



# Felix

Keeping the cat free since 1949

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@felixImperial

/FelixImperial

felix@imperial.ac.uk



issue 1601

March 13th 2015

## VARSITY 2015

Our pullout covers all you need to know about the big day

# The Big Elections 2015

come to a close

**Felix predicts who will take the top spots**

News, page 3

| Category    | Item                     | Percentage |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Nationally  | University of St Andrews | 48.90%     |
|             | University of Stirling   | 43.10%     |
|             | Imperial College London  | 38.31%     |
| Faculties   | Engineering              | 42.9%      |
|             | Natural Sciences         | 41.4%      |
|             | Medicine                 | 36.7%      |
| Departments | Elect Eng                | 58.9%      |
|             | Medicine (IC)            | 51.2%      |
|             | Earth Sci                | 50.8%      |

Proportion of last year's 4958 voters who can vote this year, but have yet to do so: 1857 to go!

37.5%

Undergraduates: 54.1%

Postgraduates Research: 22.8%

Postgraduates Taught: 15.6%

Male vs. Female: 35.4%

Last 5 min: 171 votes ↑

Last hour: 1589 votes ↑

Last 6 hrs: 10429 votes ↑

Last day: 24286 votes ↑

Last 1589 votes ↑

Last 24286 votes ↑

Last 10429 votes ↑

Last 24286 votes ↑

## Inside...

The biggest and best global festivals



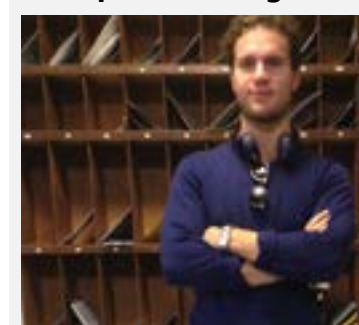
Travel 36-43

College celebrates Women@Imperial week



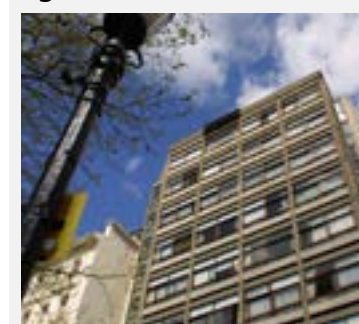
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Meet the fashionistas of Imperial College



Fashion 20-21

Union to campaign against Weeks hall



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# This week's issue...

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Felix Editor || Philippa Skett

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# Elections have finished for another year...

This week in *Felix* we have a mixture of happy and also very sad news.

We are extremely sad to run the story on the death of the first year student Georg Zänker, who passed away last Saturday. The passing of a student is always difficult to deal with, and if you are affected by our coverage, please do consult our welfare pages for a list of helplines and contacts that are more than happy to talk to you and provide any help that you need.

In happier news, the elections are finally at an end. As someone who has run in not one, but two Big Elections as a sabbatical candidate, I can tell you honestly it is completely exhausting to run around campus, throwing sweets in the faces of students you don't know and pretending to be so cheerful and happy for two whole weeks.

As much as I love *Felix*, being editor and campaigning to become editor are two very different things, and require different levels of strength and determination. Those two weeks I spent harassing students to vote for

## THIS WEEK'S EDITORIAL

me were worth it; I love my job and will be sad to pass the gauntlet on to someone else. Luckily I personally think the candidate running is very competent, a lot of fun and also so much cooler than I, so I know *Felix* will be in good hands when I up and leave.

Also, as an \*ahem\* older student now, my Facebook feed isn't as highly populated with election posts, events and statuses as it used to be. There is light at the end of the tunnel, I promise you.

It has been fun to watch the elections from afar though, and would genuinely like to say Luke has ran the most hilarious, if not slightly bizarre election I've seen since I've been here. I do think students should enjoy campaigning and not take it too seriously, and remember that it is not the be all and end all if the results don't turn out as you would like.

Speaking of results, we've also ran

an exit poll for the first time ever this year, to find out who you are voting for and why. Although the turnout for the poll isn't as high as other surveys we run (\*cough\* our sex survey, which is still open by the way \*cough\*) it was filled in by enough people to get a bit of a feel for how results may turn out tonight for the sabbatical positions.

Last year, a poll ran by The Tab for the role of Union President was actually incredibly close to the real-life outcome, so who knows? Saying that, we do have less contested positions than last year, so many of the predictions aren't really surprising considering it is either a fairly competent candidate running against RON.

Anyway, by the time you are reading this, campaigning and voting would have closed and the decision will already be out of your hands. Look out for the results tonight on our twitter feed and the Union twitter feed, or come along to the party in Metric later on tonight if you fancy watching everything unfold for yourself.

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Felix, Offices  
Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road,  
London SW7 2BB

Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk  
Tel: 020 7594 8072  
www.felixonline.co.uk

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# News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors

Carol Ann Cheah, Cecily Johnson & Kunal Wagle

## The Big Elections 2015: *Felix* finds out who you're voting for

**PHILIP KENT**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

For the first time in its history, *Felix* has run an exit poll for the Big Elections. Now voting has closed, we can now announce our predictions for who will be next year's sabbatical officers.

Our poll, which was open from the start of voting until Thursday evening, asked voters who their first choice preference was for the positions of President, the Deputy Presidents, and *Felix* Editor.

The number of votes cast has already passed many of last year's milestones. At time of print we had already beaten the number of voters, although as there are more students eligible to vote this year, we are yet to beat last year's percentage of 39.31%.

On average, students can vote for 33.6 positions, although 6 people have 100 or more positions to cast their vote for. The most number of positions one poor student has to vote for is 144.

Respondents were asked what type of student they are, what gender they identify as, what year of study they are in, what their fee status is, and what department they were from; so the *Felix* analysis team could look for patterns and trends.

Unlike the election itself, which makes use of the Single Transferrable Vote system, our poll only asked for voter's first preference.

As it is possible for the person who commanded the greatest share of the vote from first preferences to not win the election – this was seen (for example) last year in the election for RCSU President – there is a possibility that the person we identify as coming first place may not actually win the election when subsequent preferences are taken into consideration.

Additionally, readers are warned that this poll may not be completely accurate, as a result of the low number of responses (150), especially for certain groups of students (namely those in the RSM, and postgraduates), so we warn readers (and candidates) that the results announced on Friday night may well differ to our predictions.

Our predictions are as follows. For the position of President, Luke Armitage was selected by 17% of respondents, Lucinda Sandon-Allum 59%, and RON at 24%, meaning we predict Lucinda to become next year's President. 118 people cast their choice for this role.

For Deputy President (Finance and Services), Ali Lown took 22%, Lizzie Campbell 16%, Christopher Kaye 53%, and RON 9%, 112 people made a choice for this position.

Meanwhile, for Deputy President (Welfare), Diba Esbati was chosen by 21%, Jenny Watson 65%, and RON 14%, with 107 responses. Therefore, we expect Chris to be next year's DPFS, and Jenny the DPW.

Two positions which were uncontested were Deputy President (Education), where Chun-Yin San commanded 70% of the 107 responses, and RON 30%; while for *Felix* Editor, Grace Rahman took 85% of the 111 responses and RON 15%.

Chun and Grace are expected to be next year's DPW and *Felix* Editor respectively.

However, one of the most interesting cases was Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), where Tom Rivlin took 29%, Ben Howitt 47%, and Issy Barrett 15%, leaving RON with 10%.

Whilst we expect Ben to be next year's DPCS based on these results, whether Tom wins on Friday night based on second preferences could be a possibility. 105 people cast a choice for this position.

Analysis of our demographic reports showed some interesting trends. For the position of Deputy President (Welfare), none of the people who responded to our poll who are medics chose Diba Esbati – it is of note that Jenny Watson is the current ICMSU Welfare Officer.

Meanwhile, DPCS candidate Tom Rivlin enjoyed much greater popularity from Natural Sciences students than those from other faculties according to our poll (Rivlin is a Physics undergraduate).

When looking at the gender distribution, people who identified as female were far less likely to select Luke Armitage for President, but

also chose RON in slightly larger numbers.

Lucinda Sandon-Allum was also chosen more often by female students than male. Looking at DPCS, Issie Barrett took nearly double the number of choices from female students than male ones. Whilst this may suggest that people vote along gender lines, further research would be needed to confirm this possibility. Perhaps more interestingly, with DPFS, Chris Kaye's popularity dropped significantly with female

voters, while Ali Lown's increased.

RON consistently performed better with older students (bar one hiccup in the trend with DPW). Candidates who bucked the trend included Tom Rivlin (DPCS), Lizzie Campbell (DPFS), and Ali Lown (DPFS).

Full demographic breakdowns will be on the *Felix* website later on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, and the actual results of the Big Elections 2015 will be announced at the Union's results party (Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, 8PM, Metric) and online shortly afterwards.

### What you've been saying on Twitter #VoteICU

Jasper Menkus @jmenkus - Mar 7  
GRCSU NatSci now tied with the engineers after a small lead although #voteicu has slowed during the weekend as other people have lives

Thomas Lim @tlim - 7h  
Gicu DPFS Much like 30 day matured steak, I like my candidates to age a bit before committing #voteicu

Chun-Yin San @sanzbrakes - 8h  
Glad to see very few ppl have thrown away my flyers :P noticed some very nice paper planes tho! #voteicu

Cecily Johnson @cecilygj - Mar 5  
#voteicu Big Elections update: Lecture Shoutouts: 1, Sweet bribes received: 0, Uses of word "transparency": 17

Aimee Darke @AimeeDarke - Mar 11  
Thanks to everyone for being so nice when I've done shoutouts! Even if it was just to get me to shut up! #fourforyouicu #yougoicu #voteicu

Philippa @Skettlers - Mar 9  
You know you've made a terrible one night stand choice when the guy the next morning is checking out the Gicunion live stats page #voteicu

Luke GB @lukegb - Mar 4  
"Back to George, and we'll fix this sign while we're at it" - thanks @tlim #voteicu

EESoc @EESoc - Mar 9  
Elec Eng has the highest turn out for voting so far! Let's keep it that way #voteicu imperialcollegeunion.org/big-elections-...

Nic @thisianp - Mar 6  
I voted in the Gicunion Big Elections. Have you? #voteicu



The live stats on the Union page give a comprehensive breakdown of voters Photo: Imperial College Union



# News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors || Carol Ann Cheah, Cecily Johnson & Kunal Wagle

## College in mourning after first year student passes away

PHILIPPA SKETT  
FELIX EDITOR

Students across Imperial have come together to mourn the loss of first year student Georg Zänker, 20, who passed away on Saturday.

Georg fell from his second floor bedroom window in Willis Jackson Hall last Tuesday morning. Ambulances arrived at the hall just after 8:40am, and Georg was taken to St. Mary's hospital.

He did not regain consciousness, and students were informed of his death the following Monday. His roommate has been moved to another room elsewhere in the hall for the time being.

Georg, who was from Berlin, Germany, was a Computing student, and was running to be the Department of Computing Society (DoCSoc) Webmaster.

An email informing Computing students of his death was sent on Monday. Professor Susan Eisenbach, Head of the Department of Computing, said: "Georg was an excellent student who played a proactive part in our student community."

"In addition to his outstanding grades, he enjoyed participating in Hackathons, and was running for Webmaster of DoCSoc. As a well-liked and enthusiastic member of our community he will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with Georg's family and friends".

Georg's campaign website included his manifesto, which displayed his enthusiasm for the role and for Imperial in general. "One of the coolest things of coming to Imperial is the sheer number of events that are run by DoCSoc ... consequently, I decided that I wanted to contribute to this superduperawesome society as being Webmaster".

He was also an active member



Georg Zänker. Inset: Georg's poster for his campaign for DoCSoc Webmaster Photo: Jonathan Masters

of Cross Country Society, and the German society.

Memorials were held for Georg, first on Monday in his hall for students, and on Wednesday in the computing department, where a non-denominational service and tributes from both staff and students were given. Those gathered were also able to sign a Book of Remembrance, which Professor Eisenbach plans to take to Georg's funeral back in Berlin.

Nicolas Prettejohn, the current DoCSoc webmaster, second year representative for Computing and friend of Georg, read out an eulogy at the memorial on Wednesday.

Nicolas spoke to those present

about Georg's passion for his subject, how he enjoyed getting involved with departmental activities and how he was "always cheerful, smiling broadly and enthusiastic to make new friends. He took every opportunity to touch the lives of students across the department."

"Georg took great pleasure in being involved and I see that as a testimony to his character: He wasn't content with sitting on the sidelines. That wasn't Georg".

Nicolas also spoke about how Georg was hardworking; he was a regular resident in the computing labs over the weekend, and had an insatiable appetite for his subject. Nicolas

continued: "Not only did he work incredibly hard, there was always an awesome project or an exciting article to tell me about".

Georg loved the companionship of his classmates too. "The way he saw it, we were all in this together". Nicolas concluded by saying how much Georg will be missed. "Georg's passing leaves a hole in the lives of his family, his friends, his classmates, and the department."

"Given time we will begin to heal. Coursework will still be submitted and exams will still be sat. Studying here was Georg's dream."

"And as long as we remember Georg he will live his dream through us".

"He never failed to make me laugh ... I will never stop missing him"

Georg was my roommate, but more than that, he was my friend. He was a brother to me and I loved him; he had an infectious passion for his subject, for his friends, and for everything in-between.

I know so many people who grow to resent their roommates within a couple of weeks, but within a couple of days I knew that Georg and I were compatible, and that only grew from there.

We had a healthy sense of passive aggression towards each other when either one of us irritated the other one, and he never failed to make me laugh; albeit not always intentionally. He had a very dry sense of humour, often saying things about efficiency and complaining about English systems – he was also always smiling and many people that didn't even know him personally knew his face and his enthusiasm towards everything.

He was renowned on our floor of halls for making strange food, especially his daily sandwiches: these consisted of peanut butter, bacon, salad, and tomato sauce.

He made these consistently on the same day at the same time, so if you could smell bacon late in the evening, you knew it was round about 11pm. Whenever he was questioned about these sandwiches he was adamant that it was normal in Germany, justifying how they were the most calorie efficient.

After talking to his family recently I have a) found out that this is not normal in Germany and b) that Georg always made weird food. He was one of the most authentic people I have ever met, always giving his honest opinion, regardless of anyone else's problems with what he said. He enjoyed his subject more than anyone I have met and he would often talk to me enthusiastically about something that I had no clue about, but he would discuss it with me regardless.

The last words I ever said to him were "Good morning", and the honest truth is that ever since I've woken up without him in the room, the phrase hasn't been true when I say it. My heart is broken and I will never stop missing him.

Some students voiced concern over the College closing a hall but still

having no clear plans as to what the space will be repurposed for, with Weeks residents unimpressed with the responses from College thus far. The Union Council revote follows those made in the previous Council meeting, when students were first asked to vote to either campaign against the closure or accept the College's decision to shut Weeks Hall. The vote was originally repeated after initial consensus showed an equal split in opinion over the matter. The final outcome was that Union Council members decided not to oppose the closure and supported the potential transformation of the hall into childcare facilities for academics and other College staff.

Those that attended Council however were impressed with the new agreement to campaign against the closure.

Said one resident who was present at the meeting: "It was inspiring to see such a large collection of students passionately supporting something that in reality would make no difference to them, seeing as they would all either be moving out at the end of the year or had already moved

# News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors || Carol Ann Cheah, Cecily Johnson & Kunal Wagle

## Union Council reverses decision on campaign against closure of Weeks Hall

Philippa Skett reports as council is flooded with Weeks residents

Union Council met this Tuesday and voted to reverse its previous decision not to campaign against the closure of Weeks Hall.

The Union Council also voted in favour of #ICaProblem, a new student led campaign hoping to tackle the "lack of consultation, communication and transparency" in College decision making.

Council agreed to ask College to delay the closure of Weeks Hall until a future purpose was agreed upon, and until a "full, transparent consultation" over the use of the hall has taken place.

The Union Council meeting was attended by many residents of Weeks Hall, present and former, who turned up to support the paper asking for Council to reconsider their previous stance.

The discussion covered the present state of the hall, its need for refurbishment and also the benefits of campaigning against a decision that College has apparently already made.

It was announced earlier this week that the Provost Board, a College decision-making body consisting of senior members of College staff, decided to close Weeks for the next academic year.

Statements released by College stated that Provost Board has agreed to close the hall, as it requires "refurbishment work that is essential for its continued use as student accommodation".

They also stated that the College doesn't have definitive plans for Weeks Hall yet, although it cannot continue in its function as accommodation as it would be "difficult to refurbish [Weeks] ... to bring it in line with the standards of other accommodation".

However, students living in Weeks Hall had only praise for the condition of the hall and one resident stated that he would happily pay more to live in the Hall in its current state, due to its proximity to campus.

Parallels between the closure of Weeks and the closure of Garden Halls were also drawn, with one student explaining that it was only recently that they began to remove student furniture from Garden Hall, which has sat vacant for nearly 20 years since its closure in 2013.

Some students voiced concern over the College closing a hall but still



Council has agreed to ask College to delay the closure of Weeks Hall Photo: Neville Miles

having no clear plans as to what the space will be repurposed for, with Weeks residents unimpressed with the responses from College thus far.

The Union Council revote follows those made in the previous Council meeting, when students were first asked to vote to either campaign against the closure or accept the College's decision to shut Weeks Hall.

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Those that attended Council however were impressed with the new agreement to campaign against the closure.

Said one resident who was present at the meeting: "It was inspiring to see such a large collection of students passionately supporting something that in reality would make no difference to them, seeing as they would all either be moving out at the end of the year or had already moved

out in years past.

"The result of this meeting was definitely more a point of principle than practicality, but this in itself is still an admirable victory". Towards the end of the meeting before the voting was cast, a student asked whether reversing the Union Council decision would mean the College would now agree to keep Weeks open.

Union President Tom Wheeler responded, "I would like to say yes...". However, during a meeting between Felix and Professor Debra Humphris, Vice Provost (Education), when we asked if College would keep Weeks open if Union Council wanted them to, she did not give an answer.

Statements on the College website did confirm that the Provost board has agreed to let Pembroke Hall remain open, a decision made in line with the wishes of Union Council. They stated that Pembroke Hall would remain open for "the next three years at least".

The Provost Board has also commissioned a "feasibility study" to establish a future use for the north side of Princes Gardens, including Weeks hall.

However, College is yet to address how the closure of Weeks will affect the average rent price that was already agreed upon by Union Council.

At the last Union Council meeting, rent matrices were presented to the Council by College outlining average rent prices per hall, including the relatively cheaper Weeks Hall and the new student accommodation based in Acton.

Many students were under the impression that because Weeks featured in these price matrices, it would remain open for the next academic year. When Felix had previously enquired as to when Weeks was closing, College could not give an answer.

Although the matrices had different prices for different halls, the average cost of a bedroom per person, per week, remained at £166 for each variation of rent prices Council was asked to choose between.

Union Council agreed to a rent matrix that allowed the price of Woodward to drop to £120, but meant halls nearer to campus would see their rent rise as a result.

If Weeks is to close next year, the matrices Union Council voted on are therefore false, as they had included the prices of rooms in Weeks.

Humphris said earlier this week, before the Union Council meeting took place: "We're determined to provide the very best residential experience to our students but we also have difficult decisions to make about the best use of our facilities and resources, both now and in the future."

"We haven't always got it right in the past but we are absolutely committed to partnering with students where we can to make these decisions".

She said that when it comes to consultation with the students it is not always possible, but was adamant that College still works closely with students, citing the opportunity students had to vote on the new rents matrices (despite these now being incorrect).

Said Humphris: "That [was] a great step forward in partnership working between the College and Union, and it's thanks to the real leadership shown by ICU President Tom Wheeler".

## A few words from Welfare

People experience grief in different ways. It can take a long time to come to terms with death, and to seek help is a very positive and important step.

If you have been affected by Georg's death and would like to speak to someone, there are a

range of services available to you.

You can speak to your personal or senior tutor, your warden if you are in a hall of residence, the Counselling Service, or you can ring the Samaritans on 08457 90 90 90, available 24 hours a day.

Georg was a popular member

of our community, and the Union sends its heartfelt sympathies to his family and friends.

**CHRISTOPHER KAYE**  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT  
(WELFARE)  
dpwelfare@ic.ac.uk

**Samaritans (24 hr helpline):**  
Phone: 08457 90 90 90  
www.samaritans.org.uk

**Student Counselling Service**  
Phone: 020 7594 9637  
e-mail: counselling@ic.ac.uk

**JONATHAN MASTERS**



# International Women's Day 2015: Exhibition celebrates Imperial women past and present

**Cecily Johnson** on the project honouring women of the College

This week, as part of the Women@Imperial project, the College played host to a number of events celebrating past and present female staff and students of Imperial in honour of International Women's Day.

The central focus of the project is the public exhibition of photographs, video content and archive material taking place in the College Main Entrance from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Future events include a series of briefings by female postdoctoral alumni and the Annual Athena lecture given by President of the Royal Academy of Engineering Professor Dame Ann Dowling on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

This week, Imperial College Union hosted an event on Thursday evening entitled "A Catalyst for Change"; a number of student groups including Empower, WSET, Feminist Society and Tandem took part in the discussion about key issues faced by women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine (STEM).

The discussion covered topics including the skills required to succeed as a woman in scientific research, the effectiveness of mentoring, feminism in a male dominated environment and what more can be done to support women as leaders in STEM fields.

Other events this week also included a lunchtime careers talk from The Sky At Night presenter and Imperial alumnus Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

The main exhibition in the College Main Entrance featured photography and archive material, illustrating the stories of a number of important female historical figures in Imperial's history alongside present staff.

Women featured included Helen Kemp Porter, a plant physiologist who was the first woman Professor at Imperial; Martha Annie Whitely, the first woman to join the teaching staff of the Royal College of Science and the first woman Assistant Professor at Imperial; and Letitia Chitty, the first woman to graduate from Cambridge with first class honours in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos who joined Imperial as a Research Assistant in 1934.

Researchers from Imperial's more recent history included Dr Rebecca Bell, a research fellow from the Department of Earth Science and E Abubakar Shekau engineering; Co-



**Women@Imperial comprises a series of events honouring academic and professional women of the College** Photo: RF design

Director of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change Professor Joanne Haigh FRS, and Professor Dame Julia Higgins FRS FRENG, Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Investigator in the Department of Chemical Engineering.

Imperial's 19 current female Fellows of the Royal Society, Royal Academy of Engineering, the Academy of Medical Sciences and the British Academy were also celebrated. Alongside them were displays highlighting the Academic Women's Ambassadors, posts created in 2008 to support fellow academics in professional development and recommend tutoring and mentoring facilities.

Other exhibits also explored the College's schemes to bring about more equal representation of women as students, faculty members, entrepreneurs and leaders, including the Elsie Widdowson Fellowship Awards and the Julia Higgins Medal and Awards, which are awarded annually to recognise the contributions of both individuals and departments to the support of academic women at the College.

Finally the exhibition celebrated the initiatives developed by current and former female students with informative displays on groups including Women in SET, Feminist Society and Empower.

There was also a video exhibit, which compiled clips of Imperial students sharing the stories of women who had inspired them and developed their interest in science. Many of the students featured describe how female teachers, family members and public figures influenced their decision to study STEM subjects.

In tandem with the larger exhibition, the Wolfson Café on Hammersmith Campus hosted a satellite exhibition of 12 panels of photographs showcasing leading female scientists from Imperial's history.

A panel of staff and students also took part in a Google Hangout at 1pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March to discuss both the week's events and the wider campaign. The event was chaired by Kerry Noble, News Editor in the Communications and Public Affairs Division, and featured women from a variety of Imperial departments and groups.

Taking questions from the social media channels using the hashtag #ImperialWomen, the participants shared their experiences as women at Imperial, discussing the importance of role models and the women who they have personally been inspired by.

On the evening of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March the College hosted a launch event for the exhibition, which was

attended by around 200 members of the Imperial community and special guests including the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Maighread Condon-Simmonds.

The event was opened by Professor Dorothy Griffiths, the Provost's Envoy for Gender Equality, who first joined Imperial in 1969 and was a founding member of the UK's first ever Women In Science Group.

President of Imperial College Professor Alice Gast welcomed the attendees and gave a short speech praising the Women@Imperial project, before introducing College Provost Professor James Stirling.

As chair of the Academic Gender Strategy Committee, Professor Stirling spoke about the support available for female staff and students, including the Athena SWAN Charter and current initiatives to improve emergency childcare provisions and host family life panel discussions.

Noting that women make up 36% of the student population at Imperial but only 19% of professors, Professor Stirling expressed his regret that the "leaky pipeline" effect for women in STEM fields had not yet been eradicated. He noted that while there was "much to celebrate", there was also much still to be done in terms of gender parity.

Last to speak was Union President Tom Wheeler, who communicated the Union's desire to empower students to take the lead in fixing the problems they face, thanking the Liberation Officers for their assistance in this.

Wheeler also spoke about the student-led ICSEXISM campaign, which aims to collect students' experiences and get people talking about the issue of sexism on campus.

A performance from the A Cappella society's first all-female group, the Imperielles, followed the speeches. Throughout the evening a number of groups manned Imperial Fringe style interactive exhibits featuring demonstrations and displays of recent research performed by women at Imperial.

Imperial College Business School took the opportunity to announce two new scholarships, worth £20,000 each, for exceptional female candidates seeking to undertake Imperial's Executive MBA. The initiative hopes to encourage more women to undertake post-graduate management education.

Women@Imperial comprises a series of events taking place through to June 2015, honouring academic and professional women of the College and raising awareness of the variety of schemes run by College to support women's careers.

# First annual animal research practise report released by College

**Carol Ann Cheah** on the release of the first annual report

Imperial College London has released its first annual report on animal research practices within College. The 30-page document was launched at a specially held event as part of the Imperial Fringe series, which was open to the public and drew a crowd of around 200.

Attendees had the opportunity to chat with a number of vets and technicians involved in Imperial's animal research, along with checking out exhibits demonstrating College's efforts in reducing, replacing and refining the use of animals in science.

One such exhibit showcased the use of heart cells produced from human stem cells, touted as an alternative to animal testing in order to study the efficacy of treatments for heart conditions.

Some exhibits also served to demonstrate why animal testing is still needed in the research process to improve both human and animal health.

The event was preceded by a series of talks targeted those working in or funding animal research, which drew a 100-strong crowd of representatives from 30 different organizations.

Professor James Stirling, Provost of Imperial College London, gave

this statement: "These events and the publication of the animal research annual report are extremely important milestones for the College.

"It's pleasing to have so much to say about how we carry out research at Imperial and how we are building on our strengths in animal welfare and the 3Rs to become a world-leader in this area.

"In particular, I am proud to see technicians, vets, scientists and communications staff working together as a community to help us meet our commitment to being more open about animal research".

In the report, he is also quoted as saying: "2014 was a year of significant positive change for Imperial. We have carried out a major restructure of the way we govern and support our animal research work at the College, and reviewed the culture of care for our animals.

The benefits of these changes are already being seen and I am certain that we will make substantial further progress in 2015".

The report is College's latest effort following a number of comments and allegations on its animal testing practices, which have been made over the past few years chiefly by the



**An Imperial Fringe event was held in honour of the report's release** Photo: Imperial College London

British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV).

In 2012, the BUAV conducted an undercover investigation at Imperial, subsequently publishing a damning report and graphic video footage during Easter 2013.

College then ordered an independent academic inquiry into its culture and approach to animal care and welfare, which began in July that year and was chaired by Professor Steve Brown from the Medical Research Council's

Mammalian Genetics Unit.

The Brown Report, released in December 2013, stated that while the inquiry panel found staff at College to be committed to animal welfare, there were a number of concerns regarding conduct, management and oversight of animal research within College.

The panel had thus provided recommendations on Imperial's working policies and processes; subsequently, College signed the Concordat on Openness on Animal

Research in May 2014, making a number of commitments to transparency and communication in its animal research practices.

The Home Office also launched its own investigation, later declaring in October 2014 that the BUAV's allegations of widespread animal abuse and cruelty at Imperial were "[not having] been substantiated". Only 5 out of the 180 allegations made were upheld, with the 5 being classified as "minor non-compliance technical cases".

# Sir Philip Dilley appointed as Chair of Imperial's Council

**CECILY JOHNSON**  
NEWS EDITOR

Imperial alumnus Sir Philip Dilley will take over as Chair of Imperial's governing Council this May. The leading engineer and businessman will succeed Baroness Manningham-Buller, who has been in the role since July 2011.

A member of Council for the last four years, Sir Philip will be the 12th Chair of the governing and executive body and the first Imperial alumnus to take on the role. He has been initially appointed for a four-year term starting on 18th May 2015.

After graduating with a First in Civil Engineering in 1976, Sir Philip left Imperial for a successful career in engineering within Arup Group. He rose through the ranks to become Executive Chairman in 2009, leaving the post in September 2014 to take

up the position of Chairman of the Environment Agency.

"We are immensely fortunate to benefit from Sir Philip's talents and expertise" said President of Imperial College Professor Alice Gast. "He will be a great leader and I am looking forward to working with him".

In a statement, Sir Philip said "It is a great honour to be asked to Chair Imperial's Council and I am delighted that I will be able to serve the College as its Chair at such an exciting time in its development."

"We owe Eliza Manningham-Buller a huge thank you for her service in leading the Council with such wisdom, clarity of thought, and with such strong advocacy for Imperial's mission, relevance and impact in the world today".

The outgoing Chair Baroness Manningham-Buller will be taking over as Chair of the Wellcome Trust in Autumn 2015. Professor

Gast thanked her for all she has contributed to Imperial in her time serving on Council. "I have been most impressed with Eliza's leadership of such a talented and dedicated Council. She has been wonderful to work with and has left a lasting imprint on the College, the Council and our leadership team".

