

# Collisions Unbound

## The Science section on CERN

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# Science Challenge

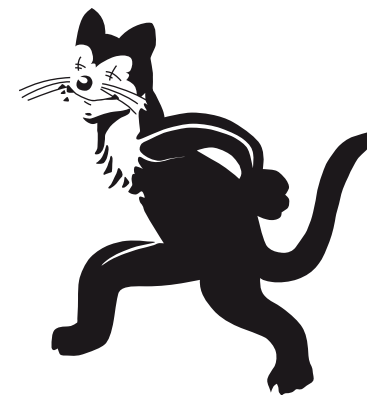
## We interview Dr Jad Marrouche

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# FELIX

"Keep the Cat Free"

15/11/13  
Issue 1560  
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## Cleaning in halls debacle

### Freshers suffer after Campus Services changes halls' cleaning contract

Joseph Letts  
Editor-in-Chief

Since the start of the year, residents in College halls have been coping with a reduced cleaning service, with bedrooms being cleaned only once every four weeks rather than once a fortnight. This is the result of a cleaning review carried out by College's Campus Services department, the department that is in charge of Accommodation, Catering, Conferences and Events, Sport and the Student Hub. Over the Summer College re-tendered their cleaning contract, resulting in changes to the provision of cleaning services around College.

One of the issues faced by students affected by the changes was the poor dissemination of information, many students failed to understand the change in circumstances or the options they had available to them as a result. This included the availability of cleaning equipment for student use in halls, and why the changes were made in the first place.

When *Felix* approached Campus Services several weeks ago about the changes to the provision of cleaning in halls, they provided the following response:

"College has recently reviewed its cleaning services, as the last review was over seven years ago. It made some changes to ensure the cleaning rotas address needs across the campuses.

These include the following within the areas of Campus Services

- Student feedback over the past few years has suggested a need for Halls to be cleaned on weekends, to tackle any mess created on Friday evenings. Saturday cleaning has now been introduced as part of the rota changes.

- A significant proportion of students preferred not to be disturbed by the



CAPTION

JOSEPH LETTS

fortnightly cleaning scheduled on the previous rota. This has now changed from fortnightly to a monthly, deeper clean. General cleaning equipment including vacuum cleaners will be provided.

- Cleaning service levels are not one of the factors considered when calculating student rents. Campus Services are contacting all students resident in Halls to ensure they are aware of the changes, and to provide

details of who to speak to if they have any concerns

Updating the approach to cleaning means that other facilities can also be serviced more regularly or at more useful points in the day. These include Ethos, which can be used heavily in the evenings, and the Library Café which is often used throughout the night by students, together with other student facilities in Sheffield.

All of the changes will be monitored

closely and kept under review, and any students who encounter any difficulties due to the new rota can share these with their hall supervisor.

Campus Services have kept the Union's Deputy President (Finance and Services) up-to-date on the planned changes."

Aside from the issues surrounding the frequency of the cleaning service, several students and sub-continued on page 3...

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### MUSIC



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### THIS ISSUE...

# EDITOR'S PICKS

## SPORT BUCS

What the BUCS say?  
We have the BUCS fixtures for the next week, so if you'd like to go to that Tiddlywinks game, you'll know where to go...

## BOOKS

### Flash Fiction

Fiction in 200 characters. This week Evelyn Craven guides us along the Thames.



## FILM

### The Oscars

Film Editor John Park makes predictions about the Oscars 2014 Best Leading Actresses



## COMMENT



**Where has London's lesbian scene gone?**  
What's happening to the Candy Bar?

**Confessions of a GTA 5:**  
GTAs are only helpful when asked nicely.

## Erratum

Hey, so last week we had errors in our erratum. We're sorry. This week we're bound to have some more. If you find some errors, want to complain or just want to have your name written in the stars (a million miles away), why not send in a letter to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)?



The Queen & Prince Philip at the Royal Albert Hall last weekend for the naming of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Steps

JOSEPH LETTS

**LOLCAT OF THE WEEK:** More from teh Lolcat editor



# THIS WEEK FELIX WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY

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continued from page 1...

wardens have raised a possible legal issue surrounding the changes. The frequency of the cleaning service is one of the terms and conditions of the Accommodation License that all halls' residents have to agree to before they can accept an offer of accommodation. As mentioned in at the start of this year's contract, College Accommodation Licence (2013-2014), the licence contains legally binding obligations that apply to students. However, this year's licence still states in Section 4 (Cleaning) that "At all accommodation with the exception of Xenia all kitchen, reception and other communal areas will be cleaned daily, Monday to Friday, and study bedrooms will be cleaned fortnightly..."

The disparity between the contract signed by every student in College accommodation and the cleaning services provided by College has caused some concern in the halls' population. Several halls' residents have sent in complaints to Campus Services regarding what they consider to be a breach in contract, to which the department replied, "...We do reserve the right to vary the frequencies in order to avoid having to increase our running (and therefore rental) costs." However, this does conflict with the initial response we received from Campus Services (see above) where they state that cleaning service levels are not considered when calculating student rents. Felix looks forward to their clarification on this issue.

Last year's Union President and current sub-warden Paul Beaumont sent a letter of complaint (in a personal capacity) to the Rector, Provost, College Secretary, and Associate Provost (Institutional Affairs) this week, in which he stated, "Although the licence reserves eight other rights to vary the contract, altering the frequency of cleaning is not one. An organisation cannot (or should not – even if it reserves the right to) vary a contract except under extreme circumstances. 'Re-tendering' and altering the provision to save money (but not passing on this saving to the customer) is not, in my or in any of the residents I've spoken to views, an extreme circumstance."

Felix has asked Campus Services to respond to a few questions, asking to have more information about the feedback process they used to solicit student feedback, as well as the number of the respondents who preferred monthly cleaning. We're also hoping to be told more about the decision process and how they plan to operate for the rest of the year.

However, we are aware that Campus Services will be reviewing the cleaning provision in the near future, especially for areas where the level of cleaning is inadequate, with a view to increasing the level of cleaning in these areas (i.e. kitchens used by large numbers of students). We have also heard that they have provided some cleaning materials for students to use and we look forward to further developments.

## £20.1 million donation creates Imperial's Brevan Howard Centre



**Zain Rizvi**  
 News Reporter

**B**revan Howard - the third largest hedgefund in the world, has made a historic £20.1 million donation towards the set up of 'The Brevan Howard Centre' at Imperial College London. The centre is set to be "one of the most important centres for financial research in the world" according to Mervyn King (former governor of the Bank of England) and will be based in Imperial's renowned business school.

Professor Franklin Allen and Professor Douglas Gale, two of the world's leading experts on financial crisis and market contagion (The spread of economic crisis/boom via small financial institutions) are set to lead the centre, leaving their previous posts in the US where they were based at top universities. The professors have been hailed as "two of the giants of modern banking and corporate finance." by Kenneth Rogoff, Professor of Economics at Harvard University, and Alan Howard, (founder of Brevan Howard) an Imperial alumnus, as well as the man behind the donation, is hoping that "under Franklin and Douglas' leadership, the Brevan Howard Centre will be perhaps the world's most important locus for studying these [financial] issues."

Professor Allen himself, has said that Brevan Howard's donation has "created the opportunity to set up a finance centre that will be second to none in the world." And together with Professor Gale, he plans "for the research produced at the Brevan Howard Centre to have a direct

and positive influence on financial policymakers and practitioners." Professor Gale also added that "Although the Business School is relatively young, it has made rapid progress and I am confident that it can attain the global stature that Imperial College has in the natural sciences, engineering and medicine. Thanks to the generosity of Alan Howard in funding the Centre, we have already taken a big step toward that goal."

As you may have deduced by now, this centre will effectively play a part in determining the future of both the US and UK economies, and therefore it is no surprise that this initiative has been met with praise from officials from both sides of the Atlantic. Former US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers has made assurances that it will "make our financial system work better and make financial policy much wiser". London Mayor Boris Johnson hardly seemed to be able to contain his excitement, commenting that: "Great scholars and thinkers are intrinsically linked to the success of our city, and having convinced these two world leading minds to move here will help Imperial College further cement London's position as the world's intellectual capital." - Sounds good to us Boris!

Therefore, not only has Imperial once again asserted its dominance on the world stage of leading institutions, the college has also adopted a hands on approach to addressing the key issues that are confronting society today. The success of this approach has been exemplified by the high graduate employment rates that Imperial produces time and time again, and the launch of the Brevan Howard Centre is just another step in cementing Imperial's global reputation.

## Speedcamp announce winners of SpeedHack 4.0

**Thomas Lim**  
 Writer

Seedcamp is known as 'the Harvard of Startup Accelerators', and widely regarded as the top Accelerator in Europe. On top of their regular activities, they also run Seedhack a hackathon (where coders, designers and other startup-y types get together and 'hack' cool products together over a weekend). Last weekend was Seedhack 4.0, with the theme of 'remixing content'. They worked to get a lot of data providers at the event, and we were spoilt for choice! From the BBC's realtime news data hose, through to Nokia's music service and lots of image providers (including Getty, the photo source for all newspapers), we had it covered!

The mostly Imperial team, comprised of Ben Miles, Florian Rathgeber, Aeneas Wiener and Thomas Lim joined forces with three other entrants. Our work with Imperial Create Lab and ICSaaS meant we have the creative and technical skills to execute on a cool idea. The concept of balanced news is one which we liked; there are always two sides to a story, but when reading articles on the internet, it is all too easy to get an unbalanced view.

Our hack pulled in realtime news stories from the BBC News Labs experimental 'Juicer' API. We analysed the content with sentiment analysis to figure out which 'side' of the story it was about. Articles are augmented with various associations to people, places, organisations, events etc., which we used to query for related articles. With more sentiment

analysis, we could work out the article with views most different to the first one analysed. At this point, we analysed any Tweets which had been shared with the URL to the article in it. We measured the sentiment (both for positivity or negativity, and strength of view) of all tweets, and the aggregate scores were factored in to how we displayed articles on the page. We named it Oppozit, as we combined the zeitgeist nature of many news aggregation tools, whilst showing the opposing sides of an argument.

Articles were rendered side by side (the two 'opposing' articles in question), with the proportion of the page given to each one being based on which articles were getting the most vocal support on Twitter. The background colour was based on how strong opinion and language was in the article itself, with a darker shade indicating strong language. The image backdrop was pulled from Getty, with the articles 'key words' (also provided by the BBC 'Juicer' service) being provided as search terms.

All in all, we felt it was an impressive hack considering the time frame! We were delighted that Seedcamp decided to announce us as winners of Seedhack 4.0! Some hackathons have impressive prizes – over £1000 in cash, a trip to the US are some we've come across (but sadly not won) recently. Seedhack tops it all though – a Star Trek Enterprise Pizza cutter. The Enterprise does of course represent the cutting edge of Innovation, so what better way to cut pizza at hackathons and when working at a startup? We look forward to our next Hackathon, but in the mean time check out our live demo: [opozit.me](http://opozit.me) and stay tuned as we develop our hack!



## WELLBEING

# SHAG WEEK EXPOSED

**SAFE** – all efforts should be made to prevent risks to health, particularly regarding safe sex practices that are explored below.

**SANE** – all activities should take place in a sensible frame of mind. If you or your partner have had too much to drink or have taken drugs, it can lead you to make bad decisions or do things you wouldn't do sober. Better to wait until you've sobered up.

### SAFE SEX

Condoms and dental dams are fundamentally important when practicing safe sex. However, they are also expensive and have the habit of running out or being misplaced at the worst possible moment. That's why it's important that they are available should you need them and it's never a bad idea to pick some up if you're running low at home. Around campus there are a few places you can get condoms:

- SAC Reception (Level 2M of the Union Building) – there is a pot of condoms on the reception desk that you can help yourself to.
- Imperial College Health Centre, located underneath Southside Halls in Prince's Gardens.
- Behind the bars – from now on, you can ask the Union's bar staff for packs of condoms.
- In halls – if you're in a hall of residence, you should have condom reps who will be supplied with condoms – check the A-Z on our website to find out who your rep is.
- STI Clinics – you are also able to pick up condoms when you attend one of the free sexual health clinics run by the Terrence Higgins Trust at the Union.

Due to the relative demand and expense of dental dams and pregnancy tests, they aren't distributed in the same ways as condoms, but they should be available from the Union reception on request. If you're in need of a dental dam, you can cut and use a condom instead, but just make sure it doesn't come with spermicide and is either unlubricated or flavoured as common lubricants used in condom packs don't always taste nice.

When used correctly, male condoms are 98% effective. Here are some top tips for condom usage:

- Make sure your condoms have a CE mark – this means they've been tested and are safe to use. Novelty

**CONSENSUAL** – it is crucial that you and your partner consent to all sexual activities. Some points to note:

- Consenting to one sexual activity does not mean your partner consents to all sexual activities e.g. just because someone is okay with kissing, it does not mean they are okay with sex.

- Unconscious people e.g. people who are asleep/passed out, cannot give consent.

- Alcohol can remove someone's ability to consent if they are too drunk. It is difficult to tell sometimes how drunk is too drunk to consent, but checking in with your partner and ensuring they are continuously, enthusiastically consenting to whatever you're doing is a good way of finding out. If someone is slurring their speech, or is falling asleep or otherwise seems physically impaired by their alcohol consumption, then clearly they aren't able to consent. If in doubt, don't do anything!

- If you're engaging in any situation where it could be difficult to tell if your partner is consenting e.g. during roleplay, it's a good idea to have a safe word (something you would never normally say during sex) or a safe action (e.g. dropping weights)

- Enthusiastic consent is sexy – if you think it sounds boring, you're doing something wrong. Some examples of enthusiastic consent if you need inspiration – 'Do you like that?', 'I want to (use your imagination)', 'Yes! Yes! Yes!'

condoms, fake condoms or condoms that are handed out in promotions may not have this so it's worth checking

- Make sure your condoms are in date – although it can be a little disheartening to realise your condoms have had time to expire since you bought them all of those years ago, that beats the panic of a condom splitting.

- Don't use condoms that look squashed or faded – in a similar vein to the above point, this can happen if you keep condoms in your wallet or purse for a long time. It can mean the condom inside is damaged so it's better to use a fresh one.

- Never use two condoms together – although this tactic is commendable in terms of commitment to safety, it actually has the opposite effect as the friction between the two condoms makes them more likely to split. This includes using two male condoms ('double-bagging') and using a male and female condom together.

- Using lubricant is a great idea but make sure it's water-based – using oil-based

lubricants or things like body lotions, olive oil, moisturiser, etc. with latex condoms can make them more likely to split.

- Condoms also aren't just for safe vaginal/anal sex, you can (and should!) use them for oral sex too – many STIs can be transferred through oral sex. Commonly these are gonorrhoea, genital herpes and syphilis, but you can also catch chlamydia, HIV, hepatitis, genital warts and (charmingly) pubic lice. To stay safe, use condoms for a male partner or dental dams/cut condoms for female partners.

- Finally, make sure you don't leave it up to a partner to provide condoms – you are both equally responsible!

Condoms and other barrier methods are the best way of protecting against STIs but, to protect against pregnancy, contraception is an extra level of security for a lot of women. Make sure you make an appointment at the Health Centre or with your GP to explore your options, even if you may not be currently sexually active.

# Union Page

## Coming soon - Rep Week



**Monday 25 – Friday 29 November is Rep Week, our campaign to increase awareness of Academic Representatives (or 'Reps' for short).**

Academic Reps are the first point of contact for students with course or research group concerns, facilities issues and positive feedback. Reps sit on Staff-Student Committees and are an essential link between the College and students.

Find us in the JCR 12:00 - 14:00, Monday – Thursday and 13:00 – 14:00 on Friday. We'll be giving away Love Heart sweets, collecting your views about your course/research group and collecting Student Academic Choice Awards nominations for deserving staff.

**Find out who your Rep is at [imperialcollegeunion.org/academicreps](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/academicreps).**

**[imperialcollegeunion.org/academicreps](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/academicreps)  
#loveyourrep**

## Student Academic Choice Awards



**After a successful launch last year, the Student Academic Choice Awards are back!**

Launched in 2012 and awarded for the first time in May 2013, the Student Academic Choice Awards – or SACAs – enable students to celebrate and reward excellence and innovation amongst Imperial's academic and professional staff. We believe teaching and supervision are skills of equal worth and value to research, and we aim to build a community in which academics, staff and students all feel empowered to bring forth new ideas.

Eight awards in total will cover all faculties, departments and campuses, as well as all modes of study – undergraduate, taught postgraduate and doctoral research. Every student at Imperial will have the chance to recognise the innovation, skill, engagement and energy of the staff they learn with.

**Nominations will open during Rep Week, and will be open until the end of February.** A student-led shortlisting process will then begin, and a mix of student nominators, shortlisted candidates, previous winners and College leaders will attend the SACAs Award Ceremony at the Union on 15 May 2014.

## Sabb Hot Desk



**The Sabb Hotdesk is an opportunity for students to approach our Sabbs with any questions or queries.** They are also there to give you information about their work and activities and what the Union is currently working on.

Activities covered so far include our campaign against charging for the use of Hyde Park football pitches and promoting our SHAG Week activities. You'll find two of our Sabbs on the desk every week in the JCR or Sherfield foyer every Friday during term time, 12:00 - 13:00. The location of the hot desk is featured in the Union's What's On e-newsletter every week.

**Your Sabbs, clockwise from left:** David, President; Yas, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), Nat, Deputy President (Education); Joseph, Felix Editor; Kieron, Deputy President (Finance & Services); and Marissa, Deputy President (Welfare).

# WELLBEING

## David

A lot of people are too timid to look each other in the eyes. Be confident to do this, it's hot.

## Nat

In my eyes there is no such thing as a 'friend zone'. Just a warning to all my male friends out there...

## Yas

Be open to experimentation and don't rush sex, take the time enjoy it and make it last.

## Marissa

Don't do anything that you or your partner(s) are uncomfortable with – if people can't respect your boundaries then they are clearly not worth your time.

## Kieron

Don't be an idiot – if you're concerned have a test or a check up

## Joe

Don't do this!  
bit.ly/175PfRi

## Steve

Communication is key. It doesn't matter whether it's first or 100th time, don't be shy to give directions.

## SABB SHAG TIPS

## CLINICS

Getting an STI test can feel a bit intimidating or embarrassing the first time you go but it's completely worth braving it. There's a bit of a misconception that you should only go to an STI clinic if you have symptoms or if you think you've made a mistake – this isn't true. Getting tested regularly is part of a normal, healthy sex life. If you have multiple partners, it's also the most responsible thing you can do to protect yourself and your partners, alongside practicing safe sex. If you need further convincing, a lot of STIs can be completely symptomless (especially for women) and, if

left untreated for long periods of time, can lead to serious health problems such as infertility – it is always better to be safe than sorry.

The Union hosts clinics run by the Terrence Higgins Trust here in the Union Building, so there is no excuse why you shouldn't get yourself checked - appointments are even short enough to fit them between lectures.

### How do I make an appointment?

You can walk into the clinic on the day and book an appointment; we also have appointments you can book in advance over email.

### What's it like visiting the clinic?

When you go, you'll be greeted by a member of Union staff manning the reception part

of the clinic. They'll take your first name and book you into a slot. You will then be given CLA form to fill in which will ask you for your personal details as well as some questions about your sex life, such as your sexual preference and sexual experiences. You don't have to fill out any questions you aren't comfortable with.

When the nurse is ready, you'll be invited into the clinic and can hand the form over. You'll then have a brief chat about some of the answers you've given in the form and any other concerns you have and the nurse will decide the most appropriate tests.

Most tests (e.g. chlamydia and gonorrhoea) are done using a

urine sample, so you'll be given a sample pot and sent to the nearest bathroom. After you've filled it, you return it to the nurse to label for testing and send away.

Our clinic also offers rapid HIV testing, this is performed by taking a drop of blood from your finger using a pinprick. You are free to opt out of this test if you would prefer. The results are then given to you just a minute or so later.

The rest of your results should be with you in the next few weeks.

### Who can get tested?

Anyone who drops in – students are welcome regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, study type or country of origin.

In preparation for articles coming soon from the **OpenMinds** campaign team, if you encounter any issues during the course of your degree and need some help, here are several phone numbers for you to call. Your calls will be confidential. It's better to get help than to do without.

**Felix**

## IC Disabilities Advisory Service

[disabilities@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:disabilities@imperial.ac.uk)

## IC Counselling Service

[counselling@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@imperial.ac.uk)

## IC Health Centre

[imperialcollege.hc@nhs.net](mailto:imperialcollege.hc@nhs.net)

## Nightline

**0207 631 0101**  
([listening@nightline.org.uk](mailto:listening@nightline.org.uk))

## Samaritans

**08457 90 90 90**  
([jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org))

## Mind

[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

## Time To Change

[www.time-to-change.org.uk](http://www.time-to-change.org.uk)



# Professor Higgs and the press collide

Felix Science goes along to the launch of the Science Museum's new exhibition

This Tuesday saw the launch of the Science Museum's latest exhibition, *Collider*. The £1 million exhibition was developed in close collaboration with CERN. It provides an insight into both the workings of the collider itself, but also takes visitors through the story of the discovery of the Higgs Boson, its latest successful endeavour in its research into particle physics.

The exhibition itself provides a virtual experience of the conference at CERN that took place earlier this year, when they finally confirmed the boson to exist. Visitors sit in a mock up lecture theatre, whilst videos projected on the walls around them show members of the CERN team talking about the discovery. It was here that we were sat to watch the launch, with speeches given by those involved to explain just why *Collider* is a vital contribution to the plethora of other exhibitions the science museum has to offer.

Professor Higgs himself was present for the unveiling, much to the excitement of the press and the scientific community, who turned up bright and early Tuesday morning to pose their

questions. Universally acknowledged as a modest man, he rarely makes public appearances since the Nobel Prize that he was awarded in October, and obviously this was on the agenda for the press that were asking him questions.

It was the press correspondent from the Independent that was the first to breach the subject of Tom Kibble, Imperial's own physicist who contributed to the boson theory but missed out on the Nobel Prize.

After enquiring as to whether or not Higgs has spoken to Kibble since the award, Higgs was kind enough to explain as to why Kibble had only just missed out:

"I think not many people are aware that in 1964, there were a total of six people who published papers on the Standard theory. There was three groups, two people in Brussels, myself in Edinburgh, Tom Kibble at Imperial College...the two people in Brussels were by a long way the first but they actually delayed publication because they thought there had been mistakes, but they were still ahead of me."

"The other three at Imperial College lagged behind at time of publication

and the consequence was that they were not given credit. When it came to the awarding of a Nobel prize, the guidelines seemed to be that there was no more than three per prize.

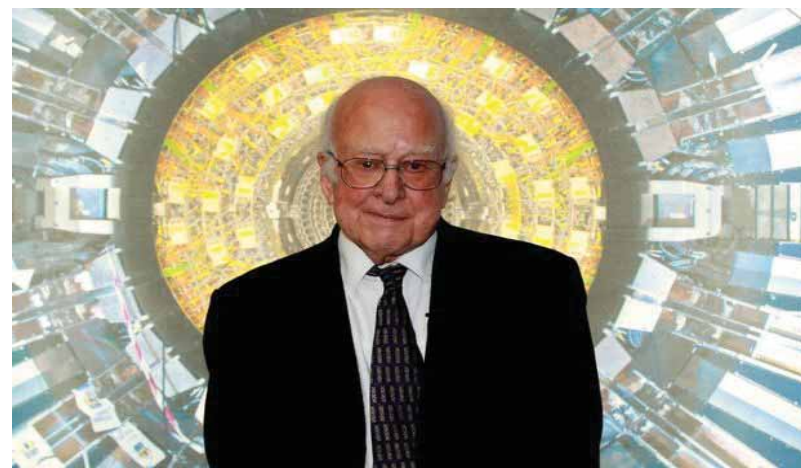
"If Robert [Brout, American-Belgian theoretical physicist] was still alive he would have been one of the three.

"Because he died, there was a possible gap as it were...it was to award the prize to the two survivors of the first three.

"My opinion before the award was announced...was that if they were going to award it to three people they should include Tom Kibble, because what he wrote, in 1967, was abridged from my very simple model of 1964... his role was important and it was a shame that he was missed out."

The Director General of CERN, Professor Rolf Heuer, also attended the launch, opening with the statement, "I recognise CERN here." He went on to explain what the exhibition was about: "It will fascinate people, it will give them a glimpse of what we are doing, how we are doing it, what is the spirit of CERN, and what is the spirit of the people working there."

His only criticism was about



PA/Sean Dempsey

Higgs visits the exhibition, based around the boson that he conceptualized

the office space displayed in the exhibition- "The office space you are seeing there is much too large for a single person!"

However it was Ian Blatchford, Director of the Science Museum group, which gave the most impressive opinion on the Collider exhibition.

