Bangor University Students' Union English Language Newspaper

@SerenBangor

SEREN

Campus Life Issue No. XXX FREE

seren.bangor.ac.uk

ATTENTION! CAMPUS LIFE CREW ABOUT!









FRIDAY 15TH



SATURDAY 16TH - SUNDAY 17TH MEET US AT THE MARQUEE!

SATURDAY 16TH

Mocktails & Canapés 5.30-7pm | Bar Uno and Barlows



SUNDAY 17TH Campus Life BBQ 4pm | Bar Uno and St Mary's

SUNDAY 17TH Barlows Live Lounge 8pm | Barlows, St Mary's



MONDAY 18TH Meet and Mingle 5-7pm | Braint and Barlows



WEDNESDAY 20TH - THURSDAY 21ST

WEDNESDAY 20[™] Breakfast Baps

THURSDAY 21st FREE Curry and Karaoke

TOP TIPS ON HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF LIVING FRIDAY 22ND Friday Film Night 8pm | Acapela **SATURDAY 23RD** Llanberis Trip 10am - 5pm | Meet outside Reichel Halls SUNDAY 24TH FRESH FEST 🎜 SUNDAY 24TH **FREE Sunday Roast** 6pm | Bar Uno MONDAY 25TH Hot Chocolate Morning! 8.30-9.00am | Ffridd and St Mary's Village UNDEB BANGOR UNDER RANGOR
VINTAGE FAIR

UNDER RANGOR TUESDAY 26[™]

Learn to Cook - Italian!

Wednesday Walkabout
Check out Facebook for details

WEDNESDAY 27TH

THURSDAY 28[™]

FRIDAY 29TH

Bangor Basics

WHAT TO LOOK **OUT FOR!**

All our events are FREE! Just take a look at our helpful guide below...



FOOD EVENTS

There's food involved! From Sunday roasts to pizza nights.

HOT DRINKS



MUSIC

OCTOBER

J

難

SUNDAY 1ST
Open Mic Night
8.30pm | Acapela
Email campuslife@bangor.ac.uk to perform



MONDAY 2ND

WEDNESDAY 4TH WEEK

WEDNESDAY 4TH Campus Clean Up Saint Mary's Village AM | Ffrido

THURSDAY 5TH

#LOVEHALL

SUNDAY 8TH

Wet and Wild

SUNDAY 8TH FREE Sunday Roast

MONDAY 9TH Hot Chocolate Morning! 8.30-9.00am | Ffridd and St Mary's Village

MONDAY 9TH

TUESDAY 10TH

WEDNESDAY 11[™]

THURSDAY 12[™]

FRIDAY 13[™]

Bounce Below Trip! 11am - 3pm | Meet outside Reichel | £

SUNDAY 15TH

TUESDAY 17[™] Ice Cream Party
7.30pm | Braint Common R

WEDNESDAY 18TH

Wednesday Walkabout SCAVENGER HUNT SPECIAL 6pm | Meet outside Ffridd and St M Halls office

THURSDAY 19[™]

Pool Tournament

SUNDAY 22ND FREE Sunday Roast 6pm | Bar Uno

MONDAY 23RD - SUNDAY 29TH



MONDAY 23RD

Hot Chocolate Morning! 8.30-9.00am | Ffridd and St Mary's Village G

MONDAY 23RD

TUESDAY 24TH

➤

TUESDAY 24TH

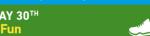
Learn to Cook - Veggie! S S

WEDNESDAY 25[™] Wednesday Walkabout
Check out Facebook for details

THURSDAY 26[™]

FRIDAY 27TH
Friday Film Night
8pm | Acapela

SUNDAY 29TH **Wet and Wild**



TUESDAY 31ST



UNDEB











Bangor University Students' Union English Language Newspaper

@SerenBangor



Freshers Issue 2017 Issue No. 263 FREE

seren.bangor.ac.uk



MAP OF BANGOR

SERENDIPITY SPECIAL

SUMMER FESTIVALS

NSS puts Bangor University eighth in the UK



by EMMA JEWKES

Bangor University has received a resounding testimony from last years graduating students after being placed eighth in the UK and second in Wales following the results of this year's National Student Survey.

The NSS, taken by half a million graduating students across the United Kingdom, featured 460 academic institutions, eight of which are in Wales

Professor Oliver Turnbull, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Teaching & Learning at Bangor University said: "These are a wonderful endorsement of our activities, and indeed of Bangor University's values. We have long been renowned for providing not only excellent teaching but also student support, and these results yet again reflect this."

Thirteen degree courses achieved 100% satisfaction rates from the students, and nine general subject

areas have also achieved 100% satisfaction, placing them at the top of their subject table in the UK. Bangor University's average satisfaction rate of 90% is above the UK and Wales averages of 84%.

The courses to achieve 100% were Computer Information Systems, Criminology & Criminal Justice/Psychology, Cymraeg, English Literature, Environmental Science, Marine Biology/Zoology, Music, Philosophy and Religion, Psychology with Clinical & Health Psych, Sport Science (ODA), Sports Science, Zoology and Zoology with Herpetology.

Senior staff at the university put the success down to the high standard of teaching and the student experience at Bangor University, along with the University's focus on identifying and addressing any problems that may arise for individual students.

arise for individual students.

Prof Turnbull added: "The data should also be really valuable for prospective students, who will make

decisions about University places over the next few weeks.

"Our commitment to our students, and to the quality of their experience at Bangor, is of course a team effort by our entire community, from the academics who deliver lectures, to the technical staff who run laboratories, the PhD students who assist with tutorials, our administrators, and all the service departments who support the smooth operation of University

"I would like to thank all our staff, and would also like to thank our recent graduates for giving our University such positive feedback. We hope that they keep in touch with the Bangor University graduate community."

The news follows hard on the heels of the University's recent success in being awarded a Gold Standard in the UK Government's new Teaching Excellence Framework, the only Welsh university to achieve this standard.

More recently, the University retained it's position among the top

350 universities worldwide for the fourth year in succession, according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings released earlier this month.

Elaine Haf Elis from Abergele, who has recently graduated with a degree in Welsh said: "Over a period of three years I've had some memorable experiences to treasure for a lifetime! The course was really interesting and relevant to the current work environment. The University has also offered me some valuable experiences such as the opportunity to work with the marketing department on open days and at the Eisteddfod and also with the University's Talent & Opportunities Programme. I have enjoyed myself so much at Bangor, and as the standard of teaching is excellent, I'm returning in September to follow a postgraduate Secondary School PGCE teaching course."

Another happy student is Steffan Nicholas from Camarthen, currently studying at the School of Education.

He said: "Bangor is an excellent place to study, nestled between the sea and the mountains of north Wales. It is a warm and friendly place and an excellent environment for making new friends and socialising with people from all over the world as well as from closer to home. I was fortunate enough to receive scholarships to study here and this support has been invaluable as I present my work. Bangor is also a great place for students to volunteer, be part of a sports team and to join the various societies. I'm proud to be a part of the Welsh community here and really enjoy living and socialising at Neuadd John Morris-Jones?

The NSS results provide the most comprehensive feedback on the student experience at each institution, drilling down to school, course and programme level and also drawing on broader information about areas such as teaching and assessment and feedback.







/serenbangor

SE E AT SERENDIPITY



CAN'T WAIT FOR SERENDIPITY? NEITHER
CAN WE! JOIN US ON FACEBOOK,
TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM NOW!



Seren Members 2017-18



twitter.com/ serenbangor



instagram.com/ serenbangor

Ever fancied yourself as a journalist? Perhaps you want to channel your inner Clark Kent or Lois Lane? Maybe you're more of an April O'Neil or even a Rory Gilmore? Whoever you want to be we want you at Seren! (Even if you're a bit of a Rita Skeeter!)

Photosaremore your thing? Okay, Peter Parker, grabacamera and capture some of Bangor's students in action!

Whatever your passion, Seren has something for you. Come and meet us at Serendipity(notnamedafterus,butprobablyshouldbe!),grabsomefreebiesandsign up for one of our taster sessions!

Here's an idea of some of the things we get up to:

FEATURE WRITING NEWS REPORTS LIVE SPORT COVERAGE WRITERS PHOTOGRAPHERS DESIGNERS CONTRIBUTORS PROOFREADERS BROADCAST JOURNALISM & MORE

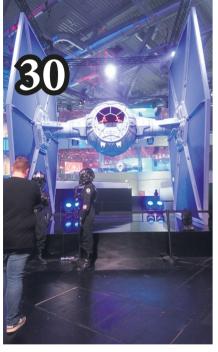
Freshers Issue 2017 | Seren 5

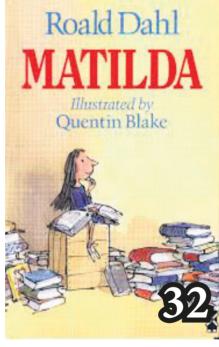
CONTENTS

News 6-7 **Comment** 8 **Travel** 10 **Arts and Culture** 12-13 Music 14-15 **Festival Special** 16-17 **Fashion** 18 Lifestyle 19 **Societies Special** 22-25 **Freshers Survival** 26 **Bangor Map** 27 TV 28-29 **Games** 30-31 **Books** 32 **Film** 33-35 **Union** 36 **Sport 37 AU** 38













SEREN TEAM 2017-18

Editor Emma Jewkes
Deputy Finnian Shardlow
Comment Simran Prasad
Travel Jack Carr-Brickles
Arts + Culture Chloe Heath
Music Lizzy Dillon
Fashion Sash Deacon

Lifestyle Catrin Jones
TV Jordan King
Games Megan Richards
Books Beth Smith
Film Jack Hollinshead
Science Laura Aspin

CONTRIBUTORS

Abi Robinson Stephen Farr Charlie Wilson Francesca Sciarrillo Alex Curnow



EMMA JEWKES

EDITOR

editor@seren.bangor.ac.uk

Welcome to Bangor! Both to those students returning after a long summer away and to all of you lovely new freshers. Bangor is a great place to live and to study in so I'm sure you'll love your time here. Although, a word of warning, it does fly by. It only seems like two minutes since I moved here yet here I am heading into my third year! This is my first issue as Editor of

This is my first issue as Editor of Seren so it's kind of a special one for me. I'm so excited but nervous at the same time. Seren has already been a huge part of my time at Bangor. I started off as a writer before becoming Lifestyle Editor, I then dabbled with being TV Editor before being Deputy last year. And now here I am, your Seren Editor for this academic year. I honestly can't wait to see what the year brings.

As this is the first issue of Seren this year, it is a fairly short one but there's still plenty to peak your interest, I'm sure. Can I reccomend that your first port of call is our mamouth societies special. The societies will become a huge part of your time at Bangor as there's literally something for everyone. Whether you're into wrestling, sci-fi, comic books or even pokemon, there's bound to be a few that you join at Serendipity.

Serendipity is the freshers fair held here at Bangor every year. It does get very busy though so be warned. It is worth taking your time to look around though as some of the people you meet at the stalls may become firm friends over the course of the next year. We'll be there too so why not pop along to see us. You may even decide to join us, which I would heartedly recommend. We are always looking for writers, proofers, photographers, etc. Also, you may want to join take on your own section within the paper and that's great if you do. We have a number of openings and if you want to start your own section that we don't feature then talk to us!!

So, shameless plug out of the way, all that's left is for me to say that I hope you enoy this freshers edition of Seren and that I hope you enjoy your time here at Bangor as much as I have!

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

Seren is printed by NWN Media.

NEWS

Police pay cap to be lifted

The Government has announced it will lift the pay cap on police and prison officers. The Treasury has stated it wants to "strike a balance" when dealing with spending and ensuring that officers services do not go unnoticed.

Number 10 has also spoken, saying that ministers are looking to implement "flexibilty" in the public sector's pay cap, looking to start in 2018/19, and bringing an end to the seven-year stint.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Elizabeth Truss, has said "We will continue to ensure that the overall package for public sector workers recognises their vital contribution and ensures that we can deliver world class public services, while also being affordable and fair to taxpayers as a whole."

New£10 note in circulation



From the 14th September 2017, a new £10 note will be introduced. Much like the £5 note that was released this time last year, it will be smaller and durable than the old one.

In addition, they will have their own serial number, to help counteract counterfeit notes.

The £10 will feature iconic novelist Jane Austen, with 2017 marking the 200th anniversary of her death, and Winchesher Cathedral (where she was buried). If you still have your old £10 notes, don't panic! You have until spring of 2018 to spend them before the Bank of England begin to withdraw them from circulation. The £20 note replacement will be launched in 2020.



Dogs get pier trial

ith the Garth Pier receiving a new £1 million investment, a vote has taken place to allow dogs onto the pier for the first time in a number of years

It was held by Gwynedd councillor Nick Pickavance, with 226 people voting for dogs to be allowed on the pier, but kept on their leads.

An inital 12 month trial period looks set to be implemented. Owners must have dog bags with them and bins will be provided to deposit them.

This will be greeted with great enthusiasm by members of the community, as they can include the pier in their morning walks and enjoy the stunning views of the Menai Strait with their furry friend.

Bangor Pier undergoes £1M restoration project

Restoration work has begun on Bangor's historic Victorian pier after £1m worth of funding was secured with the aim of retaining it as a community facility for many years to come.

The funding for the project comes from capital funds of Bangor City Council, which keeps back an allocation of its money to maintain the pier when necessary.

Council clerk, Ian Jones, said that the work is likely to take up to four years to complete, although the council hopes it will have been finished in three, with North Wales contractors being used where possible.

"Garth Pier has not received any major maintenance works for many years and is now in need of a refurbishment.

"Due to the precarious nature of this work, substantial scaffolding is required as well as stringent health and safety measures."

At 1,500 feet in length, Bangor's Garth Pier is the second longest in Wales, having been built in 1896 with the last major works on it taking place in 1986.

Mr Jones added: "The first phase of

the scaffolding has been up for over two weeks now."

"Much of the work will involve shotblasting the girders and making sure the structure is sound"

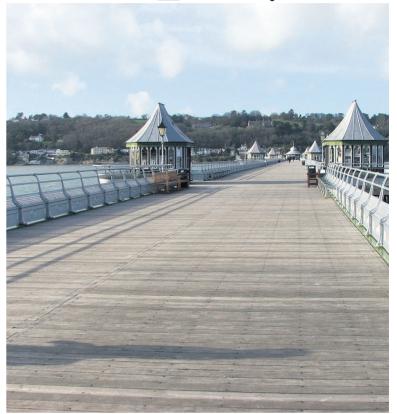
"The pier will largely remain open for the public although it will obviously look very different, aesthetically, during the work."

"As a city council, we apologise for any inconvenience during this construction project but these works are deemed necessary to secure the future stability and safety of the pier for future generations to enjoy."

Despite being refused Heritage Lottery Funding in 2015, Bangor City Council is funding the three year project to strengthen the structure of the city's iconic pier, overlooking the Menai Strait.

In 2015, Bangor City Council presented a bid to add more kiosks and interpretive displays to tell residents and visitors about the history of the structure over the last 120 years, but were knocked back in their bid.

Mr Jones added that the work is also set to result in new handrails on the pier deck, as well as the structural improvements underneath.





Bangor students tasked with saving the coastline

by EMMA JEWKES

Volunteers in North Wales have been asked to help a national campaign to track an invasion taking place around the UK's coastline.

For centuries, marine species have moved around either by hitching a ride on the hulls of ships or as stowaways in ballast water. In many instances, species have been deliberately introduced for commercial purposes.

Now, a national campaign to record non-native marine species, has taken place to map the extent to which non-native marine species are present and to help scientists understand the impact they are having on the coastal environment. Dr Siobhan Vye, CoCoast Project Officer, Bangor University said: "Marine non-native species are animals and seaweeds that find their way to our shores from other regions in the oceans. Sometimes, the conditions here in our UK seas are not right for the non-native species to remain, grow and reproduce so only a fraction of the species that move about establish on our coasts."

"Of the species that do succeed, some can a positive effect – for example, they might become a new food source for existing species and increase the biodiversity of the marine environment."

"Others thrive a bit too well and can become pests. These invasive nonnative species compete for resources and introduce new diseases. If we can map the non-native species around our coastline then we can get a better understanding of how they're affecting the marine environment."

One example of an invasive marine species in North Wales is the seaweed, Sargassum muticum, commonly called wireweed. This is thought to have arrived in UK waters in the 1960s and now has spread as far as the Isle of Skye. It is thought to be responsible for displacing local species by starving them of sunlight.

Another invader the Marine Invaders campaign is asking people in Wales to look out for is the Chinese Mitten Crab, which is believed to have been introduced by ships emptying their ballast water when they reached

port. The crab is native to China and Korea, but has been spotted in the UK in locations as widespread as the estuaries of the Thames and the Clyde. Concerns have been raised about the speed it is establishing itself and the damage it can cause to fishing nets and infrastructure.

The CoCoast partnership involves Bangor, Hull and Portsmouth universities, the Scottish Association for Marine Science, the Marine Biological Association of the UK and the Marine Conservation Society. Along with Earthwatch Institute, the Natural History Museum, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the North West Coastal Forum.

Freshers Issue 2017 | Seren



Bee tracking technology moves up a gear

A project to develop a new means of tracking bees in the landscape is progressing well according to scientists at Bangor University.

An ecologist and a microsystems engineer are working together to develop micro-backpacks for bees that will enable the bees to be followed by small drones as they fly from plant to plant.

This will enable scientists to learn more about where the bees collect nectar and what might be affecting their numbers.

The lightweight, long range bee tracking device will harness the bees own electrical energy to power the backpacks and the scientists have just proven their capability to do this.

Paul Cross, Senior lecturer in the environment at the University's School of Environment, Natural Resources & Geography explains: "Bee populations, our vital crop and fruit pollinators, are in serious decline; their survival faces challenges on several fronts, insecticides and varroa mites to name a few."

"The ability to track bees or other insects over their entire foraging range will be useful in various circumstances. Neonicotinoids and other insecticides, for example, affect the bee's ability to navigate. The ability to track them over long distances can help us work out how the nicotinoids are affecting their direction finding. Other applications

include tracking Asian hornets (a serious threat to many bee species) in Europe with a view to controlling or eradicating them before it's too late."

Dr Cristiano Palego, a microsystems expert at the University's School of Electronic Engineering explains: "Existing bee monitoring devices face limits due to their weight, range, and how long their power source lasts-and these are the problems that we've set out to resolve using cutting-edge micro-technology."

"We have proven our ability to harvest the bee's electrical energy to enable us to do away with the need for a battery and our end product will weigh only a third of the bee's body weight, or less than a raindrop. This solves the weight and battery longevity problems."

"Our next step is to develop a mobile receiver to track and follow the bee's transmitted signal as it forages."

The initial project is funded as a Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) Programme. The partner organisation is the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association (BIBBA), who are keen to fund research into honey-bee tracking in temperate environments to identify the foraging range of the bee under differing climatic and environmental conditions. This will provide the company with more robust viability assessments before establishing new apiaries.



Brave cancer victim inspires castle to castle swimmers

he life of Irfon Williams inspired brave fundraisers to swim 12 miles across the Menai Strait to raise money for cancer sufferers in Gwynedd.

The 20 hardy souls, including a 13-year-old, donned wet suits to battle currents, whirlpools and jellyfish while swimming from Caernarfon Castle to Beaumaris Castle raising money for the #teamirfon campaign in memory of Irfon who died this year after a long battle with cancer.

The #teamirfon campaign has raised over £150,000 and donations will continue to fund wigs and headwear for patients, complementary therapies and new equipment for the Alaw Unit which treats cancer patients at Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor.

Mr Williams' friend Trystan Williams organised the event and also take part. He said: "I wanted to do something to make sure Irfon's legacy lived on and to build on the success of the #teamirfon campaign to ensure cancer patients are supported in the best possible way."

Irfon's widow Rebecca who helped organise the swim and a fundraising auction at Beaumaris Pier & Food Festival, praised the bravery of the swimmers: "I saw them go under the Menai Bridge. There were lots of people shouting their support. It's a dangerous challenge but everything has gone swimmingly. It's all fantastic to see all ages getting involved. The crowds have been great.

"It's a very emotional event for me and it's fantastic that the energy carries on. Irfon would have loved that community 'feel'.

"He was very passionate in children getting involved in exercise and exercise being good for mental health as well as doing something for others also being good. He would have been thrilled to know that all ages had got involved."

Mrs Williams said around £4,000 had been raised by the swimmers efforts so far - that was before the auction had been held.

Among the individuals and companies who had donated prizes and goods for the auction were Zip World, La Marina, Felinheli, Dafydd Hardy, The Slate, artists Glyn Davies and Pete Jones, The Crown, Caernarfon, Chateau Rhianfa and Wild Horse Brewery.

Father-of-five Mr Williams was diagnosed with advanced bowel cancer in 2014 which spread to his liver.

He raised more than £150,000 for patients on Ysbyty Gwynedd's Alaw Unit through North Wales NHS charity Awyr Las.

Mr Williams died on May 30 and thousands attended his funeral at Bangor Cathedral.

Bangor retains place amongst worlds best universities

Bangor University has retained its position among the top 350 universities worldwide for the fourth year in succession, according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings released earlier this month.

Welcoming the news of the University's continued international reputation and reflecting on Bangor's successes in 2017, Vice-Chancellor Professor John G Hughes said: "I am thrilled that Bangor University is once again ranked amongst the best in the world, and especially in the Top 10% for our international outlook. The impact of our research, often in collaboration with international partners, is felt across the globe. In addition to this, the high standard of our teaching

and the environment in which we work makes Bangor an attractive destination for students and staff alike."

The University's position among the world's best universities is the latest in a number of league tables and surveys which reflect well on Bangor University.

Earlier this year, Bangor University was awarded Gold for the standard of its teaching in the UK Government's Teaching Excellence Framework, becoming the only university in Wales to be awarded the top standard.

Also in 2017 and as a result of its commitment to the sustainability agenda, the University was recognised by the UI Green Metric as being in the top 4% of the world's greenest universities.



COMMENT

LET'S TALK FRESHERS

by ABI ROBINSON

It's here! You've made it through the stress of A Levels or whichever chosen route you decided to take. You've packed up your belongings, said goodbye to your beloved pets (only for a while) and all arrived at the same place; University! Whether it's something you've been waiting for your whole life or maybe just a recent decision, you're at the same start line as everybody else and it's going to be one amazing journey!

Being a fresher last year, I feel I have an awareness of the do's and don'ts of fresher's week. It's important to make your own mistakes, but a little advice to help you along the way won't hurt.

So firstly, during fresher's week we have an event called Serendipity. It presents a chance to join societies that may interest you. Whether it's music, sport, journalism, gardening, cooking,

veganism, theatre, chess, dog walking; you name it, we have it! I strongly recommend you join as many as you can, and the luxury of being a Bangor student is that all societies are free to join!

Secondly, continuing with the topic of societies, I'd recommend making the most of your surroundings whilst you're at Bangor and visiting some of the beautiful spots in Snowdonia. You could do this safely by going with the Mountain Walking society or even embracing an outing with another society.