Baroness Manningham-Buller said "I am sad to be leaving Imperial as it is a fascinating place, bursting with outstanding people and exciting ideas. It has been most rewarding to be involved with such a great university, and I feel privileged to have chaired its Council and Court since 2011.

"I am delighted that Philip is my successor. I think the College has made an excellent choice and that it will continue to thrive and develop under his chairmanship. I shall always value the friendships I have made in the College".



**Sir Philip will take over as Chair this May** Photo: Imperial College London



# World News

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Editors

Carol Ann Cheah, Cecily Johnson & Kunal Wagle

## Boko Haram leader pledges allegiance to Islamic State

**Joshua Renken** reports on the developments in the jihadist campaign

A video of Abubakar Shekau, the leader of the militant extremist group Boko Haram, has emerged in which he swears allegiance to Islamic State (IS).

The message said: "We announce our allegiance to the Caliph of the Muslims and will hear and obey in times of difficulty and prosperity, in hardship and ease, and to endure being discriminated against, and not to dispute about rule with those in power, except in case of evident infidelity regarding that which there is a proof from Allah".

The Boko Haram leader purportedly goes on to say "We call on Muslims everywhere to pledge allegiance to the caliph".

The Arabic audio message, which has not yet been verified, was posted on Boko Haram's Twitter account on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Boko Haram previously expressed support for the Islamic State in 2014 and, if verified, this pledge by the Nigeria based extremist group would be the latest in a series of allegiances sworn to IS by radical military organisations.

After its founding in 2002, Boko Haram's increasing radicalisation led to a violent uprising in July 2009 in which its founder and then leader, Mohammed Yusuf, was executed.

The group's subsequent six-year military campaign after the uprising of 2009 has been so extreme that al-Qaida's leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, has renounced Boko Haram's actions.

Since Abubakar Shekau's appointment as leader the group

has killed over 5,000 civilians and more than 1.5 million people have been displaced as they fled from the conflict zone.

Boko Haram gained widespread media attention in April of last year after the kidnapping of 276 Nigerian schoolgirls from the northeasterly region of Chibok.

Many of the mainly Christian students who were abducted in April have been forced to convert to Islam and marry members of Boko Haram, reportedly being sold for a "bride price" of just 2,000 Nigerian naira (less than £7.00).

In May 2014, Abubakar Shekau took responsibility for the abductions, claiming that "Allah instructed me to sell them," and saying "I will carry out his instructions". He has said the girls should not have been in school and instead should have been married.

The announcement of Boko Haram's pledge of allegiance to Islamic State was posted online shortly after female suicide bombers killed at least 50 people in the northeastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri, which is in the Borno state where Boko Haram originated.

Boko Haram advocates for a strict form of sharia law to be imposed in their claimed territory and is prepared to kill anyone who does not conform to their ultraconservative fundamentalist form of Sunni Islam, known as Wahhabism.

The group brutally enforces conservative Islamic traditions



Abubakar Shekau reportedly made the comments in a video posted on Twitter Photo: Wikimedia Commons

and the caliphs (leaders) involved are seen by the membership as political successors to the prophet Mohammad. The name "boko haram" is often translated as "Western education is forbidden".

The group, which is believed to be 10,000 strong, is currently operating in Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad. Together with Islamic State, Boko Haram intends to take over as much land as possible in order to spread their ideology.

The group have produced countless propaganda videos and are well funded through various sources, reported to include kidnappings, robberies, extortion, drug trafficking, smuggling, poaching and donations from Islamist sympathisers, including other jihadist movements.

Boko Haram are an organised and ambitious group who have committed truly unthinkable acts against humanity and pose an even greater threat to millions of civilians

after their pledge of allegiance to IS.

The jihadist campaign is now being fought across two continents, and officials in Washington have called Islamic State "probably the best-funded terrorist organisation" the US has ever confronted.

The group is believed to be bankrolled to the tune of around one million dollars a day through wealthy private donors in the Middle East and the sale of oil from fields in Syria and Iraq.

## What is the Islamic State?

Formerly known as The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), or The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Islamic State (IS) is the name given to the fundamentalist rebel terrorist group that controls territory in north-western Iraq and northern Syria, along with operations in several other countries in North Africa and the Middle East.

Until recently, Islamic State went by the name of ISIS, which many Western leaders (including David

Cameron and Barack Obama) would refer to as ISIL. 'The Levant' is an undefined region around the Middle East, which was a preferred term since Western governments were very reluctant to declare a war in Syria.

In June of 2014 the radicalised militant group announced that they were going to drop the last two letters of their acronym and call themselves Islamic State.

Despite Islamic State not being what the majority of Muslims

believe to be 'Islamic', nor a state, this rebrand made it clear that the organisation sees itself as a worldwide caliphate, not just a regional one.

Islamic State now recruits from around the globe, including the United Kingdom. One particularly harrowing example is the radicalisation of University of Westminster computer science graduate Mohammed Emwazi, who was recently unmasked in reports as the British ISIS militant who

appeared in videos showing the beheading of journalists and aid workers in Syria.

Emwazi, who is sometimes referred to as 'Jihadi John', had been known to MI5 and was on the Home Office Warnings Index, which prevented him leaving the country. He is believed to have escaped from Britain in early 2013 by hiding in a freight lorry on a Channel ferry, before travelling on to Turkey and then Syria.

In the last few days Emwazi has

apologised for the problems he has caused his family, but not for the execution of several ISIS captives including British aid workers David Haines and Alan Henning.

The apology, which was sent via a third party from Syria to his family, expressed remorse for the "problems and trouble the revelation of his identity has caused". Emwazi's family has been forced into hiding ever since his identification.

JOSHUA RENKEN

# Science

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Science Editor || James Bezer & Lauren Ratcliffe

## Methods developed at Imperial could make burning fossil fuels guilt-free

Lauren Ratcliffe on converting waste carbon dioxide into useful materials

If we are to avoid further aggravating climate change we need to find a way to store or transform the hundreds of billions of tonnes of carbon dioxide produced by power stations worldwide into something useful. A team at Imperial's Department of Chemistry have done just this. Working with the spin-off company, Eonic Technologies, they have developed a cleaner way to produce valuable materials from waste carbon dioxide and are bringing it to the market.

Since the 1960s there has been much research into ways of converting carbon dioxide into a suitable chemical intermediate. Freely available, with low toxicity as well as being an environmental nightmare, this molecule lends itself to this type of research. However, developing catalysts and processes to convert carbon dioxide has been problematic. Mainly because this highly oxidised state of carbon is at the lowest energy state of all carbon containing C1 species, meaning that a huge amount of energy is needed to reduce it.

However, there has been progress, with the development of catalysts to successfully incorporate carbon dioxide into polymers. These

polymers can later be used in polyols, which are used to make polyurethanes, a material found in tonnes of consumer and industrial products, including Spandex! However, at the moment, industrial processes for producing these valuable polyols requires petrochemicals such as the toxic, expensive and energy inefficient propylene oxide.

Previous cleaner methods that have been developed to produce polyols using carbon dioxide have been found to work only with high purity carbon dioxide. Despite being a step in the right direction, this process is not practical as one of the principle applications of this technology is to clean up real sources of waste carbon dioxide.

Experiments by Imperial's team of researchers were conducted using carbon dioxide from Ferrybridge Power Station carbon capture demonstrator plant in West Yorkshire. The results published in ACS Catalysis this February indicate that by using the novel catalyst technology developed at Imperial, it was possible to use waste carbon dioxide to produce useful products such as polyurethanes at much lower pressures and temperatures

than previous methods. These polyurethanes can then be used to valuable materials from furniture to the soles of your trainers.

This method makes the process more economically appealing to existing polyurethane manufacturers, offering a cheaper and more environmentally friendly alternative to exclusive petrochemical usage. The team has estimated that for every tonne of carbon dioxide used, two tonnes of emissions could be saved through circumventing the production of the petrochemical-based raw material it displaces. Many industries that emit large quantities of carbon dioxide are also likely to be obliged to use carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) in the future with the introduction of environmental policies to reduce levels of atmospheric greenhouse gas. CCS is a costly process, but using carbon dioxide as a raw material to make polymer materials could offset these costs. "Using real carbon dioxide emissions to make useful products is very challenging, because frequently catalysts are not tolerant of minor contaminants," said Professor Charlotte Williams, lead author of the study. "Carbon dioxide streams from power stations



Ferrybridge Powerstation, UK, where the experiments took place.

Photo: 3.aba.com

are among the most contaminated sources of CO<sub>2</sub> available, so the work we have done is a big step forward because the catalysts show such remarkable tolerance and function in almost exactly the same way as using pure CO<sub>2</sub>."

Eonic Technologies was initially set up to commercialise the catalysts developed by the team at Imperial. The research has already attracted

the attention of major chemical companies to support the adoption of this more economically sound and environmentally friendly technology. The research was funded by the Government's Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and published on the February 10, 2015.

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## Fossil discovery sheds light on human origins

JANE COURTNELL  
SCIENCE WRITER

Humans still have an unmistakable tie to our ape origins. The question is, how did we get from such a beginning to our where we are now? The fossil record provides a fragmented view of human evolution. From this record, the time of split between the Homo genus and Australopithecus genus remains ambiguous. Fossilised remains of Homo habilis mark the split between Homo and Australopithecus dating between 2.4 and 1.5 million years ago (mya). However, with the continual advancement within palaeoanthropology we have recently seen the discovery of a lower jawbone and five teeth belonging to the Homo lineage which dates to around 2.8 mya. Disputes concerning whether the fossilised remains of Homo habilis specimens belong to the



The discovery of this jawbone made fossil hunters get hot under the collar

Photo: Guardian

Australopithecus genus and thus splits in the latter lineage occurring at a later date, are challenged.

The significance of the Australopithecus-Homo divergence is owed to the transition of ape-

like species to forms resembling modern humans. Characteristics such as expansion of brains; body enlargement; decrease in the extent of sexual dimorphism in terms of body size; tool usage; changes in

limb proportions; reduction of cheek teeth size and unique Homo features of the brain were derived. This novel discovery in the Afar region of Ethiopia, the Ledi-Geraru areas 250 miles from Addis Ababa, is of high importance. The fossil remains provide clarification to a "poorly documented hominin evolution," says Erin N. DiMaggio, associate in the department of geosciences Penn State – especially within this important time frame between 3 and 2.5 mya.

A more definite age of the remains cannot be given due to the absence of a direct method to ascertain a date. Measuring different isotopes of argon can determine the age of eruption producing the volcanic ash or tuff preserving the sample. Thus, can imply the age of the sample. The age of the rocks above and below the sample are found to indicate the earliest and oldest dates for the fossil. In addition, other

fossilised organisms in the area at the implied date are determined to reveal the environment in which the hominin fossil once existed. Prehistoric antelope, hippopotamus, water dependent grazers, elephants, and fish suggest that habitat was a mixture of grasslands and shrublands some 2.8 mya. There has thus been a definitive change in the climate in this region which could have triggered the Australopithecus-Homo split.

Although it is still too soon to say whether the climatic signal and change in climate triggered the divergence between the Homo and the Australopithecus lineage; the signal never-the-less acts as evidence supporting the proposed climate hypothesis. One of the many theories to explain explain the Australopithecus-Homo split. These novel fossilised remains provide a significant stepping-stone in our knowledge of human evolution.



# Politics

politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Politics Editor | Joshua Renken

## Oh oil, is there nothing you can't do?

Joshua Renken comments on the relationship between the West and Saudi Arabia



Barack Obama met with King Salman to pay his respects to the former King and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud after his death in January Photo: itv

In the last two decades the Middle East has experienced Sunni and Shia suppression, the toppling of dictators, Western intervention, Western withdrawal and the spread of fundamentalist terrorism.

The problems in the region are vast, systemic and complicated. And while I don't pretend for a second to fully understand what is going on, I want to comment on the West's foreign alliances with Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia is the world's dominant oil exporter and the only country named after its ruling royal family, The House of Saud. It is one of the least democratic states in existence and a place where women are prohibited from driving, voting or even leaving their house without a male chaperone.

There are no jury trials in Saudi Arabia, most trials are held in secret and courts observe few formalities. Organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have condemned Saudi Arabia's human rights record against women and ethnic minorities and criticised the severe punishments handed out by the criminal justice system, which is based on a hardline and literal form of Shari'ah law.

This oil-rich kingdom's brutality is reflected in the number of public executions that are carried out there.

According to a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) the late Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, former King of Saudi Arabia, oversaw the beheading of 87 individuals, by sword, in the last year alone.

Many of those killed had committed non-violent crimes including drug smuggling, sodomy, apostasy and even 'sorcery'. The state has also tortured and killed critical journalists.

One particular case in Saudi Arabia has received a lot of media attention recently. Raif Badawi is a writer, activist, blogger and Saudi national who has openly criticised his country's regime for several years. Convicted of the crime of 'insulting Islam', Badawi has been sentenced to 1000 lashes, ten years in prison and a fine. The first 50 lashes were administered on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2015. His wife, Ensaf Haidar, has said that Raif will not survive the floggings.

And all this is unlikely to change any time soon. After the death of King Abdullah in January his half-brother, Salman, assumed the throne to become King and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia. King Salman is not expected to be a reformist in the country and has vowed to continue the "correct" policy of his predecessor, stating that democracy "should not be imposed in Saudi Arabia".

In early February Prince Charles met with King Salman during a six day tour of the Middle East, where they "exchanged cordial talks and reviewed bilateral relations" between the countries.

To be clear, this is our heir to the British monarchy meeting with the leader of an Islamic state that sanctions the execution of prisoners by beheading with a sword in public. This is simply barbaric. It is a medieval, ultra-conservative system, underpinned by the most extreme interpretation of Islam, Wahhabism.

Just days after King Abdullah's death, President Barack Obama took a trip to Saudi Arabia to pay his respects and cement ties with King Salman. During the trip Obama did not even raise the issue of the country's human rights abuses and backward attitudes to gender equality. A few days later the president was in India giving a speech urging the country to be more progressive about women's rights. This kind of double standard approach to foreign relations on the world stage is shameful.

That the British and American governments cosy up to the Saudis in full knowledge of the appalling circumstances in which many of its citizens endure is a disgrace that has been criminally under reported

for years. That the UK and US do this while lecturing other nations about democracy and human rights just adds an extra layer of naked hypocrisy to the situation.

So why does this happen? Put simply: oil, trade and political stability. Large and powerful countries such as Saudi Arabia – the world's petrol station – can get away with atrocities that less influential countries could not because of their global significance. That's the way things seem to go. We saw it in the failures of the League of Nations, we see it now in the Middle East, and we will regrettably see it in the future.

That said, I'm not necessarily trying to pin the blame on 'evil' Western leaders. I get it. The alternative to upholding one's principles in all circumstances is far messier. In the current financial climate no one is prepared to let their economy take a hit by imposing trade sanctions. Money doesn't talk. It screams.

Saudi Arabia is the largest and most important producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the bloc that controls almost half of the world's oil. The UK does not buy oil from the Saudis, but Saudi Arabia is the UK's primary trading partner in the Middle East and our largest arms buyer, with joint ventures between

British and Saudi companies worth tens of billions of pounds each year. The US however imports hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil from Saudi Arabia every day.

Since the UK would never make meaningful strides to address the repulsive Saudi Arabian government without agreement from the US – who are not prepared to see a spike in oil import prices – there will be no bold action from either country.

Countries such as Saudi Arabia are considered criminal governments one minute and trading partners the next, which makes Western governments guilty by tacit consent. It is insincere foreign policy that leads me to wonder, "Oh oil, is there nothing you can't do?". Our ongoing relationship with this vile government demonstrates that economic interests dictate principles. It proves that we are only as morally upstanding as our national wallet will allow, and right now our international relations are abounding with hypocrisy.

I just look forward to the day where the UK, US and other democratic nations no longer need to trade or buy oil from countries such as Saudi Arabia, so that we can find the backbone to stand up to the heads of terror states and sever all ties with these thugs. That moment can't come soon enough.



# Music

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Music Editors || Grace Rahman & Amna Askari

# Kanye comes to Camden

Aiden Langan wangles a ticket to Yeezy's secret sold-out show

**K**anye West has been preparing for the launch of his new album, *So Help Me God*, in the UK for quite some time. He performed new song, 'All Day', at the Brits with a large variety of UK grime artists (or rather they were merely his hype-men). He'd been on the Jonathan Ross show on Friday to perform another new song, 'Only One'. He visited Oxford the following Tuesday for a 20 minute talk on fine art, the Nobel Peace Prize and the class system.

The most exciting thing happened on the morning of Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March though; Kanye West was to perform a small club show at KOKO in Camden. Having announced the show at 18:47 the day before, tickets sold out in 20 minutes and were being sold on outside the venue in excess of £100 with ease (tickets were originally £49.50). Nothing about the show was known except that Kanye West would be playing and doors would open at 11pm.

I had more to be excited about as not only was this my first time seeing Kanye, but my first hip-hop show. At 11pm, wristbands were obtained but doors were not being opened yet. People were getting cold and restless as time went on and it was 00:15 when doors finally opened. Entering KOKO, the dancefloor and stage were in darkness and there was no music playing. All that could be seen for the stage production was a blank screen. People sang football chants to keep themselves entertained but the excitement was palpable.

At 01:00, the opening beats to 'All Day' came in and the crowd went mental. People were crowd surfing within seconds and then the music cut out. **Skepta** came on and performed his hit 'That's Not Me' and I realised that this wasn't just a Kanye West show, but rather the ultimate hip-hop concert with, importantly, UK grime artists represented. At any other show, this may not have worked but the idea that Kanye West was in the back like an excited teenager going to his first concert and getting the opportunity to be on stage showed that he cared about this music and wasn't just jumping on a bandwagon.

The backdrop to the stage was remarkably simple; there was no Jesus actor, no mountains, no mask, no Kim (thankfully). Heck, there weren't even any of his famous rants. The blank screen now had a slideshow of medieval woodcuts featuring the crucifix and other associated images,

**"People were crowd surfing within seconds and then the music cut out."**



Powerpoint can be a bitch. Photo: Emanuele D'Angelo

as well as the rumoured artwork for *So Help Me God*.

More grime hits such as 'German Whip' and '96 Fuckries' were played by members of **Boy Better Know** with Kanye dancing away in the background. The crowd sang every word as if it was a Kanye hit. But when a Kanye hit did happen, such as 'Cold' which featured a snippet of **Foreigner's** 'Cold as Ice', the crowd sung at West's command without him having to say a word. Whilst he didn't need to try at all, this was Kanye at his most pleasing, working his hardest and going all out to prove a point.

The most appropriate song for this show was 'Clique' with the crowd enjoying it as much as the performers were on stage. As everyone shouted 'Clique' back at Kanye, I realised that Yeezy season had truly arrived. Skepta returned to perform his newest song 'Shutdown' in which he, well, shut it down. At the halfway point, new songs from *So Help Me God* were played. We had 'Wolves', which was debuted on American staple Saturday Night Live. The remarkably simple song, whilst quite profound, was a distinct change from the general sound of Yeezus. The new, never before played, track 'U Mad' was performed. Similar in style

**"He demanded the right backdrop was shown by shouting 'Next!' repeatedly."**

to both 'Mercy' and a grime track, the fact that it was a new song didn't stop the crowd singing it back after a minute of it being played. It had the anger of Yeezus but sounded nothing like anything from that album.

It was at this point that the big hitters came out. 'We had Power', 'Can't Tell Me Nothing', 'All of the Lights' and 'Good Life' all in a row, with the little matter of a **Big Sean** appearance in the middle. Not all of his hits were played; there was a lack of 'Stronger' and 'Gold Digger' but he didn't need them considering 'Jesus Walks' from his debut album *The College Dropout* was dropped.

At this point, the song began and Kanye was not happy. The wrong backdrop was displayed and he demanded the right backdrop was shown by shouting 'Next!' repeatedly at which point the computer used had gone to the home screen and the backdrop went completely dark. There was a nervous laugh from the crowd when Kanye said 'Next' again.

Eventually the right backdrop was displayed: a crucifix. Kanye then formed a crucifix pose in front of it while the crowd was unintentionally hyped by Kanye's tech guy fucking up. This was perhaps the highlight of the show up until this point as

the anger of Yeezus was on complete display. But there were still some more surprises and more demands to come.

'Black Skinhead' was played and the bass of the song quite literally pushed me back, which brings me to the sound. It was loud, very loud. Almost too loud for a Wednesday at 2am but man, I'm glad it was. I've never been literally moved by a song but Kanye had done it. And then he stopped it, demanded strobes and it began again. I was pushed back and the power of it hit me again.

Then there was the biggest surprise of the night. **Raekwon** from **Wu Tang Clan**, perhaps one of the most influential old school hip-hop groups, came out and performed 'C.R.E.A.M.' from *Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)*, an album everyone should own. And how did Kanye top that? He got every guest out and performed 'All Day', a song which was received as if it was an instant classic in his canon. He left the stage as did his entourage, then returned a while later and played it again. Kanye had shut down London on a Wednesday morning before leaving for Paris the next day, having shown the UK how a hip-hop show should be done, at the simplest level. Now where's his goddamn croissants?!



# Television

television.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Television Editors || Guila Gabrielli &amp; John Park

## Welcome back ladies: it's your time to shine

John Park pays tribute to the women of network television

Whatever may be happening in the film industry with regards to tackling the issue of creating meatier roles for women, there certainly does not seem to be a shortage of complex, well-rounded roles for actresses in television. Strong, independent, dominant women come in all forms, appear in all sorts of genres, and are a welcome addition to the world of small-screen entertainment, as they all battle for success in their fields. They have all been with us for several years now (with the exception of one freshman series in discussion here), and how they have developed over the course of the shows has been a fascinating journey. Welcome back ladies, and long may you rule the world of primetime television.

Carrying the beacon of light for the sixth year now is lawyer Alicia Florrick of *The Good Wife*, played by the tough-as-nails, Emmy-winning, Julianna Margulies. No longer deterred nor defined by her husband's shocking political sex scandal that turned her life upside down in the pilot episode, Alicia has gone from a junior associate of a law firm close to getting fired, to become a named partner at her very own successful firm. Her ambition does not stop there: she has also recently found the calling to run for the State's Attorney's office, a political race that throws new challenges her way – all of them morally ambiguous and ethically dubious. Yet she remains steadfast in her belief and determination that she will actually do a good job, and as someone who has stuck by her for all these years, it is not difficult to absolutely believe everything she says. She is at the most complicated, busiest time of her life, having to handhold top clients of her firm, trying to focus on winning the race with countless interviews, trick questions and mind games from the opponents, whilst also having to deal with her personal life. Season 5 saw the shocking exit of a beloved character who was destined to become the lasting love interest for Alicia, but now with Will Gardner (Josh Charles) gone, Alicia not only has grief, but now feels more comfortable to explore possible options. Two good-looking candidates came to

mind, her campaign manager Johnny Elfman (Steven Pasquale), and fellow lawyer Finn Polmar (Matthew Goode). Yes, she is still married to her influential husband, Peter, who is now the Governor of Illinois. But she is smart enough to know that this is a marriage of convenience, one that is used to further each other's political aspirations. And why the hell should she not use this to her advantage? Her husband has made and continues to make one too many mistakes and she has had it. All we can say is, to quote Chelsea Handler in *This Means War*, "get out there, you get flexible!". Her character is veering further away from the old-fashioned, traditional sense of what the terminology "the good wife" may evoke, and it is about damn time that she takes full control of her own life.

Despite the many fluctuations in the overall quality of the show, medical drama *Grey's Anatomy* is still going strong in its eleventh season, posting more than decent ratings in the important 18-49 demographic. There was a worry that with the departure of the irreplaceable Cristina Yang (Sandra Oh), the show would never be the same. The series has since tried to introduce someone else of dependant comfort and reliance to Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) in the form of her half-sister Dr Maggie Pierce (Kelly McCreary), and to be frank, this has not quite worked out in terms of finding a suitable replacement. But the most interesting sub-plot of late has not included Meredith, not one bit. Focusing on Meredith only brings up tedious marital troubles between her and her husband, neurosurgeon Dr Derek Shepherd (Patrick Dempsey), given how the writers of *Grey's Anatomy* cannot leave any one happy couple alone. But Patrick Dempsey has been given a few episodes off and the latest episodes have been all about Derek's younger sister, Amelia Shepherd (Caterina Scorsone) who is also a neurosurgeon, struggling to live up to the high expectations already set by her world-renowned older brother. Amelia is smart, and thinks at a speed at which most people struggle to keep up. Her biggest challenge is taking on a brain tumour of a fellow doctor in the

hospital, neonatal surgeon Dr Nicole Herman (Geena Davis). Dr Herman, learning of her terminal diagnosis, takes Dr Arizona Robbins (Jessica Capshaw) under her wings and starts to impart all the latest, cutting-edge research, skills, and knowledge; passing on the torch so to speak. The dynamic between these three unique, fascinating characters played by outstanding actresses has been a real driving force behind what has made *Grey's Anatomy* so gripping and irresistible as of late, a much-needed change of tone for the long-running drama. There is much uncertainty surrounding this tumour: Amelia's plan may not work, Nicole's time is running out, she is having to deal with the worsening symptoms that are slowly but surely creeping up on her, and Arizona needs to keep it together to learn from the best, but also to watch a friend possibly die in the process.

The show effectively builds up the drama to its climax episode of the date of the actual brain surgery. Amelia, troubled by insecurities and doubts, at one point demands that someone call her brother for help, who is all the way out in the East Coast in Washington D.C. (the show is set in Seattle, the West Coast). Will she be able to make it through what is scheduled to be a 15-hour surgery? Can Dr Herman survive such a punishing procedure? There is a sense that the show dramatises its medical scenes far too much: an unconvincing act of what can be seen as last-minute heroism in the surgery is really pushing it: but ultimately, it makes great television.

Another smash-hit in terms of ratings is audience-favourite, *Scandal*, perhaps the most blatantly feminism-pushing show on air right now. What with Mellie (Bellamy Young) lamenting over the fair point of how the job of picking out the White House china pattern would be a paid position if a man had to do it, and with protagonist Olivia Pope (Kerry Washington) telling off the President of the United States/her on-off boyfriend Fitz (Tony Goldwyn) for using the word "bitch" to describe a hard-working, opinionated female staff member in the White House, this fast-paced political thriller



Julianna Margulies kicks butt as Alicia Florrick in *The Good Wife*



Olivia Pope (top), Mellie Grant (bottom left), and Maya Pope (bottom right) keep things fiery in *Scandal*



Dr Amelia Shepherd, Arizona Robbins (top left + right), and Nicole Herman (bottom) are surgeons who never give up in *Grey's Anatomy*

has room to stand up for its female characters in the midst of creating the most outrageous plot lines. The more ridiculous the show gets, the better. It is a show centring on larger-than-life characters thrown in impossible situations. Despite its male characters being in various positions of power, the show is at its most fun when the female characters get into the action.

Olivia Pope fixes problems like no other, and has been for the past four years. Rigging elections, helping out victims of sexual harassment, uncovering plots, working on political campaigns, and also finding time for romance, her talent knows no bounds. Her longest love interest Fitzgerald Grant is the most frustrating, mopey, sappy character ever to grace the small screen, and the other man, Jake

# Television

television.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Television Editors || Guila Gabrielli &amp; John Park



The Snow Queen had a brief but great stint in the first half of *Once Upon a Time's* fourth season



The Queens of Darkness have arrived: (from left to right) Maleficent, Cruella de Vil, and Ursula get ready to give fairytale villains a bad name in the second half of *Once Upon a Time's* fourth season

female presence only appearing in a guest appearance capacity is Khandi Alexander, playing Maya Pope, Olivia's duplicitous, terrorist, murderous mother. Evil maternal figures often end up being the most interesting, keeping us all guessing until the very end as to where their loyalties truly lie. Khandi Alexander has tons of fun with her role, one that was offered to her without an audition, and she fits perfectly into the crazy narrative of the show effortlessly.

Season 4 of *Once Upon a Time* kicked things off by immediately cashing in on the success of Disney's *Frozen*, by introducing Elsa (Georgina Haig), perhaps the most independent, feminist Disney princess ever, into the weird and wonderful town of

Storybrooke. This move paid off, seeing the season 4 premiere peak in its ratings. The ice-controlling queen is dead-set on her quest to find her sister Anna (Elizabeth Lail), and later, the main villain of the first half of the season, the powerful Snow Queen (Elizabeth Mitchell) appears for a magical showdown. ABC's fantasy-adventure show has the advantage of having an abundance of characters to work with, and when it introduced elements of *Frozen* it was off to a good start. But with the show's budget being what it is, it never makes full use of its powerful characters. The action sequences always, always fall short, but making up for its childish, almost embarrassing scenes of what is supposed to be excitement, is the often very smart background

stories of new characters that are incorporated into existing ones. Plus, if you feel as though a certain story arc is running out of steam, the show does the smart thing of splitting its seasons into two halves essentially, wrapping up the first half's plot lines, and teasing new ones for the coming months. So as of this moment, the *Frozen* storyline has finished, and the show is getting ready to turn into a whole new direction.

Yes, the Queens of Darkness have arrived, and they are of course up to no good. The three most iconic female villains of Disney Classics, Maleficent (Kristin Bauer van Straten), Ursula (Merrin Dungey) and Cruella De Vil (Victoria Smurfit), are teaming up, and with this lineup the show should have plenty of fun with them. They have done wonders bringing the animated characters to their live-action form. Maleficent is fully equipped with her staff and black outfit with horns, Cruella has the unforgettable black-and-white hair with her humongous fur coat, and even Ursula, who the costume designers have taken the most creative liberty with, looks like the Ocean Queen that she is, complete with CGI tentacles. This is a welcome return for Maleficent, who was killed in an earlier season, and first-time appearances for Ursula and Cruella, who, so far, are making this trio work. Given the track record of this show, perhaps it would be unwise to expect a full-blown battle of sorts between good and evil, but there is a dark past and secret hinted at between the three evil queens, and the technically "good" residents of Storybrooke. Mary Margaret/Snow White (Ginnifer Goodwin) and David/Prince Charming (Josh Dallas) in particular are troubled by the arrival of these impeccably dressed and spoken, scheming women. Just how were the villains entangled in the lives of the heroes in the past? Only time will tell.