"You can go and see pearls at the V&A, you can go and see Columbian gold at the British museum, you can see pulled clay at the Tate and you can see collider here and forgive the ar-

rogance, but of those four, I think, the most pioneering and the most ambitious is here."

After the talks, the press were invited to take a look around the exhibition, which Keir has reviewed below. We also managed to talk to the researcher who was the first to realise that the boson had transcended from a theory to reality, Mingming Yang.

The event is now open to the public, is running for six months, and entry is free.

## Inside the Collider: a review of the new exhibition

Keir Little  
Science Editor

You're very lucky to see this," a professor with a bright orange waistcoat and bow tie tells us. "Usually, only scientists are allowed at internal meetings."

We were sat in a mock up of CERN's lecture theatre; projected on the wall were the professor and other attendees. I don't know if anyone at CERN actually dresses like that, but the eccentric academic image is charming and not too inaccurate. This is the introduction to *Collider*: a reconstruction of the meeting where the observation of the Higgs boson was first announced, at the Science Museum.

The professor, the particle beam controller and two PhD students talk us through the days leading up to the announcement, interspersed with descriptions of the Large Hadron Collider and a history going back

to J.J. Thomson's discovery of the electron: his own cathode ray tube is one of the exhibition pieces. There's even a cameo appearance from Brian Cox as a coffee-running intern.

The story is a personal rather than technical one, focussing on the friendly rivalry between the ATLAS and CMS experiments and the sheer anticipation and excitement that come with each unblinding – the name given to the revelation of collision data to a researcher, done only after the analytical methods had been determined to eliminate bias.

One of the students reveals that she's giving the presentation – she was the one who first saw the Higgs after the unblinding.

Even watching a reconstruction, I could feel the tension – the collective effort of 10,000 engineers and scientists over ten years, working to prove a theory first published half a century ago.

We're shown a clip from the real announcement before the professor invites us to see the LHC tunnel, ushering us in to the rest of the exhibition.

A twisted entrance simulates the lift ride down, and we're brought to a curved corridor where pieces of the accelerator are on display along with quirky whiteboards that explain the theory behind the hunt for the Higgs.

A circular room hosts a huge projected wireframe simulation of beam acceleration and particle collision, awesome in scale and a little dizzying. Protons are represented as balls covered in cute yellow fur – a decision made under guidance from researchers from CERN, who have collaborated to develop the exhibition.

Finally, we enter a model of the CERN offices, where a video shows us the PhD student from the introductory lecture in the minutes just before and after the unblinding.

Once again, the feeling of the discovery is captured – but the actual excitement was far greater, as we were told by the actual student who first saw the particle, also a guest at the premiere.

The exhibition corridor I found a little underwhelming compared to the videos, but as a science student who already knows most of the facts, that's

to be expected.

Aimed at adults and teenagers, children might be bored by the displays which don't offer any interactivity.

This is an exhibition to bring visiting parents along to, for both technical information and the human story behind the Higgs boson search.



One of the visitors studies a photo of the inside of the Large Hadron Collider



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SCIENCE

# Unblinded by greatness

Philippa Skett talks to the researcher who turned the boson data into the discovery

The *Collider* exhibition is moulded around the unveiling of the dataset confirming the boson detection earlier this year. It begins by telling the story through a film starring those at CERN in mid 2013, offering the different perspectives of students, fellows and researchers. One of these students is Mingming Yang, only a graduate in the fifth year of her PhD, but who plays one of the biggest parts in this story.

Experiments within the Large Hadron Collider had been repeatedly run

for several months running up to the discovery, but the data had simply been squirrelled away before one complete, final analysis. This analysis that would either confirm completely there was a boson, or return them back to square one. Up until June 15th, no one had seen this final set of data.

The revelation and analysis of this life changing dataset was called the unblinding. On June 15th, this unblinding was done by Yang, alone in the early hours of the morning. It was down to her, alongside a few others, to confirm if their research was about to propel them into dizzying heights

of fame within the scientific community or simply come crashing down around them.

In the exhibition's film, an actress, who portrays Yang as a northerner, features her talking about sleeping in her office, relentless work and finally the triumphant feeling when she first realised the data did indeed prove the boson to exist.

Later on in the exhibition, in a mock up of the CERN hallways, a projection of this actress is pacing up and down in an actual office, amidst white boards covered in scribbles, overflowing filing cabinets and a star wars box set (on

VHS).

It is in this mock up set, her northern stunt double pacing on repeat being her, that we met Yang, who first commented on the size of the lab. "In reality, my office was half the size, and I shared it with four other students." A charming, friendly woman, she didn't even reveal her role in the boson discovery until much later. It seems that graceful humility is a common thread throughout the realm of particle physics, with Higgs himself also being demure and modest in his role of the discovery.

She took time out of her busy schedule to come to the launch, but unfortunately her colleagues were unable to do the same. "They just have too much work," hinting that the discovery was just the beginning of a longer, more extensive road into the depths of particle physics.

We asked her what she thought of *Collider*, and if it was true to what happened at CERN at the time. On her northern representative, she says that the excitement displayed by the actress was definitely subpar on how she felt after unblinding the data. "I was jumping around, but I could not tell anyone. I was more excited then it is shown here."

Yang was also quick to dispel the idea that she was sleeping under her desk- "I did not do this, I stayed at a local B & B for 68 Swiss franks a night!" -although she did admit to only getting about four hours sleep at a time in the past two years.

She was also keen to stress it is not just her role that makes the story so exciting. "I think the play at the begin-



Mingming Yang's replica desk space where the data was unblinded

ning is good; part of the story are the words I said, but I think [the unblinding] is a combination of all the stories."

Despite her own impressive role in the unblinding, she spoke highly of her peers, mentioning Josh Bendauid and Fabian Stoedi, who were also on the hunt for the Higgs boson. She stressed repeatedly that her colleagues "are going to be big [in the field] and are amazing at their job. They are some of the best." During the run up she was in constant contact with Josh in particular, "I would call him up constantly, at 2pm, 3pm, and 4pm..."

She explained that for her, the unblinding was the accumulation of a whole team's effort, not just one moment of triumph, and through it they gained a sense of community unlike any other- "They are my colleagues, they are teaching me, but they are also my friends. This goal connects us together...It is our work that we have dedicated our entire life to, and we have [sense of] belonging through that."

On her time at CERN, she said it was

"the most intensive three years, so after this I need to take a break!" I ask her if all of this, the sleepless nights, the small office, the lack of air conditioning, the competition with ATLAS, was a problem. It doesn't matter, Yang replied. She simply said, "I was happy."

She only had time to stay in the UK for a few days, as she is still analysing the data from 2011 and 2012. She plans to publish her PhD thesis using the data with the working title of "On the observation of the decay of the Higgs boson into 2 photons." An impressive title that few other physics PhD students can offer, but one she deserves more than anyone else.

Her team, the one she was so keen to talk about, the one whose successes she heralded over discussing her own, and the team that has become her family, made her shine with pride. They should be proud too, not just for their work in the boson discovery, but to have worked alongside what I feel soon will become another great name in the world of particle physics in years to come.



PAVITAR SINGH DEVGON

Mingming Yang, standing in her replica office

## Collisions unbound: what is the future for CERN?

Pavitar Singh Devgon

Science writer

Currently, experiments at CERN have halted, giving time for maintenance work and a renovation of its equipment to take place. It is set to continue its experiments in 2015, where the energy intensity of its collisions will be increased from 4 trillion electron-volts to 6.5.

The excitement caused by the Higgs-like particle discovery has seemed to

overshadow the rest of the achievements that CERN have been able to produce. A host of theoretical particles were first seen in collisions tested by the LHC, which was installed in 2008. These have enabled theories to be put to the test and have confirmed our ideas about the universe, the Standard Model, which predicts the interactions of fundamental particles.

The Higgs was first announced to be discovered earlier this year as separate, repeatable experiments gave rise to complementary results. So, what direction does CERN take its' experiments in 2015? While the experiments showed that a particle was ob-

served with a mass similar to what was predicted, there are other characteristics of the particle – spin, parity, decays – could change our understanding of the Standard Model, if what we thought was the Higgs was actually slightly different.

So far, the results from the different detectors, LHC, ATLAS, CMS, have been consistent with what we have predicted. If, in the pursuit of these unanswered questions, we find new particles, we would have to revise our position. More experiments could provide evidence for the Standard Model, or super-symmetry, or even lead to the formulation of a new para-

digm.

Then there are those areas of physics that we are still unable to account for. Where does gravity fit into the Standard Model? Why is there so much more matter than anti-matter? What about dark energy? Currently, we have only been able to account for 5% of the observed mass in the universe. The rest of this is made up of dark energy and matter – dark because we have not been able to see it yet.

Conversely, the ALICE experiment has been trying to replicate conditions of the early universe. In the instant after the big bang, there was a lot of energy and heat about. Many different

types of particle popped into and out of existence before they could even interact with much else. Try to recreate these conditions understandably takes a lot of energy, but if we were able to find what made up the primordial soup of particles, we would be able to see how the particles changed and evolved over time, leading to where we are today.

The Collider exhibit at the Science Museum displays the journey undertaken on quest for the Higgs boson. However, rather than being the end of a long search, we are in reality still taking the first few steps towards greater understanding.



# COMMENT

Editors: Eoghan J. Totten, Tessa Davey  
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## Tibet: a brighter future than the rest of China

Hanwei Fang  
Writer

Recently an article in Felix, "What does the future hold for Tibet" has received great attention, calling for peace and independence for Tibet. While attempting to maintain a sound argument, this article supplied severely falsified evidence and subjectively interpreted facts. A disgrace to truth, and as such I endeavor to fight against injustice.

My dear MSc Geophysics friend, Tibet does not encompass a quarter of the Chinese landmass. This 'fact' stated by the original author derived from the assumption that Tibet originally comprises Qinghai province and parts of Sichuan province, and Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) has shrunk to its current size due to the suppression of the (majority Han) Chinese. What a hypocrite! Claiming the land of other ethnic minorities to be Tibetan! Hopefully the author knew that ethnic Han were the group of people of whom she simply referred to as 'Chinese'. The ethnic Mongolians and Uyghurs are the natives of Qinghai, whereas the mountainous Sichuan has been sparsely populated by any people until Qing dynasty. Since Qing dynasty (17th century), Tibet has always been part of China hence it is simply out-of-nowhere to blame the PRC government of

occupying Tibet in 1952.

While attempting to claim the vast of Western China ought to be Tibet, the author has stated that the population of TAR is 13 million: 6 million of Tibetans and 7 million of Chinese. Presumably the author meant 7 million other Chinese; it is simply jaw-dropping to see that at a science and engineering university like Imperial College London, one supplies data with difference of several folds from that of the official census of Tibet: in the last census in 2010, 3 million people resided in Tibet Autonomous Region of China, while 90% of the population were ethnic Tibetans. It is highly questionable why one may use data that largely deviates from what is scientifically evaluated and publically published, presumably to create ethnic tension in China.

However this is not yet the most ridiculous part. The author stated that "human rights have failed, Tibet's culture and religious practices have been heavily oppressed and environmental destruction as a consequence of burgeoning infrastructure". Long before Tibet became part of PRC, strict serfdom was practiced in the autonomous Tibet of Qing dynasty. Under the disguise of Tibetan Buddhism, the Tibetan society was a typical example of a feudalistic society. The majority of the Tibetan population were slaves, who had little human rights and merits of life. How dare one say that the termination of slavery by the

PRC is a failure of human rights? This liberation benefited the majority of the Tibetans, while the minority, indeed one person has lost his status as whom to be praised – the Dalai Lama. Under the old systems of Tibet, Dalai Lama has acted as a quasi-spiritual leader under the disguise of religion, but the truth is that he was a feudal emperor. Thanks to the exile of the Dalai Lama, the real Tibetan Buddhism can be practiced. Furthermore, the exile of Dalai Lama was voluntary: he demands full control over Tibet, or he leaves.

It is not wrong that the rest of China provides economic support for Tibet.

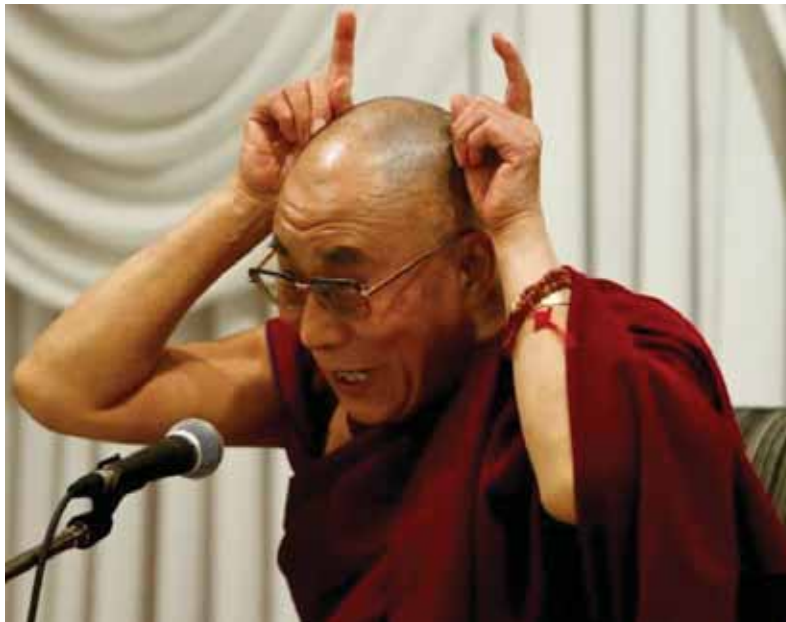
If the burgeoning infrastructure in Tibet is to be blamed; if the plans of an airport are to be criticized; if the new 5000-room hotel to be built in Lhasa is to be condemned; this is simply implying that Tibet will be better off without them. This makes us wonder if the author has a completely different conception of 'development' compared to that of the rest of us.

Under the governmental exchange programmes, the school that I attended (the best public school in the district with the highest GDP in Beijing) was obliged to accept 10% Tibetan students into the class. Many of these students have travelled

outside Tibet for the first time of their lives and are enjoying much better education. The Han Chinese students never discriminate against them, as they simply always knew that "the ethnic minorities are also Chinese". The ethnic minorities, including the Tibetans are not subject to the famous 'One Child Policy', in order to preserve their own culture and customs. In the national university entrance exam, bonus points were awarded simply for being an ethnic minority, due to their disadvantaged educational backgrounds.

Last but not least, the economic support which the more developed areas gave to Tibet is simply more than one can imagine. The revenue generated from tourism, the opportunities of trade with the east, the funds which Tibet receive in the name of developmental support, are all the benefits Tibet receive simply for being part of China. It is highly questionable of one's intention, if one proposes that saving Tibet is equivalent to being independent from the rest of China, risking to be returned to the society of slavery under the previous governance of Dalai Lama.

The answer to the original author's question would be that Tibet holds an even brighter future than the rest of China. Or maybe "Tibet holds an even brighter future than that of what Dalai Lama may offer" might be a more coherent answer to that questioned by the author in the article.



Dalai Lama: Saint or sinner?

## The only time you should hit a woman

Susannah Molisso  
I.C. Wing Chun President

There is a general feeling in our society that guys shouldn't hit girls. This is great. Girls shouldn't hit guys either, but on the occasions that these rules should be bent, they aren't. If you haven't guessed, I'm talking about martial arts, where men and women come together to train themselves in self-defence – or attack. As a woman who has been training in martial arts for the best part of eight years, with numerous classes and sets of people, I've always found it a struggle to get a guy to hit me. Hard. This isn't masochism; this isn't a cry for help. I simply want to train, and yet I have met and seen women suffer with similar frustrations. So I'm writing to reach out to practitioners of martial arts and hopefully set the record straight.

Women join martial arts out of their

own free will. This means they have most likely weighed up the chances they might get hurt and don't care. It's part of learning how to defend yourself. Just as guys will fight hard with each other to prepare themselves for real combat, women want to do the same. We want to know that if the worst happens on a night out, we are ready to defend ourselves. We want to know that we are used to the challenge of dealing with force and punches that are thrown for real. If we were to ever be hit, we don't want it to be a surprise that catches us off our guard. We want to know that we've been hit before; we've learnt to take it, to condition, to bounce back.

Although it may seem like the gentlemanly thing to do, to hold back on a strike, it is actually only doing your partner a disservice. A class is a controlled environment where women and men alike want to learn to fight, and what it's like to face an assailant. Holding back will only weaken their technique and leave them unprepared for the real world.

I know instructors who have wrongly spread this idea as well. There is an idea that training with a women is good, until you want to really try the moves out. This is rubbish. Sure, don't beat your partner up, but don't base that on their gender. I hear people complain that they're afraid that they'll hurt their partner because they're skinny or small or delicate. Again, rubbish. If you swapped that woman with a man of the same

“  
I've always found it a struggle to get a guy to hit me. Hard.”

structure and physique, would those apprehensions still apply? For most of you, I'll guess that the answer is no. So act on it. If gender is the only reason that you're not putting your full effort into helping your partner learn how to defend themselves, change it now.

I shouldn't just leave this message to the men, because I've seen it happen among women too. I've seen women who'll take pleasure in giving their male partner hell, but who seem just as frightened to land a strike on their female partners. Ladies, it's a bad, bad circle we're creating. If we won't practice properly with each other, it'll just encourage other guys to think that they can't too.

So fellow martial artists of all genders; don't hold back on the women in your class. Give them the same respect and effort as you would to their male counterparts. It's your job, as their partner, to give them the best practice they can - take that role seriously. And if it still feels uncomfortable, you can always just ask. You might just be surprised.





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# COMMENT

## Why you should make way for cyclists

Rory Fenton

Columnist  
@roryfenton



**T**his time last year I bought a bike. It had taken four years of living in the city but I was finally living my stereotyped London dream of flying around on two wheels, fluorescent jacket fluorescing and carbon emissions zeroing; king of the road. The bike was freedom. Unlike the tube, I could get exactly where I wanted to go rather than a ten walk away. Unlike the car I could tie the thing to the nearest pole and get on with it. It was blue in some parts and another shade of blue in other parts. It was perfect.

I was initially cautious, sticking to journeys through parks and laughing with unbridled joy as I left hapless pedestrians and the occasional horse in my wake. What chance did they stand? The bicycle was the vehicle of the future and I its shiny jacketed prophet. The speed, the elegance, the dingy bell. They were glorious days

but this was mere child's play and I knew it. It couldn't be long before I left my bipedal and quadropedal playmates for the Big Boy world of the London road.

If you haven't had the experience of being a tiny sack of squishy meat fleeing a stampeding herd of steel wildebeest who dislike you for not having to pay road tax then you haven't cycled in London. There are few things to make you so acutely aware of your own mortality as passing through Trafalgar Square at half past 5 on a weekday. The roundabout seems to be governed by chaos and bravery, often forcing me to circle it a few times before escaping to the correct exit. It's always while trying to change lane that you realise your helmet is essentially an upturned polystyrene cup with holes in it, which doesn't help much either.

It's when the sun starts to set that the real horrors kick in. No matter how many flashing LEDs I attach to myself (I'm starting to look like a human-shaped Tetris game), drivers will never behave as if they are aware of my existence, barely missing me as they overtake. Potholes, conveniently located at the side of the road where

the cyclists cycle, are rendered near-invisible, leaving my backside near-unsittable. Then if you're out really late, you have the joys of drunk cyclists to look forward to, wobbling and wobbling side to side as if the road were one big tightrope.

It's fair to say I had an authentic experience of cycling in London but my baptism wasn't fully complete until 6 weeks into bike ownership when I gobbled my last piece of authenticity pie; my bike was stolen. Well, sort-of stolen. I kept forgetting to lock the thing up and eventually someone took up my offer of a free bike.

I was bereft. Yes, the bike was a source of mortal peril but it had given me a certain freedom I now had lost. For the first time I had started to understand London as a city, a coherent whole. Travelling by road I had seen how one part related to the other. Now, stuck on the underground, I was confined to a sub-par existence of perfectly straight tube lines and other people's body odour. Here there was less danger of death but it was all false and artificial, like only playing chess with your four year old brother; yes, you'll never lose but you'll never experience the challenge of a good

game, not to mention the fact that his still developing spatial awareness means you have to move his knights for him.

Marx would say I was "alienated" from my true nature. All I know is I missed my bike and really wanted to get a new one. I got one second hand in the RAG bike auction for £30 which lasted precisely ten seconds when I realised it was meant for someone a foot shorter than me. In the end it took months of saving but I finally bought a shiny cream coloured bike with white handlebars and a white seat. It's a bike

fit for the Angel Gabriel himself and is serving me valiantly. We've been together now for 6 months and haven't looked back, the steaming sweat patch on my back during morning lectures a testimony to our bond.

My year of London cycling has been both off-putting and on-turning, a mixture of horror and freedom. For all its perils, cycling really is the best way to get to know the city and feel part of it. If you really must walk, my last word is for you; ask not for whom them bell tolls, it tolls for thee. So get off my damned cycle path.



GUARDIAN

Cycling in London makes you feel like you're riding with Arnold Schwarzenegger

## Don't be Agnostic About Interfaith

Umar Nasser

President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Association

**N**ext week is National Interfaith Week, established four years ago to bring people of different faiths and beliefs together and build bridges and mutual appreciation between social groups that may not mix on a regular basis. While it hasn't been 'celebrated' or 'observed' at Imperial College (depending on one's Interfaith views) I think that we are foolish to pass up the opportunity- especially when our faith societies are as big as they are.

Let us clarify 'Interfaith'. It is anything that gets people of different beliefs to gather and encourage dialogue and understanding. The spirit underlying interfaith events is not one of hostility. If your conception of interfaith is 'putting the other party down' you're doing it wrong. That doesn't mean that you cannot discuss controversial or engaging topics. You need something to get people into that room in the first place. (As a few of us have learned the hard way last year, no-one shows up for slightly vague interfaith 'chats'). It doesn't mean that you are barred from disagreement (people of different beliefs will disagree on minutiae). It entails a commitment to genuine respect for

another's opinion and a willingness to connect with someone whose beliefs are different to yours. These efforts lead to more similarities, rather than differences, being highlighted; misconceptions are removed.

A non-religious colleague (met through interfaith) told me about how meeting a super-feminist woman (clad in headscarf) challenged his preconceptions about said headscarf. We all harbour preconceptions in one form or another. It doesn't make us bad people but inaction certainly does not make us any better.

Interfaith isn't a luxury. When you're living in a nation that is as 'multicultural' as Britain and when immersed in the international community of Imperial College, having an understanding of others is a necessity. Prejudice is borne out of ignorance and can be remedied by education and exposure to 'the other.' As an Ahmadi Muslim, a member of a minority revivalist movement in Islam, I know that there is no better case study for 'how-not-to-do-interfaith' than Pakistan, my ethnic country of origin.

Ahmadi Muslims are declared non-Muslim in the very constitution of the nation by amendments made in the 70's and 80's. If I were to 'pose' as a Muslim in Pakistan, through word or deed, I could be subject to fine, three years in prison even death. Ahmadi Muslims are by no means the only

sect to be victimised in recent years. Shias, Christians, Hindus, Atheists and others have suffered from intense persecution and discrimination. Year on year the holy month of 'Muharram' is vigil to intensified attacks on the Shia population. Hundreds are killed annually by militant organisations. To make things worse, Draconian blasphemy laws stifle any semblance of free speech and perhaps, even more surprisingly, 75% of Pakistanis support them (Pew). One wonders how they would have perceived the Prophet Muhammad when he allowed a visiting Christian delegation to pray in his Mosque.

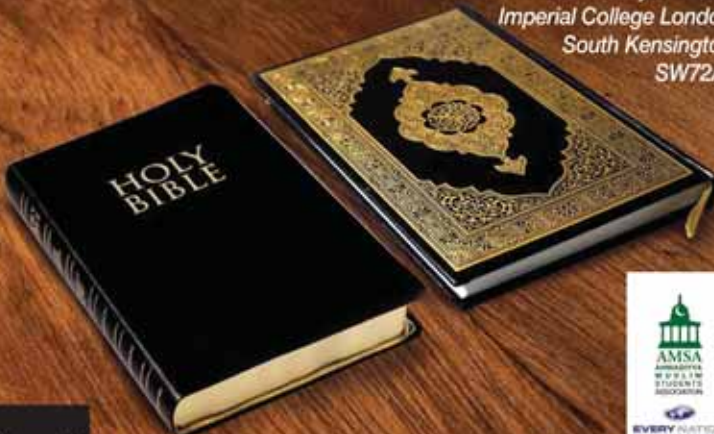
The increasing persecution in Pakistan encompasses a state-sponsored atmosphere of mistrust, a lack of education and an abundance of misinformation. It underlines the fact that, where we can do interfaith, we must. It creates an enabling environment to explore our similarities and differences openly and remove our misconceptions. It teaches us that differences aren't the problem but that our reactions to them are. The crux of 'interfaith' is not the 'faith' bit but an open mindset and a willingness to engage. It is something that will go far beyond faith and serve us well in our future lives. The important kernel of 'interfaith' is the expression of togetherness that it broadcasts. It highlights the humanity common to us all.