Quite an unusual tip, but still just as important! Keep your moving-in boxes. It's always something you'll regret if you dispose of them, especially when you're carrying your new heavy plastic ones up bitch hill. Just place them on top of your wardrobe, because even though the last thing on your mind is the day you'll leave for summer, it arrives sooner than you think.

Now, a work-related tip for when the excitement of fresher's week is over and you start your degree (you'll love the 9am lectures after student night I'm sure). Buy or bring a USB stick. Assignments are very important and the last thing you want is for your computer to crash with a deadline in 15 minutes. Save everything on your USB stick to avoid a nightmare like this and you'll save yourself a lot of trouble.

And finally, enjoy yourself! University is a time in your life you'll cherish and miss, so make the most of it! Of course, you're there to learn and enhance your knowledge, but you're there for other, just as important life lessons too. You have a year of meeting amazing people ahead, so say yes to the opportunities you get and learn from the mistakes you make. I hope Bangor makes the same great impression on you as it did on me. Good luck!



THE TOOLS OF LIFE

by SIMRAN PRASAD

In life, people often believe that if we invest in dependable, quality tools that hail from a reputable brand, we will shape our lives towards success. So we venture out, and we buy the best brand of laptops that's currently selling out, or the best phone at the moment because it comes with a built in personal organizer, that we assure ourselves we'll figure out how to use someday.

Though these things may help our success, and may have some degree of fact to it, personally, I believe that in life, the tools that mould our success, involve attributes money cannot buy. When you read those quotes on tumblr, that involve Plato saying something along the lines of 'The tools which would teach men their own use would be beyond price", know that he is not taking about that new phone that exceeds your budget, but would be the ideal tool for you. He has a deeper meaning, one, which involves a lack of

materialistic objects. Tools that mould your success, make you stand out in a sea of people, and conquer your life, ultimately originate from a place far more precious than a store. If you as a person have drive, determination and perseverance, you have a few of the tools needed to achieve true success in your life. Those unique qualities cannot be purchased, nor will you need anything else to stand out and create a life you want. Motivation, courage and self-awareness are just a few more examples of tools in life that would help you reach your dreams more than any materialistic object could, however, these attributes require some effort on your part.

In order to wield these tools, and put them to good use in order to carve out the life you want for yourself, they require hard work, dedication and positivity, to name a few. This is where, the valuable term, 'Invest in Yourself' comes into play. If you invest hard work, drive and perseverance in yourself, you will create tools worthy of achieving monumental success and you would pose as serious competition to your greatest opponent: yourself.

Though there are many facets to investing in yourself, I genuinely believe the tools to shape your mind-set are important in achieving everything you could possibly want in life. Personally, I think that investing in yourself resembles layers, with every layer enforcing one goal: success. Success in life, love and maybe even, in yourself. While you create strong armour capable of withstanding hurdles that come with the road to success, if you want too, buy that laptop, or invest in that phone. They are tools that help the tools you already create, or even things you treat yourself with, because part of investing in yourself, is to treat yourself! Having said that, I'm going to figure out how to save this on my new laptop, and probably figure out how to work the personal organizer on my phone tomorrow. Or at some point since buying it.

Success Ahead

Alzheimer's Awareness



by SIMRAN PRASAD

round the World, September 21st marks a very important day in terms of mental health: Alzheimer's Day. Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that causes problems when it comes to memory, thinking and overall behaviour. Symptoms develop very slowly, and become severe enough to interfere with many aspects of life. What many people don't realise is that currently, there is no cure to Alzheimer's. Though extensive treatment and research is going on, there is no substantial solution to this current dilemma. In today's World, many people go through this tough battle, and for them to not be able to recollect memories so precious to them, that shapes their lives and connects them to their family, really raises a cause for concern. However, research has scoured new heights, with ninety percent of our knowledge of Alzheimer's being discovered in the last 20 years. The hope now, is to better understand the brain and its complexities, and

produce new treatment that will lessen the amount of people being affected. The brain is one of the complex organs of our body, having about 100 billion nerve cells; it stands to be the most puzzling organ we have. Despite a lot of hard work being done, there is no research that has discovered the cause of Alzheimer's. However, research has discovered 6 pillars for reducing the risk of Alzheimer's. They encompass regular exercise, social engagement, healthy diets, mental stimulation, quality sleep and stress management. By following a regime that includes these 6 pillars, the risk of developing Alzheimer's significantly reduces. Symptoms of Alzheimer's include, memory loss that disrupts daily life, difficulty completing familiar tasks, and confusion with time or place, to name a few. Alzheimer's is an aggressive mental health disease, and in order to combat it best we can, we should take a stance as a community and try our level best to establish a positive mental health for ourselves, and for those around us.



SYDD

11AM - 9PM

LLUN DI-GIG

DYDD LLUN MOJITO £3 MOJITOS

11AM - 9PM

MAWRTH TACOS

BYW

<u>Chwaraeon</u> byw

DYDD MERCHER



BYW

CHWARAEON BYW CYNGHRAIR Y PENCAMPWYR

8PM - HWYR

KARAOKE

BYW

M

WHAT'S GOING ON

11AM - 9PM

MEAT FREE MONDAY

FROM 7PM

MOJITO MONDAY £3 MOJITOS

TACO TUESDAY

LIVE SPORTS **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE** WEDNESDAY



LIVE

LIVE SPORTS CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

8PM - LATE THURSDAY

KARAOKE

LIVE

LIVE SPORTS EUROPA LEAGUE

BT Sport

11AM - 9PM

GWENER Y PYSGOD

WEEKEND

7PM - HWYR DYDD SADWRN

SOS CYN PART

CHWARAEON BYW YR UWCH GYNGHRAIR

CHWARAEON BYW YR UWCH GYNGHRAIR A NFL

11AM - 9PM

THANK FISH IT'S FRIDAY

7PM - LATE

WEEKEND

SOS PRE PARTY

LIVE

LIVE SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE

LIVE SPORTS PREMIER LEAGUE AND NFI



SHEEP AND CHEERFUL

end and the University semester restarts or for that matter; starts (I'd like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome all the freshers to Bangor... and University) it is natural for our minds to drift occasionally back to summer whether that be to pine over a well-deserved holiday or to remind yourself that you'll end up (insert menial, minimum wage task) all over again if you didn't come to Uni to do something new and exciting (again, welcome) either way however the fun work starts now and you might be interested in treating yourself to a well-deserved holiday at the end of the semester to keep the flame alive during even the darkest, coldest Bangor winter study sessions. So without further ado, here is a list of the cheapest places to get completely and utterly "relaxed" for next to nothing next summer...

1. Krakow, Poland (£1.07)

This southern Poland city is One of the cheapest cities in the world to grab a pint and a great spot for a city break or stag do. With beautiful architecture and top nightlife, the medieval city has it all.

2. *Kiev, Ukraine (£1.07)*The capital of Ukraine is packed with

stunning cathedrals and museums. However, it also has a buzzing night-life with plenty of bars and clubs to explore. Slavutych Shato Brewery is a great place to grab a pint and with the average drink just £1.07, you won't break the bank either.

3. Bratislava, Slovakia (£1.09)

Surrounded by vineyards and the Little Carpathian mountains, Slovakia's capital city is a great place to spend a boozy weekend. The pedestrian-only, 18th-century old town is known for its lively bars and cafes.

4. Malaga, Spain (£1.11)

This party town on Spain's Costa del Sol is known for its budget resorts and sandy beaches. And at just £1.11 a pint your money will go a long way. This one certainly fits the criteria then

5. Delhi, India (£1.13)

It might cost you a bit more to get here, but when you eventually do you can forget all that expense and arduous travel for just £1.13. You could also take a trip to nearby Agra to visit the famed Taj Mahal while you're at it.

6. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (£1.15) From wildlife reserves and mangrove

forests to high-rise skyscrapers, this crazy Vietnamese city is bustling with life. And while you're in the humid city you can knock back a beer or two for just £1.15 each and it's probably safer than drinking the water.

7. Mexico City, Mexico (£1.26)

Packed with street markets and bustling bars, Mexico City is one of the craziest destinations on earth. And you can drink to your hearts content for just £1.26 a beer.

8. Belgrade, Serbia (£1.27)

Serbia's capital is famed for its giant fortress the Beogradska Tvrđava – and the pints are just £1.27.

9. Asuncion, Paraguay (£1.28)

The flight to Paraguay might set you back a few bob, but when you're there it's cheap as chips. The average beer is only £1.28.

10. Bangkok, Thailand (£1.36)

The city made famous by The Hangover Part II won't disappoint as a stag do destination. With sex shows, sky bars and £1.36 beers it's a party animal's dream

MOST EXPENSIVE - Geneva (£6.32) stay away.



Hurricane Irma

Sitting writing this on the 7th of September, I am aware that the category 5 hurricane will have hit land in Cuba and the US by the time this paper goes to print and therefore I am reluctant to speculate at this early stage in which I write and instead offer the facts so far. There is no doubt however as to the potential destructiveness of this incoming category 5 hurricane which means wind speed of around 185mph and a storm surge of up to 11m which poses a flood threat in addition to other dangers.

Florida Government spokespeople such as Rick Scott the Governor of Florida are telling residents of Florida that live on or near the coast or otherwise in danger areas that it is their responsibility to get out of the course of the danger now and that they are in no doubt of the destructive power of the imminent threat and also stating that homes and possessions can be rebuilt and replaced but lives cannot be replaced once lost – leaving no doubt as to the life threatening nature of such a powerful natural disaster.

Many of the meteorologists have compared this storm to hurricane Alan in the 1980s which sustained 185mph winds for around 18hours however Irma has roundly trounced this record sustaining similar wind power for up to and over 40 hours so far. There has already been an estimated \$100m worth of damage to the Caribbean island of Barbuda where the hurricane has already claimed the lives of at least

10 people, 8 People have been killed in French Caribbean island territory and 1 death confirmed in the British overseas territory Anguilla. The hurricane is still gathering strength drawn up from the hot waters of the Caribbean Sea this time of year at the end of summer, providing more fuel for the storm.

Another place which the hurricane has already hit is Wall Street as storm damage potential threatens confidence in the markets the insurance sector being down more than 2%. However coupled with the fears over North Korea nuclear tensions the storm has helped safe heaven assets such as gold to surge to its highest price in a year. Amidst the chaos is Amazon's controversial decision to hike prices of panic buy items such as bottled water from around \$5 for a pack of six bottles to upwards of \$20 and have caught a considerable amount of flak from people on social media after having made that decision.

Meanwhile people who are unable to flee are stocking up on these provisions and making their way to storm shelters. Although at the time of writing the true destructive toll of the hurricane is yet to be calculated both economically and humanitarian, if one thing is certain it is that natural disasters such as this one underline our responsibility and unique capability to work together in our societies when faced with situations which can't be solved with impeachment or protest.

The Good the Bad and the Ugly - Hikes, Walks and Rambles

t risk of this page turning into a certain talentless, witless, soulless, click-baiting shambles, mentioning no names,. Here is another list of places to go to and things to do in those places whilst you're there. Although there are many a campfire story that will be heard told of scenic, truly awesome walks around the world there are a fair few on our doorstep right here in the UK!

The Pennine Way: 268 miles.

As this is this the closest walk round my way, and I attempted a 50 mile stretch from near Stockport to Sheffield this summer I now feel wholly entitled to refer to anyone who didn't walk to Bangor and is from anywhere south of Manchester as a soft southern pansy (we ironically gave up at Hope and now I must deride everyone until the shame fades). Anyway the Pennine Way is a 268-mile National Trail along the rugged, mountainous, backbone of England, from Edale in Derbyshire's Peak District, through the Yorkshire Dales to Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish Borders. As well as the eye-boggling mix of scenery and terrain, trail walkers also pass through numerous places of cultural significance, like Haworth village (home of the Brontë Sisters), the cradle of the Industrial Revolution in the Southern Pennines, and the spectacular Hadrian's Wall. Not to mention, the highest inn in the British Isles, Tan Hill Inn – the perfect spot for a hard earned, refreshing pint.

Coast-to-Coast: 192 miles.

One of the UK's most popular rambling adventures, the coast-to-coast walk is a 192-mile long-distance (unofficial) walking route in Northern

England. The brainchild of writer and keen hiker Alfred Wainwright, it passes through some of the UK's most scenic landscapes and varied terrain of not one, but three national parks. Starting at St Bees on the coast of the Irish sea, the route takes you over the craggy mountains of the Lake District, through the rolling Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors, ending up at Robin Hood's Bay on the North Sea coast.

South-West Coast Path: 630 miles.

If you like your walks with sweeping coastal views and salty sea air, then the South West Coast Path is for you. At a whopping 630 miles, this is the longest National Trail in the UK but is anything but ugly as this route takes the walker through 2 world heritage sites including the Jurassic Coast and the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape. It started out as a trail for coastguards, who patrolled the south west peninsula looking out for smugglers (how very 'Poldark'). Starting at Minehead in Somerset, it runs along the coastline of Exmoor, continuing along the coast of North Devon into Cornwall where it follows the entire Cornish coastline. The route then takes you across the mouth of the River Tamar and along the south coast of Devon, before ending at Poole Harbour.

West Highland Way: 96 miles. Scotland's first long distance trail,

the West Highland Way runs from Milngavie on the outskirts of Glasgow, through some of the most spectacular scenery in Scotland – past the shores of Loch Lomond and through the rugged landscapes of the majestic Highlands and the desolate Rannoch Moor – all the way to the foot of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, at Fort William. High road or Low road, you'll definitely get to Scotland before me, but I reckon I'll have the last laugh with these amazing views of the natural Caledonian landscape. And finally some Welsh ones for all of those now local to Bangor, so there's no excuse!

Glyndŵr's Way: 135 miles.

Located in Mid Wales, most walkers haven't caught on to Glyndŵr's Way a 135-mile route through Mid Wales – and that's just one reason to go. The farmland, hills and moors between Knighton, Machynlleth and Welshpool feel more remote, the views across Cadair Idris and Plynlimon more exhilarating.

Wales Coast Path: 870 miles. (Unofficially). In 2012 the world's first uninterrupted

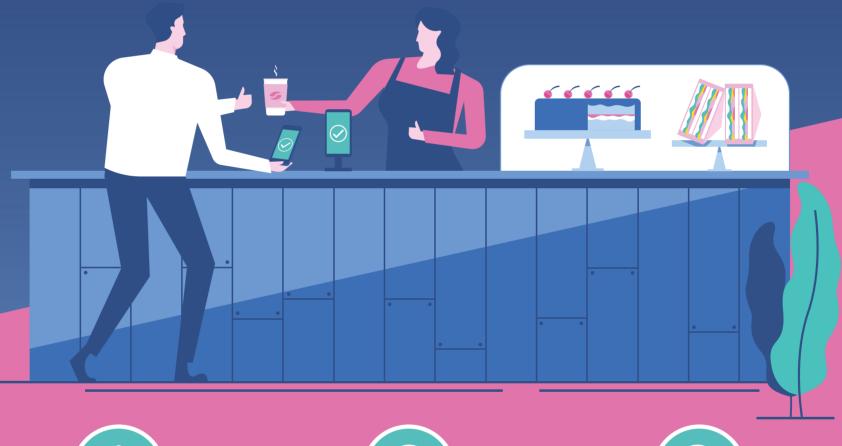
route along a national coast was created. Don't be put off by the length of the path, any section of path can and should be attempted. Averaging around 10-15 miles walk per day breaks even the longest walks down and makes the seemingly impossible; possible. The Wales Coast Path covers all the famous bits on its 870-mile odyssey: Gower, Pembrokeshire, the Cambrian Coast. There are numberless beaches, estuaries, cliff-tops and woodlands. City waterfronts, castles and the occasional industrial site among the nature reserves but that's part of Wales; part of the voyage of discovery. Just be careful of the shuffling troglodytes in and around Aberystwyth!





Lawr lwythwch Yoyo heddiw i gasglu pwyntiau teyrngarwch a gwobrau ar draws lleoliadau bwyd a diod prifysgol Bangor

Download Yoyo today to start earning **loyalty & rewards** across Bangor University's food & drink outlets





Lawrlwytho ap Yoyo

Download the free

yoyo app



Creu cyfrif Create an account



3

Talu, casglu pwyntiau teyrngarwch a gwobrau

Pay, collect loyalty & rewards

Cael yr **ap am ddim** yn awr Get the **free app** now





SciFi Wales Returns







by **CHARLIE WILSON**

Tenue Cymru opened its doors to hundreds of Sci-Fi lovers this weekend for the third annual SciFi Wales Convention, run by UK Conventions Ltd. On Saturday 2nd September, the convention ran all day, offering guest speakers, panels, autographs, photo ops and dozens of traders to any and all fans who wanted to attend.

This year the convention was big-

ger and better than ever before. With guests ranging from Doctor Who stars Sophie Aldred, Gareth David-Lloyd and Rosie Jane to Star Wars actors John Simpkin, Gloria Garcia and Tina Simmons, convention attendees were able to gain an understanding of what being part of a blockbuster Sci-Fi production was all about. And it wasn't all actors either: Viz Comic co-founder Simon Donald was in attendance, as well as illustrator Jeff Cummins, and the cast and crew of Whovians and Dead Air offered a unique perspective

on creating indie projects.

While the all-star cast was certainly a draw for convention goers, SciFi Wales had more to offer. One of the largest draws of the con were the traders, ranging from local craft-shop owner Ann Warren to Frisson Comics, an indie horror publisher based in Liverpool. Many traders were in there first year at the con, but Graham Jones, Commanding Officer of The Dragon Order (a non-profit cosplay club) has been attending SciFi Wales since its conception. When asked about how

it has changed, Jones was positive: "[There are] more and more people coming through the door," he said, commenting on how much bigger the convention had gotten since its prior year.

Speaking of cosplay, it was one of the highlights of the event. With the cosplay competition offering an adult prize of £100 (and a separate children's event), many attendees took the opportunity to dress to impress. Con goers were also entertained by several, well-choreographed wrestling matches throughout the day; a strange and amusing diversion for many.

Ultimately, it's important to remember that the convention was for a good cause, too. This year, SciFi Wales's official charity was the RSPB, and their stall got a lot of interest from attendees. The day was great fun for Sci-Fi lovers, and offered a chance for local businesses to gain exposure. SciFi Wales is expected to return next year to Llandudno.

Theatre Review: Angels in America

by **STEPHEN FARR**

n first glances, 'Angels in America' seems like it would be difficult to sit through. A gritty eight-hour marathon of a play set in 1980's New York at the height of the AIDS crisis during the Raegan era of politics doesn't sound like it would be an enjoyable affair, but appearances can be deceptive. Presented in two individual parts, the play is led by theatre veteran Nathan Lane, Spiderman star Andrew Garfield, and British actor Russell Tovey. Tickets for the National Theatre staged production were immediately snapped up when they went on sale back in April.

There are two questions to consider having watched the full production. Firstly, is the extreme length justified? Secondly, is the play, which was written in the early 1990's, still relevant today? The answer to the former is a resounding yes, the answer to the latter deserves more consideration however.

Whilst the AIDS crisis is a thing of the past, 'Angels in America' offers an engaging and relevant commentary on racial issues, which still dominate the US political landscape as shown by the recent Virginia protests. Few critics have compared the issues faced by LGBT characters in 'Angels in America' to what is faced by the gay community today in either the USA and the UK; May's government is socially conservative in name only and Reagan's administration has no comparison to that of Trump's in terms of hard-line approach to LGBT issues.

Russell Tovey and Nathan Lane both shine in their roles as Joe Pitt and Roy Cohn respectively, whilst relative unknown Nathan Stewart-Jarrett excels in the role of Belize. Andrew Garfield is without doubt the weakest link, playing 'stereotypically gay' character Prior Walter; a character-type that has been bested in recent years. An actor with more refinement could have added a degree of vulnerability to Walter, but this is

not the case with Garfield's masterclass in overacting. He does grow into the role during Part Two though, but not before he has made Walter completely detestable. Scottish actor James McArdle carries off Louis well, portraying him as likeable at times, and obnoxious and repugnant at others.

British actress Denise Gough is a revelation as Harper Pitt though, expertly playing an incredibly complex character and exploring themes of gender, religion and mental health. The latter of which is especially relevant to the present day. A Mormon, Harper struggles to come to terms with her husband Joe's (Russell Tovey) homosexuality and medicates herself to escape into fantasy worlds. Isolated from society, she laments "People who are lonely, people left alone, sit talking nonsense to the air". Gough shares most of her scenes with Tovey, and the chemistry between the two is palpable. Both give desperately heart-breaking performances as they bring two tragic

characters to life.

Nathan Lane is also incredible as Roy Cohn, based on the real-life mentor to Donald Trump. He switches from drama to tragedy to comedy with ease, and even manages to convey a sense of vulnerability from an otherwise despicable character.

The staging was intended to incorporate cinematic values to further engage the audience, so says Marianne Elliott, the Director of the production. And the staging of the play is indeed something is to marvelled at. Revolving elements of the stage multiple layered stage, coupled with pyrotechnics create this fantastically cinematic feeling. The costume department should also be applauded for their contribution in creating countless outfits that span a 900 year period with an amazing attention to detail.

There is no doubt that part one of the 'Angels in America', subtitled 'Millennium Approaches' is stronger

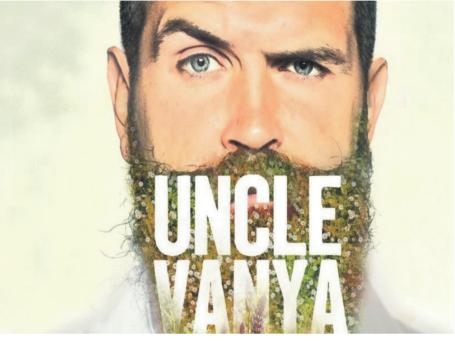
than the second. A wonderfully crafted script weaves the lives of different characters together and creates bursts of individual stories. The second part, 'Perestroika' favours style over substance with dream sequences and special effects which does nothing to enhance the performance. Indeed, the second part could easily be halved in length without inhibiting the plot.

Overall though, 'Angels in America' is an engaging and insightful eight hours, expertly discussing issues of sexuality, race, gender and religion. Whilst the first part is superior to the second, the quality remains top-notch. The play is only let down by a weak conclusion and a weak actor, Andrew Garfield, in such a prominent role. Despite this, the quality of the rest of the cast and the exemplary staging elevates the production to being one envied across the theatrical world with the bittersweet message that "there are no angels in America".

Freshers Issue 2017 | Seren

Interview with Tamara Harvey Artistic Director at Theatr Clwyd





I love being part of a building that truly has the opporunity to be at the heart of the community

by Francesca sciarrillo heatr Clwyd is viewed by many to be at the very heart of the Mold community and welcomes visitors from all over the UK and much further afield. Mold is located an hour and a half away from Bangor; certainly within travelling distance for any student wanting to explore North Wales to the fullest as well as immerse themselves in theatre, arts and culture. Tamara Harvey has been Artistic Director at Theatr Clwyd since 2015 and very kindly chatted with me about her upcoming production of 'Uncle Vanya' by Anton Chekhov (recently adapted by Peter Gill). The show will run from September 21st until October 14th. Here's what she had to say:

How are the rehearsals going for Uncle Vanya?