Speaking of scheming women, the show *Revenge* has certainly jumped the shark big time but the women of the series are no closer to giving their quest for vengeance a rest. Emily Thorne (Emily VanCamp) has had it in to ruin the Grayson family for a long time, mainly feuding with Victoria Grayson (Madeleine Stowe), who destroyed her father, David Clarke (James Tupper). There have been many successful takedowns as Emily's never-ending resources, along with her martial arts skills and general all-rounded ninja abilities have served her well in chipping away at the Grayson family fortune and reputation. Ever since the absolute worst twist in the world that took place at the end of the show's third season, in which David Clarke who was supposed to be dead actually turned out to be alive, the show has never been the same, forcing silly plots and throwaway characters to clunkily push along with filling out

**"Welcome back ladies, and long may you rule the world of primetime television."**

**"To quote Chelsea Handler in This Means War, "get out there, you get flexible!"**

**"Yes, the Queens of Darkness have arrived, and they are of course up to no good."**

**"Scandal [is] perhaps the most blatantly feminism-pushing show on air right now."**



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the episodes. Now there is a new player out for revenge, Margaux LeMarchal (Karine Vanasse), who wants to expose Emily's lies and criminal activities for reasons of her own. Another sudden new arrival is Natalie Waters (Gina Torres), who is competing with Victoria to be the Queen Bee of the rich women of the Hamptons. Get ready to sit through some intense battle of bitchy words, as one comeback after another attempts to silence the opponent. And to be honest, there is definitely more going on, but things have gotten so silly now it is no wonder that viewers are turning away from the show. Still, there is no denying that no other show on television has a group of women of mind-boggling intentions, trying to outdo one another, getting their claws out and sharpened for their ultimate goals. Seeing what stunning things these rich women wear and how they plot behind each other's backs to get ahead in the world, *Revenge* has certainly come a long way since its days of Emily's focused mission.

Moving away from the affluent East Coast to the more financially strapped country music industry of Nashville, Tennessee, Rayna James (Connie Britton) has finally launched her very own record label, Highway 65. It has been a long time coming for the Queen of Country Music in the third season of Callie Khouri's show, *Nashville*, and for her to set this up has been no easy task. The show initially started off as a prolonged catfight set in the backdrop of the country music industry, with the reigning queen Rayna threatened by an up-and-coming new star, Juliette Barnes (Hayden Panettiere). But the show wisely moved away from this, giving each singer room to breathe and find their own plausible storylines, and the two interacting only when necessary, not constantly at odds with each other. As of now, the two are happily working together, something that would have been unimaginable in the first season. With these two singers of a massive celebrity status, the show has explored the price of fame on personal relationships, the strain it puts on families, and how perhaps, not everything is as it seems on cameras and newspapers. It is especially difficult for a female to be under such intense media scrutiny, particularly at a time of an immense emotional struggle, and *Nashville* has been consistently bold and honest in showing the many downsides of glittering careers and the flashing lights of fame.

This was particularly well-handled with the naive young talented singer/songwriter Scarlett O'Connor (Clare Bowen) who has also been through quite the rollercoaster ride. She tried her hand at becoming a singing sensation herself, but the pressure was too much, and sometimes it just is not meant to be for some people. But she has found her calling elsewhere,

**"She tried her hand at becoming a singing sensation herself, but the pressure was too much, and sometimes it just is not meant to be for some people."**



**Emily Thorne and Victoria Grayson of *Revenge* are still going at it trying to ruin each other's lives for whatever reason that you have stopped caring about**



**Elizabeth McCord is thrown into Washington politics as the Secretary of State**



**Country Music Queen Rayna James (left) takes the stage for her engagement, and on a slightly darker note, talented up-and-coming singer Sadie Stone (right) has to deal with an abusive ex in Nashville**



focusing on writing, and playing in smaller gigs with people she trusts, a sweet and poignant dynamic she has struck up with two of her boyfriends: an unlikely trio for sure, but one that clearly works.

The newest recurring cast member to be added to the show brings with her a serious, weighty subject matter. Sadie Stone's (Laura Benanti) career as a country singer is on the rise, but things get complicated when her abusive ex-husband shows up out of the blue demanding a slice of her earnings, even serving her with a subpoena. Benanti's trembling, frightened portrayal of a battered woman is often heart-breaking, but she eventually makes a stand to fight for what is rightfully hers, bravely speaking out against her manipulative ex. Rayna is right there in Sadie's corner, and the pair of them refusing to be bullied into submission is a well-structured, important message for women and men everywhere.

Already renewed for a well-deserved second season is the most impressive network primetime debut show of this season, *Madam Secretary*. In its pilot episode, former CIA analyst Elizabeth McCord (Téa Leoni) is happily living in a semi-retired state, teaching politics and looking after horses at her country ranch. But the current Secretary of State is involved

**"She projects intelligence and charisma as she handles the most delicate conflicts in the most humane, sensible way."**

in a fatal plane crash, Elizabeth is called on personally by her mentor/friend, the President of the United States (Keith Carradine), to fill in the position. Thrown into the deep end of Washington's political turmoil, each episode sees Elizabeth deal with a complex diplomatic situation.

Leoni excels in the central role, as she leads the rest of the cast of talented supporting players. She projects intelligence and charisma as she handles the most delicate conflicts in the most humane, sensible way, cleaning up after people's mistakes, being responsible for all American nationals on foreign soil, having to sign off on potentially dangerous top-secret missions, and to top it all off, she still has the mystery of the former Secretary of State's death hanging over her head. This season-long arc focuses on what will most definitely develop once the show finds its footing. And much like *The Good Wife* in which every episode involves an intriguing "case of the week" procedural style as well as successfully adding one big storyline to bring the season's episodes together, *Madam Secretary* has great potential to be just that. Except that instead of having legal, courtroom cases, the writers have more room to explore, given the power and responsibilities the role of

the Secretary of State carries.

Her staff, consisting of excellent actors Bebe Neuwirth, Patina Miller, Geoffrey Arend and Erich Bergen, all do their share of heavy-lifting in terms of adding both drama and the well-placed humour into the office, but also playing an equally big part in Elizabeth's life is of course her family. The way Leoni and Tim Daly (her husband, Henry McCord) interact completely sell the idea that they have been in a loving, committed relationship for many years now, and the show gives plenty of screen-time to their three children, adding more perspective and insight to the show.

All in all, it looks to be a great time for women in television. These are only a handful of primetime network dramas that are currently on air. Cable is pushing the boundaries even further. And there is certainly noticeable movement of actresses who worked predominantly on films to head to TV for more complex, deeper shows. And it is not difficult to see why. The material being offered in this industry is second to none, and women are no longer the supporting players, waiting to be rescued by men. Instead they are the ones taking charge, in powerful positions, making the important calls, and it is a continuing trend that thankfully shows no signs of slowing down at any time soon.



# Julianne Moore's Oscar-winning triumph

JOHN PARK  
SECTION EDITOR

## STILL ALICE

**Directors:** Richard Glatzer, Wash Westmoreland  
**Screenplay:** Richard Glatzer, Wash Westmoreland, Lisa Genova (novel)  
**Cast:** Julianne Moore, Alec Baldwin, Kristen Stewart, Kate Bostworth, Hunter Parrish



Photo: Richard Glatzer, Wash Westmoreland, Sony Pictures Classics

Julianne Moore is in a tragically isolated situation with *Still Alice*. She is largely left to fend for herself on the screen, and is perfect in every way. It starts with the little, subtle signs for Alice (Moore). A few words here and there, and forgetting what she just discussed with her family. As a lecturer she struggles with pauses, and later on, not remembering what she was supposed

to teach on that particular day. Her performance as a linguistics professor suffers as a result of this, and the harsh but honest feedback from her students forces her to face her reality.

Her initial assessment with the doctors reveals a troubling diagnosis, and it is all downhill from there for her memory. Making things worse is the hereditary nature of her disease. She not only worries for her, but for her young children (Kristen Stewart, Kate Bosworth, Hunter Parrish) as well, with even the possibility of her children passing this onto her future grandchildren also being something

she cannot rule out.

Moore is an actress who continues to raise the bar she sets for herself in a league of her own. Her filmography reads like a long list of performances she should have been, and to a certain extent was, awarded heavily for, and with this stunning, emotionally resonant film she finally gets her due.

For as long as she has some control, Alice frantically tries to jog her memory in whatever way she can, but as her audience we see the difficult and inevitable deterioration. Her husband John (Alec Baldwin) remains as supportive as he can, although he

finds himself having to make the choice between caring for his wife in a full-time capacity, and furthering his career that is on the rise.

Moore's restrained Oscar-winning performance is faultless in every frame, and the film is not afraid to show all the potential ugly sides the condition carries with it. Alice unable to keep a sense of direction leads to rather frightening consequences, her safety-net back-up plan for when things become unbearable for her is devastating. This truly is an extraordinary, heartfelt tale with no fancy, complicated story behind it. It

solely focuses on the woman herself, her step-by-step decline, and in its deceptive simplicity, it is outstanding because of it.

Alice's moving speech at an Alzheimer's conference, awkwardly strung together by a woman quite severely affected by the condition at the point, with uncomfortable gaps and with an understandable level of nerves from the character, is no doubt the tear-jerking highlight of the film. Try to resist crying listening to that.

Although given its grave, sensitive subject matter, the film wisely stays away from relying on melodramatic plot points. This truly is the most personal and intimate a character study can get, one that results in a deeply touching conclusion.

That Alzheimer's disease is incurable makes the film's ending all the more important, something *Still Alice* handles appropriately. Directors Wash Westmoreland and Richard Glatzer hit the inspirational note they intended on capturing, without offensively sugar-coating the hardship that comes with it. Alice Brown has a lot to teach us, in her life that was well lived and fulfilled.

# Whatever happened to Gary Webb?

JOHN PARK  
SECTION EDITOR

## KILL THE MESSENGER

**Director:** Michael Cuesta  
**Screenplay:** Peter Landesman, Gary Webb (book), Nick Schou (book)  
**Cast:** Jeremy Renner, Mary Elizabeth Winstead



In a time where the cases of Edward Snowden and Julian Assange are still left unresolved, *Kill the Messenger* serves as a timely piece to show how the practice of whistle-blowing can be a deadly game to get yourself into. Jeremy Renner heads this at-times flimsy but oddly captivating conspiracy thriller in which he is that classic old-school character of a newspaper journalist acting like a dog with a bone.

Sensing that he has stumbled upon what could be the biggest story of his career, Gary Webb (Renner) ignores the obvious warnings and dangers

surrounding his passion project, and continues digging in his search for the truth. What he uncovers is detrimental for the important people high up in the government: Webb is convinced that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) directly played a part in supplying huge amounts of cocaine to be sold in the poorest, most desperate parts of the United States, and used the huge profits from the sales to fund the Nicaraguan Contras rebel army.

Damning allegations for sure, and getting involved in such murky waters is bound to upset a lot of people. Initially a happily-married family man, Webb goes through the clichéd change of prioritising his work over his family. His wife Sue (Rosemarie DeWitt) is the first redundant character of many, as she plays the tired, same old role of a worried wife who wishes her husband would stay at home to look after their children.

His personal investigation into the matters at hand proves exciting however, well worth the hours spent pursuing numerous individuals and chasing up leads, sometimes taking him outside his home country. His editor Anna Simons (Mary Elizabeth

Winstead) is cautiously optimistic, as he insists that he does not believe in conspiracy theories. He does however believe in real conspiracies. And the more that he uncovers, the more we are inclined to agree with him.

Renner, despite being an integral part of three huge action franchises (*The Avengers*, *Mission Impossible*, *the Bourne* series), is someone who still finds the time to show off his dramatic versatility and acting prowess in the relatively smaller, less-seen films. As Gary Webb, Renner more than suits the scruffy, worn-down look, and his worsening obsession towards the story plays out well throughout the film, as does his paranoid tendency. His passion shines through, even in the film's weakest moments, as he convincingly portrays the likeable underdog. Being a journalist working for a relatively small newspaper, there is a sense that he has bitten off way more than he can chew, although the controversial report does manage to make its appearance on the newspaper's painfully old-fashioned, 90s website, which is when all hell breaks loose.

It does not take long for the mainstream news to gobble this up in its 24-hour news cycle, with messages

of both support and condemnation from various parties flying across every media outlet. But ultimately there is pressure from the powers that be, one that is too difficult to ignore.

Webb's reputation is tarnished and his article discredited for 'poor research'. Just exactly who is doing what at what level is shrouded in mystery, perhaps due to the fact that even to this day, it is not clearly known. But the point is, his life is falling apart, as people from both his professional and personal lives start pulling away from him, and the support that he once thought could rely on, is no more. Renner amps up his game in the second half, as the character grows more helpless with fewer places to turn to.

In the end, as with pretty much any conspiracies/cover-ups, it will be impossible to know to what extent the report was true. There are still doubts as to the circumstances surrounding Gary Webb's death (it was eventually ruled as a suicide). But whatever the case, the story of Gary Webb and his passion and ego fuelling his investigative journalism is one that is difficult to forget, thanks largely in part to Renner's solid lead performance.

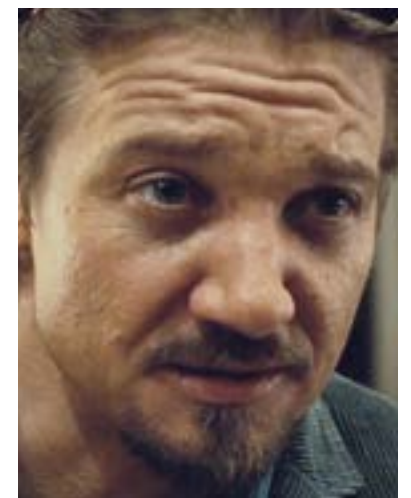


Photo: Michael Cuesta, Focus Features



Photo: Michael Cuesta, Focus Features



# The Grand Master of Impressionism

Indira Mallik takes a tour of artistic history at the National Gallery

It's not often that exhibitions are staged in celebration of art collectors. Perhaps it feels more like honouring the monetary value of the work than its impact, but *Inventing Impressionism* at the National Gallery shows how focussing on the collector can sometimes be a stroke of genius. The exhibition showcases the work of Renoir, Monet, and Degas amongst others through the life of Paul Durand-Ruel, a French art collector who is credited with championing the work of the Impressionists when contemporary reviews were mostly hostile.

We are introduced to the man himself at the opening room of the exhibition in a simulacrum of his drawing room. Displayed around a large black and white photograph of his drawing room are the paintings that hung there: Renoir, Monet, Cassat; a Rodin sculpture sits on the mantelpiece; a few chandeliers and Louis XIV chairs are thrown in for good measure. Presiding over it all is a likeness of Durand-Ruel by Renoir, whose rendering is unusually subdued, made up entirely in a palette of umbers and burnt siennas. A door with inlaid panels is also exhibited – made remarkable by the fact that they were decorated by Monet with small paintings of chrysanthemums and apples. Durand-Ruel wanted to show clients that they could display art in the unlikeliest of places.

Through the exhibition the image of Paul Durand-Ruel emerges not so much as the inventor of Impressionism, but as the inventor of the modern art world we know today. As a proto-modern art dealer he threw lavish parties, bought paintings for many times the average annual wage of a Frenchman of the time, and sometimes bought back the paintings that he thought had sold for too low a price. He was a shrewd business man; when the paintings by the 'new painters' didn't sell in his galleries, he invited clients to his home to see how stunning the paintings would look in a domestic setting. He set out to conquer international territory too; with the Paris and London scenes exhausted, he exhibited paintings in America, which saw the popularity and the fortune of Monet grow.

Durand-Ruel made his fortune selling paintings by the more established Courbet and Delacroix and well as works from the Barbizon school such as those of Charles-François Daubigny. Daubigny's technique of painting outdoors had led him to make Monet's acquaintance; it was through Monet

that Durand-Ruel met Pissarro. The works of all three painters are exhibited alongside each other which highlights not only Durand Ruel's journey as a collector, but the progression of the artists and their influences as well. Monet and Pissarro continued Daubigny's exploration into painting out of doors and would finish their paintings *en plein air* instead of back at the studio.

Durand-Ruel's taste for the more modern is clear in earlier finds as well. Gustav's Courbet *Woman in Waves* shows the goddess Venus rising from the surf, reminiscent of so many of the earlier mythological works, but here he includes the model's underarm hair, directly subverting the idea of femininity in his depiction of beauty personified. Durand-Ruel is rumoured to have paid a record price for this work, saying that this sort of work was far more to his taste than the academic pieces that he was accustomed to collecting. Subversion and the beginning of modern art are a continuing theme throughout the sixty plus pieces on show. Degas provides customary humour in his paintings, focusing on the balding heads of the audience as opposed to the scene being played out on stage in *The Ballet Scene*, or on a disinterested teacher reading the paper rather than the dancers in *The Ballet Class*.

The exhibition also seeks to highlight just how modern the Impressionists were; while the painters of previous generations used naturalistic colours and tiny brushstrokes blended together, the pieces of Renoir and Monet show just how liberated painting became. Instead of adopting muted shades, even the white dresses Renoir paints are alive with technicolour hues, lemon yellows, and cobalt blues. The brushstrokes are similarly vivacious – visceral daubs rather than layers and layers of gossamer fine renderings of colour. Even the subject matter is modern. Setting aside the previous generations' fondness for staged portraiture, mythological or biblical scenes, we are presented with scenes of contemporary suburbs, city life; Monet's loose brushwork in his numerous paintings that depict the Thames echo the veil like fog that permeated the city at the time.

The Impressionists were the first to reflect the world they saw around themselves back at the viewer, heightened and resplendent in colour – a celebration of the ordinary. Monet's ginormous depiction of golden brown pastries in *The Galettes* is enough to hearten any foodie Instagrammer – if it's good enough



Claude Monet, *Poplars in the Sun, 1891. Oil on canvas. Photo: National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo*

for him, it's probably good enough for us. It is through these artists that we were first offered a glimpse into the modern world. Monet's *Green Park* is furnished with stick like figures oddly reminiscent of L.S. Lowry's scenes of urban Manchester.

In some of the pieces we also see the beginnings of abstract painting. In Alfred Sisley's *The Flood*, vertical lines of a submerged tree and a telegraph pole are reflected in the flood waters, which meld into the same hued sky. For me, the undisputed star of the exhibition is the *Poplars* series by Monet. Monet painted 24 canvases of poplars in differing lights and seasons; here six have been reunited from across the world for the first time in many decades. The exhibition is worth the admission price for these alone. The trees pierce the canvas dead straight,

**"Although staged around Durand-Ruel, the art takes centre stage"**

tearing through the backdrop of sky and cloud; foliage swirls around the trunks like a gymnast's ribbon. The brushstrokes echo their movement in broad sweeps.

*Inventing Impressionism* is something of a blockbuster for the National Gallery. In bringing together so many big names, it creates a primer on Impressionism and the great art of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although staged around Durand-Ruel, it is the art that unquestionably takes centre stage. Impressionism has become such a staple of our art history that we can be desensitized to its power; *Inventing Impressionism* is the perfect antidote. If you go to just one exhibition this year, make it this one.

*Inventing Impressionism is on at The National Gallery, until 31<sup>st</sup> May. Tickets £16 Adults; £8 Students.*

# Man and Superman: Comedy and Philosophy

Emiel de Lange revels in life's big questions at the National's new production

*Man and Superman* is at once both funny and serious. Billed as a "comedy and a philosophy", this dual nature has posed problems in the past and at first Bernard Shaw staged these parts separately.

This season, the National Theatre presents the complete work, and, at almost four hours long it is quite an achievement. "The highest form of art is tragedy", remarks the Devil as he moans humanity's obsession with death. It is interesting then, that Shaw's ambitious work is successful as a comedy – the audience was frequently in hysterics. The humour is always witty and intelligent, and never distracts us from the deeper reflections; instead it underlines the absurdities of society, marriage, life. The play fully grapples with such big issues as the characters engage in lengthy debate. Indeed, our hero's verbosity is the butt of the final punchline, but the weight of his discourse refuses to be forgotten.

These torrents of words, a man's sincere attempt to find meaning in life, become spellbinding and deeply personal in the hands of



Don Juan (Ralph Fiennes) in Bernard Shaw's *Man and Superman*. Photo: Johan Persson

Ralph Fiennes, who plays the part with complete conviction. At the height of his philosophising he turns to the audience, his eyes red with emotion, and we have no choice but to empathise with him for, like him, we realise that we too seek answers to these questions. This powerful sequence, set in a hellish dream, gives way again to the plot whose sunny scenes at the poolside are now left with a sense of emptiness.

Perhaps this is the difficulty of the philosophical comedy, but as the remaining acts progress they do create their own significance. This is thanks in large part to the performance of Indira Varma as the heroine Ann – both a symbol of feminist emancipation and a danger to the freedom of men. Her character is endlessly intriguing and enigmatic, and her marriage to Fiennes' Tanner is revealed as the inevitable direction the plot must take. For Tanner to reverse his position on marriage so suddenly (having already heard a multitude of his revolutionary tirades on the subject) without a hint of contrivance we require formidable acting and direction, and that is what

we get.

Indeed, the entire cast is formidable and their comedic timing is perfect; I particularly enjoyed Tim McMullan's performance in the role of Mendoza and the Devil – the antagonist to Fiennes' philosophical searching and the comedic centrepiece (the bickering between his anarchist and social democrat friends was particularly funny). Only the working-London accent of Straker and Hector Malone's American felt slightly forced and unnatural.

The scenery, designed by Christopher Oram, with videos by Luke Halls, is beautifully vague while still providing necessary context; dreamy backdrops of moving clouds or hell-fire surround a more concrete set of props. These props are unobtrusive and do not distract from the drama, but add a comic touch now and then – such as the elevator between heaven and hell. If, like me, you enjoy theatre that is deep and thought-provoking, then this is a must-see play.

*Man and Superman is on at the National Theatre until 15<sup>th</sup> May. Tickets from £15.*

# IC Choir Enthralled with Rapturous 'O Fortuna'

KAMIL MCCLELLAND  
ARTS EDITOR

*Carmina Burana* is a piece almost every person recognises, if not in name then for the monumental 'O Fortuna', used countless times in popular culture. This could very well have been why the IC Choir chose to perform it in their Spring Concert, alongside Bob Chilcott's 'Songs and Cries of London Town'. However, I often find that, because audiences approach performances of well-known pieces with a great deal of knowledge, expectations are inevitably higher and this all too commonly results in the anticlimactic results.

Fortunately I did not feel it was the result with this performance, a difficult piece tackled with tact and respect. I must however admit at this point that I am not a great fan of either piece performed in this concert and this may have very well biased my opinion of their rendition; I find *Carmina Burana*, written in the mid-1930s, somewhat falls short of its attempt to evoke the style and spirit of the mediaeval poetry it is based on, and I feel Chilcott's work is too cliché, a 'pleasant' piece (not used as a positive term) that has no real

backbone to it.

Having said that, I was looking forward to what the choir was able to make of these pieces, whether they were able to rid me of my pessimism and convince me that the works deserve all the attention they receive. Their cause was not helped by the choice of venue, the Great Hall, with its truly dreadful acoustics, and the fact the house lights were not lowered during the performance, meaning an atmosphere was not really created that was conducive to enjoying the rich musical textures created by the choir. How is it possible to truly transport listeners to an 11<sup>th</sup> century Bavarian monastery when you are made acutely aware of your less than holy surroundings?

We started off with Chilcott's homage to the bustle of London's street markets with help from a wonderful children's choir from the St. Marylebone C.E. School. I honestly find it very difficult to review student productions. Do I hold them to professional standards or to a kind of 'student' standard that takes into account the fact they are amateurs? As a student production, it was excellent, maybe not quite as good as the phenomenal IC SO last week but certainly one of the better ones I had seen. But yes, there were times when

singers did not come in perfectly on cue, did not have the vocal strength or were not cohesive enough: a group of one hundred individual singers instead of an undulating auditory body full of intrigue and emotion. More could have also been done to build excitement into the pieces through the use of dramatic dynamics and the modulation of the speed of the piece. However, when you take the piece as a whole, it was highly enjoyable, with particular commendation to the dual pianists, who kept the piece driving forward, a central force in integrating all its parts.

Next on to the main spectacle that burst into life with 'O Fortuna', supported by a fantastic percussion section and of course the famous timpani part. Although it could have been even louder, more epic and expansive – though this may have been an issue with the acoustics – I cannot deny the looks of joy on my fellow audience members' faces.

This work also showcased three superb solo vocalists, baritone Timothy Connor, tenor Joseph Doody and finally the soprano Jenny Stafford: highly talented musicians who were able to manipulate their voices like putty to evoke any emotion required, thoroughly

convincing in their roles. They brought a more polished performance to the concert and, when paired with the piano, were spectacular.

It was refreshing to see the real passion on the faces of the choir members and whilst there were moments that were not as strong, such as faster sections where I found the singers too preoccupied with enunciating the words as opposed to the quality of the sound they produced, there were also moments of sheer brilliance, such as a long sustained note that persisted with me for minutes after.

It is difficult to write an overall review as the quality did occasionally fluctuate but the rousing finale did mean that I left the concert with a definite satisfaction with the evening. Undeniably there was a lot of skill on that stage but perhaps just slightly more rehearsal time would have elevated the performance to greater heights.

Be sure to catch their upcoming performance on 5<sup>th</sup> June at St. Stephen's Church where they will perform John Rutter's Magnificat and Berstein's Chichester Psalms. Hopefully they will be as thrilling as in this performance, especially being in a slightly more atmospheric environment.

**"I cannot deny the looks of joy on my fellow audience members' faces."**

**"A difficult piece tackled with tact and respect."**



# Antigone: An Atonal, Atypical Astonishment

Juliette Binoche impresses **Fred Fyles**, in this measured, unique production of Sophocles' *Antigone*



Obi Abili, Juliette Binoche, and Patrick O'Kane (From Left to Right) in Ivo van Hove's *Antigone*. Photo: Jan Versweyveld

In a recent interview, given to promote his 2014 production of Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*, which opened at the **Young Vic** to overwhelming critical acclaim before making the switch to Broadway, Belgian director Ivo van Hove said "I am not so interested in good and evil". Therefore, it seems that he is an incongruous choice for director of Sophocles' *Antigone*, a classic that so clearly revolves around ideas of 'right' and 'wrong'. This fact, combined with the reputation van Hove has obtained for his radical reinterpretations of the stalwarts of the theatrical canon, means that those attending the **Barbican's** production of *Antigone* – somewhat of a misnomer; this is in fact an international production, with input from French, British, Luxembourgian, and Dutch

**"... it hits all the right notes, but plays an atonal tune"**

companies – are already expecting something out of the ordinary. Combine this with the fact that the lead role is being taken on by French actor Juliette Binoche, a legend of arthouse cinema who has starred in films by Jean-Luc Godard, Krzysztof Kieslowski, and Michael Haneke, and the hype surrounding the production reaches fever pitch. Of course, this is only the latest in what seems to be a new trend of established actors taking on some of Greek theatre's most challenging women; after Kristin Scott Thomas' turn in the **Old Vic's** *Electra*, and Helen McCrory's interpretation of woman scorned in the **National Theatre's** *Medea*, it seemed that Binoche had a lot to live up to. This production of *Antigone* does not disappoint, although the effect of van Hove's direction is disconcerting; it hits all the right

notes, but plays an atonal tune.

It is Canadian playwright Anne Carson who has taken on the challenge of translating the original Greek text, updating it for a more modern audience. A high drama, *Antigone* centres around the daughter of Oedipus; cursed by birthright, with a family "double triple degraded and dirty in every direction", Antigone has had a life of misery and shame – her mother's granddaughter, and her father's sister, Antigone has seen her two brothers kill each other in battle over control of the city-state of Thebes. The void left has been filled by her uncle Kreon, who attempts to establish some kind of order in the war-torn city through autocratic rule. His first edict: to bury Eteocles, the defender of Thebes, and to leave Polyneikes, who launched the war, out in the desert, unburied

**"Cursed by birthright, Antigone has had a life of misery and shame."**

and unmourned. Defying her uncle, headstrong Antigone buries the body, and is therefore condemned to death.

At first sight this seems to be a straight-cut tale of a tyrant opposed to humanity, but Carson's translation helps reintroduce the ambiguity at the heart of the play – the interaction between *physis*, or natural laws, and *nomos*, those laws made by man. Antigone bluntly refuses to acknowledge these new laws – "you call that law... Zeus does not/Justice does not." Binoche says these lines, not with venom, but with a simple clarity – consigned to her fate, all she can do is shrug her shoulders. And yet, Antigone is far from a sympathetic figure; as unrelenting as Kreon, she goes towards her death like a reckless teen. When her sister Ismene (Kirsty Bushell) tries to share the responsibility for the burial,

Antigone screams at her "leave my death alone/you did not lay a hand on this/you cannot make it yours/for me to die is altogether adequate", to which Ismene can only reply "I'll be so lonely". Antigone also seems to exhibit Freud's Death Drive, as she rushes headlong into the abyss; fantasising about her coming doom, she envisions the tomb as a bridal chamber where she shall 'marry' her brother – "one day we'll lie together in the grave he and I side by side/for death is long".

Antigone is above all a complex character, exhibiting both a challengingly unendearing nature and an understandable motive for her actions; Binoche excels, with a measured, nuanced performance.