Every Nation Church & the Ahmadiyya Muslim Students' Association present

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# COMMENT

Editors: Eoghan J. Totten, Tessa Davey  
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## Where has London's lesbian scene gone?

Claire Malone  
Writer



**A**s Candy Bar, London's award winning Lesbian bar announces that it will be closing its doors for the last time in January, this is a question that many gay and bisexual women have been asking. Candy is the latest in a long list of lesbian bars and clubs who have lost their homes in recent years including G Spot, Glass bar and Chocolate Lounge. This leaves a significant gap in the market, as it is currently the only remaining female only space in Soho (men may enter, but not unaccompanied). This is a fact that I find shocking and saddening in such a diverse and cosmopolitan city as London. Candy's motto is 'Run by Girls, For Girls', which really emphasises the importance of a space in which women can feel safe, and are protected from the negative attention which sadly follows same sex encounters in many environments.

Increased costs for leasing property in London have forced the owners of many venues to sell up and instead organise events for gay and bisexual women without a fixed location. Even

the most popular of these events, such as Twat Boutique, no longer have a regular visible presence in the London club scene. This prevents the formation of a community around a certain place, and makes it far more difficult to go out, as it is less possible to be spontaneous.

As a gay or bisexual woman, you

are in the minority, which makes it far harder to meet people (or say, to pull people) than it would be for heterosexual women, purely for ease of identification and the numbers game. This is why I think it's so important that somewhere like Candy exists; I think that it is crucial that members of the LGBT community have access

to the same opportunities as someone who is heterosexual.

What is even more disappointing is that Candy was one of the few gay bars that had wheelchair access, at least on the ground floor. As a wheelchair user, I am very used to having to make enquiries as to whether or not a venue I haven't visited before has step free

access.

In response to the closure of Candy, the KuBar plans to radically overhaul its premises to make the entire lower ground floor into "KuBar Girls", which while decreasing the size of the women only space, aims to remain in keeping with the original ethos of Candy: being run by girls, for girls. The new bar will have only female bouncers, and a separate entrance to the ground level KuBar. However, the space is being created through the renovation of the existing premises, which do not currently provide wheelchair access to the lower level.

I, as well as several others, have written to KuBar asking them for reassurance that they will be putting a lift in as part of the refurbishment. I have not yet received a response! If this adaption is not made, this will place severe limitations on women who wish to go to gay bars but require step free access.

I am writing this article to ask others who care about LGBT rights and wheelchair users having access, to sign the petition (<http://chn.ge/18srOyE>), and to write to the KuBar as well. For more information, and to keep up with the campaign please join the Facebook group (Make Ku Bar Girls Wheelchair Accessible).



## Confessions of a GTA: Part 5

GtAs are helpful only when asked nicely

The GTA

Anonymous



**W**eek 6 in a GTA calendar is filled with the undergraduates' horror of fifth week mid-term tests. I honestly never thought that marking papers could be worse than sitting them. I was certain that this would be the subject of my confession today. However, on Monday I was highly irritated, which I know is fairly easy for me, but nevertheless this kind of behaviour should be stamped out immediately as it was certainly not like this in my day...

I teach a class to a pretty cool crew of freshers on Mondays. During the last five minutes of a tough tutorial, I went over to a guy with his hand up. He was stuck on part of the problem, nothing out of the ordinary. I started to explain his mistake. Immediately

he said, "I don't understand". As I had barely said anything yet, this seemed unquestionable. So I asked him what he did not understand, only to get, "everything" as the response. To start with, this is irritating. As a GTA, I am not contracted to re-explain the entire course up to now to him, particularly in the last five minutes of a tutorial, but perhaps he is feeling hopeless. We have all felt that way at some point at Imperial, after all. Trying to be patient, I ask him if he understood last week's problems, and he said he had done them all as they were "ridiculously easy". His words not mine. I pointed out that his mistake was in part of the problem that was covered the previous week. This was his reply:

'You are obviously talking rubbish because I have got this question right. The lecturer knows as little as you on this topic. I did this all at school and it was much easier with this method I have done here. I don't know why I bothered coming.'

My immediate response was that I didn't know why he bothered asking me! If you are so sure of your answer what is the point in a second opinion? I mean seriously, what is a GTA's

motive to lie? We are definitely not paid enough. I also wanted to point out I was top ten in my year, thank you very much, and passed this course pretty damn well (I'm doing a PhD in it), but then I felt stupid for wanting to justify myself to an 18 year old. What I couldn't say was "Good luck with that method then, fresher. If you enjoy failing carry on."

On relating this to a fellow GTA, she told me another quite startling story. One of her students decided to email her to say that he didn't do the homework and didn't turn up to the (compulsory attendance) tutorial, because he definitely didn't receive the email she sent him telling him when it was. Noting kindly in the e-mail that in future could she please ensure that he gets them? Looking down the email my friend saw he had sent this lovely note by replying to the email she had sent him in the first place. Nice.

So the subject of this week's confession?

GtAs do not care if you fail or not. No point arguing with us or lying to us. All we are there to do is help. Maybe you can help yourself and just ask us nicely.



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# COMMENT

## “Grub first, then ethics”

Christy Kelly

Writer



Somewhere in the imposing tome, *Less than Nothing*, author Slavoj Žižek relates an anecdote about the attitudes taken by Bertolt Brecht and Dashiell Hammett in their respective McCarthy-inspired HUAC trials. Brecht tells the factual truth but phrases answers in such a way to suggest that he is nothing more than an anti-fascist agitator. Hammett, on the other hand, is accused of managing

communist organizations funds – of which he knows nothing. Despite this Hammett refuses to answer questions and is subsequently sent to prison.

Žižek is trying to make is about truth's nature. He claims that, even though Brecht cannot be accused of lying in terms of actual content (versus Hammett), Hammett is nonetheless the more 'honest' person. I endorse this interpretation, otherwise Žižek's clarifications in the notes should illustrate the point. Žižek mentions a conformist philosophy teacher in the (then) communist Slovenia, who would tell his students with a 'disarming smile' that 'I know I'm scum.' The intention is obvious: by admitting the mistake in advance I

am precluding any criticism for it. The situation is similar to Brecht who, when accused of cowardice, replied that he was 'a writer, not a hero.'

One criticism I have of Žižek is that (perhaps) he missed a dimension. Brecht, by being dishonest in this roundabout way, demonstrated the more 'objective' truth of Brecht's own ambiguous ethical-political position. Rather than being willing to endorse the Stalinist cause Brecht tried to get the best of both worlds, endorse the Party as a radical artistic figure/intellectual but never join it and really compromise himself morally by supporting a system and ideology as vicious and monstrous as Stalinism. Apropos the philosophy professor,

is scum because of the attempted disavowal in his claim that he is scum. If he were a committed ideologue he would be mistaken, wrong – evil. This lowest state of ethical apologetics, this pathetic example of Nietzsche's slave morality which is in Badiou's terms 'beneath Good and Evil' should be fully rejected. As Žižek viciously puts it 'Stop trying to pretend you're not scum by saying you are scum; you are scum!'

So, what was the point of the discussion above? Nothing much, if I'm honest. The ambiguity is fully captured in Brecht's brilliant 'Grub first, then ethics.' With Brecht as Marxist we assume the message is 'Don't moralise to me with your petty

ethics, I am dying of hunger. You, the bourgeoisie are the criminals for allowing this state of poverty to exist.' Think of Trevelyan, criticising the Irish woman's culinary repertoire in famine stricken Ireland. A small thought experiment allows us to see where this principle falls down. Think of the Eichmann or the equivalent Nazi mid-level bureaucrat. The Nazi middle classes, famous for their ethical self-justifications, latched onto such a 'socially progressive' view, feeling the need to 'support their families.'

Instead of this real Brecht we should recognise the greatness of the 'fake persona' Brecht. Brecht tells us the true way to fight a famine, 'Hungry man, reach for a book: it is a weapon.'



## Of cleaning and Immigration

Joseph Letts  
Editor-in-Chief

Over the last few weeks *Felix* has been investigating the problems affecting students in halls in regards to cleaning.

This has been an ongoing issue that is effecting hundreds of students, something that could also have an effect on their study life as well. We look forward to hearing a response from the Campus Services department in regards to the changes they have made to the contract, in terms of how binding the contract is, why the communication with students has not been optimal, and how they plan to operate the cleaning services over the coming months. If you have been affected by the changes to the cleaning rota and would like to share your opinions (be they positive, negative, or neutral), please do not hesitate to get in touch with Felix via the Editor's email address ([felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)).

This week also saw the third Union Council meeting of the year (Tuesday), in which the Council members heard back from the working party that had been creating the Union's official stance against the bill. The working party was run by Marissa Lewis (Deputy President Welfare), who also organised this week's Sexual Health and Guidance (SHAG) Week events. After the discussions in the previous Council meeting, many members were keen to read the working party's report and go to a vote. When the votes were cast it transpired that all but three members of Council approved of the paper, while the remaining three abstained. Union President David Goldsmith was tasked with leading the Union's response to the bill, with the aim of removing the possibility of international students being charged for using the NHS, and also stopping the section of the

bill that would make landlords pay a fine for not checking the immigration status of their tenants (something many have been afraid would cause international students problems when it came to looking for accommodation).



## Letters

Dear Felix Editor,

I am sending in yet another letter, as I am once again insulted by this 'Paladin', who apparently lives in the "might of the light". Me, a "weed smoking hippie"? Never would I desecrate my forest in such a manner. Despite this I have obviously underestimated paladins, as they answered my question arrogantly with ease. I propose we forget our differences and concentrate on together pointing out flaws in the union. Such as they sell fish on days not Friday, and food other than fish on Friday. What's up with this? Maybe the Felix editor can help sort this out?

Yours sincerely

The Druid

P.s Where's my ice cream?

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## The Super Secret Secret Theatre

Buy the ticket – take the ride

Clara Clark Nevola  
Writer

**F**irst, a word of warning. This review is about a Secret Theatre production. The entire premise is that it's secret. So please bear with me: I'm being cryptic for a reason, I'm not just trying to be a ponce.

Before coming to London, the Secret Theatre performed in New York, where they had been asked to produce a theatre adaptation of *Edward Scissorhands*, and Los Angeles, where they showed *The Dairy of a Sociopathic Freakazoid*. Because of the secret nature of their performances they are run for a short time in a single city – and this time it's London's turn.

The Secret Theatre experience differs from most other theatrical experiences: you buy your ticket without even knowing what the performance will be about, other than it's based on one of Quentin Tarantino's great works. Then you get The Email: the dress code, the alias, the location.

Next, there's the excitement of turning up in front of a warehouse, down a side alley, and hanging around trying to work out what's going on – are those audience or actors? Is this lady being naturally friendly or has the performance already started? It's exciting, it's different, it's mysterious.

Having keyed up the audience to such a state of anticipation, it is a bit of a downer when the play turns out to be the traditional set up of audience sitting in front of the stage. Throughout the play there's the feeling you might be called upon at any time, mainly because of the extraordinary proximity you have to the actors. It keeps you on the edge of your seat, but is an aspect of the production that never really develops, and does slightly dampen the thrill of the experience.

So there you are, sitting in a small room, half a meter from the actors in front of you, as a theatrical version of a Tarantino film unfolds in front of you. If you haven't already, make sure you've seen his most well-known films before going to this, as you will lose out if you haven't.

My true praise for the Secret Theatre is not for their secrecy but for their production levels: the story develops in front of you with a breathtaking sense of reality. Half scared, half feeling you should intervene, you sit watching violence and pain that you completely believe in. Unlike the cinema, such close proximity theatre dispenses with elaborate props and gushes of fake blood and relies entirely on the actors' talents.

This production was almost dogmatically faithful to the film it was adapting – some scenes were so similar that they were word for word reproductions of film scenes – and yet it was fantastic. It was fantastic because it made a film come alive under your eyes, at an arm's reach from you. Whether film or theatre, it achieved what all productions try to achieve: a sense of reality, of having been there, of it actually having happened.

*Secret Theatre London is being performed until 30th November at a secret London Zone 1 location, tickets available at [secrettheatrelondon.com](http://secrettheatrelondon.com) for £18.*

# Sarah Lucas: SITUATION still as controversial as ever

Fred Fyles  
Writer

**What:** Sarah Lucas: SITUATION  
Absolute Beach Man Rubble  
**Where:** Whitechapel Art Gallery, E1  
**When:** Until 15th Dec 1013  
**Price:** FREE

**I**f we want to see the impact that Sarah Lucas has had on the British art world, we need go no further than the bus stop; this summer, Art Everywhere created a nationwide exhibition, transforming the posters normally seen in bus stops and tube stations into the nation's favourite works of art. One of the 57 pieces chosen by the public was Lucas' 1996 work *Self Portrait With Fried Eggs*. Lucas sits legs akimbo, in a pair of blokish jeans, revelling in her androgyny; her defiant eyes stare at the lens, challenging the viewer, daring them to look at the greasy eggs stuck to the front of her chest. Iconoclastic, subversive, and controversial, it is one of the best embodiments of Lucas' work – a visceral 'Fuck You', delivered with wry humour.

This is also one of the images that greets the viewer in the first room of the long-awaited retrospective of Lucas, currently being held at the Whitechapel Gallery, and is not the only portrait in the collection. In fact, Lucas glares out at us from all angles, squatting on a skull in one image, eating a banana in the next, the whole time never breaking eye contact. It makes for a very disconcerting experience.

Educated at Goldsmiths, Lucas first came to prominence during the late



© SARAH LUCAS, COURTESY SADIE COLES HQ

*Bunny Gets Snookered #1, 1997, made from tan tights, plastic and chrome chair, steel clamp, kapok stuffing, and wire.*



© SARAH LUCAS, COURTESY SADIE COLES HQ

*Au Naturel, 1994, made from a mattress, water bucket, melons, oranges and a cucumber.*

80s and early 90s, riding the crest of the Young British Artists wave along with Tracey Emin, Rachel Whiteread and Damien Hirst. Her sexually charged work, playing on ideas of masculinity and desire, soon became a key feature in the British art scene. There is no lack of such works in the exhibition. With the use of squalid looking food, Lucas implies the presence of genitals – two greasy Spanish hams, juxtaposed against a pair of panties and a grey mattress, become thighs, while elsewhere a vagina is represented by rotten fish, pitta bread, and buckets. The work is grimy and confrontational, reminiscent of the images of the desolate 90s created by Irvine Welsh and Mike Leigh.

But it's not just the female form that Lucas explores; upstairs Lucas deconstructs the male anatomy, replacing penises with marrows, milk bottles, and exploding beer cans. It may not be subtle, but the work is effective. Phalluses, blown up to gargantuan proportions, subvert the hyper-masculine machismo of modern life, and question the homogeneity of the art world. This summer, Lucas had a pair of enormous phallic marrows installed at Snape Maltings; set against the gentle Suffolk countryside, they form a jarring counterpoint to the sensuous curves found in the Moore sculpture placed alongside it – and this is what Lucas does best: confronts the viewer to question what gender means in society, bending the social norms through relentless iconoclasm.

Alongside phalluses and meat products, one of the common themes

in Lucas' work is her 'Bunnies' sculptures – made out of twisted tights, filled with stuffing, they lie, passive, over chairs, and draped over breezeblocks. Mimicking female legs, some even complete with tiny broken shoes, they seem sad, even somewhat pathetic; but again these act as phallic symbols, and this dichotomy of female and male form elevates them from mere *objet trouve* to high art. Lucas fits into a Freudian canon of female artists – from Louise Bourgeois to Yayoi Kusama – exploring the male form through symbolism, combining this with bleak humour, and an appreciation of the humble object that would benefit Duchamp. The theme is developed further in the upstairs galleries, where the sculptures have been enlarged and recast in bronze. Taking on new qualities – from soft to hard, puny to strong – Lucas displays her innate understanding of materials and their relation to the work.

Lucas' work is broad, and this retrospective is an intimidating experience. Pieces are piled up haphazardly around the gallery, practically overflowing out into the street. From smashed up cars to rotten fish, toilets to tabloids, Lucas has a knack of dissecting society, stripping away the bright facade, revealing the dirt and squalor that lies underneath. The work may be hard to look at – grotesque even – but that doesn't diminish their importance. This exhibition shows that Lucas is truly one of the best *enfant terribles* of the British art world, with work that, while never becoming trite, remains controversial, visceral, and irrepressibly explosive.



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ARTS

# The Magic Flute needs a fairy godmother

Emiel De Lange is unimpressed by the ENO's theatrical wizardry

**What:** The Magic Flute with English National Opera  
**Where:** London Coliseum, WC2  
**When:** Until 7 Dec 2013  
**Price:** Various

In this fairy tale, Prince Tamino is sent to rescue his love Pamina, daughter of the Queen of the Night. When he finds and frees her, he discovers that her captor, Sarastro, is actually the good guy and decides to be initiated into his order. Meanwhile Tamino's companion, the bird-catcher Papageno, has given up on initiation and simply wants someone to love. The power of music; the magic flute and the enchanting bells, helps them both to succeed.

'Magic' is the key word in Mozart's Magic Flute, and without it the plot makes little sense. But magic is what is missing in this otherwise exciting production. Instead, we are treated to a different sort of magic – that of stage-craft. Simon McBurney has chosen to present his Magic Flute in black and white; a dark space, the action lit with bright white lights. Everyone is dressed in similarly bland colours with the occasional dull green or brown thrown in. Indeed, the only two characters of any colour at all, and only two with which we establish



Papageno and Papagena, played by Ben Johnson and Devon Guthrie, swirling around on stage

© ROBBIE JACK

a real connection, are Papageno and Papagena. The rest come across as lifeless, and so despite their trials, by the end one hardly feels as if anything has happened at all.

The first act seems to set up a dichotomy between the irrational, magical world of the night, and

Sarastro's rational world of knowledge inhabited by men and women in suits. It's ambiguous which of the two worlds we should prefer, and disappointingly the idea seems to disappear without any synthesis or resolution. Many such interesting ideas are thrown about without developing or cohering.

Again, by the end one wonders whether anything has happened at all.

The orchestra plays very well under young conductor Gergely Madaras, if a little monochromatic – but I suppose this is a theme here. The singers too seem restrained and underwhelming, particularly Götz's *Queen of the Night*

whose entrance is a whimper and whose famous coloratura leaps are a little shaky. Again only the Papageno pair really characterise their parts and leave us with an impression of humanity, while Creswell's Sarastro is full and imposing and Galliford's Monostatos is amusingly creepy.

McBurney's theatrical displays are enough to provide a full evening's entertainment. I won't give away his tricks, but there are a few grand moments of illusion in a generally impressive and unique staging. Clever use is made of video projections which blend onto the set and interact with the characters. Another nice touch is the use of a live Foley to create the sound effects, even if the presence on stage is distracting and unnecessary – a gimmick perhaps. There is humour too in this production, particularly when the fourth wall is broken, and the interactions with the orchestra are worth a chuckle.

As fantastic and entertaining as the performance may be, in the end we leave the theatre left with little. The amusement and wizardry on display are not enough, perhaps even detrimental, to a real experience of Schikaneder and Mozart's rich cast of characters, magic and music. The admittedly frequent theatrical spectacles are bright sparks but the tinder doesn't succeed in catching fire.

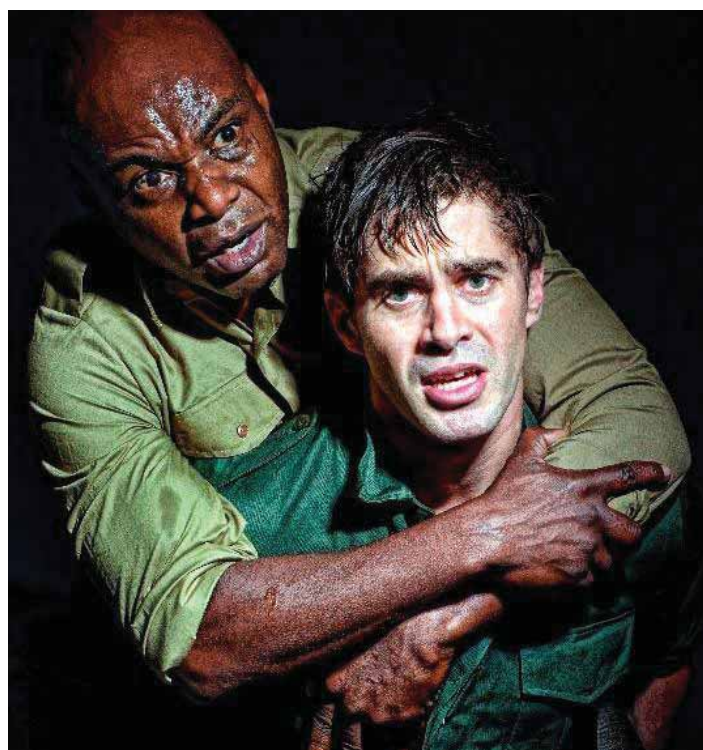
# Angolan Civil War makes powerful subject matter

Play at the new Park Theatre is breathtaking, says Blaise Verhasselt

**What:** The Dead Wait  
**Where:** The Park Theatre, Finsbury Park, N4  
**When:** Until 1st Dec 2013  
**Price:** £12 students, £18 adults

South Africa, 1989, and Josh Gilmore is poised to become the first white man to break the 10-second barrier for the 100m, and be made a hero by the racist regime. He is conscripted while the South African Defence Force is taking an unofficial part in the Angolan Civil War, under the command of Captain Papa Louw. This is Angola. One wrong turn and you vanish forever, my brother.

They capture a wounded and somewhat distinguished black freedom fighter, and Papa orders Josh to carry him back to the border to be interrogated. But as they painfully make their way through the bush, a bond is forged between the



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conscripted soldier and the prisoner, that will forever change Josh's views on his society.

*The Dead Wait* is written by and stars Paul Herzberg (Papa Louw), who served in the South African army in Angola himself. Through this breath-taking play, Herzberg reveals the struggles faced by a divided continent, finding himself a few years before the end of both the Apartheid and the Cold War. The play is focused on three characters incarnating opposed concepts, on the eve of a major historical leap: Papa Louw, the aging, cultivated but impulsive officer, incarnates the white racist, brutal and traumatised authority, hardly ruling South Africa with a minority under the Apartheid. He will have to face the truth commission in the 1990s.

George Jozana (Maynard Eziashi), aging African National Congress leader in exile in Europe for many years, comes back to Africa with

the hope that his homeland will soon recover peace, freedom and democracy. Josh Gilmore (Austin Hardiman), the white athlete, carries the hopes of his country's government. As the new generation, he is also able to incarnate reconciliation between his countrymen.

The interactions of this trio are extremely rich and well exploited by Herzberg, whilst the intimate stage of the Park Theatre brings all the audience in an astonishing experience under Joe Harmston's direction. Clearly, *The Dead Wait* is an excellent play to go to with friends in London's newest, hippest arts venue. The only drawback is the theatre's location, slightly north of the West End. But surely Zone 2 is not enough to discourage drama amateurs! To them, I say it's a very good play, with excellent actors and an interesting historical basis: you should go!



## Flash Fiction

An afternoon by the Thames  
 by *Evelyn Craven*

There is nothing better to clear the mind than a good ramble. The sun glistening off the river and peeking through the golden leaves above. An oasis of calm in the middle of the city. All is well.

## Student picks

Eva Rosenthal picks:  
*Mrs Dalloway* by *Virginia Woolf*

*Mrs Dalloway* is by its relative – although superficial – simplicity, the perfect introduction to Virginia Woolf. Despite its sometimes tragic, sometimes apparently mundane subject matter, the writing maintains a beautiful lightness, a way of gilding reality with light as Clarissa Dalloway is forever doing to the occurrences of her everyday activities. The book follows a day in the lives of several people. They are all somehow connected to the ineffable Clarissa, a society hostess who is also shown, through her fascinating interiority, to be much deeper than we might take her for at first glance. Through light touches, we are transported from one consciousness to another, although Clarissa will have the final say.

Woolf writes with immense tenderness for her creations as though they were solid, breathing-eating humans; she almost attempts to – but cannot – save them from their neuroses or even from the tendrils of societal values that are wringing their necks.

This tenderness perfectly exemplifies what I want most to recommend about the book: it has a special quality that allows it to move one without becoming overly sentimental. *Mrs Dalloway* takes place in vivid images. She sends Clarissa to the florist and what follows in barely half a page is a florist better than reality could ever produce. The scene sticks so well to the mind that whenever I pass a flower stall, the memory of this scene – and also of the shattered illusion created by a subsequent commotion, whereby we alight for the first time on the doomed Septimus Warren Smith – overpowers the creation of new memories.