They're going great! I've worked with Jamie Ballard who is playing Vanya and I've worked with Martin Turner before who is playing the professor. There are others that I haven't worked with and that combination is always really fun because you have a bit of familiarity but you've also got a whole different group of people. One of the joys of being a director is figuring out what makes people tick and how they like to work. In week three we are really starting to dig into it; people really know their lines and so you can really explore what's behind the words.

What is it that drew you towards Vanya?

It is a play that I've always loved. I saw a production of it and that production was one of the things that made me fall in love with theatre. When you see a production that's really extraordinary it almost puts you off directing it for a while because it feels as though you couldn't possibly do it justice. When I arrived at Clwyd I was talking with Peter Gill about an adaptation and he has adapted a number of Russian plays but not Vanya and Vanya has not been on at Clwyd since 1994, so it was perfect

combination of things that made me think'l could do that!'.

The production is said to be 'a new version by Peter Gill'. In your opinion, what makes it 'new'?

We started with a literal translation which ends up being gobbledegook. Russian in particular is such a different language. You need a writer to take that gobbledegook and turn it into something that sounds like the way people speak. You need someone to understand the relationships and characters and find equivalents that will make sense to us of the metaphors or jokes they use. Peter's version is true to the original; we are very definitely in Russia at the turn of the century but there is a freshness to it and a humanity to it.

Will the production be a modern take on the original drama or will it take a more historical approach?

We are setting it in period but what is so wonderful about this company is that they don't feel bound by that. Their playfulness with each other and their emotions and desires all feel as immediate as if they were dressed in leans and a tshirt.

Would you describe 'Uncle Vanya' to be an example of a Chekhov

play that is ahead of its time?

Absolutely. The great playwrights portray human emotion and human experience in a way that is so honest that you are astonished when watching that nothing has changed in hundreds of years. There are a couple of speeches where Astrov (the doctor) talks about the way that humans are destroying the earth and you think 'wow Chekhov was writing this a hundred years ago and we are still screwing up the planet!'.

What have you enjoyed most about becoming part of Theatr Clwyd's legacy? I have been incredibly fortunate

with my casts; it feels like we are all in it together. I love being a part of a building that truly has the opportunity to be at the heart of the community. That's something you don't necessarily get in other places. The other thing that makes me feel so privileged is the skills that we have. Everyone is intensely passionate about what they do and really committed to making the most beautiful thing they can. That loyalty, pride and dedication is genuinely unsurpassed. That's the stuff that makes me wake up in the morning and want to pinch

myself

Do you have any words of wisdom for students at Bangor University pursuing a career within the arts?

Read everything, see everything and think outside of the box in terms of what you see. All of the arts are helpful if you want to get into the arts. The really important thing is to keep reminding yourself that it is not a race; give yourself time to figure out who you are and what you want to do and the kind of artist you want to be. It isn't a race!

Read
everything,
see
everything
and think
outside of
the box

Pontio: A haven for Arts and Culture

by CHLOE HEATH

Pontio is not only a way of getting from lower to upper Bangor without crawling up that hill (fresher's, you have no idea how lucky you are that Pontio is open with a LIFT). With the obvious benefit of avoiding a cardiac arrest, we are so privileged to be able to absorb ourselves in all the theatre and culture that we could wish for, within crawling distance from our halls and houses. So, what is 'Pontio', I hear you ask? Pontio; meaning ' to bridge' is ar-

guably a way of bridging the gap between the local and student community, allowing us to appreciate art and theatre, side by side. With a theatre showing circus shows, Welsh plays, comedians, and some fantastic shows from independent theatre companies, it allows us to appreciate all the talent that the local area offers us. Recently, our talented student groups have also been given the exciting opportunity to perform their own productions in a professional theatre setting, allowing them to gain a wider audience (and showing

just how amazing we all are). As well as this, we are also blessed with a cinema that shows LIVE SCREENINGS of National Theatre productions...we no longer need to travel the distance to Llandudno to see shows that are world renowned. To make it even more exciting, Pontio offers these tickets at a price that won't injure our little student pockets.

The great value for money is also contributing to the local community. The money we save on tickets also means we can certainly justify spending our savings in the bar, café or restaurant... a theatre trip would not be complete without a cocktail and a lovely bit of grub beforehand. With cocktails less than a fiver, it really would be an offer that we cannot refuse.

With Pontio, we are placing ourselves on the world stage to be able to experience some of the finest arts and culture, now for the little Welsh city, this is a big deal.

To keep up to date with the latest events at Pontio, stick with Seren and check out the Pontio website. Enjoy!



MUSIC

Fulfilling Festivals?

by LIZZY DILLON

As usual, this summer was cram packed with festivals all over the country that catered to every music taste imaginable. But with some particularly impressive line ups being announced week after week throughout the spring, did the festivals live up the high expectations that their audiences undoubtedly had? With a set list of over an hour and a half, headliner Eminem blew Reading and Leeds Festival away with two outstanding performances that were a feast for both the eyes and the ears. His stage was illuminated with industrial images that perfectly accompanied his classic songs and remixes of well known tracks that everyone could sing along to. Also, his stage presence was, as always, overwhelming, despite him being on

it alone. As if the festival hadn't done enough, crowds were even blown away by a surprise appearance from The Queens Of Stone Age, that meant the festival not only met, but exceeded any expectations it had upon it. Another festival that did not disappoint was Parklife. Every year, this summer event seems to attract more people from all corners of the country. But with fantastic headliners like The 1975, this is unsurprising. After a fantastic performance, the Mancunian band closed the first day of the festival with a tribute to the Manchester Arena terror attack where they encouraged the audience to make as much noise as possible, rather than the traditional moment of silence. This surprisingly moving moment of the weekend will have undoubtedly made the festival one that the predominantly northern

audience will never forget and that they will hold fondly in their hearts forever. However, the festival on everyone's lips this summer was, as expected, Glastonbury. Ed Sheeran took the country by storm as the nation watched him close the festival live and on their TVs, accompanied by only his guitar. He demolished the divide between the audience and himself by encouraging them to sing along as loudly as they could, an offer that they took up happily. The 80,000 camera phone lights that swaved before him as he sung 'The A Team' also made his performance even more magical than it already was. It is safe to say that Ed Sheeran's performance has made him even more popular than he already was (if such a thing is possible), and that it alone made the festival well worth

Thanks For The Memories

This summer's release of Disney's live action Beauty and the Beast on DVD sent me hurtling back to my childhood. It was by far my favourite Disney animation as a child, but I was still shocked when the hand of Walt himself reached into the far corners of my mind and retrieved most of the lyrics to every song. The film got me well and truly in the Disney mood. So after digging out all my

old Disney films, I started watching through them. Memories of my primary school days came flooding back to me during every song. Every time I watched the Lion King I would run wildly round my house in search for my ginger cat as the 'Circle Of Life' filled my living room. Once I'd found him, I would hold him above my head by his neck and bottom until the song had finished, despite

his vicious attempts to escape. I remembered clutching my Ken doll, Eric, to my chest as I watched The Jungle Book with my dad. We sang along with Baloo and the monkeys every Saturday. The songs brought back memories that I could not believe I had forgotten and I cannot wait to see what else I remember as I continue to re watch my collection.



No One Expects The Spanish

bv ALEX CURNOW

The UK Charts have never quite integrated other languages. The last known top ten foreign song was the Macarena in 1996 (and we all know what a hit that was). Yet, this summer has seen a rise in Spanish in our charts and our shopping carts. Justin Bieber took the world by storm when he teamed up with Luis Fonza and Daddy Yankee, both formidable artists in Puerto Rico, to remix Despacito for the charts. The Canadian superstar begins the song in almost perfect Spanish, and ultimately led the song to the top of our charts. It sat at the top of the Billboard 100 chart for sixteen weeks, only recently being put into second place by Taylor Swift. This is a huge accomplishment for any song on the Billboard charts, and only shows how loved the Spanish tune really is. The song then seemed to start a trend as, just a few weeks later, J Balvin and Willy William's song 'Mi Gente' was released. The Spanish track soared to number five on the UK Singles Chart, where it has stayed, unmoved for weeks. This is a dramatic change for the usually 'strictly English' British charts. Could the Brits be changing their deep rooted ways, or is this yet another example of Bieber's magic touch? Either way, it signals a very exciting change for the UK Singles Chart that will hopefully lead to a new wave of songs filling our clubs and internet histories in the years to

The Albums That We Were Waiting For

by **ADAM PARRY**



Lorde - Melodrama

ow this was a summer release that did not release that did not disappoint. Lorde stuck to her roots and produced another work of art that definitely lives up to its grand title. The chart topper 'Green Light' will undoubtedly be soon followed by the catchy and uplifting 'Supercut'. However the slower and more dramatic songs 'Writer In The Dark' and 'Hard Feelings/ Loveless' are perfect for Lorde's famous interpretive dances. Also, the shorter songs 'Liability (Reprise)' and 'Sober II (Melodrama)' show that the tracks of the album are linked, making her second album a sensational and dramatic feast for the ears.



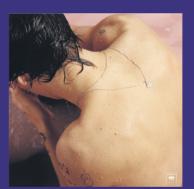
EverythingEverything - A Fever Dream

omewhat less of a shock than their last album Get To Heaven, A Fever Dream is a comfortable album that can surely do nothing but please an Everything Everything fan. A mixture of upbeat, party perfect songs such as 'Can't Do' and 'Desire', and mellow, relaxing ballads like 'A Fever Dream' make this album an Everything Everything classic. However 'Run The Numbers' is a fascinating track that is reminiscent of their 2015 single 'Distant Past'. Its unusual sound perhaps marks an exciting yet subtle change in the band's sound that we will see in albums to come.



Alt-J - Relaxer

ith perhaps the most disappointing album of the summer, Alt-J have once again shown that they cannot live up to their outstanding debut album An Awesome Wave Although an average album overall, Relaxer fails to provide the bands edgy yet relaxing sound that all their fans crave. Even the album's leading singles 'In Cold Blood' and are forgettable. It sadly seems that the exciting days of 'Left Hand Free' and 'Breezeblocks' are quickly fading away. Without a desperately needed come back from Alt-J in the next few years, this could certainly be the beginning of the end for a once promising band.



Harry Styles - Harry Styles

fter a long awaited and rather surprising first single from the One Direction heart throb, Harry Styles finally released a self titled album that his fans had been craving. An obvious step away from his boy band roots, Harry Styles is a relaxing album with a 1970s rock feel. The soothing, opening track 'Meet Me In The Hallway' is reminiscent of 'Sign Of The Times', whereas 'Kiwi' and 'Only Angel' are heavier songs that express Styles' attempts to reinvent himself. I doubt that this exciting album will be beaten by his former band mates and certainly points towards an exciting future for the ex-pop star.



Kesha - Rainbow

esha is back with her new, fresh album 'Rainbow'. Gone are the days of party driven tunes about drugs, alcohol and sex. Instead, 'Rainbow' is an emotionally driven album that comments on freedom and selfconfidence, probably because of the recent struggles and obstacles she has faced. The mixture of slow paced and upbeat songs creates an impressive album and an enjoyable atmosphere. Tracks such as 'Woman' and 'Bastards' project female empowerment, and the tracks 'Hunt You Down' and 'Spaceship' both include elements country, which is a great addition to her pop persona.











How Did It Get So Misunderstood?

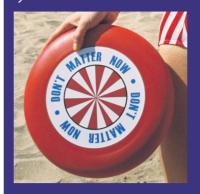
by LIZZY DILLON

Probably the most underrated album of the summer, Royal Blood's How Did We Get So Dark has received a huge amount of negative criticism from music critics all over the country. However after reading several reviews that called the album 'boring' and 'a step down from their previous album', I was shocked when I listened to the album and formed my own, contrasting opinions. The opening title track had me instantly hooked as I was thrown into the classic Royal Blood sound that I had hoped to hear. The album's singles 'Lights Out' and 'I Only Lie When I Love You' are certainly not the album's only noteworthy tracks, as many critics claimed. In fact I believe that every track is of the standard to be released as an individual single, and, if such a thing were possible, I'm sure they would be. With each song being as heavy and exciting as the last, the duo's repetition in their concluding song 'Sleep' that they 'don't want to sleep' seems highly appropriate and definitely leaves their listeners wanting more. After having such a positive reaction, I had to question why such an exciting release had faced such professional negativity. After listening again to their debut album Royal Blood, the

only conclusion I came to was that How Did We Get So Dark simply does not have the initial impact that Royal Blood had. When the band were first heard on the radio, the sound of just their drums and bass guitar was completely original and extremely exciting; they soon released an album that had a higher standard than anyone imagined. Therefore, such critical and public excitement would surely be impossible to replicate with a second album that 'only' matched the standard of their unbeatable debut album. It therefore seems incredibly unfair that such a talented duo have received such criticism for once again proving that ground breaking, heavy rock music does not require an electric guitar; something that I feel is worthy of a five star rating itself. I also have to wonder whether Royal Blood's critics were hoping for a disappointing, second album and found fault where it wasn't. When you consider that How Did We Get So Dark reached Number 1 in the UK Albums Chart and prompted their first, sold out, world arena tour, it certainly seems that I am not alone in my opinions. and that the critics are in fact in a minority.

Guess Who's Back?

bv LIZZY DILLON



George Ezra - Don't Matter Now



Taylor Swift - Look What You Made Me Do



The Script - Rain

eorge Ezra claims that he wrote this highly anticipated summer single soon after the release of his debut album Wanted On Voyage. However this seems hard to believe after listening to the monotonous track. Although reasonably catchy, this disappointing song certainly does not reach the standard that Ezra set with his 2013 chart topper 'Budapest' as its repetitive melody means the impressive vocal range that we expected from Ezra is not present. This unexciting song unsurprisingly only reached number 66 in the UK Singles Chart, and sets a worrying tone for his upcoming album.

his unbelievable summer release will undoubtedly have heads turning for a long while, as listeners hear that yet another pop princess has 'turned bad'. In a Miley Cyrus like transformation, Taylor Swift has ditched her passive aggressive, light hearted sound for a heavier, club perfect beat, and savage lyrics that leave no room for questioning her usual hurt and aggression. After reaching number one in the UK Singles Chart just days after its release, I have no doubt that this transformation was a fantastic move for the young artist, and that the single will be the song of Fresher's Week, if not the entire first, academic term.

Ithough I feel that this A summer perfect single was released at the wrong end of the season, The Script have returned with a club perfect song that is an unrecognisable step away from their 'Man Who Can't Be Moved' days. It's incredibly catchy chorus fits in perfectly with the current chart topping songs of today, however it is sandwiched between Danny O'Donoghue's famous wrapping that we all know and love. This single signals a nice change for The Script, and is a crowd pleaser that will certainly be heard all over the country for the next few weeks.













Elis James: Yn Llygaid y Byd

Theatr Bryn Terfel Nos Wener 23 Medi. 8pm £12/£10 i fyfyrwyr a gostyngiadau

Friday 23 September, 8pm £12/£10 for students and concession



Comedy Central Live

Andrew Stanley (MC) Eshaan Akbar **Rob Rouse**

Nos Fawrth 26 Medi, 8pm £10/£8 i fyfyrwyr a gostyngiadau

Tuesday 26 September, 8pm £10/£8 for students and conce





Phil Jupitus: Juplicity

Theatr Bryn Terfel Nos Fercher 11 Hydref, 8pm

Wednesday 11 October, 8pm



The Mountaintop

Stiwdio Nos Fawrth 24 Hydref, 7.30pm £12/£10 i fyfyrwyr a gostyngiadau

Studio

Tuesday 24 October, 7.30pm £12/£10 for students





01248 38 28 28 www.pontio.co.uk













REVIEW: Green Man Festival

SEREN ★★★★★

by FINNIAN SHARDLOW

Potent flusters of emotion are engrained in almost all of my Green Man memories. This year, the most notable moment wasn't something being said. It wasn't even a song being sung. It was the willowy glint in Julie Byrne's eye as she gracefully sat and showered in the adoration of an ever responsive Green Man crowd. No bravado. No disconnect between artist and audience. Just a collective mutual pleasure in creativity. That, for me, is the personification of Green Man Festival.

The organisers could probably book MC Hammer to headline all four nights and still attract a 20,000 strong horde of enthusiastic, gold jumpsuit donning music-lovers to Glanusk Park. It was another sell-out for Green Man's 15th birthday bash. And whilst line-ups may interchange, their ticket sales don't budge.

Fundamentally, it's stellar acts that sell tickets. However, what compels Green Man's devoted following to consistently return is far more profound: It's the aversion to most festivals' garish emphasis on moneymaking; it's the barebones, unbranded approach to almost all facilities; it's the overwhelming sense of comradery which binds our disparities and allows us to relish live music as one festival. These are the heartfelt pillars of Green Man. And when imbued with the spellbinding landscape of the Brecon Breacons, it's no surprise that many people dubbed 'settlers' - opt to pitch up early and stay onsite for a week.

"I wondered what kind of crowd would turn up at Green Man on a Thursday," Anna Meredith ironically quips to the Far Out tent, evidently astounded at the brimming crowd that came to watch her perform so early in the festival. It's yet another instance where the Green Man festival goer – and their unrelenting passion for music – is typified.

I heaped praise on the booking

policy last year; it's always safe to assume that you can rely on the quality of the acts to hold up the festival alone.

On Thursday, legendary shoegazers Ride enlivened their characteristic wall of sound, seizing the audience in a hypnotic wave of absorbent guitars and lush harmonies. Ride were a gentle drift into a more animated Friday, which pounced with vivacity instantly. W.H. Lung dissipated any morning lethargy with their popping and grooving post-punk sound. Later on, Angel Olsen's raw and scatty rock 'n' roll jive aptly preceded a predictably hyperactive headline performance from the modern masters of synth-pop: Future Islands.

On Saturday, the Walled Garden was densely packed with talent such as delicate folk singer-songwriter Charlie Cunningham and the vulnerable but thunderous indierock sound of Big Thief.

Saturday's headliner lacked in audience interaction. Nestled behind Ryan Adams' thick, dark fringe is a face somewhere. Adams may be quiet and discreet, but he's also composed. He let the music talk for him, unleashing a barrage of hammering arena rock anthems.

Sunday had no intentions of pulling any punches, with political punk rockers Shame instilling a frenzied pit of sweaty head banging in the Far Out tent. In the same venue, Sleaford Mods engaged crowds with their trademark, no-nonsense coalition of barked lyrics and rough drum samples.

Whilst PJ Harvey drew large crowds at the Mountain Stage for Green Man's final birthday hurrah, a real coup were Australian outfit Methyl Ethyl, who sleekly mould together surf-rock and psychadelic pop.

Then all that remains is to watch the ceremonious burning of the Green Man. One final communal farewell, submerged in the twinkling embers of another mesmerising festival.













REVIEW: Festival No. 6





SEREN



by FINNIAN SHARDLOW









arshot of the phrase: "Well, at least it's not raining" could be heard speckled the festival site as murky clouds frosted over what was to be the final few slithers of blue sky on Friday afternoon. It was almost out of raw hope as opposed to any element of certainty. It's understandable, Festival No. 6 has been battered by adverse weather conditions before; a reiteration of last years flooding is surely unwelcome amongst its regular attendees. Predictably, the forecasted four day tirade of downpour hadn't been thwarted by a poetic last gasp summer revival, it merely arrived 24 hours late. The bittersweet vista of deluge glistening through stage lighting was made doubly agonising following a glorious flurry of sunshine on Thursday. Carrot on a stick comes to

I'm not haranguing Festival No. 6 for the uncontrollable force that is British weather – when we're not enduring it, we're endlessly tiring over its every advance. And, in all fairness, No. 6 staff were on hand to aid those whose tents had propelled – albeit in a Mary Poppins fashion – into the gloomy abyss when gale force winds fumed in the unconventional setting of Portmeirion.

The word festival evokes scenes of muddy fields and brimming campsites. No. 6 have that. What other festivals don't have is a kaleidoscopic, and, often dazing Italian village which looks like the abstraction of an unhinged caricaturist. Aesthetically, Festival No. 6 is unquestionably unique.

An Indian brass band playing jovially in front of worn, coliseum-like pillars. Festival goers prancing in a grand crystal blue fountain. Oh, and palm trees. Yes, palm trees. In Wales. Words simply don't do it justice. The place is riddled with an incongruous eccentricity. It's nothing short of a tourist hotspot in its own right.

However, this allows for a peculiar fragmentation.

There was almost a dual purpose for attending Festival No. 6. For some it was a music festival; for some a glorified camping holiday. Music didn't feel like the resounding pulse of the festival like it is for most. It was just there if you wanted it along with comedy, cabaret, culture talks, carnivals and masterclasses. Not to mention the more luxurious, upmarket activities like paddle boarding, wood fired hot tubs and Michelin star dinners at the Hotel Portmeirion. As a result, turnout for a large proportion of artists - with the exception of headliners - was relatively muted. A dispiriting state which left the atmosphere somewhat disjointed.

Regardless, this didn't hinder the quality of any performances. And despite not receiving a warranted attendance, there was a wealth of musical excellence scattered throughout the line-up.

Opening The Grand Pavilion stage on Friday, Klangstof would have been many people's first live act of the festival. A stigmatic slot which the Dutch four-piece scorched with zipping indie-rock melodies and guitar wrenching solos, quelling any expectation of mediocrity. Charlotte Church provided an unashamed pop injection. It was hit after hit as the Welsh singer-songwriter reimagined a generation of momentous singalong tracks in a zany, soulful fashion. Wild Beasts' honeyed, silky synthscape seamlessly soared into Bloc Party's raucous, jangly rock explosion. However, show stealers were without doubt The Flaming Lips. With dancing eyes, an inflatable rainbow and singer Wayne Coyne serenading the audience from the saddle of a giant LED-decorated unicorn, the infamous acid-infused psych-rockers imparted Festival No. 6 with a much craved essence of personality.

CAN A PIECE OF FASHION IGNITE AN EMOTION?

es. That is the answer to the question in my opinion. I'm not sure that I would have been able to answer that question with such assured confidence if not for an experience that happened this September. This is a little story that happened to me whilst we were all away for the summer holidays.

My mother, brother and I visited the Warner Brothers Harry Potter studios in London, Watford and we were beyond excited. I knew it would be brilliant. However, I hadn't anticipated the incredible impact that seeing all of these real life props and sets would have on me. The things that really struck me were the costumes. These costumes that were right in

front of my eyes had all been worn by the much beloved actors for these films that were, and still are world famous.

I looked around in awe at the costumes that had become so iconic. My little brother dragged me in a hurry to the potion room. It was there that it struck me. Standing in the middle of the room was a mannequin dressed in the costume of Severus Snape, the professor played by actor Alan Rickman. Now, unless you've been living under a rock this past year and a half, you will know that Alan Rickman tragically passed away last year. Snape was arguably Rickman's most famous and beloved character in his career and his death

shook the nation.

