met with the counter-demonstrators singing Calon Lân and the Welsh national anthem above them.

“The messages that are pushed by this far right group are not welcome here.

“I would urge every fair-minded person in this country to stand-up against hatred and racism,” said Ms Wood.

The protests stayed peaceful and without any incidents.

Despite all the unpleasant restrictions for public life, this protest sends out a clear signal from Llangefni for more tolerance, as also Plaid Cymru leader Leanne Wood emphasised: “United we stand, divided we fall.”
November Issue 2015 | Seren

In Brief

Car crash leaves students injured
On 8th November, two men were injured in a car collision on the A4087 Caernarfon Road, Bangor, just before 9.20pm. It involved a Seat Ibiza and a Renault Megane, driven by Mark Harrison, 21, who suffered a broken femur, foot, and hand. Harrison was put into a coma, his father explaining to the Daily Mail that it was “because he was agitation due to his injuries.” First responders from North Wales Fire, The Welsh Ambulance Service, and North Wales Police arrived on scene to find both drivers were trapped inside their vehicles. The Fire Service had to cut them out and they were both taken to Ysbyty Gwynedd. Harrison’s father later said that “looking at the pictures, I’m amazed Mark came out alive.”

99 calls, but the doc ain’t one
ANGLESEY woman made 99 calls in order to make one appointment with her GP. Local councillor, Nicki Roberts, raised concerns about GP coverage in the area, claiming to have seen evidence of one individual making nearly 100 phone calls before securing a consultation. She continued, “Unfortunately this seems to be a growing trend. Surely there’s a strong Argentinian presence here before the situation gets worse?” Wyn Thomas from the health board defended the service provided, stating that the availability of GPs is in a fairly good position compared to much of North Wales, but did agree that there has been increased pressures over General Practitioners. Plans in place to improve the phone networks.

Cabin in the Woods
THE new art installation alongside Pontio is by Dutch artist Joep van Lieshout. Made from fiberglass reinforced polyester in the shape of a cabin, or a slate quarryman’s hut, it is designed as a “counterpoint to the angular Pontio building.” Applications for designs were open to the public, with the deadline closing in January 2014. The commission asked for a “modern day interpretation of a meeting place.” They were also asked to make use of the Pontio Shop on the highstreet to share their designs. The piece was funded by Bangor University and The Arts Council of Wales with an original budget of £100,000. The student reception has been mixed.

Praise for Bangor’s Nurses
Bangor University’s School of Healthcare Sciences has recently had finalists in three categories for the 2015 Nurse of the Year Awards held by the Royal College of Nursing in Wales. Stefani Roberts won ‘Student Nurse of the Year’, Dr Malcolm Goodwin, Deputy Head of School (Teaching and Learning) won the award for ‘Nurse Educator of the Year’, and Professor Christopher Burton, Deputy Head of School, was a runner-up in the Nurse Researchers category, for work in stroke care and rehabilitation.

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Non-denominational Starbucks cups spark Christmas controversy

by HEWDWEN BETHAN CREANEY

Starbucks’ red cups hit the headlines after complaints that they were not “Christmassy”. The new Christmas cup designs were introduced on the 1st November, storming the USA on the 3rd November. By the 5th, Joshua Malone, said “I’m amazed Mark came out alive.”

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Important findings mark launch of Observatory@Bangor

Researchers show Wales’ Child Adolescent Mental Health Service fall short of standards. Inaugurated on the 17th of November, the Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People of Bangor University working in association with Swansea University, has already published early research. After the survey said 3/4 of child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) users had a bad experience with the service, Health and Social Services Minister, Mark Drakeford, asked how could it be improved. Observatory@Bangor and charity partners observed the findings; the main complaint was that the response from CAMHS was too slow and didn’t keep them safe, and gave their conclusion for the attention of the minister.

The Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People is a 2012 collaborative project that includes international, national and local partners. It’s aim is to help children to access their rights, identify, and advocate for change in law in favour of the young people, work practically so as to make children’s rights applied. They are also one of the organisations which help report on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to the United Nation.

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Praying For Paris – Praying For The World

by EMMA JEWKES

Like many others on Facebook, on Saturday morning I changed my profile picture to include the French flag. In my eyes, I was showing solidarity and support to those affected by the terrible atrocities on Friday night. I didn’t expect to change the world, nor did I expect to prevent future acts of terrorism. It was simply a message to Paris that I was praying for them and thinking about them. My own brother, sister-in-law, niece, and nephew were at Euro Disney at the time of the attacks, so to a certain extent I was involved on a personal level. Even now, it sickens me to imagine what could have happened had they been near the scenes of the attacks.

What also sickens me is how it seems to be constantly inferred that because I’m showing support for France I’m somehow disregarding the terrible atrocities and disasters occurring in other parts of the world. Like I didn’t care about Japan, Syria, or Mexico. I care, but in many ways it comes down to a cultural thing. France are next door, they share many of the same cultural values and we share a long and tumultuous history with them. They are like cousins. On the whole we leave them to their own devices but when someone or something threatens them, we are there! It’s a sad, but true, fact that we just don’t share that same relationship with other countries of the world. Places like Syria and Japan are like people who live at the end of your street. While I care what happens to them, it often takes time for news to filter through, especially when someone’s attacked your cousin. It’s a sad truth, but a truth I shouldn’t feel ashamed of. That is why my profile picture still bears the French colours and why I’ll continue to pray for Paris. Please believe me when I say this, though, that doesn’t mean that I’m not praying for the world, too.

Social Media Responses

Sergio Brilhante, AKA a Facebook user:

“Let’s make one thing clear. Each person has a certain vision and knowledge about the world, more or less accurate, still a vision, a kind of mental ‘map’ of the world. Some realities are closer to us, some not so much, some we know better than others. It is virtually impossible though to have a complete knowledge of everything that is happening in the whole world at each second. We don’t have that capacity yet.

If ‘my house’ gets robbed I’ll have one reaction. If my neighbours house gets robbed I’ll have another reaction, if someone tells me that a group of houses have been robbed in a borough next to me I’ll have another, and if I hear in the news that some houses have been robbed in a country foreign to mine I’ll react even more distinctively. Or maybe not even react. Maybe I can’t even place that country on the map... it is a reality so foreign to me that it won’t affect me to the same degree as if my house, or my parent’s, or my friend’s house had been robbed. That doesn’t mean I’m insensitive. Realities that are closer and more familiar to us will affect us more. That’s not hard to understand. It’s not even a matter of political correctness or incorrectness. It’s a matter of common sense and mental economy.”

Catherine Loraine, former Bangor Student currently working as an au pair 30 minutes from Paris:

“The attacks on 13th November drastically changed the mood of Paris. It is French culture to sit outside a cafe or a bar on an evening and have a meal or a drink with friends. However, the attacks on the restaurants and bars in the 10th and 11th arrondissements of Paris have led people to mistrust the surroundings. After the events, I didn’t travel into Paris for three days. The only way to describe the mood of the city is that there was a permanent dark cloud. It is tricky to put into words how sad this city felt. For me, Paris isn’t my home but for a lot of people around me, Paris is all they have ever known so it was difficult to watch people still love and appreciate such a beautiful city after something so tragic happened.”

Retweeted 79,658 times.

Being French Abroad

by PERLE MAGALY

Living through the attacks in Paris safely from England was, above all, stressful. You find yourself far from people you love and you do not know right away if they are doing well.

Then, when you were reassured and the night is over, you want to help, to actually do something for your country. But you can’t do anything from where you are. Then you are disappointed and you almost blame yourself. The distance for me was a serious problem because I wanted to support my nation and especially help all of those affected. I was angry, I was scared. I was sad to see where we had arrived. But I know that France will get better. I will not comment on the announcement of the state of war France is now in, but I can’t help but think of all of those people who live in Syria and will perhaps suffer wrongly.
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In Brief

PM delivers Strategic Defence and Strategy Review

ON Monday 23rd November Prime Minister David Cameron delivered a Commons statement on the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The Prime Minister announced that in the event of an attack similar to those on Paris, up to 10,000 British troops could be deployed in Britain’s streets.

Plans have also been put forward for £12bn to be spent on extra military equipment, two £5bn ‘nuke Brigades’, 24 F-35 jets to be purchased by the end of 2023, maritime patrol aircraft, and bombs. Also, he announced that the number of civilians employed by the Ministry of Defence would be reduced by 30% by the end of Parliament.

Mr. Cameron also spent time discussing the government’s £178bn defence spending plans for the next decade, which will include plans for nine Boeing P8 maritime patrol aircraft, funding for 1,300 More Intelligence Officers spread across MI5, MI6 and GCHQ on top of an additional £1.8bn to be spent on cyber-security.

Possibly the biggest announcement was the reveal that the controversial Trident systems costs will rise by £6bn to a total of £31bn, this rise comes ahead of next year’s Commons vote on whether or not Trident should be renewed.

Tories propose feminism scrap

LABOUR has heavily criticised the Department of Education’s attempts to remove feminism as a topic in the A-level Politics syllabus, claiming that such a move will harm the education of both male and female students. In a letter to Nicky Morgan, Labour accused the Government of telling students to “think of 15 different male political thinkers and just one woman”.

Lucy Powell, Shadow Education Secretary, and Kate Green, Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities, were both very critical; “Just this week you said that you were committed to ensuring equality of opportunity at the core of this Government’s agenda so that every woman and girl has every opportunity to reach their potential, we struggle to see how removing these topics from the curriculum helps to achieve this worthy aim. We also feel it is just as important to provide the space for young men to discuss the issues that can arise from gender and increase understanding of feminism, as it is for young women”.

The current draft for the new syllabus outline includes Mary Wollstonecraft as the only woman in a list of Liberal thinkers, feminism in this new syllabus also appears to focus mostly on feminism’s role as pressure groups, referring to the suffragists and suffragettes.

Liberal Democrat Leader Tim Farron also had concerns over the changes, tweeting; “just like you can’t teach maths without numbers, you can’t teach politics without women. This must be rethought”.

A spokesperson for the Department of Education said that feminism would still be available and studied within A-Level Sociology.

Autumn Statement will reveal Osborne’s plans for future

At 12.30pm on Wednesday the 25th November the Autumn Statement occurred. But what exactly is the Autumn Statement?

The Autumn Statement is an annual update on the government’s plans for the economy, the Autumn Statement doesn't differ much from the budget, with the main differences being that it tends to be of much less significance as it tends not to include as many announcements, or at least announcements of as significant importance. The Autumn Statement has become an opportunity for the Chancellor to unveil giveaways to businesses and individuals whilst also providing forward-looking statements about the UK’s economic health. This statement will set the level of Government spending from April 2015 onwards and will provide information on how Osborne intends on achieving a £10bn budget surplus by 2020.

The event has historically been scheduled during either November or December and while there is no set time limit, the statements with last year’s lasted 55 minutes. Benjamin Duerfelt delivered the shortest budget in 1867 when he delivered it in only 45 minutes whereas William Gladstone took four hours and 45 minutes in 1853 to deliver his budget.

The requirement of two annual updates on the British economy was only introduced in 1975. The Autumn Statement was also referred to as the pre-Budget under Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling and was also known as the Summer Statement during Kenneth Clarke’s time as Chancellor before Osborne reintroduced the term Autumn Statement in 2010.
Support for airstrikes against IS grows

Over the next couple of weeks Prime Minister David Cameron looks set to announce a parliamentary vote on whether or not the UK will begin to take part in airstrikes against IS targets in Syria. This vote is set to possibly be the biggest decision that Mr Cameron has had to make during his time as Prime Minister. Support for airstrikes has until recently been lacking from all parts of the House of Commons with memories of the political catastrophe that was the war in Iraq and intervention in Afghanistan still fresh in many MPs minds. Cameron will also be concerned about another embarrassing defeat, similar to 2013 when he failed to get the approval of Parliament to allow British airstrikes against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The terror attacks conducted in Paris by Islamic State however, seems to be shifting the minds of many MPs from both the Conservative and the Labour party’s, SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has also announced that she would be willing to listen with an “open mind” to Cameron’s proposal for military strikes. The Prime Minister will also meet with French Prime Minister François Hollande with a focus on counter terrorism cooperation and the fightback against ISIS.

Cameron’s push for airstrikes will have been boosted by the UN Security Council unanimously calling for its members to take all necessary measures against IS. Whilst the UN has not invoked its section allowing for the use of force it is widely seen as a green light for member states to conduct airstrikes against IS forces who were described as “a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security”.

Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn has reiterated his stance opposing military action and has urged the Government to seek a political solution, however Shadow Foreign Secretary Hilary Benn is seen to be more open to the idea of military involvement. Despite their leader being opposed to military action, there are thought to be rising numbers of Labour MPs who would vote for military involvement; the main reason being they feel that he is leading the party in the wrong direction on an issue of huge importance that is against the public mood.

When the vote is conducted, Tory ministers are hopeful they will have reduced the number of Conservative MPs against to around 20 and are hopeful that Labour’s numbers will be similar. This will be aided by Conservative whips attempting to get moderate Labour MPs siding with the government’s policy instead of the policy of their party leader. As it stands, the Prime Minister has a Commons majority of 17 and whilst he fears a loss in the vote, the increasing public support keeps growing in favour of airstrikes. Also, Mr Cameron will be hopeful Conservative whips can convince enough Labour MPs to vote in favour. The Prime Minister is thought to be hopeful of having a vote before Christmas.

Political Highlights: November 2015

THERESA May’s proposal of the Investigatory Powers Bill has been labelled as “worse than scary” by the United Nations privacy chief, Joseph Cannataci, who stated that the draft Investigatory Powers Bill heralded a “golden age of surveillance”. The bill would mean that all internet companies would have to hand over all of their users communications as well as every website their users had visited to be stored on record for a year. The bill has also come under intense criticism from leading computer experts who have claimed that the bill will likely cause more harm than good and have also argued that by giving intelligence agencies access to this data the door will be open for criminals if they were to gain access to this information.

EARLIER this month, Boris Johnson’s proposal for David Cameron to demand the ability for Britain to reject and overturn European Union legislation was rejected. Speaking to the Sunday Times, Mr Johnson said: “You could amend the act which says that all EU directives, regulations and other obligations have supremacy over British law to say that it has supremacy unless expressly overturned by Parliament”. When asked whether the Prime Minister agreed with Johnson’s views, Cameron’s spokesperson stated simply: “That’s not part of our negotiation”.

PRIME Minister David Cameron may be called on to make a final decision because Chancellor George Osborne and NHS boss Simon Stevens are still at odds. The Chancellor rejected pleas to increase the Health Service’s budget by £4bn next year, despite growing fear that without this money patient care could suffer greatly. It has been reported that Osborne has offered Stevens closer to £2bn, claiming that any more is unlikely as it is unaffordable in such a tight spending round and that the “NHS needs to get its fast-crumbling finances in order to help balance the books”.