Woolf's metaphors litter everything like small, bright flowers would appear on a pavement. This can result in the emanation of a cloying perfume from the pages... so much so, that it is impossible to read *Mrs Dalloway* in one – or even ten – sittings. It is a book to be read slowly and carefully, ensuring that it never becomes too sweet but also taking crucial time to understand the minds of the people Woolf has been so good as to introduce.

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# The Stars my Destination

Maciej Matuszewski discusses an SF classic



**D**espite my extensive familiarity with science fiction I had, until very recently, had a major gap in my knowledge of the field – the works of Alfred Bester. One of the foremost writers of the late Golden Age of the genre, he has influenced later writers such as Phillip K. Dick and William Gibson, as well as TV shows like *Babylon 5* and *Firefly*. Therefore, finally settling down to read *The Stars My Destination*, one of his most famous and acclaimed works, I felt both excitement and apprehension. After all, I had many times been greatly disappointed by severely overhyped novels. However, this time, I needn't have worried – *The Stars My Destination* more than lives up to its lofty reputation.

Set in the twenty fifth century the novel presents us with a solar system that has long been settled by humanity and a society that has been transformed by the recently discovered ability of all humans to jaunte – teleport to any location that they have previously visited using their willpower alone. Our protagonist is Gully Foyle – the last survivor of the transport spaceship *Nomad* – crippled in a minor skirmish as part of the war between the inner and

outer planets of the solar system. Stranded on the drifting wreck of his ship for six months Gully begins to lose hope until he is approached by another spaceship. The ship, however, ignores his signals for help – driving him to pledge revenge against its crew. He repairs the *Nomad* and hatches an epic, Count of Monte Cristo style plot to bring his quarry to justice.

The plot and characters are certainly well thought out and engaging. The prose is clear and functional, though if one wanted to be uncharitable one might call it plain. What really makes the book stand out, however, is its setting and its themes. Over the course of his journey Gully travels all over Earth and the Solar System – allowing Bester to show off his considerable powers of imagination. He creates many unique and wonderful settings and environments which, even fifty years after the novel was published still feel unique and innovative while never seeming too unbelievable. Despite its often outlandish nature, the reader gets the feel that this is really what the world would be like if jaunting and space travel became commonplace.

I have never seen a book so crammed with different ideas. In some ways *The Stars my Destination* is firmly entrenched in

atmosphere of the Golden Age – featuring, as it does, the colonisation of the solar system, robots and outlandish science. However, it also explores elements, such as telepathy, more common in New Wave SF and even touches on almost cyberpunk-like themes of megacorporations and cybernetic enhancement. In the hands of a lesser writer this might all come together to seem confused and disjointed but Bester somehow manages to make it all fit together.

The result is a truly exhilarating novel, which never fails to surprise with where it takes you next. The action, story and themes build as the novel progresses until the truly stunning climax (which features some amazing typographical experiments used to portray synaesthesia in a way which would be considered avant-garde even today). I have read few other books that are as inventive, engaging and simply exhilarating as *The Stars My Destination*. I can certainly see the reason for the massive influence that it has had subsequent generations of writers. It might not necessarily be high literature but I guarantee that this is a book that you won't be able to put down and that will stay with you for a long time after you finish it.

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# Paradise Regained

## Thomas Heaven catches Paradise Lost's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary show

**P**aradise Lost played their 25th anniversary show at the roundhouse on Sunday, and I was there! It's been 25 years since Paradise Lost emerged from Halifax in west Yorkshire. Twenty-five years in which the band has established itself as one of the best and most reliable in metal music, with 13 studio albums to their name, all but one original member still touring and new material that can stand shoulder to shoulder with the best of their early work. **Guns n' Roses** should be jealous. Listening through the extensive back catalog it's clear the band are never resting on their laurels either. The first record 'Lost Paradise' sits well within the death/doom genre, which Paradise Lost, alongside **Anathema** and **My Dying Bride** helped to define in the early 90's when all three bands

were signed to the peaceville label. The solid chugging rhythm guitar of Aaron Aedy with Gregory Macintosh's lead guitar soaring above and Nick Holmes harsh vocals gradually evolves over subsequent releases. Macintosh's single string leads become increasingly orchestrated, slayer like dive bombs replaced with more tasteful calculated melodies. Simultaneously Holmes eases off partially due to the need to conserve his voice and female vocals are introduced in places. By the fifth album *Draconian Times* in 1995 the band have become one of the primary progenitors of gothic metal. In fact the band make it all the way into **Depeche Mode** synthpop territory with 7th release *Host* before rebounding back into the realms gothic/doom metal by the time of **Tragic Idols** release in 2012. This being the bands 25th anniversary tour the full breadth of their work is

represented. **Katatonia** open the show by playing their brilliant *Viva Emptiness* album in full, legends in their own right Katatonia's early releases are highly reminiscent of the death/doom period of Paradise Lost's history. Next up gothic metal band **Lacuna Coil** speak more to their recent albums. Paradise Lost themselves manage to represent twelve out thirteen albums in their set, opening with the awesome 'Mortals Watch the Day' complete with Holmes death growls before, somehow, transitioning seamlessly into 'So Much Is Lost' from 1999's *Host*. Proving that whilst the genre may have changed the quality has always been there. They put on a great show, any sense of pretension or gloom you might expect from a gothic/doom band is completely nullified by Nick Holmes sarcastic attitude on stage. The Roundhouse treats the

audience to a lights show projecting cover art up behind the band and the crowd are appreciative responding well to classics like 'Enchantment' and 'Gothic'. There is even a small pit which is impressive given the slow tempo of most of the tracks. The only downside: perhaps predictably for a band with such an extensive discography I catch myself noting the songs they don't play. No 'Embers Fire' no 'Eternal', what if they'd played 'Crying

for Eternity'? 'Daylight Torn'? The first five albums back to back to be honest would have been fine by me. There's no pleasing some people, it was a great show and if you don't listen to Paradise Lost already you should really start. In fact if you are new to the cannon this may well have been the best set list for you, capturing a bit of everything. I suppose I'll just have to keep waiting for the eleven hour gig where they play everything to be announced . . .



## AMS album of the week

### Foxing – The Albatross

**Foxing** released an EP last year called *Old Songs*. I did not care for it. It was everything post-rock-tinged emo shouldn't be. The three songs were overthought and overstretched, but worst of all, they were really dull. It was an emo band trying to be a post-rock band with little success. Since then they've appeared on a few splits that I've completely ignored and I didn't really plan on giving them any more of my time. However, I saw *The Albatross* getting a lot of positive comments and decided to give them another chance. I'm really glad I did. It's ruddy bloody good.



The longest song here is still under 5 minutes, and the long tedious build ups are all but gone. This isn't post-rock tracks with emo thrown in, which they've proved doesn't work. This is emo with post-rock thrown in, and it definitely does work. It's still more post-rocky than **The World is a Beautiful Place and I am No Longer Afraid to Die**, but it's not too much. The instrumentation in 'Inuit' could be taken straight from the loud part of an **Explosions in the Sky** track, but the addition of strained vocals makes it still feel exciting. The crescendo towards the end of 'The Medic' is beautiful, whilst both parts of 'Bit by a Dead Bee' are superb, one pretty and other haunting. Lyrically, it's absolutely spot on, with 'The Medic' in particular being absolutely heartbreaking.

There are a few duds here. Opener 'Bloodhound' is pretty dreary, whilst the final track, 'Quietus', is probably one that won't make it into most of my listens to this album. The production could definitely be a hell of a lot better, especially the drums, although this seems like a fairly petty complaint about a record of this magnitude. Limited to just 500 LPs by their American label, with no British label pressing any, this isn't even a big release by emo standards. Hopefully this one will receive the attention it deserves so they are given a bigger budget next time around.

This record is obviously not going to set the world alight. It's aimed at a small niche, and outside of that it probably won't receive any attention at all. It's a shame though, because it's really great. I would highly recommend this to fans of either emo or post-rock, so give it a go, maybe you're part of the niche and you don't even know it...

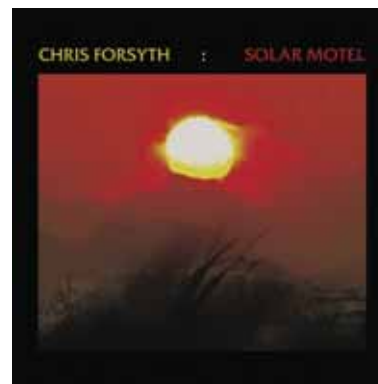
Stuart Masson

## Chris Forsyth – Solar Motel Review

**Riaz Agahi**  
 Music Editor

**Chris Forsyth** is an American psych rock guitarist much admired by myself for his dabblings in drone and general guitar badass-ery. In my review of his previous full length, *Kenzo Deluxe*, I noted that Forsyth was essentially returning the guitar to some past glory, shedding it of the threadbare stereotype engendered by cock-rock's (along with many other genres) self-indulgence and reverting it to an instrument of experimentation, where many of the older guitar based genres, especially blues, rear their head at one time or another.

A year later I discovered *Solar Motel*, which was released on October 29<sup>th</sup>. One of the notable factors is that it abandons the stripped down atmosphere of its predecessor and instead includes a full band. It certainly moves in a more rock fuelled trajectory, as though Forsyth was tracing the evolution of the guitar. That's not to say that the music has evolved into something cheap and unrefined. The album bears more resemblance to his earlier work such as *Paranoid Cat* and in fact it's recorded by the **Paranoid Cat Band**, although they've since been rebranded as **The Solar Motel Band**. It was this line-up, featuring Peter Kerlin on bass, Mike Pride on drums and Shawn Hanson on organs and keyboard, who accompanied Forsyth in his electrifying performance supporting **Grouper** two



years ago, which is a great sign for me as this was what first introduced me to Forsyth's music.

Aside from the more full sound it accomplishes, it's hard to claim that the album is too much of a departure from previous releases. Forsyth's guitar work, the way he intones the notes and the general style of his fills is familiar as ever. The album is pretty much what one would expect from Forsyth, four slabs of slow burning brilliance, which balances intricacy of detail in his playing with jamming out and making some catchy tunes.

Forsyth has a style of writing not much different from television show *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, in writing an outline for his tracks, one which the band, by design deliberately treats with little reverence. This improvisational mode is pretty clear throughout, with the repetitive drum patterns driving the music along forming a base which the other instruments evolve over and signalling the major changes, and this form of production allows one foot

in improvisation and one foot in performing a predetermined piece, which allows a spirit of spontaneity without the jams getting too unfocused although the album closer 'Part IV' is totally improvised and doesn't suffer much from it, although for my money it's the weakest track on the album, but having said that it's the most drone-y, eschewing the drums in favour of a more amorphous format.

To truly appreciate Chris Forsyth's music, careful listening is required, as it's all about the subtle build up, with incremental evolutions in the guitar part with each motif, although it's hard not to argue that the organ and/or keyboard plays just as much of a role here, for example opener 'Part I' sees them trading leads in its sumptuous buildup. 'Part I' is definitely my highlight, particularly a rather rousing guitar part around the 4 minute mark. From the outset, 'Part II' gives out a slight krauty vibe, reminding me of his work with **Koen Holtkamp** not to mention suggesting some of Forsyth's influences such as **Popul Vuh**. 'Part III' similarly possesses quality, in the form of a familiar 'Paranoid Cat'-esque build-up that uses the drums sparingly and culminates in some classic Forsyth tremolo.

The album as a whole possesses the usual experimentation and there is much to hear for existing fans, but the *Solar Motel* has a lot more that will please the casual listener than previous releases so fans and non-fans alike should really check it out because, as usual with Forsyth, it's not to be missed.



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# MUSIC

## Ms Mr at the Shepherd's Bush Empire

Lily Le  
Writer

New York duo **Ms Mr** took to the stage of Shepherd's Bush Empire before a crowd of excited fans before fulfilling all expectations and pleasing their audience.

Their debut album *Secondhand Rapture* was released in May this year and despite making an unremarkable dent in the charts they nonetheless managed to recruit a group of loyal followers to pack out the century-old venue.

Mixing their self-proclaimed ballads with more upbeat-danceable songs, their inoffensive pop was brought to life by two other musicians for the live band. The drummer was a great addition, bringing to life the thumping beats striking their way through tracks such as "Fantasy" a pounding and dramatic pop song, and "Bones" the epitome of their darker, gothic side.

Just as large was vocalist Lizzy Paplinger's beautiful voice. She hit all the notes as perfect as those on the album and perhaps went even further. She sung the way that you could tell her hand had crafted all the lyrics.

It was disappointing, however, that some of the synth couldn't be replaced with more live instruments which would have given the set more variety compared to the studio versions.

Despite the limited number of songs from one album, an injection of **Arctic Monkeys'** "Do I Wanna Know" was a stunning cover. Turning it into a Ms Mr ballad, it sounded like it could have been a beautiful original



Photo credit: coup de main



Photo credit: Burak Cingi

were it not for obviously British lyrics such as "summat" and "settee".

One of my favourite parts about the show had to be Paplinger's multicoloured hair which glowed green under darkness as though it were covered all over in green fluorescent protein.

It was also sweet to see Paplinger herself glowing with glee at the thought of playing Shepherd's Bush Empire. She could not stop smiling all the way through, even as she belted her biggest notes. When the audience joined in for favourites, and especially their final song Hurricane,

she looked as though she was about to wet herself with excitement. Unlike the lyrics in Fantasy, it really was all Ms Mr wanted it to be.

No encore was performed as the two-piece explained that they were no **Beyoncé...** yet. With a voice so huge and a pop-style that is easy to enjoy and doesn't perplex or alienate the listener, it is not out of the question. It also helps to have that "independent woman attitude" which bounces off Paplinger, especially when she dedicated a big "Fuck you!" before playing "Think of You" to all the exes audience member.

## Emiel's Guide to Classical Music

Emiel de Lange

### Episode 3: The School at Notre Dame

Ask someone to name a 'Classical' composer and they'll reply with **Bach, Mozart or Beethoven**. The music we've discussed so far is, I'll admit, a little bit 'niche'; rarely performed in the concert hall, and probably the reserve of a special group of early music enthusiasts. Still, I'm

going to continue my slow march through history – not only because the foundations of music are being laid, but also because you may actually like some of what you hear! I certainly do; the music of these early periods has a certain purity, (to modern ears) and mysticism to it not seen again until the 20th century. So, I hope you keep reading, and once again there should be musical examples on the Felix website to give you a taste.

As I mentioned two weeks ago, the **Abbess Hildegard von Bingen** is often considered the first real musical artist. From a young age she experienced visions, and eventually became Abbess of a convent in the Rhine valley. Her music was unique for its time and reflected her mystical and visionary outlook on life. While her contemporaries were still obsessed with the platonic achievement of a perfect Musica, she wrote music that is poetic and emotive. This effect was created through irregularity, both in the music and text; her verses only pair loosely, suggesting variation rather than repetition, while the words rarely rhyme and are irregularly accented. The musical line too roams over an unprecedented range of notes and is hard to pin down into a precise mode. She called her music a "symphony of the harmony of heavenly revelations".

Through the 12th Century, music made massive leaps as a result of ever clearer notation. Academic cathedral schools began to flourish and musicians began to write music of increasing complexity. Prime among these was the cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, which would dominate the musical world for the next 100 years.

One of the great innovations here was polyphony, music written with multiple independent lines. Polyphony has likely always been in use,

and in the 12th Century it was often used as an improvisation on the written monophonic line. Yet at Notre Dame it became an art in itself and was notated. Polyphony almost became synonymous with composition. The first polyphonic compositions were simple drone notes, with another line playing on top of it, or two lines moving parallel at the interval of a fifth. However, the need for 'occursus', or for the two notes to meet together at the end necessitates that they move in a non-parallel fashion! When two lines move in such a way, different intervals will exist between them, some dissonant and some consonant. Hence, the art of polyphony lies in how to manage these intervals so that they can move independently and still create a harmonic 'whole'. Our friend **Guido of Arezzo** wrote the first treatise on polyphony and demonstrated multiple 'solutions', leaving the choice up to the composer; this marked an important shift in attitude towards music as a creative art.

Most of what we know from the Notre Dame school comes from an anonymous source. It seems the two greatest composers were **Léonin** (1150s – 1201) and **Perotin** (fl. c. 1200), both known as 'Magistra', or masters. From Perotin, we have the first surviving piece with 4-part polyphony, but both made massive advances in our understanding of rhythm and harmony. Perotin often moved to his occursus via the most dissonant (or ugly) intervals possible (think back to Pythagoras's frequency ratios), creating a great sense of relief or resolution. This harmonic 'movement' would eventually blossom into our current system of tonal harmony. In two weeks I will elaborate on my claims about rhythm and we will explore the next great flowering of music, the **Ars Nova**, and why Perotin and Léonin became known as the **Ars Antiqua**.



## In other news...

**McFly** and **Busted** are to form a 'super' group for a series of arena tours in 2014. Innovatively called **McBusted**, the group will appear on the BBC's *Children in Need* on Friday. However, the news that Charlie Simpson is doing a Robbie and not joining his fellow band mates may prove too devastating for some.

**Lily Allen** has revealed a new song in which she derides the sexism and mysogyny in the music industry. The singer takes aim and **Robin Thicke's** 'Blurred Lines' and **Miley Cyrus**. The Daily Mail reported this by totally missing the point and commenting on how "slim" Allen looked.

**Justin Timberlake** has announced yet more dates for his forthcoming tour which will take in pretty much every city in America, and even a few over this side of the pond. Venues include the MGM Grand, Las Vegas and the Phones 4u Arena in Manchester.



# TELEVISION

Editors: **John Park,**  
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# Television for the

## From Shakespeare to the Iraq War, Emily Fulham

**E**ver wanted to watch a new TV show without, you know, committing to it? We've all been there: start watching a new series, thinking it looks pretty cool, and next thing you know, you're nine series in and have no idea why you're still watching, but too emotionally invested to stop (here's looking at you, *Supernatural*).

Enter the miniseries. Don't be put off by the 'mini' aspect; as we've so often been told, just because it's smaller, doesn't mean it won't leave you feeling satisfied. In fact, miniseries tend to be of higher quality than their lengthier counterparts, most likely because the creators of the show have a definite end to work towards and there's little time for 'filler' episodes. The following list offers up some recommendations of where to start.

## Generation Kill

Based off the memoirs of a Rolling Stone journalist embedded in an elite Recon squad of the US Marines during the invasion of Iraq, HBO's *Generation Kill* is one of the best portrayals of modern warfare there is. It presents the reality of Operation Iraqi Freedom, unvarnished and unprejudiced: long stretches of boredom punctuated by moments of high intensity fighting; the inexperience of the new recruits, the first generation of Americans brought up in a lifetime of peace to be thrown into the harsh reality of war; and the incompetence of the commanders in charge of 'liberating a country'.

With only seven episodes, *Generation Kill* is near flawless in its execution. This is war, unfiltered: the dialogue is razor sharp, hilarious and brutal by parts. The show keeps the heavy usage of military slang so as to seem authentic as possible (examples include 'Victor' for vehicle, 'Oscar Mike' for

'on the move', as well as some that are less savoury - we'll leave 'Combat Jack' to your imagination) which means it may take one or two episodes to fully understand what's going on, but a little patience will soon pay off.

Most of the series is seen through one 'Humvee', the light armoured jeep in which the Marines travel. Journalist Evan Wright (known only to the soldiers as 'Rolling Stone') is placed to observe the men in a Humvee led by Sgt. Brad 'Iceman' Colbert, played by Alexander Skarsgard, a well-respected soldier with serious reservations about the capabilities of his superiors. His second in command, Ray Person, provides much of the series' humour as the sarcastic, hyperactive, Avril Lavigne singing driver of the jeep. One of the best yet surreal characters, 'Fruity' Rudy Reyes, is actually played by his real-life Marine counterpart.

The series is often shocking in its honesty. Many events which, while



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watching, I assumed must have been fictionalised are taken directly from the book, frequently grimly reflecting

the events in Iraq. Neither glorifying nor condemning the acts of the soldiers it follows, *Generation Kill* should

be required viewing for anyone wanting an insight into the chaotic nature of wars in the last ten years.

## Pride and Prejudice

The miniseries that gave your mum her sort-of-disturbing obsession with Colin Firth, BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* is a far better adaptation of Jane Austen's novel than the more recent film starring Keira Knightley. Widely praised by critics and audiences alike, the series sought to remain faithful to its source material while making it accessible for non-Austen fans, ramping up the sexual tension between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy, and adding scenes with the Bennet sisters.

The series' six episodes follow the antics of the Bennet family, the mother of whom is determined to find husbands for her five daughters lest they be left poor and shunned by society. While eldest daughter Jane is swept off her feet by the charming Mr. Bingley, her cynical sister Elizabeth is left outraged by the manners of his friend, the surly Mr. Darcy, who declares her 'tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me'. Although their meeting is far from love at first sight, she slowly comes to realise that there's more to

Darcy than meets the eye. Meanwhile, youngest sister Lydia gets herself into trouble and risks bringing disgrace on the family when she gets involved with Officer George Wickham.

The series catapulted Colin Firth - a previously unknown actor - into fame, allowing him to go on to play the exact same character in every Richard Curtis film ever made. The iconic scene where he emerges soaked from swimming in a lake was voted one of the most unforgettable scenes in British television and set alight the passions of middle-aged women everywhere in what was after all a happier, more innocent, pre-Fifty Shades of Grey time. The series also inspired Helen Fielding to write the Bridget Jones novels, featuring its own Mr Darcy (also played by Colin Firth in the film adaptations).

Quintessentially English, *Pride and Prejudice* has all the hallmarks of a great period drama, including scandalous elopements, repressed emotions, and top hats. Nonetheless, its themes of class, status and



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romance remain relevant for today's audiences, no doubt explaining why the book is still so popular.

*Pride and Prejudice* may not offer many surprises, but it is one of the better adaptations of Austen's novel,

bringing wit and heart to the story. Austen fans and novices alike will enjoy.



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TELEVISION

# Attention Deficit

am celebrates the unsung art of the miniseries

## The Hollow Crown

The BBC's adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henriad* tetralogy of Richard II, both parts of Henry IV, and Henry V is a star-studded affair, featuring what seems like every British actor to have been on TV in the past five years. It's ambitious in scope - the four episodes follow the reign of three different kings - but an incredibly engaging work, mainly thanks to the brilliant performances of those involved.

'What makes a good king?' is the question central to the series. *The Hollow Crown* is a story about power: the struggle to gain it, how to keep it, and what it means to lose it. Ben Wishaw plays a rather weedy Richard II, scrabbling to keep hold of the throne against his challenger Henry Bolingbroke. With his ostentatious air and tendency to play the martyr (the King is literally dressed like Jesus in almost every scene), it's hard at first to find sympathy for Richard, but thanks to Wishaw's sensitive and complex portrayal, it's difficult not to feel sorry for him as he is betrayed one by one by those closest to him.

Next up are the Henrys, with Bolingbroke now on the throne as Henry IV, played by Jeremy Irons. Having learnt his lesson from the predecessor he overthrew, the new king is a powerful, authoritative figure, showing no mercy to those he sees as his enemies. He is troubled most of all, however, by his son: Prince Hal, who is probably what passed for a 'lad' in Elizabethan times, and prefers to spend his days drinking and whoring rather than facing up to his princely duties. (The first part of Henry IV is worth watching if only to see Hiddleston's impression of Jeremy Irons as his on-screen father, one of the funniest moments of the series.) Encouraged by his friend Falstaff, Hal shows no appreciation for his role-in-waiting, an endless source of worry for his father.

Henry IV and Henry V can be seen as a coming-of-age story for Hal, as he learns what it means to be a good King. It's a role than Hiddleston, already familiar with playing royalty from his most famous portrayal of Loki in Marvel's *Thor* films, is arguably



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born to play: nailing every emotion as he follows the character's arc from an immature, selfish youth, through to the death of his father the King, and

finally as leader and warrior in Henry V, where the famous, "Once more unto the Breach, dear friends," speech is delivered with fury and passion.

*The Hollow Crown* is Shakespeare at its best and most accessible: every audience can find something to appreciate in its timeless themes.

## Band of Brothers

Forget *Saving Private Ryan*; if you want a realistic depiction of the horrors of World War II, look no further than *Band of Brothers*. Another near-perfect war miniseries, the series is the story of Easy Company, a regiment of paratroopers in World War II. It follows the company over the whole course of the war, beginning with gruelling training in Georgia and England, through the D-Day invasion at Normandy, a freezing winter spent in the forests of Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge, right through to the end of the war.

Produced by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, the series aimed for as much as accuracy as possible in its depiction of war: relying heavily on the input of veterans of the war, all of the main characters are or were real people, and each episode begins and ends with clips from interviews with them (although not until the very last episode do we find out who each person is). Because each character shares the fate of their real-life counterpart, each death or injury has added weight, blurring the lines between fiction and reality. The penultimate episode, Why

We Fight, is probably where the series reaches its emotional peak, in its haunting depiction of a concentration camp.