A particular highlight of the translation is the skill with which Carson has handled the *stichomythia*, or alternating single lines. As Antigone argues with Kreon, the rhythm of these lines help create an atmosphere of high tension, driving forward the drama; not only that, but they give a chance for Antigone, that ideal of a headstrong heroine, to show her cutting wit: "one man rule has

its advantages doesn't it?" she says; "you're the only person in Thebes who sees things this way", he replies; "no actually they all do/but you've nailed their tongues to the floor." Such well measured, economical verse is a highlight in what is an excellent interpretation of the original text, something for which Carson should be applauded.

For those audience members expecting emotional crescendos and pummeling pathos, prepare to be let down. van Hove makes the radical decision to have the characters speak their lines in calm, even tones; it robs the text of its urgency, but somehow works, conjuring up an atmosphere of unease reflecting the moral quandary at the heart of the play. It is as if someone has sucked the oxygen out of the room, leaving behind a vacuum that can only be filled with our undivided attention. Patrick O'Kane is especially good in the role of Kreon, imbuing his tyrant-king with insecurity and a coldness that only breaks towards the end of the play, when his actions have brought about the destruction of his clan. I believe that had van Hove made the decision

**"Binoche excels as Antigone, with a measured, nuanced performance of a complex character"**



Kirsty Bushell, Samuel Edward-Cook, Finbar Lynch, Kathryn Pogson and Obi Abili (From Left to Right) in Ivo van Hove's *Antigone* Photo: Jan Versweyveld

to play *Antigone* straight it would have become just another in a long line of Greek tragedies, or – worse – a hammy melodrama.

What also sets this production apart is the lack of that most characteristic of features: a chorus. Instead of having the traditional group of elderly Greek men, van Hove lets each actor in turn take on some of the lines spoken, resulting in a democratic version of *Antigone*, in which one character blurs into another. The effect is startling, and it is only when reading the script that one realises who is supposed to be saying what. This decision, to split up what is traditionally seen as some form of conscious, reflects the insecurity that lies at the heart of all of the characters.

That being said, there are some moments of the play that simply don't work: the lines of the guard, for example, are delivered in such a way as to try and conjure up a humour that just doesn't sit right within the production; the fact that the actors' voices are so levelled means that many have to be mic'ed up, which completely alters the quality of sound, and means that the rustling of clothing is amplified to an annoying degree. The effect of such things is to take us out of the moment, replacing pathos with bathos, and reminding us that we are – after all – an audience in a theatre. The reason that Greek drama has continued to be meaningful is that it connects with people throughout history; these decisions by van Hove make it all the more difficult to establish this fateful connection.

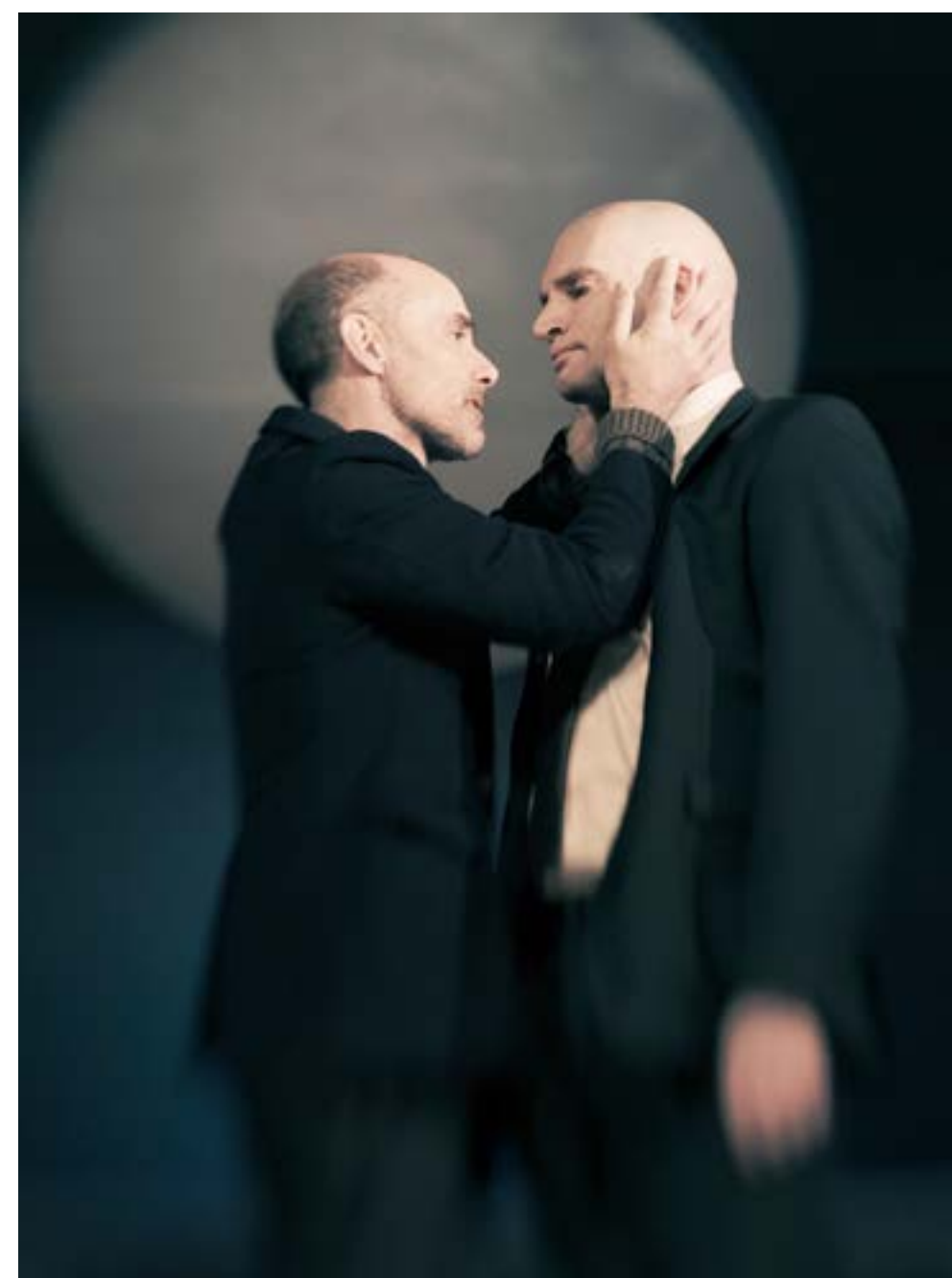
Such dramas lend themselves well to minimalist staging, and *Antigone* is no exception: a vast blank space,

with a grave-like depression in the middle, and a blank circle at the back. At the beginning of the production, this circle moves back, revealing a vast round sun; as the play goes on the circle slowly revolves round, suggesting a single continuous series of events. This, combined with the music, which is largely minimalist organ drones, means that we are less in the ancient palace of Kreon than in a Philip Glass opera. It definitely works, allowing all the attention to be focussed on the actors. However, some unwelcome additions intrude on the minimalist setting; black sofas, typewriters, and shelves of video cassettes conjure up the atmosphere of a modern office, something that seems completely incongruous to the ethos of the play. The back of the stage is used as a vast screen, on which various scenes are projected: desert landscapes, blurred city scenes, and Antigone's lifeless body. It wouldn't be a van Hove production without some kind of modern technology, but – bar one point at the end of the play – it never intrudes on the action.

If this production of *Antigone* is remembered for one thing it will not be for Juliette Binoche's sterling performance, nor Ivo van Hove's radical interpretation, but for the stunning new translation from Anne Carson, who handles the text with delicacy and wit. This play is urgent; it quietly demands to be seen, stealing your attention for the entire 100-minute run. A different take on a classic, van Hove's production is disquietingly enjoyable, and unnervingly excellent.

*Antigone is on at the Barbican Centre until 28<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets from £16; Young Barbican tickets available.*

**"It is as if someone has sucked the oxygen out of the room, leaving a vacuum"**



Finbar Lynch and Patrick O'Kane (From Left to Right) in Ivo van Hove's *Antigone* Photo: Jan Versweyveld



# Imperial's fashionistas of the week: meet Corinna, John, Laura and Bilal

Cécile Borkhataria searches for the best dressed ladies and gents on campus, digging deep into where they get their fashion inspiration from



Photo: Cécile Borkhataria

Meet Corinna Lamberti, a 4<sup>th</sup> year Biochemistry with Management student. This stylish Italian lady channels understated chic in all her looks, citing vogue and Pinterest as some of her obvious sources of fashion inspiration. She also gets her inspiration from lookbook, a popular fashion blogging community where people from all over the world upload pictures of themselves wearing their favourite outfits.

Being from Italy, Corinna's style has a distinctly European feel to it, often featuring darker, muted colours. Some of her fashion icons include British models Cara Delevingne, Kate Moss and famous art collector Peggy Guggenheim. Corinna has a weakness for french designers, listing Celine, Lanvin and Isabel Marant as some of her favourite labels.

Corinna herself describes her style as European and minimalistic, with a particular penchant for statement jewellery. By combining high end and high street pieces, she looks effortlessly stylish and put together.

## Where did she get it?

Black coat: Max Mara  
Top: Cividini  
Jeans: Top Shop  
Shoes: Asos  
Necklace: Urban  
Outfitters  
Bag: Vive la difference



Photo: Cécile Borkhataria

John Ferguson is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year mechanical engineering Scotsman from Dundee. You can usually spot him in the CGCU building wearing an ultra suave suit or waiscoat. This time however, I caught him on one of his more smart casual days. John takes pride in the clothes he wears, preferring to blow his student loan on nice clothes instead of unnecessary things like smart phones (he still walks around with a pre-historic brick phone.) However, what he lacks in portable tech, he more than makes up for in bringing it in fashion stakes.

John cites the popular men's fashion magazine GQ as a source of his fashion inspiration, as well as movies (probably James Bond). After pressing him for a particular fashion icon, he mentions that he loves Eddie Redmayne's fashion sense. I don't blame him; Eddie Redmayne is a fine man indeed!

Describing his style as "classic" and "dapper", it's not surprising that he chooses to shop at places like Reiss, Suit Supply, Hugo Boss and All Saints. When he's feeling more high street, John's go-to store is always Uniqlo.

## Where did he get it?

Jumper: Uniqlo  
Jeans: Uniqlo  
Shoes: Independent boutique in Italy  
Watch: Time Design  
Belt: vintage  
Glasses: Ray Ban  
Headphones: Sony

## Get the look

Like the looks these guys and gals are wearing? Here are some of the essential items they're wearing that completed their look. A simple outfit can always be made to look more stylish with a great pair of shoes or accessories. Invest in these, and you can even make a white t-shirt and jeans from H&M look good.

These black shoes can be worn with anything – pair them with skinny jeans for a casual look, or wear it with a dress to tone down a feminine look. These shoes are an edgier take on the traditional Chelsea boot, and the heel gives a height boost for petite girls.  
**Shoes: Asos Daisy Street Black Chunky Chelsea Boots**  
**Price: £34.99**



Ray ban Wayfarers will always be in style, especially if you buy them in black.  
**Sunglasses: The Sunglass Hut**  
**Price: £125.00**



Photo: Cécile Borkhataria

Laura De Arroyo Garcia (what a mouthful) is a Spanish student studying Biochemistry with Management. She describes her style as preppy, and gets her inspiration from ready to wear fashion collections and Instagram fashionistas, particularly Spanish ones (of course).

Being Spanish, Laura loves a bit of Zara. Combining affordable fashion with high end looks, the brand is a fashion sensation for good reason. Zara is practically an institution in Spain anyway, so you'll rarely come across a Spaniard who doesn't love the brand. Laura also loves high end brands Yves Saint Laurent, Cavalli and Armani. She swears by Cavalli skinny jeans. They're the only jeans she ever goes for because they give "the best fit".

The former IC cheerleader and gymnast often pairs her looks with signature knee high boots, instantly and effortlessly dressing up any look. Laura's also very into jewellery, which is always important when one wants to 'girlify' a look. So what are her go-to pieces of choice? Usually a pearl necklace with an 'L' pendant letter for her name. Oh, and her Rolex, of course!

## Where did she get it?

Necklace: Vintage  
Sweater: Zara  
Jeans: Just Cavalli  
Boots: Zara  
Watch: Rolex  
Bracelet: Swarovski

Pandora bracelets have been a fashion sensation since 2003. The concept is simple: buy a plain charm bracelet, and buy and accumulate charms gradually. Eventually, you'll end up with a bracelet loaded with charms!  
**Bracelet: Pandora Charm Bracelet - Sterling Silver**  
**Price: £55.00**



A leather loafer is a man's best friend. The instantly dress up a casual look, making you look more polished.  
**Shoes: River Island loafers with Tassels**  
**Price: £50.00**



Photo: Cécile Borkhataria

At first, Bilal About El Ela was slightly apprehensive about featuring in the spread, but after some convincing, the temptation to appear in *Felix* was all but too much.

Bilal's not your traditional fashionista; it's all-natural for him. When it comes to where he gets his inspiration from, he insists that he doesn't get his inspiration from any online sources, blogs or websites. Instead, he believes his style has been distinctly influenced by growing up in Spain.

He likes to wear light, colourful and summery outfits. His put-together, smart look is classically Spanish. When I asked him about his fashion icons, he couldn't think of a single guy. After some thought though, he responded with, possibly, the most unique answer I've heard yet: his father. Bilal channels his dad's Spanish fashion sense. And isn't that the best gift a parent can give?

If you want to look as cool as Bilal, look no further than Spanish retailer Massimo Dutti. He says they're the best for trousers. For jumpers, Bilal goes to preppy retailer Gant (the closest one to IC is next to Harrods). Not surprisingly, Bilal also loves Hugo Boss, and everything else that's stylish and "not too flashy".

## Where did he get it?

Jumper: Springfield  
Trousers: Massimo Dutti  
Shoes: Vintage loafers  
Watch: Raymond Weil

## Have you spotted anyone fashionable on campus?

Take a picture and send it to [fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk), and it could be published in the next issue!



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# VARSITY 2015

18.03.2015

EDITED BY  
KUNAL WAGLE





# VARSITY 2015

The Rugby Showdown: Men

## Interviews with the captains

### James Cox, 1st XV College Captain



#### How has your season gone so far?

Considering the 2 month ban and the fact the team have been relegated, there have been some very good results in the second term. A win at Varsity would be a great way to end a very disjointed season.

#### How much does this match mean to your team?

Just as much as any other league game really. There is the added incentive to get one over on the Medics, however it will be approached just like any other game.

#### How much will last week's result between you both have a bearing on next week?

You can't relate the two games, not only is it a completely different environment, the teams will also be very different.

**"I have every confidence in my players to deliver on the day."**

#### Which game do you consider more important to your season – The Stoop or the League?

At the end of the day next Wednesday is just another league game, so both are just as important as each other.

#### How much are you looking forward to playing at The Stoop?

The support is what makes it such a special occasion and the whole team are looking forward to the evening. Also, the post-match food at The Stoop is pretty good.

#### Where will this game be won and lost?

Based on previous matches between the two teams, the forwards will play a huge part. So winning the battle up front I think will be a huge factor in determining who comes out on top.

#### Prediction for the game?

It's a tough one to call, it'll definitely be a closely contested match. However, I have every confidence in my players to deliver on the day and come out on top.

| PROVISIONAL LINE UP |                  |              |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 14. O'Donnell       | 15. Hawkings     | 11. White    |
| 13. MacBeth         | 12. Moorby       |              |
|                     | 10. Cox (C)      |              |
|                     | 9. Durkin        |              |
|                     | 8. Hedley        | 7. McKay     |
|                     | 6. Radigan       |              |
|                     | 4. Nielsen-Scott | 5. Lai       |
| 1. Johnston         | 2. Hobson        | 3. Tomlinson |

### Scott Godfrey, 1st XV Medics Captain



#### How has your season gone so far?

This season has certainly been an interesting one, from some absolutely smashing phases and cracking games to some disheartening losses. Overall though, we have seen some figures really stand out and embody the club's mentality and I think we have a great foundation to build on in the future.

#### How much does this match mean to your team?

Needless to say, this game is always hugely anticipated and this year is no different.

#### How much will last week's result between you both have a bearing on next week?

Last week was a good match to watch and saw a lot of potential from both sides. It also highlighted where we need to work on to shutdown Imperial's style of play.

#### Which game do you consider more important to your season – The Stoop or the League?

As important as the league is to us,

**"There's nothing quite like playing against IC at The Stoop"**

there's nothing quite like playing against IC at The Stoop. I certainly will be waking up on Varsity and having a lovely bubble bath just to calm the nerves.

#### How much are you looking forward to playing at The Stoop?

Although the Stoop lacks Heston's invigorating and lively spirit it still draws a thrilling atmosphere and is a great venue for this archaic grudge match.

#### Where will this game be won and lost?

In the end, the game will be decided by whoever scores more points.

#### Prediction for the game?

A lot of rugby will be played and whoever runs with the confidence will shatter the opposition's defence.

| PROVISIONAL LINE UP |             |           |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 14. Ben             | 15. Jack    | 11. Vaki  |
|                     | 13. Anthony | 12. Jon   |
|                     | 10. Alex    |           |
|                     | 9. Andrew   |           |
|                     | 8. Thomas   | 7. Jamie  |
|                     | 6. Luke     |           |
|                     | 4. Conor    | 5. Joe    |
| 1. Adrian           | 2. Ollie    | 3. Vernon |

# VARSITY 2015

The Rugby Showdown: Women

## Interviews with the captains

### Words from the club captain

Women's rugby playing at The Stoop for this year's varsity is an interesting change to normal tradition. Although the men will still be playing their match, it will be followed up by a 40 minute 10s match from the women. Most of our matches are only ever witnessed by whatever subs we manage to pull together and the odd parent, so this is a new experience for us. Needless to say, with only a week to go, nerves are starting to kick in. However these

are slightly lessened by the knowledge that everyone in the stands will have had a bit to drink and they'll be too far away for us to make out any heckling. But seriously, don't heckle. Rude. All in all, it should be a fun night and hopefully it'll show everyone that rugby is a women's sport too.

**MONA THEODORAKI  
WOMEN'S RUGBY CAPTAIN**

### Alice Liberman, College Captain



#### How has your season gone so far?

Women's rugby at Imperial has gone from strength to strength this year. We enjoyed one of the biggest fresher intakes we have ever had and this has enabled us to build the foundations of a superb team.

#### Does playing against people you normally play with add an edge to the game?

Yes, playing against people who are normally our team mates means that we have all had to significantly up our game. We will be bringing an element

of surprise to the pitch!

#### Has there been any specific preparation for this game in addition to normal training?

Yes, there have been additional training sessions for both teams with separate coaches. This will ensure we are all on our A game at Stoop.

#### How much are you looking forward to playing at the Stoop?

It is a fantastic opportunity to play at the home of the Harlequins and we are all extremely excited about being given this opportunity.

#### Where will this game be won and lost?

Je ne comprends pas...

#### Prediction for the game?

Well I'm not going to predict that we are going to lose am I?

**"Women's rugby has gone from strength to strength this year."**

| PROVISIONAL LINE UP |             |                 |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 14. Lakhani         | 15. Simpson | 11. Ellison     |
|                     | 10. Gago    |                 |
|                     | 9. Edwards  |                 |
|                     | 8. Thomas   | 7. Jamie        |
|                     | 6. Luke     |                 |
|                     | 4. Mobley   | 5. Liberman (C) |
| 1. Chambon          | 2. Peruho   | 3. Grant        |

### Elisabeth Robinson, Medics Captain



#### How has your season gone so far?

It's been a bumpy season truth be told, having lost a lot of senior players at the end of last year we took a slight knock to our winning streaks. However we've had a massive intake of very talented and promising freshers who have showcased their skills well in matches. This has left us high in the London League.

#### Does playing against people you normally play with add an edge to the game?

Definitely. There's a good level of banter between us and the other team, and I'm sure knowing their players' strengths and weaknesses as well as our own will help us play strategically to our advantage.

#### Has there been any specific preparation for this game in addition to normal training?

That would be telling... Yes... but the other team will probably read this so we're giving nothing away.

#### How much are you looking forward to playing at the Stoop?

SO SO MUCH! It's a big thing for us obviously, playing high level rugby at a famous ground is any young players dream. Even playing in front of a crowd will be exciting and a first for most of our team. But on top of

**"It's certainly not going to be a dull game."**

this, for a women's sport to be the headline act at varsity for the first time is a huge step forward for sport at imperial. We're hoping watching our game will not only raise the profile of women's rugby, but inspire more women at Imperial to take part in sport!

#### Where will this game be won and lost?

Definitely rucks and Wings. IC has a forward heavy team whereas we have a higher proportion of backs. In this 10s game our stamina will be under scrutiny, so we will have to work hard to continue clearing out the rucks and making the crucial runs for the line.

#### Prediction for the game?

Tricky, it's all to play for. I think it'll be close but our experience and intensive training regimes will support us to victory. Watch and see – it's certainly not going to be a dull game.

| PROVISIONAL LINE UP |                 |            |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 14. Russell         | 15. Gottardi    | 11. Drew   |
|                     | 10. Fok         |            |
|                     | 9. Richardson   |            |
|                     | 8. Hedley       | 7. McKay   |
|                     | 6. Radigan      |            |
|                     | 4. Theodoraki   | 5. Oussena |
| 1. Xiong            | 2. Robinson (C) | 3. Lumby   |



# VARSITY 2015

Rugby / Football

## RUGBY 3RD XV ICSM

It's been a troubled season for the Medics 3s that has gained momentum towards the business end. With many new faces integrating into the club, competition for places within the team has been fierce. Many of the past 3s players have shown the fresh talent the ropes and now a fluidity within the team has started to take shape, with that comes the confidence required. It's set to be a great varsity afternoon for IMRFC 3s.

**Squad:**  
Weaver  
Hamilton-Jenkins  
Hazzanadeh-Baboli  
Naeem  
Tirimanna  
Jin  
Cearns  
Pallant  
Patel  
Dawood  
Campbell  
Knighton  
Cullen  
Kerr  
Sullivan

## FOOTBALL 1ST XI IC

As we approach the end of another gruelling season, IC 1s are yet again on the cusp of greatness. After consolidating their position in the third tier of BUCS, the team now find themselves one game away from the LUSL league title. With a cup Semi Final still to come, this could prove to be one of their most successful seasons in recent history.

IC triumphed 3-2 over their Medic counterparts earlier in the season, but critics do not expect this reverse fixture to be anywhere near as close. With a philosophy that encourages free flowing attacking football and a brand of play that is sure to get fans off their seats, IC will be expected to put their opponents to the sword from the very first minute.

And with the most potent attacking duo in university football, Robinson and Murphy, leading the line, the ruthless streak that has defined IC's performances all season will really



The Imperial College 1st XI (Football)

come to the fore. Expect goals. Expect fireworks. Expect an IC win.

**Squad:**  
Samuel Mason  
Samuel Cartmill  
Ivan Diaz-Rios  
Miles Covers  
Peter Nugent  
Lee Lawson  
Daniel Moxham  
Matthew Knights  
Jonathan Crawford  
Shahob Khosrowshahi  
Alexander Vervaeke  
Robert Maizonnier  
Nozomi Satake  
James Murphy  
Dominic Affron  
Jack Robinson

## FOOTBALL 1ST XI ICSM



The Imperial College Medics 1st XI (Football)

Following the double promotion season of 2012-13, ICSM FC 1st XI have been in transition. The rebuild that begun last season, with heroic relegation battles, has continued this campaign.

In BUCS we have cemented our place in the league and done well to prevent free-fall; the highlight being a 10-0 aggregate win over Canterbury. In LUSL things has been tough, as life should be in the Premier League. We have pitted our wits against the first teams from the big London universities and although we've often come up second, it has been by fine margins.

An agonising 3-2 defeat to our Varsity counterparts was somewhat compensated by a victory against IC

2s. The aforementioned defeat was a thoroughly enjoyable and evenly matched game against our great rivals. Our UH dream is still alive, but in the meantime, we fully intend to get some silverware under our belt.

Our defence is built on the heroic efforts of Tom Page and Hugh Ford whilst our 3 pronged attack offer strength and dynamism, not least thanks to Kem Onubogu – playing in his final Varsity. A home fixture is long overdue in Varsity and this year we welcome Imperial College to Heston... let battle commence.

**Squad:**  
Hugh Ford (GK)  
Thomas Page  
Ken Mawhinney  
Jonathon Trouping  
Thomas Stroud  
Joshua Welsh  
Kavian Kulasabanathan (VC)  
Michael David (C)

and most frequent MOTM Henry 'Meatball' Rowett is one to watch – expect a domineering performance at the back accompanied by clean sheet stalwart Jason Tse.

Despite this, stats and accolades don't quite describe how well gelled and team-oriented the 2s are, with the undeniable and overriding characteristic of 'wanting it'. The 2s look forward to embarrassing the Medics on their home turf.

**Squad:**  
Daniel Casas Bofarull  
Phillip Gantner  
Dylan Patel  
Christopher Rochester  
James Clarke  
Jason Tse  
Henry Rowett  
John Pyrah  
Alex-Hugh Wilson  
Francisco Baptista  
James Stewart  
William Billingsley  
Andrew Sears-Black  
Isa Ibrahim

## FOOTBALL 3RD XI IC

The 3s go into varsity in scintillating form, sitting one win away from gaining an unprecedented 3rd consecutive BUCS promotion that would make them one of the most successful IC sports teams in recent history and put them above the Medics 1sts in BUCS. This season has seen some sensational performances where we have made easy work of higher ranked and supposedly higher quality teams.

Scouse goal machine, Ant Wilson, has been banging them in for fun and stand out performances from Fraser Read, Thomas Mies and David Monk have fuelled the title charge. Come the 18th of March, the 3s will be looking to exhibit the vast gap in quality against the division 5 Medics 3rds team and deliver a professional and ruthless performance that hopefully involves a lot of goals for the travelling IC fans to celebrate.

**Squad:**  
Taha Butt (C)  
David Monk (GK)  
Inigo Torres  
Samuel Duffield  
Christopher Schon  
Kyle Weaving  
Fraser Read  
Julian Iacoponi  
Kieran McMorran  
Thomas Mies  
Oliver Bright

## FOOTBALL 3RD XI ICSM

We have had another good season this year. Following last season's narrow miss for promotion in our Saturday league, we have pushed

on again this year in attempt for promotion.

A great start saw us leading the league for the majority of the season. However, we suffered a couple of narrow losses and it seems we are going to end up just outside of the promotion places again. Furthermore, we have improved in the Wednesday league, finishing comfortably in the upper half.

We have a very strong squad this year, with depth in every position, applying pressure on one another for places in the starting line-up. We have shown this year that our defensive ability has been top class, allowing our more creative players to have license to travel forward and cause problems for the opposition. This will be vital in our victory at varsity.

Last year we performed well and lost narrowly, this year we will be coming back with a very strong squad to push for victory. There is fantastic desire in the team and I firmly believe that the Medics 3rd XI will be victorious and hold the bragging rights this year.

**Squad:**  
Joshua Jewell  
Sebastian Povlsen  
Daniel Baits  
Guy Hucker (C)  
Joel Corkill  
Varun Sudunagunta  
Hisham Abubakar-Waziri  
Alexander Huepers  
Obinna Abani  
Panagiotis Pardalidis  
Christian Cave  
Vijay Ramadoss  
Alex Collins  
Michael Bussell  
Alexander Leone  
Javier Hernandez Suarez  
Anthony Wilson  
Andrei Pogan

## FOOTBALL 4TH XI IC

This season has been a challenging one for the 4's. After a slow start the teams form ignited in BUCS early on as we remained unbeaten until January. This run led to the team holding the illustrious Christmas number 1 spot in the BUCS table, fuelling dreams of promotion.

Saturdays proved more difficult however as we found ourselves in a new LUSL league playing against some of the best teams London has to offer. After a series of poor results the squad's strong team spirit pulled us through as performances began to pick up after the festive break.

Though our form has waned in BUCS, the LUSL survival campaign is now in full swing. A recent string of wins has made the impossible look achievable. The team has managed to pull itself out of the relegation zone in LUSL with only one game left to spare, hitting a rich vein of form just in time for the Varsity fixture.

# Union Page

## Hear the results. LIVE.



The Results Party for The Big Elections 2015, will be held at 20:00 on Friday 13 March. With results announced right from the start, the atmosphere will be electric! Following the results will be our Impulse DJ until 02:00.

It's a chance for everyone to come and celebrate the end of the election - whether you are successful in your campaign or not, you deserve to enjoy yourself after two weeks of frantic canvassing!

For more information go to:

[imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections)

## Join the Imperial Hub committee

What have you done today to change the world? Joining the Imperial Hub committee offers you the chance to get stuck in and lead programmes in education, health, community volunteering, international development, environment, social enterprise and technology. Make your mark at university - make a difference.

We're recruiting for a new committee. Join us and be like these happy sunny social leaders. Visit: [www.imperialhub.org/join-us](http://www.imperialhub.org/join-us) for more information.

## The 2015 SACAs Shortlists are out!



The Student Academic Choice Awards - or SACAs for short - are Imperial College Union's flagship event for empowering students to recognise, reward and celebrate excellence amongst College staff. This year, all the SACA records were smashed - 586 students sent in 808 nominations, for 407 members of staff - an increase of two-thirds on the 2014 SACAs. Staff were put forward from every part of College, including every faculty, department and campus.

Since nominations closed, panels of student Academic Representatives have been sifting through the 80,000 words of nominations sent in by students - and they have selected the six best nominees in each category, who are now the 2015 SACAs Shortlistees.

Full details of each Shortlistee can be found on:

[imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas)

Free STI testing is available at Imperial College Union, provided by the Terrence Higgins Trust and Earls Court Health & Wellbeing Centre

Gonorrhoea, chlamydia and HIV tests will be available, as well as contraception and sexual health advice.