THE First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, has announced that the Welsh Government will attempt to opt-out of UK Ministers’ plans to tighten trade union strike ballot rules. This is in relation to the First Minister’s dissatisfaction with the Trade Union Bill, with a vote in the Senedd to be taken in early 2016 to decide whether or not to veto certain sections of the bill, including areas that relate to devolved public services. The UK Government said the bill was being introduced “to make strike laws fairer for working people in Wales”.

SEEMA Malhotra, Treasury Shadow Chief Secretary, has announced that Labour will launch a detailed review of the multitude of tax breaks offered to British businesses as the party seeks to create an economic identity under Corbyn to further distance itself from the failings of the Miliband era. Discussing this review with the Observer, Malhotra said business reliefs should be subject to the same scrutiny as any other area of public spending. “The big test is to see whether economic policy is helping or hindering businesses and families”, she stated, before going on to say that under Labour “tax expenditures would be subject to the same rigorous analysis and review as other expenditure”.

The bill would mean that all internet companies would have to hand over all of their users communications as well as every website their users had visited to be stored on record for a year. The bill has also come under intense criticism from leading computer experts who have claimed that the bill will likely cause more harm than good and have also argued that by giving intelligence agencies access to this data the door will be open for criminals if they were to gain access to this information.
Fish tanks and numerous files line the walls. The sound of bubbling and the whirring of tanks: the soundtrack to our meeting. This is of course the office of Prof. George Turner from the School of Biological Sciences.

George Turner has been studying cichlid fish since the late 1980s and has become an expert in his field. Recent trips to Tanzanian crater lakes have uncovered strong evidence for a highly contentious and rare form of evolution: sympatric speciation, a process in which two species arise from one in a single location, as opposed to two separate locations. George submitted a manuscript to a prestigious journal this summer and it is currently being processed. To find out more, George and I met and had a chat.

Dressed in his trademark all-black attire, George pulls up a chair beside me and a cichlid tank and begins to chat.

*So, what are cichlid fish and what makes them a good species for studying evolutionary biology?*

“They are a tropical freshwater fish. Many of them are important in aquaculture. Tilapias are the most important cichlids, but that’s not really why I’m mostly interested in them.

The main thing I’m interested in is their evolution and speciation, and the reason cichlids are good for that is because there are thousands of species of them and they’ve evolved in a few big lakes in Africa. There is nothing quite like cichlids in terms of just how diverse they are.”

*You mentioned speciation. Can you briefly outline what sympatric speciation is and why it’s a rare and highly contested form of evolution?*

“I’ve been very interested in sympatric speciation for a long time. When I was a student, it was just taken for granted that there was no such thing as sympatric speciation. It was a crazy idea. Basically, it’s where a single species in a single species splits into two species. Normally, everyone thinks that speciation is allopatric speciation, so that’s where a population of one species finds itself cut off from the rest of the species, and then it’s free to evolve in its own direction. The problem with sympatric speciation is that it can only work if natural selection is powerful enough to pull a species in half in the face of the exchanging genes in the same place.

Most biologists thought it was just such an unlikely process that it probably never happened. But I always had suspicion that it did happen, and so I was very excited to find Lake Massoko, which is a tiny crater lake [in Tanzania] where you have a fish species that’s got into the lake and is now clearly in two different forms.

And so it looked like a good place to try and study sympatric speciation because of the geography. The fish are confined in this tiny lake. It’s hard to imagine how they could find themselves geographically separated into two populations when the lake is only 800m in diameter. That’s why we’re interested in these cichlids particularly.”

*Do you believe you have a case for sympatric speciation in Lake Massoko?*

“Yes, I think we do now. Because we’ve sequenced the genomes of hundreds of fish out of this lake and from the other lakes and rivers round about, and we’ve done some very advanced analysis of the genome sequences along with colleagues from Cambridge University and Sanger Institute, who did the British bit of the Human Genome Project. They’re people who really know genomes and how to analyse them. We’ve had very exciting debates and discussions of how to get to the bottom of whether this really is sympatric speciation, and I think we’ve managed to convince each other that it really is.

“We’ve got a big manuscript that we’re hoping is going to be accepted to come out in a very high profile journal quite soon, and we think that will convince everybody that we really are dealing with sympatric speciation.”

So, hopefully, when this manuscript does go through, how do you think your research will be received and how do you think it will change the way we think about sympatric speciation?

“I think this will make a big splash. It will get lots of coverage; at least among evolutionary biologists and people who are interested in cichlids. How widely it will go I don’t know.

I think it has the potential to be a classic textbook example of how to find out whether sympatric speciation is really taking place, but more than that to get to the bottom of the individual bits of the genome that are responsible for diverging when a species is splitting in two. So, what seems to be happening is some of these fish are living and staying in a shallow water habitat that they were originally adapted to when they lived in the local rivers, but others have managed to adapt to going right down to about 20-25m deep in the lake where it’s a very dark, hostile environment for this kind of fish. These two forms are diverging, even though they’re still occasionally exchanging some genes, so natural selection is powerful enough along this ecological gradient to pull the species in two, and we’re identifying the individual bits of the genome that are diverging between these two species, and I think that will really open a lot of peoples’ eyes to how sympatric speciation really works.”

Elimination of fatal Chytrid fungus

by CATHRINE BUCKEL

The Chytrid fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, is a highly contagious fungous causing amphibian chytridiomycosis and has caused the extinction of multiple amphibian species across five continents.

The fungus is very general in nature, infecting well over 700 known amphibian species. Previous strategies used to try to improve the condition of the fungus are mostly “geared towards the disease-free maintenance of captive assurance colonies, with many methods also created to treat captive amphibians”, explains Jamie Bosh in a recent scientific journal published earlier this month. Most attempts to immunise amphibians have failed. However, a few remaining procedures, such as bio-augmentation (the direct application of antifungal drugs and the environmental application of anti-fungus chemicals), hold promise for ultimate control of the Chytrid fungus in the wild. Jamie Bosh and his research team at the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales in Madrid carried out research in Mallorca, Spain, on tadpoles, treating them with antifungals in captivity. The ponds in which these tadpoles were found were then drained of water and allowed to dry naturally in the arid conditions of Mallorca. Previous studies had shown that environmental Chytrid fungus did not persist through drying. The ponds then refilled naturally with rainfall during the rainy season, and the tadpoles showed no signs of infection during captivity before they were released post-treatment. Any amphibians found that had exceeded the tadpole stage were then treated with itraconazole, an anti-fungal drug. Once the area had been drained it was treated with a common disinfectant, Virkon S solution. This method was then repeated in both test areas. Both showed different results as one area proved difficult to find amphibians above the tadpole stage, because it was much easier for them to hide, so reinfection after treatment was much more common. Amphibians were less likely to become reinfected in areas where it was easier to find the post-tadpole stage, and a more positive outcome was achieved.

Although the method used was not completely successful, it is a giant leap towards the elimination of a fungus that has been decimating amphibian populations for years, and the protection of amphibians worldwide.
Student-run algae ID website to launch

by VANESSA KEINMOSER

Have you ever walked along a beach and found some seaweed, maybe just passing it or maybe actually wondering what this plant-like thing might be and what you could actually do with it? Well we’ve created seaweeds.org.uk just for you. We want to share our passion for seaweeds by showing the variety of algae and how important they already are in our daily life. You can easily identify species from around the UK and Irish shores with our Algae ID System and see how you can make the most out of your discovered seaweed.

Algae contain a great variety of nutrients as well as antioxidants (used in cancer treatment), some might even call it a “Superfood”. You can prepare all sorts of delicious recipes and easily include it in your daily diet (i.e. as spice or in smoothies). Green algae, for example, are exceptionally high in protein. Sea lettuce contains a whopping 15-25 grams of protein per 100g and is a great protein source comparable to chicken (20-30 grams/100g).

For 100% of you who are more interested in the scientific significance of algae, the alternative energies section of our website is just right for you. We have an outline of new research taking place at the moment, with references to new publications and peer reviewed papers.

Why haven’t fish been discovered below 8,400m?

At an impressive 10,994m, the Mariana Trench is the deepest part of the world’s oceans and is over 2,000m deeper than Mount Everest is tall. For any organisms to survive these extreme depths they must be able to withstand almost freezing temperatures, complete darkness, and enormous pressure (around 1,090 bars). That’s equivalent to 8 tonnes per square inch, or an average sized woman holding up 48 jumbo jets!

What kind of organisms can survive these severe conditions?
The deepest depths are the reserve of the wretched and evil of the animal kingdom. Ready-eyed and fanged scaly Dragonfish and engrailed angling Football fish skulk in the murky depths for unsuspecting prey. A flashy barbell protrudes from the Dragonfish’s chin, scientists hypothesis that its use is similar to that of the football fish and bioluminescent lure. Below, gormless Hatchetfish stare like deranged ghosts, their huge eyes desperately trying to absorb the last vestiges of sunlight from the surface or bursts of bioluminescence created by other organisms. All three of these fish species are deep-sea species, but none exist in the Hadal zone, aptly named after the underworld realm of Hades; it’s defined as the body of water below 6,000m and 11,000m. The deepest fish ever discovered is the Cusk eel and was found at 8,370m.

So why then is there an invisible boundary at 8,400m that fish can’t seem to cross?

At 8,000m it’s equally cold, equally dark, and oxygen poor as at 9,500m or 10,500m, yet fish seem to ignore this huge space filled with giant amphipods, sea cucumbers, anemones and meiobenthos.

Dr. Paul Yancey is a marine biologist at Whitman College in Washington, US. “The only real difference between 8,370 meters – the greatest depth at which fish have been found – and 8,400 meters, is pressure”, he says. As long as there are no trapped gasses inside the animal to expand and compress, and the fish is mostly comprised of water, then pressure shouldn’t be a problem. However, the extreme pressure finds other ways to manifest itself. At these depths, membranes, proteins and DNA are compressed. Although biomembrane fluidity can be maintained under pressure by altering the ratios of saturated to unsaturated fats in the phospholipid bilayer (a process called homeoviscous adaptation) and pressure insensitive enzymes have been found in some vertical migratory species, such as Sebastolobus, the pressure below 8,400m seems a step too far.

However, Dr. Yancey has discovered that TMO, trimethylamine oxide, (the chemical responsible for the ‘fishy’ smell), helps cells processes function normally under pressure by preventing crushed water molecules forcing their way into tiny folds in the protein structure, enzymes, and membrane proteins, causing them to break apart or denaturing them, rendering them useless. So TMO surely provides fish with well adapted qualities for Hadal zone exploitation, or does it?

TMO also acts as an osmolyte, meaning that it attracts water, shallow water species use it to counteract the crushing pressure. TMO also acts as an osmolyte, meaning that it attracts water, shallow water species use it to counteract the crushing pressure. Perhaps it’s physiologically impossible for fish to venture deeper than 8,400m, maybe the Cusk eel has a large range and is found even deeper, until more expeditions to the very bottom of the Earth are undertaken and more specimens discovered we are kept in the dark; the cold, pressing dark of ignorance.

LED Lights and Marine Ecosystems

Light is a factor that influences marine organisms in a multitude of ways.

A recent surge in LED lighting is being used at coastal residential sites and industrial areas (oil rigs) is illuminating marine ecosystems at night. Set to peak in 2020, it’s hoped that CO2 emissions and costs will be reduced as a result of their introduction.

Stuart Jenkins from the School of Ocean Sciences at Bangor University and his team measured the impact of this lighting on sessile and mobile invertebrates. Their findings produced mixed results.

For 12 weeks in July 2013, a floating raft was deployed in the Menai Strait, Wales, suspending wooden boards in the water column (at 20cm depth). The panels were either: not artificially lit at all (control), 19 Lux (a unit of illuminance) or 30 Lux using white LED lights at the water’s surface.

It was found that the colonization of a colonial ascidian (a sea squirt, Botryllus schlosseri) and a hydroid (Plumatella setacea) was dramatically reduced in both light treatments. However, the abundance of tube-building polychaete worms increased 3 fold under the LED light treatments.

These worms are not too dissimilar in their ecology from terrestrial worms; they help stabilise the sediment (from wave action) and improve its mineral quality. Functioning as ecosystem engineers, benthic invertebrates such as these polychaetes support local fisheries, provide coastal protection and attract tourism. Changes in the fundamental ecology and community composition of these ecosystems will ultimately alter other organisms further up the food chain. The use of LED lights is set to skyrocket in the next 5 years, and the recruitment of sessile invertebrates and community composition of epifaunal mobile invertebrates will be measured in North Wales and around the world with intensifying scrutiny to decipher the future ecological impacts of this growing industry.
How important is the role that spiritual leaders play in the environment conversation?

by AZAT KALYBAY

There is an ongoing and heated debate within the scientific community on whether nature has intrinsic value. Science is a form of analysis where a hypothesis must be testable and arrive at a similar conclusion each time it is tested. Those who believe nature to have a value in and of itself receive strong criticism from certain colleagues, as their view cannot be proven in a scientific sense. At the same time, science recognizes the intrinsic value of human life, but further than that, it’s a grey and controversial area. Nevertheless, ambivalence of scientists doesn’t seem to affect the number of people concerned about protecting the environment. Among those voices, two are particularly discernible. Both happen to be recognized as leaders of their respective religions: Pope Francis and the Dalai Lama.

A recent study conducted by Yale and George Mason University focused on the effect that the Pope’s US visit will have on American Catholics, Evangelical Christians, non-evangelical Protestants and examined a wide group of Catholics, US visit will have on American Catholics, Evangelical Christians, non-evangelical Protestants and focused on the effect that the Pope’s US visit will have on American Catholics, Evangelical Christians, non-evangelical Protestants and focused on the effect that the Pope’s US visit will have on American Catholics, Evangelical Christians, non-evangelical Protestants and focused on the effect that the Pope’s US visit will have on American Catholics, Evangelical Christians, non-evangelical Protestants and focused on the effect that the Pope’s US visit will have on American Catholics, 

This September and the subsequent results showed that about 17% of Americans and 35% of Catholics say the Pope’s position on global warming has influenced their views about the issue. This was termed the ‘Francis effect’ and has illustrated that prominent members of certain theologies can single-handedly influence attitudes of large populations. But also, such social reactions raised a question about the place of spiritual leaders in the environment dialogue.

For some years, calls to action to protect the environment have been thought to be the business of scientists. But as evidence got stronger, other people started tuning in to the discussion and the topic started taking on different shapes and colours. Some individuals drew connections to the issues of the environment with the issues of morality and societal breakdown. Spiritual leaders, including the Pope, touch upon this matter with particular interest and vocalise their own perspectives. In his UN speech this year, Pope Francis said: “The misuse and destruction of the environment are accompanied by a relentless process of exclusion. In effect, a selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity leads both to the misuse of available natural resources and to the exclusion of the weak and disadvantaged, either because they are differently abled (handicapped), or because they lack adequate information and technical expertise, or are incapable of decisive political action. Economic and social exclusion is a complete denial of human fraternity and a grave offense against human rights and the environment. The poorest are those who suffer most from such offenses, for three serious reasons: they are cast off by society, forced to live off what is discarded and suffer unjustly from the abuse of the environment. They are part of today’s widespread and quietly growing ‘culture of waste’ ... “The contemporary world, so apparently connected, is experiencing a growing and steady social fragmentation, which places at risk ‘the foundations of social life’ and consequently leads to battles over conflicting interests.”