A pre-*Homeland* Damian Lewis plays Major Winters, the leader of the company for most of the story, whose determination to get his men home provides the anchor for many of the show's storylines. Most of the episodes are centred around a particular character; with ten episodes in total, the series gives enough time for its audience to feel as if they know the company, increasing the emotional impact of the story. The huge cast also provides a seemingly endless supply of familiar faces: Tom Hardy, Michael Fassbender and James McAvoy can all be spotted in minor roles.

It was, at the time, the most expensive miniseries ever produced (exceeded only by its less successful follow-up, *The Pacific*), and was filmed mostly in England. The high production values can be witnessed in the scene where soldiers parachute out of aeroplanes onto the beaches at Normandy (heart-stoppingly tense, and one of the best scenes of the whole series).



HBO

*Band of Brothers* treads a fine line, never teetering over the edge into hero-worship of the men it depicts (he-

roic no doubt that some of them are), and balancing respect and realism with admirable restraint. Setting the

bar for World War II television, *Band of Brothers* isn't easy viewing, but important nonetheless.



# 2014 at the Oscars:



**Cate Blanchett** (*Blue Jasmine*)

Woody Allen's award-winning success with the ladies of his films continues, with Cate Blanchett tipped not only to score her most deserving nomination, but perhaps also a win too, which would make this her second win. Her performance is a rich, mesmerising one, and she alone at the core of what can be seen as a modern adaptation of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, equals the gravitas of Vivien Leigh. Rocking her Chanel clothes and Louis Vuitton bags, Jasmine (Blanchett) struggles adjusting to a more grounded life, as well as holding on to her own sanity.



**Judi Dench** (*Philomena*)

The most heartbreaking yet uplifting film of the year is Stephen Frear's latest, starring Britain's very own Dame Judi Dench who gives a performance so nuanced and effective that it will be difficult not to be moved to tears by the end of it all. Forced to give her son up for adoption by mean nuns who use religion as an excuse for all their wrongdoings, Philomena Lee (Dench) is on a 50-year mission to find her child. Teamed up with a journalist, her journey takes them to America of all places where surprising facts await. Dench is simply superb in every way.



**Emma Thompson** (*Saving Mr Banks*)

In playing P. L. Travers, the author of *Mary Poppins* who had a notoriously difficult relationship with Walt Disney and his company, Emma Thompson is simply magical. As a middle-aged English woman (which in Hollywood means she's an up-tight, bossy buzz-kill who needs a sprinkle of the Yankee magic to start having some fun in life), she's a comic delight as she clashes with the production of the film *Mary Poppins*, but she has a more moving background story to tell, relating to her childhood and her sweet relationship with her father.



**Meryl Streep** (*August: Osage County*)

Hardly a year goes by without the mention of Meryl Streep's name during the awards season. But there is of course every reason to be in awe of the most versatile, most talented actress the screen has ever seen. With 17 nominations and 3 wins under her belt, she's the most nominated actress of all time, and is one win short of becoming the actress with most wins. As the matriarch of the Weston family, Violet (Streep) has to deal not only with her husband's suicide, but also her alcoholism, as well as having her entire family back under one roof.

December is just around the corner, and film studios are lining up their critically-lauded films to take part in this year's much-anticipated Oscar race. As with any year, there are strong contenders in every field and it's certainly too early to be betting on a winner.

So over the next few weeks, **Felix Film** will be giving you a breakdown of the actors, actresses and films that will be grabbing the headlines in the near future; but this is in no way a definitive list, as some of the films haven't even been released over here yet.

This week in our feature is the hotly contested Best Lead Actress category.

**Ready...  
Steady...  
Go!**





# Best Leading Actress



**Adèle Exarchopoulos** (*Blue is the Warmest Colour*)

This year's Cannes favourite found itself a breakout star in the form of Adèle Exarchopoulos, an actress giving such a talented debut performance that the Cannes jury decided to award her with her very own Palme d'Or. And it's a performance that deserves every bit of the highest praise. It's remarkable to see what the young actress is capable of conveying such a wide range of emotions only with a flicker of her eyes. It's her compelling portrayal that makes its three-hour long running time seem like nothing.



**Kate Winslet** (*Labour Day*)

As a divorced single mother falling for a dangerous looking escaped convict who may have murdered his own family, Kate Winslet plays her role just right. Her desperate longing for some real human contact is what starts off this affair that's certainly odd and unnatural to begin with, but as this relationship grows throughout the period of a single weekend, it soon turns into a beautiful love story in a warm backdrop worth rooting for which is what makes the final few scenes all that more precious, with Winslet capturing an enormous range of emotions.



**Sandra Bullock** (*Gravity*)

Alfonso Cuarón's box office smash-hit is also something of a favourite with the critics too, and with 5-star reviews popping up, the technical accomplishments here will certainly be in for a real chance at the Oscars. But will Sandra Bullock manage to win over the voters with her performance? She's an inexperienced first-timer in space stuck in the worst possible situation but she finds the courage and survival instinct within her to persevere. The incredibly loud and dramatic ending works thanks to some narrative build-up coming from her part.



**Greta Gerwig** (*Frances Ha*)

Dubbed the it girl of mumblecore cinema, a recent new subgenre of American independent filmmaking, Greta Gerwig's quirky, off-beat comic performance is a highlight of this low budget rom-com. The film itself comes across as a touch too episodic and sporadic in nature, with no attention paid to telling something coherent, but holding everything together is the titular Frances (Gerwig), a New Yorker nearing the dreaded age of thirty in search of a secure job, a stable place to live, and love, with sadly none of them coming easily to her.



**Amy Adams** (*American Hustle*)

Already an astonishing four-time nominee (this should be five: she was robbed for *Enchanted*, *ROBBED*), perhaps this could be Amy Adams' lucky year. This is the first time she will be contending in the best leading actress category, one that is traditionally tougher to crack than the supporting actress award. She is once again teamed up here with director David O. Russell (*The Fighter*), and given the significant buzz surrounding her film, the daring, sizzling display she puts on should certainly help when it comes to compiling the nominees' shortlist.



**Naomi Watts** (*Diana*)

Oliver Hirschbiegel's Princess Diana biopic flopped in the UK and is having an even worse time over in the States, with an appalling 8% rating over at rottentomatoes. Given Naomi Watts' previous nominations, her impressive career, and a film of so much potential, everyone was easily predicting an Oscar win for Watts at the beginning of this year. That is until the film was released without any film festival attention or big campaign push from the studio. Watts does give an admirable performance, but there's only a slim chance at awards glory.



**Julie Delpy** (*Before Midnight*)

It seems Julie Delpy's talents aren't limited to co-writing a fantastic script that rings true to life. As one half of a couple who we've started adoring all the way back in 1995, she and Ethan Hawke make such an entertaining but also a brilliantly convincing pair who only need to have conversations to keep the audience occupied and interested in their lives. They have immense likability, and she helps bring about the *Before* series to become one of modern cinema's best, most endearing love stories that makes the audience want more.



**Rooney Mara** (*Side Effects*)

It was released a while ago, which never works in a film's favour when the end-of-year release schedule is so densely packed with the traditional Oscar-bait movies, but Rooney Mara, the American Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, gives yet another compelling performance as a duplicitous backstabbing bitch who tries all sorts of manipulation techniques to get what she wants. She's no doubt a new emerging talent, and a nomination this year will be unlikely, but further down in what should be a glittering career, she will eventually score something.



**Bérénice Bejo** (*The Past*)

Another French addition to the potential nominations, and the foreign language aspect will make it impossibly difficult to make it to the shortlist, but maybe her Best Actress win at Cannes may boost her chances. The *Artist* may have put her name on the map, but here she is in a far more intriguing role. At the heart of a complex family drama that has shocking secrets to reveal at every turn, Bérénice Bejo is simply magnetic - a flawed wife, a flawed mother, and a flawed lover. Her restraint, mixed with infrequent outbursts are unforgettable.



**Tilda Swinton** (*Only Lovers Left Alive*)

As a pale, eccentric vampire, Tilda Swinton eerily looks the part and no one could have given a more fascinating interpretation of a centuries old being who always looks immensely cool and wise as she ponders in deep discussions with her husband, another vampire played by Tom Hiddleston. It's a slow-burning drama for sure, quite the noticeable departure from films dealing with the supernatural, which is what makes Jim Jarmusch's new drama so unique in its storytelling. Swinton never falters, whatever bold film choices she makes.



# FULL FRONTAL FEMINISM

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# FILM

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# "Daddy is not my daddy"

Fred Fyles

Star Writer

## Like Father Like Son

**Director:** Hirokazu Kore-eda  
**Writer:** Hirokazu Kore-eda  
**Starring:** Masaharu Fukuyama, Machiko Ono, Yoko Maki, Lily Franky, Arata Iura  
**Runtime:** 119 minutes

What do you do when the child you have looked after for the last 6 years turns out to be someone else's? This is the question faced by Ryōta Nonomiya (Masaharu Fukuyama) in the prize-winning Japanese feature *Like Father, Like Son*, which explores issues of family, blood ties, and class dynamics in modern day Japan. Ryōta is a straight laced architect; a star-achiever, who is ruthlessly competitive, pushing his son Keita through cram school, piano lessons, and private schooling in an effort to make him more like his old man. Slightly despairing of his wife Midori (Machiko Ono), who has a tendency to indulge their son, he nevertheless makes up part of a stable, albeit cold,

family unit - until they get a phone call from their local hospital, and their world changes.

It is revealed that Keita is not really their son; he was swapped with another child at birth, who is now living with a more bohemian family. Both families are now faced with a choice: do they exchange the children? Is the genetic link worth more than the six years of energy and affection each family has placed in their child? While this subject sounds a bit like a Channel 4 documentary, or else some kind of awful Western goofball comedy (watch this space for the inevitable Hollywood remake), director Hirokazu Koreeda weaves it into a complex, rich, and ultimately rewarding family drama.

Filmed in a series of long, languid shots, accompanied with a barely-there piano score, Koreeda allows the natural tension between the two families shine through effortlessly. Ryōta forms the obvious villain of the piece - a work-obsessed family man who neglects his wife and child; he is so used to winning at everything that at one point he asks how much the other family would be willing to accept to let him raise both of the children, letting his money do the talking. Snobbery is a large part of Ryōta's character, and plays a central role in driving forward the story, but ultimately, Ryōta is a

sympathetic character, burdened with troubles of his own, and enough daddy issues to give Freud a field day. Over the course of the film, thanks largely to a restrained performance by Fukuyama, we see the character learn to appreciate his family while he still has time. While this moral outcome may seem cliché, the perfect pace at which the film moves makes the transition seem completely natural.

While child actors can often make or break a film, Koreeda has taken a calculated risk that ultimately paid off, resulting in believable performances from the two 6 year olds, who can only look on as their parents argue and they are passed from house to house like tennis balls. The camerawork allows the audience to become an observer embedded within the centre of each family, observing not only their different dynamics - modern, cold, professional Vs relaxed, friendly, ramshackle - but also the subtle features that make the characters seem like more than 2D cutouts. One feature in particular that stands out is the performance from Machiko Ono, who plays the long suffering Midori with a grace and charm that makes her a magnetic presence on the screen. Ono imbues her character with pathos; subtle changes in her facial expression revealing what lies between the surface of her perfect life of domesticity. In one scene



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she tries to make small talk with her 'new son', but finds herself at a loss for words; suddenly trapped within the hotel-like home she has helped to create, she becomes a prisoner in her own house, guarded by a child she doesn't really know, and a husband who insists that blood will rule out.

However, despite all its excellent features, it feels like something is lacking. *Like Father, Like Son* is supposed to be a story about two separate families who are forced to come together, and yet for a majority of the film the action is centred upon the uptight Ryōta. We follow his personal journey, and explore how the changes have affected him, but the other father gets

little more than a supporting role. The other family is largely glossed over, in favour of the man who clearly needs to spend a little bit more time with his kid. It seems that the story would be even more rewarding if we could explore it from all aspects, as opposed from a single angle. Nevertheless, Koreeda has followed hot on the heels of last year's wonderful *I Wish* with another exceptional family drama that manages to tug at the heartstrings without ever seeming overwrought; *Like Father, Like Son*, manages to paint a portrait of modern Japanese life in small, subtle brushstrokes. A sharply crafted, beautiful film, magnificence in miniature

Fred Fyles

Star Writer

## Eastern Boys

**Director:** Robin Campillo  
**Writer:** Robin Campillo  
**Starring:** Olivier Rabourdin, Kirill Emelyanov, Danil Vorobyev, Édéa Darque  
**Runtime:** 128 minutes

*Eastern Boys*, Robin Campillo's sophomore effort, is a chameleon of a film, that flits from genre to genre; over its two hour running time, it skips from home invasion drama, to tender love story, before climaxing in a finale worthy of a Hollywood thriller. Campillo, who both wrote and directed the film, has created a moving portrait of contemporary relationships, that raises questions about modern sexuality and attitudes towards immigration.

Beginning with long, languid shots of Paris' Gare du Nord, the camera follows a group of young Eastern Eu-

ropean boys as they mingle around the station. Splitting up, coming together again, they weave through the crowds, making the audience focus on their location. We begin to notice a well dressed businessman, Daniel (Olivier Rabourdin) whose attention is drawn to a handsome youth - Marek, played by Kirill Emelyanov. Eventually, Daniel plucks up the courage to say 'Bonjour', and what follows is a stilted conversation in English, in which Daniel attempts to solicit Marek. Unable to come that day, Daniel arranges to meet Marek tomorrow, but makes the mistake of revealing his home address, setting in motion a chain of events beyond his control.

The film is split into four clear sections, and as the gang of youths leave the Gare du Nord, the second section begins. Expecting Marek to arrive, Daniel is surprised when he opens the door to find the gang from the station; young men from all over Eastern Europe - Ukraine, Romania, Azerbaijan - they are united under the forceful leadership of Boss (Daniil Vorobyev), a Russian sociopath. Invading Daniel's home in the banlieue, they entrap him inside, and begin to strip the furniture, carting it away in a waiting van.

While things don't break out into outright violence, there is a palpable atmosphere of tension throughout this section. Once they are satisfied with their haul, they leave Daniel alone in his empty apartment.

While the director could have been satisfied with a simple home invasion plot, it is at this point that Campillo takes a left turn into a relationship drama; the next day Marek arrives to fulfill his end of the deal. Daniel is surprised to see him again, but nevertheless goes through with things, and has sex with Marek. As Marek keeps coming back to the apartment, a sort of romance develops between the two characters, although the nature of this relationship is kept ambiguous; beginning as overtly sexual, Daniel eventually begins to develop paternal feelings towards Marek, trying to help him assimilate into French society - Marek is 'sans papiers', an undocumented immigrant, trying to escape his past. Does Daniel represent economic freedom for Marek? Or is the apartment a place where Marek can find safety, far away from the bombs that killed his family during the Chechen War? Campillo keeps his cards close to his chest, presenting

the relationship in a neutral, non-judgemental way, and allowing the audience to make up their own minds.

While depictions of Paris in cinema tends to veer towards the nauseatingly romantic - look to Woody Allen's cheesefest *Midnight in Paris* - this film instead follows the path forged by the 1995 masterpiece *La Haine*, which documented the grimy underbelly of the Parisian suburbs. With effortlessly naturalistic performances from the two leads, *Eastern Boys* isn't afraid to explore thorny issues of contemporary French life. Immigration issues are an obvious theme, and the film highlights both the issues migrants face when coming to the country, and how they are seen as no-one's responsibility. The gang are holed up in a Premier Inn like hotel; it is clear that the hotel manager doesn't want them there, but the rooms are run by social services, and there is nothing she can do. It seems like a bleak future for these migrants; unable to interact with the authorities, they are instead trapped in this nowhere zone on the outskirts of Paris; it is no surprise that they resort to crime - what else is there to do?

An unexpected find at the London

Film Festival, *Eastern Boys* is a film that manages to be both visually sublime, and incredibly engaging. There is great clarity of vision from the director, who teases out superb performances from the cast, but the true star of the film is the script, written by Campillo, which manages the numerous twists and turns with nuance and skill, resulting in a thought-provoking meditation on love, loss, solitude, and trust.



BFI.ORG.UK



# Are you drinking it right?

Researchers conclude that coffee first thing in the morning might not be as effective as you thought



The coursework season has descended at Imperial - many of us are spending endless hours at the library. No matter if you are writing up your research project on rotor stator disk rim sealing, a model of the thermal structure of the North American lithosphere, or an essay answering the question "What is a gene?", you are probably looking for ways to top up your body's caffeine level every now and then. If you want to make the most of your tea / coffee / Redbull / Monster, you might want to read on.

Scientists at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, have worked out that the best time to get a daily hit of caffeine is between 9:30am and 11:30am.

## The Science

Steven Miller, a neuroscientist who took part in the research, explained that this is due to how caffeine interacts with a key hormone – called cortisol. This hormone helps to

regulate the body's own internal clock and promotes alertness.

After a night's sleep, cortisol levels are naturally high and can remain high for up to an hour afterwards, peaking between 8am and 9am on average.

Mr Miller argues it is better to then drink caffeine after this peak as it promotes cortisol production.

He said a tolerance of caffeine may be developed inside the body if we drink coffee when the level of this hormone is high. This is simply because your body does not need this extra dose of caffeine. The natural cortisol peak forms part of your 24 hour rhythm - same reason why you are tired in the evening.

Miller stated that one of the key principles of pharmacology is use a drug when it is needed. Otherwise, we can develop tolerance to a drug administered at the same dose. This implies that the same cup of morning coffee will become less effective and you might need an extra shot of espresso for your morning coffee to be as effective.

Mr Miller also found that cortisol also peaks between noon and 1pm, also from 5:30 to 6:30pm. He suggested that having a caffeine dose between these pikes will be most effective.

Of course, the cortisol cycle will vary from person to person, so will the perfect time to have your cup of coffee or can of Redbull. The time you normally wake up will also affect this time - early risers may find their ideal time is earlier than those who get to enjoy a lie in.

## So what is cortisol?

Cortisol helps to increase glucose in the bloodstream by converting from stores of energy. This hormone produced in high levels especially in times of stress. This energy release makes us more alert in the morning, but making us hungry at the same time.

Scientists have also found that cortisol is also responsible for synchronising the internal daily rhythms that operate in the body.

## Caffeine Statistics

**1.6 BILLION** that's how many cups of coffee are drunk worldwide every day (estimated)

### Top 10 professions for coffee drinking

1. Scientists
2. Marketing/PR
3. Education Administrator
4. Editor/Writer
5. Healthcare Administrator
6. Physician
7. Food Preparer
8. Professor
9. Social Worker
10. Finance

**400mg** the suggested daily intake of caffeine for a average person. 200mg if you're pregnant.

## How much?

- 1 mug of instant coffee: 100mg
- 1 mug of filter coffee: 140mg
- 1 mug of tea: 75mg
- 1 can of cola: 40mg
- 1 can of 'energy' drink: up to 80mg
- 1 x 50g bar of plain chocolate: up to 50mg
- 1 x 50g bar of milk chocolate: up to 25mg

## So if you have...

- two bars of plain chocolate and two mugs of filter coffee, or
- four mugs of tea and two can of cola, or
- two mugs of instant coffee and two cans of energy drink

That's your 400mg for the day!

## Too much caffeine

There are several side effects with a caffeine overdose. This includes shakes, make you anxious, headachey, sleepless and might upset your stomach too.

## Machine to tell Horses from Cows



Remember the horse meat scandal earlier in the year? To ensure you are getting what you think you are buying, retailers can soon distinguish between beef and horsemeat with a new bench-top device built by British engineers.

This machine, developed by Oxford Instruments and the Institute of Food Research, is capable of identifying meat before it is processed by analysing the different fatty acids

in the meat. Currently the machine can recognise horses, cows, geese, pigs and sheep. The team is currently working on identifying rat meat.

"Each fat gives off a different signal," said Paul Bunting, sales director at Oxford Instruments. "The great advantage of this is that rather than spending £500 to send off meat for DNA-testing and waiting up to a week for the result, they can use this and get results in minutes."

## Want to show off your culinary skills?

Are you a budding cook or a first timer? Cooking for your flatmates or going alone?

Well, share the photos of your lovely meal on Twitter and Instagram and hashtag it with #FelixFood.

It (and perhaps your recipe) could appear on Felix!

Have fun choosing your filters!

# GAMES

Editor: **Maximilian Eggel, Calum Skene, Imran Rashid**  
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# Games ... is ... back PlayStation 4 you?

**Maximilian Eggel**  
Games Editor

Sony has been releasing top notch consoles for almost 2 decades now, and therefore the PS4 has a lot riding on its shoulders. While the PS3 was a great console, somehow it just wasn't the best that we expected of Sony. Enter the PS4. Almost 5 years in the making, this console just like the Xbox One has been surrounded by quite a lot of hype. However in stark contrast to Microsoft's E3 announcement, Sony thrived during their announcement and were said to have "won" at that convention. Furthermore Sony has used all the negative publicity that their rival incurred to further their own cause. Quite an amusing "advert" as well as gleeful jibes by Sony executives has seen Sony's

stock rise, and their reputation as the defenders of hard core gaming has been cemented. This has led to optimism about the potential of the upcoming PlayStation.

However this "defence" is not just based on what Xbox has done (or decided not to do), but is also backed up by the stats of the PS4. With quite impressive graphics as well as very respectable RAM, this console should play games very nicely. Furthermore the price is very attractive. Significantly cheaper than the Xbox One (and in fact even the PS3), this product has gotten itself in a great position to win this round of console battles.

Furthermore, while the Xbox One could only run COD: Ghosts at 720p, the PS4 has the got the full 1080p. This is really good news for Sony, as gamers value graphics as one of the top things of their gaming experience. And yet for all the promised

technologies and low price, the lack of a knockout console exclusive is a bit worrying. With the delay of Watchdogs by Activision, there is no real great game there that many people say they need to have on a console. While you are willing to save £80 on the console, and can get most of the games that the Xbox etc., is that enough to compensate for watching in envy when your friend can boast about his killstreak on halo?

So now the question for the Sony console: Should you go for the PlayStation 4? If you are impressed by good graphics, smooth gameplay and free sharing (up to publishers) then I would go for the PS4. The smaller price tag is also another reason to go for the PS4! However in the end the choice is up to you, are you more gamer, less flexible but with more power and technology or do you want to have a bit of everything? It's your choice afterall.