I was sad, don't get me wrong. I was upset when I heard that a national treasure had died. I didn't cry though. I also didn't feel as effected as the diehard (no pun intended) Harry Potter fans. However, as I was faced with the long, black jacket, fastened with buttons and a high collar, with the Hogwarts robe shrugged over the top of it, I was rocked with an overwhelming sense of grief. I hadn't realised how much an item of clothing; a piece of fashion, could bring on such a strong wave of emotion. I felt the devastation hit me all at once. All from the simple, black pieces that are seen so often and have become so iconic. I felt heartbroken for the

loss of the man that had worn these pieces and cemented their place in history.

Had I asked the question, 'can a piece of fashion ignite an emotion?' before I went to the studios, I wouldn't have been positive. However, I can safely assure you that a piece of fashion can make you feel. It doesn't have to be a famous piece. It can be a piece from your childhood that makes you feel nostalgic, or a piece that you have bought for the future that makes you feel excited.

Next time you are rummaging through your draws or a wardrobe, ask yourself; do you feel anything? Or is it just a piece of fabric?



Fashion Trends to Follow this Autumn

Ladies

Tights: Tights appear to be a fore-front fashion accessory this coming season. They are usually just an after-thought if you are wearing a skirt or a dress and your legs feel a little cold, or let's be honest here girls, if you forgot to shave your legs the night before and need a quick cover up. However, tights this season seems to be one of the main features of the outfit, whether it be those high school look alikes or ones with a fancy pattern; tights are going to be in for this coming season.

Slogans Tee's: Let's be honest, do these ever really go out of fashion? Whether you are popping into Primark or New Look, you will always be able to find at least half a dozen T-shirts with an inspirational quote on them. However, it seems that Autumn 2017 will be taking this fashion trend to the max. It's always popular, so why not?

Huge bags: This summer it seems if you wanted a bag big enough to fit more than your purse in it, you were out of luck. It seemed it was tiny bag season, which is fine because everyone loves hands free, especially in the clubs. However, big bag lovers, it would seem your luck is about to change. Big bags seem to be all the rage, the bigger the better it would seem. So if you're a big bag fan, pop out and have a look around, they seem to be back in.



Gents:

Grey suits: Grey is the new black. At least, in terms of suits this Autumn. Grey is the go to colour for suits this season, which is great. Black is always usually the go to colour but why not mix it up a little this season? It's a light enough colour which doesn't seem too cold and corporate, which allows for the suit to look a little more stylish. It's different and just like black, it goes with pretty much any colour.

Roll necks: Otherwise known in the UK as 'turtlenecks'. This is both a stylish and practical outfit choice. Most say about their fashion choices, 'no pain, no gain'. However, this style of top or jumper is very practical and will be able to keep you warm without having to wear a scarf. This is also a look I think looks great on men. It looks smart and casual at the same time. A fun wintery substitute for a shirt.

Silk shirts: The person who comes to mind immediately when thinking of silk shirts, is Bruno Mars. Of course, the pop singer is known to be incredibly fashionable with his clothing choices, so it couldn't hurt to be mimicking him and his fashion choices. This fashion accessory is one that reflects personality I think. They aren't that common and they don't suit everyone, as is the case with a lot of fashion. If they do suit you however, get out and rock it this season, as you will be in trend with the fashion world.





Who Wore it Better?

Tobey Maguire: This is a very young, very baby faced Tobey Maguire when he played the role of Spiderman from 2002 - 2007. To be honest, Maguire looks to be too young for the suit. I know that is ironic considering we have most recently seen Tom Holland play Spiderman in Spiderman homecoming. However, something about Maguire's head and his body seems to be out of sorts here. He was the first Spiderman and that is something that can never be taken away from him. However, being the first often means that the actor is the guinea pig for the costume and a lot of alterations will be made. It can often mean that they are seen to be the worst. The suit is iconic. However, Maguire doesn't look particularly comfortable in the suit which almost makes him look out of place.

Andrew Garfield: The suit looks (although it was specifically designed for Garfield) in comparison to Maguire's one size fits all look. The suit is more flattering in the right areas and hugs the actor's body, giving him a more muscular superhero type look to him. The suit looks to be like a second skin in this adaptation of the suit and it looks to be less obvious to the actor that it is what he is wearing. There appears to be a slight puff to the chest but it is not as dominant as the one Tobey Maguire is wearing.

The suit is much more modern due to the advancements in technology that have become avaible to us. Of course, that happens regular, especially after the hiatus between Maguire and Garfields films.

Winner: Andrew Garfield: Sometimes it is difficult when analysing the fashion of film to separate the character and the clothing that they wear. I have a personal preference of Andrew Garfield over Tobey Maguire as Spiderman. Yes Maguire is a classic but personally I prefer Garfield. Therefore, I have to be careful to make sure that the costume is getting properly analysed and I'm not just using it based on my preferred actor. However, Garfield just looks more natural in the clothing and is wearing the piece just as easy as if it were a hoodie and jeans. Maguire seems to look so much more aware of what he is wearing and therefore, the suit doesn't seem to look as natural to the character.

FRESHERS GUIDE TO BUDGETING IN YOUR FIRST SEMESTER

tarting university is both daunting and exciting! With so many things happening at once, such as freshers, meeting your new flat mates and buying your essentials. I am sure it crosses many a student's mind; how will I afford the lifestyle I want? I know from experience that the first semester can be one of the most expensive. But, with these simple tips to guide you, hopefully you'll be eating more than dry cornflakes for dinner in second semester!

Food Shopping

As exciting as the prospect is that you get to do your own food shop, demonstrating self-control against that Ben and Jerry's or 8 pack of Coke will ensure you start the year right. After shopping for enough food for a family of four, you soon realise that,

actually, you couldn't eat it all before it went out of date. Why not make dinner as a flat to ensure all the excess food gets put to good use? It's also a great way to socialise with your new friends! Being savvy from the start will save you money in the long run and who knows, you might even be the next Gordon Ramsey by the end of the semester.

Want and Need

When starting university with a student loan, it can be easy to fall into that dark hole we call online shopping. Everything is suddenly calling your name and you find yourself impulse buying the same jumper in 3 different colours. Writing a list of what you want and what you need allows you to see what you should be budgeting for and maybe a few

treats here and there.

Entertainment

At start of the semester, you find yourself throwing yourself into as many social situations as you can and, whilst it sounds expensive, it doesn't have to be! Whether you enjoy going out or whether you prefer quieter nights in, both can be inexpensive ways of making the most out of your first few weeks. Whilst Academi can be appealing 5 nights a week, why not have a film night with your flatmates or take part in the pub quiz on a Sunday? Allocating yourself nights to spend that little bit extra or stay on the cheap side will ensure you can do all that you want in the busy first few weeks.



Nightlife Tips for Freshers



Don't wear heels:

They might be the most adorable heels you've ever purchased, but I promise you, you will rue the day you saw them when you attempt to trot down Bitch Hill in them. I've seen many an evening ruined by uncomfortable heels in towns and cities that are flat, so imagine what hell awaits your poor little feet as you stumble down to Academi.

Head down to the club early:

Bangor is tiny, incase you were unaware, and so the choice of clubs is limited. Academi is the university's very own nightclub, and best place for a Freshers' night out; but beware of the queue. There have been queues backing all the way up to Bitch Hill in previous years, and many a fresher has been turned away without a hope of getting inside. My advice would be to get to academi for about 10pm, and hope you get in, or just follow the advice of your Peer Guide; they know best.

Save money for food at the end of the night:

Some might say that the best part of a night out are the cheesy chips on

the walk home. Everyone has their preference, that perfect takeaway food that will stave off tomorrow's hangover. So remembering a couple of quid to buy it with is a must.

Stay with friends:

Despite the fact that it is literally tiny, Bangor will be a brand new place for hundreds of you this September, which means that you won't be completely familiar with it right away. Stick with a group of your flatmates/course mates living in the same area/your peer guide, so you can find your way home safely.

Buy club tickets:

This is a tip you should carry through the whole of your university life: buy tickets for whichever club you're going to. They're usually at a cheaper rate than that which you'd pay on the door, plus it means quicker (or even guaranteed) entry to the club. A definite must on AU night (Wednesday/Academi) and S.O.S (Saturday/Academi)

Expect to wait ages for a drink:

It's freshers, the world and his dog have descended upon Academi and are all gagging for a double vodka red bull. Be wise and buy a couple of drinks every time you get served, otherwise you'll spend the entirety of your time in the club sobering up in the queue for the bar.

Remember that last entry for Academi is 1am:

I can't speak for Peep – sorry, Cube, but the last entry for Academi is 1am. Why, I hear you ask? I have no idea. Sorry

10 Cheap and Cheerful meals

Pasta Bake- An easy dinner that keeps you fed all week. A versatile meal that allows you to add (or not add) any protein or veg of your choice to push it even further. It also works as an effective group meal, so get all your new friends and take a seat!

Stir Fry- Another cheap but quick meal that can be made in just minutes. A simple meal for one or a group! Add as much or as little of meat and crunchy veg, just how you like it.

Fajitas- A firm favourite among many that keeps you full for the busy night ahead! Veggie fajitas are a particularly inexpensive meal and can be made for as little as a pound a serving (adding meat slightly increases this).

Soup- Although it's not the most exciting meal on the list, it sure is almost everyone's comfort food. When the flat is cold or the winter sniffles are making their way through the building, soup will be one of the

things you hope you have in the kitchen. With so many recipes and flavours, it's a tough choice to make! Making a large batch and freezing some ensures that you always have soup when you least expect you'll need it!

Risotto- Not your average student go-to meal, but it is surprisingly easy and cheap to make. By simply adding stock, veg and with or without meat, it makes a tasty and filling meal.

Chilli- This meal can be made with or without meat and as spicy as you like! Items used to make chilli can be easily stored in the cupboard for whenever you fancy. Nothing like a Mexican heatwave to make winter bearable.

Pitta Pizza- Pitta breads come in at around 50p a pack (dependant on what supermarket you shop at) and by simply adding tomato puree, cheese and toppings of your choice, you have a healthy pizza alternative.

Jacket Potato- With an abundance of fillings, a jacket potato doesn't

have to be a last resort meal. Try leftover chilli or cheap cheese and beans.

Spaghetti Bolognaise- Another favourite meal using mince, a versatile meat than can be bought in bulk and separated to create a selection of wholesome meals. Add as much or as little veg to the sauce and it can also be frozen for another time.

Stew- Another winter warmer that allows you to add your choice of meat and veg. Packs of pre-cut veg can be found in most supermarkets and are inexpensive ways to ensure you are using everything up.



How to Make Your Room a Home

Your new room might not be the most attractive nor spacious living space for the year, but there are plenty of ways to enhance what you've got and to put your own stamp on your new digs. A firm favourite among new students is posters and pictures galore. Hang polaroid style pictures on string and pegs to make your room look chic. Posters of your favourite band, programme or game make your room look homelier, but can also be a conversation starter between you and your new flatmates

Light it up! Fairy lights are always a uni room staple and create a chilled and cosy atmosphere. Hang them from walls, around your bed or from shelves for an inexpensive mellow glow when you're up all-night studying.

There's nothing like snuggling up with a hot beverage and catching up on Netflix after a long day at uni. What better way to make it cosier than an abundance of soft furnishings. Nothing says comfortable like a stack of pillows and cushions. Invite your besties round to have a film night and use the pillows to double up as a sofa bed. You'll find shops such as Ikea, Dunelm and Asda filled with a range of colourful yet cosy items to spruce up your new room.

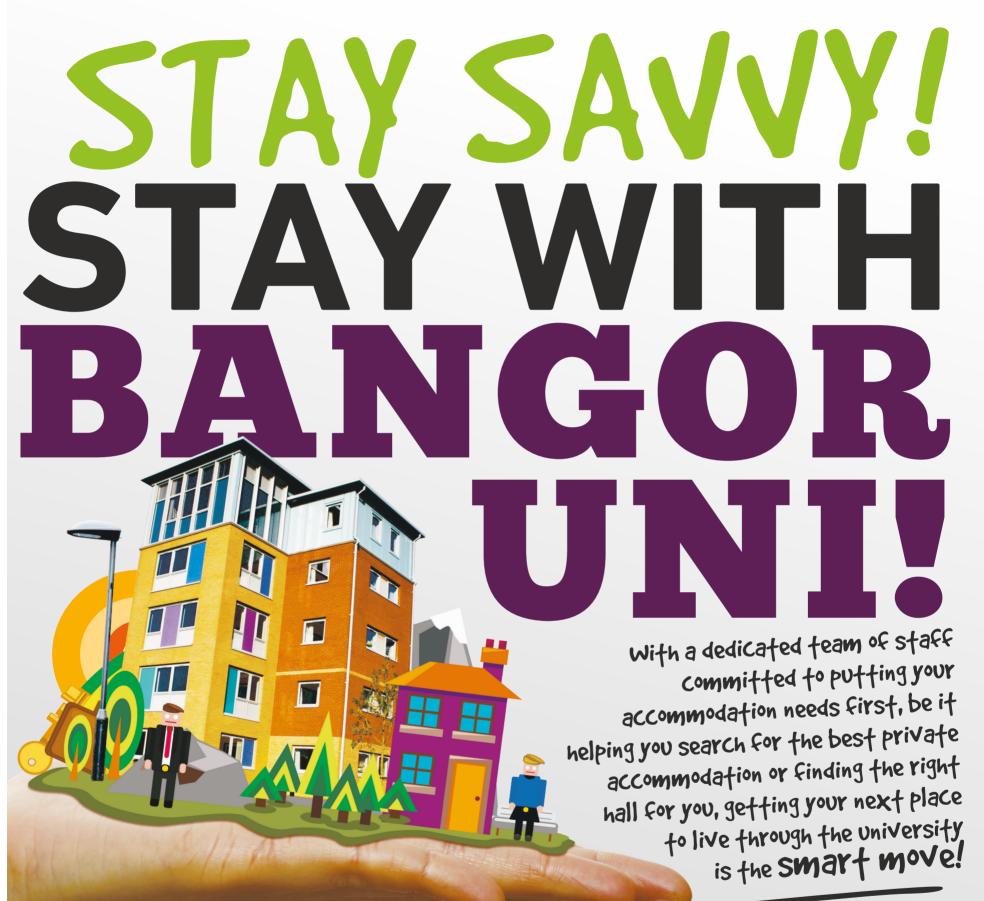






WORKING WITH YOUR STUDENTS'
UNION TO ENSURE YOU HAVE THE
BEST ACCOMMODATION AT BANGOR





STUDENT HOUSING

Impartial advice and support

Extensive choice of properties

All our landlords have committed to

our Conditions

WWW.BANGORSTUDENTPAD.CO.UK

UNIVERSITY HALLS

All-inclusive living – no surprise bills! Live with friends and choose your own rooms

24/7 service and pastoral support

WWW.BANGOR.AC.UK/BOOKAROOM

AILGYLCHWCH RECYCLE yr holl eitemau hyn

all of these items



I ddarganfod rhagor, ewch at: / To find out more, visit: recycleforwales.org.uk/bangor











SERENDIPITY PREVIEW

alumni will agree with my next point), it's well worth joining a couple of societies to widen your social circle and Bangor has no shortage of societies to join. Whether you like mountain walking, Sci-fi, anime, comic books, drinking tea, or even if you fancy joing your favourite student newspaper, there is literally something for everybody. They are all free to join too so what's stopping you? So allow me to take you on a tour of just a few of the societies that Bangor has to offer...



Bangor University Concert Band

Do you play a wind, brass or percussion instrument? Concert Band could be the band for you! We're looking for musicians of all abilities and from all subject areas to join our band. Whether you've played for years, you'd like the chance to play your second/ third instrument or even if you've just picked up an instrument for the first time, we'll be sure to find a place for you. We have spaces in all sections and hope to see as many new faces as possible this year!

If you'd like to give us a try our taster rehearsal is on Sunday 24th September at 4:30pm in Mathias Hall (School of Music) followed by a free buffet! Yes, that's right, free food! If you can't make it to the taster rehearsal but still want to come along, our weekly rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons rom 4.30-6.30pm usually in PJ Hall. We perform in concerts and events

throughout the year, in and around the local area these include our joint Christmas and Spring concerts with Bangor University Brass Band. This year we're also very excited to be competing at the National Concert Band Festival in November.

Don't have an instrument? We have a number of different instruments available to lend out to our members. Drop us a message or an email if you're in-

We'll be at Serendipity in Fresher's Week so if you'd like to know more about our taster rehearsal or the band itself, or to chat to some of our committee members we'd love to see you there!

If you have any questions feel free to drop us a message via email:

concertband@undebbangor.com Or via social media:

@BangorUniConcert-Facebook: Band Twitter: @BUconcertband Snapchat: buconcertband

Bangor LGBT+

The Bangor LGBT+ society is one of importance within the community. Our society has largely grown throughout the years and has devel oped into something great. We have range of events that happen through out the year, with some events run ning on a weekly basis such as a pub quiz and LGBTea. Events can vary and can be chosen by those within the committee. Come find us in serendip ty and we will be happy to tell you all about our society and who we are Throughout fresher's week we will be running events that are open to eve ybody; there will be a movie night with 3 movies chosen by you! Go on the Bangor LGBT+ page where there will be a poll with movies for you to choose from), a quiz and a pub crawl going on during freshers week and we nvite everyone to come along and be come a part of our society.

Bangor History and Arcaeology Society

Bangor's History and Archaeology Society is a diverse and wide ranging society that is open to all students no matter the course of study. Our current members range from Ocean Science students to Forestry.

BUHAS is far more than just an academic society, one of our main activities is Viking and Saxon re-enactment and we train twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 1pm at the stone circle. As part of re-enactment, members have the opportunity to take part in national shows, such as the Jorvik Festival in York with the national groups. Our training officers will teach new members how to fight with spear, axe and sword, as well as how to

fight as part of a shield wall.

Academically the society is closely associated with the school of Welsh History, History, and Archaeology. We host guest lectures from those established in the field and run regular trips to historic sites and a trip to the Jorvik Festival in York.

In previous years the society has even run trips abroad, in 2016 BU-HAS ran a trip to Prague, something we hope to do again this year.

The society has links to Gwynedd Archaeological Trust who offer volunteering opportunities for members and offer them experience as to what it is really like to work in the field of Archaeology.

What does 2017/18 hold? New for this year we have negotiated an agree-

ment with CADW to offer volunteering opportunities for society members and also to use BUHAS reenactors at their events. We hope to run a trip abroad to Budapest at the end of the academic year and to get as many members to the Jorvik Festival as pos-

At the end of the academic year BUHAS will host the Valhalla Tournament in which other re-enactment societies from different universities will battle out to see which is best. It is the first of its kind and we are excited that it is finding its roots at Bangor

Feel free to contact the president Lauren Lewsley for further information hiu680@bangor.ac.uk and find us on Facebook Bangor University History and Archaeology Society.

Bangor Animation Lovers and Watchers

Hello students new and old. We are the Bangor Animation Watchers and Lovers society or BAWLS for short. We are a society that meet up on a Thursday evening to watch animated movies or shows. These will consist of one eastern and one western show each week. The themes of each week is chosen by the societies committee. Then a poll is put up on the society Facebook with some options for both an eastern poll and a western poll. Everyone who is part of the society can vote on the Facebook page and add their own options. This is where most of the student involvement comes into place. The top choice for each poll is shown at the next Thursday viewing. During our welcome week ,which will be the week following serendipity, you can expect a small PowerPoint presentation while we introduce everyone to this year's committee as well as going over the rules for the rooms we use and the actual society before we jump into our first viewing of the year. There is more to our society than just these weekly viewing however, we also have a few social events, whether they be cinema trips for certain releases, pub crawls with fun games to go with them and crossovers with other societies. We also have our staple wales Comicon trip in April which many people look forward to every year. We very much look forward to meeting all those who wish to join our society and hope you all enjoy your fresher's week.



Bangor University String Orchestra

Bangor University String Orchestra is one of the universities freshest ensembles. We play an eclectic selection of the string orchestra repertoire ranging from music from the world of television and film to the finest works of the baroque masters. One of our key philosophies as a society is inclusiveness and we encourage anyone that has ever picked up a violin, viola, cello or double bass to come and give our society a go. We pride the orchestra on its ability to bring the best out of players of any skill level and its atmosphere of support, encouragement and comrad-

ery resulting in, hopefully, an enjoyable experience for all members. Last year's highlights included two fantastic concerts, which were both streamed and published on our facebook page for your viewing pleasure, featuring music by Elgar, Gershwin and Corelli and a second appearance in the annual School of Music Gala concert. This year we are particularly featuring the music of Joe Hisaishi from the Studio Ghibli anime films including Spirited Away, Howl's Moving Castle and Castle in the Sky. We meet every Sunday in Powis Hall or the School of Music at 2pm and are this year being conducted by our past-leader Alice Teulon and our chairperson is Zachary Reading.

Bangor University Jazz Band

We are a student lead society that perform regularly in society events and in local venues in the Bangor area. We welcome all abilities and no experience is necessary!

No audition is necessary, just turn up with your instrument and we will find a place for you everyone is wel-

We have regular social events; these can be anything from film nights to rips out to see local jazz gigs provided oy North Wales Jazz, so keep an eye out for what socials we have planned this year!

In Fresher's Week we are offering a taster session, so if you're interested come along to Serendipity (the Fresh er's Fair for clubs and societies) where you can see what we have to offer, sign up and start making more friends!

We have a weekly rehearsal in the Music Hall every Saturday from 4-6pm and our first taster session is on Saturday 23rd September so we hope to see you there!

We believe jazz music is fun and exciting and we want to use it to bring people together to make fantastic mu

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter! Bangor University Jazz Band

SOCIETIES

HOGSoc

HOGSoc runs a student-led community garden in the heart of Upper Bangor. In 2010 we started transforming a quarter of a hectare of disused University land into a productive, beautiful and biodiverse garden.

The garden features raised beds, perennial beds, cold frames, living willow dome, a selection of welsh heritage fruit trees and our beloved shed. All of which needs our tender loving care and attention in order to flourish!

HOGSoc is open to students each Sunday running work parties 1-4pm. It's a great place to meet new people, learn new skills and relax after a stressful week. We also have many socials including BBQ's, Film nights, Pub trips and fun days out!

To find out more, ask any questions and to keep up-to-date, join our Facebook page:



Bangor Tea Time

Society

"When life gets you down, or

stress consumes your poor world-

weary psyche, there's a place where

you can come for a friendly tea

break - your own Bangor University Tea Time Society. Whether

you're in need of some time away

from the chaos that can be student

life, or just a brief respite from your

hectic day where you can socialise

with a cuppa, we at Tea Time feel

your pain and want to give you an

hour or two of tea, biscuits and cake

where you can put your feet up. And

it's not just a weekly afternoon ses-

sion of tea and cake, we've got our

frabjous Alice In Wonderland Tea

Party in October, and we're hav-

ing some pretty spectacular shared

events with other societies (because

we're everyone's best pals) through-

out this year! We'll be going to the

Sea Zoo in Anglesey, touring the

many cafes of Bangor and let's not

forget drinking all the tea we can get

our tea-loving mitts on. Feel free to

just drop in, we'd love the company,

and what's more there's a mug of

tea, a myriad of different biscuits in

vast quantities and (if the universe

smiles upon us) some lovely home-

made cake waiting for you. Join our happy tea friends and sign up online

with the SU, or just come along to

the meetings, we're always happy to give you a warm mug of comforting leaf water and a biscuit! So, would

you kindly pop in to a Tea-Time so-

ciety meeting? Come down on any

Wednesday at 12-2 if you want to

kick back and relax with a friendly

The Comic Book Society

This is a society all about shar-

ing, reading and discussing comic

books, whether you have a vast col-

cuppa char!'

https://www.facebook.com/groups/ hogsoc/

Our first official work party is Sunday 24th September at our beautiful garden, next to St James's Church on Ffriddoedd Road.