Another spiritual leader that attracts the spotlight on the matter is the current Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama was one of the few individuals who had begun to speak out about the environment before it became daily news. In his message, dating back to June 1986, the Dalai Lama wrote: “Peace and the survival of life on earth as we know it are threatened by human activities which lack a commitment to humanitarian values. Destruction of nature and nature’s resources results from ignorance, greed, and lack of respect for the earth’s living things. This lack of respect extends even to earth’s human descendants, the future generations who will inherit a vast degraded planet if world peace does not become a reality, and destruction of the natural environment continues at the present rate.”

Our ancestors viewed the earth as rich and bountiful, which it is. Many people in the past also saw nature as inexhaustibly sustainable, which we now know is the case only if we care for it. It is not difficult to forgive destruction in the past, which resulted from ignorance. Today, however, we have access to more information, and it is essential that we re-examine ethically what we have inherited, what we are responsible for, and what we will pass on to coming generations. Clearly this is a pivotal generation. Global communication is possible, yet confrontations take place more often than meaningful dialogues for peace.

Our marvels of science and technology are matched if not outweighed by many current tragedies, including human starvation in some parts of the world, and extinction of other life forms.

Exploration of outer space takes place at the same time as the earth’s own oceans, seas, and freshwater areas grow increasingly polluted, and their life forms are largely unknown or misunderstood. Many of the earth’s habitats, animals, plants, insects, and even microorganisms that we know of as rare or endangered, may not be known at all by future generations. We have the capacity, and the responsibility. We must act before it is too late.”

Many people will probably find these words quite thought-provoking and rightly so, such interpretations on the issue often have stronger effects than the dense reports from scientists and the dull media coverage. Despite Pope Francis saying: “The Church has gotten it wrong a few times on science, and I think we are probably better off leaving science to the scientists and focus on what we’re really good at, which is theology and morality.” Might it be possible that spiritual leaders such as the Pope and the Dalai Lama are the fittest campaigners for the environment protection to the public, or at least a certain portion of it?
Waste from Brazilian mine disaster reaches the Antarctic

News outlets are reporting that the waste that has been released by the mining company Samarco, after the collapse of the dam in Brazil, has reached the Atlantic. The mud from the spill that took place in early November travelled more than 500km through a Rio Doce estuary in only two weeks’ time.

The disaster has taken 11 lives and 12 people cannot be found. The Brazilian giant Vale and the Anglo-Australian BHP Billiton, which own Samarco, have agreed to pay an equivalent of $260m to the Brazilian government in compensation. Deutche Bank estimates that the overall clean-up could cost more than $1 billion.

According to the BBC, Samarco has built a 9km long oil barrier at the mouth of the Rio Doce to protect the mud till it arrives. There is a risk of mud solidifying into concrete, when it dries out due to high ore and silica content.

The company is trying to mitigate the situation by using heavy equipment, aiming to let the mud flow out to the sea as quick as possible and dilute.

Climate change and refugees

This month was highlighted by events that left a number of hard questions and no easy answers. In the prelude to the latest developments, sudden surge of millions of refugees, primarily from the Middle East, displayed how underprepared the developed countries were to provide shelter. Countries where refugees are fleeing cannot simply cope with the sheer number of people calling out for aid and these governments are dredging the possibility of even greater flows. The main reason for refugees to change their residence is often attributed to the fear of being persecuted during the military activity, which is undeniable. However, some studies and governmental bodies have started to look into the possibilities of people becoming ‘climate refugees’ as a result of being forced to migrate due to the changes to their local environment.

One of the US presidential candidates for the Democratic party, Bernie Sanders, found himself in some criticism after he linked the growth of terrorism to climate change in the Democratic debates on the 14th of November. But some analysts point out that there is some ground for such statements. According to a report published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal, an extreme drought that Syria experienced from 2006 to 2011 lead to severe social distress as the water deficiency damaged agricultural industry, causing farmers to relocate to urban areas. This was coupled with the rise in food prices which has aggravated poverty. The authors of the report state that these factors "may have contributed to the social unrest that precipitated the civil war. Which generated the refugee flows into Europe."

Furthermore, certain specialists are investigating the growth of terrorism as a result of climate change impacts. In last year’s report by the US Department of Defense, officials remarked that “In our defense strategy, we refer to climate change as a ‘threat multiplier’ because it has the potential to exacerbate many of the challenges we are dealing with today—from infectious disease to terrorism.” And later: “Gaps in governance can create an avenue for extremist ideologies and conditions that foster terrorism.”

Climate security and population growth

It is still quite early to conclude that the environmental crisis is contributing to the refugee crisis. Even harder would be to estimate its future impact on the flow of populations. But still, in the present world, where all is interconnected, such deductions are so automatic that they make you think twice.

In their latest 2016 Climate Change Vulnerability Index, Verisk Maplecroft have analysed various risks of 186 countries based on 3 criteria: exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity.

You probably couldn’t find the UK in both the top and the bottom tens. UK was actually quite close to reaching the top, it’s in fact 17th. But things are not looking good overall. Four out of ten most vulnerable countries have large number of citizens: Bangladesh (2nd) has a population of 155 million, Nigeria (7th) – 173 million, Sudan (8th) – 38 million, and Democratic Republic of Congo (9th) – 67 million. The bottom ten countries together, have a total population of a staggering half a billion.

Overall, more than half, or 31, African nations fell into the high or extreme risk categories. Asia was the other continent which showed a concerning tendency, having 16 countries in the high or extreme risk categories. South America, though not having any extremely vulnerable states, came second after Africa as a whole. Notably, none of the European or North American countries fell below the medium risk mark. Here are the most distinguished countries:

**Countries most vulnerable to climate change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>17 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>74 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>32 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>10 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>8 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Most vulnerable countries**

1. Chad
2. Bangladesh
3. Nepal
4. Burundi
5. Democratic Republic of Congo
6. South Sudan
7. Niger
8. Sudan
9. Guinea-Bissau
10. Democratic Republic of Congo

**Least vulnerable countries**

1. Norway
2. Ireland
3. Iceland
4. Sweden
5. Finland
6. Estonia
7. Barbados
8. Denmark
9. Latvia
10. Saint Lucia

**2016 Climate Change Vulnerability Index**

- **Top 10 countries**
  - Norway
  - Iceland
  - Ireland
  - Sweden
  - Denmark
  - Latvia
  - Saint Lucia
  - Barbados
  - Estonia
  - Finland

- **Bottom 10 countries**
  - Chad
  - Bangladesh
  - Nepal
  - Burundi
  - Democratic Republic of Congo
  - South Sudan
  - Niger
  - Sudan
  - Guinea-Bissau
  - Democratic Republic of Congo

**Index categories**

- Exposure
- Sensitivity
- Adaptive capacity

**Risk categories**

- Low
- Medium
- High
- Extreme

**Regional analysis**

- **Latin America and the Caribbean**
  - High vulnerability
- **Europe**
  - Low vulnerability
- **North America**
  - Very low vulnerability

**Average risk score by region**

- South America: 1.5
- Central America: 2.8
- North America: 0.0
- Europe: 0.3

**Distribution of risk for 186 countries**

- High risk: 60 countries
- Medium risk: 72 countries
- Low risk: 40 countries
- Extreme risk: 14 countries
Can and should readers accept problematic authors?

by EMMA DEBNEY

A s you may or may not have heard, the World Fantasy Awards recently retired their traditional bust of HP Lovecraft as the prize given to winners. Official sources are keeping mum on the exact reason why, but most suspect it is in reaction to objections by science fiction authors—particularly authors of colour like Daniel José Older—to having the face of a vocal racist stand as the celebration of their works.

Not unreasonable: in a blog entry posted not long after her World Fantasy win, Nnedi Okorafo reflected on the ways in which Lovecraft’s work was built—overly and deliberately—on the belief that people of her race were subhuman. And now she had an image of that man sitting in her home. Unsurprising, then, is her internal reaction. After all, as accounts like Lovecraft’s tell us, some bodies of work are too violently against what we stand for, for us to engage with them. But the flipside of this is that there is not, shall nor there ever be, a work whose author does not have some form of prejudice.

No-one is perfect, after all, and even the most well-meaning of us have absorbed the toxic biases of our culture, even if we would never express them as maliciously as Lovecraft did. To pretend otherwise is to create a most ridiculous fiction. And yet we often do.

How many times have you seen it? A beloved public icon—who’s wonderful, unouchable, and beyond reproach—says something less than kind and is summarily thrown to the wolves. How dare they! Tear them to pieces! Scrutinise their every word, their every action, reveal them as the brigand they and are demand a comprehensive and heartfelt apology. And like thirsty bloodhounds, our media—social and traditional—is sure to oblige.

Suddenly someone we collectively loved is now someone we hate. We’re not given a middle ground. It’s one or the other. Make your choice. The shift from hero to villain is terribly easy to achieve. In fact, I can do it right now. Gandhi was a racist.

Suddenly someone we collectively loved is now someone we hate. We’re not given a middle ground. It’s one or the other. Make your choice. The shift from hero to villain is terribly easy to achieve. In fact, I can do it right now. Gandhi was a racist.

Search Google for ‘Gandhi’ and ‘racist’ together and the first page is full of results, not about Gandhi’s work in India, but about his time in South Africa. More specifically, they are about his strong anti-black sentiments: quotes from Gandhi record him using black South African racial slurs, calling for their segregation from white and Indian people alike, and echoing ‘savage native’ ideas you might expect to find in the ignorance of Victorian penny dreadfuls. Yet, Gandhi did an awful lot of good too. So which way do we swing? Hero or villain?

In reality, he’s somewhere in the middle. He’s both and neither. So is everyone. We all have our good and our bad, our kindnesses and our prejudices, and so do those who create the fiction we read. We have to step out of the hero/villain paradigm if we are going to view reality properly. Recognising when creators have prejudices is important, and should be challenged, but we need to realise that becoming better people is a process rather than a destination.

We need to change the face of fiction, certainly, so authors like Older and Okorafo have more space and opportunities. Fiction is still an overwhelmingly white, straight, dydasic, cis, and male arena, both in its authors and characters. One way of changing that is by not denying prejudices we see but calling them out. But that can’t be all that we do. If we don’t read works by problematic authors, we won’t read anything at all. We also have to allow space for people to enjoy fiction, or not, as suits them. That will depend on the individual. I can cope with Tolkien but not Cornwell, Pratchett but not Green, even they are all arguably misogynistic writers.

Because really, there is no such thing as an unproblematic fave.

Career of Evil by Robert Galbraith

by JORDAN GLENDENNING

R obert Galbraith is a relative newcomer to the literature scene. He brought out his first novel on the 4th of April, 2013, The Cuckoo’s Calling, and his second novel on the 19th June, 2014, The Silkworm, with a 3.8 and 4 out of 5 stars respectively on Goodreads, the social media review site.

The crime novels follow amputee ex-military man, Cormoran Strike, in his cases as a private investigator. In this, the third novel of the series, Strike is thrust upon the trail of a serial killer when a severed leg is delivered to his detective partner, Robin Ellacott. Strike knows of four men in his past who would go through the trouble of sending him an amputated leg—the mirror to his own missing limb—and he must battle past his own conceptions to figure out the case, before the killer strikes again.

It’s a crime novel, but not of your typical fare. I like to think of the Strike novels as a blend between literary fiction and crime fiction, because the characterisation of even the side characters is leaps and bounds ahead of what I would expect from a crime novel.

Now, there’s an elephant in the room. Robert Galbraith isn’t actually who he says he is. It’s a very badly kept secret that Robert Galbraith is the nom de plume of rather famous J. K. Rowling, author of... well does it really need saying?

J. K. Rowling has done a fantastic job of merging a more literary style with the trappings of a crime novel, and I don’t think that this was a conscious effort on her part, but more of a natural inclination. Why should a crime novel feature less than stellar prose? Well, of course the answer is that it should. I’m an unabashed Rowling fan, from all. We also have to allow space for authors, we won’t read anything at all. If we don’t read works by problematic authors, we won’t read anything at all. We also have to allow space for people to enjoy fiction, or not, as suits them. That will depend on the individual. I can cope with Tolkien but not Cornwell, Pratchett but not Green, even they are all arguably misogynistic writers.

Because really, there is no such thing as an unproblematic fave.

Career of Evil is available now in hardback, published by Sphere Books. RRP £20.00.
November Issue 2015 | Seren

The differences in today’s ever-changing publishing world

Traditional Publishing

by KAYLA JONES

Publishers have been in the business a while, so they will have experience in what audience to sell the book to, and what the issue of copyright in the market is. The book in major chain bookstores such as Waterstones. Big publishing houses will be able to provide the reviews of famous authors for a book, as well as provide opportunities like author interviews with magazines and newspapers. Going this route also ensures that the author is not having to do any work out of pocket, such as covering printing costs or hiring copy editors and graphic designers.

While attempting to go with a traditional publishing route, many reject the idea. This does mean, however, that the benefits of the author are signed away, and a lot of editorial power goes to the publisher. If you’re willing to give up this control for all of the benefits that come along with traditional publishing, then get started with a query letter. Just be aware, as the 17th century author Charles Caleb Colton said, “To write what is worth writing requires more work than the average person has time for.”

The diaries of the teenaged Holocaust victim, written between 1942 and 1945, were expected to enter into the Public Domain in the EU next year, only 70 years after Anne Frank’s death. Texts under Public Domain may be redistributed and altered without payment being made to the copyright holder, in this case the Anne Frank Fonds, a foundation based in Switzerland, established by Otto Frank, the diarist’s father.

However, Anne Frank Fonds maintain that Anne Frank was not the sole author of her texts, people to foundation claiming that her father co-authored the popular text. If the Anne Frank Fonds’ claims were proven true, copyright of the text in the EU would potentially be extended until 2050, 70 years after Otto Frank’s death.

The exception in the case is also complicated by the existence of several versions of Anne Frank’s diaries. Frank herself edited her original collection of diaries, commonly referred to as the A diaries, into a leaner, more coherent version, the B diaries. Her father then re-edited them after her death, removing certain passages he deemed embarrassing or incriminating and combining the A and B versions, creating the C diaries.

The foundation’s claim has raised in the same way that an editing and publishing route, there’s no excuse for producing one of the books that people sneer at putting it out there for readers to see. If you choose to go self-publishing, there’s no excuse for producing one of the books that people sneer at putting it out there for readers to see.