### 8TH GENERATION CONSOLE COMPARISON



XBOX ONE		PS4	
<b>MSRP</b> \$499 - £429 - €499 <i>Includes Kinect One</i>	<b>PRICING</b>	<b>MSRP</b> \$399 - £349 - €399 <i>PlayStation Move Camera sold separately (MSRP \$70-€70)</i>	
<b>AMD Jaguar x86 (8-core)</b> <b>AMD GCN 768-SPU</b> <b>WGI DDR3 2133MHz, 32MB eSRAM</b> <i>1GB for Gaming, 3GB for OS</i>	<b>BASIC CONFIGURATION</b>	<b>AMD Jaguar x86 (8-core)</b> <b>AMD GCN 1152-SPU</b> <b>8GB GDDR5 5500MHz</b> <i>Development 1GB for Gaming, 3GB for OS</i>	
<b>500GB HDD</b> <b>Blu-Ray, DVD</b>	<b>HARDWARE</b>	<b>500GB HDD</b> <b>Blu-Ray, DVD</b>	
<b>1080p &amp; 4K</b> <b>7.1 Surround Sound</b> <b>HDMI, Optical SPDIF</b> <b>HDMI</b>	<b>CPU</b> <b>GPU</b> <b>RAM</b> <i>Optimization</i> <b>HARD DRIVE</b> <b>OPTICAL MEDIA</b>	<b>1080p &amp; 4K</b> <b>7.1 Surround Sound</b> <b>HDMI, Optical SPDIF, Analog</b> <b>None</b>	
<b>Xbox One Controller</b> <i>All traditional inputs, Infrared Depth Perception</i>	<b>SIGNAL</b>	<b>DualShock 4</b> <i>Most traditional inputs, No "Select" Button, Touchpad, "Share" Button, 3.5mm Headset Jack, Multi-Touch, No Hall Effect, Light Bar, Light Bar Sync</i>	
<b>Kinect One Voice/Body Control</b> <b>Xbox SmartGlass</b>	<b>DISPLAY</b> <b>AUDIO</b> <b>A/V OUTPUTS</b> <b>A/V INPUTS</b>	<b>PS Move + Eye</b> <b>PlayStation App</b> <i>Game Streaming from PS4 to Vita</i>	
<b>Triple-OS (Xbox OS + Windows 8 Retail + Virtualization OS)</b> <i>Deep Audio</i> (requires multi-tasking via Kinect One SmartGlass) <b>TV, Movies, Music, Streaming, Pictures</b> <i>Must Be Sold Through Authorized Retailers</i> <b>30 Day Limit, Limit to 1 Swap Per Game</b> <b>Unlimited Sharing Between Household</b> <b>Region-Locked</b> <b>No Native Compatibility</b> <i>(Requires Additional Purchase)</i>	<b>CONTROLLER</b>	<b>OPERATING SYSTEM</b>	
<b>XBL Games on Demand</b>	<b>STANDARD</b>	<b>PlayStation 4 OS</b>	
<b>Xbox Live</b> <i>Requires Online Sign-in Every 28 Hours for Offline Gaming</i>	<b>MOTION</b> <b>SECONDARY SCREEN</b>	<b>MULTIMEDIA</b> <b>USED GAME POLICY</b> <b>GAME-SHARING</b> <b>REGION LOCKING</b> <b>BACK-COMPATIBILITY</b> <b>PlayStation Network</b>	
<b>Cloud Computing</b> <b>Xbox Live Marketplace</b>	<b>SOFTWARE</b>	<b>Subscription Service</b>	
<b>Internet Explorer Supported</b> <b>Supported</b> <i>(Requires Windows One Touch Command)</i> <b>Web</b> <b>CROSS GAME CHAT</b> <b>GAMEPLAY RECORD</b>	<b>OPERATING SYSTEM</b>	<b>PlayStation Plus</b> <i>500+ or 1000+ Online Gaming</i> <i>Early Access to Beta</i> <i>Free PS3 Content</i>	
<b>XBO EXCLUSIVES</b> <i>(Not a complete list)</i> Below Crimson Dragon Dead Rising 3 D4 Forza Motorsport 5 Halo: Infinite Killer Instinct (2013) Kinect Sports Rivals Quantum Break Ryse: Son of Rome Sunset Overdrive	<b>OPERATING SYSTEM</b>	<b>None</b> <b>PlayStation Store</b> <i>Requires a game being downloaded</i>	
<b>XBO/PC</b> Project Spark	<b>WEB</b>	<b>Web Browser</b> <b>Supported</b> <b>Supported</b> <i>(Requires the "Share" Button)</i> <i>Requires the "Share" Button</i> <i>Requires the "Share" Button</i> <i>Requires the "Share" Button</i>	
<b>XBO/360</b> Fantasia: Music Evolved LocoCycle	<b>CLOUD COMPUTING</b>	<b>PS4 EXCLUSIVES</b> Deep Down Driveclub Infamous: Second Son Killzone: Shadow Fall Knack The Order: 1888	
<b>XBO/360/PC</b> Titanfall Minecraft	<b>ONLINE STORE</b>	<b>PS4/PC</b> Blacklight: Retribution Daylight PlanetSide 2 Transistor The Witness Warframe War Thunder	
<b>XBO/7TH-GEN</b> <i>** Zumba Fitness World Party</i>	<b>WEB</b>	<b>PS4/PS3/PC</b> DC Universe Online Final Fantasy: Genesis Final Fantasy XIV Online	
	<b>CROSS GAME CHAT</b>	<b>PS4/7TH-GEN</b> Diablo III	
	<b>GAMEPLAY RECORD</b>		
	<b>GAMES</b> <i>(Not a complete list)</i>		
	<b>MULTIPLATFORM</b>		
	Assassin's Creed IV Batman: Arkham Origins Battlefield 4 Beyond Good & Evil 2 Call of Duty: Ghosts Carnagion: Resurrection The Crew Cyberpunk 2077 Devil May Cry Dying Light The Elder Scrolls Online The Evil Within FIFA Soccer 14 Final Fantasy XIV Kingdom Hearts 3 Mad Max Madden NFL 25 Metal Gear Solid V Mirror's Edge 2 Need for Speed: Rivals NBA Live 14 Skylanders Swap Force Sniper Elite 3 The Wolf		
	<b>PS4/PS3/PC</b>		
	Tom Clancy's The Division Uncharted LFC Game WATCH_DOGS The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt Wolfenstein: New Order		

# Xbox, One for you?

After a super successful Xbox 360, which most people claim won the last console generation wars, Microsoft is now releasing the next iteration into a less clear cut market. The hardcore gaming sector as such is being threatened by smartphone and tablet dominated casual games. This situation is now reflected by Microsoft's approach with the One. Instead of just focusing on just gaming the redmond based company has packed the One with tons of features to bring in new customers that wouldn't usually buy a console.

However this decision has led to an extreme backlash from the core consumers that Microsoft needs for this console to really succeed. Their fail at the E3 really dampened a lot of excitement that had been surrounding the console pre-announcement. They decided to focus on the TV and media aspects of the "gaming console" at a Gaming convention which a lot of gamers found worrying. Furthermore this, coupled with the decision that a permanent online connection was needed to play, as well as inhibiting the resale and loaning out of games that seemed to have knocked the nails into this once promising console.

Yet Microsoft was not ready to concede defeat to Sony so easily. They reversed (at least somewhat) on most of their negative decisions (which also caused some uproar on the internet's forum strangely enough). However this is probably what has still kept the One in the running to still take this generation's console crown.

Now we are right just before the release of the Xbox One, and things are looking up from just a few months ago. The negative details of the E3 announcement and following dithering of Microsoft have been forgotten and the positives have stayed in mind. There is just one stumbling block that new Xbox needs to overcome: the price. Over £420 is quite a bit more than the earlier generation and given that competitors have given their devices quite a bit cheaper price tag, this may make gamers think twice about forking out that kind of money.

Yet compared to the PS4 and Wii U, the One has a strong line up of exclusives which may yet sway the hardcore gamers. Titles such as Titanfall and Dead Rising 3 will grace the shelves at launch.

One last worrying caveat, Call of

Duty: Ghosts, one of the big name games, does not run at full HD on the Xbox One. Apparently this is due to the fact that even though the One does support 1080p, Infinity Ward (the publishers) have decided for stabilities sake that 720p is all they could offer on the One. What does this mean for smaller titles? Will the full HD experience ever come to the new Xbox?

Now the question: Should you go for the Xbox One? If you (or your parents) have some money to burn, and are unsure, you should consider the Xbox. It has very decent specs and the opening line up of games is very respectable. Just keep in mind that this console is not solely aimed at gamers and therefore will not be as perfectly tailored to gaming as other consoles may be. Furthermore the need to be online once every 24 hours, as well as lack of open resale is very annoying, and so should be kept in mind. However you also get several positives which allow this device to be used for several other purposes (movies, tv, media etc.) which a traditional console may not be. In the end it is your choice though, and you have to decide whether you value a multifunctional console or a gaming console more.

\* Also available on Wii U



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GAMES

# ... you ... b\*tches!

## Create and run your own Prison

Calum Skene  
Games Editor

The Felix games team were kindly given a copy of Prison Architect by Introversion. In this game you act as an architect and overseer of a Prison. You get to hire staff, build the prison, and then watch over as you gain more prisoners make money and expand. Many, many hours and just as many failed Prisons later I am ready to tell you just why you should buy this game.

Firstly the game has its own charming art style. It looks amazing and doesn't take too good of a computer to run it smoothly. The only downside is you feel too attached to your cute little prisoners and need to constantly click on them to remind you of the horrible crimes they have committed (such as saying FIRST on too many YouTube videos) so that you can give them a harsh treatment, probably because you spent all your money and can't afford niceties. The game itself starts with a short tutorial, which teaches you the

basics of building controlling your workforce. This tutorial ends in an execution and even has a short animation that shows you the prisoner committing his crime and then repenting. I've not been so moved since I watched Dead Man Walking! I can tell that this game as well as being entertaining will make me question my morals.

When you are then thrown into the big open world of Prison Architect you learn very quickly through trial

and error how to create a successful Prison. My first prison failed because I had no walls and so all the prisoners just walked away. The second because I didn't realise that you could stop accepting new prisoners each day and so I had 48 prisoners with only 1 cell and 2 guards, which led to endless riots and the death of one of my guards. However attempt 3 and I was ready to make a fairly successful prison. A prison with the right number of cells and

showers that didn't flood all the time! This was just the beginning. Now armed with grant money and my own accountant, each day brought in more money which I can use to upgrade the prison. The warden unlocks bureaucracy in which you can specialise in certain aspects of running a prison. So soon my prison had its own health centre armed with a psychologist, and a chief of security who told me that in fact the prisoners I thought would be happy with their small cells were not happy. Worried that they were up to something I conducted a shakedown, and searched all the prisoner's rooms. Eventually this ended with me confiscating a whopping 67 items from 22 prisoners and about half of them committed to solitary confinement for starting fights with my guards. Also many of prisoners had been digging tunnels to freedom. This saddened me; I gave them so much a love! A big shower that doesn't flood, food once a day, a room with a bed and a toilet... What more could they want from me? Well finally back on track I opened my prison to some high risk inmates and

thus started the greatest tragedy in the history of Chenty Prison. For some reason the workmen making my new cells used the front door of the prison (as in took it out to place somewhere else). When my high risk prisoners arrived they were able to just walk out. This fiasco ended in 3 deaths, 2 unconscious prisoners and 3 escapes.

This is a great thing about the game; you can play it exactly as you want. You can spend time architecting the most beautiful prison, make a prison that keeps all the prisoners happy, just make a big mass prison and suffer the consequences like I did or accept new prisoners every day which is a challenge! If you get bored of your own prison you can download other peoples from the steam workshop. Someone has even made the prison from the Shawshank Redemption. This game offers so much for how simple it is and it's just in the alpha phase of its development. Not since Minecraft's beta have I felt so excited for updates adding new features. This is a game I will continue to play for a long time yet. Seriously, this game won't disappoint you!



## In Limbo? Here is your Bastion of F(ez)un

### Calum Skene reviews some great indie games!

If you haven't heard of Humble Bundle you should really check it out! They are an organisation that will regularly provide a bundle of games for any price you want to pay, and if you pay above the average (normally around £5) you will get some more "premium" games. Once you have selected how much you want to pay you can choose where your money goes- to charities like Childs Play or to the game developers. Recently I bought the Indie Bundle 9 which contained some great games; Limbo, Bastion, Fez, Mark of the Ninja, Eets Munchies, FTL, A Virus named Tom...amongst others. Here is a review of the first 3 games.

Limbo is a 2D side-scroller like no other. Although at first it seems a very simple game, the only controls being moving left to right, grabbing objects and jumping, the puzzles that you solve grow in complexity leading to some that will take some precise controlling and thinking to conquer. Visually is where this game really stands out, the

black and white minimalistic world is more like a piece of art and is enchanting the whole way through the game. This game is a horror game but there are no planned jump moments, the horror works entirely on the simplicity of the world and its creepy inhabitants. One of my favourite things was the terrifying spider you meet in the beginning who keeps coming back to surprise you in some quite comedic ways. The controls are simple, but smooth and respond exactly as you would expect especially when using a controller. Although the game itself is very linear, there are plenty of hidden areas hinted at by the games achievements, and after you have completed the 4-5 hour storyline you will probably want to go back and explore. Maybe you will complete challenge of completing the game in one sitting with only 5 deaths? Overall this game demonstrates the originality of Indie games and I would recommend this to everyone.

Out of all the games in this Bundle

I think Fez is my favourite. In fact it might be one of my favourite games of all time. Fez is a puzzle game in which you can only see 2 dimensions of the 3-dimensional world at any one time. The fez you wear gives you the ability to rotate your point of view by pi/2 (degrees are for babies) so you can view the world from a new perspective (imagine that you can only see one side of a cube at any one time). In fact this is very much like Flatland as a video game. The object of the game is to collect cube pieces (that come in two sizes; small ones that make a completed one and a completed one). These are hidden around lots of stages that connect to each other by doors and portals. The world itself is complex and it's easy to find new areas and lose yourself as even the map isn't that helpful, but this just adds to the multidimensional thinking that you need to solve the puzzles. Fez plays like a platformer and the beautiful pixel art adds to give this game a retro feel. Games like this are

why I like Indie games so much. They are original, inspiring and are just great fun games to play. Fez will provide hours of fun and a long challenge if you want to 100% complete the game.

Bastion isn't one of the games I originally bought the bundle for, but as soon as I tried it I was hooked. This game is a space-western action role play game in which you play as a survivor of a world changing event called the Calamity. You are brought to the Bastion which lets you jump off to fractured pieces of the world in order to collect fragments which increase the Bastions power. As the Bastion becomes more powerful you gain the ability to choose and upgrade buildings such as the armoury which lets you switch out the weapons you find throughout the levels, and the Distillery which lets you brew beverages which gives you special powers. The beauty of the game lies in its simplicity. The art style is unique and the world gets created in front of your eyes bit by bit. There is a narrator that constantly

comments on every aspect of the game, from you standing up at the beginning, to you falling off the edge. You might think this would be annoying, but actually this is one of the best features of the game. The narrator often adds comedic value and gives you important lore and backstory seamlessly, without the action stopping. To top off what is a wonderful game, the soundtrack is one of the best of any game. Pick this game up! It is a very easy game to just jump into and enjoy for as long as you have time for and the new-game plus where you keep the levels you've accumulated so far gives it replay value.





# CTRLALT/CHANGE-ing the world

## Andrew Ng on fostering social change through technology

There is no doubt that technological advancements over the past few decades have had immense impact on our society. Those of us living comfortable lives in developed countries celebrate the latest gadgets and how they have made our lives even simpler. But meanwhile, there are still many people out there who are struggling to gain access to clean water, affordable healthcare and basic education. Why has modern technology overlooked them?

According to recent studies by NGOs and social enterprises, over 2 billion people in the developing world lack access to basic information and communication technologies (NoPC). More than 72 million children around the world remain unschooled (Humanium) and over 1 billion people rely on unsafe sources of water (UN). If we can use technology to better our already comfortable lives, we certainly can do more using technology to make a difference to the lives of the less fortunate.

The rise of modern technology has made production costs lower, administering healthcare treatments easier and dissemination of information quicker. This makes technology one of the key components in accelerating social changes,

by enabling people to do more and give more. Many individuals and organisations have seen the potential in transforming the social sector through technology, and have been actively coming up with technological solutions that promise to alleviate pressing social problems.

Take for example, PEEK, a London-based group, who are making high quality eye care portable, cost

effective and intuitive in developing countries possible through the use of smart-phone cameras. Not only are smartphones portable and cost-effective, its simplicity in usage empowers more health workers to diagnose eye diseases and manage such treatments anywhere in the world. With 285 million visually impaired people worldwide, PEEK presents a much-

needed alternative to high cost diagnostic tests that are available mostly in high-income countries.

The pervasiveness of social networks in today's world also presents great opportunities to raise awareness about social issues. In this aspect, Thunderclap helps causes amplify their messages by pushing a timed social media post from all their supporters. Individuals and organi-

sations can now reach out to larger audiences with greater ease and efficiency, by leveraging the power of social connections on the web.

Ultimately, bringing about social change through technology is not about using the most advanced gadgets, but applying existing ones to support and direct them. If you have yet to notice, the common ground between the examples above and many others is that only existing technology are used, with slight modifications to address the problems directly. We should keep in mind that inventing new technology doesn't help to solve social issues - applying them does.

If you would like to be further inspired by how technology can be used to create social change and empower people to do more social good, come along to CtrlAlt/Change 2013 right here at Imperial College London on 30th November. From a series of exciting talks, interactive workshops, panel discussion and an "Ideathon", CtrlAlt/Change 2013 aims to celebrate technology projects with social impacts and champion new ones.

Early-bird tickets are now on sale for only £8 till 16th November! For more details, please visit [www.ctrlaltchange.org](http://www.ctrlaltchange.org)



# 5 Things Tablets are/have killing/ed

## Next Murderer in our series: finding the ultimate Culprit

Maximilian Eggl  
Technology Editor

### Elegance of making a photo

In our day and age everything has a camera attached to it. Your phone, your mp3 player, my god, even your fridge could have a camera for all we know. Therefore it is not a surprise that your tablet has a camera. How many times have you seen someone with their tablet in the air, awkwardly trying to take a picture? Yes, I agree with you, too many times (if you are one of those people who tries to do this, I curse you to hell). Why would

you use this relatively heavy device, with an inferior camera to take pictures? It is unwieldy, and compared to the camera that you could pull out from your camera the quality of the taken picture will be much worse!

### Netbooks

These guys used to be the bee's knees. Predicted to be the future of portable computing these guys have been almost completely forgotten. I mean, if you compare the elegance of a touch screen device which has its own dedicated OS, which does not feeling like a cut down version, and less able to actually do things. The downfall of the netbook can largely also be attributed to the lack of actual usability. They had small screens, almost non-existent mem-

ory and no RAM whatsoever. No point in carrying one around if you cannot do everything you wanted to.

### Papers and Books

While I believe paper and books will never be entirely killed off in our life times, tablets have certainly lead to a revolution that has reduced the amount there are used and produced. Ebooks have taken off, leading to their own pros and cons, you see more and more students taking notes with iPads and my printing credit has sky rocketed since I got a tablet. Now I am not saying this is positive or negative, that is for you to decide, but anything that reduces even a tiny amount of the paper we waste should be considered in a positive light.

### Toddlers playing creatively

I cannot count the amount of times I saw a toddler on a tablet. While inherently this is not something negative, it does make me a bit sad. Yes, there are some great apps out there that help your child learn and grow, but more often than not these kids are playing angry birds which is not as positive as you may think (e.g. subconscious hatred towards green pigs)! Playing outside and exploring the world, making a castle out of a few pillows with your imagination and just using up that boundless energy that children seem to possess is something that is lost when you hand your child a tablet. It is easier, and allows for the parents

to have some downtime, but maybe once in a while spend time with your child and interact with them without the help of an electronic medium.

### Newspaper

This may be similar to the one earlier, however the effect has been felt much more keenly. The internet may have started off the newspapers decline, however tablets are starting to accelerate it! Instead of having to buy your newspaper from the local agent, or having it delivered to your door, you can just download it on your tablet with no hassle whatsoever. This change in the behaviour of the consumers has alarmed some newspapers and publications so far that some have left their physical presence behind entirely and now inhabit the internet.



# The Ultimate Luxury Tech List

Osama Awara informing you on what you HAVE to have!

## Alienware laptops:

If you ever imagined what a laptop in the future might look like, just take a look at these gaming laptops; the must-have gadget for any hard-core gamer. When you compare the specs of the Alienware to your average PC world or Curry's laptops, it is light-years ahead. Carrying the latest graphics cards such as the GTX 770M, the Alienware would literally blow your mind away even when you run the most taxing of games giving you the best of frame rates at maxed out settings. With a wide range of monitor sizes to choose from, the biggest being 18 inches, these beasts don't come cheap with your minimum base price being around £1299. One of the best features of these laptops, is that you can customize the lighting on it having a wide variety of colours to choose from to backlit your keyboard and speaker. Although it's not the most useful thing to have when killing Nazi zombies it sure does feel badass.

## Samsung KN55S9C OLED TV

Samsung KN55S9C OLED TV If you have around \$9000 spare in cash, this is what you want. With David Katzmaier, Cnet TV expert, declaring this piece of tech delivering, 'the best picture I've seen on my TV, ever,' it sure does fit the bill. Using OLED (organic light emitting diode) technology, the image quality more than surpasses even the best of plasma and LCD screens. By providing a better contrast ratio, as in making darker blacks and brighter brights, on its

55inch curved screen, the picture really pops out making it seem so much more immersive. Of course let us not forget to mention that this TV comes with 3D technology.

## Audeze LCD-3

Ever thought that a pair of headphones can reach almost \$2000? Well the Audeze LCD-3 does. This luxury headset provides life-like sound quality, removing almost all interferences and giving a near perfect frequency response, meaning you get the best levels of bass and treble. Also they don't actually look half bad!

## Apple Mac Pro

Looking more like a kettle from the future, this new desktop designed by Apple is coming out at a spectacular price of \$2999. And this time, Apple hasn't held back in terms of the specs they've fired into this beauty with dual AMD firepro graphics cards working in parallel and 12GB of RAM to name a few. The company is emphasising it's aimed at professional movie and music production, but I am sure that anyone from game to web designers or any others from the creative type are planning their budgets to

## Sony VPL-VW1000ES

get their hands on this desktop. 4K projectors are used only by the best digital cinemas of the world. If you compare these with your standard projector for home or school use you would be getting four times more the resolution, which is

why realistically they're intended for cinemas. However if you're a playboy looking to add another home cinema to your collection look no further. Sony's VPL-VW1000ES provides stunningly clear and crisp images and not only that, but allows you to scale Blue-ray pictures up to your 4K resolution so your net left limited with the very few 4k content currently out there to actually play it on. I almost forgot to mention, they're \$16,800.

## Jura Impressa J9.3 One Touch TFT

If you ever fancied a one touch bean to cup coffee machine, Swiss manufacture Jura will have you sorted with their Impressa. With a full repertoire of drinks available at your fingertips from latte to mocha this state of the art piece of tech isn't like your standard Imperial central Library coffee machine; it even creates a beautiful, light foam with an airy texture using its state-of-the-art foamer technology. With a price standing at £1,750, this coffee machine won't let you down, especially when it does all the cleaning for you with its integrated rinse and clean modes doing the job for you.

## Vertu Ti

Obviously you will need the perfect luxury smartphone to go with your Audeze headphones you may consider going for the Vertu Ti. Retailing at around £7000, its just a steal for your average billionaire. For that small change you get a sapphire screen, titanium case and

polished ceramic. Furthermore it runs android, so you can run all the apps that everybody else has, as well as having a gorgeous device! It's the absolutely perfect smartphone for the rich socialite!



## The News Bubble

General news from around the tech world, so you can keep up to date with the newest, wierdest and most futuristic things around

### Your phone spying on you?

Scientists at Cambridge have managed something quite extraordinary. Using a program called PIN skimmer, they managed to guess the PIN numbers of smartphones via their own mic and camera. The camera tracks the users eye's , and the mic listens to the taps of the finger on the touch screen. This way the two features can correlate the position of the taps and therefore guess the PIN that was used. With a 4 digit pin the programme was successful 50% of the time.

### Microwave to full charge!

Researchers at Duke University have managed to harness the power of microwaves and turn them into electricity. Considering that this device provides roughly 7.3 volts (a USB charger usually only gives you about 5), it could be very useful in extending your devices battery lives significantly. Furthermore if this "harvester" was made more compact, it could even be built directly into your gadget, meaning it would be charged on the go.

Maximilian Eggel  
Yong Wen Chua  
Osama Awaara  
Technology Editors





# Apply yourself

## The Careers Service Imperial College London

**T**he autumn term is a very busy time. There is the new academic year to contend with and for many of you, it is also time to considering your options. Options for how to spend your summer gaining valuable work related experience, carrying out an internship, options on course related placements and for the finalists among you, options on where your career will take you after you have finished those finals and the celebrations have subsided.

In a previous article we have discussed what to consider if you are intending to apply for further study so this week we will focus on the application process for the world of work and give you some pointers to help you succeed.

Firstly it is important to be aware of the tight deadlines that are in place for the vast majority of the larger opportunity providers. There is a set cycle of recruitment that exists and you need to be aware of key dates and milestones. If you miss crucial closing dates now you may be putting yourself out of the race for the current round of recruitment for this year. These dates are important for both graduate roles as well as summer internships.

Broadly speaking recruitment for opportunities, whether they are placements, internships or graduate roles are open now and a few have already closed. On the whole applications open early in the autumn term and close as we move toward the end of November and into December. There are of course exceptions and what organisation A does in terms of recruitment may not be exactly the same as organisation B. Seeking out opportunities is obviously very important but you should also ensure that you take ownership of the process and are aware of the deadlines. If you are considering options with a small to medium enterprise (SME) these may have an 'as required' policy and may not follow the same cycle as larger organisations. We wrote about these types of organisations in last week's *Felix* and you should not discount SMEs as part of your job hunting strategy.

No matter what size of organisation and in whatever sector you will still need to apply. The application stage is the most critical of the process and this is where the vast majority of applicants fall down. Time spent



WENNER-GREN BLOG

Look at all of those applications. Luckily most of your applications will be done online. Don't lose your wifi!

at this stage of the process is time well spent as once you are shortlisted and move through to interviews and assessment centres your chances of success increase. At the initial application stage there will be many more applicants for the numbers of vacancies that exist and employers will use the application stage to quickly sift out the candidates that they do not wish to pursue. Whether your application consists of a CV and cover letter or online application questions you should adhere to the following principles to maximise your chances of success.

**1** Think like an employer. Recruitment is an expensive process and employers want to ensure they select the best candidates for the advertised role. Before you start applying you should carefully read the job advert and description and accompanying person specification if there is one. The Person Spec. outlines the skills and attributes that the employer has in mind for the ideal person for the role, itemised and presented in paper. Make sure that you meet all the essential criteria and education required for the role. If you don't, you will be sifted out at the first hurdle. You should also read all the other information in the advert fully. There can be subtle hints about the type of person that they are looking for. Do they mention working away from home? This could indicate they need flexibility. Do they mention that they require pro-active people? This could indicate they need a person with a 'can do' approach who seeks solutions when required. These are just a couple of examples however. If you go back and re read the vacancies you are interested in have you actually started to gain a clear picture in your mind of the person required? You may want to jot down these key points

after deconstructing an advert and use them as a point of reference as you craft a strong application.