Hope to see you there!

Social Sciences Society

The Social Sciences Society is an academic society established within the School of Social Sciences, but open to all students on any course. Our aims are to bring people together; to create a strong relationship between students and staff and to ensure students can get involved in activities which may benefit their university life.

Our big event this year is our trip to Barcelona, organised alongside members of staff. We will be visiting several of the city's landmarks, such as Sagrada Familia, Casa Mila and Monjuic cable car, whilst also linking the visit to Social Sciences by visiting a homeless shelter and a soup kitchen. Other activities we plan to organise include trips to the surrounding areas of Bangor, such as Beaumaris Gaol, local castles and Snowdonia so that students have a chance to explore North Wales during their time here. We have also begun planning a Winter Ball to bring students together for a Christmas celebration and to destress from assignments.

Academic activities will include regular study sessions to encourage individual or group revision in a relaxed environment where other students will be present to answer questions. In addition, we plan to invite guest speakers in throughout the year to deliver presentations on their academic work or their careers, to benefit the studies and personal interests of all students. We have also attended Crimiknowledge conference in the past and hope to continue this trip as it allows students to hear from a variety of people discussing a diverse range of topics relating to Social Sciences. Students can get involved in any events as much or as little as they like.

We will have a table at Serendipity, but please join our Facebook page – Social Sciences Society – to find out more!

Bangor Writers Guild

Writers' Guild is a society for all, whether you love creating amazing fantasy worlds, pouring your heart into gritty personal poetry, challenging people's perceptions with immersive scripts/screenplays, or even if you're not sure what you want to write, we aim to provide an open, inclusive environment to bring out the best writer within everyone.

Our sessions are greatly varied to meet the needs and of the individuals that make up our members. There's no pressure to attend each and every session, as an outline of what will be covered will be posted ahead of time in our Facebook group and on our likeable Facebook page, so you can see if what we're going to be covering that week will appeal to you. We will also be holding regular polls and discussions to get feedback on what sessions you enjoyed and what you would like to see more of. Additionally, if you have a particular writing

skill or passion that you want to share with the group, we can arrange that too.

This year, we also have the added bonus of a Social Secretary, who will ensure that we are having just as much fun as we are writing! A mixture of drinking and sober socials will be arranged throughout the year, to allow members to get to know one another beyond their work.

Our first two taster sessions will be on Thursday the 21st of September and Thursday the 28th of September. We will be meeting in the Main Arts Foyer from 6:30pm onwards. You'll be able to spot us by our signs, so don't worry! If you have any additional questions, you can join our Facebook group by searching 'Bangor Writers' Guild' – or you can email writersguild@undebbangor.com. We hope to see you at a taster session soon!

Bangor Gaming Society

BUGL or Bangor University Gaming League is a society made up of people who like videogames where we discuss and play all kinds of games. We are a society that caters to all sorts of people, from playing casual

games such as Mario party games to competitive games such as League of Legends and Overwatch. BUGL also competes with The NUEL (National University eSports League) where we compete against other Universities online. Another is that every year for Societies Festival we compete with Aberystwyth gaming society on all

lection yourself or want to get into collecting. So come on down and you can read the collection of comics we have and get clued up on all your comic related trivia. We meet on a Thursday between 6 and 8 in the Academi building and would love to see you there!

kinds of game from the mainstream games to indie games such as Nidhogg or Lethal League which we have won for 3 years now. Another aspect of BUGL are the events. Every year we do themed events for occasions such as Halloween and also a gaming marathon event that occurs once per semester during which we do events

such as mystery games. BUGL is a place of gathering for game enthusiasts who just want to unwind after the stress of University and such. BUGL occurs every Wednesday 4pm till 7pm and Sunday 2pm till 5pm on the Student Union's room of requirement 4th floor of Pontio. I hope to see you all there.

B.E.D.S.

The Bangor English Dramatic Society (BEDS) aims to allow students, alongside the wider community, to create theatrical art to inspire and empower themselves and others.

Currently one of the largest award winning companies in North Wales, we provide a multitude of opportunities across all of the disciplines involved in theatre production, to name a few: acting, directing, tech, stagecraft, stage writing and show publicity, along with our strong links with the Film Society we can also offer you opportunities to get involved with film providing you with audition information. We allow our members to explore this art form through our six main semester shows per year, alongside a multitude of side projects, which has been known to include the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Despite what the name would suggest we do not limit ourselves to traditional English plays but in the past year alone have produced everything from Tennessee William's A Streetcar Named Desire, to Siwan, to a very experimental take on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet as well as opportunity to perform self-written pieces.

We take pride in creating quality theatre to challenge professional productions making us an ideal society for those who wish to pursue this professionally and would like to gain more practical experience.

more practical experience.

Another crucial aside is the personal side of BEDS. Despite our size we are a very sociable company who alongside learning and creating together we prefer nothing more than a good chin-wag in a pub with a pint in hand, or heading on a night out or even just going to chill at a beach.

We would like the opportunity to

We would like the opportunity to welcome you into our company and we look forward to meeting you soon. Find us at Serendipity for more details on how to get involved.

The Afro- Caribbean Society

Culture is a basic need! A community thrives through its cultural heritage, it dies without it! The Afro-Caribbean society (Bangor) is a body of like-minded individuals that seeks to preserve, promote and celebrate the African and Caribbean culture and heritage. The members of the society are unified and enriched culturally, socially and professionally through a range of fantastic events across the year. The events include career, financial and academic workshops, talent exhibitions, lively cook outs, fashion shows, and bus trips to historic places.

We are also an award winning international society – twice International Society of the Year 2013 & 2015 and currently won the Award for the best Achievement of the year 2017 in collaboration with Mona-Peters Foundation that supports breast cancer

treatment in Africa. Do you foresee a boring academic year? Come join us and let's spice it up for you. You don't need to be African or Caribbean just have an interest in the culture and you're welcome to join! Register with us at the serendipity or add us up on our Facebook page @Bangor University Afro-Caribbean Society and come to our meetings! We have something for everyone!

Upcoming Events

1st October 2017 – Inter-cultural Night and Welcome Party for New Students. (Come socialise with old & new students and enjoy delicious Afro-Caribbean foods).

Afro-Caribbean foods).

1st - 30th October 2017 - Black
History Month Celebration (High
street dancing & drumming, Trips to
Liverpool, Cardiff and North Wales,
and lots more.

Bangor craft society

The Bangor Craft Society are a group who love to make and provide different types of crafts opportunities. Workshops vary week to week from Knitting, Sewing, Jewellery Making, Painting, Up-cycling and many more. We also have socials and fundraising opportunities for all to join. We have regular workshops every Tuesday starting at 6 pm in the Teaching Room 1 in the Wheldon. Everyone is welcome to join. There is no experience need, and everybody is welcome to participate and join in the fun!! The BCS is relaxed and easy-going society to enjoy craft-making!

Bangor Brass Band Society

We are Bangor University's Brass Band, also known as BUBB. We welcome those who play brass and percussion instruments to join us for our weekly rehearsals and our regular concerts and events throughout the year. We welcome those of all abilities, whether they have just picked up an instrument, or have played in brass bands all their life, and our events try to cater to this range of abilities. As well as our weekly rehearsals, we regularly play in the community, whether it be playing carols at the cathedral, or marching down Bangor High Street, and the highlight of our year is UniBrass, the inter-university brass band competition held every February. This year, the band also would like to run a series of workshops with local musicians, and there are other exciting opportunities in the pipeline.

If you are interested we would love to see you at our taster rehearsal on Wednesday 27th September in Powis Hall 6-8pm, or drop us a message on our facebook page (@BU-BrassBand) or by email at bubrassband@gmail.com



Bangor University Herpetological Society

Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians ("herps"). The Bangor University Herpetological Society (informally known as HerpSoc) is a free academic society interested in the study, conservation, education and keeping of these exotic, and understudied, animals.

During term time, we have meetings every Monday evening from 19:00, which usually involve talks from experts, herpetologists and fellow students, on a range of herpetology-related topics, followed by a social drink and chat afterwards in the local Wetherspoons.

We also run photography competitions, get involved with conservation of local herps, such as habitat management with local Amphibian & Reptile Groups, and have even organised trips to nearby herp conferences in the past.

HerpSoc has been proudly organising and hosting the annual Venom Day conference right here in Bangor for the past 7 years – a full day of

venom-related talks which attracts speakers and guests from all over the UK and even further afield. It's a great opportunity to find out about the latest venom research, meet and talk to experts in the world of venom (not just snakes!), and buy venom-related equipment, books and clothing.

You'll have the chance to join up

You'll have the chance to join up and order HerpSoc clothing (t-shirts, hoodies) at our first event of the term on Monday 2nd October, where you can see - and handle - a variety of pet reptiles, and meet fellow members and enthusiastic keepers.

Find out more about HerpSoc and our upcoming events at our stall at Serendipity, where we'll have some live reptiles and amphibians on display!

You can also keep up to date with HerpSoc events on our Facebook page (Bangor University Herpetological Society), on Twitter (@BangorHerpSoc) and Instagram (@bangor_herp_soc).

Bangor Masters of Pokémon Society (BUMPS)

BUMPS is a friendly and relaxed society that enjoys all aspects of Pokémon; be it the cards, video games, Pokémon GO, manga or anime. During semester, we host competitive and themed tournaments (for both the video game and TCG), where the prizes range from sugary treats to official Pokémon centre products from Japan.

We're not all about competition though, alongside our tournament events we run movie marathons, quiz nights and with enough interest, we also host Pokémon GO walks around Bangor.

Some of the events we've ran include a Christmas themed tournament,

a nostalgia movie night of the first three movies and a random type TCG tournament.

Our biggest event of the year is the Pokémon Pub Crawl, which is ran cooperatively with other Bangor Societies, where you can participate in drinking challenges across pubs in Bangor to earn your badges and become a true Pokémon Master! This social won Event of the Year 2016 and is one of the largest collaborative events.

We're easily found on the Student Union website, you can join our Facebook group where we post all our event information.

Bangor Dog Walking Society

Bangor University Dog Walking Society (BUDWS) was set up in 2015 as a new society to bring a home comfort to those who've left their four-legged friends at home during their time in Bangor, as well as for those who simply love dogs. We have teamed up with local dog rescues to allow students to have a break from studying to walk dogs at their shelters, giving both the student and the dog a break from their surroundings. Over the past year we've become established and we've grown to have a strong community of dog lovers. This year we have more socials, talks, meetings and events planned than ever before. We understand that coming to university can be a daunting time for everyone, but it's even harder knowing you're not allowed to bring your pooches along too (we've tried, but unfortunately halls and landlords

STILL won't let us!), so we love our unique concept of bringing dog lovers and dogs closer together. Our members themselves either use us because they miss their dogs whilst they're at uni, or they just love dogs. Lots of our members haven't had the chance to own a dog before, so we provide the opportunity for them to finally have a bond with a few dogs and make a new canine companion. Our members benefit from staying active whilst helping the community of dogs at our partner shelters, as well as having the opportunity to socialise with like-minded dog lovers and make new friends. The committee themselves are barking mad about dogs, and love the idea of bringing students closer to dogs, as we all understand that being outdoors with a pooch can relieve stress, keep you fit and make you feel better. We look "paw-ward" to welcoming all dog lovers to our ever-growing society this year!"

SODA

What do you get from a collection of singers, dancers and actors? What about pit orchestra, backstage technicians and the Pontio Bryn Terfyn Theatre on your doorstep? Well - this is the Bangor University musical theatre society SODA! This semester, Soda are starting a new tradition with a pantomime of "Cinderella" arriving in November. In the second semester, we are excited to stage the spectacle of the year with confetti cannons, a live student orchestra and Wildcats galore- it's High School Musical!

Furthermore, the second semester will host a yearly Summer Showcase, a laid-back concert of musical songs performed by our members. All productions are open to everyone of the Bangor student body and we encourage everyone to audition! We're extremely excited for all these productions and would love for as many people as possible to help join in and have some fun! Most years we also take part and do some Victorian Carol singing at Beaumaris Christmas Market, it's a great day out and a lot of fun!

It doesn't matter if you are best at singing, dancing, acting, building set, playing the flute or none of these things. We will try our very best to help cultivate people's' skills and try and bring the best out of them, it doesn't matter on how skilled you are! There will be opportunities throughout the year for there to be training for either backstage or onstage. We are happy to include anyone with an interest and passion for musical theatre!

Bangor Wrestling Appreciation Society

Hey there good Brothers and Sisters, we KNEW you'd come and read this. We are the Bangor University Wrestling Appreciation Society! A recently formed society in Bangor University formed in 2016 because we as wrestling fans are everywhere, we just need to find one another and what other way to bring us all together than a society... or a Club... which you could say is too sweet.

We meet every Monday at 7pm in the Welsh Seminar Room and anyone and everyone is invited to the weekly meet. Whether you are a new fan, a casual watcher who dips in and out of the action, or a seasoned veteran who's seen his or her share of squared circle action over the years or even a person who watches one company or many, we welcome you to the society with open arms, a relaxed atmosphere and discussion for all to have.

On Sundays, we meet for an extra role playing game session which is completely optional in The Greek in Main Arts on a Sunday, just bring your dice, a character sheet (which we can help get for you) and your imagination, and we'll take the rest from there.

We also plan to host three watch parties for Survivor Series, Royal Rumble and Wrestlemania in Academi, and plan a few house show trips during the year.

All in all, we're a welcoming society of seasoned and new wrestling fans, and we welcome you to the BUWAS Club, which like the Bullet Club, is 4-4-4-4-4 lyfe. So in the vein of Kenny Omega, goodbye and goodnight!

Endeavor

For over 50 years we have been the first stop for Bangor students interested in all aspects of ocean science. Our society aims to provide you with access to exciting and enlightening talks with prominent guest speakers, while also giving you the chance to meet like-minded peers. Students from a wide variety of academic backgrounds are invited to join us and get involved!

Regular weekly talks on Thursday evenings

FREE food following talks provided by The Castle

Events and trips held throughout the year!

Join the discussion on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram and stay up to date with the latest news and events from the society and the committee! September/ October Line-Up

Pirate Night with Peer Guides/ Endeavour Committee! – Tuesday 19th September

Endeavour Pub Social – The Castle Thursday 21st September

Anglesey Sea Zoo Trip – Saturday 30th September

First Meeting and Pub Crawl - Thursday 28th September

Animal Behaviour talk by Prof. George Turner – Thursday 5th October Shark Talk then Shark Themed Social! – Thursday 12th October

Seawatch Trip at Point Lynas, Anglesey

Capturing our Coast (Citizen Science project) talk by Siobhan Vye – Thursday 19thOctober

Mammalian Diving Physiology talk by Dr Michael Berenbrink – Thursday 26th of October

Puffin Island Boat Trip!

Bangor Christian Union

Bangor University Christian Union exists to give every student in Bangor a chance to hear and respond to the Christian Faith. As a society we run many events for all students. Lunch bars give an opportunity to hear and discuss a wide range of relevant topics while enjoying a plate of free food! Games night where we meet in halls common rooms, and play board games, And Global Café, a place for international student to meet and enjoy a plate of food from a different country each week, while also learning about different cultures. If you want to get involved with some of our many other events, check out our Freshers week timetable, or learn more about us, find us on Facebook; Bangor University Christian Union.

Sci-Fi

The Sci-fi society is a welcoming society that is open to any and everyone! Whether you are the nerdiest of nerds with a knowledge of everything Sci-fi, or have an interest in a small aspect of it, or even If you have never had an interest in science fiction but would like to gain one, you will always be welcomed by a friendly face!

At the Sci-Fi society we hold many different socials throughout the year. Our main social is a weekly film night. Each week there is a different theme backing the choices in the films, so far there have been themes such as Robots, obscure Sci-Fi films and Nic

Cage (because why not!?), and many more to come in the come year!

As well as the film nights, we have loads of other socials, such as our Fresher's week big fat ice-breaker quiz, a cocktails and board games night with Sci-Fi themed cocktails, as well as a slumber party!

If you ever have any queries, requests or just want to show a funny message for your fellow nerds to see, join our Facebook page by looking for 'Bangor University Sci-Fi Society'.

We are a friendly, welcoming and fantastic society that welcomes all newcomers. We are an epic gathering of nerds that would even make Mr Sulu say "Oh my!"

Folk Society

Bangor University Folk Society is a very welcoming society with something for everyone. We have music sessions open to all abilities - just bring your instrument and play or sing along If you want to try out some traditional dancing we have Playford and Cotswolds morris dancing workshops each week and are currently planning some ceilidhs! We have a taster Day on Sunday 1st October. Come find us at Serendipity for more information, contact us at bufolk@bangorstudents.com or find us on Facebook.



Bangor Film Society

"No art passes our conscience in the way film does, and goes directly to our feelings, deep down into the dark rooms of our souls." - Ingmar Bergman. Film is a medium which inspires a great many among us; join us here at Film Society if you too want to be part of a society which aims to do just that. Here at Film Society, we welcome members whether they have an appreciation for film watching or the making of the medium a la Christopher Nolan (or your director

of choice). Not only do we aim to provide a loving and welcoming society who are very passionate about what we do, we also seek to educate and prosper not only as individuals, but working as a group. Last year we were responsible for the making of over ten films, some of which were screened in Bangor's prestigious Pontio building. This year's committee is devoted to creating a learning atmosphere and introducing new challenges and gatherings to the pre-existing society and the new members who join us this year. As it stands, we are holding two meetings a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 pm in JP (the Creative

Media School which is down the road from Main Arts), which will comprise of workshops, general meetings and screenings of films. So if you're curious to learn more about film or just want to have some fun and watch some films (or both), Bangor University Film Society welcomes you with open arms. We will be at Serendipity if you want to come meet a couple of us, but we also can be contacted through the following social medias if you have any questions or queries: Twitter: @BU_FilmSoc Snapchat: bfilmsoc Insta: bangor_filmsoc

We hope to see you soon.

Linguistics Society

The Bangor Linguistics Society (BLS) allows students from the world of Linguistics, English Language & beyond to come together, sharing new and exciting experiences. A dedicated team of committee members and volunteers work closely with the Academic Schools to provide the best possible resources so your time at Bangor University is the most enjoyable of your life.

We have our own library, which contains a large variety of books and journals across the field of linguistics in addition to the main libraries across Bangor. They will become so

useful during your time at the university when completing your modules and assignments.

Throughout the year, there will be someone at the library during 'Office Hours' (9am-6pm) to offer support, advice, or a place to study if required, which could all come in handy if you are still unsure about a few things. Linguistics workshops, introduced and conducted by students over the last few years, will run when possible to help students tackle any issues they may be having in specific modules.

During welcome week, the society and peer guides work together to organise social activities and introductions with your course mates. This

ROSTRA

CYNHYRCHU.

DIRECTING

will make it slightly easier in the run up to your first lecture as you'll meet everyone before you've even thought of opening a book. Socials, drinking and non-drinking, are run as often as possible during semesters, from film nights to white t-shirts to the fun centre to fancy dress, there'll be something you will enjoy! We also host annual Christmas and Summer meals which is a fantastic way to end the calendar and academic year with students and staff, alongside renowned linguist David Crystal.

We will have a stall at Serendipity, Bangor University's Societies Fair, so come along to say hello and sign up free of charge. Hope to see you there!

Rostra

Acting! Tech! Fun! If you're interested in any of those three things then I've got a society for you: Rostra Come and be part of the first show of the year, Pandemonium, a tale about the civic rights of demons! Or maybe you want to try your hand at Macbeth? Either way Rostra's got you. In the past we've done everything from self-written plays to Shakespeare, from comedies to dramas, from the weird and whacky lands of Terry Pratchett's Discworld to the dark and debauched world of Sweeney Todd. We love theatre and everything to do with it - directing, the costumes, the make-up, the lights, sound design and set building and designing. So if you've got skill, talent, wide-eyed curiosity or just an interest then we're excited to meet you. Come down to JP hall on the 23rd of September at 2pm for our taster session and if we don't see you there, then we'll see you at the pub later!



PhotoSoc

At Photosoc, we welcome everyone with a passion for photography no matter what skill level. We welcome all types of cameras too - from Phone cameras to DSLRs everyone is treated equally and our talks cater to everyone. We offer a friendly and welcoming environment for everyone to come and try something new and develop a new skill. Our talks range from Landscape to Architecture and everything in between. Regular trips will also be planned, such as visits to Portmeirion and the Manchester Christmas Markets. Meetings are held every Monday night at 7:30 in the Drama Rehearsal Room, Main arts (until mid-November, when the room will change to Wheldon, behind Academi). Afterwards we visit Wetherspoons for a drink and/ or meal. In addition to our Wetherspoons trips post-meeting we will also go on regular socials, whether it's to Cheese Night at Academi or a Pub Crawl around Bangor, it's guaranteed to be a good time. Regular Portraiture sessions will also be held in Pontio in addition to our weekly Monday

meetings. Don't forget to join our Facebook group "Bangor University Photographic Society", follow us on Snapchat: bu_photosoc Instagram @bu_photosoc and Twitter @Bangor_Photosoc.



Bangor Rock Society

Bangor Rock And Metal Appreciation Society, or BRAMAS as it's known by its members, is a place where normality ceases. Here in our society, we welcome all manner of alternative folk and provide a happy and comfortable environment for you to just be yourself, free of judgement. We happily accept fans of all kinds of rock and metal, whether you're a die hard black metal fan, love Def Leppard a bit too much or you like to rock out to Alestorm; you'll be sure to

find a place in our family.

Still not convinced? How about hearing from some of the society's

members as they share their thoughts on our society.

"You'll never find a better place to be yourself without judgement" - Jack Lee, former chair.

"The best decision I made since arriving at uni was joining BRAMAS. Come for the music, stay for the people." - Sophie Tibbs.

We also have events planned for freshers week:

21/09 - Rock in the Loft at Rascals. Begins at 8:30pm

23/09 - Local gig in Rascals. Begins at 8:30pm

We look forward to seeing you all very soon. Until then, rock on!

Bangor LINKS Division – St John Cymru-Wales

Are you looking to; make new friends? learn new skills? help others?

Then Bangor LINKS is the society

As part of St John Cymru-Wales, the nation's leading first aid charity, we give you the opportunity to learn new skills that enable you to help others and make a difference whilst making new friends, connections and the chance to attend some of Wales' biggest events with a uniformed service.