Copyright—when is enough enough?

Otto Frank to be added to daughter’s diary as co-author to prevent copyright expiry

by EMILY HOUSTON-JONES

The story of Anne Frank is familiar to a majority of the Western world. Yet, 70 years after the teenage diarist’s death at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, copyright owners are gearing up for a potential protracted legal battle which could determine the future of her writing and, by extension, her legacy.

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On the other hand, no writer needs a steady source of income 20, 40, or 70 years after their death. Undoubtedly, copyright law exists to protect creators to an extent, but it also exists to protect a valuable source of taxable income for the state; income which must be protected for as long as is ethically possible, which the EU has decided is 70 years.

So how does this relate to Anne Frank, a young girl, long dead, who never cared about income, or royalties? This is when we must recall that copyright is about more than just money, something many authors might be better suited to going it alone and doing the same work for a higher percentage of the royalties.

Having full creative and entrepreneurial control over your books is something that a lot of Indie authors say they like most about self-publishing.

IN OTHER NEWS

Taylor Swift helps donate 25,000 books

TAYLOR Swift has partnered with Scholastic to donate 25,000 books to New York City schools. The fund will give 25 schools 1,000 books each. Swift has supported the campaign since last year, when she released an expensive legal battle. It’s something we must recall that copyright is about more than just money, something many authors might be better suited to going it alone and doing the same work for a higher percentage of the royalties.

Having full creative and entrepreneurial control over your books is something that a lot of Indie authors say they like most about self-publishing.

Washington Post’s Top Ten books of 2015

The Washington Post released their list of Top Ten books of 2015 recently. They don’t rank them by number, and call all ten “exceptionally rewarding.” Included are Black Flags, by Joby Warrick, a story about the rise of ISIS. Fates and Furies, by Lauren Groff, the story of one extraordinary marriage, and Between the World and Me, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, a meditation on the state of race in America.

FUN FACT:

The SEVEN VOLUME COLLECTION OF A Song of Ice and Fire by George R. R. Martin has spent 776 days in the top 100 in Amazon’s Books category. That’s over two years! The list, computed hourly by Amazon’s algorithms, also contains the full seven-book collection of the Harry Potter series. Both series have received over 1,000 reviews each. And fans are still awaiting the final installment of ASoI.
Traditional Gaming

**REVIEW: FALLOUT 4**

*by M. GIZE*

**Fallout 4** has been out for nearly two weeks now and let me tell you, guys this, it’s worth every penny of its price tag.

The Commonwealth is a gorgeous, derelict playground for your character with a good cast of supporting residents and stories within the terminals that can be found. The companions that you find who can join you are varied from loyal Dogmeat, to the super mutant Strong, and the smooth-talking Synthetic Nick Valentine. However, the companions system does have its flaws. The AI pathing is a bit peculiar at times, often running into an area when you’re trying to be stealthy, or you need to disarm a series of trip lasers and your companion just walks forward tripping them, setting off any turrets or traps in the vicinity, causing you to die often a bloody, ragdoll death.

Another feature that has been implemented in **Fallout 4** is the introduction of settlements, an interesting move but one that works nonetheless should you be the kind that enjoys building bases. It also increases the amount of workbenchs and, later on, supply lines you can have access to.

The workbenchs are useful for **Fallout’s** next feature, its crafting. Using workbenchs you can modify all of your gear; be it armour, power armour, or weapons, and there are a lot of modifications to be made that also alter the gear’s physical appearance. This can be anything from adding a larger magazine to a suppressor, a scope or a bayonet if you wanted, and it is possible to find weapons with mods already attached should you not have the necessary talents to do so. Modifying your gear requires a variety of differing materials and, thankfully, that stuff is everywhere.

Unlike in the previous games, junk actually becomes useful, meaning it takes up a lot of inventory space. One feature which has been removed is the in-depth speech options you had in the previous games. Downizing the list of things to say to just four things can break the immersion.

In terms of graphics and performance, expect a few bugs which can affect your experience, some even being fatal like falling through the world or getting stuck in some entertaining poses. But the game is really good looking if a little aged, it’s better looking than its predecessors but not by much which is a shame.

I was playing on the Xbox One version and whilst most of the time the game ran smoothly there were some jarring framerate drops which left me slightly frustrated. However, overall, the game certainly looks impressive when you enter Diamond City or aboard the Brotherhood of Stalingard Prydwen. Overall, even taking into account the bugs, frame-rate issues, and questionable AI pathing, the game is incredibly immersive and deep if you allow yourself to get distracted by all the side quests or exploration. Not to mention the replayability, you can sink a lot of time into this game and each time your experience will be different and in all fairness if I were to stick a number on it I’d give it a 9/10.

**REVIEW: ASSASSIN’S CREED – SYNDICATE**

**Assassin’s Creed** quite a few years ago, that title was interesting and unique, with a deep storyline and fun mechanics. Now, what was once relatively original and fascinating has joined the ranks of FIFA, Call of Duty, and, to a lesser degree, Halo. You know that there is always going to be a sequel, and you wonder if it is ever going to end, as you’ve long since given up trust in the company knowing when “enough is enough”.

Yet, as **Syndicate** came out, I have to admit that as a games reviewer I was excited. After the sheer enormity of the screw-up that resulted in **Unity** being a buggy, unplayable mess, it seemed like they might finally put on their big boy pants and deliver a game that regretted that spark that was born in me all those years ago with my first **Xbox** and in the company of the great assassin Altair.

Now, as everyone knows, **Assassin’s Creed** is not a game that differs in mechanics all that much from story to story, and even the underlying plots are the same (some new assassin goes into a new area and tries to liberate it from the Fascists called Templars who are controlling the area), so if you hated it before, you’re still not going to like it. That much is obvious, honestly. But what about those of you that actually liked the series before **Unity**? Are you going to like it now?

Probably not, to be entirely honest. Whilst there are many redeeming qualities to the game—Jacob and Evie are truly loveable characters, the Sergeant is a great sidekick, and the blossoming romance between the main cast members makes your heart swell with affection—the game is almost as buggy as **Unity** was. Many times I found myself stealth assassinating thin air, whilst six feet away from me a helpless gang member was apparently being force-choked like I was a Jedi or something (at least it’s topical this year).

Furthermore, as much as the characters are enjoyable, the ploine is ultimately circular. Jacob goes in gung-ho and all guns blazing, winds up screwing up the economy / the general populace’s health / the police / international politics, and then Evie has to come in, fix everything and we all learn the valuable lesson that it’s better to sit around with your thumb up your ass than to attempt to fix something that’s obviously broken. Such a great lesson for the kids.

Ultimately, there is enough going on within this game to make it enjoyable. There are some great examples of comedy (though it’s mostly slapstick and overly dramatic), the protagonists are playful and fun to spend time with (especially Jacob actually, there is something genuinely charming about his good-heated ignorance and brash nature; it’s like watching a child), and there are a few interesting cameos (Seriously, they made Karl Marx a character. An actually interesting one, too), but in the end it is simply not worth the £55 price-tag.

If you can find it on sale in a few months, pick up a copy and enjoy going through it for a nice relaxing weekend of murder and class warfare, but until then it is simply not worth it.
Can you get enough of the Walking Dead? From the graphic novel to the TV Series everyone seems to be getting addicted to the creation of Robert Kirkman, but what about the gaming experience?

There are a number of subpar apps out there unsuccessfully touting this masterpiece’s name but few come up to scratch when you try to immerse yourself in the storyline. The only one I have found to be addictive and reflective of the original story is that of Road to Survival. Although this app only received a limited soft-launch by Scopely on the Google Play store back in May, and an official launch for both Android and iOS in August, the game already has over 200,000 users and 511 articles on its dedicated Wiki. Playing the decision driven based RPG gives you a sense of what was left out of the stories and television series as you get to control some of the key characters. The story begins in Wodewerry with Phillip Blake, prior to his infamy as the Governor. Although we are lacking Daryl [a creation purely for the television series], and Rick is behind a wall, the story is easy to slip into with the ability to make your own decisions regarding some of the story line.

As a turn-based game you quickly settle into picking which of your characters should attack first. You also have to adapt your attacks for zombies and humans who attack differently. Each character and weapon will do various damage so it is important that you size up your options before heading in all guns blazing.

One of the best things about this game is that the story runs parallel to the main events in the books with characters relaying news assuming that they will find qualified people when they need them. There needs to be a greater commitment to data protection and cyber-security training across the UK with businesses also carefully assessing and planning how they will bring on cyber-security experts at a moments notice—whether that is for a crisis scenario or not. 

Albeit a satirical news outlet, The Onion reports that Chinese government officials announced that the country has struggled to recruit hackers fast enough to keep pace with vulnerabilities in security systems. They quoted security minister Liu Xiang as saying “With new weaknesses gifted to U.S. network engineers every day, we simply don’t have the manpower to effectively exploit every single loophole in their security protocols.”

The government contains a standard base-building style alongside its story-mode comprising of the usual sit-and-wait building and collecting that has become the norm for mobile device gaming. Hackers also seem to be a regular feature of modern mobile gaming whereby you can join a group to fight together and build the biggest score to become the strongest and fastest team.

Overall, while the game follows some traditional methods and themes, the single-player or campaign modes are much more engaging with their storyline than anything I have come across before. The reward of taking a small, ragged team into battle and coming out victorious after several waves of enemies and zombies is so rewarding.

Where are all the security experts?

Have you noticed when you hit the little cog when viewing YouTube videos with your mobile device there’s a “Cardboard” option? Well this is Google’s cheap and cheerful answer to affordable virtual reality for people at home.

First launched at Google I/O 2014 this accessory has been partnered with a few select companies including Volvo, which, along with their Volvo Reality, let the user explore the XC90 "without having to leave the comfort of their own home. For a while the pickings were slim but with a few custom apps and no real takeover until earlier this year. At Google I/O 2015 compatibility was extended with a conducive lever to control the phone as opposed to the original design of magnets to work with the internal compass, and a bigger viewing space for devices up to 6". The same conference also announced the port of Google’s demonstration app to iOS.

In February of this year, toy manufacturer Mattel, in cooperation with Google, announced a VR version of the View-Master which allows to use to bring reals to life with an augmented reality interface, which enables access to content from the real such as 360-degree panoramas, 3D models, and minigames.

Not too long ago Google also announced YouTube support for 3D virtual reality videos, this announcement means that you can now make and create some unique experiences including joining the Blue Angels in the cockpit and an F1 driver in the Putrajaya Race.

This month NY Times subscribers woke up to find a free branded version of Google Cardboard with the help of funding from GE. The reason for this was as the launch of their new virtual reality film The Displaced, which they have described as "the first crucial, piece of journalism using virtual reality, to shed light on one of the most dire humanitarian crises of our time". Running on the GoPro platform.

The magazine’s editor, Jake Silverstein, said, “The power of VR is that it gives the viewer a unique sense of empathic connection to people and events.” It has huge potential, he said, to help bring viewers news and stories from the most inaccessible places and events. The Displaced, which was made in collaboration with the VR company VRSE, is the first of a series of VR films

The Times plans to present The Times will also release a VR app

The app is available for free from the various app stores but some of the functionality you only available through the premium versions of the app.

Definitely not the most expensive app you can buy, and if you have any interest in aircraft at all it’s great value for money.

Tech On A Budget

Many of us on a student budget can not afford the luxuries of a top end phone with all the storage we need, especially when the operating system seems to be taking up more and more memory so that we are left with little space for our precious memories or music. Another problem many of us have is transferring files from one device to another, we do not always have a USB cable or it’s just not practical to store some files on our phones so what is there to do?

Well if you are on Android with a micro-USB connector I may have the answer for you. The SanDisk Ultra Dual USB. This device contains both USB 3.0, and a micro-USB connector enabling you to easily transfer files between your computer and mobile device as well as back up with the help of SanDisk Memory Zone.

The SanDisk Ultra only costs £9.95 for 32GB or £6.95 for 16GB which is a pretty good price for a standard USB 3.0 drive from such a respected company. I have been unable to find a suitable comparator for Apple devices although some third parties do exist I should approach with caution.

Before ordering yourself that extra storage is important to make sure that your device is On The Go (OTG) compatible. If you already have a multitude of flash drives you may want to consider investing in an OTG cable which will not only enable you to use a standard drive with your device, but also a variety of other accessories.
EVERY MONTH WE WILL BE FINDING AFFORDABLE HIGH STREET ALTERNATIVES TO DESIGNER TRENDS. IT’S COMING UP TO THE CHRISTMAS PARTY SEASON, SO TAKE A LOOK AT THESE DRESSES AND SHIRTS:

**MONOCHROME**
- Ted Baker, £229
- AX Paris, £28

**SEQUIN**
- Reiss, £295
- Topshop, £60

**SKATER**
- Alexander McQueen, £1299
- River Island, £38

**FLORAL**
- Victoria Beckham, £775
- New Look, £15

**CHECKED**
- Tom Ford, £390
- New Look, £20

**MILITARY**
- Saint Laurent, £385
- Topman, £32

**PRINTED**
- Valentino, £650
- River Island, £30

**GRANDAD COLLAR**
- Reiss, £90
- M&S, £22
Christmas Decorations On A Budget

by EMMA JEWKES

Christmas is about many things. The food, the music, the partying, the presents, but let’s all be honest. Christmas just wouldn’t be the same without the decorations. Getting all trimmed up is one of my favourite things about Christmas because it allows me to really unleash my creative side. That comes in handy when thinking about trimming up on a budget as most students have to. Here are some quick and easy decoration ideas.

BAUBLE DECORATIONS

Baubles are great. You can do all sorts with them. File them into cones to make festive table decorations, hang them on your ‘book tree’, or just hang them on beaded string from shelves. Here’s a really quick and easy decoration you can make using small baubles and tinsel, just for something a little bit different.

1. Cut at an angle from the side.
2. Fold a square piece of paper in half, and half again, diagonally.
3. Cut at an angle from the side.
4. Fold in the inner two chevrons, and staple/glue together.
5. Flip the whole thing over and do the same thing for the next chevrons, repeat until they are all done.
6. Repeat steps 1–5 a further five times, so that you have six spirals in total.
7. Arrange the pieces in a concentric pattern to form the snowflake.
8. Staple or glue all six of the spirals together.

And there you have your finished bauble decoration. Make more and hang from the corners of cupboards, or use them to trim up your tree. Experiment and get creative with different colours and sizes, and even add pine cones or pieces of holly for a really festive look.

THE BOOK TREE

My most favourite part of Christmas decorations has always been the tree. You can pick up a cheap false tree for under £10, but you can also make your own unique tree by utilising something you should have in abundance: books. Simply pile them on top of each other, forming a pyramid. To get height, just put a small book in between larger ones. Then decorate like you would a normal tree with tinsel and maybe even some lights.