Appointments are free but availability is limited.

Please email [sexualhealth@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sexualhealth@imperial.ac.uk) to request a slot, including your preferred time.

## Develop your skills through volunteering

Have you volunteered this academic year? Did you know you can take part in Imperial Plus? Whether you've volunteered for a Club, Society or Project; been an Academic Rep; Hall Senior or volunteered with College or Imperial Hub you are eligible to work towards a Volunteer Certificate or Accreditation.

Create a record of your achievements and get recognition for volunteering 25, 50, 75 or 100 hours. The skills you develop through volunteering are invaluable. Imperial Plus helps you to identify and reflect on these skills so that you feel confident to show graduate recruiters just how amazing you are!

We are almost two terms down but it's not too late to sign up! You can backdate your volunteering hours and there are still training workshops taking place this and next term.

Taking part is easy! Find out more and sign up by visiting:

[imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus)

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**VARSITY 2015**

**18.03.2015**



**IMPERIAL COLLEGE**



**IMPERIAL MEDICALS**



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# VARSITY 2015

With the energetic midfield pairing of Ryan Jude and Harry Kwong, and the dynamism of the Italian stallion David Villa (an even better player than his namesake), the squad is ready to show why ICUAFC have dominated the Varsity football fixtures over the years.

**Squad:**  
Callum Richards  
David Monk  
Jaime Aguilera Garcia  
Guillaume Alba  
Oliver Bright  
Christopher Caulcrick  
Wey H Chan  
Lukas Gerdon  
Euan Graham  
Javier Hernandez Suarez  
Bruno Howard  
Ryan Jude  
Harry Kwong  
Michael Moore  
Joshua Parsi  
Paranjoy Roy Chaudhury  
Peter Stillwell  
Dominic Wood  
Davide Villa  
Beinn Mackay  
Giles Wane  
Keong Y Yeoh

## NETBALL 1ST

With half of last year's team graduating, it was uncertain what kind of team the 1st would be this year. But with some fantastic fresher intake it has been one of the team's most successful seasons in a long time.

After a short teething period, the team have managed to pull out an outstanding performance, time and time again. The 1st have now been unbeaten in both their LUSL and BUCS leagues since the 5th of November - this is an incredible 17 games on the trot UNBEATEN! The ridiculous goal difference of 239 goals from 8 games in the LUSL league must also be pointed out. This is just testament to our equally brilliant defending and attacking skills.

It also must be mentioned that the 1st have already beaten the medics this season in the LUSL cup semi-final - even with one of our key shooters missing. The team's real warm-up to varsity will be the LUSL cup final against RVC 1st - finally some decent competition for us. So watch out medics, the winners just keep winning.

**Squad:**  
Madeleine Webb  
Anna Caklais  
Sophie Andrews  
Emily Calamita  
Amelia Taylor-Young  
Laura Kor  
Bethany West  
Sofie Shackcloth  
Verity Roberts (c)  
Kathryn Cannings



The Imperial College 1st team (Netball)

## NETBALL 3RD

Following on from the incredible victory at last year's varsity we have only gone from strength to strength. The season has provided some well fought battles and we continue to lose deliberately as to not intimidate the other teams, in LUSL especially this has proven most effective.

There is lots of fresh new blood (mostly spiked with alcohol from Ministry the night before) but the young pups will no doubt rise to the occasion. Watch out for Eloise in defence and Alexis...all over the court!

## NETBALL 2ND

**Squad:**  
Ella Mårtenson (C)  
Eloise Lockyer  
Emily Read  
Fran Paver  
Alexis Abayomi  
Jodi Darwood  
Lucinda Sandon-Allum  
Emma Needham  
Emma Cooke  
Ambika Mehta  
Minnie Sehgal  
Iris Ho

## NETBALL 4TH

The 4's have been training hard all term with extra Kondi fitness sessions and friendly matches outside of BUCS to ensure we are on top game for Varsity this year.

With only a few more trainings left to perfect our tactics and techniques we can't wait to get on court and show the Medics how it's done!  
Let's go IC!

**Squad:**  
Rachael Shuttleworth (C)  
Camilla Compton  
Bunny Upton  
Tem Amina  
Laura Jackson  
Claudia Callard  
Gabi Whitworth-Smith  
Alice Bennett  
Alice Weightman  
Eema Solih

## NETBALL 5TH

ICSM

The remarkable dedication of the girls from IC fives has led to the great improvement in the team's play since the start of LUSLs. The team proudly includes fresh faces of IC netball, less experienced but nevertheless committed.

With the more experienced players from last year guiding the team, trainings and games have never been more fulfilling and fun-filled. As the girls of IC fives sharpen their play through the LUSL games and various friendlies, there has been increasing numbers of wins as Varsity draws near.

The last two games of the LUSL cup have greatly boosted morale as IC fives beat University of Arts 30-13 in a fast-paced game and came off with a 16-5 victory against Roehampton College. Nothing scares the fifth team as we fight on. The few unfortunate injuries and the few games lost to our opponents mean nothing compared to our unfazed determination to play our best at Varsity. Definitely coming back harder and stronger. Hold your breath and be impressed.

## NETBALL 2ND

ICSM 2s have had a fantastic year of netball in both our BUCs and LUSL leagues. After a hard season last year with a loss to IC at varsity, the 2s have fought back with a huge amount of determination and fighting spirit, and with some talented new additions the 2s have gone from strength to strength this season, proving themselves to be a formidable team.

We currently stand unbeaten in LUSL with a promotion already in the bag, and lie 2nd in BUCs having very narrowly missed out on a second promotion. The team is now hungry for a victory at Varsity.

Our defensive unit GD - Maddison Gronager and GK - Eleanor Tindall, will not be making it easy for IC, and watch out for Elizabeth Dunne as she makes some flying interceptions, securing turn overs that GA Megan Thomas and GS Shade Oyewole will certainly be capitalizing on. IC should definitely be nervous.

**Squad:**  
Eleanor Tindall  
Maddison Gronager  
Sally Ko  
Elizabeth Dunne  
Emily Boyce (C)  
Charlotte Valentine  
Megan Thomas  
Sophia Butt  
Folashade Oyewole

## NETBALL 3RD

ICSM 3s are a team of insanely trained athletes, whose presence and skills will make even the finest teams crumble to their knees. We have

had a brilliant year, with excellent game both on and off the court. Our fierce play and unbeatable shooting skills have led us to huge victories, including a 56-0 thrashing and see us set to finish at the top of LUSL.

Our strong team bond, love of Taylor Swift and dedication to the game means there is no doubt we will smash varsity this year. Be scared IC, we're coming for you and look forward to watch you crumble...

## NETBALL 4TH

Having just missed out on a spot for LUSL promotion, the 4s are ready to take on Varsity! Despite losing key players at the start of the season, motivation runs high and the 4s have continued to improve. I have every faith that we will secure a victory come Varsity having seen the growth of not only the players individually but the team as a whole into a family of fun and enthusiastic girls who may lack in height, but are blessed with speed and skill.

Although defence will miss the presence of Nat Ilenkovan, IC will still have a hard time evading our defenders. IC better also watch out for Lizzy Kostov, looking to dominate centre court for one last time, leaving nothing behind but Kostov Carnage.



The Imperial College 4th team (Netball)

**Squad:**  
Carrie Anderson  
Stephanie Ezekwe  
Susan Manu  
Adeola Olaoke (C)  
Anna Tennant  
Emma Larsson  
Lizzy Kostov  
Lena Von Heimendahl  
Saniya Mediratta  
Sarah Grantham-Hill  
Nadja Bednarczuk  
Grace Newton-Livens

## NETBALL 5TH

ICSM

year, ICSM 5s ('The Dream Team') have been ready for the big day for a long time coming. The development and sheer strength of this team is clearly evident in the incredible unbeaten run we sustained at the start of this season, the cracking score lines we have produced and the occasional Monday circles we've had to introduce because let's face it, such greatness deserves celebration!

With the arrival of a few new players and the formation of a beautiful new defensive partnership, in the unlikely event that IC find themselves with possession of the ball, they will be lucky to get any shots past the arms of Millie Ahmed and Suki Nahl. Our formidable centre court will then be on hand to swiftly deliver the ball back to our triad of shooters, who with a LUSL goal difference of +156 this season need no introduction.

Having already annihilated IC 4s 39-14 this season, ICSM 5s are confident that we shall bring in the first of many medic wins with nothing short of a landslide victory. Be warned IC, we shall not be using the first quarter to warm up this year!

**Squad:**  
Suki Nahl  
Millie Ahmed  
Hanne Erfman  
Izzie Stopford  
Sammy Sundar  
Ifrah Hussain (C)

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY 1ST XI

The 1s this year have had an incredible season; marred only by the time we played, and drew, with the medics. We are looking forward to putting our expertise that has come from winning all but 1 of our BUCS games into truly smashing the medics and showing them how



# VARSITY 2015



The Imperial College Medics 2nd team (Netball)

hockey is actually played. The start of the season may have been a little slow but within a couple of games we were in full swing and scoring the goals (on and off the pitch) when it really mattered.

Our superiority over the medics in all aspects of the sport will become evident within mere minutes and the unevenly matched teams will make for an entertaining game for all the IC supporters. The defensive line will show absolutely no mercy in their quest to keep the medics without any goals and our forwards will continue to repeatedly penetrate the D. As we do every Wednesday at sports night. The fresher's are especially good at it having learned from some of the older more experienced players.

#### Squad:

Aash Shankar  
Alice Tidswell  
Becky Rickman  
Bryony Connor  
Chantal Fifield  
Charlotte Baumhauer  
Charlotte Ekins  
Claudia Jackman-White  
Emma Flynn  
Georgie Wearing  
Harriet Stevenson  
Hayley Thompson (C)  
Nora Clarke

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY 1ST XI ICSM

This season we have really settled into our recently promoted, tough BUCS league, no longer being the newbies but presenting real competition for the other teams. We have learnt how to deal with pressure and have had some fantastic results against the tougher teams in our league. Unfortunately, we have been extremely injury-prone this season with many matches ending up a player or two down.

However, we have not let that affect our drive to win each match and our team morale is as high as ever! We continue to train with an international coach who, as well as focusing on the basics, has taught us a new trick or two to help at those crucial moments during Varsity.

With both teams doing well in their respective leagues this match promises to be one to watch!

#### Squad:

Jessica Mistry  
Rosemary Belcher  
Sharon Ocansey  
Rachel Clingan  
Rebecca Ayres  
Natalie Condie (C)  
Anna Hurley



The Imperial College Women's 1st XI (Hockey)

Catriona Stoddart  
Sally White  
Esme Bennett  
Charlotte Read  
Claudia Fowler-Williams (VC)  
Hannah Wilson  
Felicia Bamgbose

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY 2ND XI ICSM

The team have had a cracking season this year, with 4 newbies joining the team! We've had some great success in BUCS, a highlight being our 27-0 win! Unluckily we narrowly missed out on promotion, coming joint top of the league and losing out on goal difference. However, this has just made us more determined to prove ourselves at Varsity and put our new shooting skills into practice!

#### Squad:

Zoe Leftley  
Krishna Shah  
Alice West  
Tirion Swart  
Laura Kennedy  
Lisa Bradwell  
Fiona Field  
Karol Basta



The Imperial College Men's 3rd XI (Hockey)

Natalia Sanchez-Thomas  
Lauren Fowler  
Rachel Hulatt  
Alice Brown  
Margot Pikovsky  
Helen Fielden

## MEN'S HOCKEY 1ST XI ICSM

It's been a tough season for the 1s, after being promoted last year. We've had injuries to crucial players throughout the year which has led to inconsistent performances.

A mid table LUSL position and a lower BUCS standing don't do our quality justice and when we've turned up we've shown we can turn it on – as IC know well. We've done the double over them in BUCS with 4-1 & 6-5 victories which means they're yet to show they can beat us. With 26 goals shared between the teams over 3 fixtures this season (including a 5-5 draw in LUSL), Varsity promises to be a thriller – bring it on!

#### Squad:

Dexter Tarr (GK)  
Tim Woodhead  
Alex Freethy  
Matt Baker  
Josh Orpen-Palmer  
Charlie Rookes  
Jonny Baker  
Oscar Newman  
Jonny Zheng  
Mrigank Sinha (C)  
David Kockerling  
Josh Enson  
Ed Norman

## MEN'S HOCKEY 2ND XI ICSM

The Imperial Medics Hockey 2nd XI have had an impressive season so far. In BUCS we narrowly missed out on a chance for promotion but remain in good stead to finish comfortably in second place.

We've only come up against IC once this year, and after a very closely fought game, they came out as dubious 1-0 winners. Having gone from strength to strength since then, we are confident that this time the final result will be different. With a mix of players from all years at the med school, from freshers to final

loss to LSE but since then we have gone from strength to strength and we currently sit in pole position in both our BUCS and LUSL leagues with an aggregate goal difference of +34 which is a big contrast to the -47 goal difference our medic counterparts have managed to achieve.

Our results give us an optimistic attitude for Varsity and historically we have come out on top; last year finished 2 – 1 to IC due to great finishing by Jamie Couchman. However, the Medic 3s always bring their best to Varsity and they are technically in the BUCS league above us (no doubt due to their large Squad that seems to extend to their Men's 1s) so we will need to be ruthless in our play and I have no doubt that if we play as we have this past season and they play like they have, we will come out on top.

#### Squad:

Ian Baldwin (GK)  
Will Pannetier  
John Ballentine  
Max Naylor-Marlow  
Priyav Shah  
Naveeth Basheer  
Thomas Papworth-Smith  
Callum Fiske  
George Brooks  
Jaimin Patel  
Rory Ainslee  
Guy Khosla  
Adrian Bailly (C)  
Jamie Couchman  
Jasper Stassen  
Adam Liddell

## MEN'S HOCKEY 3RD XI ICSM

With an array of club injuries and uncontrollable external factors, this years 3rd XI has been completely turned up side down. With a difficult season in a tough BUCS league, the results have not gone our way.

However we have developed immensely as a squad and hence had some brilliant performances in our LUSL league and in the inaugural United Hospitals Reserves Tournament.

With newfound confidence, the team are sure we can put last year's narrow loss behind us, and return to take the win we deserve.

#### Squad:

Prerak Dwivedi  
Paul Halford  
Nikhil Math  
Joshua Lucas (C)  
Michel Abou-Abdallah  
Shan Mian  
Gajendra Sarveswaran  
Breanainn Roberson  
Gurtej Dhillon  
Peter Thom  
Zain Rizvi  
Kushan Sen  
Mohamed Sheikh

## MEN'S HOCKEY 3RD XI IC

The 2014/2015 season has been a great one for the IC Men's 3s. We started off slowly with an opening

# VARSITY 2015



The Imperial College Medics Women's 2nd XI (Hockey)

## MEN'S SQUASH 1ST IC

The men's squash team has had a fantastic season, winning LUSL unbeaten and losing only one match in BUCS to win the league comfortably. We also had a good cup run, reaching the last 16 in both LUSL and BUCS cups and then losing to strong 1st Teams from King's and Kent respectively. New boys Tom Readshaw and David Anderle have been exceptionally consistent all season and strong inputs from Sanjay Bhattacharya, Kharthik Chakravarthy, Raf Pesquidous and Moaz Hamid have ensured that we have been the team to beat in our leagues.

#### Squad:

Tom Readshaw  
David Anderle  
Nick Dunn (C)  
Raf Pesquidous  
Sanjay Bhattacharya

## MEDICS SQUASH ICSM

It's been a fantastic year for the Medics Squash teams. A wave of new talent has swept into the club freshening and strengthening the Women's team, and the Men's 1st and 2nd teams. Captain Dom Marshall has led the Men's first team to a 4th place finish, winning five of eight games in LUSL division one.

This is an encouraging improvement from last season's one win. In a similar fashion, Captain Tom Li has led the second team to three wins from eight games, a three win improvement on last year's campaign, with one match still to play. Men's squash has never been stronger and we move onwards with a fresh optimism.

The Women's team has also made impressive strides since last year. Under the leadership of Captain Anna Humphreys, the women's team achieved a record number of wins,

giving them a solid mid-table finish.

#### Men's squad:

Samuel Tindall  
Dominic Marshall  
Moaz Hamid  
Simon Thackray  
Thomas Butters  
Haaris Rahim  
Vinay Shah  
Sam Ensor  
Josh Milewczyk  
Mark Sykes

#### Women's Squad:

Anna Humphreys  
Hermi Glyn  
Jen Lewsey  
Jade Man  
Airya Syairah

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ICSM

We've had an amazing season so far with massive development in our game and loads of wins, including a 3 match-winning streak! It's been great fun playing with the team and watching so much improvement, particularly with players new to the game. Seeing our team grow stronger and become closer has been a fantastic experience. I look forward to leading the team into what should be the closest female basketball varsity for years!



The Imperial College Medics Men's Team (Squash)

Squad:  
Mary-Rose Ballard (C)  
Ivy Shum  
Georgie Lobo-Horth  
Miriam Zegeye  
Rumessa Raja  
Shannon Brown  
Mollie Gupta  
Xin Zhang  
Zhen Cahilog

## BADMINTON MEN'S 1ST ICSM

This season has been a successful one for the mens' 1st team as we are currently projected to finish 2nd in the league. We lost half the 1st team at the end of last year so it was great to see such a high standard of badminton during trials.

Currently the team consists of 3 medics and 3 non-medics (including a PHD student), making it quite a diverse team. On the badminton court we were knocked out of the cup by the men from the LSE 2nd team in the first round, however it was a close match and the result was only decided on total point score.



The Imperial College Medics Women's Team (Basketball)

In the league we've had our fair share of wins, but with one too many draws it seems unlikely we'll be getting promoted back to the league from which we got relegated from last year. The most memorable part of the year has to be the games played on the trains to those far away games.

David Zhang thinks Caspar is a female ghost and (still) owes the whole first team a pint. I have thoroughly enjoyed captaining this team and I wish my successor all the best.

Squad:  
Rishi Agrawal (C)  
Alex Owens  
Louis Fox  
Mikkel Kranker  
Rui Wei  
Zarius Ferozepurwalla

## MIXED LACROSSE IC

This season, IC lacrosse is ready to repeat last year's feat of thrashing the medics. With this year being one of the best years for Women's, Men's and Mixed lacrosse, there's no doubt about it: IC players make all the difference. Diet plans and training schedules in preparation for Varsity have begun.

How will the medics be able to handle Sophie "The Bolt" Bolton, Ahraanee "Goal Denied" Canden, Lukas "Legs It" Krauss? How will they play with Anisha "Yellow Card" Kanabar, Georgie "Lax Love" Halson, Georgie "Short fuse" Bella-Taberner and Mikey "Over One Year Dry" Forrest on the pitch? It shall be victory like never before.

Caitlin O'Keefe  
Merrissa Lim Sarrias  
Juan Larrea  
Will Lee (VC)  
Lukas Krauss  
Mikey Forrest  
David Reed  
Lygon Bowen-West  
Oscar Peace  
Jack Halstead  
Mike Cornish

## MIXED LACROSSE ICSM

This year at varsity, the medics are coming back with an absolute vengeance, ready to put IC back in their rightful place. We have a strong, solid team with a brilliant addition, Mr Charles Merry – an absolute demon on the field (and off it).

We welcome back our rapid midfielders William Stanger and Edward Donnelly, who weren't able to attend last year as they were saving lives down in Africa (medic life) Olivia Morley, top goal scorer, will without fail be demonstrating some beautiful, graceful (and deadly) shots on goal. And will this be the one year Thomas Emms doesn't shoot a goal? I feel confident in saying probably not.

Lacrosse varsity is always very good fun. Despite our very close friends being on the opposing team, it's always an extremely heated and close match. This year is ours for the taking. Medics are in it to win it. Come support and watch us kick some IC butt.

#### Squad:

Alexandra Wisentaner (C)  
Edward Donnelly  
William Stanger  
George Moore  
Hannah Tullett  
Frederick Cripps  
Shoshanna Krasner-Macleoud  
Caroline Williams  
Hannah Thrower  
Catriona Bennett  
Jai-Hin Patel  
Osman  
Emiko Sykes  
Theresa Schulz  
Olivia Morley  
Lydia Uden  
Rebecca Joakim  
Charles Merry  
Edward Quin  
Sophie Glover  
Thomas Palmer



The Imperial College Mixed Team (Lacrosse)



# VARSITY 2015



sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Varsity Editor: Kunal Wagle

## Heston

### Netball

|       |        |   |          |                        |
|-------|--------|---|----------|------------------------|
| 09.30 | IC 5th | v | ICSM 5th | Outdoor Netball Courts |
| 10.45 | IC 4th | v | ICSM 4th | Outdoor Netball Courts |
| 12.00 | IC 3rd | v | ICSM 3rd | Outdoor Netball Courts |
| 13.15 | IC 2nd | v | ICSM 2nd | Outdoor Netball Courts |
| 15.00 | IC 1st | v | ICSM 1st | Outdoor Netball Courts |

### Football

|       |              |   |                |         |
|-------|--------------|---|----------------|---------|
| 10.00 | IC Men's 4th | v | ICSM Men's 4th | Pitch 4 |
| 10.00 | IC Men's 3rd | v | ICSM Men's 3rd | Pitch 3 |
| 12.00 | IC Men's 2nd | v | ICSM Men's 2nd | Pitch 5 |
| 14.00 | IC Men's 1st | v | ICSM Men's 1st | Pitch 1 |

### Rugby

|       |              |   |                |         |
|-------|--------------|---|----------------|---------|
| 10.00 | IC Men's 3rd | v | ICSM Men's 3rd | Pitch 2 |
| 13.00 | IC Men's 2nd | v | ICSM Men's 2nd | Pitch 2 |

### Basketball

|       |                |   |                  |             |
|-------|----------------|---|------------------|-------------|
| 11.00 | IC Women's 1st | v | ICSM Women's 1st | Sports Hall |
|-------|----------------|---|------------------|-------------|

### Tennis

|       |          |   |            |               |
|-------|----------|---|------------|---------------|
| 12.00 | IC Mixed | v | ICSM Mixed | Tennis Courts |
|-------|----------|---|------------|---------------|

### Squash

|       |                |   |                  |               |
|-------|----------------|---|------------------|---------------|
| 13.00 | IC Men's 1st   | v | ICSM Men's 1st   | Squash Courts |
| 13.00 | IC Women's 1st | v | ICSM Women's 1st | Squash Courts |

### Lacrosse

|       |          |   |            |           |
|-------|----------|---|------------|-----------|
| 13.00 | IC Mixed | v | ICSM Mixed | Pitch 7/4 |
|-------|----------|---|------------|-----------|

### Badminton

|       |                |   |                  |             |
|-------|----------------|---|------------------|-------------|
| 14.00 | IC Men's 1st   | v | ICSM Men's 1st   | Sports Hall |
| 14.00 | IC Women's 1st | v | ICSM Women's 1st | Sports Hall |

## Harlington

### Hockey

|       |                |   |                  |              |
|-------|----------------|---|------------------|--------------|
| 10.30 | IC Women's 2nd | v | ICSM Women's 1st | Hockey Astro |
| 11.45 | IC Men's 3rd   | v | ICSM Men's 3rd   | Hockey Astro |
| 13.00 | IC Men's 2nd   | v | ICSM Men's 2nd   | Hockey Astro |
| 14.15 | IC Women's 1st | v | ICSM Men's 1st   | Hockey Astro |
| 15.30 | IC Men's 1st   | v | ICSM Men's 1st   | Hockey Astro |

## Ethos

### Waterpolo

|       |          |   |            |            |
|-------|----------|---|------------|------------|
| 14.00 | IC Mixed | v | ICSM Mixed | Ethos Pool |
|-------|----------|---|------------|------------|

## Getting to Varsity

### The Stoop

Address: The Twickenham Stoop  
Langhorn Drive  
Twickenham  
Middlesex  
TW2 7SX

Travelling from South Kensington:

The nearest train station is Twickenham, which is a short walk from the stadium. Turn right out of the station, and continue down Whitton Road. Proceed down Court Way and turn left on to Egerton road. At the mini-roundabout, turn right onto Craneford Way and enter the stadium at the end of the road.

### Heston

Address: Heston Sports Ground  
Crane Lodge Road  
Cranford  
Middlesex  
TW5 9PQ

Travelling from South Kensington:

Take the Piccadilly line from South Kensington to Hounslow East. From the station take the 111 bus to Quinton Close. Then, walking, continue along the High Street for 60 metres. Continue along for 309 metres. Turn right on to Crane Lodge Road, and continue for 76 metres.

### Harlington

Address: Sipson Lane  
Harlington  
Middlesex  
UB3 5AQ

Travelling from South Kensington

Take the Piccadilly line from South Kensington to Hounslow West. From the station take the H28 bus to Manor Lane. Then, walking, continue along High Street for 320 metre. Turn left on to Victoria Lane, continue for 274 metres.

### Ethos

Are you serious?

Fixture List: Sport Imperial

Can't go to **Varsity**?

Well, we've got you covered. Felix will be at The Stoop next **Wednesday**.

Check out our live blog, along with **ICTV's** live stream at [felixonline.co.uk/varsity](http://felixonline.co.uk/varsity)





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# Welfare

felix.welfare@imperial.ac.uk

Welfare Editors || Diba Esbati & Chanon Wongsatayanont

## Introducing the new Union campaign to address mental health issues

**Bethany Davison** introduces Mentality, looking to help students struggling



Photo: Imperial College Union

**M**ental health is something you probably don't think about too much. You get on with your life and it seems that the people around you do too. However, you don't have to dig very deep to find that many students are struggling. It can be very difficult to know if a friend is struggling with their mental health.

This year, myself and a group of other students have started Mentality, a campaign focussed on improving the state of mental health at Imperial through challenging stigma, raising awareness, improving services and helping to guide students to the help they need.

Since forming Mentality, I have become acutely aware of mental health at Imperial. I am now so much more aware of the size of the problem and I have heard countless stories, some good and some bad, about how students have been treated by

college when they have been in times of greatest need. Any of you who are fans of the Facebook page 'Imperial College Secrets' will know what I'm talking about because between the comedic anecdotes and, frankly bizarre, stories, you will have seen the desperate pleas for help of those who have nowhere else to turn.

Having experienced depression myself, I know the fear of admitting to others that you're not doing well. You blame yourself for being depressed and criticise yourself for being too weak to make yourself better. Unfortunately, having a mental health condition skews your view of the world, rational thoughts are dismissed and the irrational takes over; it seems you are alone, that nobody cares.

It is incredibly hard to see the truth. Depression or any other mental health condition are illnesses just like any other and like any other illness;

you require treatment and help to get better.

This feeling of isolation is why I decided to create Mentality. No one should have to go through what I suffered. No one deserves to go through a mental illness alone. What they do deserve is compassion and understanding. This is what Mentality is for, above all else. We exist because we care about you and I'm not just saying that, we really do. We are here as your peers and your equals and we will help you to find yourself again.

To be able to provide the most effective support we need to know more about the average student experience at Imperial. To do this we are running a survey. The outcome of our survey will also determine what we choose to campaign about; we want to tackle the pressing issues that affect the most students. This could be access to services but it could also

take the form of changing student opinion if we find that there is a recurring reason why students don't seek help. Furthermore, we want to gauge what students know about the welfare services already in place at Imperial. You may never have had a mental health condition, and I hope you never do, but if things did start to go wrong, would you know who to turn to?

I hope this article has made you think more about mental health, of the problems that exist and also of your own mental health. Our minds are incredible things, so please look after them.

To find out more about Mentality visit our webpage: [imperialcollegeunion.org/mentality](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/mentality) or find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/ICMentality](https://www.facebook.com/ICMentality). You can also email us at [mentality@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:mentality@imperial.ac.uk). If you'd like to fill out our survey then visit: [bit.ly.com/1aMsIy2](http://bit.ly.com/1aMsIy2)

### Mental health helplines and resources

If you are concerned about your own mental health, or that of a loved one, there are people out there you can talk to who can give you advice, or will be there to listen.

#### Helplines

If you are distressed and need someone to talk to:

**Samaritans (24 hr helpline):**

Phone: 08457 90 90 90  
[www.samaritans.org.uk](http://www.samaritans.org.uk)

**Anxiety Help:**

**Anxiety UK**

Phone: 08444 775 774  
(Mon-Fri 09:30 - 17:30)  
[www.anxietyuk.org.uk](http://www.anxietyuk.org.uk)

**No Panic**

Phone: 0808 800 2222  
(daily, 10:00 - 22:00)  
[www.nopanic.org.uk](http://www.nopanic.org.uk)

**Eating Disorders:**

**Beat**

Phone: 0845 634 1414  
(Mon-Thurs, 13:30 - 16:30)

**Addiction:**

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

Phone: 0845 769 7555  
(24 hour helpline)  
[www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

**Narcotics Anonymous**

Phone: 0300 999 1212  
[www.ukna.org](http://www.ukna.org)

**College Resources**

**Student Counselling Service**

Phone: 020 7594 9637  
e-mail: [counselling@ic.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@ic.ac.uk)

**Imperial College Health Centre**

Telephone: 020 7584 6301  
e-mail: [healthcentre@ic.ac.uk](mailto:healthcentre@ic.ac.uk)

You can also go to your academic or personal tutor regarding pastoral issues, especially if you think your mental health might be affecting your academic performance.

## Starting a Campaign at Imperial

Campaigns are all about change, be that within in the Imperial community or further afield; and it's easier than you might think to start one. All you need is a good idea and enthusiasm. Current campaigns at Imperial range from such subjects as sexism and volunteering to divesting from fossil fuels and mental health. Once you've formed your idea, you can submit to the Union and, if it gets approved by the Community and

Welfare Board, they will be able to help you with your campaign. You will be given a webpage in the Campaigns section on the Union website and you'll be able to make full use of the Union's social media outlets to advertise your campaign and get more support. Furthermore, each campaign can apply for funding of up to £400 for events, publicity or anything else you can think of!