Last year, as a society, we successfully trained numerous students as first aiders, who then went on to cover events across North Wales including 'Llandudno's Victorian Extravaganza', 'The Anglesey Vintage Rally' and a junior football tournament to name a few. Three members even got the opportunity to provide first aid cover

for the Champions League finals in Cardiff. Looking to next year we aim to train a further group of students as well as increase the skills of preexisting members to, not only help to fulfil St John Cymru Wales' vision to have a first aider in every street but to also give our volunteers the chance to provide the highest quality of first aid care at some of the biggest events across Wales. If you choose to join our society you will be expected to register as a volunteer with St John, however this does not mean you have to go out to events. You could just come along to learn new skills and meet new people! If you have any questions we will be at serendipity on both days during fresher's and will be more than happy to answer any queries. We will also be running taster sessions to give you a feel for what we as a society do! We look forward to meeting everyone in the upcoming weeks, and wish everyone luck for the new semester!

Seren

Enjoy writing? Fancy yourself as the next Lois Lane? If so, then Seren should surely be right up your street! Aside from writing, there's openings for sub-editors, proof readers and photographers. So, why not pop by our stall at Serendipity or even better yet, come to one of our taster evenings...

Mon 25th Sept - 7PM - PL2 PONTIO

Tue 26th Sept - 7PM - BRAINT COMMON ROOM, FRIDDEOEDD

GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY 20



THE SEREN CHECKLIST

JOIN A CLUB OR SOCIETY

HAVE AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN SEREN

CLIMB SNOWDON (OR TAKE THE TRAIN)

DEFEAT MIKE'S BITES' GREEDY BASTARD

LEARN HOW TO PRONOUNCE FFRIDDOEDD

WATCH A SIX NATIONS GAME IN BAR UNO

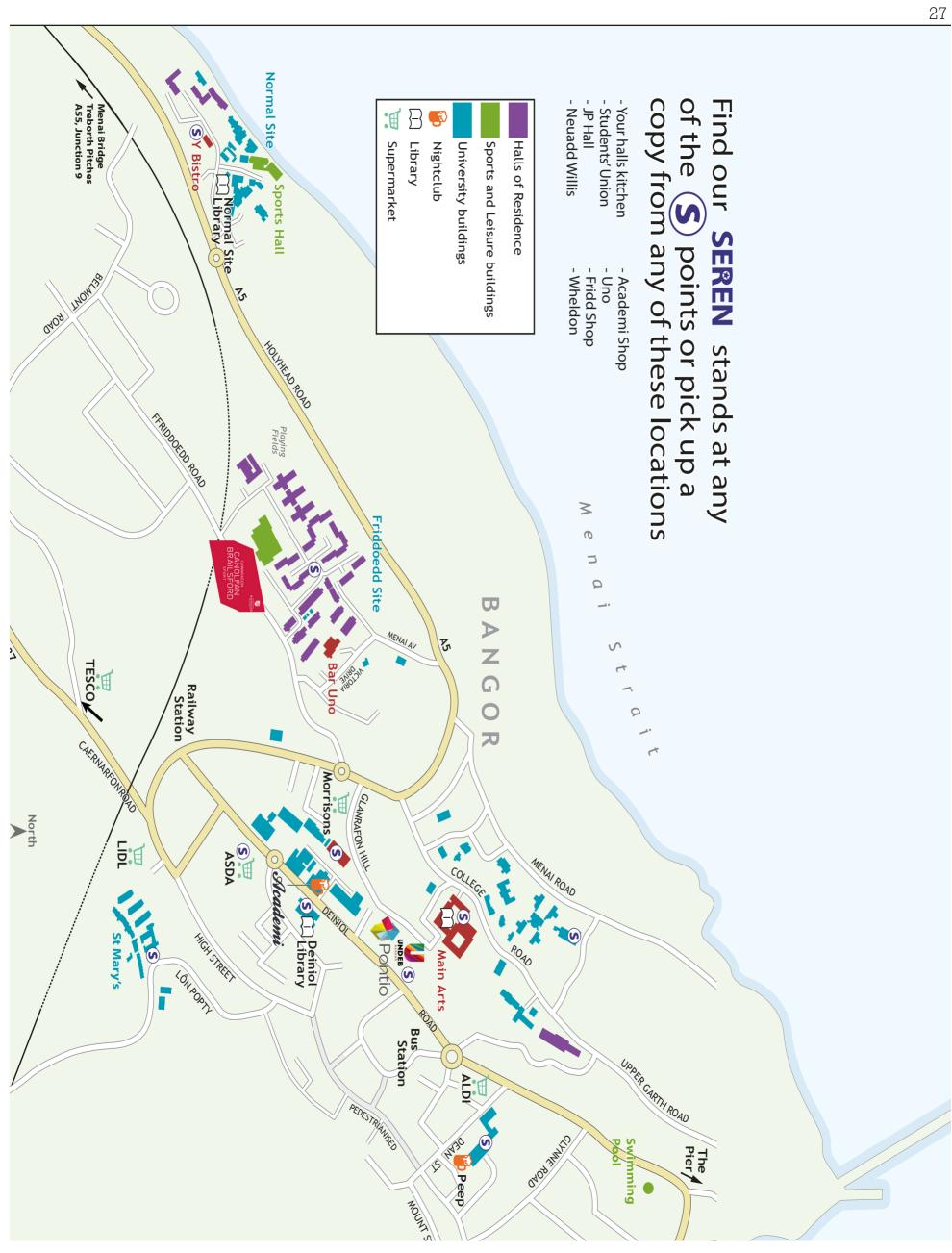
SUPPORT BANGOR AT VARSITY

SPEND 48 HOURS IN THE LIBRARY IN ONE GO

VOTE IN THE SU ELECTIONS STAY UP ALL NIGHT AT THE SUMMER BALL

24 THINGS THAT BE TO HAVE TI

- Bedside lamp
- Noise-cancelling headphones 2.
- 3. Flip-flops
- 4. Extension lead
- Large wash bag 5.
- 6. Bag for Life
- 7. Thermal socks
- 8. Onesie/Dressing gown
- 9. Hanging shoe tidy 10. Dish drainer
- 11. Extra pillows
- Extra blanket 12.
- 13. Glitter/face paint
- Memory stick
- 15. Travel mug
- Oven gloves 16.
- Door stop 17.
- Ear plugs 18. 19.
- First aid kit Hot water bottle
- Alarm clock
- 22. Bottle opener/corkscrew Extra coat hangers 23.
- 24. Noticeboard
- 25. Lots of notebooks 26. Walking boots
- 27. Condoms
- Slippers
- 29. **Posters**
- Dictaphone



Review: Dragons Den



by EMMA JEWKES

ragons Den; the show where members of the public try to win an investment from five of the country's top entrepreneurs. On the face of it, it's a fairly straight forward cocept for a show and one that should, in a logical world, get quite boring. However, there's a reason that Dragons Den has been around for as long as it has. For every Reggae Reggae Sauce, there's ten madcap, hairbrained ideas ranging from the ludicrous to the downright barmy! Of course, these inventions often get the short shrift they probably de-

serve but not before an exasperated look from Peter Jones or a stern telling off from Deborah Meaden.

Talking about the Dragons, they are obviously one of the main attractions. Seeing these billionaires faced with being asked for money to fund something as pointless as a paper folder is quite amusing to say the least. This year, two 'newbies' have joined the show in Tej Lavani and Jenny Campbell. While it may take a series or two to warm to the new ones, we still have Peter Jones, Deborah meaden and Touker Suleyman,

X Factor

As sure as a hangover every morning through freshers, and equally as painful, X Factor is back. Talented wannabes with heart wrenching sob stories and talentless wannabes who make you despair for society's future join forces again to get told by four people of great importance whether they're good enough to get five minutes of fame and a slot on Celebrity Coach Trip! Jokes aside, the cynical popularity contest is grossly compelling, like the feeling you get when you see roadkill and can't help but stare... just me?

> Catch up on ITV Player, new episodes Saturdays/Sundays at 8pm.

LEGO Masters

Continuing the theme of reality TV; sort of, we have Channel 4's LEGO Masters. The set up is simple, with 8 LEGO loving dynamic duos of varying ages from childhood to middle-agehoof (that's a word right?) battling it out to be crowned LEGO Masters and have their work on display in a new LEGO Museum in Denmark - the home of our beloved bricks. Hosted by Melvin O'Doom on top PG banter form, and with judges including LEGO's assistant director of design and the woman who thought up The Shard, the show showcases the ageless and limitless creativity of LEGO fans in various innovative challenges, with high drama as one poor placement and a masterpiece can fall apart as quickly as my hopes of a first!

Catch up on Brick Masters on All4 now!

Not a great deal can be said for this tellyception, as pretty much everything I write about is the programmes that the Goggleboxers are watching. The format, where we watch other people watch TV sounds absolutely ludicrous, even years after the show was first made; but there is something addictive about it. There's something so engaging about seeing normal people doing what you do, but seeing how different we all are - TV is a unifying factor for even the most dysfunctional of families, and the topic and catalyst of most modern debates. Be it soaps or reality series or the latest Game of Thrones (shameless plug but big review to your right guys), and seeing the reactions of people to TV shouldn't be gold but it just kind of is.

Catch Gogglebox on All4 now!

REVIEW: STRIKE - THE CUCKOO'S CALLING



there's one thing that the television world probably has enough of for a lifetime, it's detectives. We've had Holmes and Hercule, Marple and Maigret, Barnaby and the Mystery Inc amongst others, and they've all been the subject of some stunning whodunits and gripping drama - what, you mean the ghost in Scooby-Doo was actually the janitor? Crikey! But now we have another to join our roster of sleuths, do we need him?

From the creative mind of JK Rowling (alias Robert Galbraith), the Strike novel series has been a solid body of crime fiction so gritty and realistic you'd be hard pressed to imagine the same writer gave us Dobby the house elf. The books have been critically lauded and - following BBC's adaptation of The Casual Vacancy - it made perfect sense for the book's inevitable transmutation to come from the beeb. When a worldwide starlet model commits apparent suicide, the media swarm and the world she lived in is shaken, but when her adoptive brother turns up at private eye Cormoran Strike's office wanting to open a murder enquiry, things get very in-

teresting.
I won't simply narrate the goings on of the series, but the leading pair of Cormoran Strike and Robin Ellacott are liquid gold together throughout their first outing as a team. Strike's rough cut visage and shady background, scarred mentally and literally by his time in the army, as well as his ongoing struggles with his ex-wife culminate in an incredibly complex character who must have been both a joy to play for an actor and a burden of a task to step up to. Luckily, Tom Burke of Musketeers and War & Peace fame, is more than capable of carrying what may be the next iconic TV detective. Though he isn't quite a visual match for Rowling's book Strike, his characterisation for me as a reader and a viewer, is quite incredibly matched to my imagined Cormoran Strike. Similarly, Holliday Grainger is brilliant as unwanted intern turned invaluable ally Robin, who herself is at a crossroads in a shaky relationship with an uncertain career path. Grainger is charming and endlessly entertaining in the ways her Robin manipulates people with accents and characters to prise

information from people - a back-ground in psychology goes a long way, any of you psychology students looking for a new direction, private detectives are waiting for you!

`The pacing is just about right for the series, a departure from the more slow approach of Rowling's novels, but nevertheless allowing itself time for reflective moments and character exploration that lavs the foundations for years of Strike cases to come. The accompanying score is stylish and cool in an unforced manner, and the script has an honesty and organic quality that sets Strike apart from ust being 'another detective series'. The climax may be predictable for the seasoned armchair sleuth, but is executed with an energy and impact that is shocking no matter whether you knew who did it or not. All in all, Cormoran and Robin, befitting their avian names, soar and take flight as the answer to whether we need another crime drama duo... and you don't need to be a genius to work out that answer is a resounding yes. Catch The Cuckoo's Calling on iPlayer now, The Silkworm is available too by the time of publication, and Career of Evil is coming soon.

Doctor Foster -WHAT'S UP DOC?



n late 2015 the BBC pulled an ace out of nowhere with awardwinning drama Doctor Foster, a series that made paranoid people even more paranoid and happy couples paranoid people. The story of Gemma Foster, played sublimely by Suranne Jones, and her fall from suburban blissful family woman to vengeful wife of an adulterous husband captured the attention of over 10 million viewers. As the plot thickened and the tension grew, we were on the edge of our seats, and when the finale came I for one was hit for six by the unbearably awkward revelations that finally came to light. Having seemed done and dusted, a one series masterclass in scripting and character studying, this Autumn sees Doctor Foster back, but what is there to anticipate this time around? Well to give us a bit of context,

series two doesn't simply pick up where series one ended, in fact we find ourselves two years down the line - a neat if unintentional symmetry between how long we've waited for the new series and the current time we find ourselves in. Gemma and her son Tom have seemingly moved on with their lives, well as much as a family torn by lies can be, when they are hit with a bombshell. Estranged ex-husband Simon and new wife Kate are back in town, with a cushty house warming and wedding party invite for seemingly eve-

ryone Gemma knows, including Tom. And thus the wheels are set in motion for another tense and moody series of awkward encounters, revelations, and tribulations. As Gemma attempts to feign nonchalance, her suspicions are aroused again as to why her ex has come back into her life and to all intents and purposes seems to be living the high life. With new man (well sort of) James entering the fray and Tom being a lot more than merely a bystander and victim this time around, things are as difficult as ever for our favourite vengeful to borderline psychotic doctor. Having watched the first episode there is more than enough to suggest the story isn't quite over, and it looks set to be another descent into the world of vengeance and mind games and I for one am relishing the prospect of what's to come.

It's obviously early doors, and information is sketchy as to where exactly things are going, but it's the refreshing ability to watch a piece of drama without having recognisable checkpoints of plot and predictable twists that sets Doctor Foster apart from the swathes of other dramas that are available. This is a family drama where the lines of what is right and wrong, too much or not enough are blurred; the world isn't as black and white as the innocent and the guilty or the victim and the criminal, it's about actions and consequences and how far we all go to seek the justice we grant ourselves the right to serve. Gemma Foster is on the edge again and there's nobody for her to protect anymore and nobody to answer to but her own mind, hell hath no fury as they say. Catch Doctor Foster on iPlayer and new episodes on Tuesdays at 9pm, BBC One.



GAME OF THRONES OUR WATCH IS NEARLY OVER

by JORDAN KING

UH DUH, D-D-DUH DUHH, D-D-DUH DUH D-D-DUH DUH D-D-DUH DUH D-D-DUH DUH, DUHH DUHH, D-D-DUH DUH DI DE DUHHH... and so on and so forth! Big ol' SPOILER warning being slapped on this bad boy, because winter is here my avid three readers (hi mum); and this series has been brrrrrr-illiant! Well maybe I'm being a tad over excited, but this was a long time coming and part of the fun of writing is going all in on the things you love! So having been left with a new King of the North, who it turned out was equal parts wolf and dragon. A would-be Queen in the south headed over to Westeros with a frankly unfair fleet of ships and dragons, and an actual Queen who is about as crazy as it gets and ready to wreck some lives; the stage was set for the beginning of the end of the most ambitious TV series of all time. Oh, and the white walkers were looking set for a scrap at the wall too. But more on that later chaps and chapettes.

Game of Thrones has been a phenomenon, a tour-de-force that has continually challenged and defied the conventional constrictions of television. Be it in its brutality, scope, cinematic endeavour, or simply the way that even after every character you loved and loathed has met their comeuppance, there's still some poor sod who will get offed in a barbaric stylem that is delightful in the darkest way. GOT will be a series that comes to define the golden age of TV us lucky souls find ourselves within.

Series 7 sees the pace quickening and plot thickening with not much room to process one 'WTF?' moment before the next big clanger drops and leaves you needing to shut the front door in shock. Lena Headey's delectably cruel Cersei is sitting on the throne as it stands, though her kingdom is crumbling around her as - aside from the sadistic and wickedly comic Euron Greyjoy and his Iron Fleet - her allies are dropping like flies and her lover brother Jamie is getting more than a little wary of the fact that everyone is baying for the queen's blood. The aforementioned everyone includes Daenerys - who exercised the brutal force of her drag-

ons, the Dothraki, and the Unsullied, obliterating a significant number of Cersei's forces and reinforcing Jamie's scepticism no end. So for House Targaryen, the situation is anything but that of a glorious monarchy, and with the revelation of Cersei seeing proof of the Army of the Dead and the alliance between Jon Snow and Dany, her scheming seems set to be in vain. By the end of the series, even Jamie had scarpered, not even pregnancy keeping him home.

keeping him home.
Elsewhere we had the revelation that Jon Snow not only has Targaryen blood, but that his actual name is Aegon Targaryen and he is a legitimate and rightful heir to the throne, ahead of auntie/bedfellow Daenerys. So it's safe to say things are hotting up there whilst North of the wall, everything was getting a great deal colder. With winter here, and the night king advancing ever closer to the wall with his army. Series seven saw a Magnificent Seven-like expedition team, spearheaded by Jon Snow, go once more beyond the wall and facing an icy stand off with a swarm of wights and the ever-menacing Night King. Though the men survived thanks to some dragon-based intervention from sceptic Dany, the tide of the battle between the living and

the dead took a turn for the worse as the Night King speared Viserion with an ice-spear, felling one of Daenerys' children and claiming an ice dragon to assault the wall.

So much happened this series that I don't want to stray too far into mere recounting of events. What did I truly think? Well for a start, I think that the drastic condensing of time in Westeros, where ravens can cross the seven kingdoms in about half an hour, is a grievance I understand yet sympa-thise with. With a lot of ground to cover, literally, before we say goodbye to Westeros, the timeframe has had to hasten dramatically to account for this. From a practical stance the slower burning plot elements of series past were able to be so because there was 30-40 hours worth of series to follow everything up in 'real time', which is simply impossi-ble. Messurs Weiss and Benioff are on top form as ever with their scripting, writing some incredibly tense and poignant scenes - most notably the confrontation between Tyrion and Cersei in the final episode, which had been a long time coming and played out superbly. The score was as integral to the show as ever this time around, and I found myself lingering on the credits just a little longer as

the outro pieces encapsulated everything I had seen over and over again. The performances across the board were stunning also, with Peter Dinklage as ever a standout, but Nikolai Coster-Waldau's Jamie Lannister has really stunned me. His character arc has been so superbly written and performed that for all of his wicked deeds, he has been somewhat redeemed. This comment may also be made of Theon Greyjoy, whose smarmy ways garnered hatred and whose subsequent emasculation at the hands of Ramsay Bolton evoked an uncomfortable sympathy that has now turned to a kind of rooting for as he sets sail to save Yara from his twisted cousin Euron; Alfie Allen de serves an Emmy just as much as Peter Dinklage, there I said it.
It's been a season of twists and

It's been a season of twists and turns, highs and the occasional lows, but Game of Thrones' inimitable hype and buzz was well justified and loyally rewarded, and with only a single set of six episodes to go, revel in these episodes knowing you were the generation who owns Thrones. Our watch is nearly over, but therestill a war to be waged and I will be there til the end. Catch up on Thrones now on NOWTV or SkyGO Boxsets.



GAMESCOM 2017











BY MEGAN RICHARDS

his year, I attended Gamescom, Gaming Europe's largest convention. The exhibition that is called "The Heart of Gaming" has exhibitions showing new games from big games studios and developers, as well as interesting indie developers, from around the world. It is also a place to try out playing Games on the newest consoles, such as the

Nintendo Switch, PS4 Pro, and Xbox One X. This year the trade exhibit had a record breaking attendance of over 350,000 visitors. The convention took place this year from the 22nd to the 26th August, with the first day only open to exhibitors and press. Gamescom is still held at the Koelnmesse in Cologne, Germany, where it has been held since its inauguration in 2009.

The convention centre itself had a very good layout; in that, while

mostly packed, and the main corridor, as well as being well lit, was open and large. The convention was structured so that the business and trade section was on the opposite end to the exhibiting, public area of the convention, which made navigating the convention very easy. There were large banners and signs which indicated where in the four large halls where games were exhibit. There were drawbacks however, in that for a lot of the time, public visitors were being herded to walk different ways around the convention centre, which were subject to change, or would take the visitors on routes that led them miles from where they wished to go. This had the potential to be very annoying, and added unnecessarily to the length of the convention centre.

The exhibitions in the themselves were mostly well organised, with the two most memorable exhibitors Playstation and Xbox. Playstation was and looked well organised, but had incredibly long waiting times, whereas Xbox had fifteen games pushed against one wall, and was very much more cramped, and looked disorganised, although its queues were much shorter.

. In the next section. I shall briefly talk about some of the bigger games that were being shown at Gamescom.



One of the first things I noticed about this instalment, is that the controls have been changed again. This made it difficult to play at times, especially when trying to use stealth in a particular section for the first time, because the former free run button is now the attack button. However, a more welcome change is the addition of Sensu, Bayek's eagle, which is now your literal eagle vision. It can be used much like the owl in Far Cry Primal, where it can collect reconnaissance on enemies for Bayek, and swoop down from above and attack or distract enemies for you.

UNCHARTED: LOST LEGACY

A very enjoyable aspect of this game were the character interactions and dynamics between the two leads. It felt very genuine, and original, and only occasionally reminded me of conversations from the original series. The controls were also very easy to understand. The demo left you wanting to know more about this instalment's mystery. My one issue about the demo, was that it felt very much like a DLC for Uncharted 4, rather than something new to the franchise.



BATHILEFRONT 2

I am not great at shooting games and I wasn't playing on my usual platform, but it was impressive how, with very little hand holding, how easy it was to learn the controls. The new settings are what attracted my interest to this game, because unlike the previous game, I was not merely relegated to selecting battles from the original trilogy, or from one or two of the battles in the new films. In the new game, a choice can be made from the large range of scenarios from across the saga. This could lead to funny, but jarring, moments where you would be playing on a prequel's map, in seeing a sequel's character like Rey.

MIDDLE EARTH: SHADOW OF WAR

The controls in this game are still very good as was it's previous instalment, and the combat is still as smooth and enjoyable. While the combat in the main missions is engaging, it doesn't have the difficulty spike found in other sections such as raids. This, along with a feeling that you are only doing things up to the next set piece makes the side quests much more interesting and more entertaining . Another thing to note is that while the graphics are much improved over the last game, the game still retains a very dark colour scheme.

ALL HIE HIVE IN HIE WORLD

What really appealed to me about this indie game was its use of time, as a main plot mechanic. It is used in a fascinating way to solve puzzles, and to help the protagonist survive the situations she finds herself in. That said I would have liked to play more of this game, as I would have liked more of a flavour for the plot.

CAT OUEST

This game was incredibly fun to play, and had a very quirky premise. It was easy to see that playing this game, especially since it is primarily a mobile game, would become addictive. One of the drawbacks of this game is how much grinding and time would be necessary to complete this game, which some players may find daunting.

CHUP HIEAD

This is one of the more popular games on this list, and I found it very enjoyable and off the wall. Another thing which immediately I liked about this game was that it has local multiplayer, which is becoming less common these days. The game has a very harsh difficulty curve, especially during boss battles, but I found that only made me more intrigued by this game.