3D SNOWFLAKES

We can all remember making paper snowflakes as children. It seemed to be a staple of Primary School life throughout December. Here’s a quick and easy way to make 3D snowflakes. The one I made is quite large, but you can follow the same method to make smaller ones. Just use smaller squares of paper. Also, you can sprinkle them with glitter and use different coloured paper. Be creative!

PAPER CHAINS

Don’t be afraid to go basic. Paper chains look great, are easy, and so are flat snowflakes if you don’t fancy the 3D ones. You can also make loads in a relatively small amount of time.

PINE CONES

Utilise what you already have and don’t be afraid to scavenge for things outside. Painted twigs and pinecones can make great rustic looking decorations.

Look Your Best This Party Season

by EMMA JEWKES AND CASEY WILLIAMS

Nails

It’s all about dark, bold colours around this time of year, mirroring the late evenings. So bring out your inner vampire with Max Factor’s new range of Gothic colours from their Glossfinity range. Glam it up with Royal Blue, Aqua Marine, Amethyst or, my personal favourite, Burgundy Crush.

Eyes

Get a great look with Maybelline Eyestudio Colour Tattoo 24hr Cream Gel Eyeshadow in gold. Dab it on with your finger, bringing it just to your brow bone before gently patting glitter over the top using an eyeshadow brush. Finish off with a jet-black Kohl eyeliner and a generous amount of mascara.

Lips

Go bold with your lip colour this season. Apply a stain first, then follow with a dusting of translucent powder. This avoids the need to constantly reapply your lip colour. Then, just finish with a shade darker than the stain to add dimension. Try Urban Decay’s range of Revolution Lipsticks.

Hair

Top knots look great and are so easy to do. Placement is key though, so go high for a truly great look. Use hairspray to prevent flyaways and bobby pins to keep it in place. Also, make sure to use a texturising shampoo to prevent your top knot from falling, which will happen if you hair is too silky.

Dry Shampoo

Wile washing your hair every day can feel great, it can also be damaging, especially during the winter months. Washing your hair strips it and your scalp of its natural oils. When your hair is being buffeted by the winter elements, it needs these natural oils to prevent it from becoming too dry and brittle. I swear by Batiste ‘Instant hair refresh’ Dry Shampoo. It gives my hair a fresh feel and look, even when I miss a wash. All that’s required is a quick spray, which adds volume and returns my hair to its natural bounce.
Master of None: Netflix's new masterpiece?

by JORDAN GLENDENNING

A

zz Ansari and Alan Yang's new sitcom creation Master of None is making waves in the sitcom genre, with its fresh outlook on race, gender, and Hollywood. The plotline may seem cliché, as it follows the struggle of a twenty-something New Yorker trying to get his big acting break. However, unlike any other of its kind, the main character, Dev (played by Aziz Ansari) is both impaired and the ethnic nucleus that the show centres around.

The Netflix series also addresses some serious race issues in society, but in such a way that makes it seem ridiculous that it even still exists. What's more is that there are so few caucasi ans, something that is rare even in shows written by non-caucasi ans. I'm looking at you Mindy Kaling. Dev's friends include Devona (Lakeith Stanfield) a black lesbian, Brian Cheng (Kelvin Yu), and Arnold (Eric Wareheim), one of the few recurring white characters. The best episode is arguably the fourth - "Indians on TV. Dev is constantly tired of being typecast as the Indian guy, that when he auditions for a commercial in his normal American accent, he is asked to do an Indian accent, which infuriates him. When he auditions for an Indian character on a sitcom, the TV executives accidentally include him in an ethnic with a racist joke. This hilariously ensues in the executives trying to butter Dev up so he doesn't go to the press. There is a debate whether the role should go to Dev or his friend Ravi, in which they make a good point about the industry saying, 'Why can there only be one Indian guy on the show?' This episode is probably the most insightful of the whole series and Ansari and Yang have to be commended for their efforts to show the reality for ethnic minorities in the entertainment industry.

The show is so realistic that Ansari hired his own parents to play themselves, who arguably steal the show from their real-life son. Their raw comedic scene presence caused Twitter to explode with praise for Shokath and Fatima Ansari. Also expect hilariously random cameos from Busta Rhymes and Clare Danes (Homeland). Yet Masters of None doesn't just deal with the race matters. Dev is dealt with the comically mi lliennial issue of sleeping with a man's wife because of an incident with a banana split. Other episodes explore Dev's love for pasta (a man after my own heart) and the difficulty of finding love in New York. Something that Ansari feels so strongly about that he has even written a book about it - Modern Romance: An Investigation.

The paradigm of Asian-American representation has shifted on television so that they no longer are the "token Indian" or "the bratinaic". Producers have realised that minorities deserve as much screen time in a predominantly white industry. However this raises the question: for television to be ethically diverse, does a show need to be written by ethnic minorities? In this context, yes it does.

All 10 episodes of Master of None are now available on Netflix.

Jessica Jones

Netflix seems to be on a roll with producing quality original series about Marvel characters as the new series of Marvel's Jessica Jones debuts. Following the success of Marvel's Daredevil earlier this year, a series was commissioned for the story of Jessica Jones, one that has never made it to mass media until now. Fans of Breaking Bad will recognise Krysten Ritter as the title character Jessica Jones, a superheroine known for her strength, who was forced out of her superhero life and into private investigating. Like Daredevil, Jessica Jones is incredibly dark, almost film noir-like, as we are presented with an ever-drunk Jones dealing with her inner demons. Other than the annoying stereotypical role of an English villain, David Tennant is perfect as the antagonist Zedbeiah Killgrave, whose spine-tingling voice is scary enough in the trailers. If you haven't read the comics, Killgrave is also known as the Purple Man, a mind control master. Like every other villain, he is from Jessica's past, and is stalking and terrorising the city she lives in. You know, typical evil stuff. What we know from the trailers, is that this series will be seriously addictive and another series can't come soon enough. Jessica Jones is available now on Netflix.

Give it a miss: Rent a Cop

by LIZZY DILLON

The highly anticipated return of I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here did not disappoint. We've been treated to a glittering array of celebrities including Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet and everyone's favourite Dragon, Duncan Bannatyne. Hollyoak's Joegie Porter is reminiscent of 2012 contestant Helen Flanagan. Master of None's Yvette Fielding has already brought a huge amount of humour to the camp, but not as much as the tantrums of controversial royal biographer, Lady Colin Campbell. Union J's George Shelley is a treat for younger viewers as Suzannah Constantine, the other half of 'Trinny and Suzannah', takes on the role as 'the woman of the camp'. Boxer Chris Eubank has had a calming influence across the celebrities. Also to enter the jungle was dance choreographer Brian Friedman and footballer Keiron Dyer. Last Wednesday night came the arrival of three new campmates, Geordie Shore's Vicky Pattison, TOWIE's Sammy Metcalfe and Made in Chelsea's Spencer Matthews, who recently quit on "medical grounds" say ITV. So far the favourites to win are Joegie Porter and Tony Hadley. You can watch I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here every evening on ITV at 21:00.

Fargo Season 2

by EMMA JEWKES

So, Lord Sugar's search for his new apprentice has begun with a £250,000 business investment up for grabs. As always, there are the usual bunch of big-headed wannabes, the straight talk from the bookers, and the odd few who are so far out of their depth you wonder why they didn't go on the show wearing armbands. While Lord Sugar is still the one to set the tasks, there is one change in the boardroom this series. While Karen Brady returns, the interviewer-from-hell Claude Littner replaces Nick Hewer as one of Lord Sugar's trusted advisors.

The Apprentice is one of those great shows (similar to I'm a Celeb in that respect) that despite keeping the same basic format for the past eleven seasons, still feels fresh. The variety of tasks given to the candidates have changed (one week they had to set up and run their own handymen business) while the introduction of Littner (formally only brought out at the terrifying interview stage of the process) as a regular has given the show the boost it perhaps needed. While certain things have changed, the candidates themselves are the same paint-by-numbers bunch we've come to expect from The Apprentice. Also, the same firing standard is still there. The first half of the series is where the deadwood gets stripped away - we lost three candidates in the most recent boardroom bloodbath - while the second half is where the real candidates start to emerge.

The Apprentice is still must-watch television, especially if you like seeing egos brought down to size. There's something kind of satisfying about seeing someone who had previously said that they wanted to be richer than Lord Sugar struggling to put a shelf up. There's also a sense of no one being safe, especially if you're unlucky enough to be brought back into the boardroom as one of the final three with Lord Sugar no longer limiting himself to just one firing per week.

The Apprentice airs on BBC 1 every Wednesday at 9pm and is followed by its companion show You're Fired over on BBC 2 at 10pm.
**REVIEW**

By SEBASTIAN ELLIS

A question that has been pestering me off the back of this summer’s blockbusters, is beginning to become frustration. Increasingly, I’m starting to wonder whether the industry really is beginning to run out of original ideas with regards to filmmaking. This has come about due to the fact that this generation of films over the past ten or more years have become rather saturated with a mixture of reboots, sequels and ideas which although new to film (initially), they seem to come from already released material such as books and comics (I’m looking at you Marvel Studios). Furthermore, this is a standard that we have come to know as the norm over recent years and one that isn’t expected to change. Now this is something that many look at with a heightened sense of excitement. The idea that Hollywood believes it can churn out sequel after sequel and still be able to receive millions at the box office makes me rather cynical. Therefore, as this article goes on we’ll look at whether my assumption is true and ultimately whether this is healthy for the industry.

One of the first places I find myself in my vast array of researching skills is quite naturally a Wikipedia page looking at the highest grossing films of all time. What is striking about this is that only one of the top ten films is what you can describe as original and without a sequel either out or upcoming is Titanic and let’s be honest even James Cameron would struggle to flesh a sequel out of that ending; although certain YouTubers manage to do well, trying. The rest of them, publicity continually coming back around in the space of two to three years. For franchises such as Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings exceptions can be made, as these are franchises that need to be finished because they’re a part of a continuing storyline. They were consistently good films, with The Return of the King actually managing to win a best picture Academy Award in 2003. But for me, one of the strangest and most annoying things I’ve seen this year is a phenomenon like Fifty Shades of Grey, which was panned as a book, panned as a film and yet managed to generate nearly six hundred million dollars at the box office and have two sequels lined up.

Also, due to further extensive research, I found myself looking at previous best picture winners at the Academy Awards. The winners over the past ten or so years, you could argue, were some of the best films Hollywood has ever produced; even contemporary as 2014 winner Birdman. It chronicles the struggles of Riggan Thompson, whose life as a big Hollywood star is slowly fading. It’s one of the best films I’ve seen in a long time. What this shows more than anything to me is that the original films are there and are being recognised, although its ‘lowly’ one hundred million dollars of revenue at the box office compared to creating a world we can immerse ourselves in. As much as I might look at Marvel Studios with dismay over the sheer number of films they are releasing in an event to dominate the market; what I can’t argue with is their ability to bring their story-worlds to life for the viewer.

Ultimately, what I do believe is that much money or not too often lead towards the focus of old in order to keep the books ticking over. You only have to look at the fact they’ve made seven Fast and Furious films in fourteen years to see that’s true. So I think the problem for me lies with the release of numerous sequels. That’s not to say that anything is wrong with the release of a sequel, but too often we find ourselves seeing films left with a cliffhanger in order to leave it open for something else. Whereas, so many of these are bringing in other worlds we grew up reading, so maybe I’ve been too cynical towards those. Although, the reason the studios are making so much money is because people are sitting down to watch them, so surely they’re being enjoyed? However to me, sometimes I find myself best left alone to be enjoyed in their own right.

**Spectre**

By JONATHAN ROBERTS

With 2012’s Skyfall and the enormous success that it received both commercially and critically, the expectations were high for Spectre, especially with Sam Mendes returning for director duties. So the main question everybody is asking should be is it any good and the short answer is sadly no. However that isn’t to say that it doesn’t have any redeeming features such as the impressive opening long shot that follows Bond in and out of several building as well as along rooftops. This is one of the highlights of the film as well as other excellent set pieces throughout the film such as the plane chase. As we’ve now come to expect Craig is once again a good Bond, his quips, kills, and wears a tuxedo; although he doesn’t seem as enthused with the role as he did in previous outings.

Nonetheless, that doesn’t excuse this film from some of its failings, that Waltz isn’t very good in Spectre. He’s severally ranged in from his usual level of charisma which results in it seeming that he barely even cared about learning his lines, let alone deliver them with passion. This doesn’t help the fact that the villain’s reason behind hating Bond is very underdeveloped and the main plan could have done with two or three more drafts of the script. The bulk of the rest of the cast doesn’t really have much to do. Naomi Harris’ Moneypenny does a little bit of ‘bond helping’ as does Ralph Fiennes as M, although nothing really substantial or worthy mentioning and the two Bond girls are basically there to look pretty given that all Monica Bellucci does is cry and be in danger if that counts as doing anything. Lea Seydoux’s Madeleine Swann is the main Bond girl for this outing and she does a little more like saving Bond that one time but the only purpose she really serves is be a damsel in distress for Bond to show off how Bond he is.

Ben Whishaw’s Q on the other hand is the highlight of the film, given that he seems to be giving it some form of effort which leads to his scenes being the highlights. He’s amusingly witty and seems to be giving his role the effort required and when he goes out into the field there is some genuine tension to be felt, unlike when Bond gets all action and rather than being sat on the edge of our seats, we’re more sat looking at our watches.

The bulk of the film’s action sequences don’t work is because watching him shoot the bad guys is all the thrills are gone. This is very indicative of what is wrong with the film, it simply isn’t thrilling enough and when you are meant to be a spy thriller that is a real problem. Also it isn’t helped by the cinematography by Christopher Nolan regular Hoyte Van Hoytema, not that there’s anything particularly bad about the way the film looks it’s just that there’s nothing special about it leaving us with a very bland film visually speaking.

The final act has a sense of anticlimax about it with some villains just dying by coincidence, Bond’s race against time is an exercise in more tedium than tension. There are very large plot holes that can be spotted simply by a glance and this weird attempt to tie this film in with the previous James Bond films that almost undermines both Skyfall and Casino Royal. (Quantum of Solace is barely mentioned and nobody really cares about that one anyway). By the end of the film you are left with a sense of un-satisfaction that comes with films that you wanted to be good but ultimately, despite a few good moments, just isn’t very good.

Hopes were high for this film but it couldn’t meet any of the expectations with little tension or real thrills to speak of and a half baked villain plot. Whishaw’s Q is a highlight of the film and none of the other returning cast are bad but in the end this feels like a rushed film without much passion behind it.