**2** If the application is on line – do not start filling in your responses in one sitting and hit send. Good applications take time and will require more than one draft as you review your responses constantly checking back to the actual advert and any other information you have gained from research that you have carried out into the organisation. It is good practice to download the application or complete your responses in a Word document so you can write a solid answer. You should also keep copies of your application form and the responses that you sent as these will likely be referred to again in the interview process. It's a good idea to re-read everything that you wrote in application before attending an interview.

**3** If you are completing a large number of applications do not be tempted to cut and paste answers from other forms. Questions may be similar but won't be exactly the same. For each application you should be tailoring your application for that organisation. The reader should think that you only have eyes for them. Remember they know the type of person they want – it's in their person specification.

**4** When you are using examples of your suitability try to use examples from different areas of your life. College, leisure, previous work experience and so on. It makes the form far more interesting to the reader who may have read lots of applications during the course of the day.

**5** Get the basics right. Employers will not be impressed with poor spelling and grammar. Ensure you have proof read your application or CV before sending.

**6** Evidence is the key. Employers are looking for certain skills which you will have noted from your detailed analysis of the actual role you are applying for. A good way to present your evidence is by using the STAR technique:

**S** – Situation = set the scene – describe the situation?

**T** – Task = what was your role?

**A** – Action = what did you do and how did you do it?

**R** – Result = what was the outcome?

Ensure that you write so that it all hangs together to paint a picture of the kind of person you are, what your strengths are and what you like doing. You should also ensure you are answering the question asked and link your answer back to the key skills the employer is looking for. Remember to phrase your answers to show what you have contributed or done so avoid over use of 'we' in your descriptions of activities. Employers often look for evidence of your personal impact so make sure when describing a situation you remember to finish with the outcomes or benefits from your actions.

**7** Become the recruiter. Once you have completed your questions or tailored your CV ask yourself honestly, "Would I shortlist me?" based on the evidence provided. If you feel that you have not demonstrated, with evidence, that you are the person they are looking for then you will need to rethink your responses or further review your CV

This has been a short overview and has hopefully got you thinking positively about your applications. The Careers Service has a whole range of information and resources to help you with this crucial phase of the process. You can find further information and guidance on the Careers pages at [www.imperial.ac.uk/careers](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/careers).

Good luck with all your applications!

## Careers Events

*Apply via Jobs Live unless stated*

Workshop  
**18 November, 12:30 – 14:00**  
Preparing For Assessment Centres  
- Group Activities

Seminar  
**18 November, 16:15 – 17:15**  
Interview

Charity & Not-for-Profit Week  
**18 November, 13:00 – 14:00**  
How to Get an Internship in... the  
Charity Sector

Workshop  
**19 November, 12:30 – 14:00**  
Preparing For Assessment Centres  
- Presentation Skills

Seminar  
**19 November, 16:15 – 17:15**  
Assessment Centres

Lunchtime Careers Talk  
**19 November, 13:00 – 13:50**  
Working in the Charity Sector  
(Charityworks)

Workshop  
**20 November, 12:30 – 14:00 &  
22 November, 12:30 – 14:00**  
Creating a winning CV

Charity & Not-for-Profit Week  
**20 November, 12:00 – 13:30**  
Tips for getting into teaching and  
working for an education charity –  
ARK Schools  
(Skype drop-in appointments)

Employer-Led Skills Workshop  
**13 November, 13:30 – 15:30**  
Assessment Centre Simulation  
(Barclays)  
*Book in person at Careers Service  
- £10 deposit required (correct  
change only!)*

Workshop  
**21 November 12:30-14:00**  
Group Mock interview

Seminar  
**21 November, 16:15 – 17:15**  
Effective Applications

Lunchtime Careers Talk  
**21 November, 13:00 – 13:50**  
Building the UmPhafa Private  
Nature Reserve and Pursuing  
Careers in Conservation

Careers Sector Forum  
**21 November, 18:30 – 21:00**  
Charities & Not-for-Profit Forum

Seminar  
**22 November, 16:15 – 17:15**  
Applying for Postgraduate Study

Charity & Not-for-Profit Week  
**22 November, 12:00 – 13:30**  
Tips for Getting into Conservation  
Charities - Liam Westall,  
Conservation Co-ordinator  
(Skype drop-in appointments)

# CLUBS & SOCS

Editor: **Nida Mahmud**  
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## Emergency Relief

**Ben Fernando**  
Charity Editor



**T**his week sees two prominent emergency appeals in the spotlight. The union's Syria appeal closes next week and can accept blankets and medicines, and multiple appeals or support of the Philippines are also being held. So how does all this work?

The Syria appeal launched back in Spring Term when the crisis came to a head – to date, sources including the UN estimate that 100,000 people have been killed in the conflict, many of them children. The international community was outraged over the summer by the use of chemical weapons, which both sides continue to blame each other for. Though this did once again bring the nationwide appeals to the forefront of the public mind, the response has been far from sufficient.

2 million people have registered as internationally displaced from their homes (N.B this is just the number that have registered – there are many more who are not registered), and also another 4-5 million who are internally displaced. These refugees are directly vulnerable to the conflict's brutality, in squalid camps, many near the Turkish border where clean water, food, shelter and medical attention are in very short supply.

The appeal for aid to the Philippines is structured very differently to the Syria appeal. The UK has a committee formed of 14 charities known as the 'Disasters Emergency Committee'. They meet after such disasters and organise what the UK's national response to the disaster will be. At present, the UK has dispatched medical assistance and pledged a minimum of £5 million.

Although this might sound like a lot, when you consider that over 10,000 people are thought to have died in the flattened city of Tacloban alone, that the president has declared a state of 'National Calamity' and that over 600,000 have been displaced it doesn't really go all that far. I always find it surprising how easily the public can match or even exceed the amount that the government pledges.

So what can you do to help? For the Philippines this is much easier, as the appeals are running nationwide. For Syria, you can drop off items in SAC next week. More details can be found on the Islamic Society Facebook page. If that's not enough, there are also further ways to get involved – from flying out there yourself (not recommended) to running fundraisers on campus (very much recommended – I'll happily help out!)

Anyhow that's all for now

## New Financial Worlds Conference

### ICFS tell us about their exciting upcoming conference

**M**arch 2011 saw Imperial College Finance Society hold their first ever conference at the highly impressive Bloomberg Headquarters. It was here that the New Financial Worlds Conference was born. With an attendance of over 200 individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds, universities and professions, it was a real opening success for the society. Now in its fourth iteration, the New Financial Conference 2013 will be held in the prestigious Barbican on the 30th November.

The conference is unique in the sense that it is split into two streams - Global Markets and Investment Banking. Attendees choose their area of interest during the application process and if successful attend talks and activities tailored to that area of the financial world. The day commences with formal introductions over refreshments which will then be followed by our headline speaker, Benoit Savoret, who has a multitude of titles on his résumé including: EMEA COO of Lehman Brothers, Head of Global Equities at Nomura and EMEA CEO of Macquarie Group, just to name a few. Each stream will have senior professionals discussing

topics related to that field. Talks can range from anything concerning their particular field of work, their past experiences and achievements or interesting subjects relating to the industry. A few of the other speakers participating are:

Achintya Mangla - Co-Head of Equity Capital Markets EMEA at J.P. Morgan, Arne Staal - Head of Index Products & Systematic Strategies Research Europe at Barclays

Mark Howden – Head of Consumer Group at Nomura Along with talks, each speaker will then participate in a panel discussion where delegates get the opportunity to see four brilliant minds give their views on various matters. Both Investment Banking and Global Markets have a tailored activity, an M&A competition and a trading game respectively which are judged by industry experts.

As well as talks from the industry's elite, there will be opportunities for

attendees to ask their piercing questions during the networking sessions arranged and the mini careers fair on offer. Additionally, there will be a different activity for each stream of participants, creating an opportunity for attendees to showcase their real financial prowess. As such, this conference would be the perfect opportunity for any student to gain a deeper understanding of the industry no matter what their current level along with hands on experience through the activities.

People interested in attending the conference should go to the website, [www.nfwconference.com](http://www.nfwconference.com), and apply by simply attaching their CV. Applicants will be notified of the following steps via email if successful. Also, make sure you keep up to date with the latest information regarding the conference by liking our facebook page, [facebook.com/NFWConference](https://www.facebook.com/NFWConference).



## Syria Item's Collect

There is an items collection for an aid convoy that will be leaving for Syria next weekend. This is an opportunity for you to directly make a difference to people's lives! Old clothes will be used to generate funds and new ones will be sent to Syria. The Union is also helping and we have a drop off point at the Union reception. There are more details on the website.

One of the organisers commented "anyone can contribute, as students we tend to have a lot of little things that we rarely use or wear; this little will go a long way, it will provide them with hope and show the Syrian people that others in the world do care and do remember."

One of the students response to the campaign was "It's easy to feel powerless in the face of things that shock and upset us, yet instead of surrendering themselves to apathy a young group of Imperial students have built a campaign from nothing, it's very impressive and has certainly inspired me."

### Suggested Items:

**MOST REQUIRED MEDICINE:** Generally any over the counter but also Antibiotics, Insulin, Amlodipine, Atenolol, Ibuprofen, Colic remedy, Paracetamol, First Aid Packs.

**CHILDRENS ITEMS:** Baby Food, Baby milk (powder), winter clothing

### OTHER ITEMS:

**NEW CLOTHING:** Blankets, sleeping bags, thermals, trousers, sweaters, socks, hijabs, hats, shoes, tights

**OLD CLOTHING:** will be sold to generate funds for life saving medicine

**TOILETRIES:** Sanitary towels, soap, nail clippers, combs, nappies, nappy cream, tampons

**FOR CHILDREN:** toys, colouring books, pencils and crayons, children arabic books, Wellington boots

Please make sure items are not expired, clean and in good condition (used goods can still be sold to purchase life-saving medicine, but we'd prefer if clothing was in good condition).







 @feliximperial

 FelixImperial

# RCSU's Interview with Dr Jad Marrouche

RCSU's annual Science Challenge is launching for this year on December 3rd. Previous years have included a tour of CERN as a prize for the overall winner. This tour of CERN was offered by past RCSU President & Science Challenge Chair Dr Jad Marrouche.

Dr Marrouche is the man responsible for founding the Science Challenge, as the first president of the newly-formed RCSU. In fact he was presented with an Outstanding Service Award in 2007 "for leading and effectively building a dynamic faculty Union." He is currently a research associate with the Department of Physics based at CERN. He did his PhD there as part of the High Energy Physics Group. As a postgraduate student he received a Student Award for Outstanding Achievement in recognition of his outreach work. He is also the Deputy President of the Royal College of Science Association, the RCSU's alumni organisation.

Dr Marrouche is still involved with the Science Challenge and will be judging this year's video entries. Fiona Hartley, RCSU Broadsheet editor, caught up with him in between seminars and meetings to ask him about the inception of the Science Challenge, as well as inquire as to how he secured his position at the world's largest physics laboratory.

## RCSU: How did you come to arrange the Science Challenge?

JM: The inspiration behind it was actually the centenary of College, and tying that in with the reformation of the Royal College of Science (RCS) as a union after it had been split into the natural sciences and physical sciences. I was lucky to be the first president of the reformed RCS so we wanted to make some sort of an event, if you like; some sort of a legacy that would be repeated and turned into a tradition. I think we managed to achieve that in the end.

It came about from that. John Sanderson was the president of the Royal College of Science Association at the time. He donated a thousand pounds of his own money to try to make the Science Challenge happen, the first time we tried it. We had a pilot year, the year before the RCSU became the RCSU again, and it was very successful.

After that, we decided to turn it into something big. So as opposed to just having Imperial students we opened the competition up to the schools around the whole nation. And because we had the College centenary we were able to get some sponsorship; this was before the credit crunch so there was a lot of sponsorship from various people.

So in the end the first year we held the Science Challenge coincided with three things: a celebration of the RCSU office, which we had campaigned hard to get – beforehand we didn't have that space. There was also the celebration of the first year of the RCSU, as well as the centenary of the College.

We had a £10,000 prize I think. That was a huge prize. And we

had the final in the Ritz. That was the single biggest cheque I've ever written. It was around £24500 for that evening, thereabouts. We had to get it signed off by the College.

But it was extremely successful. We had a huge waiting list for the tickets. The tickets were £20 and they sold out very, very quickly, within about twenty minutes of going on sale. The waiting list was longer than the actual number of tickets.

## RCSU: How did you get Lord Robert Winston involved? Did he just see that it was happening and want to be involved, or...?

JM: It was basically because of the Head of Outreach at the time, Mel Thody. She knew him quite well, and when I approached her and said I wanted to expand the Science Challenge to schools, she asked me to speak with him. We arranged a meeting and he wanted to get on board with it. He's a very famous figurehead and he's now kind of the champion of the project.

## RCSU: He definitely is. So, you graduated some time ago and you work at CERN now. How did you get there?

JM: I finished my undergraduate degree in physics in 2007. I then did a PhD with Imperial, based out at CERN, working on the CMS experiment. In the Large Hadron Collider experiment there are four main experiments: CMS, ATLAS, ALICE and LHCb. CMS and ATLAS are general-purpose detectors, in the sense that they are not looking for a specific signature but are able to reconstruct any signatures out there.

My PhD was effectively commissioning the algorithm for the CMS trigger system. That's a

speed camera, if you like. We're not able to save every event that happens at the LHC, so we have to make a decision on which ones to save. The reason we have to do this is because the events that we're interested in happen one in every ten million or ten billion times that there is a collision. So you need a high collision rate to see such events.

But obviously you don't want to save ten billion events to see one; you want to save a hundred to see one. So you need some sort of algorithm that will filter the events. That's what I was involved in, in part.

## RCSU: That's pretty interesting. Finally, you're the Deputy President of the Royal College of Science Association.

JM: Yeah. You know more about me than I do!

## RCSU: Hardly! But can you tell us a little bit more about the RCSA?

JM: I don't know if there's that much to say about it because it's not yet a fully-developed thing, it's still also in its infancy, growing, like the RCS. It's a relatively old organisation, yes, but it's relatively new in some ways...

## RCSU: Yes, I've noticed that the RCS has quite a lot of history, but obviously everything is somehow quite new these days because of the fact that it was all split up.

JM: Yes, exactly. Hopefully in the years to come the RCSA will become a much stronger alumni association. But the idea is that it gives graduates a link back to Imperial and to the RCS after they've left. It's not as active as it could be, but I'm hopeful that within the next few years we will see its resurgence.

## A Blog Entry on Syria

Hee Jia Yun

Last Thursday I attended a talk on humanitarian aid in Syria by Mr Louay El-Abed, a trustee of Syria Relief. I had heard much about Syria in the news, but I wanted to hear a first-hand account of the situation from someone involved in mitigating the crisis. The talk turned out to be very inspiring and there were several points I found really interesting.

**The Effects of Conflict:** Often, when conflict is mentioned in reports, we see figures – of casualties, refugees, and so on. We don't always realise the more subtle consequences on real people. Mr El-Abed described his visits to the refugee camps and said it was heartbreaking to see the helplessness in refugees' eyes. These people could only sit around waiting for their food to arrive. I think what's worse than suffering unfortunate circumstances is being unable to do anything to improve the situation for yourself and your loved ones. Sometimes people complain about being busy, but from another angle I think at least we're lucky in being able to do work that will lead to a better future. Perhaps, for people stuck in ruts in life, the best way to help them is to give them the chance to help themselves. Syria Relief has actually done that, by setting up workshops for refugee ladies where they can work (e.g. make knitted products) to earn money.

The trauma of the violence, especially for children, is something else. Mr El-Abed was involved in filming a documentary and the filming crew took half an hour just to get one child to smile. While that was admittedly an isolated case, it is somewhat shocking to realize that an entire generation grows up through such emotional turmoil.

**Professionals/Expertise:** Professional ability comes in really handy. For instance, medical expertise is incredibly important, especially due to the increased number of casualties. (On a side note, it is admirable how dedicated some Syrian doctors are. Apparently, they are work around 18 hours a day, especially since in some cases an entire city is left with not more than 50 doctors.) As for engineers, other areas demand their skill. Wells have to be built where there is disrupted access to clean water. Also, cheap prosthetic limbs have to be made for people to carry on with their lives. (Currently, they are made from drain pipes, costing around 20 pounds each.) In our first world environment, we tend to take various jobs for granted. However, where conflict disrupts normal life and people abandon their posts because they can't afford to stay, it becomes apparent how important these roles are. Part of Syria Relief's funds goes towards paying doctors, bakers, and teachers so they can continue working in areas affected by the conflict.

As a student, I think it's sometimes easy to lose sight of the purpose in studying all those equations and spending hours on coursework. However (at least for me), I think it helps to be reminded that it's useful to develop a field of professional expertise, because it equips you to make life better for others.

**Delivering Aid Effectively:** Donors often worry that their money will be misappropriated, so it was interesting how Syria Relief aims to deliver aid effectively so as to alleviate the suffering of Syrians as much as possible. For instance, collaboration and coordination appears crucial in ensuring efficient operations. Syria Relief communicates with their counterparts in other countries so that they each concentrate on different cities. Also, Syria Relief can reach out to people within the borders because being comprised of Syrians, they have contacts in the local communities. Finally, the amount of payback on money spent is evaluated, in view of the intention to help those most in need as much as possible. For example, Mr El-Abed said it wouldn't be worth it for students to volunteer in Syria, because the cost of the flight ticket alone could keep three doctors working on the ground (who could make a real impact).

After the talk, one of the biggest questions naturally was – how can we help? From abroad, we can support organizations working in Syria, through donations and awareness raising. One such organization is Syria Relief, and you can find out more about them at <http://www.syriarelief.com/>.

# HANGMAN

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## This Week In The Past

The Historian  
Hangman Contributor



**2002** - Iraq agrees to the terms of the UN Security Council Resolution 1441, which is the last we hear of the plucky Middle Eastern country.

**1986** - The Federated States of Micronesia gains independence from the USA. This historian remains extremely suspicious of their motives, I mean, what are they doing with all that Pacific? Who needs that much sea? Dodgy.

**1982** - Yuri Andropov succeeds Brezhnev as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union by successfully completing a Russian Centurion - 100 bottles of vodka in 100 minutes.

**1933** - Hugh Gray takes the first photo of the Loch Ness monster. However, feeling peckish that afternoon he hunts it down and makes it into a tasty burger.

**1918** - The horror and waste of the First World War finally ends. Thankfully everyone works super hard and successfully avoided in future world conflicts.

**1675** - Leibniz demonstrates integral calculus independently of Newton leading to a ten-year argument between the two on who was the more massive nerd.

**1215** - Fourth Lateran Council defines the doctrine of Transubstantiation. This places a certain amount of theological importance on the recent wine shortage. Perhaps a message about the current state of humanity.

Correction

Dear Handman,

Just a small point but the first computer to computer communications took place in 1966 in an RAF air defence system called GL161. There were six computers that could communicate with one another and as the system was transported by helicopter it was impossible to know which had arrived on site. Consequently they all had to be identical with no one unit in charge of the data transfer. It kept you safe from airborne attack for some time - but I can't say more!!

Regards,

John

"Think you can calculate horoscope? Email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk and give it a go!"

"Want to inflict your lack of literary skill upon the world?" Email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk and give it a go!"

## CYCLITORIAL

The Hangman  
Hangman Editor



**T**he Bike Lane - Given the recent suggestions that cycling may be more dangerous than previously suspected, this editor feels that cycling is not nearly dangerous enough.

This writer calls all drivers and pedestrians to do everything they can to increase the danger of the roads to

cyclists.

Indeed, it would appear from the meagre 3,340 people killed or seriously injured whilst cycling on Britain's roads last year that many people are not even trying to make cycling more dangerous.

We must take a moment to commend the bus drivers of our Great Capital, London, who's 1,889 killed or seriously injured in the last 5 years is an impressive count. Especially when one considers this is only constitutes 6% of all accidents involving buses. Hail to the bus driver.

What is oft forgotten is that the cyclist, a degenerate sub-species of *H. sapiens*, fails to actively avoid one of the most dangerous of daily activities.

It is therefore our moral duty to increase the danger of the road to levels that these lesser humans can comprehend.

If that fails, it is our evolutionary imperative to rid our species of such a danger-accepting sub-set. So, drive in the cycling lane; put sticks in the spokes; and throw tacks on your local roadside. Together we can get rid of these poor creatures.

## Dimbleby Conclusively Shows Scorpions Only Have Six Legs

Timothy McSweeney  
Hangman Reporter

**T**his week, 75 year old David Dimbleby got a scorpion tattoo on his shoulder which depicted the predatory arthropod with a mere six legs.

Whilst biologists have long believed that scorpions, like other Arachnida, had a full eight legs, the famous British broadcaster and presenter has dispelled that myth.

When reached for comment, Dimbleby stated, "Listen, we don't have scorpions in this country and there are a lot of myths and legends surrounding these venomous animals"

"Indeed, one of the most prevalent is this crazy idea that scorpions have a excessive eight legs, which is clearly not the case"

"With a stinger like that, what animal needs an extra pair of legs?"

At press time, Jonathan Dimbleby was busy proving the existence of unicorns by getting one tattooed on his lower back.

## Felix In The Past - Mainstream Music Has Never Satisfied



## Number Of Self-Referential Articles In Hangman Too High

The Hangman  
Hangman Editor

**A** recent study published this week in Hangman has found there to be too high a proportion of self-referential articles in the Felix section, Hangman.

Whilst the section still contained 80% non-Hangman based articles, the Felix Editor Joe Letts stated that a 20% self-referential rate was "far too high" for a "respected" publication such as Hangman.

More worrying, perhaps, was that a staggering 1 in 3 articles containing images made essentially no reference to any aspect of the world beyond the Hangman section.

Some - such as the Hangman Editor, Hangman - believe that these numbers of self-reference were, in fact, enhancing the publication. However, the vast majority of the Felix community were in disagreement.

When reached for comment, Hangman stated that "This section has long been a trailblazer amongst Felix sections and we strongly believe that a

higher proportion of self-reference is part-and-parcel of that". Before adding "The great are rarely appreciated in their own time".



Even the accompanying image and caption were self-referential.

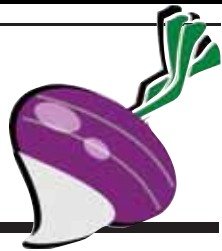


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FelixImperial

# HANGMAN

## the turnip

Hangman's Finest College News Source



### Soldier Convicted Of Killing

#### Hired Killer Killed Wrongly

**A** British soldier was this week convicted of killing an Afghani in a way in which he was not employed to do so.



This soldier reminds a subordinate not to kill at the wrong time or in the wrong way.

Whilst, as a soldier, he was employed by the British government to kill, the prosecution argued that he had most definitely killed in a "grossly wrong way".

The military court confirmed that whilst "this was the type of Afghani Marine A was engaged to kill, the fact that he killed him after having almost killed him is unacceptable".

"For sure, if he had killed this insurgent with his original shot, we wouldn't be having this trial".

"Essentially, we're imprisoning him because he wasn't a good enough soldier. Which we think we are well

within our rights to do" continued the prosecution, - the military.

"This definitely isn't another damning indictment of the state of our military training in which we fail to teach our troops the value of the moral high ground, especially in a contentious war like Afghanistan"

At press time, the Royal Marines were said to have sent out a memo telling its troops to remember to only kill insurgents in the right way.

## BREAK SPENT TORTURING BISCUITS



### Suspicious Death Of MI6 Agent "Probably An Accident"

Gareth Williams, who died in suspicious circumstances and was also member of MI6 (a suspicious organisation), died accidentally say Met.



**T**he suspicious death of an MI6 agent three years ago has been declared by the Metropolitan Police to be "totally normal" and "probably an accident".

An inquest in 2010 found that the death of Gareth Williams, who was found naked in a padlocked sports bag, found that this was "all a bit fishy",

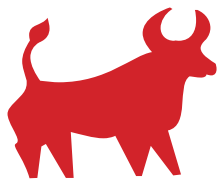
However, the Met confirmed that these suspicious set of circumstances were, in fact, completely within the ordinary.

"People are found everyday to have killed themselves through bag-based means" "the fact that we have been unable to determine a cause of death is also pretty standard".



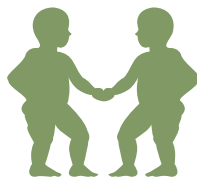
ARIES

This week you order a fleshlight online, unfortunately the discreet packaging when it's accidentally sent to your home home and your mother opens the package for you. She sends it to you but can never look you in the eye again. Your dad just asks for the website.