DEFITEORE

This game focuses especially on its worldbuilding, and the tension between the androids and humans. The section in the demo also used interesting but not uncommon ways of detective gameplay. I also found the choice driven diffusion aspect of the game very interesting. My one wish whilst playing this game however was to understand the German choices displayed on screen...

SUPER LUCKY'S TAIL

This game surprised me as to how much I enjoyed it, it was very bright and wacky, with a simple but creative plot. It was not a difficult game by any stretch of the imagination, and reminded me of Skylanders or old Spyro games.

SONIC

The most appealing thing for me regarding this game is nostalgia. As I was playing, I remembered playing Sonic Advance and Sonic of the Secret Rings, two games I really enjoyed as a child. I liked the game, but one of my major criticisms of the demo was that the controls needed to be tightened up. I am not sure if this was due to the game still being developed, but I really want this game to succeed, so I hope this is the case.

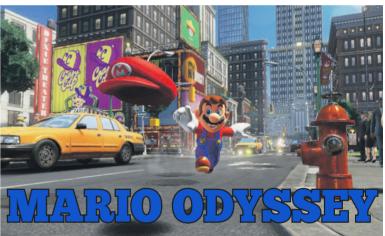


STORM

This is possibly the most popular game of the smaller games I played, and I enjoyed what I experienced. I found the absence of Max's time travel abilities helped me enjoy this game more, as Max's abilities tended to make me linger on choices, whereas with Chloe as protagonist, all decisions are final. It is also worth noting that Chloe isn't Max, she is the more adventurous of the protagonists, and her choices often reflect that.

POKIEMON TEKEN

I feel I really enjoyed this game, and it was very fun to play a fighting game with Pokémon, where the action happened in real time. I also found the controls very easy to learn, and were very similar to those of other fighting games I have enjoyed in the past. My one concern is that the game's characters may be unbalanced so that some more popular Pokémon's may have advantage.



The open world in this game is mechanically like Breath of the Wild's, where there is a variety of things you could do as well as the main plot. A drawback to Mario's open world however is its design, it is meant to look like a city. This lessons its impact, as all the buildings and non-plot important NPCs look the same or at least very similar. This makes the game area disorientating, and feel empty. It is worth noting however that this isn't the only a part of the game, and that there are other sections where gameplay follows a more traditional Mario structure.

X BOX ONE X

Last but not least, I tried out the Xbox One X. Before I had a chance to play any games on it, the first thing I noticed, to my relief, was that the console is smaller than the old VHS sized Xbox One Classic, and that like the Xbox One S, did not have the chunky power source on the outside. The games that I played on the new console performed incredibly well, and there were many moments that seemed to run very smoothly and seamlessly, where there may have been lag or crashes on my Xbox One. The graphics on the console were also really good, and the image very clear and crisp. The fully integrated 4k resolution was really impressive to look at. However, it must be remembered that in order to see the 4k resolution you will also need a 4k TV, which is very expensive, often on average as much as the console itself. The entire combination of console and tv costing comes to almost as much as a term's worth of rent, so buy it with caution.

Would you like to get involved with the Games section? Are there any gamesyou want to review or anything games related you want to write about? Just get in touch, I'd love to hear from you!!

games@seren.bangor.ac.uk

TELL NO ONE BY HARLAN COBEN; A REVIEW

THERE WAS MY LIFE BEFORE THE TRAGEDY. THERE IS MY LIFE NOW. THE TWO HAVE PAINFULLY LITTLE IN COMMON.

by FRANCESCA SCIARRILLO

lizabeth and David Beck grew up together as childhood sweethearts and went on to get married. Each year, they would visit Lake Charmaine on their anniversary and scratch a new line onto the same tree to symbolise the years spent together. However one year, disaster strikes and Elizabeth is brutally murdered whilst David is left with little

memory of the events which took place. The narrative begins eight years on as David (or as he prefers to be called, 'Beck') invites the reader into his life to see how the horrors of that night have left him broken. He soon becomes wrapped up in a criminal investigation, prompting him to believe that his wife could still be alive. Is it someone playing games with him? Or could she really have survived? Coben's mystery

thriller will hook you from the first page; I couldn't put it down. Told from a first person perspective, the reader receives a vivid insight into the horrors experienced by Beck. and how his whole existence has become thwarted. His guilt for being unable to remember evokes genuine sympathy from the reader. At times, you'll agree with Beck's actions and at other times you'll be shouting at him, wondering what on earth he's

doing. It keeps you guessing the whole way through and yet, somehow, still manages to leave no stone unturned. It has it all: murder, love, betrayal (to name a few!). Whilst the novel complies with stereotypical murder mystery plot devices, it also addresses hard hitting issues that affect contemporary, American society. If you like American crime drama, this is certainly a book you would enjoy.



Happy Birthday



Roald Dahl

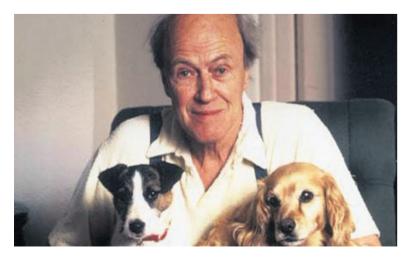
ald Dahl was born in Wales on the 13th September, 1916. When you think of your childhood, you remember his lovingly, crafted tales. He has been described as the "Shakespeare of children's literature", which few would argue against.

When he was younger, he was sent away to boarding school multiple times. The events he encountered during his time in these places were recorded and then recounted in his book 'Boy'.

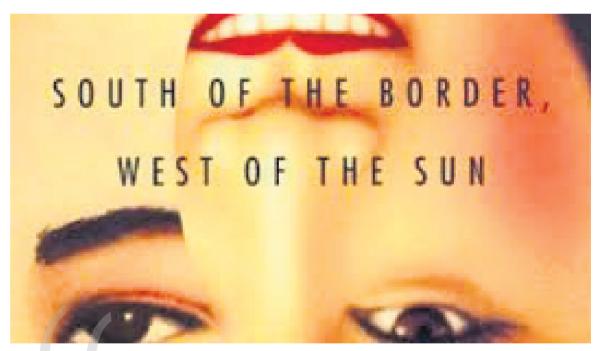
He first served in the army and RAF before he published his first piece of work which related to the adventures he had during the war.

After this, Dahl launched into a creative outburst, writing classic after classic. These books consist of 'Matilda', 'James and the Giant Peach' and 'Witches', to name a few. A common theme in these fantastic books is that children defeat an adult villain of some kind, with at least one good adult involved. This reflected Dahl's own experience with adults, which can be found in his book 'Boy'.

Dahl was the master of creating his own words like lickswishy. He never really explained what his words meant, but this inventive and playful element to his writing was made understandable to children, as they sounded similar to words they are already familiar with. Boring adults even made a dictionary of Dahl's words, as they weren't clever enough to even understand them!



South of the Border, West of the Sun- Haruki Murakami



IT WAS AS IF - THIS SOMETHING ITHOUGHT OF ONLY LATER, **OF COURSE - SHE WAS GENTLY** PEELING BACK ONE LAYER AFTER **ANOTHER THAT COVERED A** PERSON'S HEART, A VERY SENSUAL FEELING.

ajime grew up in the suburbs of post-war Japan as one of the rare single children in a place dominated by siblings. His sole companion named Shimamoto was also an only child. They spent their time listening to her father's extensive record collection which is a fond memory of his from over the years. However, his family moved away and the pair lost contact.

Fast forward to Hajime's thirties. After drifting he has finally found happiness with a loving wife and two

daughters, as well as a successful jazz bar; or so he thinks. This is until Shimamoto reappears. She comes filled with mystery and adventure and it turns his life upside down.

I couldn't give the book more praise if I tried. It is beautifully written as well as having a solid plot. Despite loving the book, there was one thing I hated and that was Hajime. He irritated me with his self absorbed nature and how much he ruined his girlfriend and wives lives to fulfil his own selfish desires. Multiple times I

had to put the book down because he angered me. Yet, I wanted to see how these things panned out. I was hooked on his ego. The first person narrator helped this happen, as you were always inside his head. Sometimes I think I read on to see him get hurt. It was the perfect way to present the story itself as you understood the mystery that is his life first hand and try to fathom why he did such things. Overall, the book hooks you in the most unimaginable way. Yet, it all makes sense.

33 Freshers Issue 2017 | Seren

SerenFilm 👩 @serenfilm 🧡 film@seren.bangor.ac.uk Get in touch and get involved! Don't forget to find us at Serendipity!

Freshers Recommendation



elcome week at Bangor is one of the most memorable experiences of your life. Moving into your accommodation, meeting new people, joining various societies and drinking your own body weight and then some in alcohol; it's just magical!

But when meeting new people, finding common interests is at the forefront. Probably one of the most common interests is films. If you name a load of movies you have watched, the likelihood is someone you meet has seen and enjoyed them too.

With lectures not starting for a whole week, and some down/recovery time, it's the perfect chance to join up with your flatmates or friends from your course and watch a film. Streaming services are ideal for

students, with a decent selection of movies for a reasonable monthly fee. including a free 30-day trial period. Also, if you've got one service, someone will probably have the other so you can share between each other.

Below are a selection of films on Netflix and Amazon Prime that would be ideal to gather round a laptop or TV and enjoy. (Article written and submitted by 8th September 2017. Content on services subject to

The Breakfast Club (Netflix)

Five high school kids from very different backgrounds are in Saturday detention to complete an essay on who they think they are. This 1985 classic is regarded by many as one of the best films ever, with the message the story portrays being relevant to all walks of life.

The Hangover (Amazon Prime)

A four-man stag do to Vegas: what could possibly go wrong? Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis, and Ed Helms, try to piece together their night in one of the most highly rated comedies ever made. We've all had those nights out so I'm sure after watching this, you'll be sharing yours.

Hot Fuzz (Netflix) The middle flavour of Edgar Wright's infamous Cornetto Trilogy is Hot Fuzz. Simon Pegg and Nick Frost team up as police officers in what seems to be the quiet town of Stanford. A film you've already watched a thousand times on ITV2 is always worth another viewing.

Pitch Perfect 2 (Netflix)

While it's gutting the first one isn't on there, the second Pitch Perfect still fulfils your acapella needs. The

Barden Bella's take it international and the third movie is now well on its way to completion since the teaser.

Pulp Fiction (Amazon Prime)

Quentin Tarantino's Oscar winning film is one of the most iconic motion pictures of all time. From Samuel L. Jackson's Ezekiel bible speech and explicit wallet, to John Travolta's revitalisation and Uma Thurman's grooving dancing and memorable movie poster; it is a must see.

Sherlock Holmes (Amazon Prime)

Robert Downey Jr (Holmes) and Jude Law (Watson) star in Guy Ritchie's very entertaining adaptation of great fictional private detective. Their chemistry is undeniably brilliant and makes for such easy watching when nursing a hangover.

Shrek (Netflix)

Angry ogre Shrek teams up with

talking mule Donkey to save a princess in this fairy-tale mash up. There is no debate that it is one of the best animations ever created and helped to skyrocket Dreamworks Animated.

Step brothers (Netflix)

Another comedy that everyone loves; Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly are forced to live under the same roof when their parents marry. Anything Ferrell related from Elf to Anchorman is worth your time and this doesn't disappoint.

Ted (Amazon Prime) & Ted 2 (Net-

From Family Guy mastermind Seth MacFarlane comes R rated Ted, a talking teddy bear who gets us in stitches. With pop culture reference, unique humour and celebrity cameos, it hard not to wish you had one of vour own.

Recent Releases: 25th August



American Made ★★★★

t's fair to say that Tom Cruise didn't get off to the best of starts this summer with his reboot of The Mummy launching Universal Studios"Dark Universe in potentially the wrong direction. But fans of his can be pleased with his latest picture; American Made.

The movie is based on the real events that started in the late 1970s. when a pilot for TWA (Trans World Airlines) named Barry Seal (Cruise) is recruited for the CIA by agent Monty Schafer (Domhnall Gleeson) to carry out reconnaissance missions into South America. From this, Seal's life escalates beyond his wildest dreams, as he ends up working for the Medellin Cartel while the DEA, FBI and ATF are all after him; but the main objective for Seal is to provide for his wife Lucy (Sarah Wright) and their family.

Movies, no matter how true they keep with the original, real events of what happened, are a fascinating way for you to find out about someone. Much like the Jordan Belfort biopic, the brilliant Wolf of Wall Street, you want to read more and more about what this person has done and how they did it; I found myself doing the same with Seal. His involvement in the whole escapade, the risks he took and the people he worked for

(such as the infamous Pablo Escobar), it's unimaginable to think someone lived this life, not matter how much Hollywood stardust is thrown over it.

Cruise turns in a noteworthy performance, much like his early work that we all know and love. The fast-paced plane sequences make for fun watching, and you get a nice clear-cut story that doesn't get wrapped up in the many plot points and third parties involved in shipping god knows what to god knows who. Overall, a good, enjoyable film to end the summer

Logan Lucky ★★★★

nfortunately, it performed poorly at the box office, probably due to the Mayweather VS McGregor fight taking over the back end of August. But, Logan Lucky is a film which you should take the time to see.

After being let go due to liability reasons and his ex-wife Bobbie Jo Chapman (Katie Holmes) moving away with his daughter, Jimmy Logan (Channing Tatum) coerces his brother, Iraq War veteran and amputee Clyde (Adam Driver), into helping him rob the money vault during the Nascar Coca-Cola 600 race at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. They assemble a team consisting of their sister Mellie (Riley Keough), convicted felon and notorious safecracker Joe Bang (Daniel Craig) and his brothers Sam (Brian Gleeson) and Fish (Jack Ouaid).

Its understated manner and cleverness is both entertaining and impressive, and is the reason why Logan Lucky is such a good film. The direction and pace is consistent throughout, with the family orientated story staying true to its purpose by driving the heist forward, not going over the top with explosions or chases. The driving is used appropriately and doesn't take away from the focus of

The cast are strong with their performances. Driver has an exceptional one handed scene that is impressive in its intelligence, with both him and Tatum adding layered depth to the stereotypical simple 'hillbilly' type characters. Craig's unhinged and fun Joe Bang adds to the comedic side of the film, with the supporting cast adding quality, including Seth MacFarlane as eccentric, arrogant millionaire Max Chilblain, a sponsor for a Nascar team with a serious and focused driver, Dayton White (Sebastian Stan).

The country western backdrop of state fairs and music keeps with the homely tones of the Logan characters. You will undoubtedly walk away singing Take Me Home, Country Roads at the top of your lungs with its infectious inclusion. It's certainly worth picking up on DVD, as it entertains you from start to finish; a speciality director Steven Soderbergh has provided us with numerous times over the years.

Detroit

nother film that didn't bring home big bucks at the box office, but a strong film that evervone should see. Detroit is based on real events that took place during the riots in the city in 1967, known as the 12th Street Riots. The film focuses on the specific incident of the Algiers Motel that took place on the night of 25th/26th July. Tensions began to grow throughout the city after an unlicensed club was raided, causing the riots to begin, with civil authorities and elected representatives powerless to stop the violence.

After the Dramatics, a black R&B group, are forced to leave their gig and tour bus due to the riots. Larry Reed (Algee Smith) and his friend Fred Temple (Jacob Laitmore) end up at the Algiers. When meeting people at the motel and back in a room, Carl Cooper (Jason Mitchell) shoots blanks from his starter pistol to frighten the National Guard, sent to control the trouble, but police respond and storm the building.

Throughout the night, police held 12 people hostages; 10 black civilians and 2 white girls, interrogating them with violence. Local security quard, Melvin Dismukes (John Boyega) offered his services throughout the incident, but was ultimately swept along with the hostage's due to the colour of his skin, with the police trying to cover their tracks.

Much like Dunkirk (review on the next page). Detroit's intensity and real-life horror gives you an account of just how terrifying it would have been during the events. Actor Will Poulter, who plays one of the white police officers Philip Krauss, is essential playing a racist. Of course, Poulter isn't a racist in real life, but his performance is staggering and perfect for the character. Boyega, Smith, Laitmore and other cast members including Anthony Mackie and John Kraniski are powerful, drawing you in with every breathe.

With this film being released to mark the 50th anniversary of the 12th Street Riots, this film is still as distressing today as it would have been if released in 1967. It is a shame that these events stand in history, but hopefully we have evolved since then and it is important to take some time and watch this film to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Reviewing A Selection Of







Wonder Woman ★ ★ ★ ★

fter the backlash from critics and some fans of Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice, and Suicide Squad, the continued success of the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) and the reception 20th Century Fox has received for R-Rated features Deadpool and Logan; the DCEU (DC Extended Universe) and Warner Bros were on the back-foot heading into the release of Wonder Woman. A film that dedicated fans such as myself would have seen, regardless of overall quality, but fans, as well as audiences in general, can be pleased with just how fantastic it is from start to finish.

The origin story shows Diana Prince (Gal Gadot) learning about her mythological heritage and how to become a warrior, before Captain Steve Trevor (Chris Pine) crashes in the clear waters of the Amazonian island; Themyscira. Accompanying him to fight the war waging in Western Europe, she must stop gas producing Dr Poison (Elena Anaya) along with the mythical, treacherous son of Zeus; her half-

Much like Man of Steel, the film is story driven, showing the conflict of interests these heroes face when discovering not only more about themselves, but the people and world around them. It focuses on their humanitarianism and purity, rather than over idealising their comic book back story to create a potential quick buck at the box office. Gadot portrays Diana extremely well, being loving and compassionate, whilst being totally badass in the process. She captures Wonder Woman's finest qualities as she learns more and more about the power she possesses. Pine is very good as her opposite, with the two sharing great chemistry.

Director Patty Jenkins has done a fantastic job in taking the wonderful sneak peek we saw in Batman v Superman and creating a beautiful movie about an icon that can begin to inspire a new generation. Wonder Woman has become the highest grossing movie of all time by a female director, as well as the highest grossing domestic (United States) origin story, surpassing Spider-Man (2002) and Deadpool (2016).

Baby Driver ★★★★

dgar Wright's wonderful new action heist hit is one of the best movies of the summer as it follows get-away driver and music enthusiast Baby (Ansel Elgort), who works under crime veteran Doc (Kevin Spacey), alongside various gangs of misfits, including Buddy (Jon Hamm), Darling (actress), Griff (Jon Berthnal) and Bats (Jamie Foxx). But when he meets diner worker Debora (Lily James), the game changes.

When Guardians of the Galaxy became a global sensation off the back of some questioning by many, one of its major drawing points was a wicked soundtrack that would ring through your brain and in your ears for months on end. Baby driver is no different. The music drives the story, with Baby picking specific songs for specific jobs. Not only that, but the way movement in scenes adheres to the beat of the track. From Queen to Blur to the Beach Boys to Bob & Earl to T-Rex. Hit after hit that, much like Guardians, fits poetically with the symphony of story and direction.

The impact of the writing resonates throughout. It gives each of the characters their own unique style and a sense of what motivates them to pursue the life of crime. The acting is terrific, as Elgot and James hold their own around a star-studded line up. The wonderfully orchestrated stunt work in this film is incredible. The superb driving sequences are fluid and seamless as they transition around the evolving romance of Baby and Debora.

As CGI becomes increasingly used, which is sometimes needed and at some points isn't, it would have been easy for Wright to increment it into the film. But all the stunts were done on location in Atlanta. This gives the film a realistic edge, knowing that they were done on tarmac rather than the screen, because not only are they dangerous, but they are brilliant in every sense.

This is easily one of the best films this summer. The original screenplay leaves you scrolling through your phone or iPod to find songs you would use as a get-away driver, but remember not to try the stunts!

War for the **Planet of the Apes**

ollowing on from the events of the second instalment, Dawn of the Planet of the Apes, the leader, a chimpanzee named Caesar (Andy Serkis) takes his colony to high up in the woods. But when a military faction called Alpha-Omega, under the leadership of a ruthless dictator known as The Colonel (Woody Harrelson) destroys their home and murders some of his apes, Caesar is out for vengeance, looking to put an end to the war once and for all.

The motion capture and CGI, as with the first two instalments Rise (of the Planet of the Apes) and Dawn, is mind blowing. The attention to detail is exquisite; everything from fur to battle wounds is superbly done to bring Caesar, Maurice and co to life. Even in an era where CGI is used constantly, you can't help but be in awe. Not only the apes, but the landscape and action sequences are a thing of beauty, adding to the overall quality of the movie. The performance that Andy Serkis gives is unbelievable. easily his best as Caesar to date.

Recent Releases &



IT - 8th September

Based on Stephen King's 1986 novel, a group of kids who call themselves 'The Losers' Club' are out investigating an evil that takes the form of a clown and who they believe is at the hands of their friends' death.



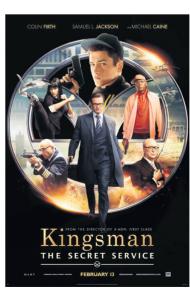
Wind River - 8th September

A wildlife tracker (Jeremy Renner) and FBI agent (Elizabeth Olsen) join together to solve a murder mystery on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming.



American Assassin - 15th September

Mitch Rapp (Dylan O'Brien) is assigned to Stan Hurley's (Michael Keaton) black ops recruitment programme to help the CIA track down a roque operative.



Kingsman: The Golden Circle -19th/20th September

Eggsy (Taron Egerton) is back in his perfectly fitted, bespoke Kingsman suit as he teams with the United States Counterpart Statesman (Channing Tatum. Jeff Bridges) to take on



another world ending threat.

Keep your eyes on local cinema listings for a double screening with Kingsman: The Secret Service.

The Summers Best Movies



The power he portrays through motion capture is divine, truly perfecting the art he has already mastered.

But the best thing about this film, which can often get lost in franchises, is the story. It's a great story of morality and desire from start to finish. The way it unfolds and the depth you get from the characters is stunning. That is testimony to the ethos writers/producers Amanda Silver and Rick Jeffa have implemented right from the beginning with Rise. They have envisioned what they wanted, and with the help of directors Rupert Wyatt and Matt Reeves, they have achieved it.

A fitting conclusion that has been the goal since James Franco began teaching baby Caesar. There have been rumours that a fourth is being planned, which could be welcomed by fans and critics alike after the success of War for the Planet of the Apes, but some stories are best left at their rightful end and this surely is one of them? Otherwise, it may turn out like Transformers, and nobody wants that to happen again.

Dunkirk

hristopher Nolan's portrayal of what Winston Churchill described as "a colossal military disaster" is impactfully beautiful. Along with his wife Emma Thomas. they have produced some of cinemas best films; from the Dark Knight trilogy to Inception to Interstellar. Their latest adventure, Dunkirk, adds to their superb resumé of critically acclaimed movies.

 $\mathsf{L} \star \star \star \star$

The story follows the evacuation of British and French troops across the channel as they try to escape German advances towards the beach and harbour at Dunkirk. Not only were the lives of those serving their country in the three divisions of the army, the navy and the RAF in danger, but those of civilians who were willing to sacrifice their life to bring servicemen home.