Spectre has currently grossed nearly $700million at the box office followed by much speculation over whether this would be Daniel Craig’s last outing as the famous MI6 agent. Out of the four 007 films Craig has been a part of, Spectre won’t go down as his greatest, but the actor is definitely leaving a legacy. Regardless of whether he puts the gun down or not.
Music streaming: an emerging platform or artist exploitation?

by TIARNA ARMSTRONG

It’s undeniable that streaming has taken the music industry by storm. There are roughly 500 million audio streams each week in the UK alone. Large streaming firms such as Spotify and, more recently, TIDAL and Apple Music, with a combined total of 27.5 million paid users are revolutionising the way in which people find and listen to music. Streaming services are everywhere and are hard to ignore, but the question is, how effective are they really?

The way in which money is divided in the music industry is changing and artists are not making money from record sales like they used to. Instead, they must rely on live shows and now streaming.

Artists have expressed various opinions on the effects of streaming services for musicians, but many feel that, living in the digital age, streaming still has some way to go. Streaming still has some way to go. Are the artists really being rewarded fairly? The fact that these questions are being raised shows that streaming still has some way to go.

In saying this, it is undeniable that streaming services have made it easier for artists to branch out and have helped them to get exposed more easily across the globe.

ELO tour with record after 14 year wait

by JOE CAINE

Jeff Lynne’s ELO have recently announced their UK wide tour next year, which will begin in Liverpool on 5th April in the Liverpool Echo Arena.

Over the course of April they will also visit Nottingham, Leeds, Manchester, Glasgow, Newcastle, Birmingham, and in London at the O2 to round off The Alone in the Universe Tour.

ELO have had an astonishing career which has spanned over a number of years since they formed in 1970. They have had a run of 27 top 40 hits from 1972 until Lynne left the band in 1986, where he went on to form the supergroup The Traveling Wilburys with George Harrison and Bob Dylan.

Jeff Lynne then revived the band for a one off tour in 2001 and again in 2012 and have remained a band ever since, despite Jeff Lynne being the only founding member.

The band famously played at Radio 2 in Hyde Park in September last year where they performed many of their most popular songs such as Mr Blue Sky and Don’t Bring Me Down.

ELO have recently released their new album which is called Alone in the Universe which was released earlier this month.

The album was recorded by Jeff Lynne at his home studio over the course of 18 months. All of the songs were written, composed and recorded by Jeff Lynne himself. The band’s last album Zoom was released just over 14 years ago in 2001.

Tickets for The Alone in the Universe Tour went on sale last week.

Adele has still got it!

by SASHA DEACON

“Hello, it’s me” and I’ve just listened to Adele’s new album 21. It is exactly what I expected it to be. Depending on who you are this could either be a good thing or a bad thing.

Let’s start with the ironic Hello, this powerful love ballad, laments about never really having the chance to say sorry. The irony of this song being that she really is saying goodbye, once you have gotten over the desire to start singing Lionel Richie’s classic also named Hello, it really is a beautifully tragic song.

However, sadly this sets the tone for the rest of the album. 25 really is not that much different from her previous album 21, the melancholic songs such as I Miss You and Water Under The Bridge, seem as they belong on 21.

There are some pleasantly uplifting songs though such as Send My Love (To Your New Lover), and Sweetest Devotion, which offers a refreshing display of personal growth. These songs seem to promise a happier album next time if she chooses to do another.

For now though, it seems Adele has decided to remain a songstress of the rest of the album.

Hello—Despite the samey feel as 21, this album is beautiful and her voice is as phenomenal as ever, and no matter what I can’t overlook the fact that Adele has still got it!
Streaming services are everywhere and users are revolutionising the way they listen to music. Large streaming firms report their audio streams each week in the UK alone. Yet streaming has changed the way artists are paid and, also, there are some major issues in relation to financing artists and, also, the economics of streaming. Artists are not making money from streaming. Over the course of April they will also be receiving payments from Spotify, which is widely divergent from the way they were paid in the past. Few too many of these tracks lead to artists feeling underpaid, which off ers a refreshing approach to production. It’s essentially a wall of spellbinding noise clusters of this LP are flawless. Venus is a beautiful old house that made people feel welcome. You can’t afford to keep this house down.

Graham concentrated on steadying the cold coffee in his old hands. The bitter liquid splashed at the gold rim of the teacup. He looked at his watch. He started at his lap. "Biscuit?" asked Bets, hearing herself from the low sofa. He looked up suddenly. "Bets-" "I can, Graham." She kept her eyes on the teacup. He looked at his watch. He stared at his lap. He fell silent and looked at her. "You’re drowning, Bets." He looked up suddenly. "No, Bets." He looked at her. Her face twisted. "I’m here to say that you need to close shop, and that means you will have to move." Graham bounced as he landed in an armchair next to her dusty television. He looked around the room for a moment, but on further inspection discovered that wasn’t the best thing to do for his nerves.

"What do you want Graham? Did you like your hat?" Graham thought about it. "Oh, by the way, lovely craftsmanship. Craft-woman’s ship." "No, don’t say that.” "Oh, I’ve got only coffee, so I’ll make you one.” She disappeared before he could politely decline. He tapped his cup against her porcelain saucer. "Now, about the coffee, I thought about words. No words in particular. Just words. Please. Some coffee." "How can I possibly convince her getting out is for the best?" Graham concentrated on steadying the cold coffee in his old hands. The bitter liquid splashed at the gold rim of the teacup. He looked at his watch. He started at his lap. "Biscuit?" asked Bets, hearing herself from the low sofa. He looked up suddenly. "Bets-" "I can, Graham.” She kept her eyes on the teacup. He looked at his watch. He stared at his lap. He fell silent and looked at her. "You’re drowning, Bets-" "Nothing to do with you. I’m just worried that you’re not going to be able to balance there anymore. And again, it is."

"The title track, Art Angels, seems as they belong on a greatest hits album. It’s not exactly what I expected it to be. It’s not trademark Grimes, but Shunkan makes it look facile and a year of maintenance.

"They looked,” the writer held them up and turned her head at an angle to suggest some adjective ‘fatigued’— ‘Leave them by the front door, and we’ll remember to take them.’ Bets waved her friend on.

"Um, I don’t think that’s the best idea…” She heard the agent guessing the wellingtons across the hallway. There was a slight wreath by the door. She heard sudden silence. "Hello, hadn’t.”

Greetings and unnecessary apologies piled in as the agent guessed the wellingtons across the hallway. There was a slight wreath by the door. She heard sudden silence. "Hello, hadn’t.”

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For me, the best places to travel to over Christmas are ski resorts. My favourite spots have been Val Thorens and Andorra, but there are so many more places for non-skiers. St Moritz in Switzerland has a beautiful lake, and is the perfect site for winter walks. It also has a bobleigh track for those interested in lessons. Zermatt in Switzerland also has a winter walking trail, and, with the highest cable car in Europe at 3883 m, it has amazing views over Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa. For those interested in culture, the town of Kitzbühel in Austria dates back to the 1300’s, and, for those who just want a relaxed, pampered holiday, you are pretty much guaranteed to find spas and fancy restaurants in whichever resort you pick. Although typically quite an expensive venture, you can pick up great deals if you book far enough in advance. Nearer the time, you can find a plenty of great holidays they’re trying to get rid of on the internet. Scotland has the potential to be an cheaper venture, although from my experience, there was a lot more grass than snow.

One of the best reasons to visit a ski resort is having a guaranteed white Christmas. You can build snowmen and make snow angels to your heart’s content. You’ll also have sun enough for a tan to keep you going until the summer, although stay clear of the ski goggles later in the year.

Depending on your wishes, you can rent a chalet or stay in a hotel. You can either make your own Christmas dinner (you’ll find all the ingredients in the surrounding town) or have a ten-course meal prepared for you. I’ve done both. Although I typically enjoy slouching in my pyjamas all Christmas, watching family movies, and eating chocolate, there’s sometimes to be said for getting up early and spending all day outside in the bright snow and sun, skiing down huge mountain ranges, wishing merry Christmas to wrapped-up strangers. It also gives you a huge appetite, so you might want to go for the ten course option.

I’ve had some of the best holidays in ski resorts. I’ve gone down a black slope by mistake before I had properly learnt how to ski. It was exhilarating, and I definitely almost died. I’ve skied to the bottom of a mountain range before I realised all the lifts had stopped for the day and had to hike up with my sister and my skis all the way to the top (which is funny only in retrospect). I’ve been on a night out in Val Thorens, lost my sister who had the room key, gone back to a friends’ apartment (in a different town), and had to find my way back for my morning flight because my friend was too hungover to show me the way. This may or may not have led to a bendedown in a pile of snow when I thought it was the end. Those times were some of the best times I’ve had, and I fully recommend visiting a ski resort this winter.

If you’re looking to head further afield from Bangor, Liverpool is a bustling city that offers lots of Christmas opportunities. In a couple of hours you can be in the heart of the city to do some vital Christmas shopping and make the most of the vast range of shops. From John Lewis, Hollister and Pandora in Liverpool One, to Jack Wills, Kurt Geiger and MAC in the Met Quarter; Liverpool offers something for everyone. Unwind from a busy day of shopping by taking a trip to the Christmas markets situated on Lord Street, Paradise Street and Church Street where you will find a huge array of festive gifts, food and drinks from around Europe.

Spend Christmas in Vienna for a holiday full of surprises

by CHARLOTTE HOWE - MCCARTIN

Vienna, an unusual city. Full of grandeur and tradition with modernity melding from every vicinage. I remember thinking - after I dived into Cafe Phil escaping a giant ferris wheel first built in 1897, it is considered the world’s largest, it is considered the world’s largest, it is considered the world’s largest, it is considered the world’s largest. It is still considered the world’s largest. To keep upright. Afterwards I recommend, as a friend recommended to me, visiting The Sacher Cafe to try the Christmas tree. Then when snow is falling, I’ll dive into Cafe Phil escaping a giant ferris wheel first built in 1897. It is said that “only once you have taken a ride, are you in Vienna”!

by LAURA BROWN AND BETHAN MAY

All major cities in the UK have a Christmas market. From experience, Manchester and Leeds are great and offer lots of bratwurst and cheesy garlic breads. For the real deal though, hop over to Germany. Berlin offers about 50 Christmas markets per year, while Nuremberg is famous for its 180 stalls. On the Saturday before the second Sunday in Advent, a massive Christmas fruit cake is paraded through the streets and then cut up and distributed to the bystanders. If you’re looking to build further afield from Bangor, Liverpool is a bustling

Keepiing Busy in Winter 2015

The Harry Potter Studios are great at any time of year. However, this year, you can have a Christmas dinner and a wand in the Great Hall and enjoy dessert at Platform 10 for “only” £20. A lot of time might have passed since you went door to door, singing for your supper and to spread the Christmas cheer, but caroling is still a great tradition in Castleton. On top of their 40 Christmas trees spread throughout the village, they keep festive by caroling in caves by candlelight. You can buy tickets to the concerts which are on until January.

Make the most of the ice this winter. Go to an ice bar in Prague or Liverpool, or try your hand at the outdoor ice rink in Leeds once the Christmas Market has shut down. It there anything more wintry? Maybe Santa. Visit him and his reindeer companions at the number one spot over winter: Lapland.
Ana in Australia

Ana Khan, English Language with Creative Writing Undergrad, returns to talk about her study abroad Down Under.

A university comes to an end and everyone starts to leave students residence to go back home for the summer. I now know how it feels to be that international student who lives on campus throughout summer. Nonetheless, spring is here and temperatures are hitting as high as 35 degrees along with the swarm of flies that constantly follow you wherever you go, and after six months here I have finally seen my first spider: a huntsman, extremely big and venomous looking, but completely harmless. You’re bound to find them everywhere, from the kitchen to one casually crawling along the dashboard as you’re driving. (Yes, I nearly crashed my car.) However, I thought it would be a good opportunity to reflect on the past couple of months and how different the culture, educational ways and life are compared to back home. Fortunately, it only took me a couple of days to realise that no one really speaks like they do in Crocodile Dundee, nor do they say “C’mon”, clearly the perception we have of Australians back home is wrong. Then again the majority of them on hearing my accent automatically think I have an unhealthy obsession with tea (I hate tea) and assume I must go to a Hogwarts-esque university (which isn’t too far from the truth. Main arts is pretty much the veldh version of Hogwarts.) They do however have an unhealthy obsession with shortening nearly every word in the Oxford dictionary and so at times I actually had to question if whatever came out of their mouth was even English. It was only last week that I realised ‘Arvo’, wasn’t actually short for Avocado-thankfully my Australian housemate was on site to save me before I nearly turned up at a party with an avocado - it is actually just short for ‘afternoon’. Nearly every Australian is lazy with their speech; you’d expect university lecturers to speak properly, but this is not the case. In reality, the education system over here is far more relaxed and therefore it is as it is at home. I try to gain an extension on my assignment there is no need to fill out a form nor even have a valid reason-they’re far more relaxed which fits in with the stereotypical ideology of how ‘chilled’ Aussies are. However, it does become a little draining; I attended a class for a whole semester with the lecturer wasting a good hour producing a class register as he kept losing his old one. Nor are they really punctual, being an hour or two late is pretty normal, even in professional settings. However, the country and the people are one of a kind. I never realised how big Australia really was. I remember asking my housemate if she wanted to do a little roadtrip for a weekend up the east coast, from Melbourne to Cairns and then dig a hole deeper for myself by saying we could ‘pop’ into Darwin for a couple of hours if we had time. She hysterically laughed at me and then actually showed me the distance; it wasn’t just possible to drive up the east coast and back within a weekend - in reality it would probably take a couple of weeks. However, you’re never short of a beach or hidden waterfall. There are plenty of coastal walks, hikes and beaches just a short drive from wherever you’re staying. Nearly every beach is an intensely beautiful natural amphitheatre, complete with miles of long unspoilt stretches of sand. If you’re not a beach person, there are plenty of hikes to do, bushwalking endless trails that lead through fire scarred forests and underneath or up to the summits of stunning rocky outcrops.

Both the country and the people are beautiful; at times it’s so hard to keep your eyes on the road because you’re likely to come across some phenomenal, breath-taking views.

And yes, occasionally you will have to emergency brake to let a wild koala or kangaroo pass. I really can’t stress how beautiful Australia is and how photos really don’t do it justice. For example, the Dandenongs ranges — only an hour away from Melbourne — feel a world away from the city. It is the tallest peak and the landscape is a patchwork of exotic and native flora with a lush understorey of tree ferns and hidden waterfalls or even a little day trip to Mornington peninsula to try out the natural hot-springs that are ever so relaxing and actually quite cheap. It only cost $25 for a day pass which gives you access to all of the natural hot-springs with complimentary snacks (of course, the food was a winner). I still have a good 9 months here before I return to England, but I am already dreading my departure and having to say goodbye to some of the most beautiful souls I have met here. They may not speak properly and at times are too relaxed for their own good, but I’ve started to love them and the country dearly.