TAURUS

This week you decide to run your own personal SHAG week at home. It would be a lot better if you had a partner and didn't consist solely of copious amounts of online porn but it's still the most romantic encounter you've had since your next door neighbour looked at you last year.



GEMINI

This week you try and sneak into h-bar as an undergraduate for lunch. Everything's going great until you try and order an alcoholic drink with your meal. Hurling insults at the bar staff for the lack of such drinks results in you being banned from all bars on campus.



CANCER

This week you resolve to try and use a dental dam with your girlfriend, and to try out your latest roleplay idea. She doesn't find dentists sexy, and runs away when you get out the fake drill you made. While running she falls and chips a tooth and you end the night in a real dentist's surgery feeling guiltily turned on.



LEO

This week you complain to your lecturer that he's been teaching the course too fast and that you can't follow any of his lectures. It turns out that there was an extra lecture every week that you didn't know about. Accepting the inevitability of a 2:2 you head straight to the nearest pub.



VIRGO

This week the pile of mold that's built up in your room achieves sentience. You decide to call it Steven and talk to it every night. It's the most normal conversation you've had since you came here. After 4 weeks the hall cleaners finally come and murder Steven.



LIBRA

This week you try and organize a support protest at Imperial against the dissolution of ULU. You hand a petition around your lecture hall but all the responses are insults against the other London universities. At least your protest is legal and you don't end up at Holborn police station.



SCORPIO

This week you realize you've forgotten to apply for any jobs or internships. You hastily send off as many applications as you can before you notice you've attached your best friend's CV they sent you to look at for them. Every company phones you back offering them a job.



SAGITTARIUS

This week your parents get Snapchat. At first all they do is send you pictures to remind you of home, however your dad forgets to unselect you when sending private ones later. You're not sure who Mrs. Jenkins is but you've now seen more of your father than you ever wanted.



CAPRICORN

This week you develop a theory that disproves the entire textbook your lecture course is based on. You excitedly inform your professor, but far from being impressed he sabotages all your evidence. Lecturing to undergraduates is apparently far easier than rewriting his book.



AQUARIUS

This week you decide to complain about the quality of the horoscopes, but put it off because you have too much coursework. Unfortunately you don't notice the parallels in the situations so send an angry email next month. Douche.



PISCES

This week while particularly lonely you decide to download Tinder, but you can't quite remember the name of it and accidentally install Grindr instead. While it's not quite the same your popularity on it is a welcome ego boost, and you arrange coffee with Gavin next Monday.



# Imperial win at Hillingdon Duathlon

Ed Hallett gives his account as Imperial take both first and third place.

Memories of a completely crappy rain-filled start to November were dried up in a flash as Sunday came around and the skies cleared for the 2013 Hillingdon Autumn Duathlon. The local race is a favourite among the club with a few podiums last year and a win courtesy of Swiss international Jean-Claude who sadly has now moved back home. Only 15min away by overground from Paddington, and on a purpose built mile long racetrack with no cars or pedestrians to contend with. The atmosphere was light-hearted as fourteen of Imperial Triathlon Club's finest gathered outside the front of Hillingdon triathlete's club house. The atmosphere inside was just as relaxed as the hosts seamlessly ran a faultless race day for us.

The day's events were split in two, with the women's category heading out first, and the men's category an hour later. This suited me just fine, as it would let the girls dry up the track a little for us from last night's rain! The gun was shot and brandishing the new TriIC trisuit, Sophie Kirk quickly pulled out an early lead, with Ellie Howard only a few places behind. By the end of the first mile, sports scholar and running guru Sophie had pulled an unprecedented fifteen second lead on second place. The pack was however full of strong runners, meaning Fran, Sian and Ellie had to work hard to cling to the front contingency before transition.

A hasty change of shoes, donning of helmets and awkward running in cycling cleats saw the girls exit transition and on to the ten mile bike time trial. The TriIC women's team had set the pace for the race leaders during the run with Fran exiting transition in 10th, Sian in 11th and Ellie Howard in 8th. The cycle obviously suited Fran Capel as she put in the second fastest bike time of the day, only losing out to our own Sophie Kirk who was beginning to worry the boys in support.

"37 second lead Sophie, slow down!" as she raced by only three miles into the course. Team newbies Victoria Kemp and Olivia Bentley looked strong throughout the course, continuing to overtake the opposition to loud and audacious encouragement from the boys. Before we knew it Sophie was out on the final run and nearing the finish line. Despite a desperate sprint to get there to cheer her on, she beat the boys to the finish to announce a 1st place smashing of the opposition, finishing nearly three minutes ahead of second place in the women seniors' category. Notable finishers include another podium position from Fran in 3rd place, and Sian Morgan and Ellie Howard clocking 6th and 7th respectively. The sterling effort from Sophie did not go unnoticed, as Sky

Sports HD came over for a 5-minute interview.

The men's race saw the sun rise higher and the temperatures become more bearable. With extremely high running standards, the leaders left the main pack for dust with Michael Kaye and Charlie Houston representing TriIC at the front, before a strong bike leg saw Ed Hallett claw back to a contending position. The track was smooth and warmed by the sun, giving the cyclists room to breathe as they negotiated the sharp hairpin bends of the course. With only a few very short hills to wake the legs up, a relatively flat course lends itself to a fast average pace. With a few laps to go of the cycle Ed Hallett overtook Michael Kaye in a fierce internal battle. The victor between the two gets to present the other with a second place medal which they have to wear for the next race. If the previous loser then wins, they get to pass on the second place medal of shame with as much gloating and abuse as deserved! A committed effort from Mike to try and keep up with Ed on the bike was in vain, and Mike had to watch as he disappeared out of sight.

Newbie Daniel Tyrie rocked a superb first duathlon effort finishing 18th over all. Ed Hallett managed to maintain his lead from the bike to finish 13th despite Mike completing the second running leg a minute faster. Mike eventually crossed the line in 15th. Our top male finisher however, with a superb second run was Charlie Houston, finishing 5th, just missing out on a podium position!

With sweat evaporating and legs wobbling we herded into the warmth of the club house and tucked into recovery drinks and banana cake, which was more like soft banana brownie: it was epic! So with Fran and Sophie carrying their alcoholic prizes back to their car, a contingency climbed on to their bikes and enjoyed a cycle home in the bright morning sun.

Thank you to our sponsors Jaguar Land Rover for their continued support and the new racing kit!

IC Triathlon is sponsored by:



## IC 3s take care of business against LSA

Julian Iacoponi

3rd XI Football Player

**O**n the 6th of November – a sinisterly drab Wednesday (the kind that taunts at the beginning of a cold, dark winter) – ICUAFC 3rd Team played against LCA Business School 1st Team. The 5-0 scoreline showed the match to be (ironically) not just business as usual for the opposition, and indeed the same was true of both teams' journeys to the match.

Whilst initial good news of the fixture's relocation to IC home ground Harlington due to plague-like floods at the opposition's pitches, the true tone was soon set as it became apparent that 'Little' Harlington – the bitter, besmirched and forgotten little brother to the main Harlington complex – was to be our allocated changing room.

The public transport over to Harlington was dominated by characteristically uncharismatic 3s silence, when it became chillingly apparent that there was something off about the normal bus route to the grounds... a diversion. A gruesome traffic incident right outside the desired Harlington bus stop had left the 3s stranded, up the creek without a paddle... Luckily, a paddle wasn't quite needed, though with the blustering wind a sail could have helped. Not so luckily however, it left the 3s with one last resort: to yomp it all the way to the grounds. There really was nothing fun about this diversion.

Half an hour later – over 2 miles traversed, endless leafy puddles avoided, and even an idea for a new pub-crawl hatched (#Harling10) – we made it! However, this was only to find the opposition to be struggling yet more with the delays... This heathen trot to Harlington will never be forgotten – it's minibuses all the way for 3s now (not actually true, but it should be)!

When the football finally arrived, the referee unfortunately had not,

with the quality in the IC team a class above their LCA counterparts: winning corners, deep throw-ins (courtesy of Miles Covers), and testing the keeper at every chance. A fourth goal came when one such corner dropped into the 6 yard box where numerous 3s were waiting. A series of half clearances and half shots led to the ball ricocheting off Francis Nbowu and rippling the side netting, capping off a stellar triple goal-and-assist match. The fifth and final goal came courtesy of LCA's goalkeeper: a weak pass out from a goal-kick to one of his – now demoralised – centre-backs was sharply intercepted by Julian Iacoponi, who, despite taking a heavy touch (sending him on a direct crash course with both keeper and centre-back) executed step 3 of those famously infamous Pete Stillwell instructions – to WANT IT – and managed to crunch a finish through what was a heavy impact collision.

Special mention goes out to Faidon Mitzalis who, on one of his frequent mazy runs foraging in and around the penalty box, was disgustingly skewered by an LCA player, leaving our beloved IMoM stuck on the sidelines with ankle damage for the coming weeks. #PrayForFaidon! Peace out.

ICUAFC is sponsored by:



Despite beginning the match with an LCA player as the official however, the 3s had a quick start, taking advantage of the extra pre-match warm-up time. Francis Nbowu and Tyrone Scille hassled the LCA back four relentlessly, until an early reward came as great interplay between the front 2 led to a sweet finish from Tyrone. A similar move soon after led to an even sweeter Henry-esque finish into the top corner from the inform striker. With the referee being kind enough to join for the last 15 minutes of the half, it was 2-0 IC 3s, and despite some sloppily squandered chances to get that killer third goal, the team began to take full control of the match, with centre-backs Jack 'The Fresher' Peacock (a.k.a Club Historian) and Vincent Avena imposing their will in defence.

Then, suddenly, a spark came: a booming Taha Butt challenge on the LCA playmaker lead to Faidon Mitzalis (a.k.a International Man of Mystery, IMoM) nicking the ball round the opposing full-back, which, after a series of slick slide-rule passes teasing the LCA defence, led to a clinical drive into the side netting by captain Myles Jarvis. That goal was critical in cementing confidence and expelling those cretins of concern that were creeping into the contest, and the 3s began to light up too hot and bright for the LCA men. It was fireworks time.

Extended periods of goal-threatening pressure followed,



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# SPORT

## Immortals win 6-0

Henry Badham  
Immortals Press Secretary

Having beaten the Westminster Dragons in week one of their season, the Imperial Immortals were looking to continue their winning streak away from home at the Greenwich Mariners.

Last season the Immortals put 41 points past the Mariners, but having beaten LSBU Spartans in their first match of the season, the Mariners had clearly put in a lot of hard work in their preseason and were not to be underestimated.

The match began with Alex Brockhurst kicking off deep into the Mariners' half. The special teams unit got to the ball quickly and stopped the return, giving the opposition a poor starting field position.

The Immortals' defense fended off the Mariners' run and pass game, which forced them to punt on their fourth down. Rob Wolstenholme caught the punt but was tackled by the Mariners before he could get up to speed.

Our offense then took the field and began to drive on the Mariners' defense. Big carries from Marcus Stead-Hall and Duncan MacKinnon put the Immortals in the red zone. The defense grew wise to the run game and this was when rookie quarterback Toby Sinclair sprinted into the end zone for a touchdown, his third of the season. Having failed the point after attempt the score stood at 6-0.

Alex Brockhurst again kicked off; this time he kept it low, driving it deep into the Mariners' half. The bouncing ball made it awkward for the returners and once again they failed to gain any good yardage. The game then became scrappy, with both sides giving away unnecessary penalties.

The match continued with both sides making short drives due to the defensive efforts made by both sides. The immortals' offense was stopped due to the talented Mariners' defensive line. Dexter Valencia made key plays for the Immortals, recovering a fumble and catching an interception.

Having pinned the Mariners' defense back to their goal line, they were forced to try an all or nothing play to take the game into overtime. Their quarterback threw the ball deep to a wide receiver; luckily he was well covered by Arjav Trivedi who intercepted the ball.

Next week the Immortals are back at Harlington hosting KCL Regents in their third regular season match.

# Imperial reach next round in Cup

## Dom Wood reports as Imperial mercilessly stomp on RUMS



IC FOOTBALL

It's safe to say that the ICUAFC 6th XI hasn't had the best of starts to the season. However, when it comes to the cup, league form is thrown out of the window and we made the epic journey to North London with confidence to play RUMS (UCL Medics) 3s.

Despite the biblical deluge in West London, Shenley seemed to have escaped the worst of the rain, leaving that age-old saying: "It's grim up north" with little credibility. After an impeccably kept minute's silence for Remembrance Day, the game kicked off and IC were straight on the front foot. The untested midfield of Pia and Sang worked well to retain the ball and started to launch attacks on the RUMS goal. It didn't take long for the first chance to materialise with Fogo being found unmarked by Frosty 5 yards out. Unfortunately thanks to his hideous new sky blue and orange boots, purchased in soft ground and hard ground to single handedly "break the Nike and Adidas duopoly", he managed to put the ball over the bar. It didn't take him long to make amends however as again Frosty whipped another delicious ball into the box, which Fogo managed to squeeze into the corner. Within ten minutes it was 2-0. Tremendous wing play was a running theme in the half and this continued with Stewart cutting inside and putting in another great cross. Under no pressure at all the RUMS centre back thought this was the time to demonstrate some "experienced" defending and nod the ball back to his keeper, who somehow conspired to simultaneously save it above his head and let it through his legs into the net. The first half yielded one solitary chance for RUMS, a speculative effort from 30 yards which hit the bar, but the 6s went into half time fairly comfortable. Inevitably the opposition came out firing after such a lacklustre half but the back four of Raguenez, Wood, Coney 2013 and Widdows

easily absorbed the pressure, reducing them to pot shots from distance, the best of which was a free kick easily held by keeper Stillwell. Widdows then showed strong technique by slipping over but in the process launching into a John Terry-esque salmon dive to head the ball away. At this point Fogo decided that scoring was far easier without a goalkeeper in the way. A Zarucki header put him through and he rounded the keeper before slotting home. 5 minutes later he completed his hatrick by nutmegging the RUMS centre back before again rounding the keeper and rolling the ball into the empty net. To finally rub salt into the wounds Fogo netted his fourth, running onto a delightful chip from Pia to again round the keeper and clip into the net. 5 minutes later and the final whistle went with so much to savour: 4 goals for Fogo, first win of the season, first clean sheet of the season, next round of the cup, Widdows and Coney finally moving into positive fantasy football points and the prospect of teaching the ancient art of matchbox to the netball girls later that evening.

5-0 - TOO EASY.

ICUAFC is sponsored by:



## BUCS Home Fixtures

20th November 2013

### BADMINTON

WOMENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS HERTFORDSHIRE  
13:00  
ETHOS

MENS 3RD (MEDICS) VS SUSSEX  
13:00  
ETHOS

### BASKETBALL

MENS 1ST VS MEDWAY  
16:00  
ETHOS

MENS 3RD VS ST MARY'S  
18:00  
ETHOS

### FENCING

WOMENS 1ST VS CARDIFF  
TIME TBA  
VENUE TBA

WOMENS 2ND VS ROYAL HOLLOWAY  
16:30  
ETHOS

MENS 2ND VS ROYAL HOLLOWAY  
16:30  
ETHOS

### FOOTBALL

MENS 1ST VS HERTFORDSHIRE  
14:00  
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS CANTERBURY  
14:00  
TEDDINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 3RD VS ROEHAMPTON  
14:00  
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 5TH (MEDICS) VS BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
14:00  
TEDDINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 6TH VS MIDDLESEX  
14:00  
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

### HOCKEY

WOMENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS KCL  
TIME TBA  
INDIAN GYMKHANA

WOMENS 5TH (MEDICS) VS ROYAL HOLLOWAY  
TIME TBA  
INDIAN GYMKHANA

WOMENS 1ST VS UCL  
13:30  
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 3RD VS ROEHAMPTON  
15:00  
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 6TH (MEDICS) VS READING  
16:30  
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 5TH VS CHICHESTER  
18:00  
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

### LACROSSE

WOMENS 2ND VS HERTFORDSHIRE  
14:00  
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

### NETBALL

WOMENS 7TH (MEDICS) VS SURREY  
TIME TBA  
TEDDINGTON SPORTS GROUND

WOMENS 3RD (MEDICS) VS BRUNEL  
TIME TBA  
TEDDINGTON SPORTS GROUND

### RUGBY UNION

WOMENS 1ST VS UCL  
14:00  
HARLINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 2ND (MEDICS) VS BRIGHTON  
14:00  
TEDDINGTON SPORTS GROUND

MENS 5TH (MEDICS) VS SOUTH BANK  
14:00  
TEDDINGTON SPORTS GROUND

### SQUASH

MENS 2ND VS KENT  
14:00  
ETHOS

### TABLE TENNIS

MENS 1ST VS EAST ANGLIA  
13:00  
ETHOS

### TENNIS

WOMENS 2ND VS UCL  
TIME TBA  
VENUE TBA

MENS 2ND VS ESSEX  
TIME TBA  
VENUE TBA

### VOLLEYBALL

MENS 1ST VS EAST LONDON  
16:00  
VENUE TBA

### WATER POLO

WOMENS 1ST VS BEDFORDSHIRE  
TIME TBA  
VENUE TBA

MENS 1ST VS CARDIFF  
TIME TBA  
VENUE TBA



# The Season so far: A Review

**James White**  
Football Columnist

## Arsenal

Arsene Wenger must finally be enjoying life at the Emirates and, despite losing at Old Trafford, the Gunners clearly mean business in the title race. They need to prove they can take the pressure as in recent seasons they have suffered post-Christmas capitulation.

## Aston Villa

The Villans need to sort out their home form urgently, but in Paul Lambert they have an experienced manager who knows how to win ugly. They should be aiming for a top half finish although mid-table mediocrity is probably more likely.

## Cardiff

The Bluebirds have followed Swansea's footsteps in throwing up a few surprises playing an attractive brand of football. As long as the owner does not dispense with Malky Mackay's services, they can expect to finish mid-table.

## Chelsea

It hasn't all been plain sailing for the Special One on his return to Stamford Bridge. He needs to strike a balance between flair players and reliable powerhouses like Mikel and Mata. But he has the players to potentially win the title.

## Crystal Palace

I'm afraid I can offer Palace no hope whatsoever of avoiding relegation. They need a new manager fast to inject some grit into midfield so they don't become the next Derby County.

## Everton

The Toffees are very easy on the eye and Roberto Martinez is proving just how good a manager he is. As ever a top-six finish should be their target; that will be even more achievable if they can turn some of their draws into wins.

## Fulham

The Cottagers have looked like a Sunday league side at times this season. Martin Jol needs to find a way to inject some verve into an ageing side increasingly prone to errors. They are my dark horses for relegation.

## Hull

Steve Bruce's Tigers have worked extremely hard to establish a mid-table position. They must continue to play to their strengths: a well-organised defence and taking attacking opportunities when they arrive, and they will stay well clear of relegation.

## Liverpool

The Reds have made a barnstorming start, thanks largely to Daniel Sturridge and Luis Suarez. They can dream of a top-four finish again but do they have the backup if their attacking stars succumb to injury or suspension?

## Man City

Manuel Pellegrini's side have one of the best attacks in Europe and the Aguero-Negredo partnership has serious potential. It is in defence where their troubles lie but with Vincent Kompany soon back from injury a second title looks a real possibility.

## Man United

Frankly, David Moyes has endured a torrid start. That killer instinct characteristic of Sir Alex's Red Devils is still missing despite some promising signs of late. Things will get better though and their win against Arsenal means they are still in the title race.

## Newcastle

The Magpies have lived up to their longstanding reputation for inconsistency and Alan Pardew has been under pressure despite Newcastle sitting pretty in the top half. They will do well to stay there.

## Norwich

Chris Hughton looked a dead man walking at half time against West Ham but the Canaries finally turned on the style in the second half. The confidence boost of winning before the international break could kick-start their season.

## Southampton

The season's surprise package so far, Mauricio Pochettino is looking an inspired appointment and although Saints' fabulous run will doubtless end eventually, they can set their sights on playing in Europe next term.

## Stoke

The Potters have not won since August and find themselves looking nervously down the table. They scored 3 against Swansea but have otherwise looked toothless in attack and over the winter months it is absolutely vital they get some wins under their belt.

## Sunderland

Gus Poyet has his work cut out at the Stadium of Light. They are in a relegation scrap and their season now is all about the fight for survival. That said, a Tyne-Wear derby win and victory against Man City will do their confidence no harm.

## Swansea

Many tipsters saw Swansea qualifying for the Europa League via a top six finish this season, but that looks a distant hope. The strains of playing Thursday-Sunday are taking their toll but the Swans are still a good side and should finish mid-table.

## Tottenham

Andre Villas-Boas has faced a lot of criticism from fans despite a solid start. The promise of entertaining football that came with Spurs' sizeable summer outlay has not materialised. The Champions League might be a bridge too far.

## West Brom

Steve Clarke's side continue to look organised defensively but his summer signings have added a new attacking dimension to the Baggies as well. They can realistically expect to finish in the top half.

## West Ham

Until Andy Carroll returns the Hammers will continue to struggle for goals. It feels like damage limitation every time they play and for now the aim has to be to stay clear of the relegation zone.

# Imperial romp home again

David Neilsen-Scott gives his account.

A scrappy game of rugby looked to be the order of the day as Imperial 1st XV welcomed bottom of the table Kent to a wet Harlington sports ground. Coming off the back of successive 24-0 victories confidence was high in the home dressing room. With fresher Masters student Tom 'the mole' Catchpole having done the dirty on his old team, IC felt they knew the strengths and weaknesses of their opponents.

Kent kicked off playing with the wind behind them. Immediate handling errors from Imperial and a good line break from the outside-centre allowed Kent an early visit into the home 22. The sloppy start to the game continued as Imperial were penalised at the ruck, giving the Kent captain (Catchpole: "he's an incredible player") an easy chance in front of the posts. Imperial held their collective breath, as the end of their 160 minutes of unbroken defence seemed nigh. The kick flew wide.

Encouraged by this sign, IC grew into the game and worked up the pitch through the forwards, with powerful carries from O'Connell, Hardisty and Nielsen-Vinegar-Scott. Under pressure, it was the turn of Kent to infringe and James Cox made no mistake with his kick at goal to put IC 3-0 up.

As the half progressed there were an increasing number of dropped balls. The scrum count rose and props Jon Lineham and Tom 'momentum fresher' Shuz stepped into the spotlight. Aided by the lithe, otter-like frame of Tom Hobson at hooker, the Imperial front row "manshamed" their rural counterparts. The resultant penalties allowed IC to gain good field position via the boot of Cox. The forwards battered towards the line drawing in more and more of the Kent defenders to repel the barrage, and when the ball went wide Catchpole was in acres of space to touch the ball down into the corner. Cox was predictably baffled by the faint breeze leaving the score 8-0.

Imperial stayed on top for the rest of the first half. A good kicking game from scrum- and fly-half, assisted by breaks from centres Jack Flanagan and Jon Mann and some gangly yet effective counter-attacks from full back Josh O'Donnell ensured IC were dominant. The proof came as skipper Mike O'Connell converted pressure

into points, squeezing over in the corner from a maul. The shock of scoring confused the Captain, forcing him off the pitch to recover. It was Imperial's International, recently returned from representing Nigeria in the African Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast, Olisa Ufodiama who stepped in for his long awaited return- after a slight reshuffle of the pack. Proving that they were better with the Captain off the pitch, IC built momentum, with Olisa crunching the Kent 15 to leave him gasping on the ground trying to find his windpipe.

The half ended at 13-0 and the two props gave way to Jake Bagby and Dave Jones, deservedly making the team off the back of huge performances for the 2nd XV last week. Both carried on where their predecessors left off, Bagby taking a leaf from the WWE handbook to extract both yards and penalties from his man whilst Jones showed great enthusiasm in the loose. A classic IC driving maul in the corner gifted Tom Hedley his third try of the season with Cox slotting the conversion to surely guarantee the result at 20-0.

With Kent running for their white cliffs, more fine work in the forwards culminated in Ufodiama breaking through the line from 30 meters out before offloading to Hardisty. The Club Captain put his head down and three trampled tacklers later added five points to Imperial's tally.

The Imperial forces marched on; replacement winger Jack Dunning made his mark at the breakdown, winning a penalty in front of the sticks that any flanker would have been proud of. Cox put the ball over to make it 28-0 with around five minutes to go.

In a great display of determination Kent rallied in the final moments of the game, choosing to attack from deep. Unfortunately for the visitors a tap penalty on their own tryline only served to send South African poacher Charles Price-Smith in for an interception try, who displayed stunning arrogance to swan dive under the posts on debut. Cox was successful with the conversion to give a final score of 35-0.

The result places Imperial at the top of the league and now makes it over 240 minutes since a point was last conceded.

With performances like this, Imperial 1st XV will have an excellent season.