I've had a really great time being the campaign leader of Mentality and I've had excellent support every step of the way from the Union. So, if you've got a subject you're passionate about, then why not take the next step and lead your own campaign! If you'd like to start your own campaign or just find out more about campaigns at Imperial then visit: [imperialcollegeunion.org/campaigns](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/campaigns)



# Around the World in 19 Festivals

**T**ravel is the only thing you can buy that would make you richer – there's no denying that visiting a place in person brings history to life in a way that words never can.

What better way to get to know a place and its culture than to take part in a festival? With over 6,500 spoken languages, 194 countries spread over seven continents; the world is a large place with countless cultures each with their own heritage and traditions. Some of these heritages and traditions have evolved into large scale celebrations known as festivals today.

From mating festivals in Africa to making a wish to the heavens in Taiwan, I will attempt to bring you around the world with 19 festivals. Some have deep cultural roots, or religious purposes whilst some are a celebration of music and dancing. The list is only a corner of the iceberg and more of a bucket list of my own, but hopefully reading about them will inspire you to travel.

# Travel

Travel Editor Yung Nam Cheah



# Travel

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Travel Editor || Yung Nam Cheah

## North America

### Nevada, US - Burning Man Festival



The burning man festival in 2009, with tall wood art piece ready to burn. Photo: flickr erispaceman

Originating on San Francisco's Baker Beach as a bonfire ritual on the Summer Solstice in 1986, the **Burning Man Festival** has since migrated to the Black Rock Desert in Nevada. Named from its ritual of the burning of a large wooden effigy, the festival is different in a sense that it does not have a single focus. Instead, it is guided by ten principles: radical inclusion, gifting, decommodification, radical self-reliance, radical self-expression, communal effort, civic responsibility, leaving no trace, participation and immediacy.

The weeklong festival begins on the last Monday of August, and takes place in the middle of a large plaza at the temporary city named Black Rock City by the participants. It is usually built a few weeks before the event by volunteers from the Department of Public Workers. A temple has become an addition to the burning man (historically up to 105 ft tall) since 2000, and various artworks are installed in the desert as well. With a price of \$390, it is up to you to decide whether this unique festival in the middle of nowhere is worth the journey.

Time: Last Monday of August  
Official website: <http://burningman.org/>

### Las Vegas, US - Coachella

Known as the ultimate music festival, Coachella is one of the most famous music festivals in the world. A three-day event that repeats over two weekends it is held in Coachella Valley, Colorado Desert in California. It started in 1993 as a concert by Pearl Jam at the Empire Polo Club as a boycott to Ticketmaster venue. This eventually led to an inaugural event in 1999, and reached its current format in 2012.

Notable performers in the past were Radio Head, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Paul McCartney and Eminem. Despite charging an extortionate amount of money, thousands of people flock to the Californian valley decked in their best. Whether it is for the line-up, the sighting of celebrities or experience, it seems to me that people either love it, or hate it.

Time: April  
Official website: <https://www.coachella.com/>



Well dressed festival goers in Coahella 2013. Photo: flickr Thomas Hawk



Bourbon Street at night. Photo: flickr praline3001

### New Orleans, US - Mardi Gras

They say that USA have a version of everything, and that couldn't be more true when it comes to New Orleans' **Mardi Gras Carnival**. Similar to the Venetian Mask Carnival, Mardi Gras was brought to US by the early French settlers to commemorate the start of Lent. The first record of the Mardi Gras celebration can be traced back to 1699, and the custom of balls, parades and costume were established by 1742.

Modern day Mardi Gras begins on the Twelfth Night (6<sup>th</sup> January), with masked balls held by Carnival's oldest societies. Other events to look out for are the parade featuring Krewes of Muses, Lundi Gras (Fat Monday), Zulu parade and Rex parade. Activities are spread out over two weeks and if you do decide to go, don't forget to invest in grabs of their official colour of purple, gold and green, representing justice, power and faith.

Time: Fat Tuesday (9<sup>th</sup> February, 2016)  
Official website: <http://www.mardigrasneworleans.com/>

# Travel

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Travel Editor || Yung Nam Cheah

## Latin and South America

### Aguascalientes, Mexico - Festival de las Calaveras



The trade-mark make up for the day of the dead Photo: flickr Rob Sheridan

A 3,000 years old tradition, Dia de Muertos used to occur in the beginning of summer as a day to remember the deceased. After Spanish Colonisation, however, the date was moved to coincide with All Hallows' Eve. Most people are probably most familiar with the skull-face makeup, flower headbands and gothic dresses. Sugar skulls inscribed with the name of the dead on the forehead are eaten by friends or relative, and many have taken up wearing colourful skull masks. It is considered a celebration with the dead, not of the dead, as the gates of hell opened on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

It is historically celebrated in southern Mexico, but has spread north and south throughout North and South America. The festival is hosted in the city fairgrounds with craft and food stands as well as concert, theatre productions and the grand parade.

Time: 28<sup>th</sup> October – 9<sup>th</sup> November for 2015  
Official website: <http://www.festivaldecalaveras.com.mx/>

### Sacsayhuaman, Peru - Inti Raymi

Translated as the Festival of the Sun, Inti Raymi is the celebration of Winter Solstice in honour of the god Inti by the Incas. The ceremonies not only celebrate the Sun and the start of a new planting season, but a plea to bring the Sun back and shorten the longest night in the Southern Hemisphere. The first Inti Raymi was held in 1412, and was the most important event during the Inca Empire involving 9 days of colourful dances, processions and animal sacrifices in Cuzco. It was banned in 1535 by Catholic priests, but was revived in 1944 at Sacsayhuaman (2km from Cuzco) on June 24<sup>th</sup>. However, the festival is still celebrated by indigenous cultures throughout the Andes. Colourful costumes, music and food sharing are carried out.

Time: 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
Official website: the official website cannot be found, but here's a more in depth article from lonelyplanet: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/peru/travel-tips-and-articles/77190>



The reenactment of the Inca's rituals in Crusco Photo: flickr Ayla Zanini



The colourful costumes of Rio. Photo: flickr anna\_t

### Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – Rio festival

Over two centuries old, **Rio festival** is considered the largest festival in the world. Celebrated four days before the beginning of Lent, the city is alive with parties, costumes, drinks, food and music. Street parties are less fancy, with a larger focus on music and loved by locals. To bring everything to a show-stopping end – the Samba Parade is the perfect conclusion.

What is Samba? It's the Brazilian music genre and dance style, born from Africa tradition and a Brazilian cultural icon. Taking place in the Sambadrome's Prof, it involves various Samba schools showcasing themselves for 80 minutes with floats, revellers and adornments. Each will have a different theme, mood and style, showing you a story with choreographed dances and costumes. Their rehearsals can be attended for a small fee – and are worth it for the music, show and the possibility of a party afterwards.

Time: 5<sup>th</sup> February – 9<sup>th</sup> February for 2016  
Official Website: <http://www.rio-carnival.net/>

### Buenos Aires, Argentina – Festival y Mundial de Tango

It is all about the tango in this Argentinian festival, with the 'Festival and Dance World Cup' held in the same week in August. Thousands of dancers flood into the city from all over the world to take part in the celebration of tango, which is declared as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2009. Whether you are a seasoned tango dancer or just here to enjoy the show, the nightly *milonga* (where tango is danced) all over the city, concerts and will definitely keep you entertained. What's more is that all the activities and shows of the Tango Buenos Aires festival are free and admitted on a first come, first serve principle or given out at a certain time and place, so make sure you do your research and be ready for the week. With this amazing festival being free – what excuse do you have for not booking that flight to Argentina?

Time: August (tbc for 2015)  
Official website: (from last year) <http://festivales.buenosaires.gov.ar/2014/tangofestivalymundial/en/reglamento>



Tango shows the true Argentinian spirits Photo: flickr Jose Maria Perez Nunez



# Travel

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Travel Editor || Yung Nam Cheah

## Europe

### Munich, Germany - Oktoberfest



Say cheers to thousands of people. Photo: flickr 46137

The seeds for what will be the world's largest funfair begun when the citizens of Munich were invited to attend the festivities of King Ludwig I's wedding to Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1810 when he was still a crown prince. Since then, horse races, carnival booths and agriculture show appeared intermittently between the years on this date, and in 1819 the event was made annual. The festival is nicknamed Wiesen locally, a shortened form of Theresienwiese (Theresa's meadow) of which the field is named, in honour of the princess. Now lasting 16 days, horse races were no longer held, but up to 7 million litres of beer are consumed. Amusement rides, circus tents, games and traditional food stalls flood across the 42 hectare green space, with an estimate of 6 million visitors each year.

Timing: Late September to early October



The canals of Venice are filled of elaborately dressed and masked people. Photo: flickr Nick Moulds

### Venice, Italy – Mask Carnival

Lasting ten days, the legendary *Venice Mask Carnival* takes place every year, beginning two weeks before Ash Wednesday and ending on Shrove Tuesday. Originating in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the world famous festival used to be a 2 month long festivity. It went into a decline during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but was revived again in 1979. The celebrations centre around St Mark's Square, with locals and tourists decked out in their finest costumes and, of course, their masks attending balls, tea parties and tours occurring all over the city. Bear in mind, however, that most of the tickets are rather pricey with few exceptions, so it's best to save up or pre plan your trips.

Time of the year: generally around February  
Official website: <http://www.venice-carnival-italy.com/>

### Bunol, Spain – La Tomatina



Take part in the madness and chaos that will see you dredged in tomato paste. Photo: flickr Erkin

What started out as a food fight during the Giants and Big-Heads figure parade in 1945 eventually became a tradition in 1950 and was made official in 1957. From 1975 onwards, the festival gained traction and draw crowds from across the world to take part in the 'tomato pelting' festivities. In fact, it gained so much attention that it was declared as a 'Festivity of International Tourist Interest' by the Secretary Department of Tourism. The festival begins with participants climbing a greased pole to throw a piece of meat speared on top. Water shot is fired and trucks enter when the meat is thrown off, then chaos ensues. For those of you who are sceptical on the safety – tomatoes are squashed beforehand and use of goggles and gloves are recommended. Whilst some of you might opt to wear swimwear to avoid staining your clothes, a source had warned that male participants have the tendency to try and rip it off you. So ladies, remember to bring a t-shirt that you wouldn't miss.

Time: last Wednesday of August  
Official website: <http://www.latomatintours.com/>

# Travel

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Travel Editor || Yung Nam Cheah

## Africa

### Chad/Niger - Gerewol Festival



Gerewol festival of 1997. Photo: flickr Dan Lundberg

A colourful traditional festival of the Mbororo people, this weeklong celebration involves traditional dancing, feasting, racing, and you guessed it – finding a mate. The young men of the tribe will donned their best costumes, jewellery and vibrant face-paint in search for their future wife. A tradition unchanged by time, this is truly an experience of a life time to immerse yourself in one of the oldest cultural events in the world and see what civilization was like hundreds, even thousands of years ago. A similar ritual occurs on the southern edge of the Sahara by nomadic Wodaabe Fula people of Niger. They are cattle herders on their way south to their dry season pastures. The largest festival is at In-Gall in NW Niger, where the markets and clan meetings take place. Yaake is the name of the dance event, with the rest of the week consisting of suitors' competitions and marriage agreement.

Time: Late September  
Official website: (tours by travel agents – due to the sheer number no links will be provided)

### Tanzania - Wildebeest Migration

Now this one is more of an annual event than a festival – a force of nature that is one of the most breathtaking sights in the world. Occurring over northern Tanzania and Kenya, this migration sees two to two and a half million wildebeest, zebra and gazelle moving across the wild. The best place to witness this stunning act of nature is at Serengeti, a UNESCO heritage park located in north Tanzania that extends to SW Kenya. The wildebeest migration occurs throughout the year, but the best time to see them is from December to February. If you really want to stay ahead of the game, then choosing a mobile camping group is probably best for you (links below). There are few permanent lodges in this area, and overall it would be wise to book a tour to visit the majestic phenomenon for both safety and a guarantee of sighting.

Time: year-round  
Link to useful article: <http://www.tanzaniaodyssey.com/tanzania/great-migration>



A sea of Wildebeest grazing on the plains of Africa. Photo: flickr anna



Hermanus Bay is the hotspot for whale spotting on land. Photo: flickr Damien du Toit

### South Africa - Hermanus Whale Festival

An Eco-festival founded in 1992, the **Hermanus Whale Festival** combines the spectacle of nature with great food, music, craft fair and fairground. Over a hundred thousand people flock to this South Africa Bay each year for a glimpse of the majestic whale, as it is the most well-known spot of land to observe these giant mammals. This festival is kid-friendly and perfect for those who want something a little different and low key from the mainstream party festivals. Besides, who in their right mind would turn their back on an excuse to see whales in South Africa?

Time: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> October for 2015  
Official website: <http://www.whalefestival.co.za/>



# Travel

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Travel Editor | Yung Nam Cheah

## Asia



### Kyoto, Japan – Gion Matsuri



The majestic parade that carries the god out of the temple every year. Photo: flickr Kasuga Sho

More of a season of festivals than just one, Matsuri in Japan is a huge thing. Almost every shrine has their own, with a procession consisting of men in traditional garb carrying dashi (temple-like float) carrying the kami (deity) across the streets. One of the most famous is the Gion Matsuri in Kyoto of the Yasaka Shrine that occurs through the whole of July, with two parades (17/7 and 24/7) consisting of floats up to 20 m tall. It originated as a purification ritual to appease gods that are thought to cause natural disasters by the Emperor Seiwa. Food stalls, festival games are also set up on streets with girls dressed in yukata (summer kimono). For maximum culture exposure, it is worth going to the old kimono merchant district during yoiyama (15/7) to visit the private houses exhibiting heirlooms.

Time: July  
Official website: <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/location/spot/festival/gion.html>

### India – Holi festival

Inspiring powdered throwing celebrations around the world, Holi festival is the mother of all colour festivals. An ancient Hindu festival, the tradition of throwing coloured powders originated from the Braj region of India. Krishna, a Hindu deity with dark blue skin from drinking poisoned breast milk feared no one would love him, and his mother encouraged him to colour Radha's face in any colour he wants and the two became a couple. The festival celebrates the beginning of spring, but also with religious symbolism commemorating the triumph of Vishnu and her son over the demon king Hiranyakashipu and his sister Holika. The latter was burnt in a bonfire that is recreated on the night before the festival. Its first record was by poet Kalidasa during the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The day is for pure enjoyment and partying, with only one aim: the colour everyone. Traditionally, natural colour powders such as turmeric are used, but nowadays any methods from water balloons to coloured solutions are fair game. The festival is traditionally celebrated in India and Nepal, but has gained popularity all over the world. To see what a traditional Holi is like, go to Mathura and Vrindavan; for modern Holi, then Delhi is the place.

Time: Phalgun Purnima, typically in March  
Official website: <http://www.holifestival.org/>



Protray of a family stained with colourful powders after the Holi festival  
Photo: flickr captain supachat



Spectacular sight where thousands of people release lanterns filled with wishes to the sky. Photo: flickr Ah Ki

### Pingxi, Taiwan – Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival

For those of you have seen Tangled, the scene with thousands of lanterns floating across the sky will surely be etched in your mind. These lanterns are made out of bamboo stick, covered with thin oiled paper or tissue with a ball dipped in kerosene inside. It is believed that they were invented by the famous military strategist Kung Ming (181 – 234 A.D.) during the Three Kingdoms Era in China, hence are also called 'Kung Ming Lanterns'. The Pingxi Sky Lantern Festival is set in the remote mountain village of Taiwan and is part of the celebration of Chinese New Year. It has a less ancient origin, beginning in 1990 as a tradition from war-time communication. It is a unique combination of parade, fireworks and sky lanterns that attract thousands of tourists each year. It is said that releasing the lantern into the air with wishes written on it can bring its fulfillment.

Time: Lunar New Year (usually around February)  
Official Website: [http://timefortaiwan.tw/cal\\_en/cal\\_19543](http://timefortaiwan.tw/cal_en/cal_19543)

# Travel

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Travel Editor | Yung Nam Cheah

## Indonesia and Australia



### Sarawak/West Kalimantan - Gawai Dayak



A parade during the celebration of Gawai Dayak. Photo: flickr Stephen Bugno

What was started in 1957 by a radio forum has become a festival for the Dayak people, a native ethnic group of Sarawak and neighbouring Indonesian Kalimantan. The word Gawai actually means festival in Iban, and it was first celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1965 as a thanksgiving day marking the farming season as well as unity and hope for the community. The preparation of the festival starts early, with the traditional rice wine tuak brewed at least one month prior. Alongside traditional ceremonies to cast away the spirit of greed and offerings to the seven deities, there is a lot of drinking, dancing and music. Visiting others and dressing in traditional costumes make up the second day, with many mini sports and games dotted throughout the festival.

Time: 31<sup>st</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June  
Official website: <http://publicholidays.com.my/hari-gawai/>

### Bali, Indonesia - Galungan Festival



One of the most important days for Hindu-Balinese, the festival celebrates the victory of dharma (good) over adharma (bad). The festival marks the time when the ancestral spirits visit the Earth and ends on Kuningan when they return. As offerings to the returned spirits, penjor – bamboo poles with offerings suspended on one end are installed along the side of the roads. A curious fact is that the holiday follows the 210-day pawukon calendar, therefore take place twice a year. Preparation takes place three days prior – Penyekeban, the day to cover up; then comes the Penyajahan – time to make Balinese cake jaja consist of fried rice dough used in offering. Finally, the day before the festival is Penampahan, the slaughter day where animals are sacrificed as an offerings. On the day, Balinese will pray at temples and make their offering, followed by visiting of close friends the day after. Despite the fact that many places will be closed for the day, you will get to see colourfully flocked Balinese making their way to the temple, as well as local restaurants offering their native dishes.

Time: Wednesday of the 11<sup>th</sup> week of 210-day pawukon calendar (15<sup>th</sup> July, 2015; 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2016)  
Official website: there isn't one since it is a religious holiday



Australia Aboriginal children in traditional garb. Photo: flickr Rusty Stewart

### Cape York Peninsula, Australia - Laura Aboriginal Dance Festival

Started out in the early 1980s within the communities of Cape York, this biennial three-day festival celebrates and showcases the Aboriginal culture through dancing, storytelling and singing. Situated on the traditional Bora ground that is sacred to the Aboriginal people, the area is home to spectacular rock arts that are some of the oldest in the world.

With over 20 communities and 500 performers, it signifies the passing down of one of the oldest cultures in the world. The festival not only draws thousands of tourists from across the world, but provides a platform for descendants of Aboriginal people to learn about their culture.

Time: 19<sup>th</sup> June – 21<sup>st</sup> June for 2015  
Official website: <http://www.lauradancefestival.com/>



# Travel

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Travel Editor || Yung Nam Cheah

## Editorial – Fly me to the Moon: Festival Hopping



Sundown at Coachella 2013. Photo: flickr Thomas Hawk

There is probably a festival for every month, if not every day of the year if one were to scour through the Earth looking for it, but in truth many major festivals tend to clash.

A good example would be February, with Mardi Gras, Rio and Venice Mask festival all taking place over Lent, as well as the Lantern Festival in Taiwan which takes place over Chinese New Year.

Well, here's your chance! Forget about your friends' stereotypical gap years around Thailand or Australia and take on this new travel challenge: festival hopping! Because everyone in Imperial deserves a break. Here are some suggested itineraries.

### The summer festival hop

Start off with Galungan Festival in Bali on 15<sup>th</sup> July, then head to Kyoto to enjoy the rest of Gion Matsuri for

the rest of July. You then have three weeks to explore SE Asia before you fly to Spain for La Tomatia. Give yourself a month to wander across the Mediterranean Sea before joining a tour to witness the ancient Gerewol festival in Niger before it's time to return to Imperial in October.

### Spring parties haul

For the life and soul of this world who wants to take a break before committing for a career, pick your poison and start off either at Rio de Janeiro, Venice or New Orleans. After celebrating Lent in style during February, make sure you make your way to India in March for the colourful Holi festival. You then have roughly a month before Coachella starts in the party capital Las Vegas, where you are free to stay for live or carry on road-tripping through America.

"merely my fantasy and a suggestion"

### Southern Hemisphere Run

What would life be like down under? Start your journey by easing yourself in Indonesia's Gawai Dayak festival and immersing yourself in the Dakay people's harvest ritual on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Then head to Peru and experience the festival of the sun – Inti Raymi on Southern Hemisphere's winter solstice. You can end your journey here or travel through South America for two months (or drop by Bali for Galungan in July) before heading to Argentina for the free Tango festival.

Of course, the above itineraries are merely my fantasy and a suggestion; however, with the amount of people going on round-the-world trips, making world famous festivals the focus doesn't sound that bad. Whether you want to hop for two, three or twenty festivals over a month, two months or a year, here are a few tips to help you plan the journey of your life.

### Flights

Most of you would probably immediately type in Skyscanner's website, or Easyjet and Ryanair, but for multi-stop or long haul tickets STA Travel is probably the best deal there is to find. With a price beat

guarantee and £49 deposit to secure flights, it's the ultimate student travel company. Sample itineraries such as The Big Boomerang fly you across Europe, Asia, Australia and America through 11 stops for £1,399 and you are free to create your own itinerary!

For those who are still sceptical about the price – my sister recently booked her return tickets to LA after researching for days and saved £30. And for people who always change their mind, they have a Multiflex pass from £29 to £99 allowing you to change flights from 1 to unlimited times.

Information: [www.statravel.co.uk](http://www.statravel.co.uk)

### Accommodation

For those with low budgets, hostelworld is a good place to look, although you should look through the reviews and rating before choosing a place to stay. For those who want to live like a local, Airbnb offers rooms for all budgets.

Alternatively, for the more web savvy A-listers who want an en-suite, Voyageprive can offer luxury accommodation for a good price – although it's usually based on two sharing. Otherwise, Hotel.com gives you a free night every ten nights you book.

"making world famous festivals the focus doesn't sound that bad"



Left to right: There's nothing like travelling around the world; the infamous Mardi Gras of the New Orleans french quarter. Photo: flickr Gerry Knight; Loren Javier





# Blue News

The weekly newsletter of the Faculty Building

## Provost Post of the Week

**Every week, a member of our esteemed Provost board shares their thoughts with our collaborative, cohesive community. This week, we welcome Sam Wichshop, Vice Provost (Taste) who has been working extensively on bringing new delights to our (and students!) taste buds.**

Hello all, I'm delighted to have my chance at the tiller of this esteemed column, a vital part of the weekly organ! I know we all hold in such high regard.

I'm even more delighted to be able to pass on the exciting news of a brand-new payment system coming to campus very soon!

Yes, that's right folks, I can exclusively reveal that NoGo will be making its way into all Taste Imperial outlets from the start of the Summer Term.

NoGo allows users to purchase food, drinks and other delicious nourishment without leaving their desk, allowing you to maximise your efficiency and fully realise your output potential.

No longer will you have to waste countless minutes trudging down to the Senior Common Room to purchase your lunch, no longer will you have to endure the teeming hordes of students blocking up the walkways in their single-minded stampede to the canteen.

I'm sure you're as thrilled by this development as I am, as I know that the daily burden of having your lunch hour ruined by unplanned encounters with students has been weighing on all of us particularly heavily.

NoGo is a revolution in paying for your lunch – I just ordered myself a delicious burrito while writing this very column, and I never had to leave my computer!

Technology is truly a marvellous thing, and it's only right that we here at Imperial College London should be at the forefront of the technological revolution in the lunchtime industry.

Hello all,

Welcome to the newest edition of Blue News, our weekly conglomerate of informative treats and tidbits for all of you wonderful people working here in the Faculty Building!

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we have now revealed Imperial Very West to the world, to a rapturous response. Members of the research faculty across campus have been sending in letters in droves thanking us for our efforts to move interfering students further away from the vital work being done on our South Kensington campus.

Now that the initial excitement of the announcement is over, we must turn our eyes to face the realities of acquiring this new campus. With the majority of students soon to be based at IVW (as we here in the Building have taken to calling it), life around South Kensington is going to become much quieter. We hope this will prove conducive to staff morale, and allow us to continue to pursue the high standards all of us at Imperial strive to achieve.

The new campus also has the added bonus of being located extremely close to the internationally-famous Heathrow airport, making it our most accessible campus ever for all of our beloved international students. This will allow us to expand our international intake several times over, creating a larger student community who can support one another, as well as cementing our reputation as a leader in the field of diversity and true multi-nationalism.

In unrelated news, the brilliant boys in the Finance Department have issued a new set of forecasts for our upcoming revenue streams, and they're looking decidedly positive. To celebrate, we'll be providing a small treat to reward everyone for all of their hard work – keep your eyes peeled over the next week for your complimentary doughnut!

With our financial future secure, our gaze now turns to how best to continue our unprecedented expansion. Hot tub on the fourth floor, anyone?

Have a productive, cohesive, collaborative and happy day!



### Alice Gast: Thought of the Week

*"We must champion women here at Imperial, and I believe that #ImperialWomen is a key part of demonstrating our progressive and forward thinking attitude towards gender equality. Going forward, we must take every opportunity to promote the presence and vital work women do, at every level of Imperial. I can't be bothered to deal with that sexism thing right now, though. That's just asking for trouble."*

## What is going on inside the Blue Cube this week

We have an exciting stretch ahead of us, with lots of chances to come together and truly collaborate, propelling ourselves into the bright future.

### All-Staff Briefing Cancelled

Our weekly staff briefing has been cancelled by the Vice Provost (Arbitrary Excuses) due to a lack of tea and biscuits.

Rest assured, Colledge Catering are on the case, and normal service will resume next week.

Until then, we hope the news contained herein will suffice to keep you informed of all the latest developments at Imperial, as well as reminding you of how proud we all are to attend such a world-leading institution!

### Managing Extreme Emotions Training

On Wednesday, Occupational Health are running an interactive session you are welcome to attend, about the importance of managing extreme emotions.

Extreme emotions can often lead to disputes or tensions in the workplace, and in such a happy, harmonious place as Imperial this is obviously something we wish to avoid!

Come to the session in the Fourth Floor board room (overlooking Dalby Court) at 1pm to discover ways to relieve yourself of those extreme emotions.

Don't forget to bring your yoga mat as usual, green tea will of course be provided.

### Blue Cube Users Group

On Thursday, we're holding the annual general meeting of the Blue Cube Users Network Trust!

Just turn up to Seminar Room 1 in the Basement at 2pm to join us.

Anyone wishing to stand for a position should send a manifesto in advance to [bluecubeUNT@ic.ac.uk](mailto:bluecubeUNT@ic.ac.uk), stating clearly in the email your name, current job title and preferred position.

## What is going on outside the Blue Cube this week

Enthusiasm for our newly revealed campus is likely to be everywhere this week.

We can't wait to see which celebratory "hashtag" the students can come up with!



# Hangman interviews the leader of the Welfare party

Over the past 20<sup>th</sup> century there have been few truly great political interviews: David Frost vs. Richard M. Nixon for his betrayal of the American people; George Sylvester Viereck's portrayal of Adolf Hitler, pre his rise to power; and now I, Monothan Jasters, hope to be added to that list with my in-depth-fly-on-the-wall-Gonzo-Journalism-self-proclaimed masterpiece interview with the leader of the newly formed, and now most popular political party: Chris Kaye. Chris stormed to victory as leader of the Welfare party earlier this week, in a result that exceeded all expectations. The Welfare party was formed by Kaye shortly before he left Imperial College Union, after his seventeenth consecutive sabbatical year.



The Welfare party, although right-wing in nature, is primarily concerned with healthy pizza bases, decreasing sanitary product prices and more photos of the Queen present in public spaces.

I am invited to interview him at his apartment in Chelsea, featuring, an art-deco (whatever that means) design, and reportedly costing over \$5,000,000 due to the success of his audiobook of a popular erotic novel that has just been made into a film.

I step out of the red velvet lined elevator to be greeted by his door, adorned with a large oddly phallic brass doorknocker with the initials C.K.

Just as I lean in with both hands to use the knocker in order to alert him to my presence, he appears at the door. As the door swings open, a gaggle of giggling women spill out, and Chris waves to them as they leave. He then spots me hanging awkwardly in the corridor. "Hello mate, sorry about that, my mid-morning "plans" overran!" He then proceeds to laugh at his own innuendo, flapping his hands mid-air before gesturing for

me to come inside.

I proceed into his apartment: the most striking furnishing in the room is that of a 6 foot marble statue of the man himself, again with the heavy emphasis on the phallus. He notices my wandering gaze, and laughs again. "Would you believe me if I said that it was based on a plaster cast? It cost me nothing to get made as Vivian Westwood said she was just happy enough to see it!"

I try and splutter out some sort of response to such a statement, but before I know it he's pressed a glass of whiskey into one hand and a cigar

into the other.

We proceed into his living room area where he invites me to sit on a stool, which is a heavily detailed replica of his face – assumedly a trophy of his strong campaign against Cameron for the re-legalization of face-sitting in the UK porn industry.

I start the conversation asking about his plans now he is Prime Minister; what does he plan to turn his attention to first?

"I'm actually glad you asked me that. Every month I plan to donate a third of my sperm to the local sperm

bank – I think such genes like mine should not be limited to my current plethora of lovers. Everyone should be able to have a part of Kaye."

He then goes onto talk about the successes he has had this year: "In the recent OBE award announcements, they have taken Rolf Harris' one and given it to me for my work in the tampon industry."

"There's also the talk of a possible knighthood as king of the tampons, but that is just a rumour the Daily Mail spread."

I ask him about his relationship with the media: his own reports

regularly state he contributes to the media where appropriate, but what exactly does that entail?