How to travel the East Coast of Australia

Visit Sydney for the infamous Opera House or try the bridge climb over Harbour Bridge. A cheaper option is to climb the south eastern pylon—only $13 and you’re allowed to bring your camera. Have a barbeque on Bondi Beach or try the Bondi to Coogee cliff walk. Less than an hour out of Sydney are the breath-taking Blue Mountains, perfect for a weekend hike.

Noosa is gorgeous with white sand beaches and a surrounding national park. I went to get to the Everglades for a three day, two night trip canoeing down the river with stop offs to jump from trees, swim, and eat on various islands. It all combined to make an incredible experience. Be warned—my friend got attacked by sand flies here and was itching for days.

Brisbane is a bit of a city shock after the beaches in Byron. Go to the koala sanctuary and hold a koala, or visit the botanic gardens and Lagoon — it has the feel of a real beach. Beautiful architecture and plenty of food options make it a great stop off point.

Rainbow beach is a small town with a beautiful beach perfect for sunsets and sunrises. From here you can go on one of the most popular tours of the East Coast - Fraser Island. The tour involves driving round the island in 4x4s, visiting shipwrecks and swimming in lakes and rivers. At night you cook your food with the rest of your group and have a make-shift nightclub in the middle of the campsite.

Airlie Beach has a lovely lagoon to lie by and has a great nightlife, including Mama Africa Bar, with a McDonald’s nearby. From here many choose to go on another popular tour—the Whitsundays. You can pick from a multitude of boats, some go up to the Great Barrier Reef, others stay closer to home, but all involve paddleboarding, snorkelling and the option to scuba dive. You can also stop off at the breathtaking White Haven Beach, with the whitest sand and clearest water I’ve ever seen.

Mission Beach is a small village, perfect for a break from life. With a large beach and gorgeous surrounding mountains it’s a lovely place to relax, have barbecues and enjoy a real aussie way of life. Many people also choose to do their skydives from here.

Byron Bay is the perfect hippie spot, full of weed smoking’ and tightrope walkin’. Visit the Main Beach and walk along to the lookout point, or go to the unofficial nudist beach. Belongil Beach. Try kayaking whilst you’re there—I saw whales and dolphins just metres from the kayak! Also visit Nimbin, the drug capital of Australia. It’s only one street but holds a candle factory, an art gallery, and every fourth and fifth Sunday of the month, 8-3, it holds a market to showcase the community’s art, produce and music.

Townsville takes you back to city life, with a plentitude of shops, food places and crazy golf options. From here you can get a boat to Magnetic Island to do various water sports or attend one of its regular full moon parties.

My favourite East Coast stop of all is Cairns. I recommend staying at the popular hostel ‘Gilligan’s’, which provides cheap meals and is renowned for its loud, sociable vibe (although you can ask for quieter rooms). Cairns has a lovely lagoon, huge shopping centre and great nightlife (which involves dancing on tables). As it is further North it’s usually guaranteed to be hot. Around Cairns you can do great day trips—I suggest ‘Uncle Bruce’s’ and a day horse riding through rivers. Don’t forget the Great Barrier Reef — whether you want to snorkel or scuba dive, there’ll be a day trip or overnight trip there for you.
Review: Debbie & Andrew’s Sausages

Enjoying sausages in their simplest form (in a bun) is one of my favourite ways to warm up a cold night. Debbie & Andrew’s provide an array of sausage meat products with a variety of mixes and flavours. I decided to try out their Harrogate 97% sausages. They were made from prime belly and shoulder cuts of pork that is then mixed with balsamic vinegar and seasoned with salt and white pepper. You can really taste the difference. I love sausages but I normally cut costs and go for something a bit cheaper, unless there’s a promotional offer on. In that case, I like to splash out on something a bit more interesting, like apple and pork, or leek. Usually it’s the unusual that speaks to me. Maybe that’s why I was just so impressed with the Debbie & Andrew’s line. They do simple really, really well.

I served up the sausages in wholemeal buns and with some wedges on the side. The sausages were so filling and after just two of them my hunger was satisfied. In comparison to cheaper options, they not only tasted amazing, but kept me feeling fuller for longer. With a rich taste and a healthy texture, I will definitely go out of my way to make these my new sausage-providers. They genuinely rival the quality of using a local butchers and the price is pretty close too. At £2.97 (although currently they have 50p off in Morrisons) for a pack of six, they are cheaper than the supermarket up-market brands, and much better quality. They are good value for money and worth spending a little extra on. Although you wouldn’t assume that sausages need to be gluten free, most manufacturers can’t guarantee that they are suitable for people who can’t consume gluten. Debbie & Andrew’s produce is not only suitable for gluten-intolerant chefs, but also dairy- and wheat-free.

The company take care with every aspect of their product. The onions used in some of their blends are cooked on site and in small batches. The meat is worked as little as possible to ensure the quality of the meat remains high further down the line using machinery that, although much larger, is not unlike what would be found in the butchers. With a slower process, as little handling as possible, and working with smaller quantities, the production of these sausages really seems to reap the rewards.

The efforts to connect with a sense of community goes further than just their production. Their micro sponsorship scheme aims to work with small, grassroots projects to try and make a big difference to the community. Gifts vary from £50 to £1000, and they also offer free products for charity events and barbecues. If you think you may be involved with something that could benefit from a cash injection or food donations, contact the company. I’d recommend checking out their website anyway, as you can get money-off vouchers, as well as checking out some of the competitions they have ongoing. Supporting rural values and the countryside, Debbie & Andrew’s sausages don’t just bring affordable, high quality food to the supermarket, they are also working to improve sustainability and animal welfare. I would really recommend paying a little bit more and getting sausages where you can not only taste the difference, but feel comfortable knowing that your money is going towards a business that is trying to benefit the British countryside and our animals.

You can buy Debbie & Andrew’s products from Asda, Morrisons, Ocado, and Tesco. In Bangor specifically, we can get their produce from Tesco and Morrisons.

Check the Label: Quality Assurance Standard

When buying meat, eggs, and dairy products, it’s important to be able to find out where your produce is coming from and that it has been wholesomely produced. The EU sets minimum requirements to be met for the protection of laying hens, meat chickens, pigs, and calves. Quality Assurance Standards ensure these are met, offer protection for animals not mentioned in the EU’s legislation (such as turkeys, ducks, dairy cows etc), and ensure higher welfare standards. What standards are set in the UK, and what do each of these mean for animal welfare?

Red Tractor
A red tractor with a British flag on your food means that it was produced in Britain. It also ensures that it has met certain standards for food safety and hygiene. Production also has to meet environmental and industry practice standards, some of which go beyond minimum legislation regarding animal welfare. In 2011, the Red Tractor scheme came under scrutiny for doing “little more than meet[ing] legal requirements.” Consumers were advised to look for RSPCA or Soil Association logos instead. Since then, there has been no more negative reports about the logo. It is still a useful mark, but it seems that other Quality Assurance Standard logos may also need our attention.

The Lion Mark
Found on eggs, the lion means that the manufacturing of the eggs meets legislative requirements. This is very minimal and does not ensure that anything above the basic EU standards has been put in place. This logo still permits the use of ‘enriched cages’ as well as barn hens and free-range hens. It does guarantee that the eggs were laid in Britain.

Freedom Food
This is the RSPCA’s labelling scheme. It is dedicated to improving the welfare of farm animals. It covers both indoor and outdoor rearing. It ensures that greater space, bedding, and enrichment materials are provided. On-farm health and welfare monitoring must also be in practice. Stunng and slaughtering processes are specified and must meet requirement. This is the recommended logo by Compassion in World Farming, a charity that works to improve welfare to farming animals across the globe. It is also available when eating out and can be found on some menus.

Soil Association
The organic standards set by this system ensure better welfare options. This scheme goes beyond the industry standards, ensuring bedding and environmental enrichment, restricting confinement systems and ensuring there is free access to shade and shelter. Similarly to Freedom Food, they regulate stunning and slaughtering practices and monitor welfare. This is also recommended by Compassion in World Farming.

Labelling Matters
The RSPCA, World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), and Soil Association are campaigning for honest labelling of meat and dairy products to fairly depict the production. They are asking for production labelling on all animal produce. To find out more, go to labellingmatters.org and get involved.
**Mulled Wine**

1 bottle of red wine
2 sticks of cinnamon
8 whole cloves
50g sugar
3 bay leaves
1 lemon quartered

1. Put everything in a saucepan with a largelug of the red wine. This will make a rich base to use for the rest of the mulled wine. This ensures the mostflavour without boiling off all the alcohol.

2. Gradually heat the mixture until it reaches a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for ten minutes.

3. Add the rest of the wine. Stir regularly and cook for another ten minutes.

4. Sieve out the bits, serve hot into wine glasses or mugs. Festive.

**Hot Cider**

1 apple
1 orange
2 tbsp honey
11 cider (preferably dry)

1. Place the orange on a chopping board, with the stalk at the top. Roughly cut round the edges to make large cuttings of the peel with bits of orange flesh on for extra juiceiness.

2. Slice the lemon and the apple into rings.

3. Pour the cider into a saucepan, then turn to a medium heat. Add in all of your ingredients.

4. Let it heat up for around 15 minutes, stirring regularly. Make sure to not let it boil.

5. Once cooked, sieve to remove the bits and serve hot.

**Vegetarian Alternatives to the Roast Dinner**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nut Loaf</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200g sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250ml water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 cups fresh or frozen cranberries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cinnamon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nutmeg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lentil Pastry Wrap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 sheets puff pastry (double check they are vegan, most brands are)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cup red or green lentils, uncoked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 cups vegetable stock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ cup pecans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ cup walnuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 onion, finely chopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 celery stalks, finely chopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 medium carrots, finely chopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 cups button mushrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 cloves garlic, crushed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tsp thyme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ tsp basil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cranberry Sauce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>¼ cup rolled oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ cup whole wheat or plain flour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soya or almond milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive oil</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red Cabbage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>½ red cabbage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tbsp olive oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 red onion, sliced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125ml red wine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140g soft dark brown sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 red chilli, finely chopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 rosemary sprigs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brussel Sprouts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 handfuls of sprouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 clove garlic, crushed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 tbsp olive oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tbsp balsamic vinegar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gluten Free Vegan Fruit Cake</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500g mixed or dried fruit of your choice (we recommend a 250g, 125g, 125g split between 3 fruits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250ml boiling water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180g gluten free self-raising flour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Soak fruit in the boiling water overnight, or for several hours, in a covered bowl. Set the oven to it’s lowest temperature (around 125 degrees C) and line a cake tin.

2. Mix the soaked fruit with flour until combined. Pour mixture into the tin and smooth the surface with the back of a spoon.

3. Bake for 1 hour, or until golden. Check it is cooked by inserting a skewer to the middle. If it pulls out clean then it is ready.

4. Serve warm, or leave to cool to room temperature before storing in an air-tight container. The cake will keep for 2–3 weeks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegan Mince Pies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100g currants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100g raisins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100g sultanas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50g cooking dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50g candied peel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50g glazed cherries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50g flaked almonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ripe banana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 tbsp whiskey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ tsp each ground ginger, nutmeg, mixed spice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>icing sugar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hot Cider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cup red or green lentils, uncooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 onion, finely chopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 clove garlic, crushed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5 cups button mushrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 sticks of cinnamon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 lemon quartered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50g sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons olive oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tbsp balsamic vinegar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 handfuls of sprouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ cup walnuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tbsp chopped nuts, veggies, oats, and flour. Slowly add warm water until it is about 10 inches by 14 inches.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Gingerbread**

3 handfuls of sprouts
1. Preheat oven to 220 degrees C.

2. Butter a loaf tin and line in foil or baking paper. In a bowl, mix together the lemon and nutmeg. Pour in the whipped eggs, cheese, and onions and stir well.

3. Toast nuts in a dry pan on a medium heat until they are fragrant, which should be for about ten minutes. Set aside.

4. Gently fry the onions, celery and carrots for 5 minutes. Add mushrooms and cook for a further 5 minutes.

5. Add garlic, salt, pepper, and herbs, cooking for 2 minutes more.

6. In a large bowl, mix together the lentils, toasted nuts, veggies, oats, and flour. Slowly add warm water until most of the cranberries have burst. Sprinkle in a pinch of cinnamon and nutmeg.

7. Take off the heat and leave to cool minutes.

8. Add red onion, wine, sugar, chilli, rosemary, apple, and vinegar and stir well.

9. Pour in 300ml warm water and bring to a simmer. Cover with a lid and leave for one hour.

10. Bake for 40 mins, until golden.

**Vegan Mince Pies**

750g plain whole wheat flour
350g vegetable margarine (check no dairy or animal-derived content)
6 tbsp cold water
Pinch of salt

1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees C.

2. Gradually heat the mixture until they are fragrant, and most of the liquid has been absorbed.

3. Roughly mash the lentils with a potato masher. This helps everything stick together.

4. In a saucepan, bring the water to a simmer.

5. Add garlic, salt, pepper, and nutmeg.


**Hot Cider**

1 apple
1 orange
2 tbsp honey
11 cider (preferably dry)

1. Place the orange on a chopping board, with the stalk at the top. Roughly cut round the edges to make large cuttings of the peel with bits of orange flesh on for extra juiceiness.

2. Slice the lemon and the apple into rings.

3. Pour the cider into a saucepan, then turn to a medium heat. Add in all of your ingredients.

4. Let it heat up for around 15 minutes, stirring regularly. Make sure to not let it boil.

5. Once cooked, sieve to remove the bits and serve hot.
**Mark Stanley: VP for Societies & Community**

Seren interviews the fun-loving VP for Societies & Community about everything from Pontio and the SU to scuba diving and the future of student media.

Where is the most exciting place you’ve been?
Under the sea! Since starting at the Student’s Union, I’ve been learning to Scuba Dive and I’ve dived in flooded quarries, Loch Fyne in Scotland, and the Red Sea in Egypt. There is nothing better than being 18 metres down below the surface. Sometimes the best is when there is nothing, it’s the perfect chill out space.

What place does student media have in the future of how Unions communicate?
Student Media for me has always had a warm place in my heart. Whilst I was at University I was heavily involved with StormFM and, as a Sabb, I have had a look into the worlds of Seren and Y Llef (The Welsh Language Newspaper). The answer is a strong place. Moving forward we’re all part of a strong voice for change and opportunities.

Highlight from the last month?
Someone called up and asked if we knew any magicians who could do a night on the 4th December. I called them back and left a message alluding to the possibility that I had retired from that business, side note: I’ve never been a magician, and so I was just going to spend 4 hours throwing cards around and pulling a fake rabbit out of a hat.

If you could get the SU any animal as a live-in mascot, what would it be and why?
I’d have to be a Quokka (Google this, because they are super cute). He’d be called Barry and I’d take him to all my University meetings like the IT Taskgroup. It’s already a great meeting, but Barry would make it 167% better because of his cuteness and the science behind my claim of 167%.