Whilst Tom Hardy and Cillian Murphy return once more to collaborate with Nolan, Dunkirk sees young British actors such as Fionn Whitehead, Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden and Irish actor Barry Keoghan take centre stage, performing superbly, with

veterans Kenneth Branagh and Mark Rylance supporting. Harry Styles did incredibly well in his film debut, adding strength to the whole performance rather than seeming like any publicity attraction. With its wide angles and first-person cockpit shots, it is cinematically stunning from frame

The nonlinear narrative of the movie from three perspectives was a pleasant surprise, especially with how they all aligned in the conclusion, but caused confusion for me on one occasion. The composition was orchestrated by Hans Zimmer. As usual, he matches the film perfectly, drawing you into the suspense minute by minute.

With great period war, they try to give a sense of what trauma, devastation and loss soldiers suffered. Of course, they are not close to what our brave servicemen & women have and must face in such circumstances . Dunkirk, historically accurate or not, gives you a sense of how difficult it was to simply survive onslaught after onslaught on the beaches, in the freezing sea and roaring skies.

The Big Sick ★★★★

ut of all the Hollywood blockbusters and star-studded movies that have been released over the summer; I bet one film you never thought of watching is The Big Sick. A love story that has truly warmed our hearts and undercut the competition this summer. Well if you do one thing, take a few hours out of your life to sit with some snacks, drinks, maybe even some tissues and watch, what has been said by many, as one of the best films of the year to date.

Loosely based on a true story, the writers Kumail Nanjiani and his wife Emily V. Gordon tell their struggling tale. Comedian Nanjiani (playing himself) meets grad student Emily (played by Zoe Kazan in the film) and they fall for one another. Kumail lies to his Pakistani family, who believe in arranged marriage to a person from the same culture and race. But when Emily develops a serious illness, Nanjiani deals with her parents Beth (Holly Hunter) and Terry (Ray Romano), whilst trying to make his way in stand-up and keep his family off his back

Like a Randy Orton RKO, this film came out of nowhere. This beautiful story has been cleverly written by the two who experienced it first hand. Nanijani and Gordon, with well-timed jokes, awkward relationship moments and passionate parents; just what you expect from their actual lives. Anybody who has had a relationship can see themselves at some point in this film as relatability (to some extent) is the driving factor.

Playing any sort of biopic is tricky, as the people who really experienced it all must watch; whether everything happened or not, but the cast did a great job of conveying the raw emotion of the situation. The comedy, romance and drama go hand in hand. blossoming together rather than being forced; a credit to the real-life relationship between Kumail and

What has been your favourite film of the summer? Check our website for more reviews, including Spider-Man Homecoming, Gifted and more!

Upcoming Movies



Flatliners - 29th September

Medical students who are intrigued as to what lies beyond death discover more than they bargained for when they try the thrill one too many times.



Blade Runner 2049 - 6th October In the year 2049, a new Blade Runner, Office K (Ryan Gosling) unearths a dark secret that could have serious consequences. But it leads him to a

former Blade Runner; Rick Deckard

(Harrison Ford)



The Snowman - 13th October

Originally a novel by Jo NesbØ, a detective (Michael Fassbender) is tasked with investigating disappearances on the first snow of the winter season



Jigsaw - 27th October

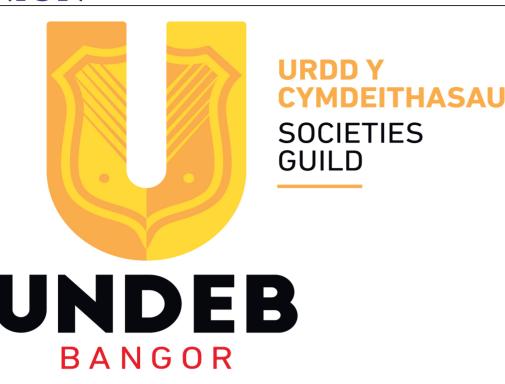
The horror franchise Saw is back with its eigth installment: Jigsaw. After the death of the Jigsaw killer a decade ago, a new succession of muders come to light that are all too familiar.



Thor: Ragnarok - 27th October

Thor's (Chris Hemsworth) seeking the whereabouts of his missing father Odin (Anthony Hopkins). But when Hela (Cate Blanchett) descends Ragnarok upon Asgard, can he and his team stop her destructive wrath?

UNION





Students' Union to hold its first ever De-Stresstival!

De-Stresstival is a week-long event giving students the opportunity to have some fun and de-stress! It will allow students to take part in exciting activities, alongside workshops that are designed to be relaxing and promote well-being. We also aim to raise awareness of mental health, educate students on plagiarism and to promote the advice and support provision we have here at the Students' Union.

There will be a variety of games such as a piñata, painting your own gnomes and bracelet making to ties will include egg and spoon race, sack race, three-legged race, etc. Lastly, what better than FREE FOOD!

name a few. For those of you, who want something a bit more relaxing, come to our Canine Calming Room to cuddle our four legged friends! Everyone is welcome to join the Sabbatical Officers during the evening, a couple of things they have planned are an open mic night in Belle Vue and an evening in the Global Café. There will be a chance for everyone to compete in our sports event at the Brailsford dome; the fun activities will include egg and spoon race, sack race, three-legged race, etc.

De-Stresstival will be giving out free Pizza!! Along with drinks and other nibbles.

For those of you facing any issues or wanting some advice, our Academic caseworker will be holding a daily 1-hour drop in session to listen and help. For anyone who is unsure of plagiarism, we will be giving out leaflets on what different types of plagiarisms there are. There will also be a game to guess the similarity percentage on work that has been plagiarised and of course, a prize for the winner!

Submit your ideas to your Students' Union now



Want to Make Change Happen? Why not let Undeb Bangor (your Students' Union know what you're passionate about and what changes you want in your University and Union by submitting Your Ideas now.

Any student can submit, upvote or down vote an idea to direct the work of your Students' Union. If you have an idea about how to make Undeb Bangor (Your Students' Union), the University or the community better for students you just need to log on to www.undebangor.com/yourideas and let us know.

We can't wait to hear from you and help make your

Societies Guild Proposal

For a long time, societies have been successful at changing the way that education at Bangor University works. From running entirely separate conferences, to hosting 72 hour charity marathons, societies have given students the opportunity to develop themselves both personally and academically. James Williams, VP for Societies and Volunteering want to give students the opportunity to go even further.

It is proposed that Societies will see a new structure with more opportunities for collaboration and development. It is proposed that a Societies Guild is formed. Societies will be arranged into a series of clusters, which committee members can choose, to have a group that they can work closely with to make even bigger events. This gives all societies a better opportunity to work together and learn more techniques to make their opportunity even better.

Another way to help societies become even better is the new achievements system. This new system would give societies a series of 12 different awards that can be achieved in order to gain further distinctions. What's even better is that for every achievement, the society and committee will be rewarded. These include more BEA points, advertisement on university computers, and a variety of other rewards.

This idea will be discussed further during the societies' welcome meeting on September the 18th, 8pm-9pm.



Course Reps – Get Involved!

It's a new academic year and as well as all the excitement that brings, like meeting new people, catching up with friends you haven't seen all summer and getting involved in the hundreds of activities Undeb Bangor (your Students' Union) is putting on, it's also time to make sure you know about how to become a Course Rep.

The course rep system plays a vital role in making sure that the opinions of all students are represented and valued so that you have a direct say in the shaping of your academic experience. It's basically the chance for you to have your say, be heard and make positive change. It's also your

chance to highlight the great things that your school, lecturers and staff are doing too to make sure they keep happening.

If you're interested in being a course rep you can nominate yourself from Welcome Week. Even if you don't fancy being a course rep this year it's still really important that you have your say on who represents your views, so you can vote for all those who have put themselves forward during week

Log on to www.undebbangor.com/ coursereps for more information and all things Course Rep Related.

Athletic Union Taster Session



If you're unsure about the clubs you want to join this year, why not go along to a Taster Session, the taster sessions begin on Thursday 21st of September, kicking off with Men's Futsal in Hall1 6-8pm and will continue for a week. The taster sessions are the perfect opportunity for you to find out which sport you will enjoy, if you enjoy the taster session then you can join that club online through undebbangor.com

Bangor Univeristy Sporting Opportunities



ne of the many attractions to University is the chance to get involved with sports teams. Whether it be representing them or just playing socially with friends; it's something that many enjoy. Here, at Bangor University, we offer a vast variety of sports teams for everyone. From American Football, to La Crosse, to Ultimate Frisbee; you name it, you can probably join it.

Teams compete weekly at BUCS (British University and College Sport) in league and cup competitions across the country.

You can sign up to join these teams at our Fresher's Fair Serendipity. There, you will get all the information you need and any questions that need answering.

Each year, we have our Varsity competition against Aberystwyth University. All sports teams compete against one another to claim the trophy and bragging rights for their respective university. Last year, we were victorious, and became the first away winners in history. An awesome day where everyone gets involved, from playing to reporting to spectating; it's worth coming down to experience.

England's Summer Success



by JACK HOLLINSHEAD oe Root had his first challenges as test captain when his side faced South Africa and the West Indies in respective series'. After drawing with Bangladesh and a series whitewash away in India last year, it was important to build some momentum ahead of the Ashes in Australia beginning in November, and England fans will be glad to know they have done just that

They started well against South Africa, but after two tests, the series was level at 1-1. In the third test, and the 100th England test at the Kia Oval, we saw some breath-taking bowling from Moeen Ali. He won the match with a hat-trick, with the third and final wicket being correctly reviewed; the scenes inside the ground were immense. England would go on to win the series 3-1.

Root's side would then face the West Indies, where we saw the first ever day/ night match take place, with a pink ball being used when the floodlights came on. England steamrollered the Indies, with Alastair Cook scoring 243 as the home side won by an innings and 209 runs. The Windies would level the three match series, but England made no mistake in the third, winning by 9 wickets. This was a special test for bowler Jimmy Anderson, who joined the illustrious 500 wicket club and took career best figures of 7-42.

As promising as these results are under new captaincy, Root and current Head Coach Trevor Bayliss will still

have some tinkering to do. Keaton Jennings, Mark Stoneman and Tom Westley had mixed series' at the top order of the batting. Toby Roland-Jones impressed with the ball, but I'm sure Chris Woakes will be knocking at the door for a place in the Ashes squad; so plenty to think about.

The Ashes first test is on the 23rd November at The Gabba, Brisbane, with BT Sport providing the coverage. Be sure to check you don't have a 9am if you want to stay up for this series!

Want to get involved with the Sport pages or any other sections of Seren? Get in touch via our website social media or email:

Premier League Clubs Vote On Transfer Window Changes Beginning Next Season

remier League clubs have agreed to close the summer transfer window the day before the start of the 2018-19 season.

This means clubs will not be allowed to register any new players after 5pm on the Thursday before the seasonopener.

The vote at a meeting of top-flight clubs on Thursday, which was not unanimous, followed weeks of debate about the uncertainty caused to managers and players by three weeks of transfer activity and speculation at the start of a new campaign.

The Premier League released a statement saying: "Premier League clubs have today agreed to a rule amendment that will see the summer transfer window in any year end at 5pm on the Thursday before the start of the sea-"This is for Premier League clubs

only and has no bearing on other leagues and competitions.

The first transfer window in which this applies will be the summer transfer window in 2018 (ahead of the 2018/19 season) and it will close on 17.00 on Thursday 9 August 2018."

"This new rule applies only to the acquisition of players. Clubs will still have the ability to sell players to other leagues in which the transfer window is open (as they can now to leagues that have different transfer wind dates, eg MLS and CSL).
"Clubs have discussed this topic at

length at previous shareholders' meetings (February 2017 and June 2017) prior to today's vote."

As it stands, the ruling will only affect the English top flight, with no other leagues having voted on the potential change.

Benavidez Makes History



David Benavidez has become the voungest fighter to win a world supermiddleweight title, claiming the vacant WBC belt aged 20 years and nine months.

The American beat Romanian Ronald Gavril by split decision to also become the youngest current world champion.

Benavidez was floored in the 12th round of the fight but won 117-111 and 116-11 on two judges' scorecards, while the other was 116-111 in Gavril's favour

The victory leaves Benavidez unbeat-

Britain's Callum Smith was supposed to fight Anthony Dirrell for the vacant WBC super-middleweight title in September.

However, Smith sacrificed his title shot to take part in the World Boxing Super Series, while Dirrell could not fight through injury.

The belt was vacated after Badou Jack moved up a weight division after being ordered to defend his title against Liverpool's Smith.

Van Gaal Speaks About His United Axe

ouis van Gaal says Manchester United went "behind my back" in replacing him as manager with Jose Mourinho in 2016.

The Dutchman, 66, was sacked 48 hours after winning the FA Cup and Mourinho was appointed less than a week later.

"They told me only after it was leaked out, it was the biggest disappointment of my life," Van Gaal, who was two years into a three-year contract, told Dutch paper Algemeen Dagblad.

"United put my head in a noose and I was publicly placed on the gallows."
It is Van Gaal's first interview about the manner of his Old Trafford exit.

He had won seven national titles with Ajax, Barcelona, Bayern Munich and AZ before being appointed Manchester United boss in May 2014.

THEY TOLD ME **ONLY AFTER IT WAS LEAKED OUT, IT WAS THE BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT OF MY LIFE**

United finished fourth in the Premier League in his first season in charge to qualify for the Champions League, but despite winning the FA Cup, they finished fifth in his second campaign as they could only qualify for the Europa League.

"The pressure was enormous with my head in the noose and they went right behind my back," said Van Gaal.

"I think it was all orchestrated like a film and it was done very much behind my back right from January.

United paid out £8.4m to Van Gaal following the departure of the Dutchman and his coaches.

"United did not discuss this with me. If they had come to me with the Mourinho plan then I could have said 'OK, let's give it everything for the last six months, complete commitment to each other and the team and then Jose Mourinho can take over'," he added.

"They could have saved the last year of my salary by doing that but after what happened I made them pay every

Bangor University Students' Union English Language Newspaper

@SerenSports

SPORT

The AU Exec Team 2017-

VP for Sport -Tatenda Shonhiwa



Firstly, how are you finding your new role as a Saab?

It's been a busy and exciting time for me over the summer, firstly getting to learn the role, there's a lot more to it than what meets the eye and the experiences I got from learning from other officers across the country. I managed to make friends that will for sure support me throughout the year in the role.

It's been good working with the other 4 officers, and just seeing their energies especially with their approach to students. It looks like it will be an exciting year ahead.

What brought you to the role?

The reason I ran for this role was because I wanted to make a difference to other students, being a part of the AU over my studies here was the best decision I made and ensuring that, more students take part in sport is my goal. I aim to strive to ensure that there's a platform for our student members be able to get active.

What are your main focuses this year in terms of ideas you are hoping to implement?

The job is very dynamic, I had hoped to have a unified AU merchandise program by now and also to grow the campus sport program, however due to when timetables are published and agreed, I wasn't able to add to campus sport so hopefully by the end of the year we may be able to. With The AU Kit, we are still trying to review the needs that our students have in regards to kit, before we make a decision about which company can be the unified provider. I am finding a lot of things take time to happen, but we are definitely going in the right direction.

How have you started implementing your ideas?

With the unpredictability of the job, a lot of unexpected tasks have come up on my desks since I started, a few projects I have been working on are around funding for sport and physical activity, I have also started working on a Welfare in Sport strategy details on this will be rolled out just after freshers week.

Varcity is the main event if the year but what other sporting events should students be looking out for?

I am glad to announce Varsity will be on April 21st and we have that at home, but throughout the year but within Undeb we have Superstars and superteams in December, Healthy Living week in February ,Alan Marsh throwing tournament in March, AU dinner in April to name a few. To keep in touch with all things sports please give our AU Facebook page alike.

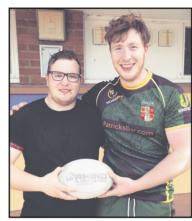
There's a huge variety of sports for new students to get involved in at Bangor. What advice can you give to those looking at getting involved in sport for the first time

My best advice to give anyone in sport is JUST DO IT!, its FREE and all our clubs are inclusive to ensure everyone feels welcomed. Sports definitely made my experience here so much better. The friendships you make out of this experience will be lifelong.

What are you looking forward to most about being a Saab this year?

I am looking forward to just seeing the AU grow, the membership numbers in particular, I am looking forward to hopefully a hat trick of Varsity wins. From being a member to now the head of it, it's something I could have only hoped for.

BUCS Officer - Corrie Shorrock



Hi, my name Corie and I'm the Bucs officer this year. I'm currently a 3rd year student studying criminal justice and criminology. I'm involved with several teams within the AU powerlifting, judo, rugby league, Gaelic football and American football. I have been the 1st team captain of rugby league for 2 years and now I am the club captain as well being the social sec of powerlifting. Being this year BUCS officer, I will aim to make sure everything is always organised, no one is running round panicking so that everyone can leave on time and enjoy there Wednesday afternoons of sport.

Events Officer -Nikki Smith



Hey! I'm Nikki and my role as part of the exec committee is the Events Officer. I help choose Academi AU night themes and assist clubs with fundraising. I am currently doing a Masters in Clinical and Health Psychology, and I am part of the Ladies Hockey Club and Bangor Snow; where I was a social sec in my second year! As the Events Officer, this year I aim to create different AU night themes, and encourage more clubs to raise money, using lots of different ways.

Secretary -Elle Langham



Hi, my name is Elle and I'm your AU exec secretary this year. I'm currently completing a PhD with the school of Sports Science and have loved being a part of the AU during my time in Bangor! I've been part of cheerleading, gymnastics, lacrosse and pole fit and was captain and now coach of the cheerleading team. As your secretary, I assist the rest of the AU exec team in the organisation and running of events as well as documenting discussions and decisions that come up at meetings. I'm also involved in the running of the This Girl Can campaign and can't wait to see what this year has in store!

Healthy Living Officer Lilly Stokes



Hi guys, I'm Lily and I am this year's healthy living officer. I'm studying the MSc Marine Environmental Protection on an Athena Swan Women in Science scholarship. During my 3 years in Bangor I have been involved in the AU through cheerleading and pole fit, being captain for the cheer squad last year and coach this year.

My role this year will involve running the mental health campaign along with assisting in other campaigns. In addition to this I will be promoting healthy living from the comfort of your own home with no need to fork out for gym memberships and overpriced vegetables.

Marketing and Publicity Officer-Louise Fell



Hello! My name is Louise a Fell and I'm the Communications and Publicity Officer of the AU Exec for the 2017/18 academic year. I'm currently doing a masters in Sports and Exercise Psychology and have been an active member of the AU throughout my three years in Bangor. I am currently Vice-Club Captain of the Badminton Club, and have previously been Vice First Team Captain of the Women's Cricket Team. As the Communications and Publicity Officer, I will aim to make sure all of the great stuff your teams do this year doesn't go unnoticed. A big part of my job is also to publicise events that the AU run, which means I'll have a big hand helping with the organisation of Varsity 2018. I will also be looking to improve the communication of major sporting successes to Seren.

CHECK OUT YOUR ATHLETIC UNION

CLUBS AT

SERENDIPITY!

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, PJ HALL





ACTIVITY

Enjoy a variety of fun



WET & WILD



LEARN TO COOK

Time to test your cooking skills or learn some new ones with our Campus Crew!



SPECIAL EVENT

Special events not to be missed! WEAR YOUR WRISTBAND!



QUIZ & BINGO



BIG SCREEN MOVIE TIME





GET CRAFTY



GET TOGETHER



HALLS TO HOME

Helping smooth the way from halls to private accommodation



CHILLED OUT EVENTS

Time to chat, chill and just take it easy.



KNOCK ON YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Take a couple of minutes out of your day to check everyone in your flat is doing ok

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY 1ST
Wednesday Walkabout
Check out Facebook for details

WEDNESDAY 1ST Student Think Tank 1-2pm | Braint











Hot Chocolate & Bonfire Night Walk
6pm | Meet outside Ffridd and St Mary's Halls Office



Hot Chocolate Morning! 8.30-9.00am | Ffridd and St Mary's Village



WEDNESDAY 8TH

Wednesday Walkabout
Check out Facebook for details



THURSDAY 9TH

FRIDAY 10[™]

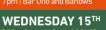


SUNDAY 12[™] Open Mic Night 8.30pm | Acapela



MONDAY 13TH - SUNDAY 19TH **CAMPUS**



















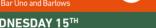










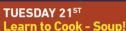


















SUNDAY 26Th

Wet and Wild 1pm | Meet outside Ffridd security office Booking Essential! campuslife@bangor.ac.uk WEDNESDAY 29TH

THURSDAY 30TH Pool Tournament 7pm | Bar Uno and Barlows



DECEMBER

J



APPLICATIONS OPEN FRIDAY 1ST

BOOK YOUR ROOM IN #LOVEHALLS HALLS FOR NEXT **YEAR NOW!**

Manchester Christmas Markets Trip! 10am - 6pm | £ | Meet outside Reichel Booking Essential! campuslife@bangor.



Hot Chocolate Morning! 8.30-9.00am | Ffridd and St Mary's Village



7pm | Bar Uno WEDNESDAY 6TH

Wednesday Walkabout Check out Facebook for details THURSDAY 7TH

Christmas Decoration Making

FRIDAY 8TH Friday Film Night

SUNDAY 10[™] Open Mic Night 8.30pm | Acapela



TUESDAY 12[™] Learn to Cook - Mince Pies!
7pm | Barlows Kitchens

WEDNESDAY 13TH Wednesday Walkabout Check out Facebook for details

THURSDAY 14TI







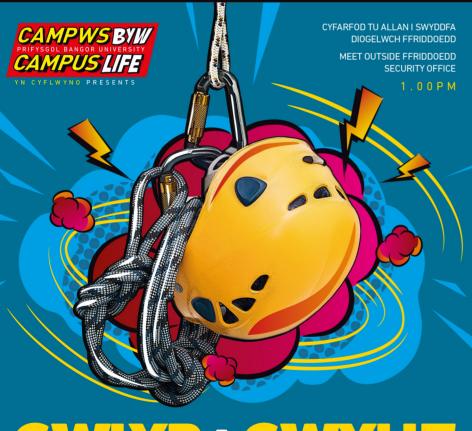


CHECK OUT THE BANGOR CAMPUS LIFE WEBSITE, APP OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ALL OUR LATEST NEWS. WWW.CAMPUSLIFEBANGOR.CO.UK



22.09.17 27.10.17 24.11.17 08.12.17 13.10.17 10.11.17

DEWISWCH EICH HOFF FFILM AR-LEINCHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE FROM OUR ONLINE POLL



08.10.17 29.10.17 26.11.17

RHAGARCHEBU YN HANFODOL! CAMPWSBYW@BANGOR.AC.UK BOOKING ESSENTIAL! CAMPUSLIFE@BANGOR.AC.UK









08.10.17 24.09.17 22.10.17

RHAGARCHEBU YN HANFODOL! **CAMPWSBYW@BANGOR.AC.UK** BOOKING ESSENTIAL! CAMPUSLIFE@BANGOR.AC.UK



01.10.17 12.11.17 10.12.17

CAMPWSBYW@BANGOR.AC.UK | BERFFORMIO EMAIL CAMPUSLIFE@BANGOR.AC.UK TO PERFORM