"Well," he begins, before leaning in, "I have somewhat of a symbiotic relationship with the press; they make me a cult phenomenon, and in return, I feed them gossip about the opposing party. They love it, and print whatever lies they think are the funniest."

He sits back in his chair, before winking at this now nervous reporter. "The media has made me what I am today, and for that, I am always grateful."

# Troll candidate becomes "Best President ever"

After his surprise ascension to the post, the 'joke' candidate in this year's Big Elections has turned out to be "the most successful Union President ever."

This claim has been reflected in student satisfaction surveys, with the new President achieving record levels of popularity.

57% of respondents to the survey (commissioned and carried out by the President himself) said they thought the President was "alright", while a further 22% agreed that he was "a total lad".

Rumours that the survey was confined exclusively to a sports

club mailing list are yet to be substantiated.

Despite this apparent success, it has taken sometime to reach this point. Following on from their shock election, beating out the then-favourite for the title, the candidate had what one observer called "an inauspicious start" by turning up five hours late for the job, having spent the previous night "on the lash."

However, their actions since then have proven highly popular.

The first policy to be successfully rolled out across campus was 70 pence pints in all Union bars, a

policy for which the candidate had come under intense scrutiny for their perceived lack of financial acumen.

After an initial drop in income, all bars are now reporting dramatically increased profits as a direct result of increased attendance.

"568's been full every night of the week," said one anonymous member of bar staff. "We had to start watering down the alcohol to avoid running out, but then the president found out so he fired all of the bar managers and had them replaced with members of the rugby team."

The new managerial staff have

since re-branded CSP Wednesdays as "Sports Night", and imposed a tiered entry fee system based on "how fit" attendees are.

"We always hear how we can't scrap entry fees," one manager said, "so I thought why not make the most of it, and let all the fit birds in for free?"

The new President's policies have also extended beyond the realm of the bars, with his enforced

introduction of a Page 3 to *Felix* to "make up for those pussies at the Sun not printing tits anymore" leading to record levels of readership for the newspaper.

Just before Hangman went to print, another new policy (now officially renamed "Presidential Edicts") was announced: all mailing lists are now exclusively "for banter".

A small team of volunteers were appointed to monitor all electronic communications, with strict (alcoholic) fines for all those whose "chat" is deemed to be lacking.

With such an unprecedented level of success in just a few days, it looks to be a very exciting year for the Union Presidency.

# Diary Of A Fresher aged 18 3/4

FRIDAY 6th March

Sorry I didn't write in the diary last week things had escalated to a different level. I only just escaped about of Cougar lady's sex dungeon and I still have a crippling limp, and it's extremely painful to sit down - I can't tell if I have a haemorrhoid or if part of my bum tube is just falling out. Frankly I'm too scared to check.

I think I've learnt my lesson about meeting girls off the Internet. Instead I think I will only date girls off J-swipe (the Jewish version of tinder), but I'm not Jewish so we'll see how that works out, it's ok though, I've put myself down as 'willing to convert' Luckily it's also my birthday tomorrow so hopefully someone will have pity sex with me. Crossing my fingers for Dorothy.

SATURDAY 7th March

For fucks sake no one turned up my party at Metric - they all went to Kris Krage's re-election bash. I'm not a certain though but I think most of the guests were strippers. Was weird though, they were all dressed like Margaret Thatcher and were simultaneously of Asian descent - they refused to speak to me unless I pretended to be a coal miner.

SUNDAY 8th March

I've started my year of being 19 waking up on a boat on the Thames and I have no idea how it happened. It wasn't a normal boat either, I'm pretty sure it was a decorative one from a pirate themed kid's play area - either way I'm surprised it stayed afloat. I lost my phone and had to call for help, the coast guard didn't believe me when I said I lived in London and I got sent to Scotland Yard as an illegal immigrant suspect.

They made me spend the night in a holding cell while they called the uni to see if I was legit.

They called Kris. I'm not sure what he said but they didn't seem pleased, I'm pretty sure he got me deported - mother fucker

MONDAY 9th March

It turns out Kris told the MET I wasn't a member of the university and that I was probably 'one of those Jihadist Bin types' so they decided to send me to back to my home country, which he told them was the Netherlands.

He left me a note:

'sorry mate, not actually sure who you are and they won't let me into the union, I

don't think they know I work here, I had to make a judgement call. Hope it all goes well, I'm actually quite jealous that you get to meet Peter Pan - lots of love and your welfare in mind K.Krage'

They sent me off in a carap crate, the kind they use to ship livestock, I know this because a shared my crate with a goat - fuck DPW

TUESDAY 10th March

I'm still in the crate, not sure where I am but the goat seems to have gotten used to me, well at least it's stopped trying to mate with me. I cried a little when I realised this was the most action I've received all year. In lighter news, my bottom is feeling a lot better and I've named the goat Dorothy to make me feel less lonely.

WEDNESDAY 11th March

Don't know how it happened but I woke up on a riverbank, specifically Dorothy trying to eat my hair woke me up on a riverbank. I was so fucking confused because everyone was speaking English and I could still see the Shard. People gave me looks when I took the tube with Dorothy but I felt bad letting her go. When I got back to my hall no one had noticed I was missing. At least I know why I was on the Thames in the first place, apparently I was trying to find the salmon from a couple weeks ago - which makes sense, I've dreamed about it most nights since.

THURSDAY 12th March

Dorothy won't leave me so I had to sneak her into the library, it was easy though because I told security that she was my seeing eye goat and they believed me. Saw Kris there with Dorothy (the human one) there, I was skulking away when I called out for my goat and human Dorothy turned. Kris hugged me hello and whispered something about soft pizza bases in my ear. We had a chat about how difficult it is to get a job, I don't know why I was talking to him, something about his uneasy smile seemed to calm me down.

Heard Dorothy (the human one) sat really close to each other as we talked, I'm not sure but I think he was touching her up - god I miss her. I tried to stroke my goat to get even but she bit me quite badly.

Kris had to take me to A+E Turns out he was put in charge of my deportation - figures.

# HOROSCOPES



ARIES

This week the results for the elected positions are released. You assume due to your amazing election video of you lip syncing to a shit song you'll win; however when the results are released, it seems that everyone voted for RON, even your mum. The rugby captain's dick assumes your position instead.



TAURUS

This week you don't know what to do with your life now that the fishcake recipe has finished. You thank the writer of the horoscopes for his dank recipes, and despite them maybe not always being funny you hope that one day they'll print another series of recipes. Nah fam.



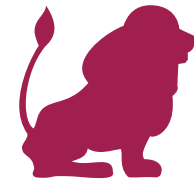
GEMINI

This week you decide to step up your election campaign game by giving out free pizza bases; however in an unexpected turn of events, your opposition has spiked them with E.coli causing everyone to shit them selves around campus. Only two people are able to vote due to them not being hospitalized, and they vote for RON.



CANCER

This week you go to the Union council meeting, and in an attempt to spice things up, you decide that voting will be replaced by nude mud wrestling. You fail to foresee how enthusiastic Skilippa Phett is, and as a result a large amount of the Union's budget is now being spent on male escorts.



LEO

This week you get in a lot of trouble in Halls due to your unnecessary raising of alarms at 3:30am. It seems that setting the fire alarm off and rushing everyone out of building in order for them to check out your superhot mixtape is not appreciated by anyone.



VIRGO

This week you decide to go to Varsity in order to support sports or something. On the way to the Stoop you drink a whole box of country manor wine and subsequently put a pensioner in a headlock. Needless to say the police do not allow you to attend.



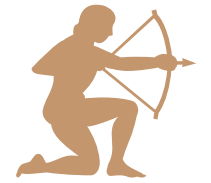
LIBRA

This week you decide to spend some proper time getting to know Luke Armitage over some sports thing; however you unfortunately encounter 5 snakes. Luckily Luke is able to outrun 80% of them with you; however the Tom Wheeler of snakes catches up with him and you have to amputate his leg to save him.



SCORPIO

This week you receive an offer from what you assume is Columbia University; however when you use the plane tickets they sent you, it turns out was actually the South American country, and that the whole thing was actually an offer to be a drug mule. On the bright side, you now have a kilo of cocaine up your ass.



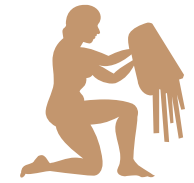
SAGITTARIUS

This week you realize that your maintenance loan has been severely depleted and as a result you decide to sell your underwear online to creepy Imperial men; however as a man, you have to purchase some women's underwear and rub your essence on them. You manage to pay off your student loan in a week and a half.



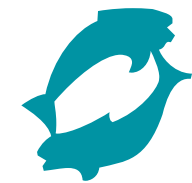
CAPRICORN

This week you decide to go to the council meeting for Weeks, hoping that maybe someone will find the transparency that the College seems to have misplaced; however, after the first item has had its year long presentation, most of the council members die from sheer boredom. Weeks is turned into a jacket potato buffet.



AQUARIUS

This week after a long week of working at the labs you go to bed and start to have strange lucid dreams about your lab supervisor and how you elope together with your pet pig. You subsequently wake up and start to slide around on your sheets due to the sheer volume of cum you have produced during this wet dream.



PISCES

Error 404 humour not found: restart system again and insert funny horoscope at later date.



# Puzzles

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

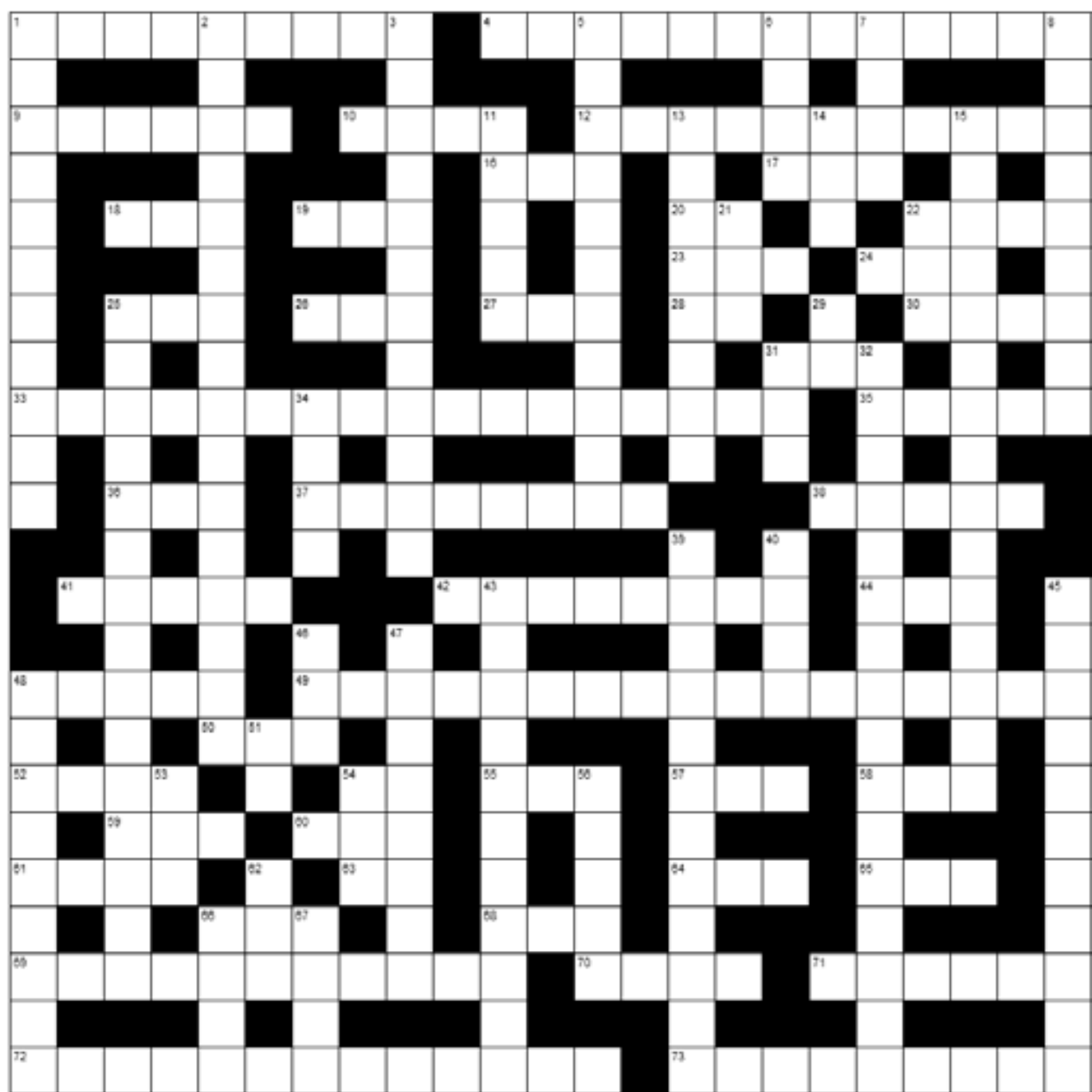
Puzzles Editor || Michael Faggetter

## Crossword

Jamie Dutton

### Across

- 1) Subcontract services to an external supplier (9)
- 4) College in Cambridge and Oxford (6,7)
- 9) Australian slang for idiot (6)
- 10) \_\_\_ Laurel – One half of Laurel and Hardy (4)
- 12) Streamlined (11)
- 16) Little demon (3)
- 17) Black and white diving bird (3)
- 18) Omnipresent candidate for student elections (3)
- 19) Glass container (3)
- 20) Pixar film (2)
- 22) \_\_\_ Redding – American singer-songwriter (4)
- 23) Cry (3)
- 24) Programming language named after the first credited computer programmer (3)
- 25) British motoring services company (3)
- 26) \_\_\_ Geller - Magician (3)
- 27) Negotiate snow slope (3)
- 28) Acronym for widely used units (2)
- 30) Jane Austen novel (4)
- 31) Mohammed \_\_\_ - Ex-boxer (3)
- 33) Remote from populous regions, out of the way (3,3,6,5)
- 35) Freshwater fish (5)
- 36) Provide weapons to (3)
- 37) Enclosure made of strong posts fixed to the ground (8)
- 38) Masked hero (Spanish for 'fox') (5)
- 41) Secret hoard (5)
- 42) Species of monkey (e.g. Marcel from Friends) (8)
- 44) Cause air to blow (3)
- 48) One who places something in someone else's care (5)
- 49) Yeti (10,7)
- 50) Lout (3)
- 52) Small spot on radar screen (4)
- 54) Maine postal abbreviation (2)
- 55) Haul (a trailer) (3)
- 57) \_\_\_ Vicious – Original singer of The Sex Pistols (3)
- 58) Possess (3)
- 59) Persistently complain (3)
- 60) 'Not' in French (3)
- 61) Mark \_\_\_ - Actor (Game of Thrones, The Full Monty) (4)
- 63) Fine (2)
- 64) Frequently (3)
- 65) Sleep (3)
- 66) Pronoun (3)
- 68) Sigur \_\_\_ - Icelandic post-rock band (3)
- 69) Desire/dependence on poisonous substances (11)
- 70) Brazilian footballer (formerly of AC Milan and Real Madrid) (4)
- 71) Northwestern French city (6)
- 72) Common race starting orders (5,6,2)
- 73) Twisted/Misshapen (9)



### Down

- 1) London street (found on a Monopoly board) (3,4,4)
- 2) Branch of science concerning carbon (8,8)
- 3) Pest remover (12)
- 5) Assigned a position once more (11)
- 6) (i.e. music/ballet) Concluding part (4)
- 7) Class of position (e.g. in army) (4)
- 8) Continuous, persistent (9)
- 11) Stevie \_\_\_ - Singer of Fleetwood Mac and solo artist (5)
- 13) Jean-Jacques \_\_\_ - Genevan Philosopher (8)
- 14) Exclamation of disgust (3)
- 15) Song by Bob Dylan (2,10,3)
- 21) Maori performance art (tennis balls in socks over here) (3)
- 22) Lyrical stanza (examples by Keats and Wordsworth) (3)
- 25) Material property describing the propagation of light (10,5)
- 29) \_\_\_ Gore, \_\_\_ Murray (2)
- 31) Pseudonym introduction acronym (3)

- 32) Heigh-ho, heigh-ho... (3,3,2,4,2,2)
- 34) Satyendra Nath \_\_\_ - Indian mathematical physicist (4)
- 39) Stunned (from prolonged trauma) (12)
- 40) Early 1990's games console (4)
- 43) Government in which power is in the hands of a small, ruling class (11)
- 45) (Chemistry) Combine components to create a unified entity (11)
- 46) Injection (3)
- 47) Strong cotton fabric (especially used for sports and work) (8)
- 48) Mediterranean island (9)
- 51) Large bovine used in farming (2)
- 53) Salary (3)
- 54) Founding father of the People's Republic of China (3)
- 56) Rapidly stir (5)
- 62) What person? (3)
- 66) Tell the future through the use of a crystal ball (4)
- 67) Discharge (radiation) (4)

# Puzzles

fsudoku@imperial.ac.uk

Puzzles Editor || Michael Faggetter

## Weekly Quiz

QuizSoc

## Word Search

This quiz has been brought to you by QuizSoc, who write a new quiz each week. If you need a quiz for your event, you can contact the society! Contact [quiz@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:quiz@imperial.ac.uk) for more information.

### 1) World History

Lê Đức Thọ and Henry Kissinger were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (though the former declined it) for their role in the peace talks for which war?

### 2) Science of Old

Greek philosopher Democritus is remembered for coining what term for indivisible unit of matter, a term still used today?

### 3) Literature and Written Words

James Barrie created and wrote which classic children's novel?

### 4) Obscure Nerd Trivia

Lord Helix, the God revered in the Twitch Plays Pokémon channel, is which specific species of Pokémon?

### 5) Questions About Good Songs

In Creedence Clearwater Revival's Bad Moon Rising, the narrator hears the voice of what?

### 6) The Internet and Its Wonders

Originating on Reddit and Imgur, "wordbank" is a name given to what animal?

### 7) In The News

Two helicopters carrying contestants for a French I'm a Celebrity...-like reality TV show crashed earlier this week in which country, killing all aboard?

### 8) Making Your Science Degree Work For You

Which single letter is used as a generic placeholder for an alkyl side chain in a chemical structure diagram?

### 9) This Day in History

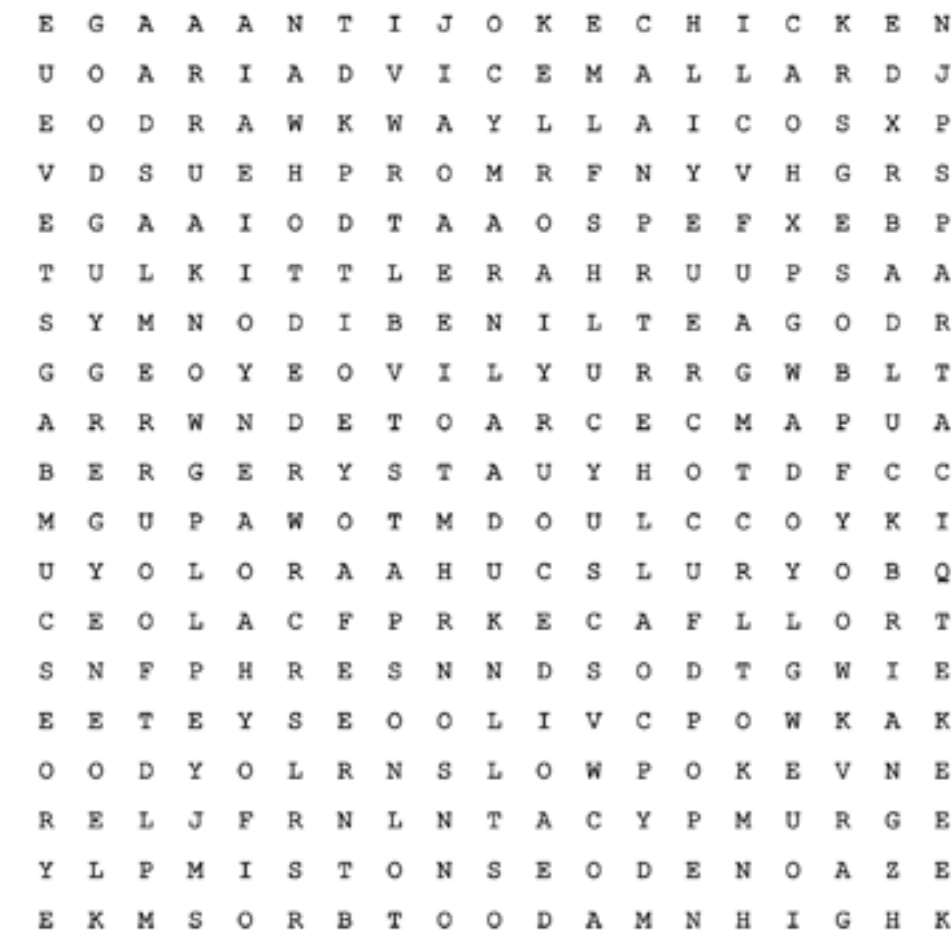
On the 13th of March 1991, which oil company agreed to pay 1 billion dollars to clean up an oil spill it had caused in Alaska?

### 10) ...and if you got all the others right, their initials spell out...

In the computer industry, what name is given to products that are announced and then never come out and are never cancelled, leaving them in a perpetual state of uncertainty over their release?

Thank you for everyone who pointed out the unfortunate error last week. The wordsearch was linked to a previous christmas crossword. Here is the correct puzzle!

There are a total of 25 common memes hidden in the grid. e.g. "Anti-joke Chicken" Good luck!



# FUCWIT

I hope you enjoyed the bumper puzzles section in Issue 1600 last week. The gap between FUCWIT teams has increased!

Once again, just a reminder that to keep this section going, we need your support! If you have any ideas for puzzles that you would like to see here, or want to get involved in any other way, then please just drop us an email!

As always, don't forget to send in your completed puzzles. Points are awarded for each correct solution, bonus points (in brackets) are awarded to the first correct answer!

| Points available this week: |          |      |
|-----------------------------|----------|------|
| Weekly Quiz                 | 4 points | (+2) |
| Crossword                   | 4 points | (+2) |
| Word Search                 | 2 points | (+2) |

## Leaderboard

| Individuals:     |     | Teams:            |     |
|------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Adam Stewart  | 106 | 1. Fully Erect    | 154 |
| 2. Jem Ong       | 40  | 2. L3Gendary      | 82  |
| 3. Catmelon      | 39  | 3. WG             | 66  |
| 4. Kebab King    | 21  | 4. Mindsuckers    | 48  |
| Gene H.          | 21  | 5. pintosRules    | 23  |
| 6. Sach Patel    | 11  | 6. Dapper Giraffe | 15  |
| 7. Angus         | 8   | 7. AnyonebutKofi  | 8   |
| 8. Fengchu Zhang | 3   | 8. Ebolalala      | 7   |
| 9. Gabriel Quek  | 2   | 9. Aerodoku       | 2   |
|                  |     | 10. Guang <3 Le   | 1   |

## Last Week's Solutions

### Weekly Quiz

- 1) American Gothic
- 2) Battle of Naseby
- 3) Fernando Alonso
- 4) Twi'lek
- 5) Oman
- 6) Malay
- 7) Integers

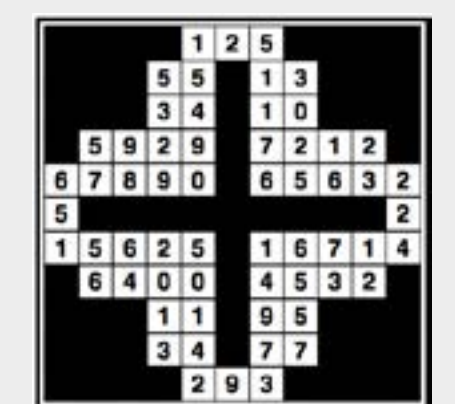
### Dingbats

- 1) Fisher Hall
- 2) Bernard Sunley Hall
- 3) Boat House
- 4) Weeks Hall or Falmouth Hall
- 5) Holbein
- 6) Willis Jackson Hall

### Crossword



### Cross-number



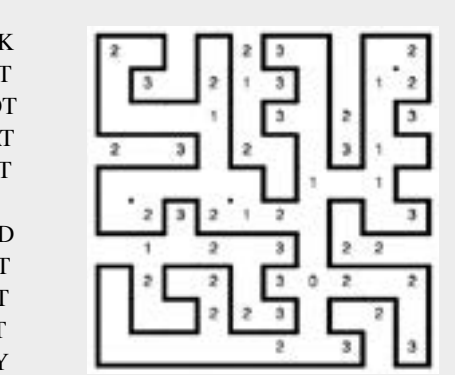
RUN/RUNNING

### 4pics1word

### Word Ladders

- |      |      |
|------|------|
| TOFU | COOK |
| TOLU | COOT |
| TOLE | MOOT |
| TILE | MOAT |
| FILE | MEAT |
| JUMP | HARD |
| BUMP | HART |
| BURP | HAST |
| BURN | EAST |
| BARN | EASY |

### Slitherlink





# Clubs and Societies

felix.clubsandsocieties@imperial.ac.uk

C & S Editor | Ben Howitt

## Fellwanderers Hit France

### Ellie Johnstone does some quality control on hiking across the Channel

Bright and early at 05:20 on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 12 Fellwanderers met at Beit to go on a daywalk to France! It was a slightly more adventurous destination than our usual Sunday daywalks to the South Downs.

We set off for the drive down to Dover to get the ferry, with a slight detour around Trafalgar Square due to 'questionable' navigational skills...

Arriving at the ferry port we went through passport control and after a long delay finally got on the ferry. We set off towards France leaving the white cliffs of Dover behind us for the journey across the channel. An hour and a half later, we were driving off the ferry into Calais (thankfully remembering to drive on the right side of the road) and drove down the coast for 30 mins to get to our walk destination.

We were going to be walking in the 'Les Deux Caps' national park, which offers beautiful coastal walking, forests and rolling hills. We drove to the town of Boulogne-Sur-Mer to start our walk, which is a fishing town. After finding some extremely dodgy minibus parking we set off in beautiful French sunshine!

The first part of the walk turned out to be ever so slightly less beautiful than expected, with the GR (main hiking trail) taking us through what was termed a 'post-apocalyptic' industrial fishing harbour. Not to be put off, we deemed it a 'cultural experience' and carried on. The next part of the trail took us through brambles, an abandoned train track and a concrete beach. More culture. We always try to make sure people



Photo: Ellie Johnstone

**"what was termed a 'post-apocalyptic' industrial fishing harbour"**

have experiences they wouldn't normally enjoy...

Thankfully the walk then improved exponentially, and within 10 minutes we were walking along the cliff with beautiful views of the sea to our right, green hills to our left and lots of sun! We stopped for lunch with a great view, taking advantage of the lovely weather. We then carried on following a narrow trail which took us further down the coast.

After passing through a small

village we emerged onto a beautiful expanse of beach that seemed to stretch on forever. With the bright sunshine it almost felt warm enough to go for a swim! (Almost...) From here we walked through some sand dunes and into a forest with a small footbridge over a river.

After following the path through the forest for a while we then began to head back to Boulogne via some tracks through big green fields. We got a great view of a viaduct to our right and the sea to our left. We then continued back into the town in the early evening sunshine and walked along the harbour-front promenade back to the minibuses.

After an all-important wine and cheese stop in a supermarket we set off back to Calais to get the ferry home with an amazing sunset sky over the sea to the left. The colours were really spectacular!

Arriving at the ferry port we experienced the most disappointing café ever (it was literally a vending machine) before boarding the ferry. A few people managed to get a bit of sleep as by this point we had all been awake for over 16 hours! We got back to the Union just after 11pm, all very tired but very happy with the day. Hopefully we'll all be able to go again next year!



The daywalkers pause to look out onto the Channel. Photo: Ceci Bretal

## C&S Editorial: All Change!

BEN HOWITT  
SECTION EDITOR

We're now a way past the 'weeks of weeks' that happened in the early part of this term. RAG week (both IC and ICSM) were huge successes; Artsfest saw its biggest attendance ever; Student Volunteering Week plastered everyone and anyone with handwritten postcards to say thank you... the list goes on.

This week we're hearing from Ellie Johnstone again, this time about The Fellwanderers' day trip to France – only slightly more successful than the RAG Jailbreak.

After that we have the incredible Gospel Choir, who have reached the national final of University Gospel Choir of the year. If you can't make the date but are dying to see ICGC perform, keep March 17<sup>th</sup> free and attend their Easter Show in Metric! Tickets are available at [ugcy.co.uk](http://ugcy.co.uk), or you can contact them on twitter (@imperial\_gospel), Instagram (icgospelchoir), and Facebook (Imperial College Gospel Choir).

Finally, Raincatcher Imperial come back to the section for the third time this year to tell us about the upcoming 'Water Walk'.

Next week the RCSU and RSMU are running a week of welfare activities, called 'Treat Yo'Self' all around campus (so perhaps the weeks of weeks aren't quite over), which I highly recommend checking out if you have the time. There's going to be a bouncy castle and everything.

If your club or society has done something great, you've started something new, or if you just really like the Union, it'd be amazing to hear from you. Get in touch at [felix.clubsandsocieties@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix.clubsandsocieties@ic.ac.uk).

### Hack's Corner:

#### Fly on the Mezzanine Wall

- Elections are finishing up this evening, and we are about to find out who'll be putting the Union through its paces next year.

- Council were presented with a plan to create a Technology management group. Those presenting the paper are now in contact with the DPCS to make further plans.

- Council were also presented with the College's draft timetabling policy.

- Club Budgeting is in its final stages. CSPB will meet next Tuesday to talk about appeals.