What did you learn from your first year as VP of societies that has been invaluable this year?
Nothing will ever be perfect, you’ve just gotta make the best of what you’ve got and always strive for more.

What was the worse thing that happened while you were in your role at the SU or your most embarrassing moment as VP?
I’m probably not allowed to say the worst thing that has ever happened in print, but this is my message to anyone who is running for my position next year — No day is the same, and I can guarantee that if you thought you knew what an “Omni-Shambles” is then you should try being a Sabbatical Officer.

When you’ve got a big work load, what do you like to do to chill out?
I stress eat. Instead I’m going to get myself that gym membership I’ve been promising myself to get and run my problems away. I’m starting a month early on this #NewYearNewMe stuff.

We’d like to thank Mark for taking time out to answer our questions, cheers.
Can you explain 'Points of Light' scheme?

Points of Light is a Cabinet Office-run scheme which recognises volunteers who go above and beyond every year. One university in each UK region will help facilitate a network of young community leaders who will work to identify award recipients in their region. For me, it will be the North Wales region. They then present their work to 10 Downing Street at the end of the year.

How did you feel when you found out you got awarded the scheme?

I was quite surprised actually and shocked. I just thought when I saw the email from SBV that I would just go for it as there was nothing holding me back. I was taken back when I got the email back from the Cabinet Office saying that I had been chosen.

What do you feel you will bring to the scheme?

I believe with my volunteering experience I am definitely the right person for it. I think there's nothing more important than inspiring other people to volunteer.

Do you feel your previous volunteering has helped you achieve this?

Definitely. I think that is probably the main reason why I got the position, just because it shows that I have a passion for it. I have been doing it with multiple different projects for 5 years now and I definitely believe that's what got me the scheme.

What role will you play within the scheme?

So basically I am the regional volunteer manager for North Wales and I will lead a group of young community leaders. They will find people across the UK that are an inspiration to volunteers. So it's a bit different to other schemes like the Queen's Awards for volunteers which recognise people that have dedicated their lives to volunteering. We then write case studies and they are sent to me and then I will look through it. As all the committee members are around the age of 18, they are picked by the Cabinet Office. I then give my opinion on who is the best candidate and then pass it on to the Cabinet Office. Next year in the summer time, we are going to pick the best ones and we are going to help them to improve their projects the best we can.

What do you look for when choosing participants?

When we are looking for volunteers to give the award to, we look for people who have a large impact. We want people who are going to inspire others and they are also in active in the ideas and creations of the volunteering projects. It's not just people who have dedicated the most time or who have statistically done the most, it's for those who really make a difference in that field.

How did you find out about the scheme?

Student Volunteering Bangor sent out an email to everyone on their mailing list just describing what it was and to say to get in contact with them if you fancied it.

Do you feel it's important to get involved in these sorts of things?

Yes definitely. Being on the SVB mailing list gives you a lot of opportunities to hear about different things. It's not all about the on going projects, there's a lot of single projects like the beach cleans that you can do on a one-off basis. If you have other commitments, this gives you the opportunity to still get some experience.

What do you hope to get out of taking part in this scheme, personally or just more experience?

Yeah I think personally it will be great. I mean, having spoken to the people at the Cabinet Office, they've been so supportive of me going into a volunteering management role in the future. They've said they will be happy to give me a reference. But I think the most important thing is to inspire others to get involved in volunteering. The government are hoping to get a lot more young people involved and I think this will encourage them.

What advice would you give others who want to start volunteering?

Well, if you're a student at Bangor, go up to the SU and pop into the Student Volunteer Office and asked to be put on the mailing list. As soon as you get the email through, you can go from there and find the projects that you fancy. To get involved locally back at home in Nantwich, I remember seeing a poster in school, as I started in school, and remember thinking sure why not. I went along and I've been with them for 4 years now. It's definitely the best thing I've joined to gain experience so far. So locally it's more about looking online.

Do you expect all this power to go to your head now?

[Laughs] Oh, yes. I plan to rule the volunteering world one day but I promise to try and stay as humble as possible.

Funny Business in Bangor

Free Bangor Comedy Show on 12th December in MALT. This show will feature the very best improv, finest stand up, and both live and filmed sketch comedy. There will also be a tuck shop to buy refreshments and a fantastic raffle full of prizes.

Bangor Comedy is a student run comedy society that, so far this year, has performed at two free comedy shows at the Belle Vue on 24th September and 12th November. If you missed them or saw them and want to see more free comedy, come along to our up and coming Christmas Show.

We do improvisational comedy. In these sessions, we focus on having fun with a wide range of games similar to those in Whose Line Is It Anyway? and Mock The Week. We also practise techniques and skills to help make you a better improviser. These sessions are at 7pm every Monday in the Greek Room in Main Arts.

We also do sketches. If you want to write the next Monty Python, this is the place for you. The sessions focus of creating and fine tuning comedy scripts that are performed at our larger shows like the coming free Christmas Show. We meet at 7pm every Thursday in room G1.

Finally, we do stand-up as much as you can. If you are interested in developing your stand-up skills, please let us know. Workshops are organised as needed, so get in contact or message us at the Bangor Comedy Facebook page.

If you do not know where the rooms are, we meet at 7pm in the Main Arts foyer. We highly appreciate people coming to watch our sessions. You don't have to perform, you can just come along to watch and have a laugh. See you at our shows or sessions!
BREAKTIME

CROSSWORD

Across
1. Sleep in it (3)
5. Robin, owl or eagle (4)
6. Father (3)
8. Money for a favour (5)
11. Strange (3)
13. Born and ___ in one place (4)
15. EDDE (anagram) (4)
17. Multiply by two (6)

Down
1. Nip in the ___ (3)
2. ___ you hear what I said?” (3)
3. Please note (1.1.)
4. Dull; dreary (4)
7. Total up numbers (3)
9. One of 24 in the human chest (3)
10. The finish (3)
11. Elderly (3)
12. Wool that has changed colour has been ___ (4)
14. Steal (3)
16. “How ___ you ___?” (2)

SUDOKU!

EASY

MINUTE MAZE
A Swimming Success in Sheffield

by LYDIA TABRIZI

Bangor University Swimming Squad has had a fantastic week-end competing at the BUCS short course in Sheffield. Twenty swimmers put everything they had into every single race. Fifteen swimmers received at least one personal best (Amber Allford, Aneira Jones, Jamie Gribble, Jamie Todd, Josh Pollard, Lucy Park, Lydia Tabrizi, Poppy Darbyshire-Jenkins, and Taylor Whitchurch). The results show we are now ranked 32nd.

Our biggest success was Amber Allford, who not only qualified for the B Finals, but came 3rd, a first for Bangor University Swimming Squad.

Every single swimmer exceeded expectations and made their teammates proud. Everyone supported, cheered, and praised one another. Team spirit could not have been higher and the committee could not be prouder.

The competition has brought the squad together as a team, a must when you see each other 4 times a week half naked (nothing bonds you more).

The swimming team train four times a week (one session begins at 6:45am). They train hard all year round and smashed Aberystwyth at Varsity last year (60-27-5). So, they had better be scared for the next meet. The swim squad will continue to work hard, train hard, and have fun. Long Course Championships is coming up in February 2016, where the squad will return to compete again and hopefully smash the personal bests made at the weekend. The early mornings and hard work has definitely paid off. This is just the start of Bangor University Swim Squad’s biggest and best year. Go in hard, come out wet!

Van Gaal to end Rooney love affair?

by FINNIA SHARDLOW

In answer to the above, this won’t be the only article you’ll see with an overwhelming bias floating towards ‘yes’—but does anyone think it will actually happen? Probably not.

The fact of the matter is; Van Gaal and Hodgson have too much pride towards ‘yes’—but does anyone think it will actually happen? Probably not.

Murray out of ATP Finals

by JOE CAINE

Britain’s top ranked seed and world number two Andy Murray faced off against Swiss French open holder Stan Wawrinka in London on Friday last week.

Wawrinka won the game in straight sets, though it was a close affair throughout the match, as they went through a tie break to win the first set. Murray was even 4-2 up during the tie break but lost his focus as Wawrinka went on to win the tie break 4-7.

Murray didn’t respond quick enough in the next set as Wawrinka broke his serve with one of his trademark backhands, which put him into a 2-5 lead ready to serve for the match.

Murray didn’t let the score affect him, as he brought the score to 4-5 breaking Stan’s serve in the process. Murray had nine shots on target all season. Wawrinka’s serve in the form has been difficult to overlook, however, and it shouldn’t surprise anyone. The 30-year-old has played 682 games, that’s 10 more than all of Ryan Giggs’ Premier League appearances.

We first saw wonder-kid Wayne break onto the scene for Everton, a quick shot that missed as he attempted a dolly shot to make to 5-5 but he didn’t make them. Murray was even 4-2 up during the tie break but lost his focus as Wawrinka

Bangor vs. LJMU

by JEDD WATERTON

A strong turnout was on show, with around forty to fifty people sat on the bleachers and watching from upstairs on the Tuesday evening for Bangor vs LJMU. The Bangor Dragons cheerleaders were out in full force to show their support for the team. The two captains tipped off. Bangor received the ball and immediately pressed up the court, firing on a quick shot that missed initially. Captain J. Bamber netted the ball in the second try.

After an initial bout of pressure from the away side, Bangor seemed to rally considerably after calling a timeout, drawing the opposing team in and sprinting up the court after blocking a shot from going off. The first quarter rounds out at 20-10 to the home side.

Bangor begun to take charge after conceding another point after the timeout, with the scoring still being largely tit-for-tat until Bangor began to assert a little more dominance, largely tit-for-tat until Bangor began to assert a little more dominance, keeping the score to 34-21. The third quarter was edge-of-your-seat viewing, with over 30 points being scored between the two teams. It was end-to-end stuff.

Bangor opened the quarter with an instant three pointer right off the bat, only for poor defending to let LJMU bang in the counter again, closing the difference to 11 points at the time out with the score at 40-29.

Bangor were on the offensive, with Bangor scoring on the counter again to leave several points for either side. Last year’s captain Tandeta made a key tackle right before the buzzer for the end of the quarter, keeping the score to 50-38. Entering into the fourth quarter, the match looked like it could head either way. Bangor opening the scoring instantly with a three pointer from outside from the D, LJMU seemingly unable to respond for the time being. Bangor pushing ahead to 55-38 inside of two minutes. LJMU called for a timeout and seemed to rally considerably afterwards, with Bangor scoring twice more and LJMU keeping on piling pressure on the Bangor team, scoring several more times before the end.

It was not enough to conquer the Badgers. The match ends at 60 points to 47.

A tense second quarter was ahead, with the teams seemingly on level abilities and neither team scoring until solidly into the quarter. LJMU were on the offensive, with Bangor scoring on the counter again to leave several points for either side. Last year’s captain Tandeta made a key tackle right before the buzzer for the end of the quarter, keeping the score to 34-21.

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Bangor City FC win with comfortable 3-0 victory

Bangor started the month off with a very disappointing away performance against rivals Port Talbot Town FC where Bangor City lost 2-0 to two first half goals. The first was from attacker Martin Rose in the 19th minute, and the second was a heart breaking own goal a minute later from Bangor defender Sam Hart.

Bangor looked to bounce back at their home ground a week later as they faced fourth placed Airbus UK from Bangor defender Sam Hart. Minutes later, a brilliant left-footed cross from Bangor winger Sion Edwards was saved by Airbus goalie James Coates, only to fall in the path of Christian Langos, who smashed the ball first time, but Coates got up sharply to punch the ball away from goal, and it was cleared away to safety for a corner.

Just over half an hour into the game, Langos made his way into the box from a delicious Ashley Young through ball, where he was fouled by Matty McGinn and won a penalty. Up stepped Sam Hart, who redeemed himself from last week’s own goal by slotting away the ball just past the post from 20 yards out after he had done the hard work in collecting the ball in his own half and sprinting past several Airbus players.

As the second half came to a close, Bangor’s Sion Edwards gave away a penalty after bringing down Airbus’ Ashley Williams. Tony Gray stepped up, but his shot was well saved by Roberts to keep his side in the lead going into half time.

The first chance of the second half fell to Airbus, when Ryan Wade’s strike was saved comfortably by Connor Roberts. Sion Edwards then forced James Coates into a save from a long range effort, and then, moments later, he made it 2-0 when his brilliant left footed cross from 25 yards out went straight through the defence, past the goalkeeper, and into the back of the net.

Ten minutes later, a brilliant left-footed shot from Bangor winger Sion Edwards which narrowly went past Connor Robert’s post. Bangor’s first chance of the game fell to captain Leon Clowes, who blasted the ball just past the post from 20 yards out after he had done the hard work in collecting the ball in his own half and sprinting past several Airbus players.

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This still didn’t stop Airbus, as they continued to press as another turn shot from Tony Gray left Connor Roberts struggling, but he managed to tip the ball over his bar as he battled to keep his clean sheet.

In the dying moments of the game, Damien Allen collected the ball from Poya Ahmadi, skillfully made his way through the defence, and tucked the ball away from 6 yards out to extend his side’s lead to 3-0.

This comfortable home victory puts Bangor back on the right track as they gained another 3 points to put them 7th in the table.

Republic of Ireland break through to Euro 2016

After finishing third in their overall group behind Germany and Poland, the Republic of Ireland went through another stage of qualification where they faced off against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The first play-off match between the two occurred on the 13th November in Bosnia. The first goal of the game came from Norwich City winger Robbie Brady, who scored in the 82nd minute with a terrific left-footed shot into the bottom right hand corner. This lead was short lived however, as Roma and former Manchester City striker Edin Dzeko blasted the ball into the centre of the goal from an Ognjen Vranjes cross in the 85th minute. This 1-1 result left things finely balanced between the two sides for the next play-off match, where it was all-or-nothing.

The fact that Ireland were on home soil made them more focused and in control, and they showed this by attacking straight from first minute. Only 24 minutes into the match, Ireland were awarded a penalty after Dutch referee Bjorn Kuipers saw the ball hit defender Zukanovic’s hand from a Daryl Murphy cross. Stoke City striker Jonathan Walters stepped up and converted the penalty sending his former Stoke team mate Asmir Begovic the wrong way.

Bosnia then responded well, earning more possession and chances, such as an Edin Dzeko shot which brushed the side netting. Martin O’Neill’s side increased their lead to 2-0 with only 20 minutes to go when Jonathan Walters volleyed the ball home from six yards out from a deflected Robbie Brady cross.

With only minutes to go, Bosnia substitute and forward Vedad Ibisevic rattled Darren Randolph’s bar with a speculative volley from the centre of the penalty box.

The game ended 2-0, giving Ireland a 3-1 win on aggregate to send them through to their second European cup competition in a row. They will be hoping to do much better than last time around in at least getting past the group stage. Ireland will join Wales, England and Northern Ireland in the Euros next year in France.