### What's On:

#### RCSU Welfare Week

Mon: free candy floss from wel-fairies lunchtime, Queen's Lawn

Tue: an obstacle course with a difference (the difference is beer goggles) 12:00, Dalby Court

Thu: bike checks with Dr. Bike Queen's Lawn

yoga and meditation sessions 12:00-13:00, in Union Activity Spaces 1&2

Fri: BOUNCY CASTLE!  
Literally everywhere. But mainly Queen's Lawn.

# Clubs and Societies

felix.clubsandsocieties@imperial.ac.uk

C & S Editor | Ben Howitt

## Gospel Choir make national final

Ndidi Iwumene on the teams at University Gospel Choir of the Year

Imperial College Gospel Choir (ICGC) have done it again! For the fourth time they've made it to the finals of University Gospel Choir of the year (UGCY), the UK's biggest inter-university competition showcasing the very best of the student gospel music scene.

There isn't a more lively competition to attend, forget the "Pitch Perfect Competition"! If the amazing vocals, uplifting songs and vivacious choreo don't get you up on your feet dancing then surely nothing can! This year marks the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the UGCY annual competition, which aims to bring together talented and diverse individuals from 8 different

Universities. On March 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 roughly 1000 supporters will gather in the Hippodrome (Golders Green, London) to watch over 250 students, featured in 8 dazzling performances, battle it out to be crowned the UK's best university gospel choir.

MOBO award winner Rachael Kerr will be hosting the show, and she'll be joined by Gospel music gurus and returning judges Andrea Encinas, Mark De-Lisser and Stephanie Oyerinde. This year, new judge John Fisher will also be joining the panel.

The returning champions, Revival Gospel Choir from the University of Nottingham is a strong contender and is largest of the choirs taking

part. They routinely perform to audiences of more than 400 people and their winning performance last year gave viewers "goosebumps". But fear not, it definitely won't be a one-choir show. The calibre of the other University choirs is quite remarkable.

Take Coventry Gospel Rhythms for instance; not only were they crowned runners up in 2014 they also competed in the BBC's Song of Praise: Gospel choir of the year, last September. But we also can't forget how talented Leicester University Voices is; they first appeared in UGCY in 2013 and blew the audience away with an original and theatrical performance. De Monfort University Student Choir are the new kids on the block being only six months old, so they've done exceptionally well to get to the final. Could they be the dark horse?

It's difficult to say when Queen Mary University Unite Choir could easily steal the show. They're a small but mighty bunch who two years ago performed in the first ever Gospel Proms. Surrey University Gospel Choir returns this year for the third time in even greater numbers, they're definitely one to watch. That leaves Kingston University Gospel Choir,



Coventry Gospel Rhythms competed in Songs of Praise last year.. Photo: Creative Commons

who being a relatively new choir are UGCY finalists for the first time. They are unique in the sense that their performances compromise more than singing, they are also performing arts society so expect them to certainly diversify the show.

The biggest question that remains is... what has Imperial got to offer? Well, ICGC was established 8 years ago and is still going strong today. This year the choir is smaller in numbers but the quality of singers is undeniably higher than ever before. Their most recent Christmas show *The Night Christ Was Born* was testament to this and their performances in Imperial's biggest cultural shows: Afrogala and East

Meets West have left audiences roaring with cheers. ICGC stands a great chance of claiming the trophy this year, especially considering the creative arrangement and dynamics of the six-minute medley they will showcase on the night. If they were to win the title it would be an incredible achievement for such a gifted group.

Imperial life is indisputably fast-paced and crammed with coursework, exams and lab reports (though geologists would probably disagree) so winning such a prestigious music award would prove Imperial students do have other interests outside Central Library. All jokes aside though, the show is promised to be unforgettable.

## Singing in the rain

Picture this... You're on the fifth floor of the library. It's getting hot in here, but you've already taken off almost all clothes. Throat parched you go to fill your water bottle, but the nearest is at London Bridge. You have no money on you – because you spent it all on sports night. The only option is to trek the 10-mile journey taking over 3 hours.

This may sound highly improbable, yet this is the daily challenge faced by many people living in Tabora, a small community in Tanzania. The climate of Tabora means pitiful annual rainfall, and water scarcity is one of the greatest problems faced by the local community.

Over the past 6 years Raincatcher Imperial, a student-led charity, have focused our activities in the area. Working intimately with the local non-governmental organisation Caritas, we build rainwater-harvesting systems and provide essential water and sanitation training for communities.

Each year, 2 trips are made consistent with achieving the aims of the organisation. An initial 2-week surveying trip at the beginning of the Easter holidays gathers vital information about resources, needs and capacities of the

area's towns and villages. Followed up by an 8-week stay in summer during which rainwater tanks are built and a targeted community capacity programme is undertaken. We place a great deal of emphasis on sustainability – local materials are used, local skills are acquired, and local people are highly involved.

This past summer, we built a 50,000l rainwater harvesting tank at a school in the village Tumbi. Also at this school we taught 700 students the "Raincatcher song". The message of the song is clear, translated from Swahili it reads:

"Everyone likes good water, especially when you see how clean it is; Clean water will protect you; It will protect you from illnesses."

Before travelling to Tabora, we organise fundraising events and apply for grants throughout the academic year to facilitate our work. Work providing fundamental necessities, like helping 700 students who are now provided with clean water and understand this important sanitation issue.

This year, our annual fundraising event is 'Water Walk', held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, in conjunction with UN World Water Day. The theme for this year's World Water Day is water



Raincatcher Imperial. Photo: Creative Commons

and sustainable development – the ethos behind Raincatcher Imperial. Participants will get a taste for what the daily water collection trek feels like. Carrying 10 liters of water, 10 miles across central London. All our fundraising events are open to all, so get involved with your friends, family, neighbours and pets! Walk for water, volunteer for water.

Follow Raincatcher Imperial on Facebook to find out more about #WorldWaterDay, #WaterWalk and our upcoming events. Let us know what is water to you by using hashtag #Wateris.

QUEENIE TSE  
C&S WRITER



## SPORT

Sport Editor: Kunal Wagle

## Taekwondo visit the Nationals in Worcester

NATHANIEL GALLOP  
IC TAEKWONDO

Early mornings, grey skies, and downcast drizzle could do nothing to dampen the spirits of Imperial College Taekwondo (ICUTKD), as the 24 strong team – the largest in the club’s history – piled into two minibuses to troop to the British Student Taekwondo National Championships, in the ancient cathedral city of Worcester.

After ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> nationally in the previous year, ICUTKD hoped to build upon their success over the two days of sparring, patterns, and spiritedness that makes up the British Student Taekwondo Championships.

With intense competition from a pool of 387 competitors across 42 clubs, ranging from Exeter to Glasgow (to say nothing of the 50 strong team from Imperial’s perennial rivals, UCL), outperforming the diverse and talented competition seemed an almost impossible goal.

Yet, ICUTKD managed to rise to the challenge in a spectacular fashion, nabbing 30 Medals (10 gold, 5 silver, 15 bronze) from its 24 strong pool,

in addition to placing first in Female Team sparring; enough to place third nationally for overall WTF sparring performance, and fourth nationally across both sparring and patterns. With the biggest student

Taekwondo competition behind them, ICUTKD are far from complacent. Setting their sights on the next academic year, they hope to host their own competition (for the fourth consecutive year) and

inter-university training sessions, in addition to building upon their successes in Worcester.

ICUTKD train on Mondays and Saturdays in the Union Gym and Thursdays in Activity Space 2.



Photo: IC Taekwondo

## Imperial through to semis

SOPHIE LINNEY  
IC WATER POLO

On Wednesday 18th March the Imperial women’s Water Polo team travelled to Loughborough to play their Championship knock-out match. A win would mean going through to the Semi-Finals. We finished 5th in the Premier South division while Loughborough finished 4th in the Premier North division, so we were expecting a very tight match, especially as we had less than 24 hours’ notice for this match to organise transport, get a team together and mentally prepare.

We arrived in Loughborough at 11:45 for a 12:30 start with a small team (as usual) with only 1 substitute, a novelty for us considering the match before against Cardiff we had no subs and had to play the second half man down, and still managed a draw! We made a great start by winning the first quarter 2-0 with both goals coming from Sophie Linney. Such a strong start is very unusual for us as we normally like to make it difficult for ourselves by having to get back into the match! This scoring streak continued into the second quarter with us extending the lead to 5-0

with another goal from Sophie Linney and 2 goals from Alexandra Charleson. The match still wasn’t won as anything can happen, but we were sitting very comfortably at half time and knew that a win was within in our grasp. With the score Championship knock-out match. A win would mean going through to the Semi-Finals. We finished 5th in the Premier South division while Loughborough finished 4th in the Premier North division, so we were expecting a very tight match, especially as we had less than 24 hours’ notice for this match to organise transport, get a team together and mentally prepare.

Imperial are now through to the BUCS Championship round robin Semi-Finals which will take place on 14th/15th of March in Sheffield. We will play three gruelling matches over this weekend against Sheffield Hallam, Cardiff and Bristol, which will require hard work from the whole team but we have a great chance of getting through to the Finals. Considering Imperial only got promoted to the Premier division this year, we have done ourselves very proud already by not only staying up, but also getting to the Semis.

## Immortals thrash KCL

SAM HILL  
IMPERIAL IMMORTALS

Sunday 8th March saw the game we had been waiting for all season, the London Bowl 2015. The Imperial Immortals and the King’s College London Regents have a fierce rivalry after first playing six years ago where Kings won and created the London Bowl trophy. However, for the past few years it has stayed in South Kensington with the Immortals as King’s have struggled to keep up.

The Immortals started the game kicking off and the Regents started with a strong drive that the Immortals’ defense was more than equal to, keeping them out of the endzone and forcing them to punt. The Immortals offense went out and played like they had a point to prove running the ball hard through Le’Bami Falana who picked up a filthy four touchdowns on the day. He ran harder and faster than ever and really deserved such a performance after such a strong season. Together Le’Bami, D’Emanuel and Rayane Hobollah have been the battering rams that have pushed hard every step to drive the team forward with their running this season. Toby Sinclair

played well and cleverly on the day, as he has all season, avoiding sacks and keeping drives alive. He also picked up a touchdown on the day with a QB sneak – classic Sinclair. The Immortals defense had a great day on the field too, only letting in one touchdown, with Guillaume ‘G’ Fontan making tackles all over the field and Panukorn Taleongpongdong playing hard killing people in the middle of the field. Jörn ‘Gorab’ Jörg gets a special mention for causing two fumbles with his impressive and extensively practiced stripping routine.

Will ‘Angry but Prez’ Nicholson recovered two fumbles and swatted one down with his ridiculous club, way to step up pal. Special case of the day award, and Immortals Stone, goes to Alex Hitchinson for managing to kick a field goal attempt into one of his own players heads – maybe next time Hitch. A moment of silence was needed for Little Harry Collini’s elbow after it took a hefty hit from a helmet and basically became jelly.

However, all in all a great day was had by everyone and it was nice for the Immortals to get some well-deserved success. We wish to thank all of our supporters that came to watch us beat King’s 32-6.

## Fencing claim four medals at BUCS

Imperial College Fencing Club competed at last weekend’s BUCS individual championships in Sheffield and in the process won a total of 4 medals! Men’s sabre and women’s foil took place on the first day: Imperial has a reputation of dominating sabre and yet again lived up to that reputation with an all-Imperial final between men’s 1st team fencers Maiyuran Ratneswaran and Chris Lawrence. As both fencers are in their last year there was an increased determination from both sides to bring home the gold (even though they live in the same flat) and after a spectacular display of world-class sabre, it was Maiyuran who was victorious winning his 5th BUCS title 15-12.

It seemed hard to repeat this feat on the second day but it started off in a similar way in the men’s foil with Søren Pfitzner being seeded 2nd after the poules in his first BUCS individuals. He fought well all day and eventually went out in the last 16, finishing 9th of 149.

However, women’s épée was also on the second day and it was in this event that another medal was won, this time a bronze from Francesca Cavallo who fenced skilfully all day, losing 14-13 in the semi-final in a ‘sudden death’ extra minute. Indeed, in a strong field of 79, women’s épée saw multiple significant performances from Imperial fencers: Caitlin Jones finished 6th, knocked out by Francesca in a very close fight that finished 15-14, and Maria Constantinescu finished 12th.

The last day of the competition was full of expectations for another medal and Zoe Robinson recovered from a knee injury, leaving only 12 players available to play. Despite this, the IC team was looking strong and up for the challenge with Cerulus finally able to make a game!

A slightly shaky start by King’s left them vulnerable to the counter attack and although the ball was picked a couple of times from their defenders, unfortunately the IC forwards could not capitalise on the opportunities their solid defensive play had created. At the other end of the pitch IC’s back line of Jones, Alton and Murray did a great job of shutting down King’s skillful

JAMIE SIMPSON  
IC FENCING

## SPORT

Sport Editor: Kunal Wagle

## Revenge is a dish best served cold

LUKE ARMITAGE  
IC RUGBY 3RD XV

The 3rd XV have had a rather disappointing year. The apathy of BUCS in doing little or nothing to resolve the issue of South Eastern 7A having only 2 teams left the threes despondent, and a heavy defeat away in their single match so far was not the start we were looking for. Hungry for a win after the previous match, the 3rd XV hosted Chichester at Harlington, otherwise known as ‘The Fortress’. To put the icing on the cake, the referee was none other than Big Bad Bob Coutts, extremely enthusiastic in his correspondence with the captain.

The day started off with an embarrassing entrance, being given our marching orders to ‘Little Harlington’ changing rooms; the luxuries of the big rooms were reserved for the sheer quantity of numbers in the lacrosse squads. After struggling for air in changing rooms being compared to ‘Harry Potter’s cupboard under the stairs’, we arrived on the pitch half an hour before kick off, and an hour and a half after the arrival of our opposition.

The first half was a tight affair, with both teams given scant opportunities. There were, admittedly, some

squandered chances down to ‘white line fever’, a syndrome that has known to affect Will Spenceley Jones both on and off the pitch. Some key moments involved Edric getting kneeed in the nose, causing a nosebleed lasting 50 minutes, and Vincent ‘Weak Bladder’ Desforges retiring with a fractured elbow. Luckily we had more than one substitute this week, and the replacements proved to be more than capable. It turned out to be a forwards-dominated half, unsurprising given the rotund physiques of the opposition. Imperial were unfortunate in conceding in the very last play of the half, down to a huge overlap and a free kick taken quickly.

The second half saw a rejuvenated Imperial side pick up the pressure, in particular the scrums were highly effective. Tom Johnstone and the prodigal son, Merlin Potter-Adams, giving some push, with Will Jackson struggling to maintain his temper in between. After more forwards play, and some decent kicking, Imperial had a scrum on the 5m line. Naturally, the pack dominated, and Tim ‘Specialist Number 8’ Harrington controlled the ball from the back to touch down.

An early highlight was some outstanding linkup play from the residents of Batoum; number 8



Photo: IC Rugby

Harrington taking it from the back of a scrum, making important yardage before popping it to number 9 Arm, who drew his man and released second row/full back Prichard for a searing run, stopping short of the try line to throw an outrageous sonny-bill to Leonard.

Chichester hit back, with another try due to flustered heads and a couple of unfortunate missed tackles, but the side stayed positive.

10 minutes was spent camped in the opposition half, before ‘old-hat’ Will Jackson reminded his captain and scrum-half that box kicks were a useful tactic. Look Arm took heed, and gave the slippery Chichester full-back some challenges. These gained good territory, and after some intelligent running by man of the match, and self proclaimed

BNOC, Ciro Monti, Imperial’s second try was scored. Leonard slotted the conversion and we were back on track. A similar situation gifted Ciro yet another try, proving his worth in any position he may attempt to play. We were 19-14 up, with around 5 minutes to play.

After ‘time where we clench our buttocks’, with Chichester almost running through us, we found ourselves in last play, with our own lineout. This we took, and won, which had been the theme all match. We were left with the decision to take the win, or go for the last try to add insult to injury. The maul was strong, and despite being slapped round the face, prop-come-back row-come-prop Locke Macgregor wriggled through Chichester to score a final try in the corner and seal a 24-14 victory.

## Imperial lose close game to KCL 1-0

JAMES BREAKEY  
IC HOCKEY

Still hurting from their 6-5 defeat to the Medics from the previous Wednesday, Imperial were looking to rebound and continue their otherwise good run of form at fortress Harlington against the league leaders King’s. This already difficult game was made worse by the fact that playmaker Pollock was side-lined by an injured hamstring and Mejnertsen was still recovering from a knee injury, leaving only 12 players available to play. Despite this, the IC team was looking strong and up for the challenge with Cerulus finally able to make a game!

A slightly shaky start by King’s left them vulnerable to the counter attack and although the ball was picked a couple of times from their defenders, unfortunately the IC forwards could not capitalise on the opportunities their solid defensive play had created. At the other end of the pitch IC’s back line of Jones, Alton and Murray did a great job of shutting down King’s skillful

forwards, while transferring and distributing the ball well when in possession. Any entry to our D was met with the brick wall of Meyer-Bothling, determined this time to keep his clean sheet.

The game remained at 0-0 for some time, with neither side having the clear upper hand in the game. Just before half time the King’s defence threw a long aerial ball into our 23, Alton saw the opportunity for a great cover drive but sadly caught an outside edge, allowing the King’s forward through on goal. There was nothing Meyer-Bothling could do this time and a good finish by the King’s forward put the score to 1-0.

There were no snacks at half time, but a good team talk from coach Cooper meant that IC came out fighting in the second half. King’s held more possession but both sides were creating chances, with the holy trinity of Logtestijn, Vaquero and Cerulus in the centre playing simple and effective hockey and distributing the ball to Hedgecock and Price on the wings. 2nd team call up Edwards looked at home, making some crucial tackles and



Photo: Davina Cochrane

linking up well with the midfield. Good movement from Breakey and Dittmar led to a handful of penalty corners, but despite two drag flickers and several rehearsed routines IC were unable to find the back of the net, with the King’s keeper making some great saves.

There was a similar story at the other end of the pitch and skillful play from the King’s attack rewarded them with several penalty

corners. However, Meyer-Bothling channelled his inner Nicolas Jacobi and made some first class saves to keep the ball out of the goal. IC kept creating chances until the final whistle but unfortunately could not convert and the game ended 1-0 to Kings.

Thanks to the Ladies 1s for their continued support. Man of the Match: Oliver Meyer-Bothling.

## College beats Medics in top of the table clash



Photo: IC Basketball

Wednesday 25th February saw one of the greatest basketball games at Imperial. A confrontation of a rare intensity between two old rivals. The Mens 2nds and the Medics clashed in a high-stake game for the top spot of their BUCS league. Early in the game, the 2nds showed a few signs of nervousness, especially offensively, and conceded several turnovers.

The Medics perfectly seized this opportunity to take the lead after the first quarter. This early scenario was probably a wake up call for the 2nds and a reminder of the bitter loss they suffered to the Medics in a nail-biting game (44-47) last year. The 2nds then took control of the 2nd quarter and started producing some smoother offensive moves.

They were able to find the big man inside and create open looks for the shooters. At half-time, the 2nds had turned around the game to enjoy a comfortable 25-18 lead. The 3rd quarter was an identical copy of the previous one. The Medics could not find any solution to counter the 2nds. Offensively, they were facing an aggressive defence, led by Michael ‘Skillz’ Wells with a career-high 5 steals. Defensively, the Medics were overwhelmed by the 2nds deadeye shooters, with shooting guard Aurimas Pabrinkis scoring 22 points (and 4 three-pointers).

The Medics tried to make a come-back in the 4th quarter, setting up a full-court pressure on the 2nds. Yet, they could not get any benefit and exposed themselves to many fast breaks. The game finally ended on a resounding 58-45 victory for the 2nds.

CEDRIC COLLE  
IC BASKETBALL



# SPORT

Sport Editor: Kunal Wagle

## Formula One 2015: A preview of the season

Henry Lambley tells Felix what he is expecting after the winter testing period

Formula One's annual winter testing concluded with a four day event at the Circuit de Catalunya near Barcelona. The next time that the cars will be seen on track is for the first race of the season in Melbourne, Australia, in a week's time but which team is in the best shape to stand atop the rostrum come Sunday 15th?

Ten teams will line up on the grid for the opening event at the Albert Park but only nine took advantage of the winter testing opportunity with Manor Marussia F1, formerly Marussia F1, failing to attend any sessions after falling into administration in late 2014. After an attempt to run a modification of last year's car was denied, rushed redesign is expected to leave the team extremely uncompetitive as in previous seasons. Notably Force India almost missed the testing altogether; only to arrive half way through the third and final test as a result of "cash-flow issues" that will likely stunt the development process. They do, however, still possess the Mercedes engine which will at least make them competitive in a straight line.

Ferrari appear to have made great strides in the engine department – significantly closing the gap to Mercedes whilst leaving Renault behind. This was apparent after the first test in which Ferrari and Sauber regularly topped the time sheets although the subsequent tests suggest that both still have some catching up



Mercedes look set to build on their dominance of last season Photo: Mercedes AMG Petronas

to do to their main respective rivals.

McLaren's partnership with Honda, reunited after parting in 1992, has been cause for optimism amongst the team although the on-track

performances are in stark contrast to this. The car did not appear particularly competitive at any of the tests whilst repeatedly breaking down. A high speed crash that left Fernando Alonso hospitalised during the second test was also cause for concern. The only glimmer of hope for a good start to the season was the 101 laps managed on the second day of the final test by Jenson Button, although it is highly likely that either car will see the chequered flag at the season opener.

In another season dominated by engine performance, the Renault powered cars of Red Bull and Toro Rosso seem to be lagging behind the field. Despite being one of the most attractive cars of 2015, the latest offering from Toro Rosso has been consistently near the bottom of the timing sheets. The story with the sister team, Red Bull, is not much better with any aerodynamic tricks, hidden by the exotic camouflage paint job sported throughout testing, negated by the severely underpowered engine. Comfort can be taken from the fact that the power unit is significantly more reliable this year than last.

The domination of Mercedes is

likely to continue into the new season with Mercedes powered cars vying for the top prizes. Lotus' move away from Renault power looks set to move them into the middle of the pack after a dismal 2014 whilst Williams will look to consolidate their place as the second best team based on testing lap times. Rather ominously, the works Mercedes car looks unbeatable in the hands of World Champion Lewis Hamilton and team mate Nico Rosberg. The



The lack of details surrounding Fernando Alonso's crash has raised a few eyebrows Photo: Eurosport

| Position | 2014 World Championship | Start of 2015 Season   |
|----------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1        | Mercedes                | Mercedes               |
| 2        | Red Bull (Renault)      | Williams (Mercedes)    |
| 3        | Williams (Mercedes)     | Ferrari                |
| 4        | Ferrari                 | Red Bull (Renault)     |
| 5        | McLaren (Mercedes)      | McLaren (Honda)        |
| 6        | Force India (Mercedes)  | Lotus (Mercedes)       |
| 7        | Toro Rosso (Renault)    | Sauber (Ferrari)       |
| 8        | Lotus (Renault)         | Toro Rosso (Renault)   |
| 9        | Marussia (Ferrari)      | Force India (Mercedes) |
| 10       | Sauber (Ferrari)        | Marussia (Ferrari)     |
| 11       | Caterham (Renault)      |                        |

Henry Lambley's predictions for this season's Constructor's Championship (right), versus the final results from last season (left)

# SPORT

Sport Editor: Kunal Wagle

## IC end Cross Country season raking in the silverware

Matt Douthwaite reports on the culmination of the season in Bushy Park

On Wednesday 25th February a 20 strong team of Imperial athletes from the Cross Country Club arrived at the stunning Bushy Park for the sixth and final London College League Race of the year. The stakes were high, with Chris Thomas and Alex Mundell in with a shot at the Men's and Women's individual trophies respectively, and the Men's First team in hot contention with Brunel and King's for a spot in the top three.

Knowing the best five of six races counted, Imperial had responded well for the final showdown, bringing 5 of those on the BUCS A Team and reserves in the Men's and two in the Women's. In particular Chris Olley was hoping to maintain his 100% win record (albeit his first race since October).

The race (8km for guys and 4km for girls) was run around the edge of the park amongst the deer on very flat paths for a cross country event. This meant the start was blisteringly fast with Olley, Thomas and a lot of competition shooting down the opening straight at sub 5 min/mile pace. Such a fast race is very tough test of mental strength and experience in judging your pace. Too fast at the start and you'll burn out, too slow and others will get away from you. Most generally go for the former, with a lot of grimacing faces spotted coming past at the end of the first lap.

The high pace was maintained for most the whole way round and Sarah Johnson was first home for Imperial placing 3rd in the Ladies Race, closely followed by Mundell in 9th – both impressive performances following the National XC



Top woman in the London League, Alex Mundell Photo: IC Cross Country



Photo: IC Cross Country

Championships and BUCS Indoors respectively. The big question was had Mundell done enough to claim a trophy?

That had to wait though as the men were approaching the end of lap two sickeningly fast. Unfortunately, Olley was in for a

battle for first and with heavy legs also from the Nat. XC Champs, he lost out to a St. Mary's Drone to finish 2nd. Meanwhile Thomas was not far behind and finished 7th.

After the race there was much baking with some exceptional lent-breaking brownies to celebrate the great results and of course the team photo. It was an emotional moment for Matt Douthwaite, Cloudy Carnegie, James Ellis and Sophie Rogers for whom it was their final ever LCL.

At the awards ceremony there were some surprises in store. Not only had Thomas managed to grab 4th place in the Individual Men, but Mundell had become an unbelievable 1st out of all the Women in the League. Both athletes had committed to the league and it was great to see this was rewarded. Finally it was announced that the Imperial Men's team had managed to whoop Brunel in the final event and claimed 3rd overall behind UCL and St. Mary's (the latter don't really count as they're evil robots, so this was more like second!)

These brilliant results were highly celebrated at the evening's bowling social, with many a celebratory drink, some great and awful skills and a very competitive game of oldies vs newbies.

Sound like fun? Why not get down for track season with the upcoming London College Athletics Series – open to all abilities – starting 21st March. Email run@ic.ac.uk or find us on Facebook.



Chris Thomas going for a trophy Photo: IC Cross Country





# College send Varsity warning to Medics

Henry Legge reports from Harlington as College thump Medics just a week from showdown at The Stoop

IC vs. ICSM has long been a feisty encounter, especially 2 weeks before Varsity. As a result, both teams were eager to claim the mental boost that comes with winning. Fortress Harlington provided ideal conditions for a running game of rugby, yet another reason why this was set to be a good match.

The medics were nowhere to be seen for the first 20 minutes, and an early penalty for IC got the score board moving the right way. Shortly after, a strong "Sonny Bill" from Skipper Cox allowed Moorby to make an excellent line break down the left hand side, finally stepping in towards the posts to force the 2-on-1 with Durkin on his inside. Terrible butterfingers meant Durkin dropped the ball over the line, but luckily for

Almost immediately after the restart, excellent phase work from Imperial led to Cox bringing the backs down the blind side and making a half break. Again excellent offloading to Moorby gave him an unmarked run in from the medic 10-metre line. 17 - 0.

A monster restart from Cox forced an error from the medic full back, knocking the ball into touch just outside their 22. A big lineout followed with College winning the ball. The phase play was at too high a tempo for the defence to deal with. Durkin subsequently put Hedley in from close quarters for another try out wide. 22 - 0.

The next 10 minutes of the game saw the medics win back the restart and put considerable pressure on the



Can the College repeat the success of Varsity in 2013? Photo: Facebook



The lineout proved to be an important factor in the College's victory last week. This photo was from Varsity 2013 Photo: Ian Gillett

IC the pack was on top. The ensuing scrum allowed Durkin to make amends by stealing the ball and dotting it down under the posts. Cox kicked the extras. 10-0.

IC line. Excellent breakdown work from Michael "worse twin" Radigan forced the turnover and saw College win back the ball. Good exit strategy saw IC back in the medic's 22 from



The forwards could provide the key to next week's game Photo: Ian Gillett

another excellent kick by Cox. The chase meant that the medics were kept in their 22 and their slow phase game meant that the IC defence had plenty of time to reset. This finally resulted in the medic flanker being bundled into touch 8 metres out.

One thing was inevitable; the College maul is unstoppable from that kind of distance. A maul that could only be described as clinical, classy and "unsuitable for minors" was formed leaving the medic pack trailing in their wake and seeing Hedley dot down for his brace, giving College a 27-0 lead at half-time.

Nobody was ready for what happened almost directly after half-time. IC's very own resident "lion wrestler" Tom Hedley received the ball on the IC 22, proceeded to step both their winger and 13 back inside, followed by a huge fend on the medic 10 on the halfway line. Carnage. He then took the outside line, breaking three more tackles, with only 40 metres and the opposition fullback left. He turned on the afterburners to outpace the last man and touch down under the posts to complete his hat trick. Insanity. It was a try that Billy Vunipola could only dream of scoring. If only Stuart Lancaster had seen it, I am convinced Hedley would have been fast tracked to starting for England this weekend. No conversion, again. 32 - 0.

It looked like the game could have

descended into a farcical score, when soon after the restart patient play through 12 phases saw a sublime 25 metre pass from "wide boy" Durkin, putting Moorby over the white line. 39 - 0.

From there on, the medics enjoyed a high percentage of possession. IC's defence was excellent for the most part of it, but they did allow the medics to build a solid maul and break down the blindside to score from close quarters.

In summary, it was a good first half

from IC but apart from two moments of magic, a very scrappy second. It was a big statement of intent before varsity, and had College stayed at that intensity for the full 80 it could have been even more of a cricket score.

A special mention must go to Josh "head in the clouds" O'Donnell who at one point had a 40 metre free run in down the wing, however decided to try and step inside some invisible opposition, ending up running into real opposition.



2013 captain Jack Flanagan holds aloft the JPR Williams Cup Photo: Facebook